

DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR THIS WEEKEND



Charles Ferguson played music including Everyday Heroes, written in tribute to key workers. 51_a13Reflection09



Lochgilthead healthcare staff gather after a year dominated by the pandemic. 51_a13Reflection06



Staff members reflect, joined by Councillor Donnie MacMillan BEM, on the right. 51_a13Reflection07

Glen Croe is the way to go

The much-anticipated decision on an alternative route past the landslide-hit Rest and be Thankful has been made.

Transport Scotland announced at the end of last week that its 'preferred corridor' will involve an option within Glen Croe, close to the current A83.

The decision has been generally welcomed – but with a measure of caution given the absence, so far, of a firm timetable.

Turn to pages 4 and 5 for more on this story.

Argyll reflects on past year

Words and photographs by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

On Day of Reflection a minute's silence is observed

Staff at Mid Argyll Hospital were among thousands across the country who took a little time to remember the first anniversary of coronavirus lockdown on March 23.

As part of the National Day of Reflection, healthcare staff took a moment to look back on a year like no other, before observing a minute's silence at midday. As a chill wind blew over Lochgilthead, piper Charles Ferguson added to

the poignancy of the occasion with a selection of tunes, finishing with Everyday Heroes, written by Skerryvore's Martin Gillespie in the depths of the pandemic.

Argyll and Bute Council lit up buildings as staff joined the minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, Argyll and Bute Council provost, said: "The words "unprecedented times" have been used so often, but

it barely covers the enormity or the toll the pandemic has taken on our lives.

"We have lost friends and family, our children have been at home, businesses have closed and jobs affected. My thoughts are with those who have lost someone in the last year, both Covid and non-Covid related.

"It's particularly challenging in these circumstances when the support you would normally rely on from friends and family may not be available

under current restrictions. My hope is that we are able to take some positives from the year.

"The pandemic has brought people together to help the most vulnerable. I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has played a part in keeping Argyll and Bute going.

"From healthcare workers to shop workers, teachers to community groups, delivery drivers, our own council staff and the scientists who are developing vaccines. The list

is endless but the commitment and hard work is so appreciated and continues to be vital to us all.

"We still all have our part to play in keeping the infection rate down, but with the vaccination programme fully underway, brighter times are coming.

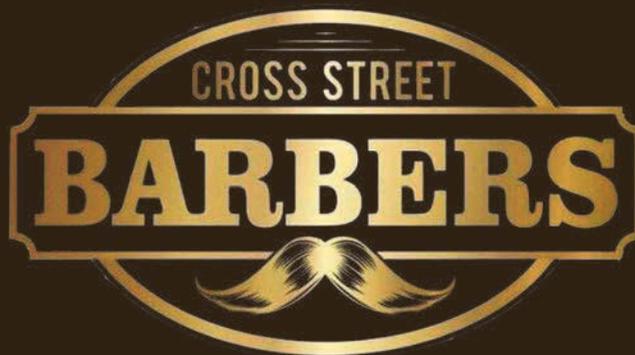
"I want to thank everyone for the colossal effort so far. Being kind and making a difference is what makes Argyll and Bute such a fantastic place."

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Pool lift-off as hub fundraising begins



by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

MacLeod Construction Ltd has made a start on site and the first of the capital grant money has been drawn down.

The Mid Argyll Community Pool (MACPool) redevelopment is under way.

MACPool staff will still be busy during the construction period.

Key staff members will be embarking on a series of training courses to ensure that all is ready for the launch of the MACPool Activity Hub in the autumn, when new soft play and family café facilities will open.

In the meantime, the very popular Paths for All health walks will restart as soon as lockdown regulations permit and MACPool will be recruiting new volunteer walk leaders to increase the range of walks on offer.

MACPool manager Fiona MacAlpine said: 'All of us at MACPool would like to thank the community for its continued support over the years and look forward to welcoming you all to

For the first time in 25 years, the pool stands empty.

the new, improved MACPool Activity Hub later this year.'

While all the money for the capital build has been secured, around £100,000 is still needed towards the fit-out of the new hub.

The community fundraising team has already reached out to Mid Argyll businesses for sponsorship of various items and is delighted with the response to date.

Now individual donors and groups can contribute as fundraising initiative 'Sponsor Our Seascape' goes live.

All donations of £50 or over will earn a dedication on an artistic installation, with a choice of creatures from scallops to whales to choose from.

Visit the MACPool website or Facebook page for more details.

The MACPool Redevelopment Project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund - Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Sport Scotland, The Robertson Trust, Foundation Scotland - Ventient A'Chruach Community Fund, EB Scotland, CRF Hydro, Co-op Local Community Fund and local fundraising.

POLICE FILES

Charged

At about 10.30am on Friday March 18 at Garval Road, Tarbert, a man aged 34 was arrested for allegedly attempting to pervert the course of justice. On checking his details it was found there was a warrant outstanding for his arrest. Police charged the man who was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Motoring allegations

Police stopped a motor vehicle at around 8.15pm on Thursday March 18 near the A83, Tarbert. The driver, a 35-year-old man was charged with using the vehicle without a valid MOT test certificate, a tyre below the legal limit, insufficient levels of washer fluid and with a headlight and brake light not in working order. A report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

Sheep killed

A dog is believed to have attacked a sheep, which later died, in a field near Kilberry Road, Tarbert, at about 4pm on Friday March 19.

Theft of quad bikes

Between Wednesday March 17 and Thursday March 18 in the Campbeltown area, three quad bikes were stolen and later recovered by police. Several men have now been traced and enquiries continue.

Dangerous driving

At around 10.50am on Friday March 19 on the A816 south of Kilninver, an 18-ton lorry with a white cab was reported as being driven in a dangerous manner while carrying out an overtake manoeuvre, causing a white Renault Megane to take evasive action and drive into a ditch.

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 555 111.

Seafood festival cancelled, but hopes music will play on

Organisers of Tarbert Seafood Festival have taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's festival in light of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions around mass gatherings.

Tarbert Seafood Festival 2021 was to have been held over two days from July 3.

While this will disappoint the hundreds of people who flock to Tarbert for this pop-

ular, family-friendly weekend, the news is not all bad as organisers are confident this year's Tarbert Music Festival will go ahead from September 17-20.

John Hardie of Tarbert Enterprise Company said: 'While the recent announcement from the Scottish Government on the roadmap out of lockdown, together with

the fantastic work being done by the NHS with their vaccine roll-out is encouraging, unfortunately it wasn't enough to allow us to hold this year's seafood festival safely.

'Even if we are in tier zero, as is hoped, by the end of June, restrictions on numbers of people attending mass gatherings will still apply. The festival is one of Scotland's friendliest

festivals with friends meeting up, milling around our many stalls and enjoying a drink in the sun while listening to live music, not to mention sampling some of the best seafood in the country. This atmosphere is not something we could compromise for 2021, but the 2022 Tarbert Seafood Festival will certainly be an event worth waiting for!'

He added: 'We very much look forward to meeting friends, old and new in September for this year's music festival. It'll be good for Tarbert to get back to doing what it does best - entertaining.'

Next year's Tarbert Seafood Festival will be July 2 and 3.

Flashback to 2019 seafood festival.



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Mary's Meals charity founded in Argyll feeds 1.8 million children

Mary's Meals is now providing life-changing meals to more than 1.8 million children every school day through its global school feeding programme, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The charity, founded in 2002 in a Dalmally shed, began by providing meals to 200 children in Malawi. Today, it is feeding 1,838,859 children in 19 countries across the world

including Zambia, Ethiopia and Madagascar.

Mary's Meals sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest countries, working alongside communities and supported by an army of volunteers. Today, 59 million children miss school because of poverty and millions more attend school so hungry they are not able to concentrate and learn.

When Covid-19 hit and schools began to close, the charity started distributing food in communities for children who rely on its daily meals to eat at home.

Daniel Adams, executive director of Mary's Meals, said: 'The expansion of our programmes, especially during a year of considerable difficulties for us all, are a real testament to the determination and

dedication of our teams, volunteers, partners and supporters, who keep striving to provide hungry children with a daily meal in their place of education, whether that's at school or at home.'

With the charity's low-cost approach, a donation of just £15.90 will feed a child with Mary's Meals for a school year.

For more information visit marysmeals.org.uk



Children from Ankarinomby Primary School in Madagascar celebrate Mary's Meals feeding 1.8 million children.

Progress on landslide protection

Workers take advantage of weather window

While strategic decisions are being made on the long-term future of the route serving Argyll via the Rest and be Thankful – turn to pages four and five – work goes on to build temporary mitigation measures against landslides.

A break from wind, rain and snow in recent weeks has allowed contractors to finish an extension of the roadside debris fence on the A83, continue building a new catch pit beside the trunk road and make repairs to hillside debris fences damaged by recent landslides. Rock being excavated from the catch pit is being taken to the

A83 at Glen Kinglas, around a mile from the Rest, where it being used to form bunds to protect against landslides in this location.

Hillside monitoring and inspection continues to help ensure traffic safety and the old military road remains on stand by during the daytime as an alternative route through Glen Croe should hillside conditions deteriorate.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland said: 'Better weather has allowed us to continually operate the A83 during daylight hours since March 3 with no reported issues. With daylight

increasing as we move into spring, the daily use of the A83 has been extended to 6.30pm.

'Safety, however, remains our top priority, which is why traffic continues to be diverted via the old military road during the hours of darkness.

'Careful monitoring of the hillside and weather continues so we are aware of any changes that could impact the area, ensuring we are protecting road users at all times.'

Look out for changes to the operating times of the old military road and A83 as the clocks change this weekend.



Above: Work continues on a new catch pit beside the A83.



Left: A temporary debris fence erected on the A83 carriageway.

Lochgilphead welcomes Father Henry

Lochgilphead has a new Catholic priest after Father Ronald Campbell moved earlier this month to his new charge on the Isle of Skye.

Bishop Brian McGee has now appointed Father Henry Jan Nkop as administrator of St Margaret's parish.

A native of Nigeria, Father Henry has been in Britain for three years, having travelled around England and Wales.

He is currently in post in Lochgilphead but was self-isolating as a precaution until March 27. He will begin his pastoral duties in time for Palm Sunday and Easter services.

Pre-registration is required for all services in St Margaret's and details are on the parish website.

Before he left for Portree, Father Ronald told parishioners: 'I'm sorry that given the present restrictions I cannot say a proper goodbye at this time but, rest assured, when things are better and public worship has resumed, I'll arrange a visit. And, of course, if you are ever in Portree please do call in.'

'I know you will all make Father Henry very welcome.'



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Cautious welcome for Gle



by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

One of five possible new routes through Glen Croe will be built to bypass the landslide-prone A83 trunk road at the Rest and be Thankful.

The announcement, made by Transport Scotland on March 18, comes after assessment of 11 route corridor options revealed in September 2020.

The government agency received more than 650 responses to a public consultation before settling on Glen Croe corridor (Option 1), describing it as the 'more cost effective and quicker to deliver, having significantly less environmental constraints' than the alternatives.

The A83 through Glen Croe has been hit by multiple closures due to landslides in recent decades, 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.

Pressure has been building for the Scottish Government to act quickly to resolve the issue.

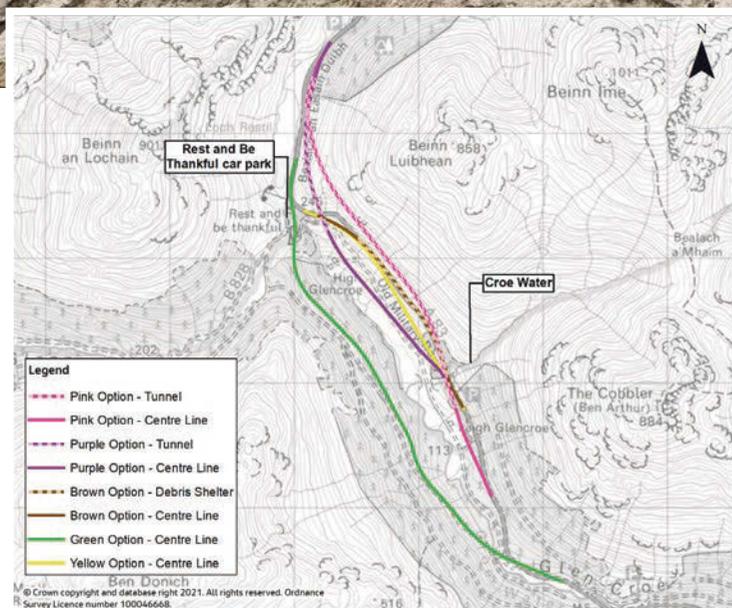
The local authority and some politicians would like an alternative route completed within the term of the next Scottish parliament, but a new Argyll business group, The Rest and be Thankful Campaign, is pressing for a solution within three years.

Making the announcement, Transport Scotland said: 'Public feedback has stressed the need to move quickly and we will be mindful of the impact of that on programme delivery, placing particular weight on the timescales that options may take to deliver as we move into the route options assessment stage.'

The five alternatives around Glen Croe have been developed from options originally outlined in the A83 Trunk Road Study 2013 – based on the Jacob's Report.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment environmental report will be published in April, and the views of the public are being sought, with a closing date of Friday May 28.

Mitigation work at the Rest will carry on meantime, with



Above: The intention is to avoid scenes like these, witnessed in August and September 2020, when two separate landslides closed the A83.

Diagram of the five options. Map courtesy of Transport Scotland.

Details of the five options

The five options – dubbed brown, yellow, green, purple and pink – incorporate everything from traditional roads and structural protection to full tunnel options, with tunnels taking up to two years longer to build, according to Transport Scotland.

Brown route: Closely follows the existing A83 from the Croe Water to the Rest car park. This would involve

a 1.3km debris flow canopy, designed to withstand impacts from boulders and allow debris flows to pass over the top.

The existing road would need to be widened, presenting challenges in keeping the road open to traffic. A 300metre viaduct may be built where the debris shelter ends to improve road alignment on the approach to the Rest and be Thankful car park.

Yellow route: A new single carriageway road, approximately 2.1km long, located between the existing A83 and the old military road, including a 1.8km viaduct to a point near the Rest car park along the base of the west-facing slopes of Beinn Luibhean. The viaduct would have a maximum pier height of 37m and spans between the supporting piers of approximately 40m to 70m.

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Glen Croe corridor decision

a new debris cage, catchpit, debris fencing and flood mitigation planned.

A medium-term route through Glen Croe, perhaps including the forestry track on the opposite side of the glen and the old military road, is also being looked at. Depending on statutory consents, finalised proposals are expected within 18 months.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson MSP said: 'Identifying the preferred route corridor is a major step forward for this vital work and we are now pushing forward to look at five alternative options within that online corridor and starting the process shortly to appoint design consultants for this work.'

'I have asked Transport Scotland to accelerate the preparation and delivery of the scheme where possible given the importance of the route to local communities and road users.'

John Gurr, chairperson of The Rest and be Thankful

Campaign – see letter on page 9 – gave the news a lukewarm reception.

'Whilst we welcome the announcement and the preferred option of Glen Croe,' said Mr Gurr, 'we are still no further forward in terms of timescales.'

'As we move into day 230 of the Rest and be Thankful being closed or disrupted, we urge Mr Matheson to put deliverable dates against this project.'

'Our request of a completion date of May 2024 has once again fallen on deaf ears and without any mention of any dates it feels very much like a fluffy pre-election promise.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader Robin Currie said: 'The only thing that will actually make a difference to the area, our communities and our visitors is having a reliable route completed and in place, so we are considering the detail of this announcement and what it means for Argyll and Bute.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell was 'glad the route corridor is agreed', adding: 'The next priority is to ensure a final scheme is agreed,

contracted and built within the shortest possible time scale and certainly – as the council leader and I have made clear to Michael Matheson – within the lifetime of the

next parliament. Transport Scotland should make clear what the timescales for each of the options are and publish that information as soon as possible.'

Longstanding campaigner for a permanent solution to the Rest, Councillor Dougie Philand, said: 'This has taken a long time to get here, but there is now a sense of urgency.'

'I look forward to the options available being fully assessed, with the conclusion being a permanent option that will be fit for purpose to allow Argyll and Bute to thrive once again.'

Options for new route

Green route: A new single carriageway road, approximately 4.3km long, on the opposite side of the glen to existing A83 through land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland.

It would join the A83 at a point south of the forest road and old military road junctions, crossing the valley floor and the Croe Water by a bridge for approximately 0.2km.

It would generally follow the existing forestry road and landslide mitigation works are likely to be required.

A length of viaduct approximately 0.3km long would be needed across a gully to the north-west side of the Rest car park before joining the A83 again at a point north of the existing junction between the A83 and the B828 Lochgoilhead road.

Purple route: A new 3.2km single carriageway road along the foot of Glen Croe from the existing A83 south of the Croe Water bridge, gradually dropping down to the valley floor before crossing the existing old military road along an embankment.

It would then run generally north-west between the old military road and Croe Water

as either an open road and along an embankment of up to 50m in height, or along a viaduct.

The route would then enter a tunnel approximately 1.2km long passing under the old military road and A83 near High Glen Croe to re-emerge next to the junction between the A83 and an existing access track north of Loch Restil.

Pink route: A new 4.1km single carriageway road, of which 2.9km would be in a tunnel.

This would tie into the A83 around 1km south of the Croe Water bridge, with the new road initially located between the existing A83 and the Croe Water.

This section would be an open road, approximately 0.7km long, generally at ground level or on embankments on the approach to the southern tunnel portal.

It would enter the tunnel, which would be offset down the slope from the A83 and approximately 0.3km south of Croe Water. The tunnel would pass beneath the Croe Water and A83 and emerge next to the junction between the A83 and an existing access road north of Loch Restil.

If you regularly care for family or friends who need extra support, it's time to roll up your sleeve.



Providing face-to-face care can be anything from doing the shopping and preparing meals to giving personal and practical support.

If that sounds like you, find out if you're eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine by visiting nhsinform.scot/carersregister or calling 0800 030 8013

#WeAreScotland



Ewan's leaping seal video gets Lora views

A young Lochgilphead kayaker became an internet sensation after a trip to the Falls of Lora was rudely interrupted by an uninvited guest.

Ewan Campbell was enjoying the challenge of paddling the tidal race in the shadow of the Connel Bridge, near Oban, on Sunday March 14 when a 40kg seal leapt from the waves and landed on his kayak.

'I got a shock when the seal jumped out of the water all of a sudden,' said Ewan.

'The seal hit the kayak with quite a thud and pushed me off the wave I was surfing before it slid off.'

Ewan captured the whole event on his GoPro camera and later posted the incredible footage on his YouTube channel.

A former Scottish canoe slalom international and age group British champion, 19-year-old Ewan has been



Seal jumps over kayaker's boat

Ewan Campbell was shocked when a seal leapt from the Falls of Lora.



The moment the seal appeared from the depths.

kayaking for more than 10 years, but admitted: 'In all the years I've been paddling, I've never had an encounter like that. It was quite amazing.'

These days kayaking in lochs and rivers is a pastime for Ewan, but he intends to gain kayaking qualifications, pandemic allowing, over the next few months and added: 'Hopefully I'll start up my own kayak coaching and guiding business soon.'

Former racing driver Marquess of Bute dies

The Marquess of Bute, landowner and former Formula One racing driver, died on Monday March 22 at the age of 62 following a short illness.

Widely known as 'Johnny Bute', he spent much of his time at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute and chaired the board of Mount Stuart Trust from 2005.

John Crichton-Stuart, the seventh marquess, was a former Formula One driver, racing as Johnny Dumfries, and a team-mate of the great Ayrton Senna.

He also won the 24-hour Le Mans race in 1988 and enjoyed success at various levels of motorsport.

A statement from his family said he was a 'devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, son and grandfather and loved by all'.

The statement continued: 'The indomitable spirit and energy which Johnny brought to his life will be greatly missed and the immense warmth and love with which he embraced his family.'

'His heart was firmly rooted on the island of Bute where he spent much of his time.'

'Johnny chaired the board of Mount Stuart Trust from its active inauguration in 2005 when Mount Stuart and its gardens opened to the public and its rural estate was vested into the charitable trust.'

'He was a moderniser and an inspirational thinker, transitioning a family home to a progressive, working visitor facility and estate.'

'His island projects include the internationally respected Bute Fabrics and, most recently, the Kerrylamont Centre for Rural Excellence and Bute Yard.'

'He was a philanthropist through his foundation, particularly focusing on Scotland and the west coast.'

'His family requests privacy at this time.'

VISITUS

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Be prepared for ticks in the outdoors

Daffodils are starting to bloom, the birds are singing - but less welcome signs of spring are also stirring.

They can appear at any time of year, but ticks love warmer weather.

This year's Tick Bite Prevention Week, from March 22 to 28, aimed to raise awareness of the small bloodsucking parasites, which can carry a number of diseases that can be transmitted to pets and humans, such as Lyme disease.

The Mountaineering Scotland website contains useful information on the tiny pests, including useful tips for avoiding ticks.

It recommends avoiding walking through long grass and areas of thick foliage and keeping to paths and tracks; wearing long sleeves, tucking trousers into socks or wearing gaiters and choosing thickly woven fabric; spraying insect repellent on clothing and socks; wearing light-coloured

clothing to see dark ticks and remove them - inspecting clothing often to remove the ticks - and checking everyone and pets for ticks when you get home, especially hairline, navel, groin, armpits, between toes, behind the ears and knees.

The most reliable method of removing a tick without leaving any remnants in the skin is to buy a tick hook.

Do not use a lighted cigarette or match or essential oils to

encourage the tick to fall off and don't squeeze the tick - especially one that is engorged with blood - as this will inject the fluid in the tick back into the body.

Lyme disease can be difficult to diagnose as it can exhibit different symptoms in different people and some of the symptoms are similar to other infections and illnesses.

A common sign of Lyme disease is a distinctive bullseye rash that may appear - though

not always - around the area of the bite. As infection spreads, several rashes can appear at different sites on the body.

Other symptoms include fatigue, fever, headaches, stiff neck and body aches - similar to flu. These symptoms may be persistent or may occur intermittently.

If anyone experiences any of these symptoms, they should see their GP immediately and mention their concerns about Lyme disease.

Tick facts

■ Ticks are active and looking for something to feed on - humans and pets - as soon as the temperature hits four degrees Celsius.

■ They can transmit Lyme disease and other serious illnesses.

■ Ticks can be tiny - too small to see - and can look like a skin lump on a pet's body.

■ They live in wooded areas, tall grass, bushes and or leaves.

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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.



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LETTERS

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

After 14 years of spending eye-watering sums of taxpayers' money on 'mitigation' – the cheapest option (ironically) in an earlier Jacob's report – the Scottish Government has selected the Glen Croe corridor.

If politicians had listened when they were repeatedly told by local people about the dangers and economic importance of this route years ago, the public purse could have saved money and we would have a permanent solution by now.

In truth, the Glen Croe corridor seemed the only realistic suggestion of the 11 'options' announced in the autumn - with the others seemingly red herrings. The reasons for their inclusion remain a mystery.

While the decision on a corridor is welcome, it means little without a final route selection with a timeframe. We trust this will continue to be treated as a political priority beyond May's election.

The year of Covid

On a chilly day at Mid Argyll Hospital, staff reflected on the year of Covid. We owe Argyll and Bute health and care workers a huge debt of gratitude for looking after us in unprecedented times.

The piping by Charles was excellent, with Martin Gillespie's appropriate tune adding something special.

Start work now on Rest and be Thankful alternative

An open letter to the First Minister following the announcement of Transport Scotland's 'preferred corridor' past the Rest and be Thankful

Dear First Minister,
I write to you as chairperson of the Rest and Be Thankful Campaign, a group which represents more than 1,500 Argyll businesses.

Over the past few weeks, we have twice written to Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson and sadly received no response.

Regarding the Rest and be Thankful (RABT), whilst we welcome the decision to select option one for the permanent solution of the landslide-blighted section of the A83, we fear a further consultation simply delays the process. The phrase 'kicking it into the long grass' springs to mind, especially when option one, the Glen Croe route, was the chosen option from the A83 Trunk Road Study – summary report published by Jacobs in 2012.

Surely, after nine years of consulting, the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland can choose the best solution rather than going through a lengthy and expensive consultation process.

Based on this, our members would like the permanent solution fast tracked, which is well within the Scottish Government's power and we would ask for this to be seriously considered.

Our other comments and feedback to last week's announcement are as follows: The timber road route should be upgraded as a short-term solution this summer and not in the suggested 18 months. Argyll businesses have faced the issues of landslides for many years.

However, the situation has worsened over the past year and in our opinion it has now become a national emergency and requires immediate action.

The 100,000 tons of unstable material could swamp any further mitigation measures put in place on the A83 and Old Military Road (OMR) and make the roads impassable. This could easily happen when we next have an extended period of rainfall.

Savings in further mitigation work could go towards upgrading the forestry road.

The long-term solution should be selected from the 2012 The A83 Trunk Road Study and based on the delivery of the most sustainable outcome.

Any well-developed permanent solution needs to be open 24/7, even when it rains, without fear of being buried under tons of rock and mud, and will have less environmental impact than the landslides, catchpits, netting and OMR bund we are currently experiencing.

Our understanding of costs and timescales from similar schemes in Norway show a tunnel could be built in three years at a cost of £50-£60m and not the £250-£800m stated by Transport Scotland.

Members of The RABT Campaign group represent a cross section of business sectors and we would welcome the chance to meet with

your officials to discuss how we might help cut through the lengthy timescales and fast-track decision making.

John Gurr

Cinderella no more

Sir,
I heard there was work going on in Lochgilphead town centre and that some people were complaining, about mess and upheaval. No change there then.

When I observed the work, I was so surprised at the difference this will make to the town and to the moaners I say 'you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs'.

When I spoke to them, the workforce were polite and commented they were looking forward to the end result.

For too long now Lochgilphead has been the Cinderella of Argyll and Bute. Now it seems she will go to the Ball.

From a very satisfied resident.

Name and address supplied.

Switch off your lights

Sir,
Just ahead of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Earth Hour last year, the country was put into lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As we look ahead to this year's event on Saturday March 27 at 8.30pm, many of us are reflecting on the future as we emerge from the latest and, hopefully, last 'stay at home' period.

With that in mind, we are asking people to use Earth Hour to help us create the 'Great Scottish Canvas'.

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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Switch off your lights and by candlelight or torchlight, use the hour to paint a picture, craft a poem, doodle or write something which illustrates the future Scotland you want to live in. With so many eyes on Scotland this year, due to Scottish Parliament elections in May and the vital COP26 climate talks in November, we want to show the world the vision of the Scottish people for a greener and fairer society for us all. Find out more at the www.wwf.org.uk website.

I look forward to seeing the things you believe will make Scotland a better place, perhaps changing the way we heat our homes, how we travel around our towns and cities or how we grow the food we eat.

**Lang Banks, director,
WWF Scotland, Edinburgh.**

A better society

Sir,
Tuesday March 23 marked the anniversary of the day the UK entered lockdown. We have lived through what is probably the most extraordinary year in most people's lifetimes.

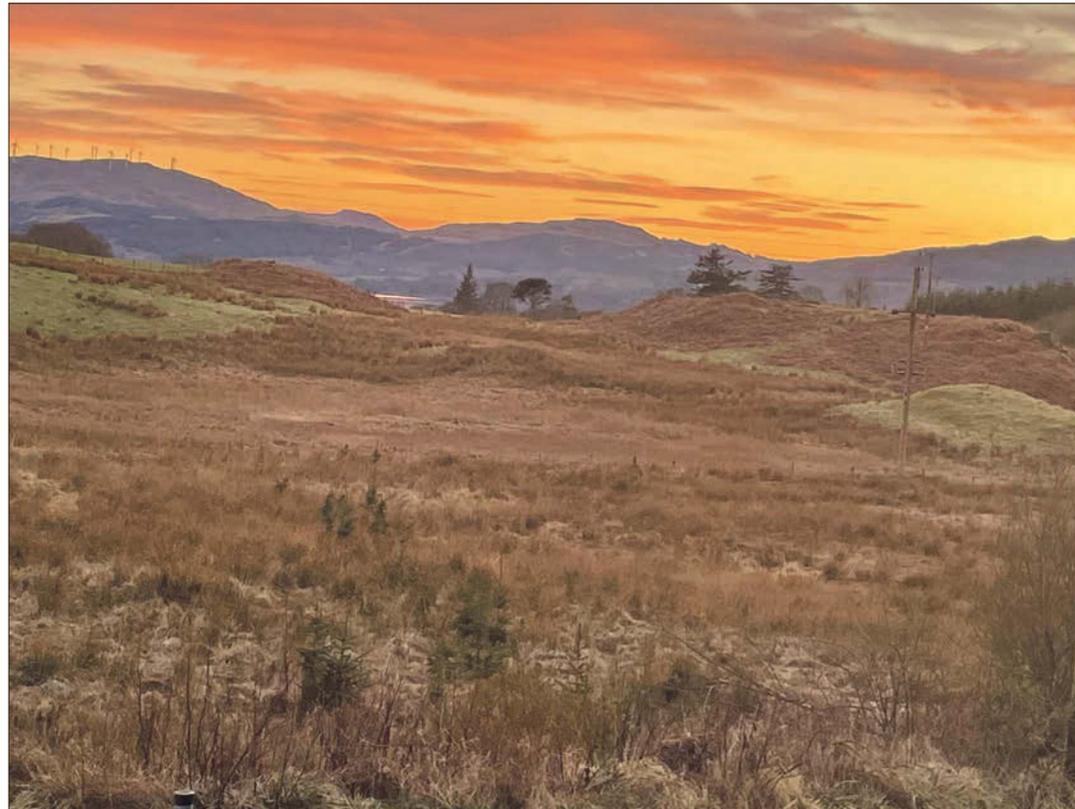
Blind and partially sighted people have had to adjust, like everyone else, to the daily challenges this has created. Thankfully, there's now light at the end of the tunnel.

People with sight loss can sometimes find it difficult to judge space, so we're asking everyone to maintain their own distance, be patient and be helpful. Just getting out and about can be more hazardous for those without sight.

The government's 'Spaces for People' initiative has already transformed many of our streets and thoroughfares. We must take care that this doesn't inadvertently create new obstacles for those with disabilities.

**James Adams, director, Royal National
Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Scotland,
Edinburgh.**

YOUR PICTURES



This week's featured photograph of a spring evening in Mid Argyll was submitted by Catherine Kennedy. Catherine said it was taken on Friday March 19 from Balliebeag, Castleton, looking

across to Ormsary hill, with a little glimpse of Loch Fyne between the hills.

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

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For further inspiration our website offers a wealth of information including a virtual showroom featuring many of the models we offer and our portfolio page showing some excellent examples of what can be achieved.

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Boobettes take on Kiltwalk challenge – 26 miles or bust

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Yvie steps out again to raise funds for Rainbow Valley charity

And she's off again - Yvie Young, that is.

A keen fundraiser for good causes, Lochgilphead nurse Yvie and pals Margaret Maclean, Shona Young, Muriel Mackenzie, Carol Ross, Babs Todd and Mary MacNeill – collectively known as The Boobettes – are taking on the Virtual Kiltwalk, walking 26 miles over two days to raise funds for the Rainbow Valley charity.

Kiltwalkers can raise funds for a Scottish charity of their choice and, thanks to the generosity of Sir Tom Hunter and The Hunter Foundation, all funds raised are topped up by 50 per cent.

Every penny raised goes directly to the charity.

Rainbow Valley is inspired by Lochgilphead woman Johanna MacVicar, who passed away in

2005 following a lengthy battle with leukaemia. She believed that diet, stress, exercise and complementary therapies all influenced her health and had a significant role in controlling her condition.

Since its inception in 2012, Rainbow Valley has been delivering Johanna's vision through free residential courses and information.

Quality of life

The charity's aim is to provide people of all ages, living with or affected by cancer, with the knowledge and opportunity to prevent and manage the impact of cancer and improve their long-term quality of life.

Yvie, herself a breast cancer survivor, was a friend of Johanna's and has been a passionate supporter and fundraiser for Rainbow Valley since the beginning.

With the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, this year's virtual

Kiltwalk will take place from Friday April 23 to Sunday April 25.

Kiltwalkers are invited to don a bit of tartan and complete any socially distanced challenge they wish, from walking, running, cycling, hopping, skipping or jumping on a trampoline, to raise funds for the charity of their choice.

Yvie said: 'My friends, as usual, just go along with all the things I come up with to support the charities that have supported me. They don't get an option!'

Look out for the Boobettes, suitably dressed for the occasion, as they take on the challenge.

And you can 'support' the Boobettes by visiting the Just Giving website and searching 'Kiltwalk Yvie Young'.

'I know this is a tough time for people financially,' said Yvie, 'so any donation is so much appreciated.'



Yvie Young and her friends will walk 26 miles over two days.

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Highland

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

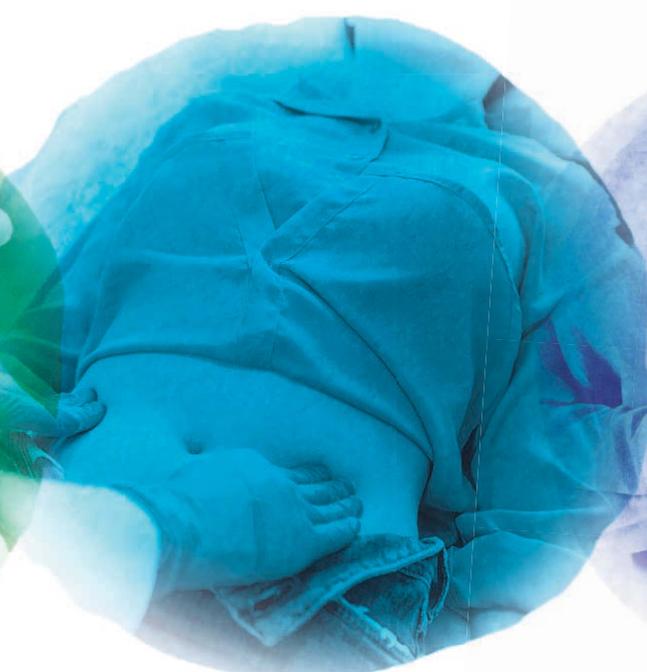
Alternatively, visit www.smokefreehighland.co.uk for more information and support if you'd like to stop smoking, or complete the online form at: bit.ly/Smoke-Free-Highland and your local advisor will get in touch with you.

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Thought for the Week

'Turn! Turn! Turn! To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven'.

This song by the Byrds is based on the words of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.

As our seasons turn from winter to spring, our world is literally turning back towards the sun to give us lovely long, bright days.

The season of living under lockdown as a result of Covid-19 looks to be turning too with restrictions to be lifted slowly to allow us to get back to normality, whatever that is.

As we begin to wonder what this new post-Covid life will be like, we have time to reflect on what we have learnt about what really matters in life while unable to live the way we did before.

What have you missed most during lockdown? What have you not missed?

And I wonder what it is time to let go of as we emerge from lockdown?

The words from the Bible and the song remind us that to everything there is a time; we can't do everything all the time; now is the time for sowing in the garden; later we will reap what we sow. I wonder what seeds have been sown in you during lockdown?

I hope we will all have new growth as we move forward individually and together. Perhaps what lockdown has taught me the most is that we need each other.

I hope we continue to remember this as we get back to whatever new normal life is going to be.

**Reverend Lyn Peden,
Church of Scotland, Skipness linked
with Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry.**

JURA

Communications mast
for Jura approved

Plans for a 15-metre high communications tower on the island of Jura have been given the go-ahead by Argyll and Bute Council chiefs.

The plans by WHP Limited and the Scottish Futures Trust are for a site north west of Ardlussa House and include the construction of other telecommunications equipment.

No objections to the proposal were received from members of the public.

A council planning officer said: 'The choices of sites for this important infrastructure project are limited and although the upper part of the tower may be visible in the skyline from some aspects in the panorama, it is deemed acceptable.'

'This infrastructure will help address the identified issue of retaining and increasing the active population in this remote rural area in line with the council's strategic vision of this outward looking, adaptable island while retaining its outstanding natural and historic environment.'

ARGYLL AND BUTE

By-election winners declared

The winners of Argyll and Bute Council by-elections following the recent passing of councillors Ellen Morton, Helensburgh, and Provost Len Scoullar, Isle of Bute, have been announced.

Declared on Friday March 19, independent candidate Liz McCabe triumphed in the by-election for the Isle of Bute ward, while Conservative Gemma Penfold won the Helensburgh and Lomond South ward.

Mrs McCabe was elected at stage five of the 'single transferrable vote' count, held in Lochgilphead.

The Bute election was held after the death in November at the age of 81 of the council's Provost Len Scoullar, who was also an independent.

Ms McCabe is about to retire from her day job running a restaurant in Rothesay.

She said: 'I am aware of the many issues and challenges facing us here on Bute, including care services for the elderly with dementia.'

'I am an extremely hard worker and not afraid of a challenge.'



Plans have been lodged to replace the oil heating at Castle Toward, above, with green energy.

Green energy plans lodged for Castle Toward

A country house and former outdoor education centre could be heated by green energy in place of oil.

Plans to use heat from the Firth of Clyde to power 19th century Castle Toward in Cowal have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

The owners of Castle Toward Estate, near Dunoon, propose a new building to house an 'energy centre' at the estate gatehouse.

A design statement for the proposed system says it will contain a heat pump for

the low-carbon generation of heat for estate buildings. The proposed equipment will replace oil boilers.

The council is expected to deliver a decision on the plans by the middle of May.

In the design statement, the architects' representative explained a heat pump in the new building would take the latent heat in the water of the Clyde to create a clean, low carbon source of heat, replacing oil heating which currently costs around £20-25,000 each month.

YOURSTORY

email us at editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
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'I have good communication skills and am not afraid to voice my opinion.'

Gemma Penfold said she was 'over the moon' after winning at the first stage of counting, receiving more than 50 per cent of all the 'first preference' votes cast under the single transferrable vote process.

The by-election was held after the death of the area's long-serving Liberal Democrat councillor

Ellen Morton in October. Ms Penfold, who runs a dance school, said: 'It's been a bit overwhelming as this is the first time I've run. We are coming out of Covid, so for me it is important we help the town rebuild and help businesses rebuild.'

'That's the main priority right now - trying to get people back into jobs and restoring the stability businesses had before Covid.'

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Thank you

As we approach one full year of living and farming under Covid restrictions, we wanted to say, to the many who have supported and helped us through this incredibly difficult year – thank you.

These last 12 months have been hard. Businesses have suffered, health and care workers have been under extraordinary pressure and families everywhere have lost loved ones.

Yet, through it all, Scotland's island and Highland communities have shown remarkable resilience. As you have cared for the most vulnerable amongst us, you have extended that same hand of support to our sector.

Scotland's salmon farmers have spent the last year faced with tough new work patterns, the shutdown of the hotel and restaurant trade, and the collapse of international markets.

Throughout, our teams have worked hard to keep our fish well cared for and our processing facilities running smoothly.

But we couldn't have done it without the many ferry workers, bus drivers, hauliers and critical suppliers who kept essential services running.

Nor could we have done it without the understanding of regulators who allowed our farmers to delay harvests and keep fish in the water for longer - a special dispensation used sparingly by a small number of fish farms.

The results of this collective effort are clear: good fish health and great rates of growing fish through to market size and harvest.

Our farmers produced more than 800 million fresh, nutritious and healthy meals in the last year, helping Scottish salmon remain the UK shoppers' fish of choice.

It is with this last key point in mind that there remains one more all-important thank you and that is to you – the people of the communities in which we live and work, the rural and island areas, the villages and towns of Scotland from Unst to Kintyre.

Quite simply, we couldn't do it without you.

With your continued support, we can all look forward to better times ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tavish Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Tavish Scott. SSPO CEO.

Country folk demand voice in Scottish decision making

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Organisers of the first Rural Workers' Protest are to deliver five key demands to Scottish Government after thousands went online to voice grave concerns over rural policy.

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association organised the virtual day of action on Friday March 19 after a planned Holyrood demonstration last spring was postponed due to lockdown.

Along with Scotland's regional moorland groups, they asked people to post on social media their support of #RWP21 and a different style of politics for rural workers of land and river.

People responded, with more than 7,000 posts across multiple platforms from gamekeepers, shepherds, river ghillies,

country vets, tradespeople, falconers, farmers, foresters and families.

Several Scottish MSPs and prospective candidates from three parties also sent supportive video messages, with organisers demanding change on key decisions, access, funded conservation and fish farming.

They want a forum established at Holyrood for rural workers and the next government to meet targets on giving equal weight to practitioner knowledge in law making.

The Scottish Government's rural policy, the campaigners claim, has been allowed to be dominated by lobby groups and well-financed nature Non-Governmental Organisations with disregard for the people delivering on the ground.

Funded conservation projects, they believe, must



Scottish Gamekeepers Association chairman Alex Hogg.

meet key targets or the money should be returned to Scotland's tax payers.

With farms, crofts and property suffering theft, vandalism, fly-tipping and wildfire due to access abuse, they also want the Countryside Code to be included in the Scottish school curriculum.

They are also demanding the next Scottish Government acts on two separate Holyrood inquiries into aquaculture which

have lain undelivered for three years.

'We wanted to show Scottish Government and politicians the connectedness of rural Scotland,' said Scottish Gamekeepers Association chairman Alex Hogg, who has been in forestry and gamekeeping for more than 40 years.

'People took part in great numbers and it was wonderful to hear the multiplicity and

breadth of voices. They voiced their concerns with honesty and dignity and we hope now that Scottish Government will take forward their requests and act upon them.

'If they could harness the skills of the rural workers who took part, they would have a major asset for Scotland, with its many targets for nature and climate.

'First, though, they need to give practical people a better input into the key decisions impacting their lives.'

Lianne MacLennan of

Scotland's regional moorland groups believes it gave politicians a flavour of a growing dissatisfaction at the direction of rural policy amongst people and families employed in traditional rural industries.

'These are people with vast skills and their own knowledge,' she said, 'often built up over many years on river and land and passed down in generations.'

'Holyrood should be for them, too, and not only for people with letters after their name and lobbyists who won't have to deal with the consequences of what they persistently demand from government.'

Thousands of people also signed an online 'Growing Protest' page, which will be presented to Scottish Government along with the key demands.



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A welcome return for youth football at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

A welcome return to football training for primary pupils

Youth football training is back in Lochgilphead.

After recent Scottish Government relaxation of Covid-19 rules around outdoor exercise and organised sports, the first sessions for primary one to seven took place on Friday March 19, proving hugely popular with youngsters deprived of the game for so long.

Year group training will take place from Monday to Thursday, with coaches contacting their classes directly.

For the individual Lochgilphead Red Star youth

teams, the 2011s/under-10s kicked off their training on Wednesday March 17.

The girls and, separately, the 2004s/under-17s started on Monday March 22, while the 2007s/under-14s got going on Tuesday March 23.

Covid-19 guidelines and contact tracing are in place and all players, parents and carers are asked to follow the rules, socially distance from each other and support the volunteer coaches.

Lochgilphead Red Star Youth Football Club chairman Stuart Green said: 'It's been a long lockdown

winter for everyone, so we are delighted to get back to training.

'Sessions will be Covid-19 compliant but fun and full of movement.'

'I would like to thank everyone for continuing to support us through lockdown with monthly subscriptions.'

'We hope to have the secondary school age players back as soon as possible. We will keep everyone updated on the evolving guidelines, so look out for further announcements through the usual channels.'

Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



Educating honeybees to find particular flowers could be the future for crop pollination

Global insect populations have decreased dramatically over the past 50 years.

This is mainly due to massive insecticide use and habitat loss caused by intensification of agriculture.

Up to 88 per cent of flowering plants and 75 per cent of commercial crops require insects for pollination, with honeybees and hoverflies most often doing the job.

But with declining numbers of these species, farmers may employ hives of bees to prevent crop yields falling.

Wild honeybees forage within three miles of their nest and, on return, they perform the 'waggle dance' that advertises the location of productive foraging sites to other bees.

Also, odours from scented flowers picked up inside the nest while unloading pollen act as cues to guide nest-

mates to specific flowers. Now scientists have artificially imprinted bees with flower odours in an attempt to improve crop yields*.

In trying to establish long-term memory for flower odours, the scientists offered bees in three separate groups of hives alternative odours:

- sucrose solution scented with synthetic sunflower odours

- sucrose solution scented with jasmine odours

- sucrose solution alone.

They then relocated the hives to a sunflower plantation and compared the foraging activities of bees exposed to the three solutions.

First, scientists decoded 'waggle dances' to identify sunflower-specific dances.

Using this information, they observed bees from hives fed with sunflower odours performing sunflower dances



one hour after hive relocation. Contrastingly, the control bees fed jasmine odours took two to three hours and control sucrose-fed bees took five hours to perform sunflower

dances. This resulted in the sunflower odour-imprinted bees performing significantly more sunflower-specific 'waggle dances' during the first day of relocation, peak-

ing at 84 per cent increase over control hives, preferentially visiting sunflowers and bringing in more sunflower pollen loads than the control bees.

Up to 88 per cent of flowering plants and 75 per cent of commercial crops require insects for pollination.

The scientists then measured the all-important crop yields in five plots containing different sunflower hybrid plants pollinated by sunflower odour-imprinted compared to control bees.

Seed yields in all five plots were highest when pollinated by sunflower odour-fed bees, with increased production up to 60 per cent above control bees.

They conclude that providing bees pre-programmed to forage on specific crops could circumvent wild pollinator shortages and significantly increase crop yields.

**Current Biology* 30, 1-7.

YOURSTORY

email us at editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
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Argyll charity body reveals new chief

A group representing charities across the region has announced the appointment of a new chief executive.

As he revealed the appointment of 51-year-old Takki Sulaiman, Peter McDill, chairman of trustees at Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI), said: 'Takki is a local man who demonstrated to the board a strong understanding of Argyll and Bute and of the third sector.'

'Since 2015, he has served as a trustee of the Friends of St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe and, since 2018, he has been a trustee with the UK-wide domestic violence prevention and training charity SafeLives.'

'Takki has a strong track record in partnership working, most recently in a local authority setting where he successfully steered a new approach to working with the voluntary sector through co-production, ensuring the expertise, vision and values of the third sector were at the heart of commissioning local services.'

'The TSI board is confident



New Argyll and Bute TSI chief executive Takki Sulaiman.

I live and now work. I am fully committed to building upon the strong foundation put in place at the TSI over the past three years.'

He worked for the English family court service before serving three local authorities as a chief officer.

In Greenwich, he steered a new approach to working with the voluntary sector through co-production and was responsible for tourism, culture and heritage.

Latterly he led the multi-agency task group for Greenwich's Community Hub response to Covid-19.

For Aberdeen City Council, he was responsible for working with stakeholders to deliver the new City Centre Masterplan, the City Region Deal and a new events and culture strategy - Aberdeen365. From 1998 to 2006, he was a councillor in Haringey, London, and lead member for social services.

Takki is the right person to lead Argyll and Bute TSI in the next phase of its development.'

Argyll and Bute TSI is funded by the Scottish Government to be a central source of knowledge about the third sector locally, ensuring a strong third sector voice at a strategic level and offering leadership, vision and co-ordination to the third sector to better respond to Argyll and Bute's priorities.

Mr Sulaiman said: 'We moved as a family to Argyll in 2015, but I commuted to work in Aberdeen, then to Greenwich in London.'

'It is a real honour to be given the opportunity to work with such a dynamic network where

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From countryside to couch

Scotland's top research farms will bring the countryside to the couch this Sunday, March 28, as part of Linking Environment and Farming's (LEAF) Online Farm Sunday event.

With current Covid-19 restrictions preventing many people visiting the countryside, SEFARI – a consortium of six globally renowned Scottish environment and food and agriculture research institutes – is offering virtual tours to show the work taking part on its research farms.

The tours, supported by SEFARI Gateway, include SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre estate in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, which will show the challenges faced by



Kirkton Farm is taking part in Sunday's online farming event.

farmers in the harsh mountainous regions of Scotland.

At SRUC's Crichton Royal Farm, in Dumfries and Galloway, visitors will be able to see a robotic milking parlour and at Glensaugh farm in Aberdeenshire, visitors can learn how pasture management and agroforestry

can play an important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Other tours include showing how different cropping systems can help increase food production and protect the environment, the biodiversity it supports and the work of researchers to tackle parasites

and diseases that impact on the health and welfare of livestock.

The virtual events at bit.ly/SEFARIfarmtours are part of LEAF's Online Farm Sunday event on March 28.

The series of 'live' virtual farm tours, beginning at 2pm, will take viewers to all corners of the UK.

With a particular focus on health and wellbeing, LEAF will be running a Farm Fit competition to see if viewers can guess how many steps Britain's Fittest Farmers and Stella the cow take in the seven-day run up to Sunday.

The event, from 2pm-4.30pm, includes dairy herd health, lambing and calving, free range egg production and glasshouse tomato production.

Poultry can be released outside from March 31

Compulsory housing measures for poultry and captive birds are to be lifted at the end of this month.

The housing measures were introduced across Great Britain in December as one of a range of measures to stop the spread of avian influenza, which is circulating in wild birds.

Provided there are no new significant cases between now and the end of March, the current measures are due to be relaxed. The last confirmed case in poultry in Great Britain was on February 12 in Scotland.

While the risk of bird flu has been reduced to 'medium', the risk of outbreaks is

likely to persist for several weeks.

As a result, enhanced biosecurity requirements that were brought in as part of the Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) on November 11 will remain in place.

Bird keepers are advised to use the time between now and March 31 to prepare ranges and outdoor areas, including cleansing and disinfection of hard surfaces, fencing off ponds or standing water and reintroduction of wild bird deterrents.

Captive bird keepers will need to keep taking extra precautions, including limiting access to non-essential people on their sites.



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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
21/00156/PP	Formation of coach parking area, extension to existing car park area, erection of 2 polytunnels, 1 shed, 2 raised flower beds and 1 bicycle rack	Achamore House, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AD
21/00159/PP	Erection of building for office/storage use and installation of septic tank and formation of access onto public road	Tarbert Farm, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AA
21/00253/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of bio-disc treatment plant and formation of access	Land Between Birlinn And Taobh Sair, Craobh Haven, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
21/00371/PP	Alterations to ground floor to include formation of new window and bi-fold door openings	Allt-Na-Craig, Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA30 8EP

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



East Kintyre Community Council Windfarm Trust

Applications are invited for grant funding from the Spring disbursement of the above trust.

Grants for capital or revenue funding may be available to charities, community groups and village halls within the East Kintyre Community Council area bordered by Grogport to the North and Peninver to the South.

Advice, criteria and application forms are available on the Windfarm Trust pages of the East Kintyre Community website - eastkintyre.org or alternatively from the Secretary/Treasurer:

Alasdair Bennett
Tel: 01583 431112
E-mail: ekccwft@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications:
Thursday 22nd April 2021



Source: Business Choice 8, The Newspaper Society
Regional Press
Closer to Home



Willie and Janet Macintyre would like to thank all their family and friends for the kind wishes on the celebration of their 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Thank you all for the lovely cards, messages, phone calls, beautiful flowers, gifts and for making it such a special day.



GOLDEN WEDDING

RHODICK - JAMIESON

George (Geordie) & Elizabeth (Betty) at Burntisland Registry Office on March 27, 1971

6 Fernoch Crescent
Lochgilphead
Love all the family xxx

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Deadline for applications will be **Sunday May 2nd 2021**

Interviews will be held via Zoom on **May 19th and May 20th.**

This post is part-funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



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Come to church this Easter

A wonderful celebration for us all

The Christian faith at the heart of the Easter message celebrates the Resurrection, rebirth, new life, growth and rejoicing – what better themes could there be now that spring is here and the Covid restrictions are being eased slowly.

Let's all rejoice this Easter weekend.

The Scottish Government has revised its plans to say that 'should progress suppressing the virus continue', it will permit churches to re-open for communal worship from March 26, meaning they will be able to hold Easter services as usual this year.

It will let churches re-open for communal worship earlier than previously planned as the Covid-19 vaccine rollout continues to bring down case numbers.

The attendance limit will be 50 where social distancing permits; but this will depend on levels of the virus.

The news has been welcomed across Scotland.

The Catholic Church said: 'The opening of churches is a sign that the sacrifices endured so far are bearing fruit and gives us hope and encouragement to persevere. We pray that the Risen Christ, for whom we long during this holy season of Lent, will bless and bring healing to our nation.'

The Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said: 'We now hope to be able to move forward, while remembering that not everyone will be able to be in church

despite this re-opening for various reasons, and that is why we will continue to provide online worship for those who will not be able to return.'

All churches recognise that many people, who have to keep shielding, will not be able to go out to services and are continuing to post their services on line.

The National Worship Team of the Church of Scotland summed up the feelings: 'We may not all be gathered in the same building, but at this time, when we need each other so much, we are invited to worship together, from where we are – knowing that God can hear us all and can blend even distant voices into one song of worship.'



ST. KIERAN'S RC CHURCH

St. John Street, Campbeltown
stkieransrc.org

Passion (Palm) Sunday, 28th March, 10am

Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper), 1st April, 7pm

**Good Friday (Commemoration of the Lord's Passion),
2nd April, 3pm**

**Blessing of Easter Food baskets, Saturday, 3rd April,
between 4-5pm**

The Easter Vigil, Saturday, 3rd April, 8.30pm

Easter Sunday, 4th April, 10am

Easter Sunday, 4th April, 4pm (Islay, location TBC)

Limited places so please register with
Fr. Tony by telephone or email.

01586 552160 campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk

Please give: Name, address, telephone no.,
and number from the household wishing to attend,
and the date of the Mass.

Holy Mass will be also be broadcast on Facebook for those
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(<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>).

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Source: YouGov 2018

GOLDEN WEDDING

RHODICK - JAMIESON
- At Burntisland Registry Office on March 27, 1971, George Alexander (Geordie) to Elizabeth Margaret (Betty).

DIAMOND WEDDING

MACCUAIG - ROBERTS
- Gilbert to Llana on March 31, 1961 at Kilmichael Glassary Church by Rev. Henderson.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Suddenly after a short illness fought bravely and with dignity, with her family by her side, at the Mid Argyll Hospital Lochgilphead on March 20, 2021, Catherine (Cathie) Cameron née Simpson, in her 77th year, of 3 Dochas Place, Lochgilphead. Much loved and loving Mother of Joyce; former wife of Ronnie Cameron (Joiner). Adored Nanny of Scott and Lewis, much respected mother-in-law of Kenny, and a dear sister of Sadie and the late Ken and Ena. Dearly loved aunt, cousin and sister-in-law to the extended family. A private family funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium. For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral cortege will leave from Lochgilphead Parish Church on Tuesday, March 30 at 11.30am, travelling down Argyll Street, along Union Street, passing through Furnace at approx. 11.45-11.50am and Inveraray 12-12.10pm. Please observe social distancing. Donations can be made in memory of Cathie to the Macmillan Day Unit, Mid Argyll Hospital directly or via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors.

FORSTER - Peacefully at home, Machrimore Mill Cottage, Southend, on March 20, 2021, John McWilliam Forster, in his 72nd year, dearly beloved husband of Janet Anderson, much loved dad of Aileen and Iain, father-in-law of William and a loving grampa of Ryan and Finn. Funeral Service Private in line with current government guidelines. John's funeral will take place on

Friday, March 26. The cortege will leave John's office in Burnside Street at 12 noon, we will travel up Longrow, Aqualibrium Avenue round The Cross and up Main Street on our way to the family home. We will leave the family home at 1.00pm after a short prayer, travelling through Southend Village on our way to Keil Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to John may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Kidney Dialysis Support Group https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/JohnForsterKintyreDialysisSupport?utm_term=dAQGdmaQV

IRVING - James Irving passed away on March 17, 2021. Loving husband of Margaret Irving, father of Jamie, Colin and Billy and loving grampa to his seven grandchildren.

PETERS - Peacefully at home High Peninver Farm, Campbeltown, after a brave battle, on March 23, 2021, Claire Rosalind Peters, in her 52nd year, loving partner of Jamie Maclean, much loved daughter of Charlie and the late Rosalind, step daughter of Rhoda, loving sister of Craig, Katy, Kerry and Leanne and a beloved aunt of Scott. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Claire will have one last trip home to High Peninver Farm on Saturday, March 27 at 11.00 am. The cortege will leave the Highland Parish Church travelling along the Dual Carriageway past the Cross, up Main Street onto Longrow passing Tesco's in Lochend Street and onto Peninver via High Street. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Claire may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing. Claire's cremation will take place in Cardross Crematorium on Monday, March 29. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil/donate>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACKINNON - Meg, Alison, Ishbel, Donald and families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, flowers and other thoughtful gestures following the sad loss of Donald. Special thanks to all of the Carr Gomm and Council carers who looked after him so compassionately over the last few years, to the district nurses and staff at Tarbert Medical Practice and to staff at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, for their professionalism and kindness. Also, to Lyn Peden for a lovely service, to Stan Lupton and team for dealing with the funeral arrangements so professionally and personally, to John Hunt for going the extra mile with our choice of music and to Keli McDougall for such beautiful flowers. We would also like to thank everyone who paid their respects to Donald on his journey to Achabreac Cemetery, it meant a great deal to see you all and Donald would have been delighted.

IN MEMORIAM

MCEACHRAN - Gary, March 30, 2017. Close to our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day
- Mum, Dad, Ross, Beth, Christopher and Alyssa xx

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of my daughter Mhairi, who died March 26, 2019. Sorely missed and remembered every day.
- Dad, Maggie, David and Jack.

TAYLOR - In loving memory of my dear friend Euphie, died March 24, 2020. You left us quietly, Your thoughts unknown, You left us memories, We are proud to own.
- Best friend Mhairi.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him Psalm 37:7

We will be opening our building on Easter Sunday to resume face to face services but until then you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on **Sunday, 28th 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 Sunday services

10 am Saddell and Carradale Church
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown
11.30am Southend Church
Covid 19 restrictions apply
Ministers
Revd Steve Filcher
Revd Christine Fulcher
01586 830504
www.kintyrepsishes.org.uk



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ADVERTISER ANNOUNCEMENTS COURIER

SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings are **Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday**

3pm Worship
Friday 2nd April
Good Friday
3pm Worship
Reflections around the cross

Normal Covid restrictions remain in place

If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046
Major Ruth Russell
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin
We look forward to seeing you next week

when we open for Easter Sunday at 11am.

Rev Robert McLeod will lead our service. Welcome back. Covid restrictions will apply

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 28th March

11.15am Worship Service
Rev Rodger Crooks
4.00pm Sunday School (by Zoom)
7.00pm Fellowship Meeting (by Zoom)
Speaker: Ciaran Kelleher
Wednesday 31st March
12.00 noon Prayer & Bible Study
Covid-19 guidelines apply

All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

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CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Our doors are open again.

A warm welcome awaits you in the Kirk Street Hall at 11:00 am from Sunday 28th March.
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

Open Again!
PALM SUNDAY
11am Christ Church
GOOD FRIDAY
12 noon
Christ Church
EASTER DAY
9am St Columba, Poltalloch
11am Christ Church
www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk
SC013787

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.northknappdale.org

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday
Morning Worship 11.15am
Rev W Crossan
Covid 19 Guidelines apply
Maximum attendance 50
There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday

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

Sunday, 28th March Palm Sunday
Services in Ardrishaig at 11:00am and Achahoish at 12:30pm (Covid19 control measures apply)
Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches (Mark 11)

WESTLOCHFYNESIDE CHURCHES (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Friday 2nd April 2021
Inveraray Church
Half hour vigil and contemplation at 2.30pm
Friday 2nd April 2021
Good Friday Service in Cumlodden Church at 2.30pm
Sunday 28th March 2021
A service in Cumlodden church at 10.30am led by Tom MacKay
Masks must be worn.
A service in Inveraray church at 11.30am led by Mrs Dorothy Wallace
Masks must be worn
Charity No: SC016665

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Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club seeks new members

Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club (LACRC) is calling for new members to join the crew.

Club president Gordon Leverett said lockdown meant the club had been out of the water for a year now but members were looking forward to picking up the oars again.

'We're rebuilding the club with a recruitment drive. We've got about 20 members and want more. A lot of us are over 50 - I'm 74.

'Because we're in a low-density area, it's not so easy to attract new people but we have got some new residents so here's hoping they might be interested. Though it is still too soon to know when we will be able

to resume rowing, hopefully it will be by early summer, even if some precautionary measures are still required,' he added.

LACRC formed less than three years ago and already has two St Ayles skiffs.

Mr Leverett said: 'Michelle Kelso, manager of the nearby Taychreggan Hotel at Kilchrenan, has generously made the hotel available to the club so it will become our usual operating place.

'However, we urgently need more people of all ages to join the club, not just to row, non-rowers are also welcome, but to come together socially and make new friends and enjoy shared experiences.

Until we know precisely when we can resume rowing there is no charge for joining now.'

Visit lochawecrc.co.uk, call Mr Leverett on 01866 833425 or email gordonleverett@uwclub.net if interested.



Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club members on their first outing of the year in 2020, before lockdown curtailed their expeditions. Photographs: Mick Atkins.

Communication helps top golfer Bob stay focused

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Contact with family and close friends is keeping golf high flyer Bob MacIntyre grounded while he is competing against the world's best in the USA.

Speaking at his first press conference since arriving in the States at the end of February, the 24-year-old left hander from Oban says he is in touch with his support group at home every day and that doing so helps keep what is happening on the course in perspective.

'These are the people who have been around me all my

life and it's important to me to talk, message, see them as often as I can.

'No matter how my game has been, they are unwavering in their support. Mum, especially, never misses a beat.'

Since arriving in America, Bob has played in the Workday Championship at The Concession (T61), the Arnold Palmer Invitational (T26) and the Players Championship at Sawgrass, where he failed to make the cut.

'I have not been playing my best, not been able to hit the shots that I have been seeing,' he admitted.

'It's a different test at a

different level here. Not to be competing over the weekend at Sawgrass really annoyed me, but I have put that behind me now and I'm really looking forward to the next test.

'My striking hasn't been good and we have been working on that.'

This week, March 24 to 28, Bob, currently 44th in the world ranking table, makes his maiden appearance at the WGC - Dell Technologies Match Play in Austin, Texas, where he has been grouped with world number one Dustin Johnson.

Fellow debutant Adam Long (67) is also in the group with



Kevin Na (30) completing the quartet. All being well, with Bob still in the top 50 on

March 29, a place at the US Masters in Augusta, April 8 to 11, beckons.

Bob MacIntyre in action during the pro-am event prior to the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates on December 8 2020 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Getty Images.




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