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Transport chief pressed for urgent Rest action

Double honours for MacLeod Construction

Lochgilhead firm MacLeod Construction Limited was named Building Contractor of the Year: Scotland at the National Federation of Builders Construction Awards of Excellence on Thursday April 15.

At the same glittering virtual ceremony, hosted by ITV journalist Nina Hossain, Kenny MacLeod – joint founder of the business in the 1970s with his brother Murdo – was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for services to construction.

On behalf of the firm, Jane MacLeod, wife of the late Murdo, said: 'Thank you for this prestigious award. This has been an incredibly difficult year for our country and our businesses. I would like to pay tribute to and thank our wonderful workforce – past and present – all our professional colleagues, business associates and customers.'

Accepting his own award, a surprised Kenny said: 'No one told me I had been nominated and I would like to thank those who did. I have spent my working life building homes and am proud of the achievements of our companies. I am most proud of the people who have worked with me and the young peo-



Kenny MacLeod with his Lifetime Achievement Award for services to the construction industry.

ple we have together trained. Throughout this I have been supported by my wife Grace and my sons, and I would like to thank everyone for the award.'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Business leaders pushing for emergency action to build a permanent solution to the landslide-prone A83 at the Rest and be Thankful have taken their case to the top of Transport Scotland's tree.

In an open letter to Roy Brannen, chief executive at Transport Scotland, John Gurr, chairman of The Rest and Be Thankful Campaign – made up of key Argyll business leaders – said the crisis at the Rest is a 'an economic, social and safety disaster'.

Mr Gurr said in the letter that Transport Scotland's 10-point plan for extra mitigation is 'over-complicated', suggesting the 'minimum' be done on the old military road (OMR) to keep it open, saving money on further mitigation measures.

On proposals to build a temporary road while a permanent solution is completed, Mr Gurr



proposed upgrading the existing forestry road to two lanes or using it as one lane up and the OMR down, adding that to make this an adoptable standard road would be a 'waste of time and money'.

Turning to the five Glen Croe routes being considered as a permanent solution, Mr Gurr suggested Transport Scotland has not yet evaluated the glen's geology and that it will take three months to tender for a contractor to do this, 'despite it being evident this was required months ago'.

The letter continued: 'We learned with utter disbelief that it is going to take 18 months to evaluate the ground conditions before any options are selected, then an unbeliev-

able five to 10 years to build. The crisis at the Rest and be Thankful is an economic, social and safety disaster for the area, which is not being taken seriously enough by Transport Scotland or the government.'

The letter posed three questions: Who will be held accountable in the event of a fatality at the Rest due to landslides? Would the A83 remain open if it was a business site with an adjacent landslide threat? Who is responsible for the social and economic impact on Argyll during another 10-year wait for a permanent solution? The letter concluded: 'All we are asking for is to cut through the 'business as usual' approach and appoint someone who can build 2km of safe road within the next three years, which stays open when it rains.'

The Argyllshire Advertiser approached Mr Brannen and Transport Scotland for comment.

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POLICE FILES

Drugs found

About 1pm on Thursday April 15 in Duncuan View, Ardrishaig, a man aged 33 was searched by police and allegedly found in possession of cannabis. The man was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Careless driving, failing to stop

Police are investigating after a white lorry failed to stop and continued north towards Oban after its mirror struck the mirror on a fire appliance at 8.30pm on Friday April 16 on the A816 near West Baravullin, Barbreck. Police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Tayvallich vandalism

Between midday on Wednesday April 7 and 2pm on Thursday April 8, a house near the church at Tayvallich was entered. No items were stolen but a tap was damaged causing a slight water leak and the BT hub was disconnected. Police are investigating and appeal for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Charged

After a van was found crashed into a ditch on the A816 near Kilmore at 7.40am on Tuesday April 13, a 34-year-old man was later arrested for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was charged with the offence and a report submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Speeding allegation

At around 6.10pm on Wednesday April 14 on the A846, near Antrim View, Port Ellen, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 55, was also allegedly not wearing his seat belt and the vehicle allegedly had no MOT in force. The driver was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Not wearing seat belt

Police stopped a van at about 5.55pm on Wednesday April 14 on Main Street, Bowmore, as the driver, a 36-year-old man, was allegedly driving while not wearing his seat belt. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicle seized

About 6.50pm on Wednesday April 14 on Main Street, Bowmore, Islay, a car was stopped by police for a routine check, which revealed there was allegedly no insurance in force for the vehicle. The driver, a man aged 56, was charged with the offence and the vehicle seized. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Islay High School wall vandalised

Between Friday April 2 and Monday April 19, bricks were damaged and removed from a wall at the rear of Islay High School gym. Police are investigating and appeal for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

MAYDS supports young people during Covid

During the coronavirus pandemic, Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS) has continued to support young people across the region.

The charity's manager, Fiona Kalache MBE, outlined some of what has been happening:

'MAYDS is delivering the WorkingRite programme across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles. WorkingRite is a youth employment charity that individually matches a young person to a small business in their community, where they learn valuable skills on-the-job, where it counts. Our trainees are with their work placement provider for up to six months during which they are guided by a mentor in the business, supported by our project co-ordinator. If eligible, they also receive a weekly training allowance and we cover their travel expenses.

'Our programme bridges the gap between school and work. It gives young people essential work experience, provides good role models, builds their confidence and offers them a



MAYDS manager Fiona Kalache. 51_a01FionaKalache02

quality vocational alternative to academic learning.

'If any local business is interested in taking on a trainee on, contact MAYDS on 01546 603231.

'Our outreach Street MAYDS team continues to be out and about across Mid Argyll delivering youth work. Along with support, information and making sure young people are safe, we are also working hard to encourage them to get involved in outdoor community work. So far they have been helping at Blarbuie Woodland and litter picks, as well as cleaning up the old Lochgilphead primary school.

'We continue to run counselling services, young carers support and additional support needs groups throughout this difficult time.

'Huge thanks to all the funders which have helped support these services during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

'At the end of April, following guidelines, we will slowly start to open our programmes such as youth drop-ins and JAM. Up-to-date information on this can be found on our website or Facebook page.

'We are keen to bring on board new volunteers so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.'

Water great effort for Christian Aid

The Church of Kilmartin, Glassary and Ford is planning a charity water walk on April 25 as part of the 2021 Virtual Kiltwalk.

Working as a relay, members of the congregation will be walking, Covid-compliant, carrying two buckets of water the 10km - more than six miles - from Barnluasgan to Kilmartin church, setting off at 1.30pm.

Church treasurer Caroline Waterhouse explained:

'We are raising money for Christian Aid, which this year is supporting communities affected by climate change by providing low cost, small scale, practical solutions to drought and poor harvests. We were inspired after reading about Rose, a grandmother in Kenya, who walks three hours to collect water for her grandchildren. This is a new phenomenon; the change has happened in her lifetime. When she was young, the local rivers ran and the harvest was good.

'If you see any of our walkers on the day, don't be shy. All money will be gratefully received for such a worthwhile cause.'

New Argyll project offers door-to-door vaccine bus

Bus company West Coast Motors has joined forces with two other organisations to offer safe, door-to-door travel for people in rural areas who need to attend Covid-19 vaccination appointments.

The family-run firm has partnered with The Routing Company, a routing and management platform, and Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) to launch an on-demand, app-enabled service to make it easier for members of the public across Argyll and

Bute to attend vaccination appointments. The service is available Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Transport is summoned using the Pingo app, available via the App Store on iOS devices or on Google Play for Android.

Alternatively, people can call the Pingo help desk on 0141 370 9262, with journeys costing £2 but free for card concession holders. The service came about thanks to the Scottish Government's CivTech 5.0 Programme.

Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, said: 'By using this technology, we can improve the use of existing vehicle fleets, which will help to reduce costs, widen coverage and better understand interactions between different transport services.'

'In addition, the trial could be expanded to accommodate winter flu vaccination appointments to ensure safe and efficient transport to the public to these vital services.'

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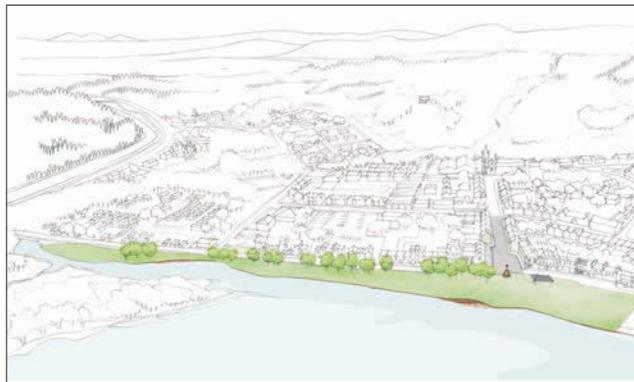
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Front green work due to start in June

Work to transform Lochgilhead's front green into a community and recreation space will start in June, with the contract awarded to Hawthorn Heights Limited based in Eglinton, Northern Ireland, writes Colin Cameron.

Four bids were received for the retendered contract, worth £1.5 million, to develop a new play park and public square with increased seating and improved cycling and walking routes. Work will also involve improved drainage and raising the ground surface level.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for business, regeneration and commercial development, said: 'Creating outdoor recreation spaces not only brings benefits to our community but also to visitors and local businesses. It's great



The front green improvements have taken years of planning.

to see this long-term community aspiration become a reality.'

Following public consultations, the design proposals received planning permission in November 2019 with a minor amendment to approval, approved in January 2021.

All the elements of the original proposal remain, although the scale of the development has been reduced to deliver the project on budget within the timescale.

Detailed plans of the proposed development can be



Members of the public at an information event on the front green project in March 2019.

viewed on the council's website. The front green is the latest regeneration project in Lochgilhead designed to create a safe and more attractive environment while supporting local businesses, following recent improvements to

Colchester Square and Argyll Street.

Work is expected to start in June and continue throughout the year. The front green is expected to be closed to the public during this period and to reopen early in 2022.

Better access to council meetings

The public will be able to watch key council committee meetings online later this year.

Argyll and Bute Council will continue holding committee meetings virtually, as part of Covid safety measures, but it recently agreed to use digital software which allows streaming and recording of meetings as they take place.

Tests will now be carried out to address various issues. A report outlining progress will go to the June meeting.

The council will meanwhile make arrangements, using existing software, for audio recordings of key committee meetings, including policy and resources; community services; environment, and planning, as well as meetings of the full council, to be available on its website by May.

Residents make noise over plans for quarry extension

A proposal to extend a sand and gravel quarry at Kilmartin went before planners this week, writes Colin Cameron.

The application, by MacLeod Construction Limited, to expand the north eastern side of its existing quarry attracted 201 comments in support and 54 against, with 26 others.

Dunadd Community Council raised concerns that noise was 'often excessive'. Other villagers have complained, among other things, about current noise levels from the quarry already being too high and being heard inside homes.

According to some residents, retired villagers can no longer enjoy sitting outside their homes because of the 'sound of crushing machines'.

And there was upset recently

'If they put up baffling that works, everyone would be happy.'

when the quarry upped its noise limit to 45 decibels.

'That is the limit for quarries in rural areas but this is not a rural area, this is a village.

The quarry is just 200 metres away,' said Simon Hunt, who runs luxury accommodation at Kilmartin Castle with his partner Stef Burgeon. The couple have claimed that noise from the quarry could damage their business.

Council officers, however, reported that noise mitigation measures had been introduced at the quarry and that the most recent assessment demonstrated that it was having the desired effect with the works 'practically inaudible' at the survey locations. Environmental health was also content with those findings.

A council spokesperson said: 'There are separate ongoing investigations by the council's environmental health service under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which are still to be concluded.'

'The determination of the planning application and Environmental Health investigation are not interdependent. In the event of noise levels being determined to be a statutory nuisance, the council can initiate formal action under this Act.'

At a meeting of the council's Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee on

April 21, officers recommended approval of the application, subject to 27 conditions, but also proposed a discretionary hearing so any objectors and supporters can speak.

Ms Burgeon said: 'If they put up proper sound baffling that actually works then everyone would be happy.'

'They could continue quarrying and the villagers could get on with enjoying their lives in peace.'

Jane MacLeod of MacLeod Construction Limited said as part of the planning process sound tests had been carried out by a leading environmental

consultancy firm approved by the council. Baffles and other noise reduction steps taken by the company have reduced noise levels significantly, although previous noise levels were 'very close to and often within permitted levels,' she said, adding the consultant's report sent to the council indicated that noise levels are now 'below background noise' such as passing vehicles and birdsong, and are well within permitted levels.

There are no rock breakers in the quarry and 'we do not crush rock in the quarry,' she added.



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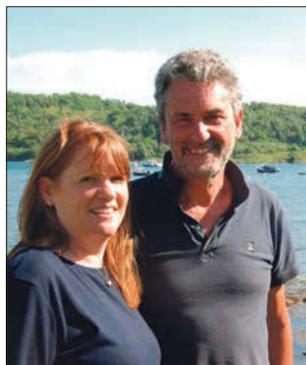
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Relaxation of Covid rules – Mid Argyll business view

Kathryn Masson, owner, Tayvallich Inn

'The further easing of Covid restrictions from April 26 allows the Tayvallich Inn to re-open on April 28. 'Initially we will be serving food from noon till 8pm - last booking at 6pm - and we are asking customers to book ahead using our new online booking system. 'In some ways our re-opening feels easier than when we re-opened in July after the first lockdown as we had got used to delivering our service under Covid restrictions, but there is still some anxiety after being closed for such a long winter, managing continuing restrictions and the ongoing unknown of whether the sector will continue to be opened up in line with the current roadmap. 'We have used our time



Kathryn and Brian Masson of the Tayvallich Inn.

06_a22TayvallichInn09

to re-decorate our bar area, improve our outdoor areas and update our menus. 'The team is really looking forward to seeing the place busy once more.'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

In the latest easing of Scotland's coronavirus lockdown rules, the country will move from level four to level three restrictions from April 26. From Monday, hospitality venues including cafés, pubs and restaurants and tourist accommodation can re-open. Non-essential retail outlets and close-contact services such as beauty salons can also re-open, in addition to indoor attractions and public buildings including galleries, museums and libraries. Travel restrictions within Scotland will be lifted and travel within the UK will be permitted for any purpose. In addition: adults on the shielding list can return to the workplace, if they cannot work from home,

while children who have been shielding can return to school.

■ non-essential work inside people's homes – such as painting, decorating or repairing – will be permitted, subject to mitigations.

■ non-essential informal childcare will resume.

■ driving lessons and tests can take place and gyms and swimming pools can re-open for individual exercise.

■ the attendance limit for funerals and weddings – and related events such as receptions – will increase to 50.

■ cafés, pubs and restaurants can resume full outdoor service, subject to local licensing, and serve food indoors without alcohol until 8pm.

■ takeaways to resume normal service, with physical distancing and face masks in premises.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon this week said that Scotland would move to level two on Monday May 17, provided the pandemic situation continued to improve.

Kris Clark, proprietor of the George Hotel, Inveraray

'We are delighted to be opening our doors again.

'It has been a long and challenging winter.

'The George team has been working hard on online takeaways and 1860 at Home. They will be on hold as we prepare to open.

'We have been busy sourcing as many local products as possible to use in the kitchen,

Jilly Wilson of Lochgilhead's Square Peg gift shops and takeaway

'After months of little or no income, I'm excited to be opening the gift shop doors again. I've had incredible support from local customers who have continued to come to the Sandwich Bar and who have also continued to shop for gifts online.

'I'm also very grateful for the financial support received from the Strategic Framework Business Fund and from Argyll and Bute Council that has enabled my business to stay afloat. However, I am very much looking forward to regaining a sense of control and once more being the master of my fate.

'It's still pretty hard to predict the future. I'm very lucky to already have a good network of loyal customers and friends of my shop. I know a lot of people turned to online shopping at the beginning of the pandemic



Jilly Wilson hopes people will support local shops.

but I have a genuine sense that, with the restriction of movement, shoppers have also become even more aware of what is available to them locally.

'My feeling is that small high street business can offer a safer shopping experience than big city stores and I am hopeful the greater focus on supporting local shops and businesses is a habit that will not die with the end of restrictions.'

the bedrooms and around the hotel. Shop Scottish is our message. We also have some great additions to our Garden Bar - a new pizza oven, coffee machine, astroturf, more tables and a wind barrier. 'Now give us some sunshine!'

Right: Kris Clark of the George Hotel.



Paul Foot, landlord at the Horseshoe Inn, Kilmichael Glassary

'We've been closed for so long now, we will take any opening, with any restrictions.

'That doesn't mean we don't share frustrations at some of the ludicrous legislation, but we will just have to grin and bear it.

'That said, we are very optimistic and are taking bookings already.

'Like many, we have spent our time in lockdown preparing and working hard to get the pub as welcoming and attractive for our customers as we can.

'We've spent a lot of money on all areas making improvements, especially the outside to create a premium al fresco experience, as we certainly need it now.

'I think the outdoor



experience will remain popular and is a must in order for businesses like ours to thrive.'

Paul Foot of the Horseshoe Inn with his wife Toni.

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First Waverley crash compensation awarded

A victim of the Waverley paddle steamer crash has secured a five-figure sum in damages – the first confirmed payout over the incident on Arran last year, writes Hugh Boag.

It is likely to be the first of many as 24 passengers were injured when the world-famous vessel collided with the pier at Brodick last September, with some airlifted to hospital for medical treatment.

There were 213 passengers and 26 crew on board at the time of the crash.

The injured person, who cannot be named, suffered a broken arm and last month the owners of the vessel accepted liability and agreed to pay an out-of-court settlement.

Mark Gibson, partner at Digby Brown, said: 'I can confirm that last month we settled a claim for a client in relation to an injury sustained in the

Waverley crash at Brodick. We are glad to have been able to assist in the swift conclusion of this civil action but we act for several other victims affected by this same incident, so it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time.'

Digby Brown is not the only legal firm acting for injured passengers. Thompsons Solicitors in Glasgow are acting for two passengers who were holidaying in Scotland and are said to have suffered 'terrible injuries' in the collision.

Solicitor Nicola Thompson, who is handling the legal action, said previously: 'We know from eyewitness reports that the vessel approached the pier at Brodick at a substantial speed and struck with an enormous force.

'Many passengers who were queuing to disembark were propelled forward at excess

speed. This inevitably led to significant injuries to a large number of passengers as they crashed against walls and bulkheads on the ferry.'

Police, paramedics, fire brigade, coastguards and rescue helicopters were scrambled to the scene after the alarm was raised shortly after 5pm when the Waverley hit the pier as she was returning from a trip round Arran.

Of the 24 casualties, at least six were airlifted off the island to hospital, with other casualties taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital in a fleet of ambulances, while others, described as 'walking wounded', were treated at the scene.

Damage to the ship's bow sustained in the collision with Brodick Pier last September. 01_B37waverley04



Waverley under repair for season

Preparations are being made for the paddle steamer Waverley to return to the water in 2021 following her collision with Brodick Pier in September last year.

The 75-year-old steamer is being moved to dry dock for her annual out-of-water survey and hull maintenance, which will also allow for the bow to be repaired.

Maintenance work has also been carried out to the deck, paddles, the main engine and steam equipment.

A Waverley Covid-19 relief appeal raised £325,000 in donations to allow dry docking, but a further £25,000 is needed to fully prepare the Waverley for service.

The vessel's operator, Waverley Excursions, is hopeful Waverley will return to service in June, although timetable information for the 2021 season can only be released when the operator is more certain what can be offered.

Capacity on board is likely to remain reduced this season, in line with Covid distancing restrictions.

Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



Mental illness untangled?

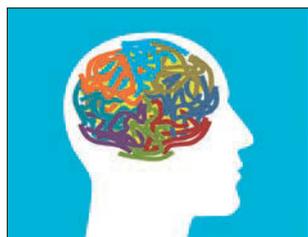
Every year one in four people in the UK suffers from mental illness and the level appears to have increased considerably during lockdown.

In general, each case is labelled with one out of the hundreds of diagnoses listed in the Manual of Mental Disorders and given the appropriate treatment. But several recent findings have left psychiatrists wondering if this strict disease categorisation is valid.

Predisposition to mental illness is regarded as roughly 50 per cent environmental and 50 per cent genetic. Experiences such as childhood abuse and other mental traumas, as well as drug and alcohol dependency, are important environmental factors.

Similarly, a family history of, say, schizophrenia, increases the chances of developing the disorder.

But puzzlingly, these risk factors, whether genetic or environmental, are not specific for one disorder but increase the chances of developing many forms of mental illness. This suggests the underlying pathological processes involved in these disorders are



in some way linked and recent genetic studies corroborate this suggestion - see references 1, 2 below.

Genetic factors explaining disease inheritance of neurological conditions like multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases are clear-cut, with specific gene variants identified that increase the risk of disease in families with a strong history of the disease.

But this is not the case with psychiatric conditions. Indeed, no single genes linked to individual psychiatric disorders have been discovered.

Rather, scientists have identified associations common to several different disorders. For example, there are strong links between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, between anorexia nervosa and obsessive-compulsive disorder and

Research suggests psychiatric disorders are not distinct entities but a spectrum of linked disorders.

between anxiety disorder with major depressive disorder.

These findings strongly imply that psychiatric disorders are not distinct entities but merge into a spectrum of linked disorders with common pathologies.

The challenge is to understand the biological and pathological processes underlying these common risk factors. This is a demanding and long-term undertaking, but the results could be game-changing.

They will open the door to identifying drug targets or maybe even a single common target for the development of drugs that will benefit people with many different mental disorders.

References: 1 Jones, D New Scientist, January 25 2020; 2 Marshall M Nature, 581. 19-21. 2020

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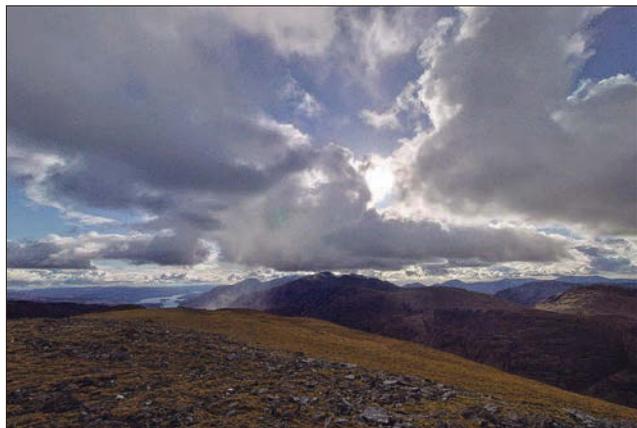
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Left: The view towards Beinn Eunaich and Loch Awe. Above: A panoramic shot from Benn Mhic Mhonaidh.

Heather's Treks: Beinn Mhic Mhonaidh – Mountain of the Son of the Moor



Heather Thomas-Smith runs Heather's Treks, 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.

www.heatherheights.co.uk

Argyll has some cracking Munros and Corbetts, among some of the best scenery in the UK.

The rich tapestry of colours throughout the year are softened with lush vegetation – an unkempt array of heather, mosses, lichens, ferns, grasses, forestry and woodlands – kept green most summers by typical west coast weather.

Even many of the higher hills have plenty of life clinging to them and hill walkers are well aware this often means a tad of bog trotting will be the order of the day.

Beinn Mhic Mhonaidh's summit is grassy moorland with only a smattering of exposed rocks and scree, but this belies its much rockier and rugged western aspect. The ascent does not seem too exciting, but its placement makes it well worth the effort. Sandwiched between Glen Strae and Glen Orchy, the open vista from its summit is quite superb. This is a hill to save for a dry, clear day.

Leaving the Eas Urchaidh

(Orchy Falls) car park, cross the bridge west over the magnificent gorge. Continue up the newly surfaced track for 0.5km. Ignore the new road veering right and follow the old forestry track veering left, signposted 'Mountain Access'.

The forestry track now undulates north and then west for a further 1.5km on the south side of the Allt Broighleachan, before reaching a small junction with your route heading right over the bridge towards the mountain access. Ahead leads to the Caledonian Forest reserve.

Over the bridge, a further signpost indicates you go left to continue to the mountain access. Right goes to the Bridge of Orchy.

The grassier track now wends its way west for nearly 3km, crossing the occasional ford – not always passable in spate – with glimpses of the higher hills and Caledonian Pine Forest to your left. Eventually you reach the forest's edge where you can exit through a gate on to the open

hillside. Turn right, north), and cross the Allt Chailleach. On the other side, a faint path wends its way northwards up the hill's steepening slopes. The ground can be boggy but is pleasant enough walking.

If the path vanishes just head north, keeping the steeper ground to your left, until you near an obvious stream which you can keep to your left until quite near the ridgeline itself.

Cross either the head of the stream or just before to reach the undulating ridge above and veer west to the summit. It is worth meandering around to the northeast and southwest of the ridge just for the views.

On a still, sunny day you could sit up here for hours, midges permitting.

Return the same way you came, taking care on the quite steep descent.

You can also tackle the hill on a slightly longer 18km route from Glen Strae from the top corner of the B8077 or, if you are able to make a linear day of it, you could go from glen to glen.

Walk information

Route: Beinn Mhic Mhonaidh (Corbett)

Distance: 14km (8.75 miles)

Ascent: 796m

Time: 5 – 5½ hours walking

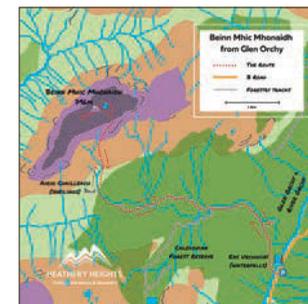
Terrain: Forestry tracks, fords, faint path or pathless, with steep, uneven boggy sections.

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

OS Explorer 377 (1:25 000)

Start/Finish/Parking:

Eas Urchaidh car park



Grid reference: NN243320

Public Transport: NA

Toilets: No

Safety in the outdoors

The described routes and accompanying information are 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 and 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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Good causes to benefit from new Argyll lottery

A new community lottery for good causes in Argyll is about to be launched.

Argyll Community Lottery tickets will be on sale to the public from Tuesday April 27.

Supporters will be able to choose a group they wish to help fund and buy tickets which could also see themselves win a £25,000 jackpot, with a host of smaller prizes also on offer in the weekly draw.

The first draw is on Saturday May 29, with 60 pence from every £1 ticket going to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups – referred to as good causes.

Charity umbrella organisation Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI) is running the lottery alongside lottery management company Gatherwell.

Argyll Community Lottery will enable people to support causes they care most about, while helping those groups to



connect with their supporters. Tickets can be bought online or over the phone and have a one in 50 chance of winning a prize.

Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last two to six numbers from the winning combination and range from free tickets for the first or last two matching numbers, £250 for the first or last four matching numbers up to the jackpot of £25,000 for six matching numbers.

Players will be able to set up a monthly payment in advance with the option to do a three, six or 12-month repeat subscription by direct debit or payment card.

Samantha Stubbs, strategic development manager for TSI, said: 'Over the past few weeks

we've seen a number of incredible good causes signing up to take part. Now it's time to get our communities involved.'

'We have such a wide variety of good causes that everyone is bound to find something close to their heart to support.'

'For just £1, not only do you get the chance of winning the £25,000 jackpot, but you are also directly supporting causes in our communities. You will be able to see first-hand the impact of your support.'

Winners will receive an email advising them of their win and their prize money will be transferred automatically to their chosen bank account, so there is no need to check numbers, though that is part of the fun.

Argyll Community Lottery reminds readers it is important to gamble responsibly. To buy tickets or register as a good cause, visit www.argyllcommunitylottery.co.uk or call 03000 160121.



Alastair Rodden pays his respects to the Duke of Edinburgh after laying the wreath.

Wreath laid in memory of Duke of Edinburgh by Inveraray RBLs

As the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh was conducted at Windsor on Saturday April 17, a wreath in his memory was laid at Inveraray war memorial.

The Duke saw service during the Second World War with the Royal Navy. He passed away on April 9, aged 99, and received a ceremonial royal funeral at St George's

Chapel in Windsor Castle. Laid by Alastair Rodden ahead of a national one-minute silence at 3pm, the poppy wreath carried the message: 'In remembrance of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, from the Royal British Legion, Inveraray and District branch and the people of Inveraray.'

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or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB

MacLeod achievements

Congratulations to everyone at MacLeods on their awards.

As a major employer in the area, it is great to see the company being successful.

It was lovely to see recognition of Kenny's contribution to the industry over the past five decades – well deserved.

One would imagine Murdo would have greatly enjoyed the company's achievements, to which he contributed in no small part.

Rest needs urgency

The situation at the Rest and Be Thankful on the A83 has repeatedly been described as an emergency, yet there seems to be little sense of urgency within either Transport Scotland or the Holyrood corridors of power.

The landslide problem has become so serious it is well beyond the scope of the mitigation option selected from the 2012 Jacobs report which also, coincidentally, was the cheapest option – which turned out not to be so cheap.

It is no slight on the personnel who have slogged away for years on mitigation and local detours, but we support the business campaign group in urging Transport Scotland to treat this with the urgency the people of Argyll and the Isles deserve.

Would we be waiting so long for a solution in the central belt?

Requests as shops re-open

A letter from the Scottish Retail Consortium and trade union Usdaw:

Sir,

With the Scottish Government expected at the time of writing to confirm that shops in Scotland will be able to re-open on April 26, the Scottish Retail Consortium (SRC) and trade union Usdaw are asking Scots to play their part in creating a safe and enjoyable retail environment for customers and shop staff.

Retailers and shop workers have worked incredibly hard and responsibly to keep customers and staff safe throughout the pandemic.

Retailers in Scotland have invested tens of millions of pounds on safety measures including plexiglass screens, queue management systems, social distancing signs and floor markings, better ventilation, cleaning and hygiene. Shop workers have ensured the nation was supplied and fed throughout the past 13 difficult months.

The re-opening of non-essential shops and ability of food-to-go retailers to resume welcoming customers in-store will mark a crucial milestone for Scottish retail and the wider supply chain. Retail is Scotland's largest private sector employer. So-called non-essential stores have been compelled to close in Scotland for 115 consecutive days.

The SRC and Usdaw encourage shoppers to:

- queue considerably
- maintain physical distancing
- wear face coverings
- try to avoid peak shopping times
- follow instructions and be respectful to shop staff.

Across Scotland, thousands of shops which have been closed for four months are looking forward to getting back to doing what they do best – serving their customers.

Reopening is good news for our economy, for jobs and for communities.

It has never been more important to play our part in keeping our towns, cities and retail destinations vibrant.

Every purchase from a shop helps to support jobs in local retail and throughout the supply chain.

Retailers and their colleagues continue to work around the clock to maintain a safe shopping experience, so customers can have the confidence to return to their favourite stores.

If we all follow the necessary physical distancing and hygiene measures and show consideration to those around us, including shop staff who are doing a difficult job, everyone will be better off.

David Lonsdale, director of the Scottish Retail Consortium.

Udawd:

The reopening of stores on Monday offers a lifeline for many retailers. That is good news in terms of helping to safeguard jobs, but the virus is still out there.

We expect employers to conduct full risk assessments, follow the agreed guidance and ensure that customers are fully informed of the necessary safety measures.

Shoppers need to play their part in helping to limit the spread of the virus and avoid further lockdowns by following the rules and respecting staff.

Regrettably, throughout this appalling pan-

demia, incidents of abuse towards shop workers doubled and Covid safety measures have become significant flashpoints. Abuse should never be part of the job and shop workers – who played a vital role in getting food and medicine into our homes during the pandemic – deserve our thanks and respect.

In January, the Scottish Parliament unanimously voted for a ground-breaking new law to protect shop workers.

Udawd campaigned for many years to secure these legal protections and we will continue to work hard to ensure shop workers are protected and treated with the respect they deserve.

Tracey Gilbert, Usdaw deputy divisional officer for Scotland.

Oxfam needs shop volunteers

Sir,

Oxfam's shops in Argyll and Bute urgently need volunteer to help deal with an anticipated deluge of donations as they prepare to re-open from Monday April 26.

Sales from the first day of trading following the re-opening of its English and Welsh shops were up 77 per cent on 2019 figures, with it being the most successful Monday sales-wise for the organisation outwith Christmas periods.

Money raised by the dedicated staff and volunteers in Oxfam's shops in Dunoon and Rothesay helps fight poverty and injustice around the world; providing people with life-saving essentials like clean water and soap as well as the hope of a better future.

We know from the last lockdown that people will have taken the chance to have a declutter and we're anticipat-

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ing a deluge of generous donations. Volunteers are asked to give as little as a few hours a week of their time and can take up a range of vital roles, from serving customers to sorting donations and arranging window displays.

Each shop typically relies on a team of 30 dedicated volunteers and one or two staff, with more than 1,500 volunteers required across the country. As well as volunteers, Oxfam stores are also appealing for good quality donations.

Protecting staff, volunteers and customers from Covid-19 remains Oxfam's priority, with shop teams continuing to implement strict protocols including social distancing, readily available hand sanitiser, masks and gloves for staff, screens at tills, regular and frequent cleaning, closed changing rooms and encouraging contactless payment.

In advance of shops re-opening, people are invited to register their interest online via www.oxfam.org.uk – just click on 'get involved'.

Tom Richardson, Oxfam interim head of retail.

NHS funding in Scotland

Sir,
The demands placed on Scotland's health service by the pandemic have intensified pleas for an increase in funding for Scottish NHS. NHS funding in Scotland comes from the block grant from Westminster.

If huge sums of Scottish taxpayers' money were not being used to pay Scotland's share of renewing and maintaining Britain's nuclear submarine fleet, there would be funds available to properly support the Scottish NHS.

This will only be possible when Scotland is independent once more.

Susan Swain, Dunbar.

YOUR PICTURES



This image, *First light, Loch Ederline*, by Lochgilphead photographer Marc Pickering won the landscape category in this year's Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year competition.

Marc was in the top five overall and top three for landscape photography.

'It was pretty exciting when I found out I had won,' said Marc. 'There are thousands of entrants

each year, so to be selected among some extremely talented photographers is a big honour for me.'

He added: 'I haven't been able to do much in the way of photography during lockdown other than local trips as guidance allowed, but I'm looking forward to the restrictions easing and getting back to the mountains for wild camping and taking new images from around Scotland.'

CONTACTUS

The Argyllshire Advertiser
44 Argyll Street,
Lochgilphead, PA31 8NB.
Phone: 01546 602345

Chief Reporter:
Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Advertising:
01631 568000
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Head office:
Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin
Industrial Estate,
Oban, PA34 4HB

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West Coast Motors to Launch On-Demand Bus Service

West Coast Motors are delighted to announce the launch of their new Pingo service, coming to Campbeltown from 3 May! Pingo is a new app which allows customers to book a shared journey not served by existing routes, at a time that suits you.

We realise that our customers need flexible, convenient travel and that timetables don't always suit your needs. Pingo will take you from A to B quickly and conveniently, providing an on demand service.

By simply downloading the "Pingo Rider" app to your smart phone or device

you can book your journey quickly and easily, pay for your journey online and even track the progress of your bus as it makes its way to your selected pick-up point.

The new Pingo service will have a flat fare of £2 for all fare paying customers and will be free for concessions card holders, giving customers maximum convenience at the cost of a bus fare!

This is a fantastic service for the local community which will streamline many journeys. Pingo is the perfect way to travel for a host of reasons including ferry connections and shopping.

Local residents will also be able to use the service for attending their vaccination appointments, making the journey quicker, smarter and more convenient.

A new, luxury, 16-seater minibus will be operating the Pingo service. We plan to have the new minibus on display locally over the next few weeks where you can see the minibus and talk to our driver about the service. We can even help you download the app!

This service is supported by Argyll and Bute Council and is a pilot project funded by HiTrans.



For more details about the Pingo service, downloading the app and operating times, please visit westcoastmotors.co.uk.



Artist Gabi Stuckemeier with her Ormaig landart in the background.
Photograph: Dr Aaron Watson.

Ormaig film rocks at royal art show

A film about a landart project at prehistoric Ormaig near Kilmartin has won a top award at a Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) art show.

Artist Gabi Stuckemeier who painted more than 300 tree stumps on a hillside to create a large circle in keeping with rockart on the site from more than 4,000 years ago, said she was delighted to win The Highland Society of London Award in the 195th Royal Scottish Academy Annual Exhibition.

The film can be viewed online as part of this year's virtual exhibition running until May 31 at <https://www.rsaannualexhibition.org/>

Gabi, who was helped by friends last year to mix eco-friendly lime wash and carry buckets of it up steep slopes during a heatwave to

paint the stumps, hopes the award will put her artwork in the spotlight and attract even more people, once Covid allows, to visit prehistoric Kilmartin, giving the attraction the attention it deserves.

When the sun shines on it, it looks white but the lime wash was tinged with a hint of pink. Gabi plans to return to the site soon to give it another coat ready for the visitors she hopes will head its way now that Covid restrictions are relaxing.

'I hope people will come now that they are able to move about more.

'It missed a season because of Covid, so I will give it another coat of lime wash so it has another season before it starts to fade back into the landscape.

'It is just a brief greeting through time, unlike the rock

art that will remain there for thousands more years,' said Gabi.

Her work was selected from entries matching the criteria of best work in any discipline by a Highland artist.

Gabi, who also works as an occupational therapist at Oban's Lorn and The Isles Hospital, said: 'I am very grateful to have been chosen. It is an acknowledgement for me. It came as a kind of belated surprise. Hopefully this will help bring the project and the fabulous prehistoric sites around Kilmartin to a wider public.'

The RSA Annual Exhibition is the most extensive exhibition of contemporary art and architecture in Scotland. This year it attracted a record open submission of works from which final exhibits

were selected. 'This was a difficult undertaking as the standard and variety of entries were particularly high,' said President of The Royal Scottish Academy Dr Joyce W Cairns.

The Ormaig Landart project measures 150m x 150m and can be reached along a path from beyond Carnasserie Castle off the B816 towards Lochgilphead.

As people approach the landart from the side with its stumps painted to look like dots from a distance, it first looks oval-shaped before becoming a gigantic circle.

Funding for the project came from Creative Scotland via the National Lottery. There was also support from Kilmartin Museum and Forestry and Land Scotland, which owns the land where the trees were already felled.

Self-help bike workshop opens in Tayvallich

A new self-help bike workshop station has been installed at Tayvallich Café and General Store.

All cyclists are welcome to use it free of charge to carry out minor repairs and adjustments.

The station has most of the tools needed to carry out these repairs and adjustments, including tyre levers, Allen keys and spanners.

The station also has a built-in air pump with various connections for different types of inner tube.

Work will also be able to be carried out on wheelchairs and certain prams.

The workshop station was donated to the Tayvallich community by the Act Now project, funded by

the Climate Challenge Fund. Tayvallich is one of only two communities to take part in a pilot project encouraging people to draw up a community-led climate action plan – Sustainable Tayvallich – made possible by funding from the Scottish Government.

Act Now project officer Jamie Joyce said: 'Act Now is delighted to help the Sustainable Tayvallich project offer more opportunities for sustainable transport with the installation of the repair station.'

'Act Now supports all Mid Argyll communities in reducing their carbon footprint, especially by promoting cycling and walking.'



Tayvallich Café and General Store owner Nicholas Mes at the new bike repair station.





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New online service to revolutionise way horse and livery owners connect

Argyll has a large community of passionate equestrians whose horses are their pride and joy.

Many without their own pastures will know the struggle of choosing a suitable home for their horses and ponies.

Established during lockdown, Amazinggrazing, a UK-wide online service connecting horse owners searching for grazing areas with land owners looking to rent land for livery, could be the answer to this problem.

In a similar format to an online-dating site, the service is being set up to make it easy for reliable and trustworthy horse and livery owners to connect.

The interface and lightning-fast search and filter system will allow users to create profiles and get matched instantly to nearby owners. The site will be review-based to

ensure all members meet the high standards required. Founder Felix Newall-Smith, pictured, who is based in Dorset, said: 'Amazinggrazing modernises the way horse and livery owners connect, giving everyone a long-awaited place necessary to build great relationships before even meeting. No more stressed-out horse or livery owners will mean happier healthier horses – and humans.'

The concept for Amazinggrazing came to Mr Newall-Smith, aged 34, six years ago when he owned a horse in The New Forest and struggled to find somewhere suitable when the livery yard closed down.

He saw the need for a pro-

fessionally managed service when he realised the only way to find places currently was through social media groups, local connections or 'outdated websites'.

'I thought it was mad that in this day and age, the main way people find livery is word-of-mouth and Facebook groups,' Mr Newall-Smith said. 'I thought there must be a better way.'

After being made redundant from his job shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Mr Newall-Smith, a design engineer who studied at Bournemouth University, decided to develop Amazinggrazing during his free time in lockdown which provided the perfect opportu-



Finding a home for a horse is a hugely important decision.

nity to get the business off the ground.

Livery owner and equestrian business consultant John McDonald said: 'I work with liveries and meet horse owners every day and know that finding the right horse own-

ers for your yard is critical. Liveries are a community and getting the right balance of personalities is important to help develop harmony on the yard. Amazinggrazing allows livery and horse owners to get to know each other before

making a commitment. This, I am certain, will help greatly to take the stress out of running a livery and owning a horse.'

Find out more about Amazinggrazing, which officially launches in June 2021, at Amazinggrazing.co.uk.

Amazinggrazing: From the problems to the concept, solutions and the future

The problem:

A lot of horse owners like the livery they are at but when they move they struggle to find one as most liveries don't have websites or they are often out of date.

Livery and horse owners often clash over the best way to look after the horse. To the owner, the horse is an extension of their family and they want to make sure it is done correctly, however, often the livery has different ideas on how this should be done and this often leads to disputes.

A lot of the time, there are no contracts between either party so when things go wrong, it can get messy quickly and there are many horror stories from both sides.

Livery owners want a service which allows them to vet horse owners and their horses before they meet them.

Equally, horse owners want to be able to vet liveries before travelling long distances and committing to large amounts of money to a yard that does not have the services they are after.



The solutions:

When using the Amazinggrazing site, users can create a profile; search and view results; view livery or equine owners' profiles; wave hello (like); favourite other users; send a message; use the chat forum and leave reviews when a partnership ends.

In the last year, Amazinggrazing founder Felix Newall-Smith has conducted surveys with horse and livery owners, created a Facebook page which has so far amassed 1,400 followers and developed

and tested a 'click through' website with potential future users.

He started the ball rolling with a Weymouth-based web developer and the website, which is now 80 per cent complete, is due to launch in June 2021.

Predictions for the future:

Mr Newall-Smith believes that Amazinggrazing will quickly take over the market.

Once established, there are plans to improve the service, giving members greater benefits, and develop an app.

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Thought for the Week

I would think we are all grateful and excited for the arrival of spring, bringing new life and growth.

We enjoy the snowdrops and daffodils coming to life in our gardens and beautiful parks, the sounds of birds chirping away as they eat from bird feeders and the bleating of newborn lambs.

The dark cold months of winter remind me of those tough times we endure in our Christian lives, times where it seems there is no hope, as you face your dark, cold and difficult situation.

Yet we manage to survive the winter by keeping our homes warm with heaters and wood burning fireplaces and consuming countless cups of tea, coffee, soup and hot chocolate, while holding onto the truth, that spring and summer will return.

I am aware the ongoing lockdown has been tough and dark for many of us, causing many challenges like loneliness, depression and uncertainty about what this year has in store for us.

As Christians, we get the privilege of being able to connect and press into God during these dark and cold times in our lives.

It is His continuing presence, His faithfulness, His love, His care and His commitment to us that equips us to endure and persevere, bringing us into the times of new growth and life as we soak in His warmth, His love and His light.

Let us look forward to the warmer months, knowing that the dark and cold times are always only but a season in our lives.

Pastor Ryan Taylor, Lochgilphead Baptist Church.

CAMPBELTOWN

Shopper-Aide is 10 years old

This month marks 10 years since Campbeltown charity Shopper-Aide was founded.

The charity provides support and services including shopping, housekeeping and, in normal circumstances, social activities for those in Kintyre aged over 60.

Over the past decade, and during the last year in particular, Shopper-Aide has become a lifeline for many older people.

The charity's founder Susan Paterson said: 'It was in 2009 that the need to develop a shopping service to help older people on discharge from hospital, no longer able to drive or to carry heavy bags, came to the attention of South Kintyre Fit Communities.

'Since then, we have provided a shopping service and a number of social activities and housekeeping throughout Kintyre.

'We have developed the Making Kintyre Dementia Friendly project to help all parts of the community understand dementia and how it can be managed.

'We have worked with children of all ages, meeting and helping the older generation, and look forward to doing so again.

'Thanks to everyone who has been involved in any way with Shopper-Aide. It has been and, I hope, will continue to be a help to older generations in Kintyre.'

OBAN

New piping contest

The Argyllshire Gathering has announced a new piping competition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its inauguration.

The Argyllshire Gathering Intermediate Piping Championship will be a competition for pipers aged 22 years and under.

For the first year, with the uncertainty of competitions going ahead, it has been decided to have an invitational competition with a maximum of eight competitors.

The event will be held on Saturday October 2 in the chapel at Lochnell Castle with the kind permission of the Earl of Dundonald.

It will be hosted by his son Lord Archie Cochrane.



The restoration of Rothesay Pavilion could re-start soon.

The competition will be held in two stages. A piobaireachd competition - four tunes own choice - followed by a March, Strathspey and Reel - four tunes of each, own choice.

The champion will have scored the highest aggregate points over the two competitions.

The hope is this new competition will act as a springboard for talented young pipers in preparation for senior piobaireachd competitions.

ROTHESAY

Pavilion project to re-start

A decision on the next steps forward for Rothesay Pavilion's restoration project is expected in the coming weeks.

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for major projects, confirmed two companies were in the running to take on the main contract.

The future of the pavilion's £15 million restoration has been in limbo since its main contractor went into administration last year.

Councillor Mulvaney gave the latest details on

the project in a report to the full council at its virtual meeting on Thursday April 15.

He said: 'Following the demise of the original contractor, specialist surveys of the work completed on site have taken place to enable us to procure a replacement contractor.

'The final element of this work - the structural concrete surveys - have been completed and the design team is analysing the results to inform their drawings and specifications.

Suitability

'On the commercial front, the project team has engaged with two national construction framework providers to assess their suitability and capability in providing the construction work through to completion.

'A decision on the procurement route for the project is expected within the next few weeks.

'Officers have also been working with our funding partners and the Rothesay Pavilion Charity (RPC) to assess what this means for the transition to the operational phase for the building, as well as the development of the operational business model by the RPC in a post-Covid environment.'

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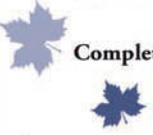


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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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

Be prepared on return to busy hillsides

With travel restrictions eased on April 16, hillwalkers are being urged to make sure they are properly prepared and ready to be flexible in their plans.

Mountaineering Scotland, which represents outdoor-lovers across the country, welcomed the earlier-than-expected relaxation.

The group's chief executive officer Stuart Younie said: 'The last 12 months have demonstrated how important outdoor recreation is for our physical and mental wellbeing and as things start to ease it will play an important role in our economic recovery, particularly in rural areas.'

Popular destinations are expected to be very busy, meaning walkers and climbers travelling by car may have to set off early or consider going somewhere less busy.

Mountaineering Scotland also advises that to get the most out of their day, people should think carefully about the conditions they are likely to meet on the hill.

Snow still lies extensively on the higher hills and fluctuating temperatures have meant

Heather Morning suggests considering easier walks to begin with to get back into the swing of things.



much of it is likely to be very icy and the consequences of a slip more likely to be serious. That caution is particularly relevant in the mornings on north or north-east-facing slopes.

Heather Morning, mountaineering safety advisor for Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'An ice axe and crampons to cope with icy stretches are still essential items of kit at this time of year.'

'People should also be conscious that, with limited opportunity to climb in the hills over the last few months, they may have lost some hill-fitness and may prefer to take on easier walks to begin with so they

can ease themselves back into the swing of things.'

It is also important to act in a responsible manner while enjoying access to the hills, especially with the extra pressures due to higher visitor numbers.

'We've all been through a stressful few months,' Stuart added. 'So we should be considerate of residents and fellow visitors, whether that's by parking considerately, making sure we leave no litter or damage or just in interacting with others. If we all take care and look out for each other, we can make sure our long-awaited return to the hills is memorable for all the right reasons.'

Community learning transfers to Argyll and Bute trust

Plans to transfer Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning and Development service to liveArgyll have been formally approved.

The arrangement comes as part of a leisure review in the council's budget planning process for 2021-22.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'As part of the leisure theme review, the council and liveArgyll mutually agreed it would be beneficial to transfer Community Learning and Development over to liveArgyll.'

'There are clear similarities between the services that liveArgyll offers and those which are delivered by Community

Learning and Development, so it is in the best interests of everyone for them to be delivered under the one umbrella.

'This is an exciting time for the liveArgyll team'

By doing so, this will enhance service delivery and ensure long-term sustainability for our communities.'

Kevin Anderson, general manager for liveArgyll, said: 'A working group has been established and plans are at an advanced stage. We have been working hard to ensure all necessary preparations are put in place for services to be transferred by June 20 this

year. This is an exciting time for the liveArgyll team and we look forward to welcoming the Community Learning and Development team on board.'

The council will still have overall responsibility for Community Learning and Development but liveArgyll will produce and implement the Community Learning and Development Plan on its behalf.

A Leisure and Libraries Charitable Trust was approved in November 2016 and liveArgyll was officially launched in 2017 to deliver services including libraries, leisure centres, Active Schools, archives, halls, sports development, museum, community centres and community lets.

Tribute: Ian Carmichael

Ian Carmichael, who belonged to Islay but lived in Glasgow, passed away peacefully in Glasgow Royal Infirmary on March 3, in his 95th year. His funeral was held in Glasgow on March 12, though his ashes are to be scattered on his native Islay.

Ian won the Mòd Gold Medal in 1961 in Stirling and he had a wonderful reputation among musicians and singers who shared a stage with him through the years.

Most of the information in this piece was kindly passed on by one such man - Willie Cameron, Acharacle, who described Ian as 'a powerful trained voice', 'a very popular entertainer' and, most of all, 'a lovely man'.

Willie played with him at various cèilidhs round the city where Ian was always a welcomed guest.

Ian also appeared regularly for a few years in the 1980s at the Park

Bar when the pub held a mid-week cèilidh at which Ian alternated weekly with Dougie Gillespie.

These were the good old days of the Park Bar lock-in where the craic is still spoken about to this day among those who were lucky enough to be there.

Ian's wife Mary would always be on hand to collect him.

While those light-hearted and often impromptu cèilidhs were legendary, it should not be forgotten that Ian also had a successful television and recording career. He appeared on TV a number of times - mainly on the Gaelic programme 'Seur Beatha' - and recorded several albums, some under his own name, others with George Smith and The Hebrideans and one with David Silver on the Lismor Label.

Like so many of his generation - including more than three quarters of his classmates in school - Ian

was a native Gaelic speaker, who first began learning English at five years old and only then, in his own words, 'like a foreigner starting from scratch'.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the language and culture remained very close to his heart throughout his life and he was passionate about its survival.

In an interview for the cover notes of his Highland Heritage album, he said: 'As long as Gaelic singing is kept alive, our traditions will survive over the centuries.'

Ian's contribution to keeping his beloved culture alive is unquantifiable.

While the singers, musicians and characters of that era will never be replaced, the mantle now passes to the next generation to ensure his wish for Gaelic's survival is realised and, with the memory of singers like Ian Carmichael, what a fine example to follow.

RR

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Subaru and Isuzu dealership in Ayr is now open to the public

As restrictions lift and we are able to travel outwith our local authority areas, now is the best time to pick your new Subaru with S&S Services. We are happy to announce that our dealership in Ayr is now open to the public. Safety has always been our no.1 priority, so we've had no problems in making our showroom as safe as possible.

We recommend calling ahead to book a test drive. Tel: 01292 880080.

Subaru has been voted Best Manufacturer for Safety Features in the 2020 Driver Power survey, the UK's number one car ownership survey. In the overall rankings, Subaru was third in a fiercely competitive field of 30 manufacturers.

Steve Fowler, editor at Auto Express, said: "This year marks another exceptional performance for Subaru, as Driver Power respondents

told us they're happy with almost everything that relates to life with these cars. Owners find them immensely satisfying to drive, enjoy their fantastic interiors, and can rely on them day in, day out. Owners also say no other car maker offers better safety systems. Given these results, it's easy to see why Subaru owners tend to be a loyal lot."

Chris Graham, Managing Director at Subaru UK, commented: "The results of this industry-leading survey clearly show that owners appreciate the importance of being able to choose and drive a car that's built to be Better Where It Matters – and nothing matters more than safety. We're delighted that Subaru owners recognise our on-going commitment to build the safest cars on the road today, as well as praising the outstanding capability, practicality and

reliability that our vehicles offer. We are immensely proud to be placed third out of 30 manufacturers and will continue to work tirelessly to deliver against – and exceed – owners' expectations."

All three Subaru SUVs hold the maximum five-star Euro NCAP safety rating and are fitted with a host of safety features, including EyeSight driver assistance, as standard. Subaru's exceptional safety credentials have been recognised with several notable awards in recent months.

Subaru's brand-new Driver Monitoring System won the Technology Award at the 2020 What Car? Awards and was described as 'the most advanced of its kind', proving to be more accurate than other manufacturer systems at identifying when concentration was lost. Forester e-BOXER was named 'Best in Class 2019



in the Small Off-Road/MPV Class' in the Euro NCAP 2019 safety performance test, achieving outstanding scores in all four assessment areas and registering the highest score ever (91 per cent) in its class for

Child Occupant Protection. Forester was also awarded 4x4 Magazine's 'Best Small SUV of the Year 2020', impressing judges with its comprehensive range of safety technologies, on-road driveability and

outstanding off-road capabilities.

For more information on the Subaru range please call S&S Services on 01292 880080

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Providing industry leading learning and development paths, our aim is to nurture and encourage our employees to build professional career paths. So, if you are committed to developing within our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work, we would very much like to hear from you. We are currently recruiting for various roles within our South Shian processing plant.

Duties focus on the processing and preparing of our product for despatch to our customers. We also have roles available within our night hygiene team who are responsible for carrying out the cleaning activities in line with our documented procedures and hygiene standards

THE CANDIDATE

Candidates should be able to work as part of a team that has high standards with a good work ethic and will be required to work shifts on a rotational basis. Full training is provided including health and safety, hygiene and food safety and any relevant training on machinery.

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Post Title: Purser/Boatmaster

Recruitment reference - HGH10134

Location: Fort William

Duration: Permanent

Salary: £31,067 – £34,887 p.a.

Salary placing will normally be at the first point of the scale.

Closing date for applications: 26.04.2021

Contact Person: Richard Porteous, Tel: 07979 706515

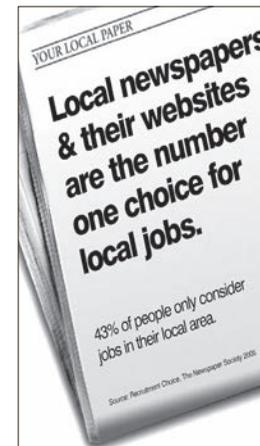
Job Purpose: We are looking to recruit a Purser/Boatmaster for the Corran Ferry, the successful candidate will be required to carry out the safe operation of the vessel ensuring the safety of passengers, crew and protection of the environment and act as Purser/Deckhand, Engine Watcher and Relief Skipper as required by work pattern.

A valid Boat Master's Licence Grade II is essential. The ideal candidate will have engineering/mechanical experience preferably from a marine background but this is not essential.

The Shift Pattern is 5 days on/5 days off.

For more details see the Job and Person Specification on My Job Scotland.

Please apply on www.myjobscotland.gov.uk



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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
21/00605/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and formation of new access	Land North West Of Woodbank, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
21/00614/PP	Erection of meteorological mast (up to 90 metres in height)	Land At Earraghail, Meall Don, Approximately 7.29 Kilometres, Southeast Of West Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/00552/PP	Change of use of land to extend residential curtilage	Bahari Bothy, Ardrishaig, Argyll And Bute, PA30 8HF
21/00518/PP	Demolition of shed, erection of dwellinghouse, alterations to existing access arrangements and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North Of Ivy Cottage, Keills, Tayvallich, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8PQ

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



Kintyre Recycling Ltd

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West Sps,	55° 25.706' N	05° 35.822' W
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	55° 25.703' N	05° 35.831' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2PCveAX>.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 00009094 and Scottish Water.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: Marine, fisheries and seal licensing: Marine licensing operations team privacy notice - gov.scot (www.gov.scot). If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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Call to tackle waste dumping

Protecting rural communities from fly-tipping must be a priority for the next Scottish government, Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) said as it launched its manifesto, People, Jobs and Nature, ahead of next month's elections.

The rural business organisation called on candidates to prioritise the issue. Fly-tipping has been an issue for some time but has increased during the pandemic as local authority waste and recycling centres were closed or had queues.

Problems have remained since they re-opened.

Throughout the pandemic, picturesque sights across Scotland have been routinely spoiled by the unwelcome sight of garden and other waste.

SLE chief executive Sarah-Jane Laing said: 'Ending the



scourge of fly-tipping and healing our rural communities is at the heart of SLE's priorities for the next parliament. In our manifesto we call on all parties to commit to prevent, detect and prosecute fly-tipping offences, with tough sentences for repeat offenders.

'Fly-tipping has serious social, environmental and health implications. It poses a threat to people and wildlife,

damages our environment and spoils people's enjoyment of the outdoors.

'It is more than an eyesore. It is dangerous and it is a crime. Too many landowners and farmers find themselves in a vicious cycle of costly clean-ups forced, as victims, to remove potentially hazardous materials, but also to bear the financial burden of waste crime.

Rubbish found dumped near Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, earlier this year.

'Rural businesses can find themselves liable for bills of thousands of pounds to clean up land that has been fly-tipped, with many offered no support from their local authority. We are pleased that, after representation from SLE and others, the Scottish Government agreed to give equal weight to fly-tipping in its forthcoming litter strategy.

'We will work with the next government and all parties to protect our rural communities from fly-tipping with tough measures and comprehensive cover to ensure victims of fly-tipping are no longer out of pocket to clear it up.'

Pregnant ewe killed

With lambing in full swing around Argyll, dog owners have been reminded to keep their pets under close control in the countryside.

Dog attacks on sheep continue, despite recent publicity around the subject.

On April 2 in Lochgoilhead, a dog owner was charged by police for allowing their dog to run loose in a field containing livestock. The dog chased and killed a pregnant ewe.

Area commander Chief Inspector Emma Grimason said: 'When walking your dog, we urge people to act responsibly and keep your dog under close control.'

'This is more important than ever during lambing season when we would ask all dog walkers to keep well

away from fields containing sheep.'

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, the dog being off the lead in a field containing livestock is an offence, even if it does not chase or worry livestock whilst being off the lead. Farmers and those who use the countryside are urged to report all incidents of sheep worrying to police on 101 or 999 if the incident is ongoing.

Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland's regional manager for Argyll and the Islands, added: 'Unfortunately there was a horrific dog attack on livestock in Lochgoilhead recently which resulted in the death of a ewe heavy in lamb. Please be extra vigilant and keep your dog on a lead near livestock.'

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

OPTION 1
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
£1975 + VAT
Comes with a 100-foot holding pen and 20-foot race, 2 x 2-foot swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 150 fully grown sheep (approx)

PARTS LIST:

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

OPTION 2
16 foot sheeted race, 2 way shedding gate, galvanised gate, race joiner. 100 foot of penning, will comfortably hold 200-250 fully grown sheep.
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The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

MAIN FEATURES:

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

PARTS LIST:

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

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Source: YouGov 2018



DEATHS

BALLANTINE

Peacefully on April 16, 2021, at his home, 10 Upper Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, with his family by his side, James (Jim) Ballantine, in his 90th year. (Retired Scottish & Newcastle Breweries). Beloved husband of Kay; much loved father of Eleanor, Katharine and Norman. A much respected father-in-law of Gordon, John and Clare. Adored Seanair of Alasdair, Peter, Jamie, Toby, Joseph, Michael, Kevin, Jocelyn and Dominic and great granddaughters Aoife and Eilis. A dear brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle to the extended family. A private funeral service was held on Thursday, April 22. Sadly missed.

CLARK - Peacefully at home, after an illness borne with courage and dignity, and with his family by his side, on April 18, 2021, Sandy Clark, aged 70 years, of 57 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved and loving husband of Helen Keith. Adored Dad of Joanne, Senga, Shelley and Helen, much respected father-in-law. Cherished Grandpa of nine. Only son of the late Jack and Mary Clark (Oban). A dear neighbour, good friend and former work colleague to many. A private family service will be held at Kilevin Cemetery, Crarae on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral cortege will leave from 57 Highbank Park, at 11.15am, turning right to Bishopton Road, down Argyll Street, passing Lingerton at approx. 11.30am. Please respect social distancing guidelines. Donations can be made in memory of Sandy, direct to Cancer Research and Macmillan Nurses Mid Argyll, or via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors.

REID - Suddenly at home, 3 Burnside Cottages, Stewarton, on April 18, 2021, James Reid (Hamish) in his 79th year, dearly beloved son of the late James and Barbara Reid and a good friend to all who knew him.

SIMPSON - Peacefully on April 14, 2021, Helen Simpson, aged 81 years, of 1 Argyll Court, and formerly 46 Brodie Crescent, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of James (Jimmy) Simpson; dearly loved sister of Jim, Thomas, Frances and the late Mamie. A much admired sister in law and aunt to all the family. A good neighbour and very dear friend to all in the local community, and a loyal and faithful member of St. Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead. A private funeral service was held on Tuesday April 20, 2021 at St. Margaret's Lochgilphead followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. R.I.P.

WARDROP - Peacefully at the home of her daughter in Motherwell, on April 20, 2021, Ellen McCormick nee Mitchell, in her 97th year, much loved wife of the late Robert, loving mother of Jean, Ian, Rosemary, Rhona and Kerry, a loving mother-in-law and an adored granny and great granny. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Ellen's funeral will take place on Saturday, April 24. The cortege will leave the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church at 11.00 am after a short prayer, we will travel up Longrow along Aqualibrium Avenue and past the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Ellen may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALDRED - Peter, Natasha and Phyllis would like to extend their thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the recent sad passing of Georgie. Our thanks to everyone who took the time to turn out and pay their respects as the funeral cortege made its way to Achnabreac Cemetery. We would also like to thank Rev. Hilda Smith for a comforting service; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their care and attention and to Morna for the beautiful floral tributes. Georgie

will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

ROBERTSON - The family of the late Isobel Robertson would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy. Thanks to all who turned out to line the streets to show respects. Thank you to the staff of Campbeltown Hospital for their care and attention. Thanks also go to the Rev Crossan for his support and moving sermon at the graveside, to Kenny Blair and staff funeral directors and to Archie McAllister for his fine fiddle playing.

IN MEMORIAM

GILCHRIST - Treasured memories of Agnes Jane, who passed away April 25, 2017.

A much loved mother and mother-in-law. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. - George and Bettina.

MACIVER - In loving memory of Archie MacIver, a loving husband, father and grandfather who passed away April 27, 2020.

Always in our thoughts. - Sheena and family.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of my dad, Malcolm Roberston, died April 21, 1994.

Always in my thoughts. - Your daughter Kelly-Anne.

THOMSON - Ian sadly and suddenly taken on April 25, 2020, a loving dad and grandad.

Always in our thoughts. - Irene, Jim and Matthew.

WILLIAMSON - In memory of a much loved mum, grandmother and great-grandmother, Christina Alice (Allie), who died April 27, 2010. Missed every day.

- Sylvia, Simon, Malcolm, Ross, Aimée and Lynne.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Jesus answered "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" John 14:6 In person..... or Online...? Our building is open and our Service will be in the church on **Sunday, 25th April 2021 at 11am**

If you cannot make it in person, you can still join us online. To join the Zoom service, send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com and you will be sent a link to join us on Sunday via Zoom.

Covid restrictions will apply in the building - masks and social distancing 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 SC002609
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown SC002493
11.30am Southend Church SC005484
Covid 19 restrictions apply
Ministers
Revd Steve Filcher
Revd Christine Fulcher
01586 830504
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings are **Sunday 25th April** Worship service 3pm Covid 19 measures 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 **Sunday 25th April 2021** 11am Rev Stanley Hood All very welcome Please remember to wear a mask.

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 25th April 11.15am Worship Service Rev Rodger Crooks 7.00pm Fellowship meeting (by Zoom)

Wednesday 28th April 12.00 noon Prayer & Bible Study Covid-19 guidelines apply All welcome www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Church, Lochgilphead **Sunday 11am** Holy Eucharist St Columba, Poltalloch 9am Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6pm Evensong 3rd Sunday of the month (SC013787, 31391)

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Our doors are open again A warm welcome awaits you in the Kirk Street Hall at 11:00 am Pastor Mark Jasper 01586 554 092 pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch SC043322



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 25th April** 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

There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am and Tarbert 11.30am - Rev Lyn Peden Please wear a face covering and stay 2 metres apart for the services Contact Rev. Lyn Peden 01880 820158 for pastoral care Charity number Tarbert SC002622 Skipness SC004280

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 25th April Services in Achahoish at 9:45am and Ardrishaig at 11:00am "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22) (Covid19 control measures apply) Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches

WESTLOCHFYNESIDE CHURCHES (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Sunday 25th April 2021 Lochgair Church at 10.00am Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace Unfortunately, attendance is limited due to Covid restrictions. Please telephone Mrs Jean Smith on 01546 886 328 to reserve a place. Inveraray Church at 11.30am Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace Masks must be worn when attending either church. Charity No: SC016665

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Clubs eye shinty return

Excitement and apprehension as league restart nears

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The Covid readiness documentation has been completed, training is beginning and Mid Argyll shinty clubs are preparing for the return of matches.

The Camanachd Association plans an abbreviated local league system, starting on June 5, comprising six teams from close geographical areas to ensure the sport is as safe as possible while remaining competitive.

Kilmory Camanachd Club bought itself a new mower for Macrae Park during lockdown, thanks to a £7,000 donation from the Co-op Community Fund, which will also go towards buying helmets for the youth section.

Kilmory chairman Angus Gilmour is looking forward to getting the players back on the pristine pitch.

Non-contact and fitness training have started and, in line with government guidance, Kilmory's full contact training will begin on April 29.

Thursday night is shinty night in Lochgilphead, with the club holding primary



Kilmory chairman Angus Gilmour recognises the challenges ahead but aims to build for the future. 51_

a17Kilmory01_AngusGilmour

school age coaching from 6pm to 7pm and combined men's and women's training from 7pm to 8.30pm. Travelling to away matches under Covid rules do, however, give cause for concern.

'We can't use a minibus as things stand and will have to use individual cars for a 17-strong squad,' said Angus. 'With seven players under 17 years of age in the squad, we will have to rely on the support of parents.'

'With seven players under 17 years of age in the squad we will have to rely on the support of parents.'

Kilmory has been placed in the Mowi South A regional league alongside Bute, Lochside, Taynuilt, Ballachulish and Inveraray

second team. 'There is tough competition in the league,' said Angus, 'so with the number of young players we have it will be a case of getting the best team we can on the pitch every week, learning against good opposition and building for the future.'

Inveraray's first team will compete in Mowi Senior League C with Aberdour, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Kyles Athletic, Oban Camanachd and Oban Celtic.

Inveraray players were non-contact training twice a week as soon as the rules allowed and club chairman Andrew McMurdo is pleased with their attitude.

'I didn't know what to expect, but the boys have been great and conscientious about the way they go about it.

'And socially it's been good for them,' he said.

'Both first and second teams are in challenging leagues, but it's a good challenge. And with no relegation, we can experiment a bit and plan for next season.

'Like every other aspect of life, shinty has had to be flexible and adapt to the pandemic, so hats off to the Camanachd Association for having the plans in place and implementing them so quickly.'

New volunteers at Kilmory and Inveraray shinty clubs would also be welcome, particularly with the additional burden of meeting Covid requirements.

Andrew said: 'No matter how big or small the task, more hands lighten the load, so we would appreciate the help of new volunteers.'

Tarbert Golf Club holds April medals

Tarbert Golf Club's April medal took place at Glenalloch last Saturday in fine overhead conditions, though later starters had to contend with a strong wind.

James Smyth took an early lead with a nett 63, a score that wouldn't be beaten all day. Peter Bates took second on 64, including a fantastic level par front nine. Third place went to Tarbert's youngest member Connor McCrae on 66 by virtue of the better inward half.

Best scratch scores on the day were from Iain Macalister on 72 and Bruce MacNab and Peter McLean junior on 74. Magic twos: Iain Johnstone and Peter Bates.

Competition numbers have been encouraging, though it would be great to see a few more entering given the quality of the course.

The second round of the Fyne Tankard takes place on Saturday April 24, with Chris Smyth leading after round one. Lady members gathered for the April medal on Sunday April 18. Angela Vernel continued her recent good form to take first place with a nett 66, followed by Sheena Ferguson on 66 (bih) and Seona Martin in third place, also on 66.

CONTACTUS

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Lochgilphead Golf Club enjoys competitions galore

Saturday April 17 saw Lochgilphead Golf Club gents compete for the Booker Trophy.

The course was in great condition but the speed of the greens made it tricky for some.

Sandy Crawford had the measure of them though, winning with a nett 65, beating Alex MacAulay by three strokes.

The ladies played their first strokeplay competition as they took to the course for

the April Medal. This format suited Donna McKellar, who returned a nett score of 69, beating Kirsty Flanagan by two strokes.

Ladies and gents played round one of their respective charity cups on Sunday

April 18. Simon Taylor won the gents with a nett 65, beating Neil McDonald on a count back. Kathleen Young won the ladies with 20 points, beating Margaret MacKinnon by three strokes. The clubhouse remains

closed, with no immediate plans to re-open, resulting in competitions with a subsequent social event being postponed.

Hopefully it won't be too long until these can be re-scheduled.

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