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Work begins on £1.5 million front green revamp project

by Colin Cameron
 editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

After years of planning, delays and high hopes – not to mention a pandemic – work will begin next week on improving Lochgilhead's front green.

Earlier this year, Argyll and Bute Council awarded the tendered contract, worth £1.5 million, to Northern Irish firm Hawthorn Heights Limited.

Work is to start on Monday May 31. The project will include a new playpark and public square, with more seating and better cycling and walking areas.

Work will also improve drainage and raise the ground surface level.

It will involve substantial engineering work, including the removal of soil from a large part of the site and installing a new seating wall.

Councillor Alastair Redman, the council's policy lead for Business Regeneration and Commercial Development, said: 'The front green is a

'It has been a long-term community aspiration to see it used more for community events'

fantastic green space and it has been a long-term community aspiration to see it used more for community events and recreation.

'We have listened to public feedback and are pleased work can now start to create new facilities for generations of people to enjoy. We are committed to improving our town centres across Argyll and Bute with the aim of making places more attractive to live, work and visit.

'We are already seeing the benefits of town centre regeneration including the recent work to improve access in Lochgilhead.'

Due to the scale and nature of the works, the front green will be closed until January

2022 for safety reasons. The bus shelter on Lochnell Street will remain unaffected and the public toilets will remain open.

The front green project is funded by Argyll and Bute Council's Tarbert and Lochgilhead Regeneration Fund, the Scottish Government's Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes and Town Centre Funds, HITRANS, Lochgilhead Phoenix Project and the Co-operative community fund.

It follows more than £500,000 of investment in Colchester Square and lower Argyll Street which widened footpaths, improved pavement surfaces for wheelchair users and prams and introduced new road crossings.

Argyll and Bute Council will issue regular progress updates and a community engagement event with Hawthorn Heights is planned for June.

More project information can be found on the council website.

All roads point to Crinan exhibition



Contemporary Art Practice HND students from Argyll College beat Covid restrictions to find an exceptional venue for their end-of-year art exhibition. Students Pat Madej, Erin Fyfe, Suzi Thomson, Clare McCartan and Mo Clerk strike an artistic pose at their exhibition. More on page nine.

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Council managers urged to back improved attendance

Fewer than half of Argyll and Bute Council's managers responded to a consultation on supporting attendance at work, a report has revealed.

The authority has put together a revised policy on attendance which aims to ensure staff are supported to improve attendance where necessary rather than focusing on punishing absence.

But only 182 managers within the authority gave their feedback as part of the consultation process – a figure of 45 per cent.

SNP group leader Councillor Jim Lynch, and his party colleague Councillor Jim Findlay, voiced their disappointment at the figure at a meeting of the council's policy and resources committee on May 13.

A report to the meeting by council executive direc-



Councillor Jim Lynch.

tor Kirsty Flanagan said: 'Engagement with managers began with an anonymous survey to employees with line management responsibility (salary graded at local government employee nine and above) to gather their views on managing attendance for their teams. This survey will be repeated after implementation of the new policy to assess

improvement. Feedback was provided by 182 managers - a response rate of 45 per cent.'

Councillor Lynch, who represents the Oban South and the Isles ward, said: 'I must confess I am disappointed to have only a 45 per cent return rate on the survey.'

'We are talking about reviewing a policy. How can we move the figure up and ensure we get

all managers contributing?'

Jane Fowler, head of improvement and HR with the council, responded: 'We would have loved to have had a greater response to that. These things come with conflicting pressures on managers' time, which is why we offer the opportunity to be part of a working group.'

'The performance in getting responses to surveys is something we want to improve.'

Councillor Findlay, one of three members for the Isle of Bute ward, asked: 'Should it be compulsory for managers to complete the survey?'

'It is vital that managers lead and lead well, so I am quite disappointed by the response.'

Ms Fowler replied: 'We try to avoid compulsion because we are trying to work collaboratively with our colleagues. We

look to get as wide a representation as we can.' Feedback to the nature of the policy itself was more positive, with SNP Helensburgh and Lomond South councillor Richard Trail saying: 'I welcome this change of emphasis, changing the policy from talking about absence to supporting attendance.'

'This, we hope, will improve attendance, but how will we measure that in the months and years ahead? Have you any kind of measures you will be able to bring to us?'

'We have detailed information on what our absences have been like during Covid,' responded Ms Fowler. 'We had a requirement to report on it on a weekly basis.'

'We will see levels of absence reported on scorecards so members can see what our rates of absence are.'

POLICE FILES

Speeding and no insurance

A motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit at about 12.35pm on Wednesday May 19 on the A83 at Inveraray. Following checks, the 47-year-old male driver was charged with having no insurance for the vehicle and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Possession of drugs

At about 10.45pm on Wednesday May 19, on the A83 at Lochgilphead, a car was stopped and searched by police.

A 23-year-old man was charged with possession of cocaine and cannabis. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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Lodge's kind-hearted gift to Lochgilphead community

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

Lochgilphead has another welcome new addition to the town centre, in the shape of a potentially life-saving defibrillator.

The swanky fresh look to Colchester Square and lower Argyll Street, complete with Achnaba stone, aims to attract more people to the town centre.

And with newly-painted shop fronts, about-to-begin improvements to the front green and the CARS town centre improvement scheme on the horizon, Lochgilphead's visitor numbers will surely rise.

At any time a defibrillator could save lives but, with more people around, having one nearby becomes that bit more vital.

Thanks to a donation to Lochgilphead Community Council from Lochgilphead's masonic lodge, the new defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of the toilet block on Lochnell Street, beside the front green.

Community council convener Andy Buntin said: 'On behalf of the Lochgilphead community I would like to thank Lodge Loch Fyne 754 for donating this defibrillator.

'Thanks also to Argyll and Bute Council staff who helped with its installation under difficult circumstances during the pandemic.

'With the expected increase in footfall in Lochgilphead, this unit will not only benefit the local population but also visitors to the town.'

Lodge members took advice from the British Heart Foundation before deciding on



The defibrillator is available 24 hours a day.

51_a22Defib02

The new defibrillator with, from left, Andy Buntin, Lochgilphead Community Council convener; Donald Crawford, master of Lodge Loch Fyne 754 and Alasdair MacVicar, depute master. 51_a22Defib01

the most suitable model. 'I'm very proud of our members for the various donations to the community during the Covid crisis,' said master of the lodge Donald Crawford.

He added: 'The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the provincial Argyll and the Isles Grand Lodge have been supporting

us through the pandemic and with some fundraising we've been doing, this released some funds.

'We had been looking at a defibrillator for the lodge itself, but because there's limited access we thought it would be better to have one the community could benefit

from 24 hours a day, seven days per week. We are delighted to get the funding in place and donate this defibrillator to the community council. Hopefully it won't need to be used, but it's there if needed and we are pleased to have helped.'

Mr Buntin concluded with a

special request to the public: 'Please treat this life-saving device with the respect you would give any paramedic. Remember it could be your life, or that of one of your loved ones, it helps to save.'

Defibrillators are also available at MACPool, Lochgilphead Golf Club and in Ardrishaig.

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Food and farming 'at risk' in rush to Australia deal

The leader of Scotland's farming union believes rural jobs, prosperity and food standards are on the line in the UK government's rush for a post-Brexit trade deal with Australia.

And he is not alone. Groups from all corners of the UK and every farming sector have come together to warn of the risks and call on the government to deliver on its pledge to set up a statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission to scrutinise all trade deals.

As reported in last week's edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser, NFU Scotland president Martin Kennedy said: 'Scotland's beef, dairy, sheep and grain sectors are particularly exposed should a deal be rushed through with Australia that fails to strike the right balance.'

'While some additional market access and tariff liberalisation is expected in this post-Brexit era, all deals must be properly scrutinised and ratified to avoid any risks to the future viability of the farming sector.'

'Rushing through a trade deal without the promised statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission in place prior to the deal being concluded also sets a damaging precedent for other trade deals.'

Food trade and standards expert Ruth Watson, founder of Keep Scotland the Brand campaign, believes that nothing less than our health is at stake – and that Scotland's reputation for quality produce could disappear overnight.

Ms Watson told the Argyllshire Advertiser: 'Liz Truss, Westminster's Secretary of State for International Trade, is keen to see an agreement signed at the G7 summit, due to be held in Cornwall in the second week of June.'

'While welcomed by some,



Ruth Watson, left, pictured at the 2019 Mid Argyll Show, says Scotland's reputation and food standards are at stake in negotiations with Australia. 51_a33MAS38_ScotlandBrand01

this is causing astonishment and consternation in many quarters. The Australian deal is only estimated to be worth 0.01 – 0.02 per cent of GDP

'Not only will Australian produce be allowed unfettered access to UK markets, it now looks as though assurances reiterated just last week will be broken'

to the UK economy over 10 years yet it risks trashing Scottish agriculture and our valuable food and drink sector – Scotland's largest employer with a global brand worth £15 billion to the Scottish economy.

'Scotland's food, animal welfare and environmental standards are rightly recognised and valued at home and around the world.'

'The worth to our people is harder to quantify. How do you put a price tag on healthy communities?'

'With iconic landscapes, castles and crofts, Scotland IS the brand - but a reputation is hard-earned and easily lost.'

'Faced with competition from industrialised agriculture with lower animal welfare and environmental standards, the risk to our rural communities is enormous.'

'Australian farmers manage vast flocks with methods unfamiliar to our shepherds, including practices which would be banned in this country.'

Vast numbers

'And as crofters on Scotland's islands face bans on transporting sheep to the Scottish mainland on welfare grounds, vast numbers of Australian livestock are loaded onto supercargo vessels which take them to markets around the world.'

'International trade deals usually take between seven to 12 years to ratify - and for good reason. Complex and



Scotland's farming viability is threatened by the UK government approach, says NFU Scotland president Martin Kennedy.

detailed agreements often can hang on the placing of a single comma, so teams of lawyers, negotiators and politicians spend many hours poring over the details and nuances in every line.

'But the Trade Act, which passed into law this April, means trade deals can be signed without being scrutinised or voted on in Westminster.'

Object

'The Agriculture and Internal Market Bills mean politicians in devolved parliaments have no legal right to object, even though convention should

have seen powers over agriculture revert to devolved legislatures after Brexit.'

'Canada, Mexico, India and the USA are watching the progress of the Australian deal. All have said they want the same terms as Australia looks likely to enjoy.'

Ruth Watson continued: 'Proponents for the Australian deal celebrate the prospect of tariff-free, quota-free trade.'

'Not only will Australian produce be allowed unfettered access to UK markets, it now looks as though assurances reiterated just last week will be broken and beef treated

with antibiotics and hormones to promote growth will be included in the deal.'

'By no means is meat the only area of concern.'

'The Pesticide Action Network points out Australian fruit and vegetables contain alarming levels of insecticides and pesticides, with potentially harmful health and environmental impacts.'

'After so many decades in the EU, Scots are used to safe food as standard. We must make a stand for Scottish agriculture now or watch a way of life traded away in deals we did not ask for.'



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Learning to make a den outdoors at Achahoish.

Getting out and about at Achahoish primary

Making it easier to get around Lochgilphead

Plans are in motion to make getting around Lochgilphead easier on foot and by bike.

Argyll and Bute Council has commissioned a specialist design team to prepare proposals for safer walking, cycling and wheeling between Lochgilphead Joint Campus, the town centre and Bishopston Road.

Should funds allow, Lochgilphead front green and the Crinan Canal could be linked as part of the same project – though the entire scheme is dependant on securing enough funding.

Three possible routes have been developed including variations of Union Street, the front green and a new shoreline path option to the campus. And Mid Argyll people are now being asked for their views.

Find out more and fill in a short survey at www.walk-cyclelochgilphead.co.uk.

The intention is to combine this feedback with technical information to prepare a more detailed proposal in the summer, which will be shared as a draft for further comment before the final version is decided.

It's all about the great outdoors at Achahoish Primary School, writes Colin Cameron.

Principal teacher Anna Graham was delighted to outline some of the activities pupils have been enjoying since they returned to school earlier this year.

These included 'extreme reading' where the children found obscure places to read while enjoying the outdoors.

'Since returning to school in February, staff and pupils of Achahoish primary have been maximising the use of outdoor space and use it daily across all curriculum areas,' she explained.

'Activities included our forest schools, beach classroom, a Scout visit for two days of outdoor learning and Heart of Argyll Wildlife visits to study our pond life in the school garden.

'We are now beginning to revitalise our community garden space.

'The children and staff are designing an outdoor classroom and raised beds for the garden,

with help from a donation by Hendrix Genetics, as well as taking down overgrowth and pruning plants to make it a more desirable space.

'At Achahoish our school

motto is 'Learning together for our future'. We believe that by taking our learning outside we can build on our skills for learning, life and work.'

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BUILT IN

Easing carefully back into music

Easy Club members are back making music again, writes Colin Cameron.

Like many other aspects of life, restrictions during the pandemic have greatly affected the musical activities of the Mid Argyll group.

Health and wellbeing is a key aim of the club and a lack of making music together and playing for the public has had a negative impact.

But in the last week a cluster of key players have played together again outdoors and plans are being made for public sessions at the Cairnbaan Hotel and Lochgilphead Resource Centre.

In the meantime the club has made a 20-minute film showcasing its first five years, combining video clips, photographs and recordings, including a central piece of original music called Leap of Hope.



One enthusiastic member of the club is Flora Currie, often to be seen on the drums.



Members play under a gazebo at Lochgilphead Resource Centre.

The film has been circulated through the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and can be viewed on www.mhfestival.com/projects/exhibition and on YouTube.

Meanwhile, if you want to

contribute to the club's continued success and give yourself a chance of a cash prize, go to www.argyllcommunitylottery.co.uk and search for the Easy Club Mid Argyll.

The Easy Club has big cre-

ative plans, but what it really wants is more participants, of any ability or background.

Watch out for notices in this paper, find the club on Facebook or email hugh.fife@yahoo.co.uk to find out more.

Live Gaelic music on social media

A series of live online Facebook events will be held this summer to promote the Gaelic language in Argyll and Bute and provide opportunities for communities to come together.

The events will take place on the Argyll and Bute Gaelic Forum's Facebook page and each one will feature a well-known, popular musician or songwriter.

The first event was due to be held at 8pm on Thursday May 27 and starred Ian Smith from Trail West.

Ian was born and raised on the Isle of Tiree before going on to study a BA Hons in Scottish Music at the Royal Conservatoire.

A talented accordionist and native Gaelic speaker, he entertained viewers with his vast array of musical skills.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Councillor Robin Currie said: 'Argyll and Bute has a long history of rich Gaelic heritage and it is

vital this does not become a forgotten part of our history.

'Not only will these live events help us to preserve the Gaelic language and provide people with some light entertainment after an extremely difficult year, they will also help raise the profile of some of the wonderful musicians we have in Argyll and Bute.

'I hope people make the most of this opportunity and log on to watch the events. I know I certainly will be.'

To view the events, visit Argyll Gaelic Forum on Facebook.

The events have been funded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Tasgadh fund.

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Blowing the whistle for patients and staff



Former police officer Albert Donald, NHS Highland Whistleblowing Champion, offers some thoughts on his role in the wake of the bullying scandal within the organisation uncovered by the 2019 Sturrock Report.

On April 1 this year, the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer service, covering the whole of NHS Scotland, went live to let people know they can raise issues and that they will be listened to.

This unified management, applied to all health boards across the country, is the latest step taken by the NHS to improve employee culture which is, of course, directly linked to patient care.

It is vital everyone involved with NHS Scotland feels confident to speak up if there are concerns that public interests are not being best served, for example, when it comes to patient safety.

The new standards apply to anyone involved in an NHS service including employees, volunteers, contractors, students and partners.

The national programme has replaced local whistleblowing policies meaning consistent practices and standards are applied across every health board.

This includes Argyll and Bute, which is served by NHS Highland.

To ensure the public's best interest remains a top priority reports will go to the board every quarter with a breakdown of concerns.

This means any emerging trends or common themes are identified at an early stage, concerns are raised, action is taken to rectify the situation and what is learned is acknowledged, shared and, where required, put into practice.

As part of the implementation of the national standards, NHS Highland has unveiled its 'Speak Up, Listen Up' campaign to raise colleague awareness of whistleblowing

and other ways of raising concerns throughout the Highlands and across Argyll and Bute.

It is about encouraging people who work for or with NHS Highland in service delivery to share their concerns, ensuring they are listened to, and that any issues raised are dealt with effectively.

This campaign is also part of the ongoing efforts by NHS Highland to address cultural issues around bullying and harassment that were highlighted more than two years ago in an independent review by John Sturrock QC.

Since then NHS Highland has been working with colleagues, former staff, whistle-blowers, the Scottish Government and other stakeholders to improve matters for staff and members of the public.

I am proud to have taken on the independent and impartial role of whistleblowing champion for NHS Highland and NHS Grampian.

Following my 38 years as a police officer in the north-east of Scotland, I became the independent chairman of three different adult protection committees.

In February 2020, I was appointed to the board of NHS Highland and NHS Grampian as a non-executive director. The whistleblowing champion role is a new board position designed to ensure national standards are being followed by the organisation.

Everyone involved with NHS Scotland must recognise the importance of whistleblowing for patient care.

I am committed to playing my part in this process and I urge all those working for NHS Highland in Argyll and Bute to do the same.

Whistleblowing Champion Albert Donald – it's about patient care and ensuring staff are listened to.

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Actively seeking lively Argyll volunteers

Enthusiasm is one of the main requirements as liveArgyll looks for volunteers to help youngsters stay active.

Sport and physical activity plays an important part in keeping us healthy and provides a community focus enabling fun, fitness and social interaction.

The global pandemic has had a huge impact on the physical and mental health of many people, but arguably none more so than the younger population.

As restrictions ease and communities cautiously head towards some sort of normality, liveArgyll Active Schools and Sport team is looking for volunteers to support the delivery of extracurricular sport and physical activity sessions in schools across the area.

Schools provide much-needed sport and activity for young people and, with the support of the Active Schools and Sport



team, pupils around Argyll and Bute can access a variety of opportunities.

At the heart of this provision are volunteers. The value of volunteers cannot be underestimated.

Some extracurricular school sport has restarted across the region and the team is looking for more volunteers to grow

the programme. Volunteering can promote health, improve confidence and life satisfaction and can help you develop new skills and increase your employability. Being a volunteer can also lead to new qualifications.

You do not have to have any previous experience, just an enthusiasm to make a differ-

Netball is just one of many sports young people can enjoy - and you may be able to help.

ence. Active Schools and Sport manager Alex Edmonstone said: 'Volunteers are extremely important to the successful running of extracurricular activities. There are so many benefits to being a volunteer and the impact it can make to our communities is huge. Due to the effects of the pandemic, young people need these opportunities more than ever.'

All volunteers will be fully supported by the Active Schools and Sport team. If you have some time on your hands and would like to be involved in helping the young people of Argyll and Bute improve their lives, please get in touch.

Email activeschools@liveargyll.co.uk to contact the Active Schools and Sport Team and find out more.

Powerful laptop offer for schools

Energy company Drax has delivered a further 320 laptops with prepaid internet access to schools and colleges across Britain.

The power giant, which operates the Ben Cruachan Power Station at Dalmally, has been making donations to schools local to its operations, and has given a further 20 laptops to schools in Argyll and Bute. That takes the total donated by Drax to schools in Argyll and Bute alone to nearly 100.

Across Britain, more than 1,200 laptops have gone to nearly 100 schools. The offer is to help students catch-up where learning has been affected by Covid lockdowns. The £60,000 investment includes three months of pre-paid internet access via a 30GB dongle.

Will Gardiner, Drax Group chief executive officer, said: 'Ensuring no

child is left disadvantaged as a result of the pandemic is crucial if we are to avoid a lost generation of young people and we are helping them to stay connected and catch up on their learning.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara commented: 'This is a fantastic donation that will benefit so many young people as well as a great example of how companies operating and providing employment in this area can foster good community relations.'

'As well as donations of laptops, the provision of dongles will be welcome in areas where connectivity can be poor.'

Yvonne McNeilly, policy lead for education at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'These laptops will enable our children and young people to access a huge range of resources to support their education.'



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Post-lockdown art show will 'gladden the heart'

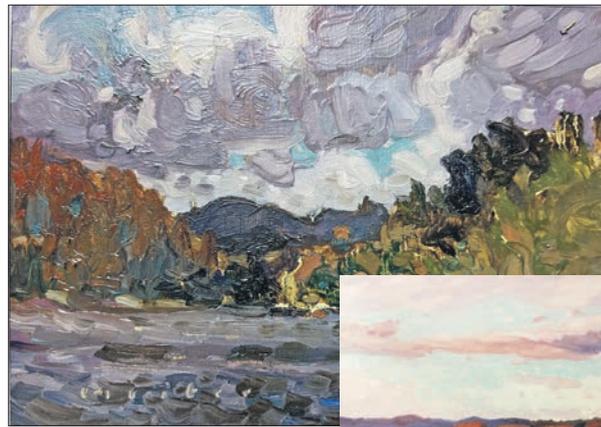
The Archway Gallery in Lochgilphead kicks off its return to normal exhibiting with 'A Winter's Work', an exhibition of new works in oil by Argyll artist Caroline Hunter.

Caroline, perhaps best known for her subtly powerful seascapes and vibrant still lifes, has been a prize winner and regular exhibitor at the Royal Scottish Academy and Royal Glasgow Institute and has been exhibiting with the Archway Gallery for more than 20 years.

In this exhibition – Friday May 28 to Saturday June 26 – she showcases her most recent paintings of Argyll's landscape, particularly focusing on Knapdale, Loch Sween and Tayvallich, where she lives, works, walks and kayaks.

The core pieces of the exhibition have been created over the past lockdown year.

Making drawings and small oil sketches over the summer, Caroline then works these up



Clouds over Scotnish, top, and Carsaig Summer Skies – two of the pieces which will form part of the exhibition.

into paintings through the winter months.

Brightly soaring skies, the jewel-like colours of bracken, sea and shoreline and the play of light and shadow across familiar, well-loved landscapes combine to make this a wonderfully uplifting and relatable show.

Wilma Meikle from the Archway Gallery said: 'We are delighted to welcome Caroline back as our first

post-lockdown exhibitor with an absolutely beautiful group of paintings to gladden the heart and revive the spirit.'



Students' artwork in the perfect setting.

Crinan is stunning backdrop for five HND students' end-of-year art works

As settings for end-of-year art exhibitions go, you could do a lot worse than Crinan.

Five HND students at Argyll College UHI were faced with the prospect of having no such climax to their hard work, with the college and other indoor venues out of bounds due to Covid restrictions.

Undeterred, the group – Clare McCartan, Mo Clerk, Erine Fyfe, Pat Madej and Suzi Thomson – decided instead to head for the great outdoors and the stunning location of the Crinan basin, a perfect backdrop.

Though intended as a digital experience not open to the public, this failed to stop curious onlookers visiting throughout the exhibition on May 11. The Contemporary Art Practice HND classmates are all keen to continue with their studies through to degree level, but the artwork on show was selected from this year's coursework, tackling subjects



Though not strictly open to the public, the colourful spectacle attracted visitors.

including climate change, domestic abuse, observational drawing, mixed media, printing and ceramics.

Worried about rising energy bills? Home Energy Scotland is here to help

Advertorial

If you are worried about the impact on your energy bills while staying in more or working from home, you're not alone. A 2020 survey by Home Energy Scotland showed that nearly half (44%) of people working from home are worried this will lead to an increase in unaffordable energy bills.

This is where we can help you. Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government to help you reduce your heating costs and make your home warmer and more energy efficient.

Making your home more energy efficient can have a big impact on your bills. We can help you access help worth up to £5,000 to cover the cost of energy saving home improvements, through the Scottish Government's Warmer Homes Scotland programme.

Case study

Mrs P got her ageing boiler replaced with a new, more efficient central heating system through the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme. She told us her home is now much easier to heat:

"I was having difficulty heating the flat previously, but I now find myself going and turning the heating down! I've had such a good experience, there was no problem at all."



Over 22,000 homeowners and private tenants across Scotland have benefited from help from the scheme since it was launched in 2015, each of them saving around £300 on their energy bills per year too.

Furthermore, eight out of ten supported households have received completely free energy efficiency measures. Most have received improvements worth over £5,000.

Impartial advice and support just a free call away

Grant Mackay, Home Energy Scotland advice centre manager in the Highlands and Islands, said:

"If you're worried about heating your home or rising energy bills you could have a warmer home like Mrs P, and save hundreds of pounds on your energy bills too. It's potentially a win-win and all you need to do is call us free on 0808 808 2282 to find

out if you qualify for support.

"We also offer interest-free loans funded by the Scottish Government with cashback of up to 75% for energy efficiency improvements like solid wall insulation, double glazing or a new renewable heating system.

"Our specialists can also give you impartial advice about which improvements would suit your home best."

Loan offers are valid for a year. Loans are administered by Energy Saving Trust and successful loans are subject to an administrative fee of 1.5%, up to a maximum of £150. Energy Saving Trust is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. All loans are subject to availability and terms and conditions apply.

Interested? Give us a call on 0808 808 2282 or visit homeenergyscotland.org for more information.

MAKE YOUR WINTER FEEL LIKE SUMMER

Have you heard about the Scottish Government's Warmer Homes Scotland scheme?

Home Energy Scotland can help you access the scheme and find out if you're eligible for free energy saving home improvements like insulation and heating, on average worth around £5,000.

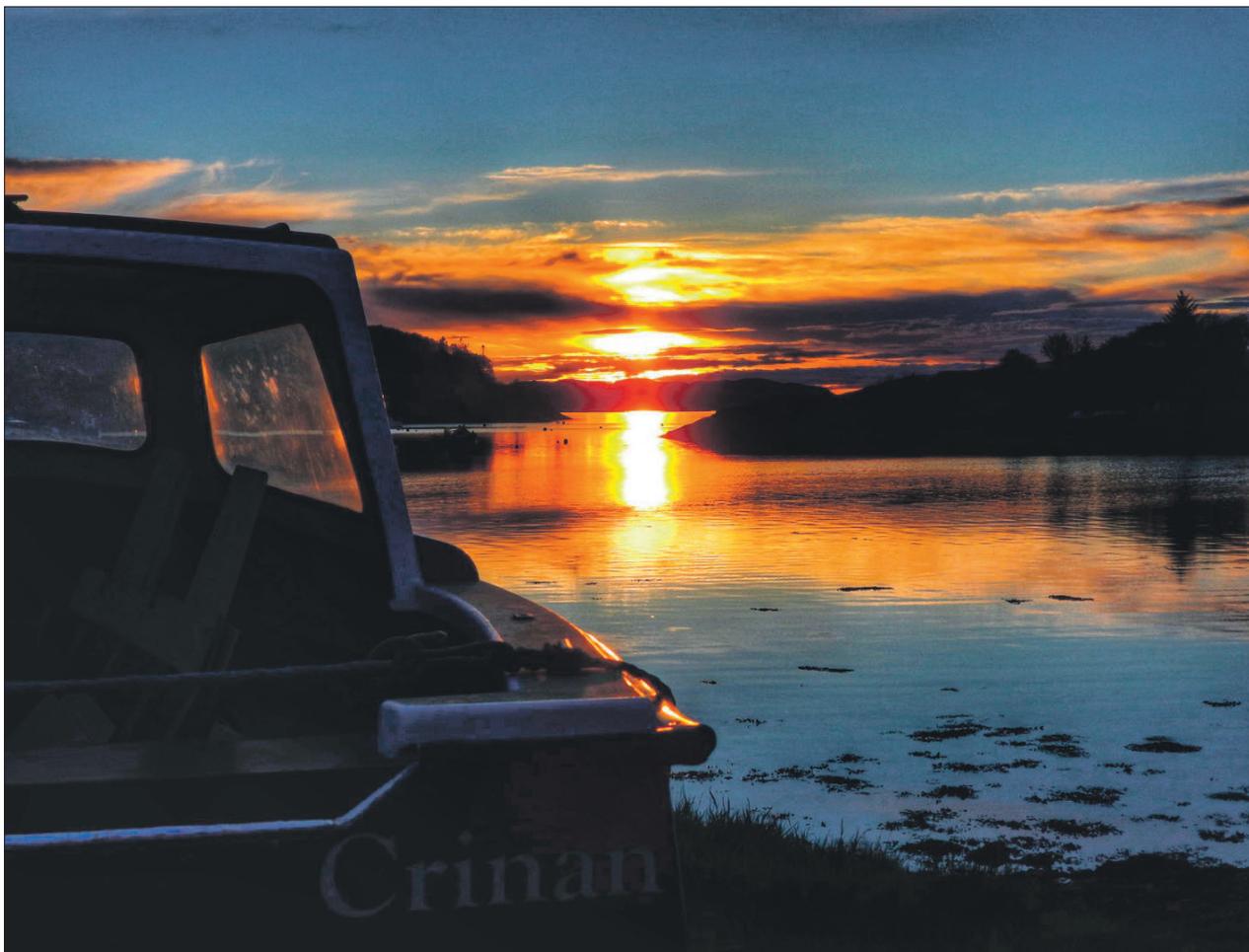
Making your home more energy efficient can help reduce your bills, keeping your home warm for less. Their service is free and impartial so get in touch today – call free on **0808 808 2282** or visit homeenergyscotland.org



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YOUR PICTURES



We have another striking photograph this week from Mid Argyll photographer Aileen Gillies.

Aileen was out and about with her camera a couple of weekends ago and was at Crinan harbour in time to capture this burning orange sunset over Jura.

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

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

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What is Pingo?

Pingo is an on-demand bus service, offering shared journeys which can be booked from an app. If you would like to travel at a time not served by our current service you can request a Pingo journey. Our new, 16 seater, minibus will pick you up at your door or nearby, and drop you off at your chosen location (as long as its within the Pingo network).

How do I download the app?

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Can I also contact Pingo by phone?

Yes. If you are struggling to download the app or you do not have a smartphone please don't hesitate to call our Pingo helpdesk. They are happy to help with downloading the app or even booking your journey for you. You can contact them on **0141 370 9262**.

For more information visit westcoastmotors.co.uk. You can also join our community Facebook group "Pingo for Dunoon, Cowal and Campbeltown".



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June



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FIONA ROSS

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Enjoying the Knapdale dude ranch experience

It's a funny life working out here on this remote coast with our gentle routine of planting and weeding, grooming and feeding.

There's no water-cooler chat with colleagues, no boss raising an eyebrow, just us, the sheep, the pigs and the coos. So when our efforts are complimented by those in the know, it's a nice wee boost for us all.

Turns out we've produced some pretty decent pork. The butcher described it as perfectly balanced; not too much fat and a good lot of meat.

He's asked to keep a load for himself, but there's still enough for our hungry lot, plus a plentiful supply for the shop.

Out in the tropics of our greenhouse-cum-polytunnel it's not quite the Day of the Triffids, but it's not far off.

The veggies are growing at a crazy rate, covering every spare scrap of soil and climbing the walls like children dosed with granny's homemade tablet.

We're hopeful they, too, will grace the shelves locally - the veg, not the kids - well, not yet. So, an abundant harvest is already in sight.

Huge bowls of salad snipped from the 'cut and come again' varieties now adorn the dinner table every day, while the early tatties should be sitting alongside them by next week.

The croft's first signs of fruitfulness bode well for a summer already threatening to wrench us from our contented isolation into the frenetic and unfamiliar world of socialising.

Our extended family and friends have taken one look at the complexities of foreign travel's 'traffic light' system and decided a fortnight on a mucky, windswept croft will

have to do. It's an all-inclusive option to rival anything Magaluf or the Maldives has to offer - unlimited local beverages - Argyll Spring Water and our homemade hooch - and an all-day, help-yourself buffet, aka whatever you can find in the fridge.

There are a host of Nevada-style Dude Ranch activities including haltering wild (slightly grumpy) cows and taking them on a cattle drive all the way to the far west coast.

It might just be a dawdle down the driveway to the beach, but with our greedy Highland cows stopping to snack on reeds, irises and seaweed it could seem like an epic expedition.

Down at the shore there is a selection of cruises to choose from, all of them delighting in authentic, hands-on experience of coastal traditions.

Try your hand at catching your own lobster - a fully immersive experience involving an unrivalled upper-body workout as you haul up miles of slimy rope attached to a tonne-weight creel hoaching with tiny crabs rather than juicy big lobsters.

Or how about a relaxing spot of fishing off the back of the boat?

There will be a host of tasty mackerel for the taking in a month or two.

Enjoy the added challenge of catching them with a crazed Great Dane leaping for the fishing line at every cast.

She'll be wearing her lifejacket - just make sure you are too as it's bound to be blawin' a hoolie all summer long.

But I know there's nowhere I'd rather be.

Come torrential rain or shine, I'd swap Nevada for Knapdale every time.



Hungry Highland heifers enjoy a tasty seaweed snack.



She's ready for anything on the fully immersive Knapdale cruise.

UK Government Scotland

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HOPE

Notions of remoteness with Jura-based art show

With the Isle of Jura at its heart, an exciting new art exhibition is about to hit the road, writes Colin Cameron.

'Exposure' is a collaboration between Jura-based musician, sound artist and photographer Giles Perring and filmmaker and painter Andy Metcalf, carried out principally on the island.

This summer the show will tour Scotland, starting on June 17 with a five-week stay at Dunoon Burgh Hall before reaching Oban's Rockfield Centre in March next year.

The project's producer Kirsty Law explained: "Through painting, photography, sound installation and film, this work explores the brute nature of landscape and the vulnerability of human expression.

'It interacts with some of Scotland's most beautiful and striking land and sea scapes and will be toured to contrasting locations, from the centre of industrial Glasgow in a converted old print works, Civic House, to a gallery in a disused Free Church on a dramatic headland on the wild west side of the Isle of Lewis.'



Exposure harnesses video, painting, 35mm and medium format photography, text, sound installation and performance to depict the many facets of the uneasy experience of human relationship with a harsh island environment.

This work brings together two perspectives - the familiar and the 'outside eye'.

For Metcalf, Jura is far-flung, whereas for Perring it is his every day.

The dialogue sparked by these two responses begs questions around what defines our sense of 'remote'.

This exhibit features the sounds of the newly launched

World Organ - an outside sound sculpture created by Giles Perring on Jura built to listen to, respond to and shape the sound of the landscape that surrounds it.

The result is a generative piece of music which Giles has streamed live, 24/7, since he launched this project in August 2020.



Clockwise from above left: A piece by Andy Metcalf forming part of Exposure; photographic work by Giles Perring; World Organ - an outside sound sculpture created by Giles Perring on Jura; and artist Giles Perring.

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Covering:

Oban & Lorn
Lochaber
Lochgilphead & Dalriada
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**THE ARRAN
BANNER**

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We all know what a strain Covid-19 has put on our lives over the last year or so but thankfully there IS light at the end of the tunnel and things ARE getting better.

You may want to go off and find sunshine abroad, but you have the most spectacular scenery, restaurants, hotels and activities on your doorstep and the businesses that have struggled so much through all of this will really appreciate your custom.

We have put together some inspirational ideas to help you plan your holiday in Argyll, the west highlands and islands. There are bound to be things you haven't experienced yet, even if you have lived in the west of Scotland all your life. Embrace the opportunity to go and discover the magic – you'll wonder what kept you!



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Local Crafters



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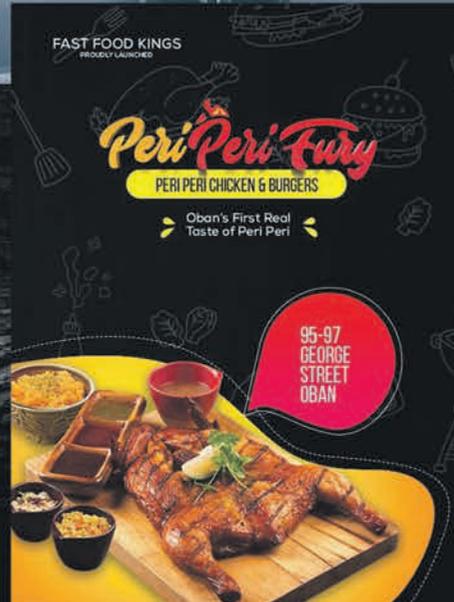
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Oban

By land, sea and air all routes lead to Oban – and so do most West Highland holidays.

A branch of the West Highland Line and the A85 cross-country trunk road to Perth end here and Oban is home to most of the Caledonian MacBrayne Hebridean ferry routes; West Coast Motors has a coach and bus hub here and the latest addition is the Oban and the Isles Airport and its Hebridean Airways services.

Even if you are not planning a holiday here then chances are you will be paying a visit on the way to your destination, but remember, it makes perfect sense to base yourself close to Oban if you are planning a touring holiday.

Here at the Oban Times what

makes us so proud of the town is that anyone can come here and can have their perfect holiday, short or long; you would be surprised at how many people come for a day trip.

Fish and chips or a burger? Oban doesn't have any of the fast food chains and there is serious competition in the town to be the best.

Or fine dining, and the freshest and best seafood from award-winning hotels and restaurants – they don't call Oban the seafood capital of Scotland for nothing. If you don't want to eat in, enjoy one of the seafood shops.

Likewise you can find everything from back-packing hostels to Victorian mansions turned into tranquil, luxuriously-appointed hotels listed

amongst Europe's finest. In between there is every kind of B&B and independent hotel to suit your budget and style. Pubs and bars serve local food, beers and a fine array of whiskies – as you would expect from a town with such a famous distillery.

Stunning scenery on the doorstep, otters gambolling on the foreshore and seals people-watching from the harbour are all set against the bustle of a busy, friendly and thriving town with a great shopping mix of national chains and privately-owned stores.

The old Oban Times building is host to a museum and the historic McCaig's Tower (never call it a folly) watches over the town.

Join in the fun when we can have festivals and events again; there is always plenty of live music and we have our own

community-owned cinema. Or you can sit and watch the world go by as the ferries, lighthouse vessels, fishing and fish farm boats come and go along with the yachts on the pontoons. Oban also supplies spectacular sunsets over the bay, at no extra charge.



Discover our Islands

Our family island discovery tickets are the perfect way to make the most of your staycation this year! Available only from the West Coast Motors app, our summer tickets offer 24hr unlimited travel and to top it all off,

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29 October 2021
 6pm arrival - 11pm close
 Dress code: Smart casual

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*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.
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Now more than ever, shop local is important, see how your vouchers help!

People thinking of buying a present for a family member, friend or loved one are being asked to buy a Love Oban Gift Voucher.

With Father's Day coming up and year-round celebrations from retirements to birthdays and now weddings, more than 80 businesses in Oban now accept the vouchers.

As well as being a help to those unsure what to buy someone, the highly successful initiative helps keep money in Oban and spent with local independents, said BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence.

Buying a Love Oban voucher ensures the money spent stays within the local economy to support businesses, jobs and local people, he said.

The initiative has proved popular with local people who want to see the town succeed and also people from outside the area.

They have purchased the vouchers online on behalf of those planning breaks in Oban or who are moving to the town to take up employment, said Andy.

He said: 'When you spend local that £1 then regenerates and goes into supporting someone at another local business and is spent in the town.'

'Not just local but every single business is important in Oban as it provides employ-

ment for local people and they also spend in the town.'

Andy said supporting Oban at this time is vital as retailers recover from the pandemic.

The process of buying the vouchers took just a couple of minutes and each comes with a handy guide to where they can be spent.

Andy added: 'We have a lot of new local businesses opening in the town and given what we have just been through, it's clear the town is extremely vibrant and people have got the confidence in Oban to invest.'

'We are a destination town and a key hub.'

As well as buying them directly from the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street, you can purchase vouchers from the following businesses.

The Sports Shop Oban, Argyll Square; Websters of Oban Photographic Centre, George Street; Oban Phoenix Cinema, George Street; Alba Artshop, Albany Street; Button Nose Boutique, Airds Crescent, and Etive Restaurant, Stevenson Street.

Alternatively, you can go online to the BID4Oban website and purchase them in denominations of £10, £20 and £50, but in as high a value as necessary. Visit www.bid4oban.co.uk/overview-love-oban



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Oban & Lorn

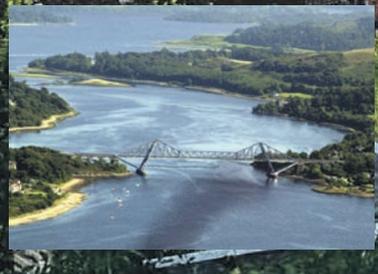
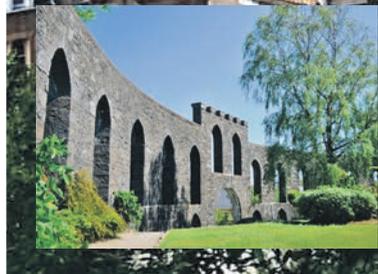
Lorn is not just the name of an area of north Argyll; it is the name of an ancient province of Scotland.

With the Firth of Lorne and the Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area this is one of the most beautiful, remote and scarcely populated areas of the UK – just what you need to get back to nature and recharge your batteries.

Historically Lorn covered an area from Glencoe and Rannoch Moor, going inland to Loch Awe and sweeping down to the coast to cover lots of small islands.

Right at the heart is Loch Etive the long, narrow seawater loch which stretches 18 miles inland and meets the sea at the spectacular Falls of Lora.

But do not mistake all this open space for emptiness – there are bustling villages and great hotels, restaurants, shops and places to go and things to do.



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Along with Lochs Awe and Etive some of Scotland's most iconic images are here; Ben Cruachan, Kilchurn Castle, St Conan's Kirk and the Bridge over the Atlantic.

The area is enjoying a tourism renaissance – many of its old hotels and inns have been renovated and seen massive investment in the last few years and they are ready and waiting to be discovered.

Every village has a tearoom and café or two, with some serious home baking on offer, and there are all kinds of ventures promoting local produce from smokehouses to crofters' signs at the side of the road, selling eggs. Trust us, if all you ever eat is supermarket eggs, you have to go home with a dozen eggs.

Today's drive for clean, green electricity started here – make sure you visit the Cruachan power station, the massive hydro electric scheme built into the hollowed out mountain in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Then there is the angling – sea, fresh water lochs and rivers; this is serious fly-fishing territory with boat trips, fishing beats and fly fishing tutors. Land a salmon in the River Awe or Orchy or a massive skate at sea.

It was the spectacular scenery, angling and a fledgling sport called mountaineering that brought the first Victorian tourists here. They would approve of everything else on offer here today, from kayaking and sailing to mountain biking and off roading – you can bet they'd love all the modern kit instead of their hob-nailed boots and oilskins.



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We are also welcoming membership for our leisure facilities, these memberships come with discounts on Spa Treatments, Food and Beverage, and 10 guest passes per year;

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Non leisure members are also welcome.

For more information and booking, please call 01631 720371, or visit www.eriska-hotel.co.uk

Lochaber

The Outdoor Capital of the UK is perfectly positioned on the doorstep of Argyll where you can begin your Highland adventure. Would you like to find out some more about our stunning, magical and vast beauty that is home to blockbuster landscapes, silver sand beaches and the tallest peak in the United Kingdom? I'm glad we've captured your attention...



Lochaber is nestled in the Scottish Highlands and will welcome you with our vast skies, eye-filling landscapes, wild beauty, scrumptious food and a Highland welcome that will warm you.

The Outdoor Capital of the UK offers you a vast range of activities, locations and wild landscapes that allow you to tailor your adventure and trip to your needs, your interests, allowing you to connect to

your very own Highland adventure bringing you mountains, waterfalls and those top 'Instagram-ready' viewpoints at almost every turn.

You have access to some of Scotland's most beautiful out-

doors with a reputation for offering unique experiences and memories of a lifetime. With a host of highly experienced mountain guides, activity providers and instructors you will be in safe and capable

hands during your activity. Looking for something a little calmer?

We have a great spread of walks, cycle routes (oh, and plenty of bike hire) and land-marked paths providing you

with the opportunity to relax, soak in the atmosphere and enjoy The Outdoor Capital of the UK at your own pace.

You'll be sure to find a friendly face at the end of your journey. See you soon!



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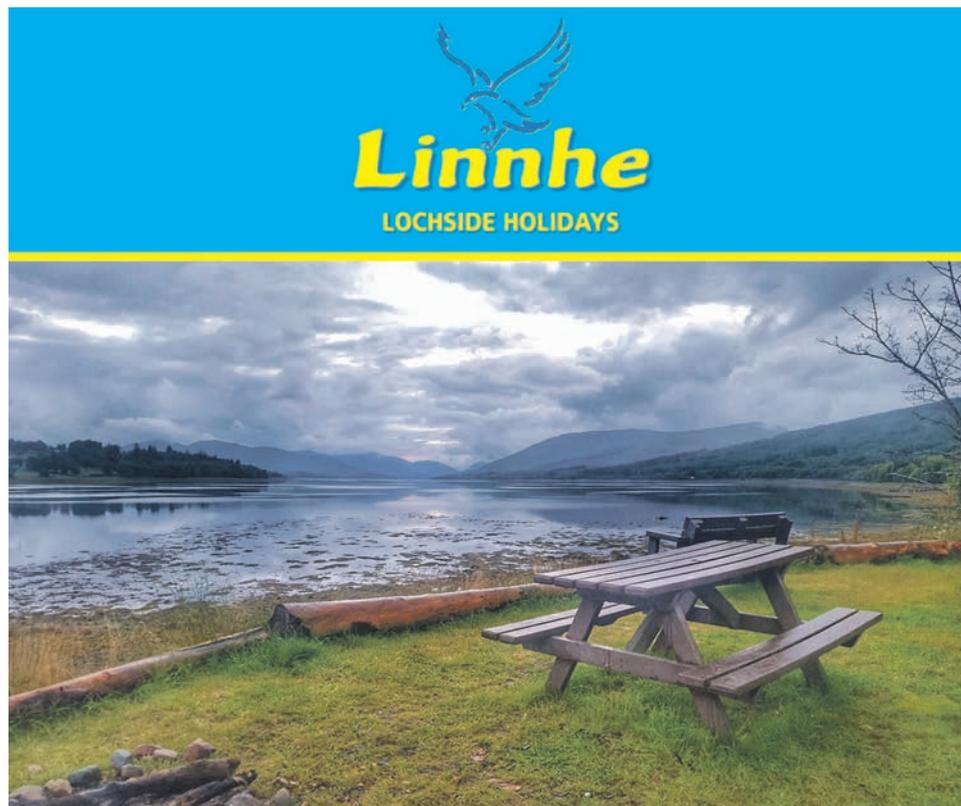
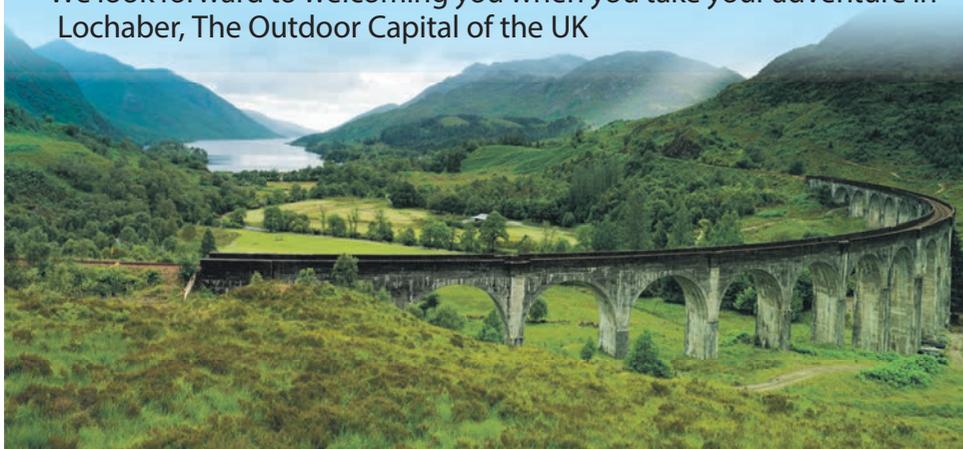
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- Drink a locally distilled dram and experience Scotch single-malt from Ben Nevis Distillery
- Walk historic paths and soak in the scenery that was once the backdrop of major battles, movies and moments in time through Ardnamurchan Peninsula, Fort William and Glen Nevis
- Want to embrace your wild side? How about swimming an open-water loch or bathing in a river with your friends at Craig Falls, Spean Bridge
- Walk through silver sand and swim in stunning blue and the crystal-clear waters of the Arisaig coastline
- We look forward to welcoming you when you take your adventure in Lochaber, The Outdoor Capital of the UK



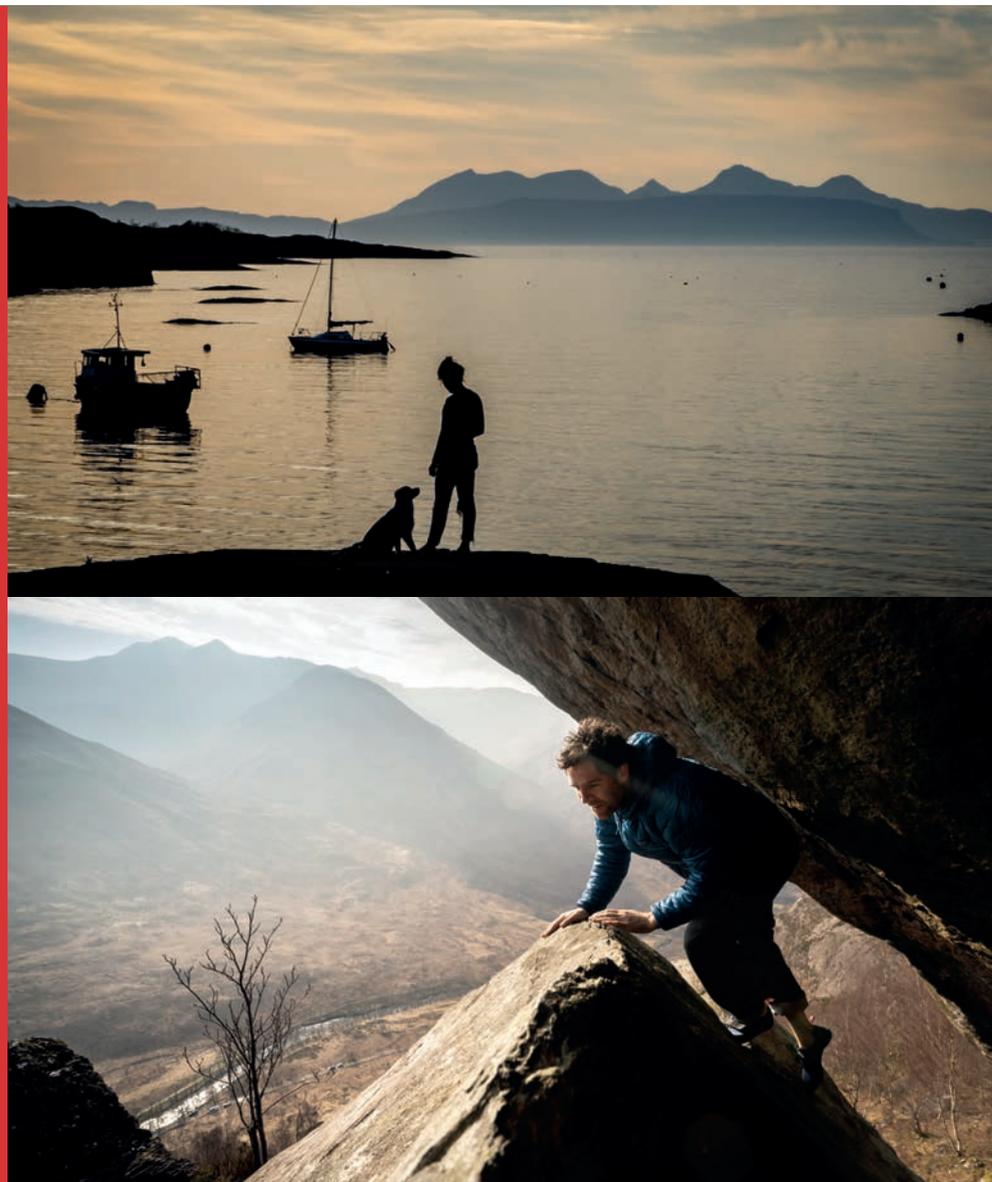
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Explore Argyll with Heathery Heights

Heathery Heights offers bespoke guided walks and outdoor skills courses for individuals, small groups, and families seeking adventure and solace in the beauty of our natural landscapes.

We love sharing experiences that allow you the freedom to explore and unwind. Discover rocky coasts carved by time, wild sandy beaches, ancient woodlands and the ruins of our ancestors. Explore rugged mountains, tranquil lochs and glens or be guided to a

wonderful spot for a fabulous west coast sunset. You can hire your own personal guide whether you want to find peace in nature by the sea, challenge yourself to a Scottish Peak, or enjoy a walking holiday in beautiful Argyll. Let us lead you to hidden gems and secret spots while keeping you safe and improving your outdoor confidence along the way!

We want to enable you to get out there, fall in love with nature AND feel fabulous!" – Heather

Meet your experienced guide!

Heather is an experienced Mountain Leader with a passion for the outdoors. Her formative years in Scotland revolved around exploration: scrambling up hills, sailing round the Hebrides, survival expeditions at age 12 (eating boiled guillemot and limpets – this was the 70s).

That passion has taken her across the globe; experiences range from self-supported backpacks across Scotland, to long distance treks in Asia, the Andes, and Himalayas. Having led UK-wide challenges from the North of England,

Heather recently returned to Scotland, where she delights in sharing the landscape and heathery hills of Argyll that she has enjoyed since childhood.

Heather's wide knowledge base, including Mountain Rescue, DofE and Outdoor First Aid, equips her well to lead bespoke trips for small groups, families and individuals of all experience levels. Heather loves to share adventures that allow you the freedom to discover, explore and unwind in our wonderful outdoors.

LOCHGILPHEAD AND DALRIADA

You can sit at home and watch documentaries about ancient history and nature or you can come here to see and live them for yourself.

Lochgilphead is the modern capital of Argyll and Bute, displacing the older seat of power at Inveraray but the town and its surrounds can boast a much, much older claim.

Dunadd, an imposing crag just outside the town was used as an Iron Age hill fort and then as the stronghold of Dál Riata an ancient kingdom which straddled the North Channel with lands in Northern Ireland and Argyll.

Lochgilphead and its surrounding area is incredible, with the ancient standing

stones at Kilmartin spreading out across the landscape.

Then you have the Mòine Mhòr, the Great Moss in Gaelic, alongside. This is a national reserve, protecting one of Scotland's oldest landscapes and a haven of wildlife.

Instead of the dawn of time, how about the dawn of the industrial revolution with the Crinan Canal – a feat of civil engineering saving time and the difficult journey around the Mull of Kintyre and now known as Britain's most beautiful shortcut.

Scottish Canals is investing and reinventing the canal at Ardrishaig, with a new community hub, the Egg Shed, and where you can see a scaled

down copy of the famous Kelpies of Falkirk.

The western entrance at Crinan is a gem with breath-taking views over to Jura, or you could take a wee detour down into Knapdale.

This whole area is a landscape you can lose yourself in. Yes you can have history, both human and natural, and geology lessons here but you cut loose and just enjoy being in such an incredible outdoor space and cycle, ride, walk, run, hike, sail, kayak and swim to your heart's content.

Then head back to Lochgilphead and the surrounding villages for wonderful shopping, eating and accommodation.

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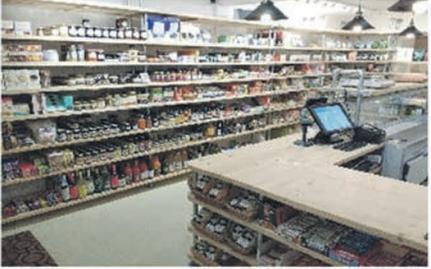


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CAMPBELTOWN & KINTYRE

What's not to love about a town that is a Scottish whisky region in itself? The Wee Toon is the only individual town to have such an honour.

Campbeltown made whisky – with more than 30 distilleries at the height of its fame – and whisky made Campbeltown.

This, along with the now vanished coalmines and the heyday of the fishing industry, made for a very wealthy town.

The entrepreneurs ploughed their cash back into the burgh, building impressive homes, tenements, hotels and civil buildings. It became a little bit of one-upmanship; each trying to out-do the other by hiring a more famous architect.



BEHIND EVERY CHAMPION THERE'S AN INCREDIBLE TEAM.



for the facts drinkaware.co.uk



Today we can thank them for leaving us a fascinating built heritage. Did you know that pro-rata Campbeltown has a higher number of listed buildings than Bath or London?

Campbeltown still makes whisky, but today it goes for quality not quantity. Whisky lovers the world over make sure that a visit to Scotland includes a trip to Campbeltown.

The original A listed library is still home to the town's museum, which houses an eclectic collection, and the building also used for civil wedding ceremonies with use of the Linda McCartney memorial garden in its grounds.

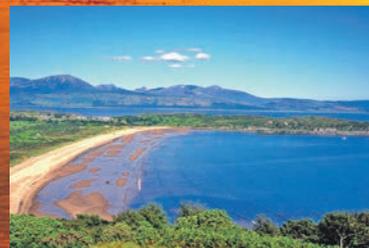
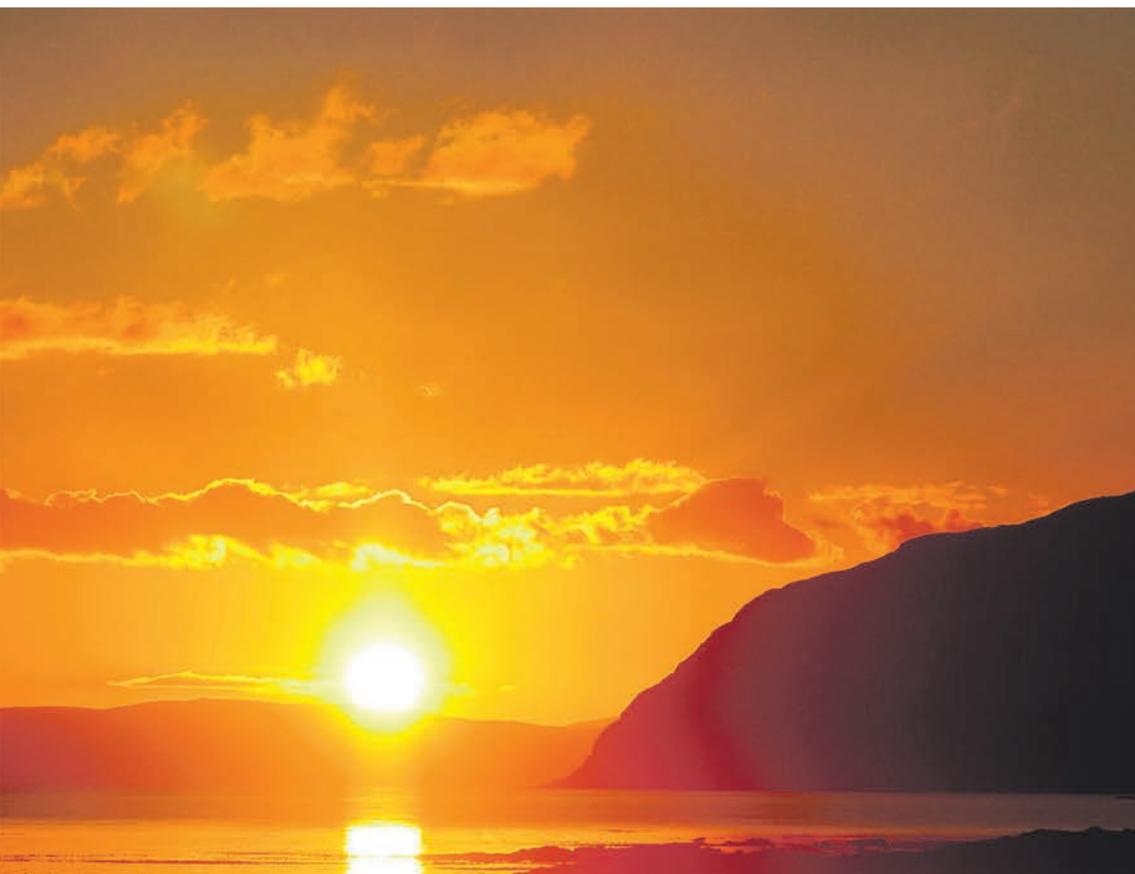
One of the oldest cinemas in the world has been renovated into a two-screen complex and will soon be opening and thriving again in the post-pandemic era.

The centre of town is packed full of independent shops to browse and cafes and eateries to enjoy; with recent investment in renovations has a fresh look and a great buzz about the place.

Campbeltown Bay is an incredible natural harbour and in the season has ferry links to Arran and the Ayrshire coast with a vehicle ferry and the increasingly popular passenger fast rib service to Northern Ireland.

The harbour and its new pontoons are a great place to visit; watch the yachts and ferries come and go, visit the lifeboat station, see the fishing boats bring in their catches and the massive cargo ships load up with timber or check to see which Royal Navy ships or Fishery Protection Vessels are paying a visit.

Or check the tides and walk across the Dhorlin, the natural causeway to Davaar Island to visit the historic cave painting of the Crucifixion – remember: check the tide table.



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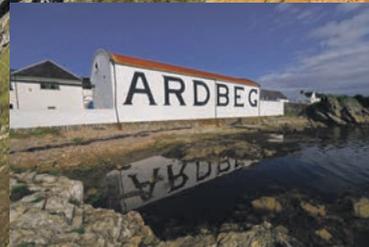
THE ISLANDS

Fancy an island holiday? Well, we have got plenty to offer and so have the islands.

There are 23 inhabited islands in the council region of Argyll and Bute, the 2011 census said. Can you name them all? *

(Big hint: everyone forgets that little one on Loch Lomond).

Each one of them offers its own blend of bustling villages, great beaches, stunning scenery, wildlife on land and sea, and clear night skies. You just have to find the island mix that suits you best.



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Golf, whisky and migrating seabirds? Head for Islay. Mull for sea eagles, marine wildlife, the bustle of Tobermory and an excellent selection of shops and eateries; Coll and Colonsay for dark skies, Tiree for the wind-surfing and water sports, Jura for deer and whisky; Iona for the abbey and its spiritual landscape, Gigha and Lismore for their incredible micro-climates and gardens, and all the wee islands in between for great days out or longer stays.

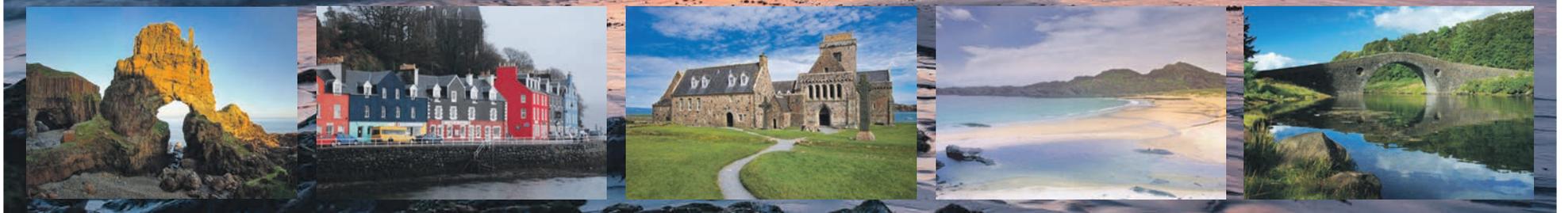
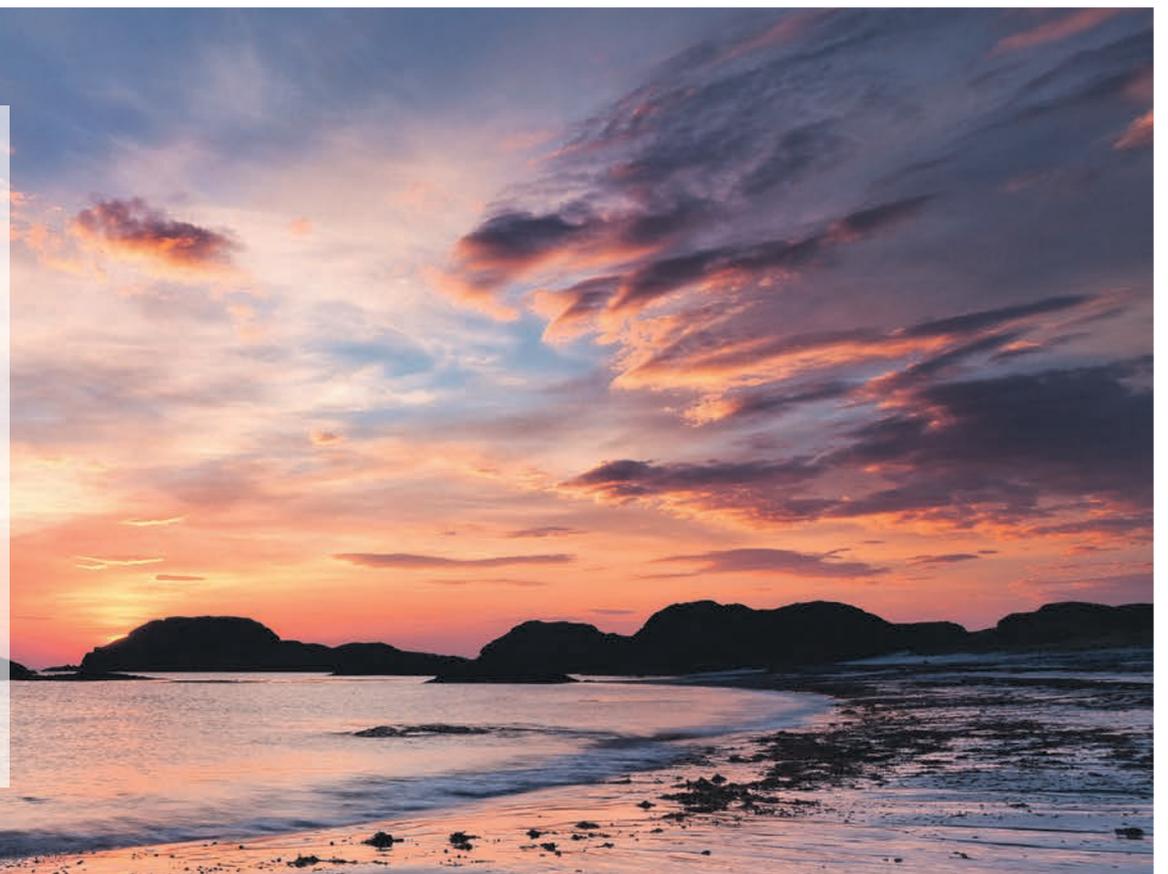
Don't think that it is all tranquil all the time; some of these islands are parties waiting to happen. The craic is phenomenal at festivals and with live music in bars and hotels as and when conditions allow. For one weekend on Mull you could be forgiven for thinking you have walked into an episode of Top Gear when the island's motorsport rally takes place.

Unless you fly – and we have a great number of airports – you will be using a ferry. This could be Caledonian MacBrayne on boats large and small or one of the passenger-only or car ferries run by Argyll and Bute Council or private operators.

The crossing is part of the fun and makes your holiday feel all the more special – you leave all the worries behind on the mainland.

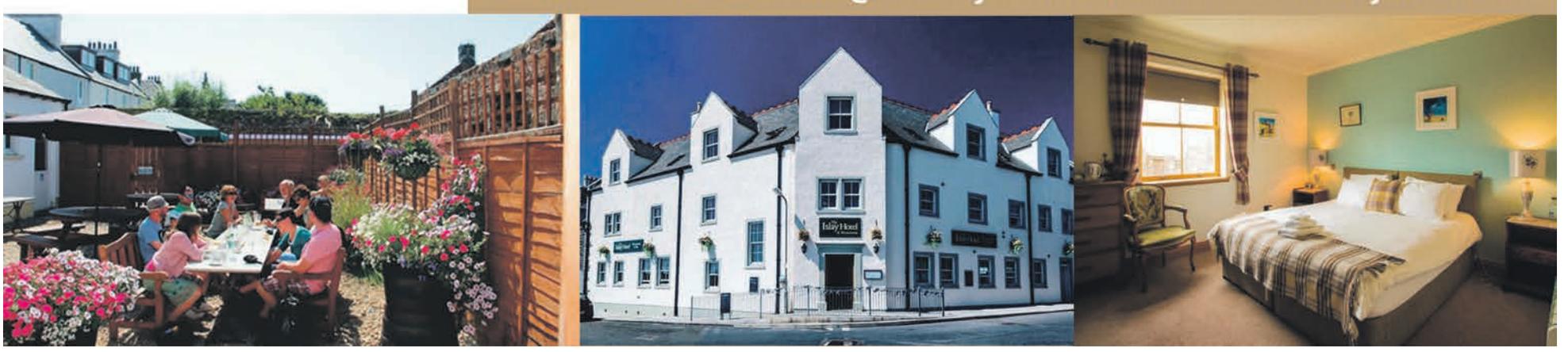
And never forget that a ferry is not just for islands – it can be the quickest route between peninsulas.

*Bute, Coll, Colonsay, Danna, Easdale, Eilean da Mheinn, Erraid, Gigha, Gometra, Inchtavannach, Innischoonan, Iona, Islay, Jura, Kerrera, Lismore, Luìng, Mull, Oronsay, Seil, Shuna, Tiree and Ulva. (Remember some of the smaller islands are private).



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THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Arran, known as 'Scotland in Miniature' is one big breathtaking experience. It is a superb holiday destination for the whole family with its many beaches, castles and castle ruins, Goatfell Mountain, golf courses (seven of them!), play parks, a whisky distillery, brewery, miles of walking and cycling trails, watersports, horseriding...the list is endless. When it comes to beaches there are very many, but among the top three (in our opinion) is Blackwaterfoot Beach on the west coast of the island. A short walk from the small car park next to the Kinloch Hotel will take you past the golf course onto a beautiful expanse of golden sand to wander along and play in.

Tel: 01770 302113
Arran Active  facebook.com/arranactive
 Email: info@arranactive.co.uk
www.arranactive.co.uk

More than just an Outdoor Shop

Arran Active is the west coast's largest independent outdoor shop. Situated in Brodick, we specialise in outdoor gear, with a wide range of footwear & clothing for all ages and budgets, as well as camping gear, accessories and swimwear. New for 2021 - O'Neill Wetsuits.

But there is much more besides outdoor gear, including fashion clothing and footwear, organic cottonwear, Arran whisky & gin and Arran-branded merchandise. Arran Active staff always offer a friendly and expert service!



Open throughout the year, 7 days a week
 Shore Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran. KA27 8AJ



Arran Active

Arran Active, the West Coast's largest independent retailer, is looking forward to a busy season, where the emphasis will be on being outdoors. As ever, they have clothing, footwear and accessories to suit whatever conditions the Arran weather throws at us, and new for this year is a "Summer Shop" with wetsuits, aqua shoes, rash vests, bodyboards, sunhats, flip flops, etc. As last summer, camping looks like being very popular again and Arran Active have an extensive range of tents, camping furniture and accessories and new for this year is O'Neill wetsuits. Andrew and his team look forward to welcoming you back and, as ever, they will do all they can to ensure a happy and safe shopping experience.



Another hidden gem is Kilmory Beach accessed by a small parth at Kilmory. Head down the farm track at Torrlinn, or via 'Lovers Lane' to find this lovely spot. Everyone is doing what they can to ensure a safe and warm welcome. Covid-19 has thrown up a myriad challenges for businesses on Arran this year – but they continue to work hard to ensure that they stick to the government guidelines for the safety of their staff, locals and visitors. Whatever you choose to do on your doorstep this summer, breathe in the air and smile, because you are on Arran.



Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd

Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd is delighted that its Lochranza and Lagg Visitor Centres have reopened, with both of the Visitor Centre shops and takeaway cafes open. Both Lochranza and Lagg Distilleries have indoor sit down café facilities and daily tastings available. These must be booked in advance as both will be following all Scottish Government guidance on Covid safety measures and restricted numbers.

You can book for Lochranza by contacting bookings@arranwhisky.com or calling 01770 830264 and for Lagg on bookings@laggwhisky.com or 01770 870565.



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ARRAN TOP 10!



Brodict Castle

Home to formal gardens, woodlands and waterfalls as well as an adventure playground, this baronial castle is packed with treasures and offers spectacular views over Brodict Bay and beyond.



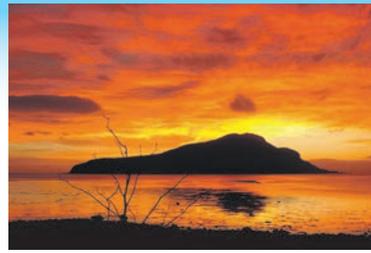
Goat Fell

Arran's highest mountain is a highlight of the dramatic landscape that has led to Arran's title of Scotland in Miniature. The island's highest point, at 2866ft, it provides panoramic views of the island and out to sea.



Lamlash

The island's attractive main settlement hugs its eastern shore and is well equipped with a supermarket and leisure facilities which include a golf club, yacht club, bowling club, and a seaside playground.



Holy Island

Travel from Arran to this place of pilgrimage which has a spiritual heritage stretching back to the 6th century. Enjoy the tranquillity and spot wild goats and Eriskay ponies at the nature reserve. holysisle.org



Arran Coastal Way

This long-distance walking trail is an ideal way to experience the highlights of Arran's landscape on foot. The 65-mile circular path is mostly off road and covers landscape from beach, to moors and mountains. Coastalway.co.uk



Red squirrels

Arran has become one of 19 national strongholds for this iconic species, which was introduced to the island (which has no competing greys) a few years ago. Look out for them in conifer woodland and around Brodict Castle.



Follow in the king's footsteps

King's Cave, nestled in sandstone cliffs on Arran's west coast, is said to be where King Robert the Bruce was famously inspired by the determination of a spider. At Kingscross Point on Whiting Bay, the king reportedly began the final push of his campaign.



Glen Sannox Memorial

A memorial in front of Hamilton Terrace in Glen Sannox marks the date in 1829 when 86 local crofters were forced to leave for Canada, because of the Highland Clearances.



Machrie Moor Stone Circles

This collection of six standing stones date back to neolithic times. The moor also features historic standing stones, burial cairns and cists.



Taste

Arran Brewery is a micro-brewery on the island's east coast which offers tours and tastings. The island also boasts a reputation for artisan produce, especially cheese, oatcakes and ice cream. Taste of Arran in Brodict is a showcase for local producers.

NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

Brodict Castle, Gardens and Country Park are excited to welcome you back to visit

The Gardens, Country Park and Playpark are open from 10-5pm daily, the Castle itself is open Saturday to Tuesday 11-4pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Brodict Castle

Brodict Castle, Gardens and Country Park are excited to welcome you to visit. There is plenty to see and enjoy at the property. Explore the gardens and grounds, the colours from the extensive collection of Rhododendrons are very impressive at the moment. Take in a tour of the Castle to see the wide selection of art on display and discover how the Hamilton family lived. Or simply enjoy a visit to our Isle be Wild adventure play park. The woodland café is also open, offering a selection of takeaway food.

The Gardens, Country Park and Playpark are open from 10-5pm daily, the Castle itself is open Saturday to Tuesday 11-4pm (last entry 3.30pm).



THE STAYCATION BUCKET LIST ✓

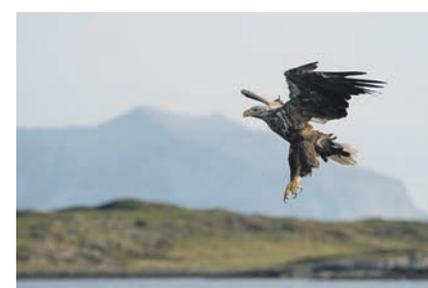
Take time to enjoy:

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- get butter dripping off your fingers and chin eating seafood at one of our famous 'shacks'
- buy from a village shop
- learn to appreciate good malt whisky by touring a distillery
- watch fishing boats land their catches
- buy fresh meat, fish, veg, cheese produced here

- see eagles and sea eagles!
- watch dolphins and whales
- sit still quietly and long enough to spot an otter
- go out into the night away from lights and watch the stars
- take home some tweed or tartan
- buy a woolly-pully

And if restrictions allow ...

- go to a ceilidh
- hear a pipe band
- visit a Highland games
- stroll around an agricultural show



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SEE > BETTER PLACE

Back in the saddle for Kilberry Loop Sportive

The third Kilberry Loop Sportive will go ahead on Saturday August 7, the organisers have confirmed.

This 40-mile ride, organised by Mid Argyll Triathlon and Cycle Club and registered with British Cycling, has been a firm favourite with cyclists of all ages and abilities since it was first staged in 2018.

Starting at The Gather, Tarbert, the sportive route first takes cyclists north, out of the village, on the A83 before heading onto the B8024 single track road. For competitive cyclists this is a challenging route, but for those who are taking it a bit easier there are lots of photo opportunities as breathtaking views over Jura, Islay and Gigha are around every corner.

Cyclists then head east before following the West Loch Tarbert coast road north, past Tarbert Golf Club, before turning back onto the A83 to return to The Gather.

Event organiser John Hardie said he was 'thrilled and delighted' to be getting back to cycling following the cancellation of the 2020 event due to the pandemic. He continued: 'Thanks go to our sponsors Tarbert Enterprise Company, Tarbert Harbour Authority and William Duncan and Co for their continued support.'

To find out more about the Kilberry Loop Sportive, including booking your place, visit British Cycling's website.

Dreaming of the Masters, with a bacon roll along the way

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

His golf bag might be just about bigger than him, but don't underestimate the ability of young Connor McCrae.

The golf-mad nine-year-old is fast rising through the ranks in the Stephen Gallacher Foundation series of junior golf events, in which he has been competing for just the last two months.

Earlier this month, Connor had his most successful day yet in a Gallacher event at Linlithgow, taking first place in the under-10 event with an outstanding one-under-par 35. His score, in fact, bettered those competing in the under-12 section from across Scotland.

With his latest, win Connor moves up the rankings, opening the door for him to play in strokeplay events.

Such is his level of skill that he plays with adult members at his home Tarbert Golf Club. All this after playing golf for just a year.

'He was a natural as soon as he started,' said club president and captain Kenny MacFarlane.



Hitting with style - a perfect drive.

51_a22ConnorMcCrae11

Connor with a clutch of medals from his short golfing career.

51_a22ConnorMcCrae05

'It was evident for everyone to see. He hits the ball so well and he's a well-mannered boy too.'

Connor remains unfazed by it all. A man of few words, he prefers to do his talking on the course.

Asked what the best thing is about competing in golfing competitions around the country, he replied: 'You get a bacon roll.'

Dad Calum, also a member at Tarbert, said: 'He doesn't say much, but he's dedicated to his golf. He's at his happiest when he's playing golf.'

Even football has been sidelined. Calum explained: 'He comes home from school, gets the golf gear on and gets out to practice, seven days a week. He's obsessed by golf and he's not being pushed by me or his mum.'

Now coached by David Orr in Newton Mearns, Glasgow, Connor is not a youngster who hits and hopes around a golf course. He thinks his way round, with a yardage book for every hole.

Kenny said: 'It's so refreshing to see Connor developing and it's great for the club.'

The club captain is keen to see young golfers getting involved at Tarbert and junior

lessons at the club have been a big success, with tutors Kenny himself, Calum McCrae and Craig Barrett guiding an exciting crop of enthusiastic youngsters.

Connor, whose favourite players are Tiger Woods and Bob MacIntyre, plays his next Stephen Gallacher event at Glenbervie on May 30.

His ultimate dream, however, is to compete at the US Masters.

With his talent and dedication, it would seem a distinct possibility.

But will they serve bacon rolls at Augusta National?

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Fresh Connection

Telephone: 01586 553220



Lorraine MacFarlane

Owner



Lorraine MacFarlane has expanded her own business Fresh Connection and the business she shares with her sister, The Treehouse, into new and larger premises.

Fresh Connection, florists, was well established before Lorraine took over 16 years ago. Now in new premises on Main Street, Campbeltown, the range has been expanded to include not only flowers, plants and gifts but cards and a café.

The workforce includes two trainee florists alongside experienced staff.

Lorraine swapped office work for retail and never looked back. Becoming her own boss has enabled her to work around family life and avoid the stress of office life.

'My advice is to do a lot of market research and listen to your customers.'

'You have to look at core products, sold every day as well as seasonal. You also have to believe in what you are going to do and trying to achieve.' This sees her and team travelling to tradeshows, ordering well in advance.

Lorraine says remember to pay attention to the fine details and appearance.

'Image is important, it helps sell your business. Take pride in it and create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. But be prepared to work hard and put in the hours.'

Treehouse, where sister Julie Eastaugh oversees finance, administration and the website while Lorraine handles the day-to-day work, has moved into larger premises also on Main Street and expanded its range of gifts and accessories.

“Image is important, it helps sell your business. Take pride in it and create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.”

“Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world”

Hilary Clinton



“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do and liking how you do it”

Maya Angelou



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WOMEN WHO MAKE IT WORK

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Stefanie Griffiths

Consultant



Islay-based Stefanie Griffiths has extended her Slimming World consultancy to cover not only the island and neighbouring Jura but also Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

Stefanie knows and trusts the franchise through and through; she successfully lost weight as a client herself and could see how effective it was.

'You provide advice and support to people to help them develop a healthy lifestyle. This is not one of those fad diets like some of the things out there. It is a proven method of helping people.

'I was a Slimming World member and lost weight and I decided to train as a consultant and from there formed by own group with my own members.'

Her consultancy has worked through the Covid lockdown via social media and she has now taken over the groups in Campbeltown and Lochgilphead. These meet on Monday morning and afternoon respectively. The Islay and Jura meetings are on Tuesdays at 5pm and 7pm.

Stefanie is no stranger to being self-employed; her parents were licensees of The Black Cat, one of Greenock's oldest pubs, and she took over the licence from them. Her father still helps to co-manage the establishment and her parents have always been great supporters of her work.

'Go for it, that's my advice,' said Stefanie. 'Remember that a lot of things you will only learn by experience. You can study the theory but won't truly learn until you have experienced it in real life.

'Just have the confidence in yourself. You can do it.'

"I was a Slimming World member and lost weight and I decided to train as a consultant and from there formed by own group with my own members."

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
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Civic pride back on track

It has taken many years to get to this point and the plans have changed shape a number of times, but it is really good news that Lochgilphead front green is, at last, about to get its upgrade.

Lochgilphead Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council and others deserve huge credit for keeping the project moving, despite the odd setback.

We shouldn't expect miracles though, as much of the cash will be spent on unseen underground drainage and groundwork - but the green will be a lot smarter and useful by the end.

Lochgilphead is getting the attention it has lacked for too long, and it is brilliant to see the various improvement schemes helping put pride back in the town.

The 'people's helicopter'

Sir,
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has reached its eighth anniversary - after a year like no other.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, our Helimed crews have never missed a beat, maintaining our emergency helicopter air ambulance service across Scotland's mainland and island communities. We've enhanced our service with the launch of a new aircraft - Helimed 79 in Aberdeen last year - which has already had a huge impact on pre-hospital care in the Grampian and Highland and Island regions.

In our busiest year ever, our aircrew have endured challenging working conditions, with additional procedures and cumbersome protective and safety equipment as they go about an already difficult and stressful job. But they're not complaining. This is what the Scottish public ask of them, to save and improve lives, wherever the need arises, and they fulfil their role with courage and pride.

Our exemplary performance during this na-

tional crisis has been a tribute to how far SCAA has come in just eight years and I am immensely proud of what the SCAA team has achieved.

But our operational teams are acutely aware we are only able to provide this critical service thanks to the continued public donations which you have maintained throughout these difficult times. So you're the real heroes in our charity.

SCAA is the people's helicopter - funded by the people of Scotland, for the people of Scotland - and our two frontline aircraft are stood by ready to help you, your family, your friends, colleagues, neighbours or anyone in your community when you most need us.

As we mark our eighth birthday we're asking the people of Scotland, if they can, to support us into the future. Any donation, however small, to celebrate our anniversary will help to save a life - just like the numerous lives we have already saved over almost 3,000 missions.

SCAA vows to continue to transform emergency care in Scotland, particularly to our rural and island communities, with your support.

John Bullough, chairman, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

Long term ferry solutions

Sir,
An investigation by the Herald newspaper recently uncovered that 'just over half of Scotland's lifeline ferry network is operating outwith its working life expectancy', with 16 vessels out of 31 in operation more than 25 years old.

Despite the huge challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic that our hard-working ferry crews have to deal with, residents rightly expect a high quality ferry service that runs on time and has enough space to ensure residents can travel to and from the islands, businesses can transport goods to the mainland and tourists can visit our islands to boost the economy.

Unfortunately, cancellations and delays continue to plague routes. I have been working closely with residents, community councils and other parties to find long-term solutions.

This pressing matter simply can't be left on the backburner.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands.

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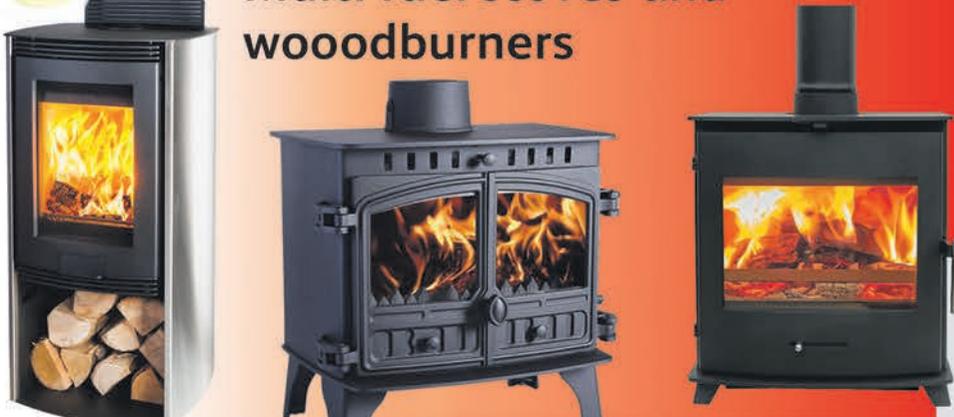
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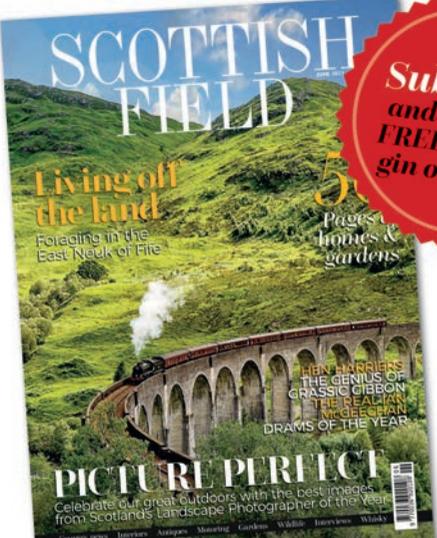





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Thought for the Week

'Which biblical character do you most relate to?'

This was one of the questions explored last Sunday at our Springbank Evangelical Church meeting in Campbeltown.

It was enlightening and interesting to listen to the variety of responses.

One member of the congregation admitted she had sympathy for the disciple Thomas and identified with his reaction to the news that, after three days, Jesus had risen from the tomb.

The Bible tells us Thomas said: 'Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' (John chapter 20 verse 25)

A week later, when Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him his wounds, He imparted a deep and significant lesson to us all as he uttered a short, challenging sentence: 'How happy are those who believe without seeing me.'

Poor Thomas. Did he feel embarrassed in front of his friends who did not share his doubts? Did he feel ashamed that his faith had not remained resolute or was he able to put those feelings aside and share the joy of the risen Lord?

We know Thomas responded with the words: 'My Lord and my God.'

More than 2,000 years later, we may feel embarrassed if our faith falters and doubts set in.

However, we should focus on the happiness of which Jesus speaks.

Have the strength and hope to echo the words of Thomas: 'My Lord and my God.'

Do not beat yourself up for doubting – have the strength to believe.

**Springbank Evangelical Church,
Campbeltown.**

ISLAY

An Islay whisky distillery has been given permission by council chiefs to add to its storage space.

Kilchoman Distillery applied to Argyll and Bute Council to build a single bonded warehouse on land south-east of its premises.

Objections were made that there was evidence of golden eagle activity nearby, with concerns also raised over the potential impact on natural habitats.

But council planning officers gave it the thumbs up with a finding there was 'little evidence' of the site being used by protected species.

A council officer said: 'There were representations made regarding the welfare of the protected wildlife and the proposer has outlined mitigation in place or planned.'

'The area, being predominantly rush and grass, is generally not used by chough and corncrake.'

'However, there is a chough hut around 700 metres away from the proposed warehouse that is used by a pair of chough.'

'During recent work at the distillery the chough have continued to nest and breed.'

'The applicant has used information from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) studies to look at the neighbouring farm to target resources at improving the area's corncrake actual use.'

OBAN

A new tourism and hospitality group has been set up for Oban.

Oban Tourism Group (OTG) has been created from the Oban, Lorn and Tourism Alliance (OLTA) organisation with BID4Oban as a co-founder. The change comes as many of OLTA's functions were taken on this year by the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), a regional destination management organisation.

Oban's Neil Mackay, who served as chairman of OLTA, remains as the new chairman of Oban Tourism Group, which will also have a seat around the AITC board to champion the area.

Oban Tourism Group will largely act as an advisory and promotional group with a focus



Kilchoman Distillery has been given permission by council chiefs to build a new warehouse.

on local activities, events and festivals. One of the tourism group's first achievements is the replacement of the webcam at the Northern Lighthouse Board to provide better quality images of the area and securing the future of its ongoing running costs and that of its neighbouring camera on the North Pier which will be met by BID4Oban.

The purchase of the camera follows a successful £3,500 online fundraising campaign backed with donations by more than 90 supporters.

ARROCHAR

A councillor's hopes of having a Loch Lomond-side bus service extended to Arrochar have been dashed by 'legislation', community chiefs have heard.

Lomond North councillor Iain S Paterson queried the possibility of Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) extending the 305 service, which runs from Alexandria and Balloch to Luss.

But Allan Comrie, senior transport planner with SPT, said commercial services operated

by another company prevented that from happening. As well as those commercial services, which are operated under the Scottish Citylink banner between Glasgow and either Campbeltown or Oban, a bus service also operates from Helensburgh to Arrochar three times a day, continuing from the village to either Succoth or Carrick Castle.

The discussion took place at a virtual meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Helensburgh and Lomond community planning group on May 20.

Councillor Paterson said: 'A couple of years ago I wrote to SPT about extending the bus service to Luss and why it could not be extended to Arrochar and Tarbet.'

'I don't have the email in front of me, but why is it that the service from Balloch, terminating at Luss, cannot be extended?'

Mr Comrie replied: 'I take your point, which is very well made, but we are hamstrung by legislation.'

'There are commercial services and for us, as a public body, it would not be in our best interests to run separate bus services.'

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Action needed to stop lamb deaths

Urgent action is needed to stop lambs being killed by a growing population of white-tailed eagles.

Farmer Fiona Boa on Mull recently lost five lambs in a week to the raptors that she and others say have become 'far too densely populated' and are damaging their livelihoods.

'It's not just the dent to income, it's all the hours of extra work it causes to keep our stock safe. It's getting out of control now.'

White-tailed eagles were reintroduced 40 years ago on Rum but have made their way to Mull and further afield. They are also one of the island's big tourist attractions.

But Fiona, who farms at Dervaig, added: 'Even many of those for whom tourism

is their main income would agreed that Mull now has too many of them. When they were first introduced, there must've been a plan of what to do if it got too successful. I'd like to know what that plan was.'

David Colthart, chairman of the Argyll and Lochaber Sea Eagle stakeholder group, says 'it is not fully appreciated by the public the negative impact of the reintroduction of white-tailed eagles has had, adding 'in some hill flocks the level of killing by some of these birds is unsustainable'. 'As a farmer, like others, I have experienced first hand the devastating impact these birds can have on your flock and personally feel it is not acceptable that we as farmers and crofters are paying the price of a species reintro-



Farmers say the numbers of white-tailed eagles is getting out of control.

Photograph: David Colthart.

duction where the impacts weren't fully thought through,' he said.

NFU Scotland says more needs to be done to deliver a revised white-tailed eagle action plan being led by NatureScot.

The union has written to NatureScot voicing frustration that despite efforts to try out ways to deter predators, lambs are continuing to be lost with some farmers and crofters experiencing substantial impacts on their flocks.

An escalating range of licensable actions on birds which habitually target livestock now need to be 'a more accessible option', says NFU Scotland, with humanely killing problem birds as the last resort.

But Duncan Orr-Ewing, head of species and land management for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland, said the comments from NFUS were 'disappointing' as a new White-tailed Eagle Action Plan 2021-4, which NFUS was involved in,

is about to be published by NatureScot.

He said: 'This plan committed all partners to continuing to explore white-tailed eagle management options within the context of the evidence around livestock predation, licensing requirements and the need to protect the population of these wonderful birds - important in their own right but also for local economies through green tourism. The scheme also commits NatureScot to the continuation of public payment to agricultural producers - currently running at £300k per annum - through the Sea Eagle Management Scheme.

'While there is some localised evidence of livestock predation involving a relatively small number of white-tailed eagle

breeding pairs, serious agricultural damage is very hard to establish in practice and this subject is therefore not as clear cut as NFUS assert.'

NFUS president Martin Kennedy said members are frustrated by the lack of progress to date, particularly in relation to the management of the birds. 'We need urgent delivery and implementation of key actions,' he said.

A NatureScot spokesperson said: 'We understand the concerns of farmers and crofters, and continue to work closely with them and a range of stakeholders to offer management support through the Sea Eagle Management Scheme and to trial management techniques which can help reduce these negative impacts.'



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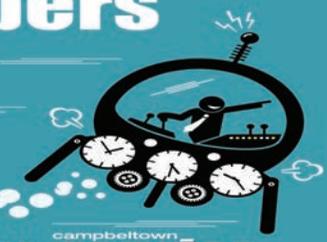


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NFU Mutual staff ready to greet clients at new office

Staff at Campbeltown's NFU Mutual agency have moved to a new office on the ground floor of Hazelburn Business Park.

Their new base occupies the former Hazelburn Distillery manager's offices and has been refurbished to make sure many of the interesting and unique original features have been retained.

The agency is open, following Covid-19 safety guidelines, and the team is looking forward to welcoming customers and NFU Scotland members to its new office.

Chris Hustwaite, agent at NFU Mutual Campbeltown, said: 'We are delighted to officially open our new office. We're already feeling at home having only moved down to the ground floor.'

'Our new office provides a dedicated meeting room,



NFU Mutual Campbeltown staff are settling into their new office.

private meeting space and a great open plan reception area making it easier for people to do business with us. We look forward to welcoming

our policyholders and NFU Scotland members to our new office, so please do drop in.'

For more information on NFU Mutual insurance servic-

es, contact the Campbeltown agency on 01586 552428, visit www.nfumutual.co.uk/campbeltown or pop into the new office.

Federation welcomes new appointment

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has welcomed the appointment of Mairi Gougeon, right, to her new role as Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.

SCF chairman Donald MacKinnon said: 'We welcome Mairi Gougeon as Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands. We are sad to see Fergus Ewing go as a strong rapport builds up with time and he had a good feel for crofting, but we are confident Ms Gougeon has the experience and capacity to get to know crofting and our islands and to take them into consideration in forming policy. We need to see all policy 'croft-proofed' and 'island-proofed' before it is enacted.'

'There is much to be done. We have an immediate threat in the form of unbridled access to our markets for meat from Australia and possibly New Zealand. This would be catastrophic for crofting and hill production.'

'And what will our post-CAP agricultural support system



look like? There has been an advisory group after advisory group commissioned to offer recommendations on direction of travel but we have yet to see a plan for where we are going with this. Time is running out.'

'The SCF put many proposals to the parties before the Scottish Government election for what we would like to see the in-coming government commit to and they still stand.'

'High up with agricultural support comes the reform of crofting legislation and the National Development Plan for Crofting - both of which this government has pledged it will do in this term of office. It is essential we get on with these three things.'

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ACCESS TO ARGYLL AND BUTE (A83) STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

As per Section 16(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Scottish Government is now consulting on the documents relating to the Access to Argyll and Bute (A83) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). All documentation, including the Environmental Report, can be viewed at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/strategic-environmental-assessment-a83-access-to-argyll-and-bute/>

Feedback on these documents can now be submitted by email to A83@jacobs.com, by phone on 07999 948736, or by mail to Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF. We ask that views be submitted by the close of the consultation period on 8 July 2021. If further information is required on the Environmental Report, please contact SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Source: Business Choice 1, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. 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
21/00759/PP	Erection of storage building and re-painting cladding, windows and doors	Site 11A, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8RR
21/00868/PP	Public realm improvements to spaces associated with the two community halls and along the waterfront with associated tree planting, seating and cycle racks. Reorganising of the car park to free up space and create better links between waterfront and town. Relocation of the bus stop to create space for an improved and safer crossing point over the A83.	Public Realm Areas, Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, Argyll And Bute

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

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



FUNDING ALERT for Residents of West Kintyre

BURSARIES - are you leaving school but going on to University, College or taking up an apprenticeship?

if so we may be able to help with a bursary of £1000 per annum.

and

NEW SMALL BUSINESS START-UP GRANTS
Are you setting up a new small business in West Kintyre? If so we may be able to help with a start-up grant.

For an application form see:

www.westkintyrecommunitycouncil.org
or contact: margaretpratt@btinternet.com

Closing date: 30th June 2021

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Peter McKerral & Co Ltd of Darloch Yard, Kilkenzie, Campbeltown PA28 6NT is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 15 trailers at: Craigs Farm, Glencaigs, Campbeltown PA28 6QB. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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RECRUITMENT



Project Worker – Housing
FTE Salary £27,300

Working 3 days per week for 40 weeks Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust want to appoint a Project Worker – Housing with experience of working with communities to advance the case for Tarbert and Skipness to address the housing needs of our communities by:

- Helping to secure a phased programme of house improvement and development of all tenures that meets local priorities
- Engaging the community, developers, statutory and voluntary organisations to maximise the delivery of housing in Tarbert and Skipness.

The service can be provided on a direct employment, self-employment or freelance basis. The contract will initially be until the end of March 2022.

For further information please contact info@tsct.co.uk for an information pack.
Closing date Friday 18th June.

BONNAR SAND & GRAVEL
Job Opportunities

Tipper Driver
Current Class 2 LGV Licence
Experience essential

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For routine repairs and maintenance of diesel HGVs and quarry plant & equipment

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To manage traffic and materials in and out the quarry, To answer customer calls and support the Quarry Manager

Quarry & Plant Operator
A practical and hands on role, running the quarry plant and equipment

Applications in writing, email or by telephone to Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd, Clachan Quarry, Cairndow, PA26 8BH
E: info@bonnar.com - 01499 600268
or out of hours D Bonnar Snr on 07860 522906



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Email info@northargyllhouse.org




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DEATHS

BELL - Unexpectedly at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on May 5, 2021, Reverend Douglas William Bell, in his 94th year, of Cairnbaan Lea, Cairnbaan, By Lochgilphead. Retired Church of Scotland Minister previously of Alexandria North Parish Church, Balloch and locum at North Knapdale Church and former partner at Ramsay, Menzies and Wilson, Glasgow. Beloved and loving husband of Helen Strachan, dearly loved father of Rachel and Mark and much respected father-in-law of Iain. Adored Grandpa of Duncan, Findlay and Christopher. A dear

neighbour, great friend and mentor to many in the community. A private family funeral will take place from Tayvallich Church on May 31, 2021, thereafter to Carsaig Cemetery, Tayvallich. For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral cortège will leave from Tayvallich Parish Church approximately 12.30/12.45pm on route to Carsaig Cemetery.

CRAWFORD - Ile Crawford (née Weir), peacefully at home, at Blarghour Farm, Lochaweside on May 24, 2021, aged 82 years. Beloved wife of the late Ernie, loving Mum to Catriona, Isobel and Elspeth, Granny to Finlay

and Innes and sister to the late Lexa MacCallum, Willie Weir and Mary Forgive. A graveside service will be held at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally on Monday, May 31 (in line with Covid restrictions).

IN MEMORIAM

LIDLAW COFFIELD - May 30, 2000

Missed every day

- Martin and family

MCDUGALL - In loving memory of our beloved mother and granny,

Mary McDougall, who passed away May 27, 2010.

Always in our thoughts.

- Donald, Sandra, Joe, Jem, Katie and Alisdair.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. —Jeremiah 29:13

In person..... or Online...? Our building is open and our Service will be in the church

on **Sunday, 30th May 2021 at 11am**

when Kelvin Moller from Clachan will be preaching.

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.kintyreprishes.org.uk

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SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings are **Sunday 30th May** 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 30th May 2021 11am

Rev Robert McLeod
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask.

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 30th May 11.15am Worship Service
Ciaran Kelleher

11.15am Sunday School
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)

Wednesday 2nd June 12.00 noon Prayer & Bible Study

Covid-19 guidelines apply
All welcome
www.campbeltownfree-church.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



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.northknapdale.org

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686

Sunday 30th May Morning Worship 11. 15am

Rev W Crossan
Covid 19 Guidelines apply

There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 30th May

Tarbert - James MacLellan
Skipness - John L Morrison

There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am and Tarbert 11.30am

Please wear a face covering and stay 2 metres apart for the services

Contact 01880 820158 for pastoral care

Charity number Tarbert SC002622 Skipness SC004280

WESTLOCHFYNESIDE CHURCHES

(Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Sunday 30th May 2021 There will be a service in Cumlodden Church at 10.00am

Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace

There will be a service in Inveraray Church at 11.30am

Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace

Masks must be worn when attending church.
Charity No: SC016665

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Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

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Golf-daft Connor on course for success

Tarbert Golf Club has emerging talent in its ranks.

Primary school pupil Connor McCrae loves his golf and has impressed in the Stephen Gallacher Foundation competitions for junior players.

Turn to page 33 for more on Connor's story.

51_a22ConnorMcCrae03



Golf galore on immaculate Tarbert course

The course was in immaculate condition last weekend for the second round of the President's Cup and first round of the John Reid Quaiach at Tarbert Golf Club.

Iain Macalister was on top form, with four birdies in his round, on his way to a 70 to take first place on the day.

In-form Bruce McLean was second on 73 and Bruce MacNab third on 74.

In the John Reid Quaiach, Bruce McLean holds the first round lead on 60 nett, followed by Iain Macalister on 63 and Iain Johnstone senior on 64.

There were magic twos from Duncan Johnstone and Iain Macalister.

Braving the elements on Sunday, the ladies took part in the May Stableford with Rona Young scoring an impressive 41 points to take first place.

Sheena Ferguson was next on 35 with Helen Samborek and Georgie Dickson on 31.

This weekend has medals for both the ladies and gents, with the Harbour Gallery Gents' Open to be held the following Saturday, June 5. Bookings can be made via the SGU app.

Junior lessons continue to thrive, with club captain Kenny MacFarlane delighted with the response.

Anyone wishing to enrol should get in touch with Kenny.

Star return to action with away win

Cardross AFC	1
Lochgilphead Red Star	4
SAFL Jimmy Marshall Cup	

Lochgilphead Red Star travelled to Station Park, Cardross, last Saturday to play their first competitive match since February last year in the rearranged Jimmy Marshall Cup Group D stage.

In an understandably tense opening 10 minutes, both sides looked slightly nervous as the teams got to grips with the game after the long lay-off.

It was Star who took the lead after 12 minutes when Ciaran McPhie was quick to capitalise on a slip from the Cardross defender before racing clear and finishing emphatically past the

home side's keeper. 0-1. Star lost the services of Callum McGuinness after just 18 minutes thanks to a groin strain so manager Colin Weir opted to give Euan Finlay the nod up front for the remainder of the game.

Star should have doubled their lead before the break when Joseph Harper released Stuart MacLean, who found his effort blocked.

The rebound fell to McPhie, who missed the target from just inside the box, citing a bobble for the misplaced effort and it remained 0-1 at the break.

Into the second half and Red Star doubled their lead when Ciaran McPhie won a free kick on the edge of the box after a bizarre incident involving dissent from the Cardross keeper.

McPhie stepped up and took the free

kick, finding the back of the net with the aid of a deflection off the goalkeeper to make it 0-2.

Star were in control now and added a third after neat play involving Stuart MacLean and Euan Finlay.

This time Finlay found the bottom corner with a neat finish for his first Red Star goal.

Penalty

Cardross kept battling and gave themselves a glimmer of hope with 15 minutes remaining when they were awarded a penalty after Star failed to clear their lines. 1-3.

The last goal of the match was the best, with an excellent passing move started by Jake Weir in goals, worked through to Lee MacLean in midfield before eventually falling to Stuart MacLean,

who got the goal his all-round play deserved.

Star saw out the game in relative comfort with the back three of Coll McCallum, Aaron Moore and Andy Weir remaining resolute throughout.

Red Star welcome Dunoon Amateurs tomorrow, Saturday May 29, to Lochgilphead Joint Campus for their second of three group matches.

Kick-off is at 1pm, with local referee Jimmy Litster in charge.

**More sport
 on page 33.**



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