

Roar with laughter and raise cash on Red Nose Day

Pages 14-15



Rest decision to be revealed 'this month'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The Scottish Government is about to announce its chosen alternative route to the troubled A83 at the Rest and be Thankful.

In response to parliamentary questions last week by Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant, Cabinet Secretary for Transport Michael Matheson replied: 'The necessary design and assessment work is well under way to identify an alternative to the current A83 route and find a long-term solution to the challenges created by the Rest and be Thankful section of the road. We anticipate announcing a preferred corridor later this month [March].'

The government did not, however, reveal when it would publish a full timetable for the

'There has been millions of pounds spent to date, but today there will be an announcement saying there is rain in the forecast and the road will be shut.'

replacement of this stretch of road. The A83 through Glen Croe has been hit by multiple closures due to landslides since 2007, with a Transport Scotland official recently claiming that around 100,000 tonnes of soil and rock is 'on the move' towards the lifeline trunk road.

Following three significant landslides earlier in the year, in September 2020 Transport Scotland announced a five-

week consultation on 11 potential alternative routes. Pressure has been building within Argyll to urge the Scottish Government to construct a viable alternative quickly. The local authority and politicians would like a solution within the term of the next Scottish parliament – but a new Argyll business group, The Rest and be Thankful Campaign, is pressing for a faster solution, within three years.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership on March 10, Argyll and Bute Council Leader Robin Currie said: 'There has been millions of pounds spent to date, but today there will be an announcement saying there is rain in the forecast and the road will be shut. This is the stage we are at and it is absolutely ridiculous. You would think you were in a far off, distant country.'



Capturing lockdown, a year on

As the anniversary of the start of the first UK lockdown on March 23 is reached, a Lochgilphead photographer has been recognised for a photograph which conveys the anxiousness of the time.

Verina Litster said: 'I took this photograph when delivering milk to one of our elderly members of the community – retired photographer Baxter Nisbet – who was shielding. I decided to enter it into the Portrait Masters Awards and Accreditation, held in Los Angeles

and run by international photographer Sue Bryce.

'I was over the moon to have been awarded a Bronze with Distinction for my image entitled 'Shielding'.

'The image conveys the anxiousness and sadness of having to stay indoors during a pandemic. The reflections on the window show the outside world that he is missing and the cobwebs on the window suggest that the shielding period has been a long one.'

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Loch Fyne wind farm fire sparks emergency response

An investigation is under way after firefighters were called out 'as a precaution' to a fire at an Argyll wind farm.

The fire broke out at the base of one of the 197-foot-high wind turbine towers at Clachan Flats wind farm on the morning of Thursday March 11.

Fire crews from Inveraray, Lochgoilhead and Garelochhead were called out to the site high on the hills above Clachan, Cairndow, at the head of Loch Fyne. A spokesperson for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'We were alerted at 9.39am on

Thursday March 11 to reports of a fire at a wind farm near Inveraray. Operations control mobilised three appliances to the scene where firefighters extinguished a small fire in a wind turbine. Crews left after ensuring the area was made safe. There were no reported casualties.'

A spokesperson for the wind farm operator, Scottish Power Renewables, confirmed a 'small contained fire occurred within the base level of one of the wind turbine generators at Clachan Flats wind farm', adding: 'The fire was managed in line with our robust on-site



Clachan Flats wind farm.

health and safety procedures and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was contacted as a precaution.

'A full technical investigation is under way to establish the

cause of the fire.' The nine-turbine Clachan Flats wind farm, with a maximum generation capacity of 15 megawatts, was commissioned in 2009 and officially opened in July 2010.

Shocking indecent image increase 'a wake-up call'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Argyll and Bute's police chief has described a shock rise in offences involving indecent images in the area as 'a wake-up call' for communities.

Chief Superintendent John Paterson was speaking as a report revealed more than half of all such offences - 49 out of 78 - dealt with by officers between April and December 2020 involved children aged between 10 and 15 years.

That total is twice as many as the 34 such offences committed in the area during the same period in 2019.

The officer was speaking at a virtual meeting of the area's community planning partnership on March 10.

The report was also discussed by Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee the following day.

Chief Superintendent Paterson said: 'We have seen a rise from 34 recorded crimes to 78, and 49 involved youngsters between 10 and 15. If that is not a wake-up call for us all, I don't know what is.'

'I report frequently on recorded incidents but I say it again and again - that is only a small portion of what is going on.'

A report to the community services committee in December had also stated that 30 out of 50 recorded crimes for indecent images from July to September involved children aged 10-14 years.

The report for October to December also said 181 cyber crimes were committed in Argyll and Bute in that time - an increase of 50 on the same period the previous year.

Sixty-four of those related to online fraud, 59 to indecent communication or images, 48 to threatening messages via



Chief Superintendent John Paterson.

social media, five to extortion and three to breaches of bail.

When the most recent report was discussed by the community services committee, discussion took place on other matters.

The document also stated that between October and December, there were 82 missing persons reports recorded, working out at roughly 19 different people per month.

Councillor Lorna Douglas

said: 'I know there is a lot of focus on public protection around several crimes and issues around children, adults and women.'

'But I was wondering about missing persons. It has been said before that an incident has to be reported, but it might come to nothing. But 19 per month seems a bit high.'

Chief Superintendent Paterson responded: 'Across the whole division, the number has been reducing. We will always record it if an initial call is made about someone being concerned that someone is missing.'

'I might have had 82 missing persons reports recorded but only about 35 to 40 of them will be missing persons' investigations. I would suggest that most of the calls relating to Argyll and Bute will involve children, either from parental homes or other looked after accommodation.'

POLICE FILES

Failed to stop after collision

Between 10.20am and 3.30pm on Tuesday March 9 on Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, an unknown vehicle collided with a black Audi A6 car. The vehicle failed to stop at the scene.

Also in Lochgilphead, an unknown vehicle collided with a grey Audi TT, damaging the passenger side, at Argyll Court, between 4pm on Friday March 12 and 3pm on Saturday March 13.

Police are investigating the above incidents and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Woman reported for shoplifting

A 46-year-old woman was issued with a recorded police warning after she was reported for stealing alcohol from Lochgilphead Co-op around 7pm on Wednesday March 10. Police traced the woman a short time later.

Lochgilphead traffic cones taken

Between 6.20am and 6.30am on Thursday March 11 at Union Street, Lochgilphead, 15 yellow 'No Parking' road cones were taken.

Police are investigating and appeal for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Speeding on A83

On Saturday March 13 about 6.20pm, police stopped a motorist for allegedly exceeding the speed limit on the A83 at Lochgilphead. The driver, a man aged 56, was cautioned and charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Driver fails drug test

About 1pm on Saturday March 13 at Main Street, Inveraray, police officers stopped a motorist. The driver, a 33-year-old man, was arrested and charged with failing a roadside drug test. A blood sample was taken later for analysis.

Theft and vandalism

Between September 2020 and March 2021, on land at McDonald's Camus near Loch Awe by the A819 Inveraray to Dalmally road, a caravan was broken into and items were stolen and damaged.

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 555111.

Abusive behaviour

A 53-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner at 3.30pm on Saturday March 6 at the Co-op on Main Street, Bowmore, Islay. He was later traced by police, cautioned and charged. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.



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A ribbon on Miller's Bridge for each woman's life lost to violence in the last year in the UK and, insert, the message on the bridge.

Ribbons for women lost through domestic violence

In the wake of the kidnap and murder of Sarah Everard earlier this month, the issue of violence against women has been at the top of the nation's news agenda.

In Mid Argyll, a number of ribbons appeared this week, tied to Miller's Bridge across the Crinan Canal between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead.

Alongside the ribbons – numbering around 120 – was a sign reading 'Each ribbon represents a woman's life lost to violence in the last year'. It also gave the domestic abuse hotline telephone number: 08082 000247.

This National Domestic Abuse Helpline is run through the charity 'Refuge', www.refuge.org.uk, which

provides specialist support to women, children and men escaping domestic violence and other forms of violence.

The helpline offers confidential information, expert support and a listening ear.

It can also help access refuge accommodation or other specialist domestic violence services, if anyone needs them.

Sleep-out for UK's homeless veterans

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Thousands of people who served their country in the armed forces now find themselves homeless in the UK.

A Lochgilphead police officer hopes to raise awareness of the issue and help ease the problem as he takes to the streets with his 10-year-old daughter to sleep under the stars.

For two nights this month, former Royal Engineer Stuart Charnock will sleep out on the streets of Lochgilphead to help ex-servicemen and women who find themselves homeless, with daughter Abby joining him for one night.

Stuart will be raising money for the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) - a charity which provides employability services to the disabled and disadvantaged in the armed forces community - as part of its 'Great Tommy Sleep Out' fundraiser.

The plan is for Stuart and Abby to sleep outside Lochgilphead court on Lochnell Street.

To make it as realistic as



Abby and Stuart during a practice sleep-out in their garden. The pair are raising money for homeless veterans.

possible they plan to sleep in sleeping bags only, though with Abby taking part they are hoping for a dry spell.

So far in March the weather hasn't been in their favour but, undeterred and determined, they recently managed a practise sleep-out in their garden and hope to start the real thing tonight, Friday March 19.

Stuart said: 'Help is desperately needed for the estimated 6,000 veterans currently

homeless across the UK. I'm raising money for the RBLI and your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate £5 or £500. Every little bit helps. Thank you for your support.'

To show support, visit Stuart's Facebook page 'Stu C'nock' or there's a sponsorship form in Lochgilphead police office. The main fundraising page can also be found on the RBLI website.

Cowal Games cancelled for second consecutive year

Organisers of the world-famous Cowal Highland Gathering have been forced to call off the event for the second successive year due to the lingering threat of Covid-19.

Cowal Highland Gathering, hosted in Dunoon in August, is home to the World Highland Dancing Championships, Cowal Pipe Band Championship and an international heavy athletics championship, attracting more than 1,500 competitors each year.

Apart from the war years, this is only the

second time the 127-year-old event has been not held, following last year's cancellation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

'With uncertainties over both national and international travel coupled with, as yet unknown restrictions around social distancing, it became clear the gathering as we know it wouldn't be able to go ahead,' explained event chairman Ronnie Cairns.

He added: 'Following last year's Cowal Virtual Gathering we were confident we would be back

in Dunoon Stadium in 2021 and have been working hard looking at ways of staging the gathering in familiar and different formats.

'It has become clear, however, that the 2021 gathering would be compromised and following discussions with our sponsors, key stakeholders and organisations, this is the right time to cancel this year's event.

'We know we will be disappointing all the thousands of people who come to compete, spectate or volunteer at Cowal Highland

Gathering as well as the wider population who support the gathering come rain or shine.'

'While we can't gather in person this year we will, however, be gathering again online with Cowal's Virtual Gathering 2021.'

Tickets already bought for this year's event will be valid for 2022. For more information email info@cowalgathering.com.

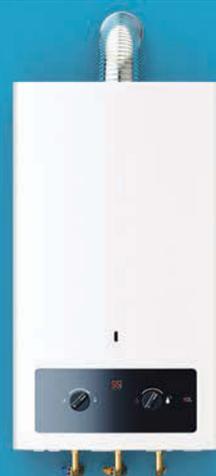
All being well, Cowal Highland Gathering will return to Dunoon Stadium from August 25 to 27 2022.



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'Inspiring idea' of seventh school year

Plans to offer a seventh year at secondary school to S6 pupils with additional support needs have been approved by councillors.

A report suggesting that the offer could be made on a one-off basis due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was unanimously backed by Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee.

The option was proposed to be made available to 11 young people across the area – at least two in each of the four administrative areas of the council.

It is estimated an additional 140 hours of support staff time per week would be needed, costing the council £85,540, if all 11 pupils took up the option.

The community services committee held its meeting virtually on March 11.

Helensburgh Central councillor Lorna Douglas said: 'I think this is an inspiring idea. It is absolutely brilliant.'

'It ensures a much smoother transition into adulthood than has gone before and I absolutely back the recommendation.'

Oban North and Lorn member Kieron Green, chairing the meeting in the absence of Cowal councillor Yvonne McNeilly, also spoke in favour.

He said: 'I am sure you are not the only one with those thoughts.'

'It is a great idea to recognise that this hasn't happened in living memory for most people.'

In a report to the committee, council executive director



Councillors backed the plan at the meeting, chaired by Councillor Kieron Green, above.

Douglas Hendry wrote: 'The Covid-19 global pandemic will have implications for many children and young people's wellbeing and achievement.'

'To ensure equity, careful consideration requires to be given to our most vulnerable children and young people.'

'For those with complex needs and a disability, making the transition from school to their adult lives is already a challenging and anxious time for them and their families.'

'It is important that across services steps are taken to reduce the chance of young people being disadvantaged further.'

The committee unanimously agreed to the recommendations.

Rachael's on the run to boost Nepal expedition

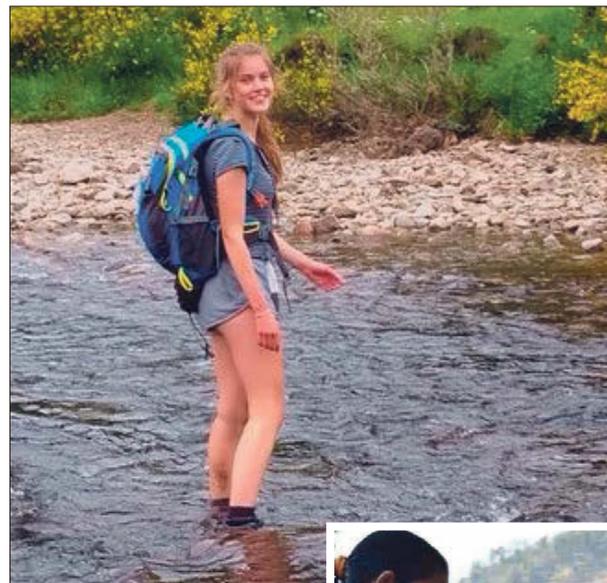
Teenage Mid Argyll adventurer Rachael Johnstone is heading for the hills to earn support for a working trip to Nepal, writes Colin Cameron.

The 18-year-old St Andrew's University biology student plans to join a Raleigh International expedition in August, along with young people from around the world, to help communities in the Himalayan nation.

Rachael, from Lochgair, explained why she wants to take part in the five-week Nepal programme: 'Raleigh International is a youth-driven, sustainable development charity and I am inspired by its vision of sustainable living by controlling natural resources and protecting vulnerable environments.'

'I am looking forward to working with Raleigh to help provide community education and skills training in water sanitation and hygiene. So, following Raleigh's motto of Action Not Excuses, I am trying to raise more than £2,590 before July towards Raleigh's work.'

She continued: 'To fund-raise for my expedition this summer, I have challenged myself to run over at least 10 Munros in the Cairngorms in 24 hours. I hope my efforts will ensure Raleigh gets the support it deserves. I will



Left: Rachael Johnstone, who plans to run over at least 10 Munros in the Cairngorms in 24 hours to raise money for Raleigh International's work and, below, the motto of Raleigh International is Action Not Excuses.

be training in the Arrochar Alps and have set the event for June in the hope of good weather.'

Rachael added: 'All money raised goes towards Raleigh International and I will be funding my own costs.'

To allow the public to donate, Rachael has set up a Go Fund Me page, which can be found by visiting the Go Fund Me website and searching 'Rachael's Run for Raleigh'.

'It would be wonderful if people could have a look at the fundraiser to see all of the fabulous work Raleigh



International does,' Rachael continued, 'and any support by sharing the fundraiser or making a donation would be awesome.'

'Any support you can pro-

vide would be really appreciated. I will be documenting my journey, from training through to volunteering in Nepal, so you can see how I'm getting on.'



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Longing for a rest...

We are pleased to feature another artistic contribution from Tarbert artist Ann Thomas.

This week Ann considers Glen Croe residents.

After decades of machinery working night and day after landslides and to create barriers to catch material coming down the hillsides, she ponders whether the glen's wildlife will be pleased to get some peace once all the machines have left this stretch of the A83 and a solution is built.

It remains to be seen how long they will have to wait.

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Heather's Treks – renaissance

Heather Thomas-Smith runs Heathy Heights, an outdoor adventure and discovery company based in Lochgilphead, offering guided walking adventures, outdoor activities, training and experiences. She has travelled and trekked throughout the world, walked across Scotland numerous times, climbed many of its peaks and now lives in Argyll amongst the scenery she loves.



Heather Thomas-Smith.

Lovely Kilmartin Glen is host to many wonderful historic sites and ancient monuments

Overlooking its northern reaches, the renaissance remains of Master John Carswell's Carnasserie Castle stand proud, its ruins eerily dramatic despite now being more home to crow than human.

There are many ways in which to explore the area. This circular takes you through time from Carnasserie Castle in the east to the prehistoric rock art at Ormaig in the west, before wending southwards on the path used in bygone days to reach Old Poltalloch.

Then, turning east, you come to Lady's Seat, which offers lovely views down the glen, a brief respite before turning northwards to return to the castle's realm.

Glimpses over to Loch Craignish and down Kilmartin Glen give one time to ponder the geology of the area swept by the glaciers of the last ice age.

At the car park you will see a small path exiting the NE corner by the information boards. Turn left and head up the track towards the castle.

You initially come to a turning left; you will take this shortly.

Meanwhile the castle lies just ahead, through a gate and up a steep path to your left. Currently you can but admire its grandeur from the outside, either from here or the next section of the walk - see note at end.

Return to the track and take the turn on your right SW up through the trees and to a gate.

Ahead you will cross the field for 150m, with the castle to your right, before re-joining the farm track. Follow it to a T-junction - not signposted.

Turn right and continue up the field and through a gate. A young forestry plantation lies to your left, pretty and convoluted little hills and glens to your right.

Effectively the valley floor is the line of a dyke with the lumps, bumps and divides a mixture of limestone, igneous rock intrusions, sandstones, gritstones, conglomerates and folding doing much to create the complex NE/SW flow seen in the shape of the hills and



Enigmatic and wonderful rock art at Ormaig.

lochs all carved out by glaciers.

Follow the track over the col past a gnarly old plantation on a knoll. The route descends for 2km towards Loch Craignish before veering sharply right to cross the Eas Mor burn at its western end.

Note the main track you come on to. For those wishing to miss the path to Old Poltalloch, you will need to return to this point and keep following it south east to join up with the rest of the route.

Cross the bridge over the Eas Mor. Ignore the small path to your right with a barrier and continue for 150m. Look out for the new track signposted up to the prehistoric rock art of Ormaig.

After ascending 100m, you will see the little paths to your right leading to the stones, a good place to pause and wonder at those who carved them.

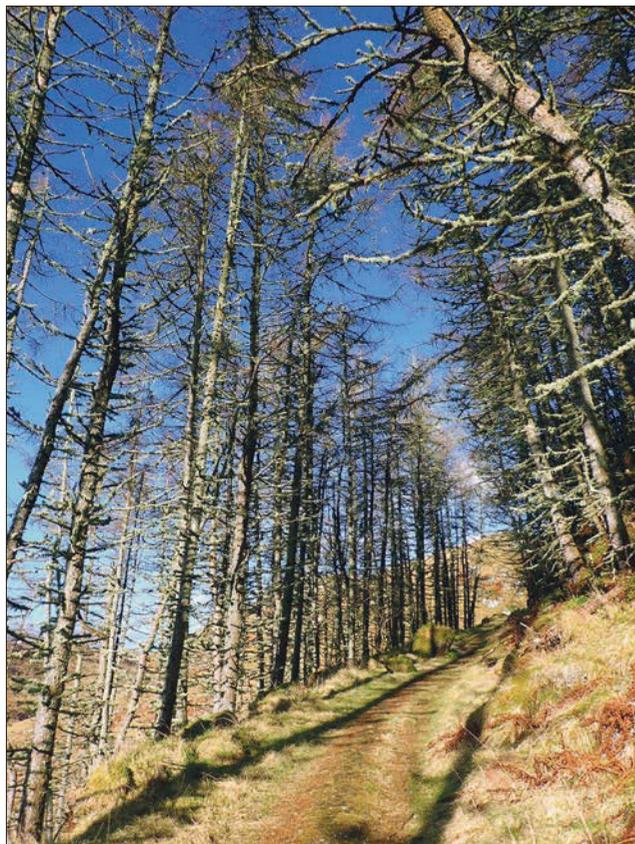
Return to the track below and south over the Eas Mor. At the sharp left-hand bend turn immediately right towards the

sea. After just 30m, opposite a ruined croft, an easily missed path slips down to a wall. As soon as you are on it, it is obvious and now wends its way southwards towards Old Poltalloch through the 'Big Wood'.

The path is boggy in places with the odd fallen tree. After 1.7km it reaches a forestry road. Turn left and follow this for 200m to a sharp left-hand bend.

The path goes straight ahead at the bottom of the bend just below a turning point. Again it is not obvious until you are on it. Continue to follow this all the way until you reach the road at Old Poltalloch, passing farmstead ruins and the old walled garden on your right. The house itself has been renovated.

Turn left. The track, which also leads to a jetty below, climbs upwards for nearly 2km before reaching the col leading to Kilmartin Glen. Ignore the two tracks you pass



The track to Ormaig.

Walk information

Route: Carnasserie Castle, Ormaig, Old Poltalloch and Lady's Seat

Distance: 12.5 - 13.5km (7.8 - 8.3 miles)

Ascent: 430m - 495m

Time: 4 to 5 hours walking

Terrain: paths and tracks with some steep, uneven or boggy sections.

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

OS Explorer 358 (1:25 000)

Start/Finish/Parking: Carnasserie Castle carpark

Grid reference: NM839004

Public transport: Bus routes 23, 423

Toilets: No

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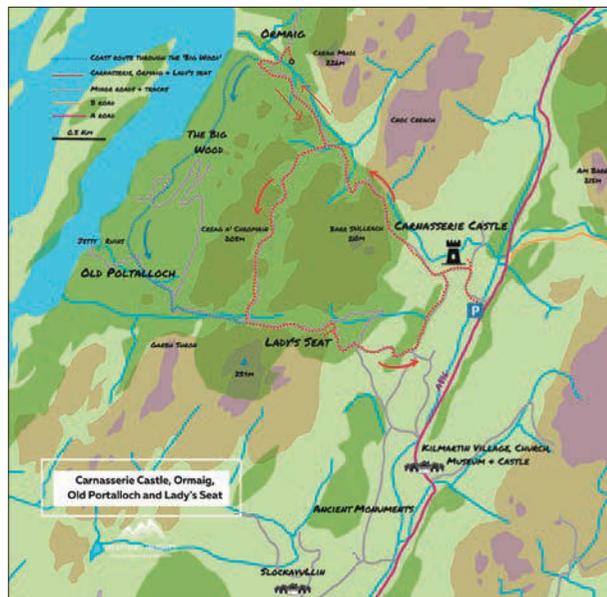
on your left. The second is the way through from Ormaig, signposted.

Descend for 500m and take the grassy forestry track to your right. After 30m, a path leads upwards on your right to Lady's Seat, a worthy detour for a grand view over the glen.

Return to the track and turn right to descend to the main track below. Another viewpoint on the left can also be visited.

Cross straight over, through a gate to the right of some sheep pens. Passing a track from your right after 150m from Kilmartin, zigzag down through the woods to a gate. The track does a sharp 90-degree turn right and, a little after, turn left to follow the tracks back to Carnasserie and your earlier outward route.

Please note: Historic and Environment Scotland properties and sites remain closed due to Covid; the castle can only be viewed from the outside at this time. Please see <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>



A map of the route.



Carnasserie Castle guards Kilmartin Glen.

Safety in the outdoors – follow the Scottish access code

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

Whilst every effort is made to ensure

the route is accurate at the time of going to print, please be aware track and path closures can happen at any time.

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

government, exercise responsibly and use appropriate clothing and equipment for your chosen outdoor activity. Inform a contact about your route/whereabouts.

Don't forget your phone, snacks, drink, any medication/first aid supplies

you may need and to check weather conditions. Most walks are dog friendly but please keep your dog under close control, especially around livestock and wildlife. Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB**Alternative to the Rest**

A decision is imminent, then, on which option the Scottish Government will choose to pursue as an alternative to the Rest.

We would not be betting against the seemingly relatively cheap and straight-forward route up the opposite side of Glen Croe being selected.

As this newspaper said at the time, the 11 options proposed last September really fell between two stools. Bridges across the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne are not going to be built - though we look forward to being proved wrong - to avoid a mile of landslip-prone road.

They should, however, be part of a longer-term strategic look at Argyll's transport links - along with tunnels, railways and ferries.

While the decision on a chosen route is welcome, it means nothing without a timeframe and plan. It is an emergency and must be given top priority.

A poignant reminder

Congratulations to whoever came up with the idea of tying memorial ribbons across the canal.

As we remember victims of violence, it is a time to take stock of our own attitudes and behaviour. And if you are in danger, call the helpline number on page three of this edition.

Glaring Scottish digital divide

Sir,
The fact the SNP has produced a new digital strategy document will come as little consolation to Highlands and Islands residents who would struggle to download it even if they wanted to.

The SNP has left the Highlands and Islands in the digital dark ages.

The 2016 SNP manifesto committed to deliver superfast broadband (R100) to every home and business by 2021. This has comprehensively failed, with ministers refusing to discuss completion dates. A December 2020 report logged an average download speed of 2.06Mbps in Glen Shiel. That is 134 times slower than Scotland's fastest street.

The pandemic has exposed the glaring digital divide that exists between rural and urban parts of Scotland.

Scottish Liberal Democrats want our remote and rural communities to be great places to live, work and study. That's why we are setting out new proposals to put power in the hands of community managers and prioritise investment in catch up zones to ensure everyone has access to the digital services they need to prosper.

Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrats lead candidate for the Highlands and Islands.

Get to know ovarian cancer symptoms for early diagnosis

Sir,
Cancer continues to claim lives, regardless of the pandemic.

As resources within the NHS are stretched to their limits, charities like Target Ovarian Cancer need your help more than ever. Please help us raise awareness and raise funds. Whilst we are all fighting coronavirus, Target Ovarian Cancer is putting the needs of women with ovarian cancer before all else.

In 2010 my mother, the actress Marjie Lawrence, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer just three weeks before she died.

Had we and her doctors been aware of the symptoms, Marjie might be alive today. If diagnosed at the earliest stage, nine in 10 women will survive.

But two thirds of women are diagnosed late, when the cancer is harder to treat.

This March, for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, I'm writing to ask your readers to take just two minutes of their time to learn the symptoms and spread the word to their families and friends.

The main symptoms of ovarian cancer are: persistent bloating, feeling full or having difficulty eating, tummy pain and needing to wee more often or more urgently.

If you believe in a future where every woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer has the best chance of survival, please show your support and visit www.targetovariancancer.org.uk/March

Sarah Greene, Target Ovarian Cancer Patron.

Return of communal worship

Sir,
We welcome the latest announcement from the Scottish Government that communal worship

can potentially resume from March 26 with the possibility of up to 50 people in attendance, assuming physical distancing of two metres can be in place.

Christians are Easter people. We live with hope in all circumstances and the church will be providing guidance to congregations to help them ensure buildings are re-opened in a safe and responsible manner.

While some congregations will adopt a cautious approach regarding the re-opening of our buildings - and others won't have the practical means to do so - everyone will be glad to hear this news and will already be looking forward to how most appropriately to celebrate Easter 2021.

In whatever we do, we'll be remembering that the God who raised Jesus from the grave has been faithful to us throughout the whole of this last year.

Right Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Argyll and Bute's future needs democratic input

Sir,
The first Citizens' Assembly of Scotland has submitted its final report to the Scottish Parliament, with its 60 powerful democratic recommendations aimed at improving the wellbeing of Scotland's people and governance.

I personally would have loved to be a participant in this new democratic exercise, meeting and sharing with, speaking and listening to, a wide range of our people, many unlike me and

Press policy

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



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FERN

COMMUNITY FUNDS

The Cour Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community councils of areas of Tarbert & Skipness, West & East Kintyre.

The fund is now open for applications until the 30th of April 2021.

Details of the application process and fund criteria can be found at ferncommunityfunds.com/cour-community-fund/

If you wish for any further information about the fund please get in contact via contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com or call 07871 785583 or by mail to:
Fern Community Funds PO BOX 6653 Blairgowrie PH 10 6AU

with different perspectives, opinions and lived experience.

To be informed by a range of expert, evidence-based perspectives, to explore and discuss implications and reservations and move towards a rough consensus on a range of key questions that will affect ourselves, our children and grandchildren and that will shape the future of our country is the exemplar of the active, responsible citizen of 21st century Scotland.

A climate assembly is also currently working towards its conclusions and I await its recommendations with interest and anticipation.

Recommendation six of the first assembly is: 'That in order to ensure that citizens can make informed decisions in relation to rebuilding their communities, the Scottish government and parliament should establish community-based citizens' assemblies to assess what is happening in our communities, including the effects of Covid-19, identify gaps and recommend actions, including through digital technology that can bring people together, and make our communities more inclusive.'

We have a Scottish election coming up in May and I hope to see a good majority of Scotland's electorate, from age 16 upwards, vote in this most critical exercise of our moment of power and responsibility.

Subsequently, I hope see a renewed interest in local democracy as an Argyll and Bute Citizens' Assembly debates and decides the shape of Argyll and Bute's future for the coming decisive decade.

Perhaps that future will include enhanced interest and participation in some version of our current powerless and voiceless community councils.

Mary MacCallum Sullivan,
Ardrishaig.

YOUR PICTURES



This photograph of the view on the walk up to Arichonan clearance village in north Knapdale was taken by Mid Argyll photographer Aileen Gillies. The atmospheric image fits the story of Arichonan, where the inhabitants were cleared from their homes to make way for sheep in the 19th century. Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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The Editor welcomes letters and emails for publication, however we reserves the right to shorten, amend or refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although details can be withheld from publication. Phone numbers, if available, should be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Argyllshire Advertiser 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB. Email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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There Has Never Been a Better Time to Give Up Smoking



Do you find you've been smoking more during lockdown?

Stopping smoking can reduce your risk of severity of Covid-19 symptoms, potential of complications, and even death. If you're thinking of giving up, Argyll and Bute Quit Your Way (QYW) Stop Smoking services would like to reach out to all smokers at this difficult time to offer our services to help you Quit Your Way.

Covid-19 can be more severe if you smoke

Smoking can increase your risk of severe symptoms on infection of Covid-19, complications and death according to a review from the World Health Organisation.

UK Government advice is that smoking generally increases the risk of contracting respiratory problems and more severe symptoms of ill health once infected with Covid-19

The risk of catching or spreading the Covid-19 virus increases due to the hand to mouth and

face contact involved in smoking.

In addition, spending more time indoors means smoking within the family household may increase family exposure to second hand smoke, which exacerbates their risks of Covid-19 along with other known harm that it causes.

Smoking also contributes to other life changing diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and having such underlying conditions also increases the risk of complications from Covid-19 infection.

To talk to someone directly, contact your local advisor for Mid Argyll, Carradale and Muasdale:
Jill Denton
Tel. 07707868351

Alternatively, visit www.smokefreehighland.co.uk for more information and support 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.

Creative youngsters invited to showcase visual artwork

Young people aged between 11 and 17 from across western Argyll are being offered a unique opportunity to have their visual artwork showcased online and in print.

A collaboration of youth workers and artists from across the region are behind the project, which grew out of a conversation and shared concerns about the wellbeing of young people during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown.

The initiative is open to all 11-to-17-year-olds living within the catchment areas of Campbeltown, Tarbert, Lochgilphead, Islay, Oban and Tobermory secondary schools.

Young people are being invited to submit photographs of any kind of visual art – collages, paintings, sculptures, graphic art, drawings, photographs - but no selfies - or even doodles – which will be exhib-

ited via a dedicated Instagram account @ayelovetomake.

As many examples as possible will be published in the Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Oban Times newspapers.

The artwork, which must be created specifically for this showcase, can be on any surface – as long as it can be photographed and submitted – but it is limited to one image per person. It is not a competition and none of artwork will be judged.

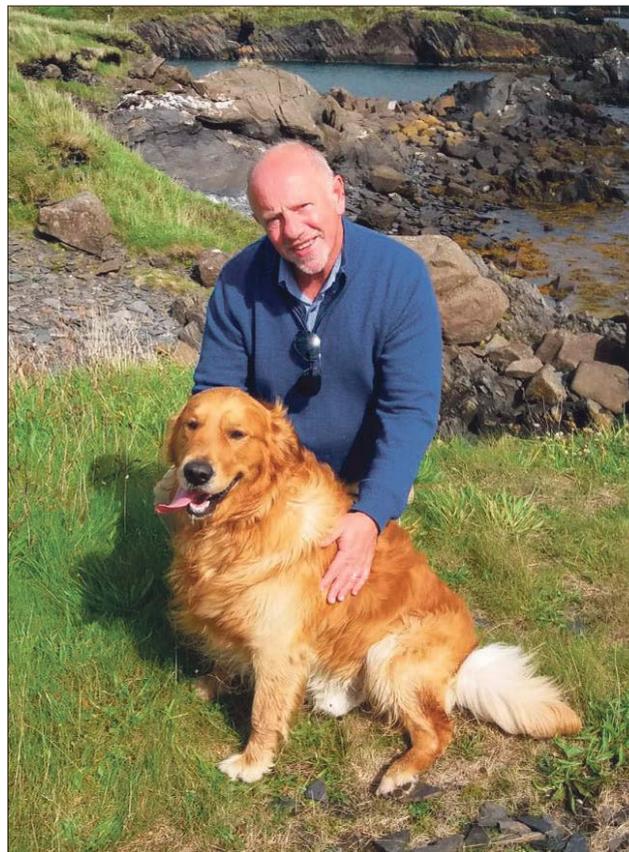
Gigha-based youth worker Kenny Wilson, one of the project's organisers, explained: 'As youth workers, we kept hearing the same phrases from young people, phrases like 'my bedroom has become my classroom' and 'I feel like the walls are closing in on me'. Young people were asking questions like 'Where can we go?' Nowhere. 'Who we can

meet?' No-one. 'What are we allowed to do?' During lockdown, very little.

'The idea is to give artistic young people something to do that's not prescribed by the Curriculum for Excellence [Scotland's education framework] or by the government; to give them the freedom to choose what they want to do, to design whatever they want to design.

'The reward will be seeing their artwork published online and in the newspapers. The purpose of the project is to increase the wellbeing of young people, to give them a boost. It's as simple as that.'

He added: 'It could well be that something catches the eye of someone in the wider artistic community and they could be put in touch with the young creator of the piece in question, but that would have to be arranged through the



Youth worker Kenny Wilson is encouraging youngsters to get creative.

purposes of the showcase and will never be passed on to any other organisation or third party without your explicit permission.'

Those interested in taking part should email ayelovetomake@gmail.com with their first name and location.

They are not required to submit their surname, full address or age, as long as they are within the 11-to-17 age range.

When the project officially launches on Friday March 26, they can then send photographs of their artwork to the same email address so it can be uploaded to the project's Instagram account where it will be made visible to the public after the Sunday April 25 closing date.

Kenny added: 'If you are a young person with a desire to create, then go for it.'

youth workers, subject to careful child protection measures, and with parents' consent.'

Kenny explained that safeguarding was an essential part of everything youth workers do and, as such, the organisers had created a GDPR statement

which reads: 'We will ensure that all personal data that we collect will only be held until all the images have been showcased and will be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner and only collected for the legitimate

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Mind your language for a better society.

Be as good as the words you use

Have you ever considered that the words you use could perpetuate problems like sexism and even sexual violence?

Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis has created a thought-provoking series of three videos

about how language impacts sexual violence, with a particular focus on young people.

The short videos, 'Be as good as your word', are well worth a look and can be viewed on the Argyll and

Bute Rape Crisis YouTube channel.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis said: 'We'd love to get these videos shared as widely as possible as we think the messages in them are really important.'

Protecting all of us, takes all of us.



**FACE
COVERINGS**



**AVOID
CROWDS**



**CLEAN
HANDS**



**TWO
METRES**



**SELF-
ISOLATE**

Following **FACTS** is an essential part of life right now to help stop the spread of the virus.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings can provide extra protection to you and those around you. They're mandatory in shops, workplaces and on public transport.

They must securely cover your nose and mouth.

Avoid touching your face when wearing a face covering and clean hands before and after use.

Wash reusable ones after each use and bin disposable ones responsibly.

TWO METRES DISTANCE

Keep at least 2m distance (6 feet) away from others, both indoors and outdoors, even when wearing a face covering.

The virus can spread through droplets when you cough, sneeze, speak or breathe. Staying 2m apart reduces the risk of catching it and passing it on to others.

AVOID CROWDS

Close proximity to others seriously risks spreading the virus, even outdoors.

Avoiding crowds reduces your risk of catching the virus and spreading it to loved ones.

SELF-ISOLATE

Self-isolate and book a test immediately if you have coronavirus symptoms - a continuous dry cough, a raised temperature, or a change in your sense of taste or smell.

Don't go for one last shop and don't wait for your test result to start isolating. Only leave your home to get tested.

Book a test at [NHSinform.scot](https://nhs.uk/inform) or by calling 0800 028 2816

CLEAN HANDS

Clean hands and surfaces regularly. Wash hands with soap and water for 20+ seconds.

When out, avoid touching hard surfaces and sanitise hands frequently, to reduce your risk of catching the virus from contaminated objects or surfaces.

#WeAreScotland
gov.scot/coronavirus

Thought for the Week

I was a naughty child. Once my mum told me off and I pointed out she had done the same thing herself.

She replied: 'Don't do as I do, do as I tell you. It is for your own good.'

Double standards? We face them again and again.

A teacher corrects a child for doing something the teacher has also done. A boss criticises a worker for an unavoidable error. A law officer takes a bribe. A cashier short changes a customer...I could go on.

Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard remained a Christian all his life, but was critical of the church in his day for its double standards.

As we approach Easter, I think of how the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, pulling branches off the trees to wave, shouting 'Hosanna' so enthusiastically, were largely the same crowds calling for his blood only days later when they called 'crucify'. How could they turn so quickly? Where was their integrity?

Some just followed the crowd; others feared Jesus was challenging the accepted order so better get rid of him for the greater good.

If we face betrayal, injustice, double standards, how do we react? Revenge, get our own back?

That is a natural reaction, but the consequence is to prolong the bitterness, perhaps ramp up the situation.

Jesus asks us to step back, to 'turn the other cheek' (Matthew 5:39), to suck up the injustice, the double standards and let peace rule.

Impossible? Well, that is what He did at the cross and because of Him, I think it is possible.

I don't always get it right in my life, but 'don't do as I do - in my worst moments - do as He tells you'. In the long run, it is for your own good.

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

ARGYLL AND BUTE

Design your own face mask

Prizes are up for grabs in a new competition to design a face mask.

Healthcare provider Medicspot has launched the scheme to promote mask wearing, challenging primary school pupils across Argyll to put their creative skills to the test and design their own mask.

The Medicspot Face Mask Challenge is open to all children aged five to 14 years at primary and secondary schools.

All they need to do is print out the face mask template from the Medicspot website and let their creativity flow.

The winning entry, judged by CBBC presenter and YouTube star Joe Tasker, will win £500 for their primary school to spend on supplies and 30 face masks featuring their top design to share with their classmates.

Another 20 winners will win a face mask featuring their design, with four in each of the five age categories - five and six; seven and eight; nine and 10; 11 and 12 and ages 13 and 14.

Face masks featuring all the winning designs will be made available to buy online - with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to NHS Charities Together.

Children have until the end of May to get their entries in.

Visit www.medicspot.co.uk/mask to download the mask template and enter.

Calling Argyll communities

Towns and villages all over Argyll are being encouraged to adopt their telephone boxes.

BT this week revealed that nearly 600 of the iconic red phone boxes across Scotland are up for grabs, with 67 in Argyll and Bute.

Since 2008, 482 phone boxes across the country have been taken on by communities for just £1 through BT's Adopt a Kiosk programme.

Redundant phone boxes have been transformed into everything from a home for defibrillator units and mini history museums to art galleries and book exchanges.

BT will also consider adoption requests to house defibrillators in modern glass phone boxes, a potentially life-saving conversion.



HMS Queen Elizabeth heads for Loch Long and Glen Mallan to take on supplies. Photo: Samuel Loughrey.

For further details on adopting a phone box, visit www.bt.com/adopt where application forms and information can be found.

FIRTH OF CLYDE

A royal visitor

The Royal Navy's Fleet Flagship HMS Queen Elizabeth arrived in the Firth of Clyde on March 15 ahead of her first operational deployment.

The 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier spent the previous two weeks at sea testing and trialling her latest equipment before berthing at the new Northern Ammunition Jetty at Glen Mallan on Loch Long to take on operational stores.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is the first of the Royal Navy's fleet to visit the new £64m base, built by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Operated by Defence Equipment and Support through Defence Munitions, the Northern Ammunition Jetty is specifically designed to

support the surface fleet, allowing them to continue entering and berthing at Glen Mallan.

The ship's commanding officer, Captain Angus Essenhigh, said: 'HMS Queen Elizabeth embodies the best of British engineering and craftsmanship, including Scottish shipbuilding, and it is a privilege to return to her birthplace of Scotland.'

HMS Queen Elizabeth is due to sail for Portsmouth at the end of the month and will deploy to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and East Asia later this year as part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group.

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

The law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland

From March 26th this year, the law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland.

If you're aged 16 or over, you will be considered as a possible donor after you die, unless you opt out. Whatever you decide, please let family and friends know your decision, so they can honour it.

For more about the law change and your choices, visit organdonationscotland.org or call 0300 303 2094.



**Healthier
Scotland**
Scottish
Government



Roar with laughter and raise c

Red Nose Day is back on Friday March 19 and hopes 'to bring the UK together through laughter and helping others, showing just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times'.

All our Red Nose Day donations will help tackle important issues including homelessness, hunger, domestic abuse, and mental health problems, all of which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Money raised will support some of the most vulnerable people and communities in society who have been hardest hit by the Coronavirus crisis, including those now reliant on food banks, and provide vital

funding to under resourced front line charities as they adapt and navigate through these difficult uncertain times.

While this Red Nose Day will feel different, there will be lots of exciting ways to support if you feel able to, from celebrity challenges, buying a Red Nose and official Red Nose Day tee-shirt, watching BBC TV specials, and much more.

It all helps bring the country together through the power of humour, with a not-to-be-missed evening of hilarious sketches, live performances and one-off comedy specials in store.



A big thank you to the pupils at Drumlemble Primary School (pictured) for getting involved in our Red Nose Day feature, drawing lovely pictures to represent our generous advertisers. The Oban Times group will donate £300 directly to Red Nose Day so thank you once again!



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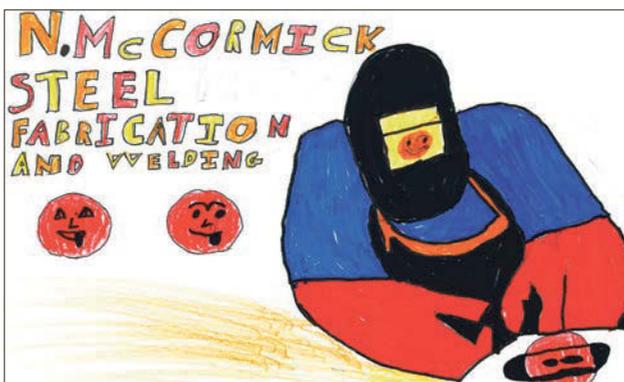
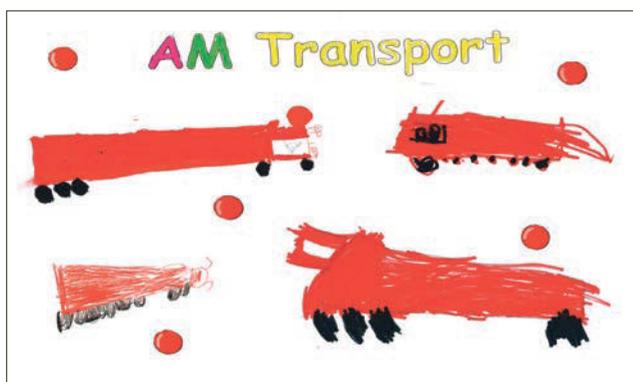
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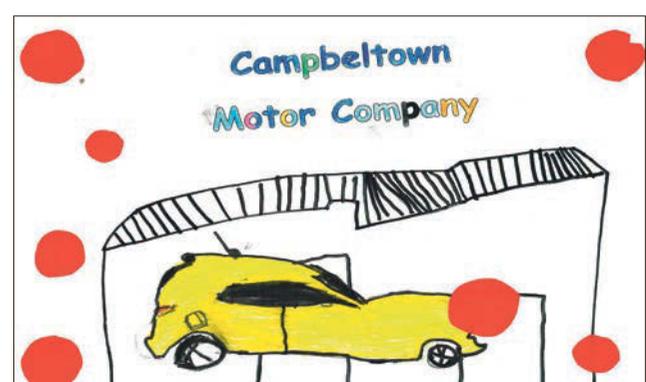
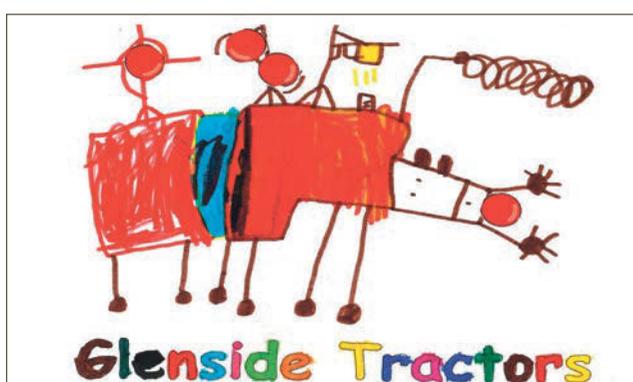
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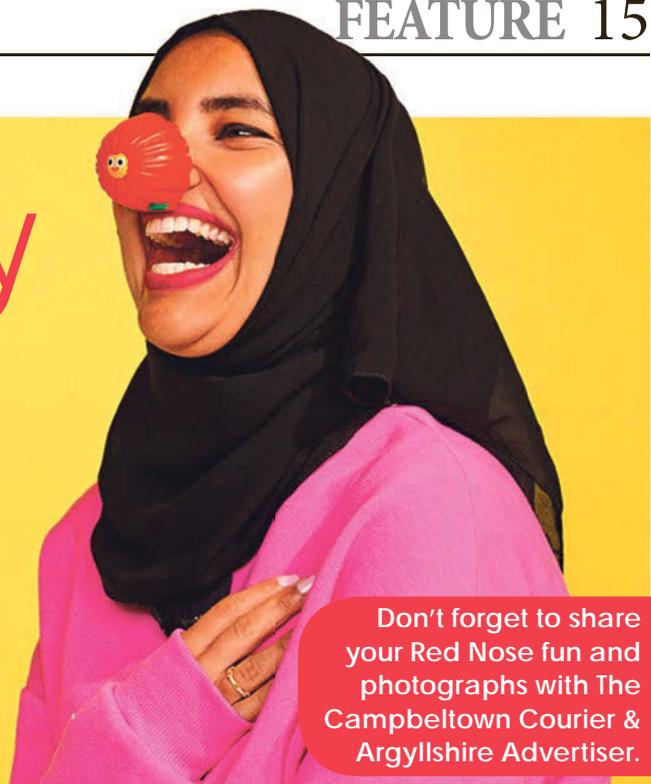


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Laugh on Red Nose Day



Don't forget to share your Red Nose fun and photographs with The Campbeltown Courier & Argyllshire Advertiser.

Comic Relief co-founder, Sir Lenny Henry, said: 'We all need cheering up, so this year Red Nose Day will be a bit different. Of course we want to raise as much money as possible for people who really need it in the UK and around the world. But we also want to make you smile and bring you some laughter!'

As Covid-19 continues to impact people all over the world, it has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling more than ever. For 35 years, Comic Relief has shown how laughter can make a difference, raising over £1.4 billion to help change millions of lives, all thanks to the enormous generosity and kindness of the British public.



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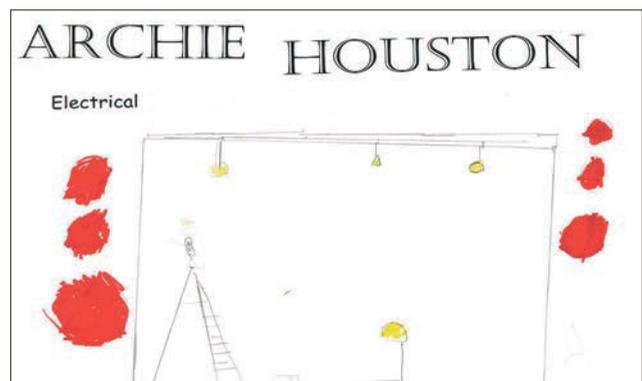
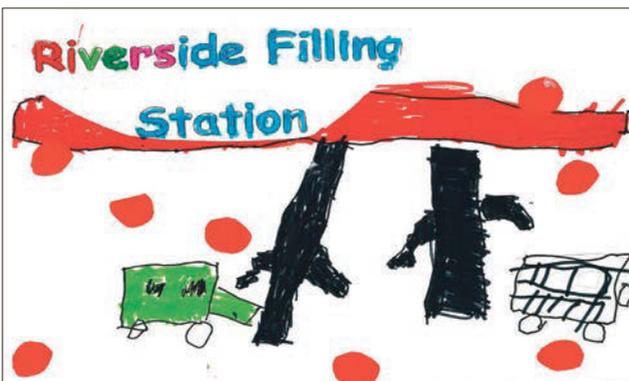
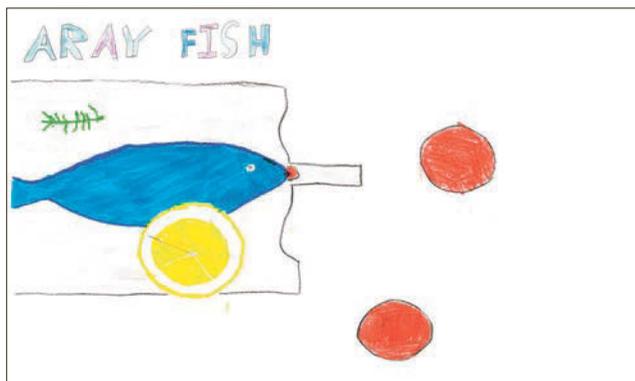
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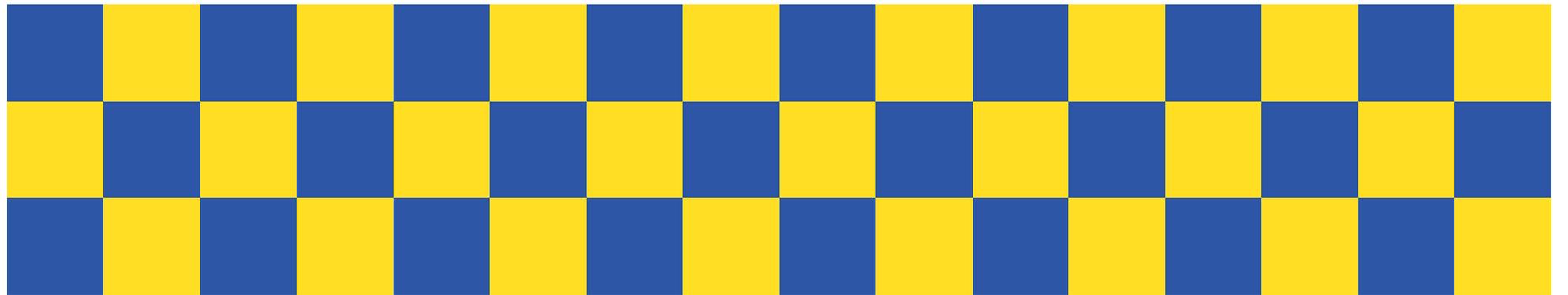
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Fear not we have the people at hand; these are the house heroes who will rescue you from the jaws of disaster. Their expertise is just a phone call or message away so why not store their details in your phone as your backup and for peace of mind.

The biggest risk to property, after fire, is water damage. A burst pipe in the wrong place can bring down ceilings, or mean the removal of plasterboard and flooring or a costly rewiring project. Not to mention weeks, if not months, of having to dry your house out.

Just as important as the safety of your incoming fresh water supply is the outgoing waste water.

That is why a plumber's expertise is so vital. If in doubt call the plumber out – it will save you in the long run.

And for many properties in the West Highlands and islands waste water means your own private provision with a septic tank. You NEVER want this to go wrong, trust us on this; we do not need to go into the gruesome details here. Let's just say that experienced companies that can

empty, maintain or install new tanks and pipes are a Godsend.

Away from houses, if you have a well maintained car, do your own maintenance and only drive locally you might want to consider avoiding large annual motor club bills and call on the services of a local recovery service if needed.

And sometimes the emergency service you require is legal. A first call

to Citizens Advice Bureau is common sense. It could save you a hefty legal bill and, if its well-trained volunteers cannot help, they will, if necessary, point you in the right direction.

So if something goes wrong, make sure you know who to call. The locally-based people who know the West Highlands like the back of their hands and the type of emergencies we are likely to face in day-to-day life.




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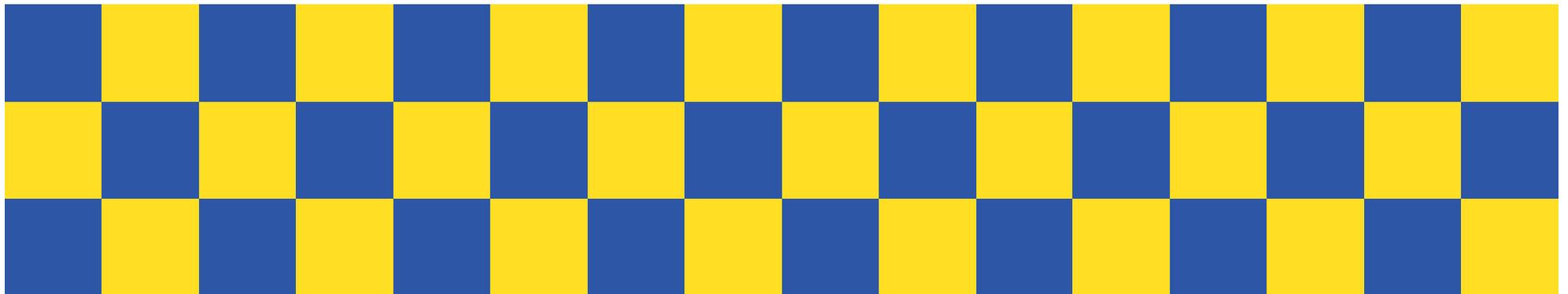
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If you smell gas or your carbon monoxide alarm goes off

- Turn off the supply at the meter if safe to do so
- Get out and leave doors and windows open
- Do NOT turn any electric switches on, even your lights
- Call the National Gas Service Emergency Line on 0800 111 999
- You then might need to arrange for a Gas Safe Register installer to come and fix the appliance.

Report the leak to your gas supplier. Their details are on your bill. If you don't know call the Gas Network Identity Line on 0870 608 1524.

CARBON MONOXIDE?

If you think you have been exposed to carbon monoxide gas, you should go and see a doctor immediately and ask for a blood or breath test.

Gas warning signs

- excessive condensation on windows
- sooty marks
- yellow or orange flames instead of blue - but not in your 'real flame' gas fire
- pilot lights that keep going out

ELECTRIC

- Treat electricity cables as live; never think otherwise for your own safety.
- Call the fire service if there is fire on 999.
- Stay away and if you have an emergency to report call as soon as possible on 0800 31 63 105 or 105 - free to call from a landline or a mobile phone.

Outside of your home remember that if you see electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public please call 999.

WATER

Within your home a burst pipe is your responsibility and it should be fixed immediately. Never underestimate how much damage this can cause to your property.

- Call a plumber
- Make sure you know where the stop cock is to turn off the supply to your house.
- If the leak is outside your property contact Scottish Water via its webpage or call 0800 0778 788

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Ringling the changes for farming's future

British beef suckler farmers will be able to share real-time cattle data with their vet while in the field thanks to a new mobile app.

Created by the veterinary services team at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the Herd Health Planning app enables farmers to collect and record data as events occur – and immediately share this with their vet.

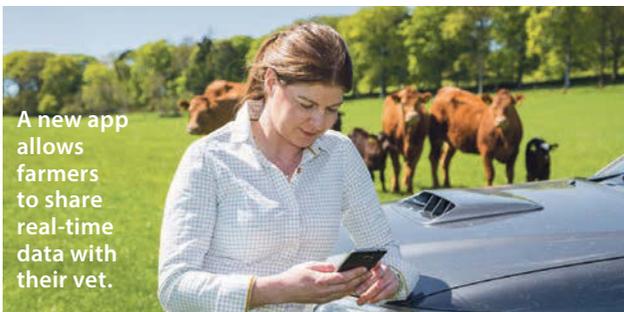
Vets can then analyse the information and help farmers set priorities, and improve efficiency and animal health, through the health planning process.

The app – which is free for Scottish farmers registered to the Animal Health Planning System (SAHPS) and available to others for a small subscription – includes an e-medicine book which complies with farm assurances and other

statutory requirements. It is also connected to the British Cattle Movement Service's tracing system (BCMS), meaning cattle records such as births, deaths and movements, can be updated instantly. No internet is required to record events, with all data stored locally on the app and sent to both BCMS and SAHPS systems as soon as Wi-Fi and/or mobile data become available.

The Scottish Government-funded app, which is now downloadable for Android and Apple devices, allows farmers to:

- Provide early communication of herd health to their vet
- Download all cattle currently on the holding through BCMS
- Record bulls in/out dates
- Record movements, births,



A new app allows farmers to share real-time data with their vet.

deaths and upload to BCMS

- Record disease incidents and production data
 - Record animal treatments, creating the e-medicine book
 - Record and save data off-line
 - Enter information once and use it multiple times
- Health planning development manager Dr Foteini Manolaraki said: 'We recognise that time is a precious commodity for today's farmers. 'Rather than taking notes

while out in the field or in the shed and then copying them into the computer, this new app allows them to share their cattle data with their vet while on the move.

This information is then shared multiple times via BCMS and SAHPS software, which could allow earlier vet intervention if necessary.'

Visit www.sahps.co.uk or email enquiries@sahps.co.uk for more information.

Jubilant mood at Islay sale

United Auctions sold 764 store cattle on Saturday March 13 at Islay Auction Mart. Bullocks averaged £975.67 (+£79.92) and sold to a top of £1,220 for a pen of six LimX, weighing 499kg, from Mr A N McArthur, Lossit Farm and a 512kg LimX from N Wood, Octofad. Heifers averaged £906.01 (+£120.46) and sold to £1,120.00 for two LimX, weighing 450kg, also from Lossit Farm. Bullocks averaged 258.46p/kg (+27.08p/kg) to a top price of 323p/kg for two LimX, weighing 269kg, from M/s McMillan, Ardbeg Farm while heifers averaged 250.65p/kg (+34.46p/kg) to a top of 320p/kg for two LimX, weighing 322kg, also from Ardbeg. An excellent selection of quality bred stock greeted a strong force of mainland buyers resulting in Islay sellers returning home in a jubilant mood. Leading lots and prices per head: BULLOCKS – AAx - £1,080, Octofad; £1075 (9), Octomore; £1,035, Corrary; £1,030, Aoradh; £1,010, £1,005 (17), Octomore; £1,005 (2), £990 (13), Octofad. BRBx - £1,060, Blackrock; £1,025

(2), Eorabus. CHARx - £1,170, Balaclava; £1,070 (3), Craigens; £1,070 (2), Balaclava; £1,050, £1045 (8), Craigens; £1,045 (7), Tallant; £1,045 (2), Eorabus; £1,040 (2), £1,040 (4), Tallant; £1,035, Aoradh; £1,035 (4), Craigens; £1,030 (2), £1,030 (5), Eorabus; £1,000 (4), Craigens; £990 (5), Eorabus; £985, Carrabus; £985 (3), Aoradh; £980 (4), Ballinaby; £980 (12), Eorabus; £960 (5), Craigens; £955 (3), Aoradh; £950, Balaclava. LIMx - £1,220, Octofad; £1,220 (6), Lossit; £1,145 (2), Ardbeg; £1,145 (3), Kilchiaran; £1,135, Blackrock; £1,130 (3), Octofad; £1,130 (2), £1,125 (3), £1,120 (3), Ardbeg; £1,105 (4), Lossit; £1 100, Knocklearach; £1100 (2), Ardbeg; £1 100 (5), Eorabus; £1,100 (3), Octofad; £1,095, Dunlossit Estate; £1,090, Lossit; £1,080 (7), Octofad; £1,080 (2), Kilchiaran; £1,080, Tallant; £1,075 (2), Octofad; £1,075 (4), Kilchiaran; £1,070, Brybruech; £1,070 (7), Ardbeg; £1,065, Carrabus; £1,060 (8), Blackrock; £1,055, Ballychattrigan; £1,045 (5), Eorabus; £1,040 (2), Brybruech; £1,025 (4), Eorabus; £1,020, Octomore; £1,020 (8), Ardbeg; £1,010 (4), Kilchiaran; £1,005 (6),

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Octofad; £1,000, Tallant. SIMx - £985, £970, Corrary; £915, (2), £910, Island. LULIX - £755, (8), Duich. HEIFERS - AAx - £1,120, Tallant; £1,075, Octomore; £1,055 (3), Eorrabus; £1,045, Tallant; £1,005, Octomore; £1,005, (5), Eorrabus; £1,000, Tallant; £1,000 (12), Octomore; £995 (2), Corrary; £940, Octomore; £920, (5), Knockrome; £910, Ballinaby. BRBx - £945, Blackrock. CHARx - £1,090, Eorrabus; £1,080, Aoradh; £1,040 (2), Tallant; £1,020, (11), Eorrabus; £1,000 (5), Craigens; £990, (2), Tallant; £970, (8), Craigens; £970, (8), £960, (5), Eorrabus; £955, (5), Craigens; £950, (4), Tallant; £950, (2), £940, (5), Eorrabus; £930, (2), Tallant; £930, (5), Aoradh. LIMx - £1 120, (2), Lossit; £1 040, (6), Ardbeg; £1,040 (4), Lossit; £1,030 (2), £1,010, Ardbeg; £1,000, Brybruch; £1,000 (7), Kilchiaran; £1,000 (3), Lossit; £990, Octomore; £970 (6), Kilchiaran; £970 (6), Ardbeg; £960 (4), Octofad; £960, Brybruch; £950, Coillabus; £945 (3), Blackrock; £945, Knocklearach; £940, Tallant; £940, Octofad. SIMx - £870 (2), Corrary; £860 (3), Carrabus. STXx - £960, Eorrabus. Leading lots and prices per kilo: BULLOCKS - AAx - 321p, Grulinbeg; 283p (17), Octomore; 276p, Tallant; 275p (2), Grulinbeg; 268p, Tallant; 267p, Duich; 267p (2), Corrary; 260p, Coultorsay; 259p (3), Knockrome; 258p (13), 254p (2), Octofad; 244p (9), Octomore. BRBx - 299p, Carrabus; 284p, Blackrock. CHARx - 305p (5), 297p, Carrabus; 296p (3), Aoradh; 293p (5), Kinnabus; 292p, Carrabus; 291p, Octomore; 290p, Carrabus; 287p (3), Aoradh; 287p (7), Tallant; 280p (5), Aoradh; 280p (2), Carrabus; 272p (5), Tallant; 265p, Aoradh; 264p (3), Craigens; 262p, Aoradh; 260p (2), Tallant. LIMx - 323p (2), Ardbeg; 305p, 297p, 295p (4), 292p, Carrabus; 289p (7), Ardbeg; 285p, Dunlossit Estate; 284p (4), Tallant; 284p (8), Blackrock; 281p (3), Eorrabus; 281p, Tallant; 280p, Blackrock; 279p (2), Ardbeg; 276p, Octofad; 275p (2), Ardbeg; 273p (12), Octofad; 273p, Brybruch; 271p (6), 265p, Tallant; 263p (2), 262p (3), Ardbeg; 261p (4), Tallant. SIMx - 297p (3), 295p, 271p (7), Carrabus; 251p, Corrary; 250p (3), Island. HEIFERS - AAx - 283p, Octomore; 270p (5), Knockrome; 258p, Grulinbeg; 254p (4), Aoradh; 253p, Octomore. BRBx - 268p, Blackrock. CHARx - 296p (3), 282p, Carrabus; 270p (8), Tallant; 270p (9), Carrabus; 269p (4), 267p (3), Tallant; 265p (2), Carrabus; 265p (5), Aoradh; 264p (2), 263p (2), Tallant; 263p (2), Eorrabus; 263p, Carrabus; 261p (5), Eorrabus; 260p, 259p (4), Aoradh; 257p (5), Craigens; 256p (2), Carrabus; 256p (6), Craigens; 255p (2), Eorrabus; 254p (2), Tallant; 254p (6), Eorrabus; 254p, Kinnabus; 253p (2), Aoradh; 251p (4), Ballinaby. LIMx - 320p (2), Ardbeg; 301p (4), Blackrock; 284p (2), 282p (2), Carrabus; 279p, Knocklearach; 275p (10), 273p (3), Tallant; 270p (6), Ardbeg; 270p, Carrabus; 269p (9), Eorrabus; 268p (3), Blackrock; 263p, Octofad; 260p (3), Ardbeg; 258p, Tallant; 257p, Aoradh; 255p (6), Kilchiaran; 254p (4), Eorrabus; 254p (9), Ardbeg; 253p (9), Eorrabus; 251p (9), Octofad. SIMx - 265p, 264p (3), Carrabus; 256p (2), Corrary. STXx - 254p, Eorrabus.

Call for vigilance to tackle rural crime

Rural crime remains a major blight on Scotland's countryside but working nationally and regionally with Police Scotland and other stakeholders in the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) progress is being made.

With vehicle, quad and machinery theft still an all-too-common occurrence on Scottish farms and crofts, NFU Scotland has used the most recent edition of its membership magazine, Scottish Farming Leader, as a reminder of steps that can be taken to protect property against opportunistic and organised crime.

The union is urging greater vigilance as a spike in incidents of rural crime is being seen in many parts.

NFU Scotland vice president Robin Traquair said: 'The threat of rural crime is ever present and there is a need for everyone who lives and works in rural Scotland to remain vigilant and take steps that can help protect their livestock, property, vehicles and home.'

'I urge you to secure vehicles, fuel, tools and property properly; invest in trackers and report suspicious people and vehicles to help keep crime at



The deployment of Police Scotland quad bikes in some parts of rural Scotland has made a positive contribution to the ongoing challenge of rural crime in these areas.

bay.' Writing in the union's membership magazine, Inspector Alan Dron, Police Scotland's national rural crime co-ordinator stated: 'Criminals are getting more intuitive and using smarter technology to carry out crimes, so any steps farmers, crofters and smallholders can take to protect their property will help.'

'Some criminals are using drones, Google Earth as well as more traditional drive-bys to check where security cameras, vehicles and machinery are stored and spot if people are working on the farm or around buildings. They can relay this information to their

partners on the ground and be in and out of a location without being noticed.'

'Despite this and thanks to many farmers, crofters and smallholders already taking steps to protect their property, Police Scotland are managing to retrieve more and more stolen agricultural vehicles, plant and quads as a result of many businesses investing in smart technology, security and trackers to protect their property.'

'Currently the popular targets are quads, trailers and tractors. There's a market for them but sadly don't be fooled into thinking lightning doesn't strike twice. Quite of-

ten the thieves can return a few weeks after the initial incident as they know there will be a new replacement vehicle on site that is there for the taking.

'Personalising any vehicle will help with identification and recovery.'

'Make notes about the vehicle identity number, distinguishing or unique features and take photographs.'

'The more information you can share with the police the better. Based on the farmer's description, we recovered a tractor which had been shipped overseas that still had the rightful owner's furry dice and stickers in the cab. If you have a dent or anything added to the vehicle that's personal then record that. It all helps.'

'It is also really important you report any crime or suspicious behaviour to 101 - or 999 if a crime is under way - noting things like vehicle registrations.'

'A small incident on your farm or croft may not mean much to you but if it happened to two or three or more of your neighbours, it becomes three or four reported incidents and strengthens evidence that we can work with.'



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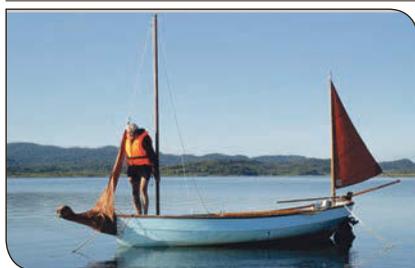
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PLANNING

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
21/00002/PP	Installation of micro hydro scheme	Land South East Of Ardnackaig, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
21/00249/PP	Erection of temporary wind monitoring meteorological mast up to 90m in height for a period of 5 years	Land Approx 1.6km East Of Beinn An Tuirc Windfarm And Approx 4km South West Of Carradale, Kintyre, Argyll And Bute
21/00147/PP	Erection of bridge and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Ellerg Mhor, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute
21/00360/PP	Siting of a metal building for use as a bait store	Land Opposite Old Police Station, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/00254/PP	Formation of 5 parking spaces as part of the public access plan for Blary Hill Wind Farm	Land At Majors Field, North Of Smithy Cottages, Glenbarr, Argyll And Bute
21/00081/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Innean Lodge, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
21/00126/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse on ruin of existing derelict cottage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of West Skeroblin Farm, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

NEW ISLAY FERRY

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), in partnership with CalMac Ferries Limited and Transport Scotland, will hold a second online community consultation meeting to engage island communities and stakeholders on the new vessel to service Islay and Jura.

To participate, please register via www.cmassets.co.uk/NewIslayFerryMeeting
The meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams, which is free to download online.

Tuesday 23 March 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

The event is open to everyone with an interest in the new vessel, and will provide an update on the project and the next stages.

Questions or any other queries regarding the project can be emailed to islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk, or write to Jim Anderson at Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow, PA14 5EQ.

CMAL | cmassets.co.uk | 01475 749920

THANK YOU

Christine, Debbie and Ruaridh want to say a huge thank you for all custom and loyalty, and for the many cards, gifts and good wishes received due to the branch closure.
Thank you all very much.
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30 candles on your cake
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Love from all the family xx

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BIRTHS

ANDERSON - Gary and Lynsey are delighted to announce the birth of Wynter Phoenix on March 10, 2021, a wee sister for India. Another grandchild for Brian and Janice, Zena and John and Archie.

WARDROP - MADGETT - On March 10, 2021 to Fallon and Mickey, a perfect baby boy, Harris Michael. First grandchild for Catherine and Ian.

DEATHS

MACARTHUR - On March 15, 2021, peacefully after a long illness, Helen Elizabeth MacArthur, née Wright, aged 79 years, beloved wife of Cameron and much loved mother of Craig and Donna. Sadly missed by all. A private funeral service owing to current restrictions, will take place at Glen Shira Cemetery. For those wishing to pay their respects, the cortege will leave from Inveraray Parish Church, on Tuesday, March 23 at 12 noon and proceed down Main Street on route to the Cemetery.

MACKINNON - On March 11, 2021, peacefully at Mid Argyll Hospital Lochgilphead, Donald MacKinnon in his 86th year, beloved husband of Meg and much loved father of Alison, Ishbel and Donald, a dearly loved

brother of Mary and all the family, father-in-law of Jim and Carol, and dear grandpa and papa of Jim, Catherine, Mollie and Finlay. A private funeral service and interment was held at Ach-na-breac Cemetery, Lochgilphead, on March 18.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Mary, Libby and David would like to express their heartfelt thanks to family, friends for cards, flowers and phone calls following the sad loss of our dear mum Catherine Campbell. Many thanks to Kenneth Blair and colleagues for their professional handling of the funeral arrangements during this pandemic. Thank you to all who came to pay their respects to mum on her final journey. Thank you also to carers who provided continuous care through these uncertain times, and community nurses who attended mum. Finally to Rev William Crossan for the service outside mum's home and at graveside. Thank you all. We miss her xx

CAMPBELL - Christine, Shona, Kirsty, Colin and families would like to express their sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Colin. Special thanks to the Rev Rodger Crooks for his comforting service and

to all family and friends who were able to attend the graveside service and to all who lined the route to Ach-na-breac Cemetery to pay their respects. Our thanks are extended to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their caring and efficient arrangements and to Morna and Corrina for all the beautiful floral tributes, to Rod for the piping tribute and to Martin MacLean for sending the recording of his singing of Psalm 1. We would also like to sincerely thank the community care staff and district nursing staff for all their devoted care and kindness to Colin.

GALBRAITH - Davie, Jean and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls following the sad passing of Lizzie. Thanks to Kenneth Blair and Co for their guidance and professionalism. The Rev Willie Crossan for his comforting service, and to everyone who paid their respects to Lizzie on her journey to Kilkerran cemetery.

IN MEMORIAMs

ELRICK - In loving memory of Yvonne, who sadly passed away on March 15, 2020. Miss you always - Margaret and Angus.

ELRICK - To our dear friend Yvonne, Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end, They simply mean we'll miss you, Until we meet again. - Love always, Morag, Gail and Janice.

JOHNSON - In loving memory of Gordon, who left us on March 19, 2020. The tears in our eyes we can wipe away The ache in our hearts will always stay. - Mum and family at home and away.

KENNEDY - Joan. In loving memory of Joan, in this her centenary year, who passed away on March 20, 2017. Much loved mum, gran and great-gran. - Sheena, Catherine, Alastair and William (her boys).

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Hector, died March 21, 2015. Remembered fondly every day. - Mary and family.

MCGEACHY - In loving memory of Margaret, died March 18, 2010. I remember our shared hopes and dreams. The laughter, tears, sorrow and joy. But most of all, I remember your love. Ae Fond Kiss. - Leslie.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. — Psalm 37:3
We will hopefully be opening our building soon but until then you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on **Sunday, 21st March 2021** at 11am
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 21st March
Rev Rodger Crooks will record the service for this Sunday and it will be available on our website (see below) and on YouTube.
4.00pm Sunday School (by Zoom)
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)
Wednesday 24th March 12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)
From Sunday 28th March our Sunday morning services will be back in the church.
Covid-19 Government guidelines will apply
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](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchLochgilphead) and on www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk

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

in Ardrishaig and Achahoish Churches will resume on **Sunday, 28th March** (Palm Sunday) Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches (Psalm 97)

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June target for return to competitive shinty

by Colin Cameron
 editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The Camanachd Association has revealed a provisional roadmap for returning to shinty, dependent upon continued progress in the battle against Covid-19.

The first step in this process began on March 12 when adults and youth players were able to start non-contact training, provided they had had their Covid-19 'readiness documentation' verified by the Camanachd Association.

Another key priority is helping clubs safely return to training and a Covid co-ordinator workshop, attended by 33 people, has been held.

From March 12, adults and youths could take part in outdoor non-contact shinty and organised group exercise in groups of up to 15 people, including coaches.

Physical distancing is to be maintained and a club can run more than one session at a time as long as they are distinctly separate and have staggered start and finish times.

March 26 is the target date for all clubs to work towards Covid 'readiness documentation' verification.

Clubs cannot undertake any kind of activity without these documents being verified by the Camanachd Association.

Contact shinty is anticipated to resume from April 26 as Scotland returns to a tiered



It is hoped competitive shinty can resume on June 5.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Covid system, depending on circumstances around the pandemic.

Provided all is well, a provisional start date of June 5 has been set for the senior league and cup season to begin.

Details

Further details will be released by the Camanachd Association competitions committee in due course.

No activity is permitted until a club has had its Covid readiness and risk assessment

'We are delighted to put forward this roadmap for a return of shinty'

verified by the Camanachd Association. As always, a club cannot train unless all participants are registered members of the Camanachd Association for insurance purposes.

Derek Keir, Camanachd

Association chief executive officer, said: 'Since the start of the year we have been working behind the scenes to make sure we were in a position to restart shinty as soon as the conditions allowed.'

Progress

'We are delighted to put forward this roadmap for a return of shinty provided Scotland continues to progress in its fight against the virus.'

'We recognise this is just the first step in a journey, culmi-

nating on June 5 with that first competitive throw-up in 15 months, but we are excited by the positive response this news has already generated with our member clubs.

'Non-contact training is the first step on this roadmap and to support our clubs taking this unfamiliar step, the Camanachd Association has developed a series of adjusted drills for non-contact shinty which are available on our website.'

'If any club wants support with their Covid 'readiness documentation' or anything else to help with their return to shinty, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your regional development officer.'

Get into the golfing swing and feel better

The days are stretching and, all being well, there is the prospect of coronavirus restrictions perhaps being eased over the next few months.

Looking to better days ahead, Lochgilphead Golf Club is keen to encourage new members to sign up.

One of the recurring themes over the year since the pandemic arrived has been mental health under lockdown.

Lochgilphead Golf Club ladies' match secretary Ele Hunter is keen to stress the head-clearing benefits of a round of golf with physical exercise widely accepted to be good for an individual's mental wellbeing.

Ele said: 'During these difficult times, there is nothing better than getting out for a game of golf. Apart from the first lockdown, golf has been one of the permitted exercises. It provides great exercise, usually good fun and a blether with your playing partner.'

She added: 'We have implemented a monthly standing order payment method this year in recognition of the fact that some folk would like to join but are unable to lay out a large amount at the one time.'

'Anyone interested should email the club on enquiry@lochgilphead-golf.com or message our Facebook page.'



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