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Our 3 page guide inside.

Builders poised to start 'exciting' pool upgrade



Weekend debris reached the old military road, bypassing a new protective bund. Photograph: BEAR Scotland.

New Rest group means business

Hillside debris once again reached the A83 and old military road in heavy rain last weekend, missing recently-built protective measures and closing the route.

Now Argyll business leaders have launched a powerful new campaign group to demand a permanent solution at the Rest within three years.

One business member said: 'An eye-watering £80m has been spent on mitigation measures...and we are still no further forward.'

Full story on page three.

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Work on a major redevelopment of Mid Argyll Community Pool is to start next month.

After years of hard work by the pool's management board, Lochgilhead firm MacLeod Construction Ltd will move on site on Monday March 15.

MacLeods won the contract following a rigorous tender evaluation process via Public Contracts Scotland. The work forms the major part of a £1.6 million capital project to create a new community hub.

When complete, Mid Argyll Community Pool (MACPool) activity hub will include an all-access café, a soft play area for small children and multi-purpose rooms for public use. In addition, the swimming pool changing areas will be improved and expanded to allow easy access for users of all abilities.

Building work is expected to take around six months. It is hoped the pool will re-open in October and a grand opening in time for Christmas is planned for the new café and other dry side areas.

Riverside Rascals Nursery will stay open during the construction period.

As reported elsewhere in this edition, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau is moving to a new main office base in Lochgilhead.

The pool is operated by non-profit community enterprise Mid Argyll Community Enterprises Ltd (MACEL).

'We are delighted to be working with MacLeods on this exciting project,' said Kim Ritchie, chairwoman of the MACEL board. 'I'm so pleased a local company with a proud history of supporting MACPool was the clear winner of the tender process.'

Kenny MacLeod, chairman of MacLeod Construction



Kenny MacLeod with Gordon Ram, project manager for MacLeods, and Kim Ritchie look forward to work getting started.

Ltd, added: 'We are delighted to have been awarded this contract.'

'This will guarantee work for our local workforce and we are looking forward to working with MACEL on this venture.'

Currently closed due to lockdown restrictions, the pool will not be able to reopen until

construction work is complete, but MACPool manager Fiona MacAlpine explained: 'The current closure has allowed us to bring forward the redevelopment work and we look forward with excitement to welcoming our customers back later this year to the new MACPool Activity Hub.'

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Warning after CCTV catches suspicious characters

Police Scotland has warned people in rural Argyll to ensure equipment is securely locked away after reports of suspicious activity on farms in Cowal.

During the early hours of Sunday February 21, there were two incidents involving suspect people near Sandbank, Dunoon. The first was around 12.35am near Heron Lea, High Road, Sandbank, when someone was spotted on CCTV with a torch, who may have gained access to a garage, though nothing was stolen. The next incident occurred at Dalinlongart about 3.15am on the same date. Three people were caught on CCTV with torches. Entry was gained to a garage but, again, nothing was stolen.

Police Scotland advises criminals will often check an area before committing thefts and will look at security, lighting and accessibility.

This is often the case where larger items, such as farm machinery and quad bikes, are the target. They will check the area on foot and return at a later date with a vehicle for removal.

In both Sandbank incidents CCTV captured the individuals and Police Scotland will be providing extra attention in the area for any further sightings. The advice is to ensure property is secure using CCTV, signs and ideally security lighting, making any property a tougher prospect for criminals.

If anyone has any information on the incidents described, please either contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or contact Dunoon Police Station quoting incident

Council meets to set budget against pandemic backdrop

Higher public transport fares and reduced posts

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk



Higher public transport fares and fees for electric vehicle charging points were among the measures under consideration as Argyll and Bute Council met on Thursday to set its 2021/22 budget.

The two potential measures were added to the raft of savings options for the authority to consider after the council's budget working group removed savings options which involved pupil support assistant posts being lost.

It was estimated that a public transport fare scale increase would bring in an extra

£76,000 to the council in the 2021/22 financial year, while electric vehicle charging fees would add £16,000.

The full council was due to meet via Skype on February 25 to determine its budget for the coming financial year and to set council tax rates.

An updated budgeting pack was presented to the authority's



policy and resources committee on Thursday February 18. In the pack, executive director Kirsty Flanagan, pictured, said: 'New savings options

were identified by officers and presented to the budget working group at meetings held on September 30, November 2 and November 24, 2020.

The budget working group agreed a suite of options which were presented to the policy and resources committee on December 10 which would deliver £3.440m in savings in 2021-22, £3.732m in 2022-23 and £4.008m in savings in future years.

'The budget working group met again on December 18, 2020 and February 3, 2021 which has resulted in the savings options being further refined.'

The revised budget savings options identified a total of 20 posts – equivalent to 17.7 full-time jobs – as being at risk of being cut. Eleven of those posts could be lost through rationalisation of the council's property estate over three years, while four more may go through reducing the specifications for cutting grass.

Ms Flanagan also said that if all of the officers' suggested savings options were taken, the council stood to have a surplus of just over £3 million – but that was before considering the impact of Covid-19.

She added: 'This is a welcome position and has arisen due to a better than anticipated financial settlement, including additional funding for local government core budgets.'

'Whilst there are a number of savings options built into these figures that could be reversed, many of them are management/operational in nature that officers will be implementing through the normal course of business and will assist with the continued challenging position in future years.'

More on the agreed council budget in next week's edition.

POLICE FILES

No insurance charge

A car was stopped by police officers for a routine check on the A83 at Inverneill at around 12.35am on Sunday February 21. Checks revealed there was no insurance in force for the vehicle and the driver, a 36-year-old man, was charged with the offence and the vehicle seized. He was issued with a £300 fixed penalty ticket and six penalty points.

Failure to provide sample

At around 6.40am on Wednesday February 17 at Bowmore Hospital on Islay, a 24-year-old man was charged with failing to provide a breath specimen after having been found

earlier in a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Antisocial driving

On Shore Street, Bowmore, a car was driven in an antisocial manner with excessive speed and revs at about 8pm on Saturday February 20.

The car was later stopped by police and the driver, a man aged 23, was issued with an antisocial behaviour (ASBO) warning. An ASBO warning is valid for 12 months and if the driver or the vehicle is involved in a similar antisocial driving incident again within that period the vehicle will be seized by police. It will only be returned to

the owner on production of proof of ownership and payment of the recovery and storage fees.

Garden and caravan broken into on Islay

Between 10am and 2pm on Friday February 19, at a house in Hillside, Bowmore, the rear garden and a caravan within was entered by an unknown person. Nothing appears to have been stolen.

Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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New group means business over Rest 'embarrassment'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Pressure is building on the Scottish Government to take action – and quickly – to resolve a situation at the Rest and be Thankful described by one Argyll businessman as 'an embarrassment'.

Hot on the heels of a joint appeal by Michael Russell MSP and council leader Robin Currie to Transport Secretary Michael Matheson to come up with a solution within five years, an influential new campaign group has ramped things up – by demanding action by May 2024.

The Rest and be Thankful Campaign has been launched by Inverneil resident John Gurr and a number of business leaders from across Argyll, and they are calling for a 'quick and permanent' solution for the Rest and be Thankful section of the A83.

The year 2020 saw three significant landslides close the lifeline A83 trunk road at the Rest, as heavy rainfall brought down more material on to the road than during every landslide combined since 2007.

The landslide risk is getting more severe, and a Transport Scotland engineer recently revealed that an estimated 100,000 tonnes of soil and rock is on the move above the trunk road.

Many millions have been spent on landslide mitigation, yet in the last week material reached both the A83 and old military road (OMR) local detour.

Despite the hard work, often



The aftermath of a landslide in September 2020 - the second in five weeks at that location.

Photograph: BEAR Scotland.

in arduous conditions, by personnel on the ground, nature continues to get the better of the Scottish Government's efforts since 2007.

Business leaders in the group include Colin Craig, West Coast Motors; Peter McKerral, Peter McKerral & Co Ltd; Matthew Mundell, B Mundell Hauliers; Duncan Macalister, Glenbarr Farms; Kenny MacLeod, MacLeod Construction; Andrew Spence, Bid4Oban; Keith Campbell, Argyll Holidays; Charles Black, Black of Dunoon; and Jane MacLeod Secretary of Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce.

They also want to see the

current Transport Scotland Rest and be Thankful review deliver a permanent solution along the Glen Croe route and a temporary solution in place by no later than May 2021.

John Gurr, chairman of The Rest and be Thankful Campaign, said: 'The lack of interest in seriously fixing this stretch of road by the Scottish Government is hugely disappointing and is having a direct impact on our communities, local economy and business opportunities both now and in the future.'

'Through The Rest and be Thankful Campaign, we hope to have a stronger voice and collectively demand immedi-

ate action to the constant disruptions caused by landslides and slips at the Rest and be Thankful.

'A 10-year plan to fix a mile of road is ludicrous and dangerous.'

'This is a call to action for all businesses in Argyll, big or small.'

'We need your support, if you agree we need a permanent solution in three years, not 10

years and an improved short-term solution as the current option is clearly not working then please sign up.'

Colin Craig, managing director at West Coast Motors said: 'The Rest and be Thankful is a key transport artery which provides vital links to communities across Argyll and Bute whilst connecting the area to the rest of mainland Scotland. A 10-year plan to fix a mile of road is ludicrous and dangerous.'

'In 2020, the main A83 Rest and be Thankful was closed for over 200 days. This is a record breaking 300 per cent increase from the previous year and clearly demonstrates the mitigation measures are not working and immediate action to fix the road is needed.'

'As a business reliant on the Rest and be Thankful we have been dealing with Transport Scotland for over 10 years,' explained Peter McKerral, a director at haulage firm Peter McKerral & Co.

He continued: 'We have proposed a range of temporary solutions, including the use of the forest road on the opposite side of Glen Croe, an area clear of the landslide deposit. This and other solutions have continued to fall on deaf ears.'

'The new £1m barrier wall on the OMR, which was supposed to be the solution, hasn't worked and was evident at the weekend when it was closed due to landslides. This is a wasted investment, and the project should be an absolute embarrassment to whoever is in charge.'

Kenny MacLeod, man-

aging director at MacLeod Construction, said: 'An eye-watering £80m has so far been spent on mitigation measures, instead of the originally planned £4m and we are still no further forward.'

'Last year the Rest and Be Thankful had more landslides and slips, road closures and disruption than it has had in the past 20 years. This problem is getting worse, not better and Transport Scotland must be held accountable and deliver a workable solution to keep the area moving.'

Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce secretary Jane MacLeod added: 'Over the years there has been an increasing number of landslides at the Rest and be Thankful and despite a recent spend of £1 million in mitigations measures at the OMR, landslides and slips continue to force the road and the alternative OMR to close.'

'This is having a major impact on local businesses in the area and the Scottish Government should sit up and listen.'

'If your business needs the Rest and be Thankful open and you support our campaign, please visit restandbethankfulcampaign.com and register your support.'

For more information visit therestandbethankfulcampaign.com.

Follow the campaign on Twitter and Facebook by searching 'Crisis at the Rest'.

Visit www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk to read what other Argyll business leaders had to say about the Rest and be Thankful.



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Mid Argyll Pipe Band at a past Cowal Highland Gathering, one of the events which awaits a funding decision for 2021.

06_a35CowalGames02

Delay to Argyll and Bute events funding

Uncertainty over whether events in Argyll and Bute will be held in 2021 has persuaded councillors to delay the release of support funding.

A decision is usually made every spring by the council on how to distribute its strategic events and festivals fund (SEF), which supports cultural events across the area.

A report has, however, recommended that the decision should be delayed until May, as events have been practically wiped out in Argyll and Bute in the past year due to a ban on mass gatherings during the pandemic.

Eight out of nine events to receive funding in 2020 were cancelled. The other, the Tیره Wave Classic surfing competition, was rescheduled to March 2021 but it, too, has recently been postponed again until October.

Three events – the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival, Cowal Highland Gathering and the Mull Rally – required and received funding in 2020 despite the events not having physically taken place, though some were held online.

The council's policy and resources committee decided to delay a decision on the latest round of funding at its

virtual meeting on February 18. Organisers of 10 events are waiting to hear about the fate of their applications.

Executive director Kirsty Flanagan said: 'At the Business Continuity Committee meeting on June 11 2020, members agreed that a grant pot of £90,000 be made available for SEF over financial year 2021/22. The call for applications was issued on October 22 2020 and closed on December 7 and the applications, of which there are 10, were due to be considered by the policy and resources committee at the February meeting.'

'At the time of putting out the call for SEF round three applications in October 2020, we were obviously not facing a national lockdown and things were looking slightly more positive. This position has changed very quickly, however, and we are now facing a much more serious position than in March of last year.'

'Given the uncertainty and unpredictability, it would seem pragmatic to delay and review the position over the next two or three months rather than agree to award grants for events and festivals that will not be able to go ahead as planned.'

Campbeltown is Scotland's most improved place

Campbeltown has won an award for being 'Scotland's most improved place' in the 2020 SURF Awards, writes Colin Cameron.

The award recognises best practice in community regeneration and is the result of an extensive regeneration programme by Argyll and Bute Council and its key partners.

The appearance and vibrancy of Campbeltown's town centre has been significantly improved with investment of £13 million to repair more than 40 buildings, improve shopfronts and deliver parallel projects.

They include:

- The renovated cinema and town hall

- More than 2,000 square-metres of vacant or derelict floorspace brought back into use

- Shopfront improvement scheme leading to a number of new businesses opening

- Full repair of 11 key tenement buildings containing 58 flats and 26 commercial units, helping to bring many vacant units back into use

- Transformation of a derelict building into a community backpackers' hostel

- Restoration of Campbeltown cross in partnership with the community council



Campbeltown has seen investment over a period of 15 years and now it has been recognised.

■ Partnership working with housing services has also seen £3 million of grants awarded to more than 70 private owners for repairs to multi-ownership tenements.

Funders

External funders for the project included Historic Environment Scotland, Heritage Lottery, National Lottery, Argyll and the Islands Leader and many others.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for business, regeneration and commercial development, said: 'We are thrilled to accept the SURF award on behalf of all the hard work that has gone into the transformation of Campbeltown town centre.'

'Regenerating the town has been a collaborative approach, working with the community, businesses and private and public sectors.'

'We would like to thank

everyone involved in the project. Area regeneration investment takes time to see results emerge that make a real difference to quality of place that is so important for local people and the wider economy.'

'This investment in Campbeltown has been done over a period of 15 years and it is great to see it being recognised nationally with awards such as SURF.'

Add

'The journey is not over, however, as more needs to be done to ensure we can add to the regeneration of the town. 'There are still obvious challenges as we continue to live under lockdown restrictions but we hope the town will continue to thrive when those restrictions lift.'

'As a council, we are committed to attracting people to live and work in Argyll and Bute.'

'We can already see the benefits the investment has made as new businesses open and people choose to settle here.'

'The award recognises the effort and commitment that has gone into the project and we are delighted to see such positive signs of recovery for our local economy.'

Andy Milne, chief executive of SURF – a regeneration forum aimed at improving the lives and opportunities of residents in Scotland's disadvantaged communities – said: 'The awards have been a personal regenerative highlight in my 18 years with SURF.'

'Real community regeneration is always challenging, perhaps now more than ever, but still, this and every year it is uplifting to see what can be achieved when people act together for the common good.'

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New scheme protects Argyll vulnerable from scammers

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

An unwelcome consequence of the coronavirus pandemic has been an increase in cases of fraud and attempted fraud in Argyll and Bute.

Realising they are often alone at home under lockdown, criminals are targeting elderly and vulnerable residents through telephone and other scams.

But help is at hand as a new Argyll and Bute support network is introduced.

The Cared for at Home Network has been set up by Dunoon-based Police Constable Laura Evans, who explained: 'We know that our elderly and vulnerable residents are more vulnerable to being targeted by telephone scams and bogus callers.'

'The Cared for at Home Network allows us to raise awareness throughout vulnerable groups including the elderly who are often not on social media.'

'It is hoped that through sharing information and raising awareness we can help protect those at greatest risk from this type of crime.'

PC Evans added that while

Cared for at Home Network launched

there had been a decrease in some forms of crime since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, within Argyll and Bute the number of frauds being reported to police had almost doubled when compared to the same period last year.

She continued: 'Younger people are more likely to report being a victim of fraud to police, whereas older people don't report it due to embarrassment, pride and fear of having their independence taken from them.'

'Research by Age Concern UK has shown that an elderly victim of bogus crime is likely to die or enter full-time residential care within two years of being a victim.'

'This is a frightening statistic, but it shows the massive impact that becoming a victim of crime can have on our elderly residents.'

Telephone scams – for example callers pretending to be from Amazon, BT, a bank or other company – had been declining before the pandemic, but since the first lockdown

for Covid-19, PC Evans said: 'We have seen a startling rise in telephone frauds. This is due to the scammers knowing that people are at home to answer the phone due to lockdown, but also they know many vulnerable people are more socially isolated and less likely to have others at their house to intervene in these calls.'

The aim of the Cared for at Home Network is to be able to alert paid and unpaid carers, befrienders or someone else with regular contact with elderly or vulnerable people to incidents like this so that they can let their elderly clients or relatives know about scams that are happening in their area.

In Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, groups which have signed up so far include the Dochas Centre, Argyll Homecare, The Good Care Group, ALI Energy, Carr Gomm, Citizens Advice Bureau and Argyll Care and Repair.

Peter Minshall, manager of the Dochas Carers Centre,



PC Laura Evans, who has set up a network which aims to help protect the elderly and vulnerable from scam calls and fraudsters.

Cared for at Home Network being introduced by Police Scotland and views this smart initiative as a practical way we can all work together to ensure a safer, crime-free community.'

The Cared for at Home Network is hosted by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, a communication system which allows Police Scotland to send out timely, targeted alerts on issues of crime, safety and resilience.

Alerts are sent out to people within the Cared for at Home Network at no cost, by email or text depending on urgency of message and people's own preference.

If anyone would like to know more about Cared for at Home network, or to become involved, contact PC Laura Evans, local authority liaison officer for Argyll and Bute, by email at laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Rural communities' mental health hit hard by Covid

New national research has shown that 93 per cent of people living in marginalised rural communities in Scotland believe the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

The report commissioned by mental health charity Support in Mind Scotland (SiMS) and the National Rural Mental Health Forum focused specifically on LGBT+ people, young carers, refugees and asylum seekers.

Among the key issues it highlights are the loss of face-to-face contact and lack of access to local support.

Long-standing rural challenges such as digital connectivity, transport and isolation have also worsened during the pandemic, the Marginalised Rural Communities Report has found. Refugee and asylum seekers highlighted



action for people affected by mental illness

the issue of community integration and interruption to language development has had an impact on their mental health and wellbeing, while online support has been key to the mental wellbeing of young carers and LGBT+ people.

Frances Simpson, chief executive officer of SiMS, said: 'This research highlights the importance of local connections in communities to support people with poor mental health. We now need to build resilience and capabilities in our communities to improve

life chances of those who may be experiencing poor mental health.'

Co-author Fiona Thompson, SiMS rural campaign manager, said: 'We know Covid-19 is impacting on the mental health of communities across Scotland. This research has highlighted the barriers groups at risk of marginalisation face in ensuring good mental health and wellbeing.'

'We will be focusing on taking forward the recommendations in the report to prioritise the mental health of marginalised rural communities in Scotland and ensure they have a voice in the policy-making process.'

The full report can be viewed and downloaded at ruralwellbeing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Marginalised-Rural-Communities-Support-in-Mind-Scotland-1.1.pdf

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Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



Is dementia preventable?

In 2020 we caught a glimpse of life inside care homes; a microcosm of Covid-19, loneliness and confused dementia sufferers.

No-one wants to develop dementia or end their days in a care home oblivious to the world around them, but can this fate be avoided?

According to The Lancet Commission on Dementia Prevention, Intervention and Care report in 2020*, it can - at least in some of the more common types of the disease.

Presently around 50 million people worldwide are living with dementia, with an annual cost to governments of around a trillion US dollars.

The number of sufferers is predicted to reach an astronomical 152 million by 2050.

This rise will disproportionately affect middle and low-income countries because of their currently increasing adult longevity.

Until recently, dementia



seemed to appear spontaneously, with no obvious cause, but now that several different types are recognised, 12 risk factors have been defined for the more common types, covering 40 per cent of the total.

These risk factors are: lack of education; hearing loss; high blood pressure; obesity; smoking; depression; social isolation; lack of exercise; diabetes; head injury; excess alcohol intake and air pollution.

The commissioners, comprising 28 international dementia experts, stress many of the risk factors are linked - like obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes - and that they can all be modified by government and/or individual actions.

They recommend gov-

ernments should ensure all children receive primary and secondary education and that they instigate public health programmes to cut air and noise pollution and minimise head injuries caused by industrial and road traffic accidents.

They urge individuals to reduce their own risks by behavioural changes including continued physical activities and social interactions into middle and old age while cutting out smoking and alcohol excess.

Encouragingly, the incidence of dementia has recently fallen in several high-income countries. This is likely due to identification of, and action on, these risk factors.

As the commission stated: 'It is never too early and never too late in the life course for dementia prevention.'

So, with nothing better to do during lockdown, get on your bike or take to the hills.

*Lancet 396, p413. 2020.

Drones used to transport Covid tests

Argyll is at the centre of a groundbreaking UK trial to transport medical supplies and samples via drone, writes Ellis Butcher.

Following initial 'proof-of-concept' trials last year, it was announced this week that drones are now officially taking part in a three-month trial.

They will fly between Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital, Mid Argyll Community Hospital in Lochgilphead, Easdale Medical Practice in Clachan Seil and Mull and Iona Community Hospital, Craignure.

Each drone will be loaded with up to 3kg of 'critical supplies'.

They will deliver actual Covid-19 and other test samples, medicine, essential PPE and Covid-19 testing kits between remote locations after dummy runs last year.

The project involves drone delivery company Skyports, NHS Scotland, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Vodafone and digital consultants Deloitte.

The unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will be remotely piloted from the Skyports Operations Centre in Oban and fly 'automatically' along predefined routes.

In a UK first, Skyports becomes the first operator to be allowed to carry diagnostic specimens by drone after



The Skyports drone is loaded and prepares for takeoff.

receiving formal permission from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Stephen Whiston, head of strategic planning for the HSCP, said the trials would help assess how unmanned drones can enhance its logistics operations and improve services to some of the area's most remote and island communities.

Evidence

'This three-month project working with Skyports will provide critical evidence on the real benefits this technology can bring to the NHS, not only in Argyll and Bute but across Scotland,' he said.

Duncan Walker, chief executive officer at Skyports, said: 'The experience from this important initiative will put us another step closer to perma-

nent operations from which we hope more NHS facilities could soon benefit.'

Supporters say delivery drones can improve access to hard-to-reach areas which significantly increases the speed of transport and reduces times in some areas of Argyll and Bute from up to 36 hours via road and ferry journey to just 15 minutes - whilst also increasing the frequency of pick-ups.

Communication between the drone and the operations centre will be provided by Vodafone's 4G network and satellite communications to ensure connectivity coverage is provided at all times, officials said.

The project has been funded by the UK Space Agency and the European Space Agency.

CAB relocates to central Lochgilphead

Lochgilphead-based Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (ABCAB) is moving to the town centre.

Following news of the start of redevelopment at MACPool, the ABCAB main office will be relocated from Riverside, Oban Road, to 18 Argyll Street.

Iain Ritchie, ABCAB chairperson, said: 'We are very pleased to have found suitable offices within Lochgilphead. After refurbishment, our staff and volunteers will have an

excellent Mid Argyll base to meet the needs of our Argyll and Bute community.'

ABCAB's volunteers and staff have continued to support and advise clients throughout the Coronavirus pandemic using telephone, email and video conferencing as well as face-to-face meetings for the most vulnerable individuals.

Bureau manager Jen Broadhurst said: 'The last year has been one of uncertainty for many people across Argyll and Bute, however,

ABCAB has remained a constant throughout the pandemic and expanded our volunteer numbers through the delivery of a remote training programme.

ABCAB is available for advice on all areas of debt, employment, benefits and tax as well as family issues, housing and immigration. To arrange to speak to an adviser, or to find out more about the volunteer training programme, call 01546 605550 or email info@abcab.org.uk.



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Reliable and efficient – but are LED lights harmful?

Campaign group claims lighting 'makes people ill'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The replacement of old-style sodium streetlights with light-emitting diode (LED) lamps is almost complete across Argyll and Bute – but a campaign group has raised health concerns over the newer form of lighting.

Argyll and Bute Council began a phased programme in 2016 to introduce the more energy-efficient LED streetlights in place of the older lamps with their orange glow.

The charity LightAware has, however, called on local authorities across the UK to consider 'scientific evidence' and stop installing such lights, claiming LED street lighting is harmful to human health.

In a report published earlier this month, 'A bright idea? – Adverse health, social and environmental impacts associated with LED street lighting', LightAware claims the main health risks associated with LED street lighting are extreme brightness, which causes glare and eye pain for some; flicker, which can cause migraines and distress for some people on the autistic spectrum and a spike at the blue wavelength which disrupts sleep and causes health problems for some people suffering from lupus and certain skin conditions.

LightAware trustee Dr John Lincoln said: 'It is shocking councils have spent more than

a billion pounds installing street lighting that makes people ill.'

LightAware is calling on councils to stop installing LED street lighting, look at the scientific evidence, listen to people's complaints and 'think about why they are putting financial savings over the newer form of lighting'.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Many people value street lighting as it makes them feel safe. They want us to provide lighting that is reliable and easy to maintain.'

'Carbon emissions are significantly reduced by installing LED luminaires and they don't contain toxic chemicals which are bad for the environment.'

'LED lights depreciate at a much slower rate than other alternatives and have incredibly long lives - each luminaire is guaranteed for 12 years as they don't produce a lot of heat and consume little energy.'

Objectives

'Our luminaires are pre-dimmed by 30 per cent before installation to further reduce energy consumption. This all helps deliver on climate change objectives.'

'Another benefit of LED lighting is that it provides better colour rendering compared to sodium lamps. Things appear more natural, which helps with proper identification of objects and people, and enhances visibility at low illumination levels.'

'The lights are directional at the road surface, meaning they produce less glare, light spill and light pollution.'

'There may be differing views on LED street lighting, but we have used it sensitively to be compliant with design standards and support environmental and safety objectives.'

CONTACTUS
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Storm with no name hits Argyll

The days are lengthening but, although there have been definite hints of it, spring is not yet here.

Following a weekend of heavy rain, Argyll was battered by wind and rain on Tuesday February 23. Meteorologists blamed the jet stream, looping to the

north of Shetland, for a mild southerly air mass reaching these islands, resulting in stormy weather and gales of up to 60mph in places. Thanks go to Lochgilphead's Blair Fletcher for sending in this photograph of Loch Fyne crashing against Ardrishaig harbour and lighthouse.



The new strains of coronavirus are more infectious.



You should self-isolate immediately if:

- You or anyone at home has symptoms
- You have been asked to by NHS Scotland or the Protect Scotland app

Isolating as soon as possible reduces the chance of spreading the virus. Remember, don't leave your home unless it's to be tested, and don't wait for a test result to start isolating.

Call the National Assistance Helpline on 0800 111 4000 to access a range of support to help you self-isolate, including:

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To book a test, visit [NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://www.nhs.uk/inform-scot/) or call 0800 028 2816 if you cannot get online.

*Available to workers on low incomes. Conditions apply.

LETTERS

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

Great news

What fantastic news that work is about to start on refurbishing Mid Argyll Community Pool.

It is a great asset to the region and the new development gives us something to look forward to while pandemic restrictions are with us. Well done to everyone involved for getting the project to this stage.

Fresh ideas

A broken record we might be, but we make no apology for it.

As we have said before, the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland have never taken seriously, really seriously, the issue of the Rest and wider Argyll connectivity. If they had, we wouldn't be talking about it today.

Yes, a lot of work has gone into mitigation. But that is all it has ever been – mitigation and nothing like a solution. And a constant drain on public money.

We need new, fresh thinking on keeping Argyll connected. Perhaps the new business campaign group, with enterprising people involved, will pursue this notion as they apply pressure for action.

In the past, this newspaper has mooted the idea of a competition involving young, forward-thinking engineers free from the baggage of history.

Perhaps now is the time.

Politicians in hiding over A83

Sir,
The news that 100,000 tons of debris could close the Rest and be Thankful is not what we need to hear just now.

There is some possibility of recovery from Covid-19 economically within the next few months and Transport Scotland is said to be looking at a range of options for the Rest.

The best and only option that would bring some relief to the people of Argyll would be a new road through Glen Croe – as soon as you like, please. Options? There is only one possible and that should be obvious.

When I first moved to Argyll and was driving through Glen Croe I had a beautiful feeling that I had left the urban areas behind and come out into fresh country. Now it is a disaster zone and will remain so for a number of years, possibly decades, if a new safe road is not built.

With the Scottish Government elections in May, we should be calling on our politicians to deliver a suitable road through Glen Croe and to do it soon, not 10 years away with no firm plans to do it even then. Our politicians are in hiding and it is time they delivered. The option should be for a new safe road well away from any landslide so that we, the inhabitants of Argyll, can get back to some normal life.

Derrick Anstee,
Inveraray.

No more cheap solutions

Sir,
The neglect of the A83 is a disgrace. It's not just

the long detour via Crianlarich when it rains heavily, it's the potholes and ruts when we get a spell of cold weather.

Three years ago we had a cold winter and the A83 became a dirt track. Emergency repairs had to be carried out.

The Scottish Government said it had solved the problem.

Now we have another cold winter and again emergency repairs are needed.

Other trunk roads in Scotland don't get closed when it rains or get all these ruts and potholes in a cold winter.

We need serious money invested now to solve the A83 problems.

Yet all we get from the Scottish Government is waffle about lengthy public inquiries.

We need money and action now to make the A83 as reliable as Scotland's other trunk roads, not more cheap solutions.

Councillor Alan Reid,
Cowal ward.

Mr Reid is the Liberal Democrat candidate for May's Scottish parliamentary election.

Roaming the streets

Sir,
With reference to the return to school, I hope Lochgilphead Joint Campus pupils are kept in at lunchtime instead of being allowed to roam the streets like herds of wildebeest, with absolutely no social distancing or the wearing of masks.

There is a perfectly good canteen/restaurant in the school and/or packed lunches.

There is no need, at this time, for them all to be out and crowding supermarkets, fast food shops,

cafes and chippies. This needs to be addressed by the Argyll and Bute education department as soon as possible.

Name and address supplied.

Airbrushing out Scotland

Sir,
In a leaflet delivered to every home in the Argyll and Bute constituency, Conservative MSP Donald Cameron claims the 'UK Government (has) announced the Argyll and Bute Rural Growth Deal worth £50 million' and goes on to say he is working with local councillors 'including Alastair Redman' to 'see what further action is needed'.

The Rural Growth Deal, however, is a joint project involving £25 million from the Scottish Government and a matched sum from the UK Government, as well as more than £20 million from other sources.

In addition, the deal has its origins in discussions between the Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, then Scottish Government Finance Secretary John Swinney and the former leader of Argyll and Bute Council Dick Walsh in February 2016.

The UK Government only became involved some years later.

This would be a very serious attempt at disinformation were it not so ludicrously self-defeating.

Mr Cameron is standing to be a member of the Scottish Parliament, yet he is trying to airbrush out anything Scottish about the largest ever investment in Argyll and Bute and its future.

I hope it is merely ignorance of what has

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happened here that has led him to so severely misrepresent the truth of the issue because if it is political spin then he needs to apologise and withdraw the leaflet.

Being pictured next to Alastair Redman won't help him either, given that Mr Redman is best known for his regular letters to local papers attacking the very Scottish Government that is putting an extra £25 million into this area.

The Scottish Tories need to decide who they are working for – Boris Johnson in London, or the people of Scotland.

Until Mr Cameron sorts his loyalties out, then he can't be regarded as any sort of contender for the privilege of representing the people of Argyll and Bute.

Michael Russell MSP.

A divisive referendum

Sir,
The SNP has committed £600,000 to prepare for a second referendum within the next year.

Instead of being focused on Scotland's vaccination programme and protecting people's jobs, the SNP's priority is holding another divisive referendum as early as this year.

Setting aside this vast sum of money to help preparations for a referendum shows the SNP's commitment to return Scotland to the politics of division all over again.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and the Islands ward.

YOURSTORY

email us at editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
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YOUR PICTURES



Elsewhere in this edition, you can read about the go-ahead for the redevelopment of Mid Argyll Community Pool in Lochgilphead.

Siobhán Canavan of Cairnbaan sent us this photograph of an outdoor 'changing room' for folk who prefer a slightly chillier dook.

Siobhán said: 'The photograph was taken at the slipway in Carsaig where a few hardy swimmers continue to take a socially-distanced plunge in the Sound of Jura.'

Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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If you would like to talk to someone directly, contact your local advisor for Mid Argyll Jill Denton on 07707 868351

Alternatively, contact Smoke Free Highland on: **08457 573 077** if you'd like to stop smoking or complete the online form at: bit.ly/Smoke-Free-Highland and your local advisor will get in touch with you.

You are FOUR TIMES more likely to stop smoking when supported by a Stop Smoking Advisor so don't delay that quit any longer!

Hot tubs planned for Grey Gull in Ardrishaig

Two hot tubs are included in plans for a new area at a Mid Argyll hotel.

Operators of the Grey Gull Inn in Ardrishaig want to create a 6.4 square metre monoblock area which would accommodate the two tubs.

A retrospective planning application states that work has already started on the site, as hotel management did not realise planning permission was required.

Work has been put on hold pending a decision from Argyll and Bute Council.

Planning officers are expected to make a decision by the middle of April.

Fencing and a flagpole are also part of the plans for the hotel, which overlooks Loch Gilp.

Bringing health services closer in Cairndow area

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

People in Cairndow and surrounding areas will no longer have to brave the Rest or travel many miles for healthcare consultations.

Thanks to hard work by Cairndow Village Hall recreation committee, a new NEAR ME base opened this week in the hall. The service helps to reduce unnecessary travel which, in times of Covid restrictions and the ongoing unreliability of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful, is viewed as important to a community distant from services.

Final testing for NEAR ME was completed on Monday February 22. The service is housed in a newly-refurbished clinic room within the hall.

The initiative was funded



People in and around Cairndow can now avoid travelling a distance over the Rest for appointments. 06_a09Cairndow01

by the National Lottery with equipment funded by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Patients in Cairndow and neighbouring communities access acute services from NHS Highland and NHS

Greater Glasgow and Clyde, to where many people need to travel.

With NHS Scotland boards developing social distancing policies, digital strategies and increasing the quantity of online consultations, the

new centre puts Cairndow in a great position to access virtual services.

The area's GPs will also be able to connect to patients using NEAR ME.

The service has a role to play in addressing exclusion as some residents may not have the technology at home to access a remote service.

In partnership with the HSCP, the service aims to provide equity of access.

The service will be supported by trained volunteers who will ensure users are familiar with operating the equipment.

Hall recreation committee chairwoman Sharon Hepburn acknowledged the support of the National Lottery and HSCP: 'Without this financial support, this development could not have gone ahead.'

She added: 'The NEAR ME

service reduces the need to travel. With the ongoing challenges of road closures at the Rest and be Thankful, this type of service becomes essential to Cairndow and neighbouring communities, particularly when services in Glasgow are used. We are all on a learning curve and the committee is working hard to be modern, forward thinking and support the community in different ways.'

The hall recreation committee has also been working towards other facilities at the village hall – bearing in mind current Covid restrictions – including a gym, community garden, lunch club, young people's group, film events, book exchange, reading and craft group, community kitchen and chess and domino club.

Fire station testing expanded to include Tarbert

More Scottish fire stations have joined Lochgilphead in hosting testing for people with coronavirus symptoms.

From Tuesday this week, a further seven stations were added to the list, including Tarbert fire station.

Testing will be offered on-site at some locations, as well as offering pick-up tests. Instructions will be supplied with the pick-up test kits, which can be returned the same day using a nearby priority post box.

Earlier this month, Public Health Minister Mairi

Gougeon announced that access to coronavirus (Covid-19) testing would be expanded to 21 fire stations in remote and rural areas of Scotland, including Campbeltown and Dunoon, following the success of trials in Thurso and Lochgilphead.

Ms Gougeon said: 'I am very grateful to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Argyll and Bute Council, Highland Council and NHS Highland for their support to make this possible, following the success of our initial trial. The Scottish Government is

committed to ensuring people with Covid symptoms can easily access a test no matter where they are in the country and we will continue to work with the UK Government and local partners to improve access to Covid testing in remote and rural areas.'

Pleased
Assistant Chief Officer Stuart Stevens, director of service delivery for the SFRS, said: 'We are pleased the success of the initial trial in Thurso and Lochgilphead now means many more fire stations can assist rural communities to

access Covid-19 tests closer to home. Our staff have shown a real commitment to providing this service, whilst maintaining a capability to respond to emergencies, and I thank them for their ongoing efforts.'

In partnership with the SFRS, people who have Covid symptoms and are within walking or driving distance will now be able to access a test from stations including Tarbert, Cove and pick-up only at Arrochar.

Tests can be booked by calling NHS Highland on 01463 706015.



Tarbert Fire Station joins those acting as Covid-testing centres.

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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



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COVERINGS**



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**TWO
METRES**



**SELF-
ISOLATE**

Small business Covid fund opens

A new grant scheme aimed at helping small businesses and the self-employed in Argyll and Bute facing short-term financial challenges in the pandemic has opened.

The business discretionary fund is focused on businesses which need short-term financial help to continue actively trading and cannot be used to replace lost income for a business that still has sufficient cash reserves to meet its needs.

To be eligible, an Argyll and Bute-based business must be:

- Negatively impacted by the pandemic and facing short-term financial challenges with income in the period October to December 2020 at least 30 per cent lower than in the equivalent period in 2019.

- Ineligible for any other Covid business grant funds

announced by the Scottish Government since October 1 2020.

- The source of at least 33 per cent of its total income for the 12-month period ending March 31 2020.

- A micro or small business - fewer than 50 employees - and either a limited company, partnership, sole trader, trust, community interest company or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

- Trading prior to March 17 2020 and now either open or temporarily closed due to the impact of Covid-19.

- Not in receipt of an enforcement notice as a result of breaching Covid-19 regulations.

Visit the www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/business-discretionary-fund - for full details about the new scheme.

Addressing the past, but listening for a better future

A view by health and wellbeing campaigner Barabel McKay, chairwoman of the volunteer Mid Argyll-based Health and Care Group

The times they are a-changing. From all directions people seem to need your views about community development, schools, roads and health.

In a recent Scottish Government consultation about the future of the health service, groups were set up by random selection in the north, south and west.

There was an online questionnaire completed by 2,500 people. That is quite a select group of participants in a population of more than five million.

We exist to make sure you have a say in the future as it affects you and your families.

Wait a minute, haven't we been here before?

Passionate groups here have

been lobbying for civilised elderly and dementia care, autism awareness, diabetic support and mental health acknowledgement. It is easier to become worn out than win.

One wonders if delay is a tactic that organisations use, instead of recognising in-depth knowledge and learned experience as the invaluable professional learning tools they are.

Instead, as one of our members Leonard MacNeill put it: 'They don't want to be told what they are doing wrong. They only want the good news.'

The Covid experience has shown each one of us contributors to outcomes.

We need information from experts. They have to commu-



Barabel McKay.

he said: 'It is hard to imagine that people are deliberately doing bad things.'

To go forward, constraints from the past have to be addressed.

We call on the Health and Social Care Partnership to have the courage to admit it is a system failure.

The chairwoman of a former health board set the precedent.

She heard the story of an injustice for which she was not personally responsible but stood up and said 'Mea Culpa'.

The health and care group aims to represent the views of service users and their families.

Email Barabel McKay - barabelmck@gmail.com - for more information.

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Thought for the Week

'I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.'

This idea has been the foundation of western liberal democracy. But we live in a world which increasingly believes that to disagree is to hate.

Could it be that to disagree might in some circumstances actually be the manifestation of love?

If a child searching for meaning, identity and love has chosen a path of destruction through heroin, for example, would a parent be loving to blindly affirm him? Could disagreement be love?

The apostle Paul wrote this to Timothy, a young pastor: 'And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.'

Timothy was to be a model of the Lord Jesus, the most loving man who ever lived, yet the one who disagrees with everyone. Disagrees? Really? Yes, Jesus' first word to the world in the gospel of Matthew is 'repent', that is 'you are heading the wrong way, turn from sin to God'.

Jesus isn't addressing a particular section of society or a particular behaviour. He is not directing his gaze at 'everyone except me'. This is the most loving call in the world to everyone everywhere. And it's good news because it comes from a saviour who paid for sin and who offers us the power to change.

'I have come,' said Jesus, 'that they may have life and have it in abundance.'

His invitation? Come, find out how to live and how to love.

Reverend Mark Jasper, Campbeltown Community Church.

LOCHGILPHEAD

Vaccinations going well

Lochgilphead Medical Centre has said the turnout for its latest Covid-19 vaccination clinics in Inveraray and Lochgilphead has been 'fantastic'.

Ahead of a further clinic on Wednesday February 24, the surgery announced on its Facebook page: 'If you are over 70 or been advised to shield (classified clinically extremely vulnerable) by a government letter or your doctor and haven't been contacted by ourselves to make your first Covid-19 vaccine appointment, please contact the medical practice for your appointment. We are working hard to vaccinate the next priority groups for their first vaccine when supply allows. Please do not contact the surgery to arrange an appointment for your vaccine if you are under 69 years of age and/or you are designated in the at-risk priority group, unless you have been contacted directly by the practice to make one.'

'Thank you again for your patience with waiting for your appointment. We are looking forward to seeing you at your vaccine appointment.'

DALMALLY

Postmistress gives notice

Post office services in Dalmally are about to change as village postmistress Gilli Chrystal gives notice of her intention to give up the role.

Saying it wasn't a decision she had taken lightly, Gilli announced last weekend on social media: '...now that the [Dalmally] sorting office has been removed, it will be less viable for me to remain.'

'Nothing stays the same forever and I think 20 years, give or take, behind the PO counter is enough. I have submitted my three months resignation to hopefully conclude my post mid May.'

'Both the community council and community company are aware of my decision and understand.'

It is hoped Post Office Limited will continue to provide a service in the village, though no detail has been confirmed at this point. A few miles down the A85, Loch Awe Post Office remains open.



The former helicopter landing site was often waterlogged. Right: the first pour of concrete at the new helipad. Photograph: Kenny Craig.

CAMPBELTOWN

Helipad construction continues despite weather

In the sixth week of construction at the Robert Black Memorial Helipad in Campbeltown, the weather relented enough to allow the first concrete pour to take place.

Heavy rain and high winds last week forced the postponement of the second pour, but even that failed to stop McFadyens Contractors Campbeltown Ltd from working hard installing kerbstones for the access road ahead of laying tarmac in a few weeks.

Work began in January on the £270,000 helipad, which is being named in honour of the Campbeltown paramedic who died in May last year after a battle with Covid-19.

The project was inspired by ambulance technician Stuart McLellan, from Neilston in East Renfrewshire, after he saw emergency services struggling to airlift patients from the often-waterlogged site while visiting relatives in Campbeltown in 2018.



After discussions with people in the town, including councillors and community councillors who were supportive from the start, Stuart began his campaign and in October last year announced the Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads (HELP) Appeal would fund the project.

South Kintyre Development Trust agreed to take on a licence to operate the helipad and take responsibility for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the site on behalf of the community.

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Opening up to meet surge in farming interest

Farmers are being asked to think about how they might host the public – online or for real depending on Covid rules – in June this year.

Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) organisers of the farming industry's annual open day, LEAF Open Farm Sunday (LOFS), has seen more than a quarter of a million people visit farms across the UK each year since the event's inauguration 15 years ago.

LOFS 2021 will take place on June 13 but in addition to this, LEAF will this year host two 'virtual' farm open days in the spring and autumn, alongside a programme of monthly live Facebook broadcasts running throughout the year.

'One of the unexpected positives to emerge from the challenges of lockdown has

been the surge in interest in the countryside, nature and buying fresh produce and we have seen a higher following than ever on our LEAF LOFS digital channels,' said LOFS manager Annabel Shackleton.

'This is the perfect moment to capture the public's curiosity and build our outreach to benefit the whole industry.'

Visitors

While awaiting clarity on Covid regulations on public gatherings and events, Mrs Shackleton is urging farmers to start thinking about how they can host visitors on farms in June.

All these activities are aimed at promoting a greater understanding of the different aspects of agriculture such as productive soils, animal welfare, clean water and air,



Farmers are being encouraged to consider hosting a farm open day later this year.

public access and enhancing biodiversity. As visitor numbers for events may be limited,

we would love to see a greater number of farms opening their gates, but for smaller groups,

so that social distancing can be followed,' Mrs Shackleton continued.

'We're encouraging host farmers to think about how to maximise outdoor spaces.

'It could be a farm walk, a scavenger hunt or a short show-and-tell in the yard. It may also be an opportunity to collaborate with other food producers to provide a place for people to buy and try new local foods.

'Farmers have some important topical messages to share about high quality food production, caring for the countryside, plus the economic and environmental benefits of buying British and we want to help facilitate these conversations.'

A library of free LOFS resources and online workshops

planned for March will help to make hosting easier and allow the sharing of ideas between the network of experienced and new hosts.

A free, easy-to-use ticketing service is available so host farmers can manage visitor numbers and contact visitors if there are any changes in plans.

The main social media channels used across the campaign will be Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and LOFS is asking farmers to post and share on these days using the hashtag #LOFS21 to create a diverse, colourful and authentic picture of UK farming for the public.

To find out more and to register to host LEAF Open Farm Sunday in June 2021, visit www.farmsunday.org.



For more information or to place an order please send Farm Gates (UK) Ltd a message or call:
Ronnie Finney 07789 276354
Email: farm.gates@yahoo.com

SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED FOR THIS MONTH

MOBILE SHEEP SYSTEM
ON SALE FROM £1695 + VAT
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The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements

MAIN FEATURES:

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

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

Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 40).

OPTION 2
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
£1975 + VAT
Comes with:

- 10 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-foot swing gates



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FROM £1850 + VAT
Crush Gate optional extra £599.00 + VAT.

As standard, our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, 1 sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 full grown cattle (approx.)

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-feet holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate



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A True Taste of Scotland

The Hebridean Toffee Company was founded in 2000. Still the only manufacturing business on the Isle of Barra and with a small family staff, Hebridean Toffee have to date sent their delicious Handmade Scottish tablet to every corner of the world including many prestigious outlets which among others, include Harvey Nichols, The House of Lords, The Queen's summer residence, Balmoral Castle, The Scottish Parliament and Inverlochy Castle Hotel.

Hebridean Toffee was also the first company to include Scottish Tablet into their own

wedding favours. They offer tasteful personalised boxes each containing two squares of freshly made Hebridean Toffee wrapped in airtight packaging which will keep fresh for 6 months.



In 2003, Hebridean Toffee were winners of the Best Marketing award by Ernst & Young and were runners-up in the Best New Business category also that year. In 2010, Hebridean Toffee celebrated 10 years of trading and in that time

more than 15 thousand metric tonnes of Hebridean Toffee and related products have left Barra bound for many satisfied customers.

The recipe for Hebridean Toffee is naturally a closely guarded secret, as the flavour, colour and aroma is distinctly different to other commercial and hand-made tablets and has an unsurpassed shelf-life of 6 months from date of manufacture as no artificial colouring, flavourings, preservatives or additives are used. Every step of daily production is carried out by hand with no automation in either the cooking or the packaging process.

To find out more visit www.hebrideantoffeecompany.com

We have been in lockdown for nearly a year now and realistically it might be another six months or so before things are fully up and open again and running how they used to be for travel and large events.

Prepare for a wedding tsunami!

There is about an 18 month backlog of West Highland and islands weddings that need to catch up.

This is not counting the people who had to go small with their lockdown weddings and now want to throw a huge, big, hooley of a ceilidh to get their families and friends together to celebrate.

Then there are the destination weddings and we can expect couples from across the UK heading here because we have the perfect locations. Many who might have planned a destination wedding overseas will be looking to come and visit us.

Then, before you know it, overseas travellers will be back and looking to say 'I do' on our doorstep.

(Ever wonder how many people have been binge-watching Outlander throughout lockdown and planning their dream wedding in the Highlands?)

The demand is going to be enormous. We are not just talking traditional church weddings but all venues licensed for marriages and every hotel, restaurant and hall for the celebrations.

Plus florists, caterers, cake makers, wedding cars, hair dressers make-up artists and musicians.

It will be good news for all these crafts and professions and the businesses that employ them because they all have had a tough time this last year and everyone will be glad to see them backup in business and thriving.

When it comes to brides' and bridesmaids' dresses, these cannot be organised soon enough – and mothers of the bride and groom please take this on board. Everyone will be shopping all at once, once restrictions are lifted.

And gentlemen, the same goes if you fancy splashing out on a new bespoke kilt for your big day or even arranging kilt hire for your groomsmen.

Everything to do with

weddings will be in great demand – so get planning and booking now!

Smaller can still be beautiful

The good news is that for some people smaller weddings are just what they want.

Feeling overwhelmed by the expectations of both of your families about the size of your wedding? Worried about spending that much cash when the future can look uncertain?

Have you got to the stage when it is: 'Well we've invited my Aunty Mhari so that means we'll have to...'

Fear not. Covid has given you a perfect alibi to downsize, get it all under control and how YOU want it to be.

More but fewer

Here is an idea that works so well which borrows from past traditions: don't just settle for one big event, plan a few to suit your circumstances.

It might well be that the pandemic still means smaller-sized gatherings for a while. Instead of everyone travelling



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Argyll Weddings & Events are creative, highly experienced venue dressers, covering the whole of Argyll and the Isles from Kintyre to Skye. With offices in Dunoon and Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, they are well versed in dressing all sorts of weddings, be it a town centre ceremony, a remote castle or a white sandy beach anywhere

within our beautiful region. The AWESOME team prides themselves on listening to their clients and working with them and their venue to create your perfect day. Attention to detail is everything and you can just simply relax and enjoy every moment of your very special day, knowing that they have ensured your wedding looks exactly as you envisioned.





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to you, why not have the bride and groom go to them.

So how about a smaller wedding service and reception for family and a party or ceilidh at a later date? Or if part of the family live some distance away go, to them for a blessing and a party. If you live and work away have a gathering there for friends and neighbours.

Spreading the event across a few occasions harks back to the weddings of old that went on for days, with the newly weds going round the island or a remote neighbourhood to visit

everyone. Weddings on Tiree were legendary!

There is a feeling growing that we will be living in changed times once all this is over so why not change our weddings to match?

But some things will never change – getting dressed up and joining the people who mean the most to us to celebrate marriage with food and drink and music and laughter.

It will take more than a few stubborn germs to ever stop that.



Balinakill Country House – Exclusively Yours. . .



Balinakill is hired on an exclusive use basis for as long as you choose. This wonderful Victorian country house comes alive with people enjoying themselves and is the perfect venue for small, intimate events or larger celebrations. The house is grand but welcoming with a choice of public rooms and beautiful, mature gardens for your ceremony. It can accommodate up to 30 overnight guests in twelve en-suite bedrooms, an additional children's play/bedroom, three large public rooms (2 with open fires and one with a piano and table tennis/pool table), a Victorian dining room, family kitchen and a cosy stock-your-own bar with a wood burning stove.

Our priority here at Balinakill is to make sure that your Wedding day is exactly how you want it to be. Whether you want to relax in the hot tub before your big day, continue the celebrations into the next day in your very own bar, play pool or simply relax in the garden or in front of the fire, Balinakill can offer it all and more!

Kintyre Weddings – Creating what you want for your very special day!



This Victorian home and Kintyre's Only 5 Star VisitScotland Guest House, has undergone a complete transformation to offer fully licensed, 5 unique high-end rooms with refined décor and with professional in-house Chef, Carradales makes the perfect wedding venue.

If you are looking for that small intimate location for your wedding, then Carradales is the perfect place.

Ceremonies can be held in their garden with views of the countryside or in those winter months in the drawing room.

Quite simply Carradales offers charm and hospitality with character, style and comfort to create what you want for your very special day.

Connel Bay offers contemporary tailoring for modern grooms.

Working by appointment, the Oban based business creates unique and one-off garments using the finest Scottish made, tartan, tweed, and cashmere, with each item bespoke to the individual.

Our Edinburgh based kiltmakers sew each kilt by hand whilst our tailors cut each jacket one at a time. We also offer a range of luxury accessories from bespoke shirts and handmade sporrans to merino wool socks and knitted ties.

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THE ALL-NEW ISUZU D-MAX SET TO ARRIVE IN SHOWROOMS MARCH 2021



The All-New Isuzu D-Max combines smart new styling and impressive safety technology with improved off-road performance. Not only does it deliver the strength and durability you'd expect from an Isuzu pick-up truck, this capable workhorse now adds superior levels of comfort and refinement.

Benefiting from an assertive new exterior design, the all-new Isuzu D-Max boasts a more distinguishable and powerful appearance.

The elevated front-end design and sharp contours generate a more imposing presence which is complemented by distinctive 18" alloy wheels and new Bi-LED lights on higher end models.

The interior has been transformed with a sophisticated layered dashboard design and new infotainment systems which provide a more spacious and contemporary feel.

This is accompanied by soft-touch panelling and elegant detailing that contributes to a more premium interior which remains fuss-free and practical to operate.

Isuzu is renowned for its 4x4 expertise and the all-new D-Max is even more capable off-road, with a faster engaging shift-on-the-fly 4WD system and a standard rear diff-lock on All-Purpose and

Adventure models. Back on the road, it is even safer thanks to a comprehensive ADAS package that includes Autonomous Emergency Braking, Traffic Sign Recognition, Intelligent Speed Limiter and Lane Departure Warning and Prevention on every model.

The all-new Isuzu D-Max is the only pick-up in the UK to have a rear radar fitted as standard on all double cab variants and this enables even more ADAS functionality. All double cabs have three additional ADAS systems: Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Blind Spot Monitor and – for the first time in the pickup segment – Emergency Lane Keeping.

Remaining true to its workhorse pedigree, the all-new Isuzu D-Max is capable of towing up to 3.5t and carrying over a tonne payload.

Customers are presented with a wide range of models to choose from including 4x2 or 4x4, three different cab types (single, extended and double cab) and four brand new trim levels.

S&S Services announce they have several early models of the all-new Isuzu D-Max. To test drive call 01292 880080.

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PRESS RELEASE

Supervising a learner?

MAKE SURE YOU GIVE THEM 100 PER CENT OF YOUR ATTENTION, SAYS GEM

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging anyone supervising a learner driver to ensure they have brushed up their own skills and that they devote 100 per cent of their attention to the task.

The advice comes as different parts of the country deal with different levels of lockdown restriction, which for anyone in tier 4 (England and Wales) or protection level 4 (Scotland) means driving lessons are only allowed with someone from your own household during an essential journey.

In Northern Ireland, the current lockdown means driving lessons are not allowed, and driving tests are cancelled until 6 February. Motorcycle tests, however, continue to take place as normal.

GEM chief executive Neil Worth said: "Driving practice is a vital component of the learning process and a great way to develop skills and

experience. The presence of a calm, friendly and unflappable supervisor will be enormously beneficial in making that process as positive as possible.

"But accepting the role is a big responsibility, and not something you would want to do lightly.

"That's why we are asking anyone who sits down with a learner to ensure they are fully familiar with the rules of the road (many of which may have been altered or adapted since they were learners) and that they take the responsibility seriously by not being distracted.

Rules such as the ban on using a hand-held mobile phone while driving – as well as drink-driving – also apply to anyone supervising a learner driver. You may not be the one driving, but as the qualified driver in charge, you are deemed to be 'in control' of the vehicle.

GEM recommends obtaining advice from the learner's

driving instructor to find out what has been covered, where there is a particular need for additional practice and what would be the most helpful areas to work on.

"In the early stages, this is usually best done with just learner and supervisor in the car," suggests Neil Worth. "As the learner's experience builds, then you can consider bringing rear-seat passengers – but we suggest not until the learner's familiarity with different road environments has been allowed to develop."

Essential reading

Have a good read through the Highway Code to ensure that you're fully up to date with the rules. You will find the information in it to be very useful for the journeys you make as a supervisor.

Many of the regulations are legal requirements and not just good advice, so by ignoring them, both you and the learner you're supervising will be guilty of an offence.



What the law says

- To supervise a learner, you must be at least 21 years old and must have had a full driving licence for the type of vehicle being used for at least three years.
- Do also check that the learner has a valid provisional licence, that your insurance policy allows a learner to drive the car and that the insurers know the learner's age.
- Check your car is in a safe condition and displaying L plates (L or D plates may be used in Wales) at the front and rear.





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RECRUITMENT



DISTELL

VACANCY: PROCESS OPERATOR –
TOBERMORY DISTILLERY,
ISLE OF MULL

Applications are invited for the above mentioned position based in Tobermory. The role will be predominately day shift, however there may be ad-hoc requirements for shift work to help with periods of holiday and absence. This is a 12 month fixed-term contract.

Overall Purpose:

A process operator's role is responsible for carrying out all of the operations in the distillery, including goods receipt, mashing, distilling, operation of services plant and warehousing duties. To ensure that all aspects of process operations are carried out to deliver best cost effective, efficient and quality results in line with corporate goals

Key Responsibilities

- Unloading of yeast and checking delivery agrees with ordered amount.
- Unloading of malt and checking delivery agrees with malt specification.
- Taking spirit accounts and loading of road tankers.
- Ensuring stock is used in rotation.
- Safe operation of running the mash house.
- Safe operation of the stillhouse.

Application

For full job specification, additional information, or to apply for this position, please email:

HRInternational@distellinternational.com

Closing Date: Friday 12th March 2021.
No Agencies Please.

HARVESTING CONTRACTS SUPERVISOR

LOCHGILPHEAD

We are currently looking to recruit a Harvesting Contracts Supervisor in Argyll, based out of our Lochgilphead office. If you want to work somewhere where you will be surrounded by the beautiful landscapes of Argyll in a bustling community then this role could be for you.

For a full job description, find out the required for this role and how to apply, please refer to the careers section of our website:

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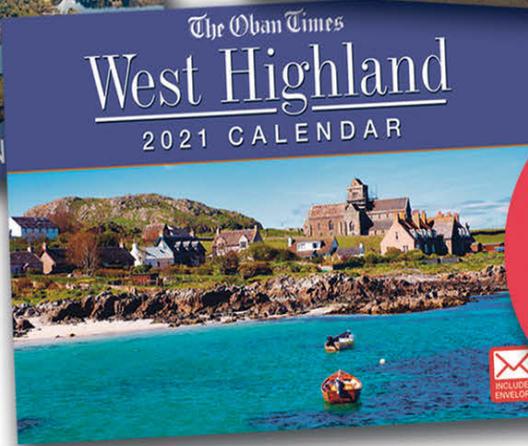
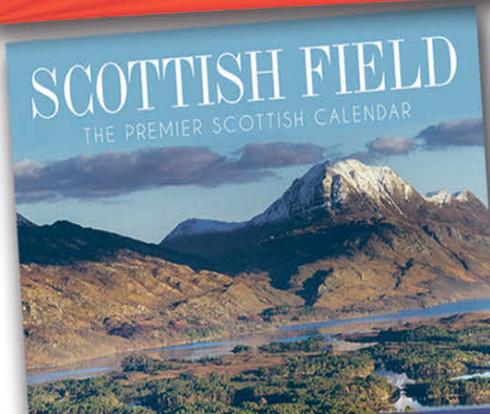
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PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. 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 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
20/01741/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of a timber clad modular building for use as office/welfare/storage facilities, siting of storage container, installation of cycle storage units and erection of fence	Mid Argyll Community Hospital And Integrated Care Centre, Land West Of Tigh Na Linne, Blarbuie Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
21/00095/PP	Variation of condition 5 of Planning Permission ref 20/01470/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access) in relation to the maintenance of unimpeded access from the core path C088(g) to the existing coastal path	Leana Glas, Torrisedale, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6QT
20/02298/PP	Formation of access track linking existing/consented tracks (417m in length) to facilitate construction and maintenance of Port Ann to Crossaig overhead line	Land North Of Tarbert Golf Club, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
20/02297/PP	Formation of access track (1005m in length) to facilitate construction and maintenance of Port Ann to Crossaig overhead line	Land West Of Lochan Da Chean-Fionn, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/00093/PP	Erection of temporary wind monitoring meteorological mast of up to 100m in height for a period of 24 months (2 years)	Anemometer Mast Capull Cloiche, Land South West Of Lochan Anama And North East Of A' Cruach Windfarm, 6km East Of Kilmartin, Argyll And Bute
21/00203/PP	Installation of mono-block hard-standing area to accommodate 2 hot tubs and erection of 1.8m high fencing (part retrospective) and installation of flag pole (retrospective)	The Grey Gull Inn, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA30 8EU

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 Council's 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
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Anne Munro has registered Croft 1 & 3 Kintalin, North Knapdale on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 10 November 2021.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7468.

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Argyll and Bute Council

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (C43 ARDRISHAIG BACK ROADS (WEST BANK ROAD) ARDRISHAIG)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021

On Monday 22nd February 2021, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle on that length of the C43 Ardrishaig Back Roads (West Bank Road), Ardrishaig, from a point 50 metres or thereby south of its junction with Park Road extending in a northerly direction to a point 50 metres or thereby north of its junction with Park Road, a distance of 120 metres or thereby.

The restrictions, which are required because essential maintenance works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the length of road, will be in operation every day between 0700 hours and 1800 hours from the 1st of March until 15th March 2021, but will only have effect in relation to part or parts of the length of road when indicated by the appropriate traffic signs to minimise the potential impact on those affected.

Alternative routes will be signed in an appropriate manner.

The Order is available for viewing on the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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BIRTH



BROLLY - Jude and Sarah (née Blair) are delighted to announce the early arrival of their daughter, Chloe Ann, born February 1, 2021. First granddaughter for Colin and Karen Blair, and a third granddaughter for Colin and Jenny Brolly. Special thanks to all the lovely midwives at Lochgilphead Maternity Unit, and Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

ENGAGEMENT

MCKERRAL - CRAINIE - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Jayne, younger daughter of Ian and Norma, Campbeltown, to Evan, eldest son of John and Karen Kilsyth.

DEATHS

BROWN - It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of Derek (former Technical teacher, Lochgilphead High School) on February 16, 2021, aged 70 years, after a short period of ill health. Beloved husband of Janette, dad to William and Kirsty, and father-in-law to Daan. He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends. A celebration of Derek's life will take place at Parkgrove Crematorium, Frickheim in a private ceremony due to current restrictions. Donations, if desired, direct to accesssport.org.uk

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at his home, Airds, Castleton, by Lochgilphead, with his family by his side on February 20, 2021, Colin Montgomery Campbell, in his 94th year. Beloved and loving husband of Christine McInnes. Dearly loved father of Shona, Kirsty and Colin and father-in-law to Rod, Annie and the late Iain. Proud grampa, great-grandpa and uncle. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. A private funeral service will be held at Achhabreac Cemetery on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. The funeral cortege will leave from Free Church Lochgilphead, at

11.30am approximately, travelling along Union Street on to Argyll Street, via Bishopton Road towards the Cemetery. Family flowers only.

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at home, 84 Millknowe, Campbeltown, on February 21, 2021, Cathrine McNeill Creighton (Rene) in her 93rd year, dearly beloved wife of the late Duncan Campbell, much loved mum of Mary and Elizabeth and a loving granny of David. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Rene's funeral will take place on Monday, March 1. The cortege will leave the home address at 1.00pm after a short prayer. We will travel along Millknowe, Longrow, Aqualibrium Avenue and past the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Rene may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

FLETCHER - Peacefully at home, with her family by her side, after an illness borne with great courage and dignity, Margaret Helen Fletcher, née Murray, in her 74th year of 2 Lochfyne Terrace, Ardrishaig. Beloved wife of John Fletcher, and dear loved mum of Helen and Alison, adored gran of Craig, Josh, Emma and Fergus and much respected mother-in-law of Michael and Adrian. A dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, former work colleague and dear friend to many. A private funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Donations can be made in Margaret's memory directly to Macmillan Nurses Mid Argyll, or via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors. Margaret will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

GALBRAITH - Suddenly at his home in Yorkshire on January 4, 2021, Douglas Galbraith, formerly of Campbeltown, aged 63 years.

MACNAB - On February 17, 2021, peacefully at Argyll Care Centre, Helensburgh, Mary MacNab, née Heads, in her 80th year, much loved mother of Eilidh, Sine and the late Alasdair and a loving granny to

Ellie and Jamie. Owing to current restrictions, a private funeral service and interment, was held at Carrick Cemetery. Sadly missed by all.

MCKERRAL - Peacefully at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on February 20, 2021, Jean Weir McKerral, in her 77th year, 11 Meadowpark, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Alistair McKerral, much loved mum of Andrew and Alistair, mother-in-law of Marie, loving granny of Jamie, Scott, Nicola, Kirsty and Shelley and great-granny to Peyton.

STEWART - Peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on February 11, 2021, Neil Ronald Stewart, in his 65th year, beloved husband of Michele Robinson, much loved son of the late Archie and Isobel (Istelle) Stewart and dear brother of Alan and Kerry. Funeral service held on February 25, in line with current Covid restrictions. Memorial donations may be made to Kidney Research UK (<https://kidneyresearchuk.org/support/donate/>).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRAHAM - Sandy and the family of the late Jean Graham, would like to thank everyone most sincerely, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in their recent bereavement. Special thanks to all involved in her medical care and to Naomi and Tanya for all their help and assistance. Thanks also to Rev Lyn Peden for a comforting service and support, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for kind and sympathetic handling of all arrangements and to all who lined the route to the cemetery to pay their respects.

MACPHERSON - Iain, Catriona, Heather and Neil would like to thank all family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, phone calls and messages following the sad loss of our dearly loved mum Johan. Special thanks to Kerry who was there for mum over the last year when we couldn't be. Thanks to Kenneth Blair and team for their guidance

and professionalism, the community nursing team and also Fr Tony Wood and Fr John Eagers for their comforting service. Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who lined the route to pay their last respects.

TURNER - The family of the late Margaret Turner would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support, for all the cards, letters and messages following their sad loss. We would also like to thank all those who paid their respects along the funeral route. Grateful thanks to the carers from Carr Gomm, District Nurses and Campbeltown Community Care Nurses. Thanks to T A Blair for their caring and professional services and sincere thanks to the Rev. Chris Fulcher for her touching graveside service.

MEMORIALS

DOCHERTY - In loving memory of our cousin, John Anthony Docherty, who died February 26, 2018.

"I am leaving, I am leaving, but the fighter still remains".

Good night John Bhoj. - Love Paula and Aiden William x.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Christopher Beaton MacDonald (Chris), slept away on March 4, 2013, a devoted and loving husband, dad and papa. Loved and remembered always.

- Eva, Christine and Christopher.

MACTAVISH - In loving memory of our father, Douglas, who died February 27, 2001.

Always in our thoughts. We cannot believe it's twenty years.

- Malcolm and Ross.

MACVICAR - In loving memory of Teena, died March 1, 2007.

- Johnnie, Mitchell, Catherine and families.

MORRANS - In loving memory of our mum, Sarah Soudan (Sadie), died February 24, 1999 and family members who have passed before.

Sadly missed - Barbara, Christine, Martin and Kenneth x

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 is closed BUT you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on **Sunday, 28th February 2021** at 11am when John Ives from Southend will bring the message. To join us online send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting 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

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

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.

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH
George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 28th 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 3rd March
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)
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
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
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 and on www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk](http://ChristChurchLochgilpheadandonwww.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk)



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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.

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

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

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

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 (Matthew 22)

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**American dream
 as golfer Bob
 targets Masters**

Oban golf ace Bob MacIntyre is teeing up to compete in five world class tournaments in seven weeks with the ultimate aim of landing a prized spot at the US Masters in April, writes Fiona Scott.

After spending the last few weeks isolating at home in Oban, Bob, 24, will live and travel in a protective 'bubble' with Bounce Sports director Iain Stoddart and caddie Mikey Thompson as he blazes a trail through the US. Speaking from Oban last week, Bob said: 'It's all about feeling comfortable about things and at the moment I'm feeling comfortable about most of it. I'm pretty good about not worrying about these things.'

'I don't much like being on my own but having Stoddy (Iain) and Mikey with me helps. I'm just going to go out there and enjoy myself.'

Bob's first stop is Florida where he will play alongside the world's best in the Workday Championship at The Concession. Providing he stays inside the top 50 – he is currently 43rd in the world rankings – the Arnold Palmer Invitational will be next, March 4 to 7, while a place at the Players Championship at Ponte Vedra Beach is also likely from March 11 to 14. Both are in Florida and part of the PGA tour. From March 24 to 28, Bob will travel to Austin, Texas, for the WGC – Dell Technologies Match Play and, if still in the top 50 on March 29, a place at the US Masters in Augusta, April 8 to 11, has Bob's name on it.

Shinty's priorities for safe return to playing

The Camanachd Association has set out three key priorities for the next 12 months, writes Colin Cameron.

They don't fit with the association's strategic plan for shinty, which takes a broader approach, but the governing body views them as an important guide for the safe return of the sport during 2021 and beyond the pandemic.

The first priority is to restart shinty, support clubs in understanding new Covid guidance and help them provide safe environments to protect the sport and its members in line with government guidance.

Priority number two will be equality, diversity and inclusion.

Shinty will re-start with a focus on removing barriers to participation, with opportunities for everyone.

The final key priority will be to ensure shinty clubs are safe and well-organised.

The association believes the successful return of shinty will depend on clubs providing a safe, well-organised and fun environment for people to take part in the historic sport.

With the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine well under way, the Camanachd Association announced this week that it was 'excited by the prospect of 2021 and we look forward to working with our members, clubs, partners and sponsors to deliver the best year possible'.

Camanachd Association president Steven MacKenzie



Camanachd Association president Steven MacKenzie.

said: 'Re-starting our sport is our number one priority moving into 2021. The Camanachd Association has laid the groundwork with many of our clubs so that we are ready to return to training in a safe manner as soon as conditions allow.'

'Shinty is an essential part of the health and culture of our communities and we eagerly wait for a safe return to the excitement and warmth it offers us all.'

The association's chief executive officer Derek Keir added: 'The priorities that have been laid out in this plan are essential for a safe return to our sport that meets the needs of our communities.'

'We are faced with an incredible opportunity post-lockdown to engage and provide opportunities that bring people together in a safe way in line with guidance.'

'Our clubs have support from our regional development team to develop Covid readiness



and progress plans for restarting our game. In delivering against the above priorities, we will deliver vital opportunities locally for young people and older people to get involved in our iconic sport.'

Inveraray's Andrew Fraser, right, in action during a friendly match against Glasgow Mid Argyll in February last year, when shinty could still be played.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



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