

Big Energy Saving Month 2021



Construction of hospital helipad gets off the ground

by Hannah O'Hanlon
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After almost three years of tireless work battling red tape, construction of a purpose-built helipad to transfer patients from Campbeltown Hospital to larger hospitals for potentially life-saving treatment is under way.

On Monday morning, McFadyen's Contractors began work on the £270,000 helipad, which will be named the Robert Black Memorial Helipad in honour of the Campbeltown paramedic who died in May last year after a battle with Covid-19.

The project was led by ambulance technician Stuart McLellan, from Neilston in East Renfrewshire, after he saw emergency services struggling to airlift patients from the often water-logged site while visiting relatives John and Dorothy Biggins in Campbeltown in 2018.

After discussions with locals, including councillors and



Stuart McLellan, the man behind the project.

community councillors who were supportive from the start, Stuart began his campaign, and in October last year, he announced that the Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads (HELP) Appeal would fund the project.



McFadyen's Contractors began construction of the Robert Black Memorial Helipad on Monday. Photograph: Kenny Craig.

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

With planning permission

granted by Argyll and Bute Council on December 23, work began on January 11.

It was important to Stuart that Kintyre companies carried out as much of the work as possible, so McFadyen's Contractors and McKinven

and Colville were appointed as the main contractors. All specialised equipment is being supplied by FEC Heliports.

Stuart told the Courier: 'At first, I thought, is this too big a project?'

'But I've never really been

beaten by a project yet so I thought I'd give it a bash.

'I'm the sort of person who thinks if a job's needing done, get it done right. There's a solution to every problem, that's the mindset I've had for this project and it seems to have worked.'

As well as support from stakeholders, Stuart has been overwhelmed by the support he has received from the community and local businesses.

'I have been inundated with positive messages,' he said. 'The support has been incredible, and we're actually still getting offers of support coming in from local businesses.'

The Ardsheel Hotel has offered to host the project team at a hugely discounted rate, Glen Scotia Distillery has offered sponsorship towards an opening event, and Beinn an Tuirc Distillers plans to release a unique bottling to raise funds for the helipad's maintenance.

Continued on page three.



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Cocaine possession

A 52-year-old man was charged with possession of a small amount of cocaine after he was searched by police at about 9.35pm on Monday January 4, in Saddell Street, Campbeltown.

Anti-social driving

About 1am on January 4, on Beech Avenue, Bowmore, a 19-year-old man was issued with an anti-social behaviour warning after a vehicle was driven in an anti-social manner with excessive exhaust noise and skidding on ice.

Officers on Islay are aware that anti-social driving is a concern to residents. Members of the public are asked to report any such incidents by telephoning 101 or to speak to officers on the island, giving details of the vehicle registration, date and time of any incidents, with brief circumstances.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on the above to phone 101 or anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Obey order or face jail, sheriff warns

A non-harassment order has been made against a 67-year-old man who would not take no for an answer and he must also pay his victim £500 compensation for the distress caused.

When he appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week, Robert Flockhart-Knox, of 10 Albyn Avenue, Campbeltown, admitted that his course of behaviour was abusive towards his ex-partner in that he repeatedly went to premises when she was there; shouted at her and, upon their relationship ending, he repeatedly contacted her, sent her a postcard and letter, left unwanted gifts on her doorstep, went to her property late in the evening and attempted to reconcile with her, knowing she did not want to reconcile, having been warned on two occasions by police officers to leave her alone.

The events happened between February 14 and October 28 last year at locations around Campbeltown, which are not named to protect the identity of the victim.

Procurator fiscal depute James Dunbar told the court that Flockhart-Knox had begun to visit charity premises where the complainer volunteered and a relationship developed.

This lasted no longer than 10 weeks and was ended by the woman because he shouted at her.

He then began to call at her home, stand on one of the two streets from where her home could be seen; send her mail, and leave gifts and flowers on her doorstep on the day of her birthday.

'The woman told the police and Flockhart-Knox was spoken to by officers and told to leave her alone,' the fiscal

Driving ban after crash with parked cars

A man has lost his driving licence and is now the subject of a community payback order after an incident which began at his home in Tayinloan.

On November 1 last year, James David Gibbs behaved aggressively towards his partner at their home, and then drove away dangerously, hitting two parked cars, while unfit due to drink or drugs.

The 41-year-old, who lives at Cara View, admitted the offences when he appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Thursday.

James Dunbar, procurator fiscal depute, said that an incident occurred at the house when Gibbs was aggressive and threatened his partner with violence.

He left the home and drove off in his employer's van, striking two parked cars as he did so. Police stopped him at Tarbert and, concerned for his health, he was taken to hospital in Lochgilphead.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes had called for reports to be prepared on Gibbs at an earlier hearing.

Gibbs' defence agent, Ruben Murdanaigum, told the sheriff: 'He takes full responsibility for, and does not minimise, what he has done and is completely ashamed.'

Sheriff Hughes placed Gibbs on a community payback order for 12 months, during which he must engage with social workers on his rehabilitation to make sure there is no reoccurrence of his actions, and carry out 200 hours of unpaid work within 18 months.

He was also given two 12-month driving disqualifications which will run concurrently.



Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

said, and added that when Flockhart-Knox did not he was arrested and charged.

He told the police he did not think he had done anything wrong.

Defence agent Charles Drummond said Flockhart-Knox was attempting reconciliation and 'he should have known better'.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Flockhart-Knox that custody was always a consideration

when he saw the word 'domestic' in a libel accompanied by a record like his. The sheriff handed down a fine of £400 as well as the £500 compensation order. He also imposed a non-harassment order lasting five years, during which Flockhart-Knox must not contact or attempt to contact his victim by any means.

'A breach will result in custody,' Sheriff Hughes warned him.

Trouble at police office after arrest

A man who was under arrest got himself into more trouble, Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard last Wednesday.

Daniel McSporry, of 7F Hillside Road, Campbeltown, admitted acting in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing and struggling with police officers, and uttering homophobic remarks on November 5 last year at Campbeltown

Police Office. Police had called at McSporry's home on another matter, and had cause to arrest him.

On their arrival at Campbeltown Police Office, the 31-year-old became abusive towards officers and these included homophobic and sexual comments.

On being told that he was being charged, McSporry told the police: 'What? For

calling him a ****ing nonce?' McSporry's defence agent, Charles Drummond, said: 'He struggles with alcohol.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence until February 4 for reports to be prepared on McSporry.

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Solar panels help water treatment works go green

by Hannah O'Hanlon
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

Green energy is helping to power a Scottish Water facility in Campbeltown.

A £94,000 investment made by Scottish Water's commercial subsidiary, Scottish Water Horizons, has seen 174 roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels installed at Campbeltown Water Treatment Works.

Once treated, water from the facility is delivered to around 3,923 residential and business properties in the area.

This carbon-reducing technology will offset 16 per cent of the electricity required to operate the facility, with the new solar PV system generating 0.05GWhr of energy on an annual basis – that's the same amount of energy needed to boil around 5,000 kettles and save 13 CO2 equivalent tonnes of carbon per annum.

Ian Piggott, project manager at Scottish Water Horizons, led the project delivery. He said: 'We're happy to announce the successful completion of this project which was delivered



The carbon reducing technology will offset 16 per cent of the electricity required to operate the facility.

by renewable energy solutions specialists Absolute Solar and Wind on behalf of Scottish Water Horizons.

'PV power is instrumental in helping to tackle climate change and reducing our carbon footprint and schemes like this go a long way towards helping us to achieve that.'

An electric vehicle charging point was also installed to accompany the renewables

scheme, supporting the transition of Scottish Water's fleet of vans away from fossil fuels to clean energy.

Morag Maclaurin, Scottish Water operations team leader for the north area, said: 'Sustainable solutions such as this are great news for the environment and also for our customers.'

'Water in the Campbeltown area is now being supplied

with a lower carbon impact than ever before, helping local communities become greener and more sustainable.'

The PV scheme in Campbeltown joins a long list of schemes already installed at many treatment works and other Scottish Water assets across Scotland.

To date, 9.2 megawatts of PV power has been installed at 47 sites, generating 7.2 gigawatt hours of renewable energy every year – that's equivalent to powering 1,900 homes.

Scottish Water has committed to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040 with an interim target to host or self-generate three times its annual electricity consumption by 2030.

Currently more than 76 of Scottish Water's water and waste water treatment works are now either self-sufficient or partly sufficient in their power requirements.

Councillor Kelly pushes ahead with year-round ferry plan

South Kintyre councillor Donald Kelly has submitted a petition to the Scottish Parliament in a bid to secure a year-round Campbeltown to Ayrshire ferry service.

The petition, submitted by Councillor Kelly and fellow Argyll First councillor Dougie Philand, is calling on the Scottish Government to urge the Scottish Government to provide an all year-round freight and passenger ferry service between Campbeltown and Ardrossan as a direct result of the regular disruption on the A83 road at the Rest and Be Thankful.

It cites the 'projected time-frame of 10 years before a permanent solution' at the Rest and Be Thankful as a reason for the Scottish Government to act 'as a matter of urgency' in exploring the possibility of commissioning an all-year-round ferry service.

Calling for a fast, reliable service, with road equivalent tariff (RET) applied to it, the councillors wrote: 'We have campaigned relentlessly on behalf of the businesses and constituents of Argyll and

Bute for a permanent solution to the A83 Rest and Be Thankful scenario.'

'While recognising that the Scottish Government has at long last agreed to implement a permanent solution to this problem, the businesses and constituents of Argyll and Bute cannot suffer the continuous cost, uncertainty and upheaval for a further decade.'

'We are very concerned regarding the timescale of 10 years currently being mooted before this work will be completed.'

'We cannot go on for the next 10 years hoping and praying that landslides at the Rest and Be Thankful will stop.'

The councillors are asking for at least a five-year contract to be awarded to enable the service to be properly evaluated.

Councillor Kelly added: 'When the petition becomes live, it's vital that as many people and businesses as possible support it.'

'This is our chance to show the Scottish Government how important this service is to our community.'

Construction of hospital helipad whirls into action

Continued from page one. Airline Loganair has offered to fly some of the required aviation experts to Campbeltown on its scheduled flights free of charge, something which will directly help deliver the project on budget.

Stuart said: 'There are very few people flying anywhere, staying in hotels or going to pubs; these businesses are from three sectors that have been massively affected by the pandemic but they have still managed to support this community project.'

Loganair chief executive Jonathan Hinkles told the Courier: 'Loganair has very long-standing links with both Campbeltown – which we've served since 1977 – and the Scottish Ambulance Service, and when we heard of the community initiative to build the new helipad, we were delighted to help.'

'The fundraising programme and Stuart

McLellan's efforts have been excellent and deserve our whole-hearted support.'

It is hoped construction of the helipad will be complete



Simon Freeman, foreman at the helipad construction site, as work began on Monday. Photograph: Kenny Craig.

by early April, with an official opening event scheduled for April 17, plans for which will depend on Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time.

Councillor John Armour, a supporter of the project, said: 'From the first meeting to discuss the proposed helipad project, the enthusiasm to

get this in place has been fantastic. It has taken a bit longer than expected to get to construction stage but here we are and that is all down to Stuart's never-give-up attitude.'

'I am proud to have supported this wonderful project from day one and work with Stuart, firstly to help get agreement with the council to use the land, then with planners to get the planning permission approved.'

'I was delighted that my request to planners to try and get this through before Christmas was agreed, ensuring that the project could start on Monday.'

'Well done to Stuart for all his hard work getting everything in place, I know there were times when it would have been easier to give up and where others may well have done so, but his determination to see this project in place has got us to where we are today.'



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Lockdown stress led to actions

The stress of furlough, redundancy, going onto Universal Credit and trying to find work in the hospitality sector led to a 33-year-old man smashing up his now former partner's home and vandalising a car.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Robert Sutherland that what worried him about the offences was that they came 'out of a blue sky' in his 'otherwise good character'.

Sutherland, now of Drumlea Cottage, Tangy, appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week, and admitted two offences which took place in the town overnight between December 4 and 5 last year.

The first incident took place in his partner's home, where he destroyed or damaged household goods, and struck internal walls so hard it created holes.

The second was on Burnside Street where he repeatedly struck the bodywork of a parked car and poured bleach over the vehicle, causing dam-

age which cost £1,638 to repair.

Sheriff Hughes had called for a report at an earlier hearing.

Sutherland's defence agent, Stephen MacSporran, said the man was 'contrite and apologised for his conduct and was thoroughly ashamed'.

'He is looking for work in the hospitality sector,' he said, adding that the events could be attributed to alcohol and the stress of furlough, redundancy and being on Universal Credit. Sheriff Hughes placed Sutherland on a 12-month community payback order where he must work with a social worker on the cause of his behaviour and make sure it is not repeated.

He also ordered that Sutherland pay the repair bill for the car and he made him the subject of a 12-month non-harassment order with no further contact with his former partner other than for the care of their child and he must not enter her home without prior agreement.

'Lifeline' food fund to help people struggling

by Hannah O'Hanlon
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

A new fund has been set up to support adults and families facing financial insecurity in Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund has been set up by Argyll and Bute Council to offer financial support and wider professional help to anybody in need.

Also involved in establishing the fund are the Community Food Forum, Bute Advice Centre and ALIEnergy.

The initiative will help to support daily living expenses for households with low incomes and no access to cash savings.

If the claimant engages with the services, a second payment will contribute to a further



Argyll and Bute Council leader Robin Currie.

month's daily living expenses.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Robin Currie said: 'Launching the Flexible Food Fund and offering crisis grants will provide a critical lifeline to so many people across Argyll and Bute.'

'The pandemic continues to have a devastating effect on our communities, many through no fault of their own.'

'With loss of income, additional childcare and closed businesses, there is a real need to provide as much help and support as we can.'

'We are working with trusted partners working remotely to

cover the whole of Argyll and Bute. All cases are handled sensitively and in complete confidence.

'We hope that by providing essential access to funds and much needed wider support, we can help people out of crisis and enable them to move forward and manage their available financial resources.'

'I would encourage anyone who finds themselves in difficult circumstances to get in touch. We are here to help.'

For more information about the Flexible Food Fund, including payment details for households, or to make an application to the fund via an online claim form, visit the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/flexible-food-fund

Further assistance is available by calling 01700 502784.

Working with the Community Food Forum, a referral route to the Flexible Food Fund is also available through food banks to ensure families with a genuine need are properly assessed for support and receive professional help.



Man must be of good behaviour

A 53-year-old man must show he can behave himself for six months.

Malcolm McGregor, of 2 Caladh-na-Sith, Bruichladdich, Islay, admitted threatening or abusive behaviour, making excessive noise, and shouting and swearing at his home on May 3 and 4 last year.

Procurator fiscal deputy James Dunbar told Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Wednesday last week that a neighbour had heard

McGregor, who was at home, shouting and swearing and was 'frightened by his conduct'. The police were called and McGregor was cautioned and charged.

McGregor was not present in court and his defence agent, Stephen MacSporran, said: 'He has not been coping well during the lockdown,' and added that 'there is some background with neighbours'.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence for six months for McGregor to be of good behaviour.

The case will call again on July 22.

Final chance for say on Argyll and Bute council boundaries

A consultation on proposals for changes to councillor numbers and ward boundaries in Argyll and Bute closes on Tuesday January 26.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland conducted a consultation last summer on its proposals with Argyll and Bute Council and is now carrying out a 12-week public consultation which opened on November 4.

Under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the commission is required to conduct electoral reviews at intervals of eight to 12 years.

The proposals for Argyll and Bute recommend a change from the current 36 to 34 councillors, across 12 (currently 11) wards.

Under the commission's proposals, there would be island-only wards for Islay, Jura and Colonsay; and Mull,

'I would encourage members of the public... to look at the proposals and submit their views'

Iona, Coll and Tiree, while the existing Isle of Bute ward would have two councillors rather than three.

There would be no changes to the boundaries of four of the existing wards: Cowal; Dunoon; Isle of Bute and Lomond North.

Oban is placed within a single ward to avoid breaking community ties.

There is minimal change to the existing ward boundaries in Helensburgh, while reducing councillor numbers there from seven to six.

Ronnie Hinds, commission chairman, said: 'Since the consultation began on

November 4, we have received a number of responses offering helpful suggestions.'

'I would encourage members of the public, community groups and other bodies to look at the proposals and submit their views, whether they support or oppose our proposals, before the deadline.'

The commission is seeking views before final recommendations are submitted to Scottish Ministers.

For more information email lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk or visit the www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk website.

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Campbeltown Free Church marks ministry milestone

The second Sunday in January is always an important date in the calendar for Campbeltown Free Church minister Dr Rodger Crooks, being the anniversary of his ordination to the Christian Ministry of Word and Sacrament, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

This year, Sunday January 10 2021, was even more memorable as it marked 40 years of ordained ministry.

As Covid-19 restrictions prevented the congregation meeting in person, the Kirk Session live-streamed the morning service on Zoom to enable the congregation and family and friends to attend virtually.

Following the service, Session Clerk Calum Ferguson presented gifts on behalf of the congregation to Rodger and his wife, Joan, and outlined how the congregation was first made aware of Rodger in 2016.

Calum also forwarded mes-

sages of congratulations from Rodger's ministerial colleagues and friends, who would have liked to be present, and played a video message from Rodger and Joan's son Martyn, from Portland, Oregon, in the USA.

Rodger was ordained by the Ballymena Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland on Sunday January 11, 1981, and was inducted as assistant minister in the congregation of High Kirk, Ballymena.

In September 1984, he took up his first charge in 1st Dromore Presbyterian Church, County Down, and in 1997 took on the oversight of Belvoir Presbyterian Church in Belfast where he served for more than 20 years before moving to Campbeltown in 2017.

It might be suggested that he has Christian service in his blood as there is a strong missionary and ministry



Rodger and Joan Crooks at the recent 40th anniversary service.

tradition in his family. His father, Mervyn, was also a Presbyterian minister having previously been a missionary with the Qua Ibo Mission in Nigeria, where Rodger's aunt, Adeline Cripe, also served as a missionary teacher.

His great uncle, Andrew Weir, served in Manchuria, China, from 1899 until his death in 1933, and Andrew's son, Jack, who also served in

China for a time, was both Clerk of the General Assembly and Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Rodger's uncle, Tom Houston, also an ordained minister, served in Kerrykeel, Donegal, and in the Church of Scotland congregations of St Andrew's, Jerusalem and Baillieston, Glasgow. His cousin, Ian Crooks, is currently a

serving minister in Canada with the Presbyterian Church of America.

The family has had a long association with the WEC missionary organisation; Rodger's aunt, Martha Crooks, serving in Pakistan, and his cousins, Philip and Rhoda Crooks, in Senegal and in the UK.

Rodger's brother, Stephen, served as a medical doctor in Nazareth Hospital with the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society in the 1990s, including during the Gulf War. Continuing this tradition and following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Rodger's son, Martyn, is the Children's Pastor in Westside Church, Portland.

Rodger said: 'I suppose you could say that ministry is in my blood and I am grateful that serving God has been important in my family for several generations.'

'It is a great heritage and one of which I am proud, but it is Jesus's blood and not mine that is important. Without his sacrificial death, there would not be any good news of forgiveness and peace with God, and I would not have a ministry at all.'

'As I said in my sermon on Sunday, God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. My primary role as a minister continues to be making the truth of the Gospel known and doing my best to impress upon people the importance of responding to it.'

He added: 'It has been a tremendous privilege to be called by God to be a minister of his Word and to have been enabled by him to continue in this role for all these years. Preaching and teaching the Bible is my passion, and the Bible is a book that is new and exciting every time it is opened and read.'

The graphic features the 'DIGITAL BOOST' logo in white on a blue background, with the tagline 'power up your business' below it. The background is a colorful collage of geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. A large white arrow points upwards and to the right, overlaid on the collage. A Wi-Fi symbol is visible in the lower-left quadrant.

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Happy lockdown birthday



Chloe Gillies

Chloe Gillies from Airdrie turned seven on Friday January 1. This is the first time Chloe has not spent her birthday with family in Campbeltown. This year, she spent it at home, celebrating with her mummy and daddy.

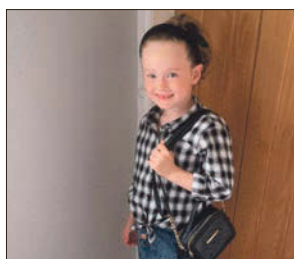
With the country in another lockdown, people will be unable to celebrate birthdays with friends and family as they normally would. To help make their day a little more special, the Courier would like to give a shout-out to those celebrating a lockdown birthday, including these birthday boys

and girls. Let us know about your friend or family member's lockdown birthday and we will give them a shout-out too. Email a photograph to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk, including their full name, age, where they are from and a bit about how they celebrated or plan to celebrate.



Lyle and Esmie MacLean

Lyle MacLean from Campbeltown turned four on Saturday January 9. He had a lovely day opening all his new presents - his favourites were wrapped in Paw Patrol paper. Esmie MacLean will be seven



on Tuesday January 19. She is planning to have a lockdown Harry Potter-themed party with her mummy, daddy and brother Lyle, playing lots of party games. She also plans to be in charge for the day!



Niamh McSporrán

Niamh McSporrán celebrated her 14th birthday on Tuesday January 12.

The Harry Potter fan enjoyed a Slytherin-inspired

lockdown party with her brother and sisters.



Naeve McNeill

Naeve McNeill turned four on Tuesday January 12. She spent her birthday with her mummy Frances, big brother Lewis, big sister Kayleigh, cats Sooty and Ash, and dog Freya, enjoying her birthday cake made by her granny Betty Rhodick.



David Mullen

David Mullen from Campbeltown turned four on Thursday January 7. He visited Machrihanish beach to see his granny and have cake and a splash in the water. He had a party food tea with family later and dinosaur cupcakes made by his big sister. He also received doorstep visits, video messages from his nursery friends, and a special shout-out from his musical hero Tommy Blue during his live session on Saturday.

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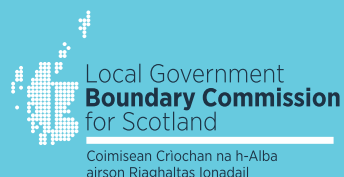
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Consultation closing soon!

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Mental health matters

This year, more than most, people would have been hoping for a fresh start in 2021, so it is disheartening that we have begun the new year by returning to another strict lockdown.

Mental health charities, locally and nationally, have continued their fantastic work throughout the pandemic but they must be experiencing a huge amount of pressure as many people balance work, home-schooling and the general struggles of day-to-day life during a pandemic.

Perhaps more needs to be done to help these charities to ensure they can continue to help those most in need through one of the most difficult times of our lives.

Lift-off for helipad project

One thing which has brought joy to many in the area is the construction of the Robert Black Memorial Helipad.

Time is of the essence when it comes to transferring emergency patients to Glasgow and Paisley for treatment, and delays caused by emergency vehicles becoming bogged in the water-logged field where the helicopter lands, as has happened before, puts lives at risk.

Similarly, when the helicopter is unable to land on the field and patients have to be transferred from Campbeltown Airport, this takes time too – although this is absolutely no fault of the airport's staff as there are necessary procedures which must be followed.

Well done to all involved in this project which will no doubt prove life-saving.

Photograph brought back 1960s' work memories

The photograph published in your November 27 edition alongside news of an electricity upgrade on Jura and Islay was of great interest to me as, when I was a trainee surveyor, we did the line all the way from Lochgilphead via Tayvallich.

BICC submarine department then took the cable over to Jura where we picked it up, went across the island via Craighouse and then across to Port Askaig on Islay and terminated in Bowmore.

We must have built a great line as that was about 1962.

We stayed with the McArthur family in Craighouse which was the best digs I have ever been in. I was brought up in Princes Street and it was the first time I had been out the Wee Toon. I was only 16 or 17, so it was strange to me.

I loved the folks on the island who made us so welcome. Once I qualified, I went around a bit, to Africa, west and east, and the West Indies, but Jura was better than anywhere I went. I hope the people of Jura see this.

Leslie McArthur, Carluke, South Lanarkshire.

Icy and ungritted pavements

I have contacted our roads department about the icy and, at times, ungritted pavements in my council ward.

Many of my justifiably concerned constituents have been in regular contact with me on this matter.

With all that is going on, whether it's the latest lockdown or a decreasing local authority budget, our hard-working roads workers are thinly stretched and do not have an easy task. However, when it comes to our pavements and roads, safety must always come first.

Our pavements must be safe to walk on all year round.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and the Islands.

Failure to make Rest progress

The Scottish Government spin machine's use of phrases last week like 'encouraging progress' about the works at the Rest and Be Thankful cannot disguise its failure to make any real progress towards a solution.

At an online briefing session last month, I questioned Transport Minister Michael Matheson on why it says it could take at least five years before it even starts work on a proper solution.

He waffled on about planning permission, environmental impact assessments and compensating landowners. This is ridiculous. I've attended 14 years of meetings on the A83 and all we get is fobbed off with pathetic excuses.

We need a government which delivers results, not spends all its time plotting to get independence while ignoring the real issues like a closed A83 which blight people's lives.

Councillor Alan Reid, Cowal.

Fundraising a part of your new year's resolutions?

The new year is usually a time for a fresh start – making resolutions, getting fit, setting new challenges and goals.

With restrictions ongoing, it's becoming even more important for us to find new and innovative ways to raise vital funds for NSPCC Scotland to help children at risk of abuse and neglect. Children have been greatly affected by the pandemic.

Since the first lockdown measures were introduced, the average monthly number of referrals from the NSPCC's helpline to agencies

in Scotland, such as the police or children's services, have been more than 50 per cent higher than the first three months of 2020. And the effects are far from over.

Even with social distancing, there are still many ways you can fundraise for us. From hosting a virtual quiz or coffee morning to selling handmade crafts, cakes or old clothes, we've got lots of great virtual fundraising ideas you can try. By volunteering just a couple of hours each month, you can help make 2021 a better year for children.

To find out more or to request your fundraising pack, visit www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/events-fundraising/new-year-challenge or email jen.lindsay@nspcc.org.uk

Jen Lindsay, community fundraising manager for NSPCC Scotland.

Cut your risk of stroke

A new survey by the Stroke Association shows that 45 per cent of people in Scotland don't know that high blood pressure is the biggest risk factor for stroke, one of the leading causes of death and disability in Scotland.

This is worrying because 13.8 per cent of people in Scotland have high blood pressure. Smoking, drinking alcohol, being physically inactive and sitting for long periods, can contribute to high blood pressure, diabetes, and being an unhealthy weight, all of which increase your risk of stroke.

To launch the first ever national Stroke Prevention Day on January 14, we've worked with our partners at the Rotary Club, LoSalt and OMRON Healthcare to help you make #OneSmallChange to reduce your risk of stroke.

Just go to our website www.stroke.org.uk/PreventionDay and receive tailored advice plus monthly emails with hints and tips.

Juliet Bouverie, chief executive, The Stroke Association.

Press policy

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



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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



While it may have experienced less wintry weather than many other parts of the country in recent weeks, Kintyre has seen some snow and ice on higher ground. This photograph by Debra Clarke, taken from Shore Road in Carradale,

shows a dusting of snow on the hills of Arran, across the Kilbrannan Sound. If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk or send it via the Courier's Facebook page.

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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.

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Bute
Mandy Allison on **01700 501521**

Cowal
Kate Paton on **01369 708349**
Kathy Graham on **07972 678923**

Helensburgh and Lomond
Kathy Graham on **07972 678923**

Kintyre
Caroline Glen on **07812 485058**

Mid Argyll, Carradale and Muasdale
Jill Denton on **07707 868351**

Oban and Lorn
Kathy Graham on **07972 678923**



All together >

'Inspiring' champions of

After the very worst of years, the very best among us – from frontline health staff to key community volunteers and charity workers – have been recognised in The Queen's 2021 New Year Honours. Here we spotlight some of the deserving stars that Prime Minister Boris Johnson applauds as "an inspiration to us all".

LAST YEAR brought to the fore a new breed of community champions... including those working in the NHS to treat coronavirus patients, scientists developing effective vaccines and key workers keeping essential services operating.

These "ordinary people" who continue to go above and beyond have been recognised for sterling work delivered in extraordinary circumstances.

The 2021 New Years Honours has recognised champions of sport as well as stars of stage and screen but this year, more than ever, it is ordinary people who have been recognised alongside them.

Among the deserving recipients are leading lights who have battled to save lives and keep the NHS afloat and those who have kept the country smiling by spreading kindness.

The list includes medical experts as well as volunteers working with youngsters, the elderly and those with disabilities. Those working in libraries, education and community arts also received recognition.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "In a year when so many have made sacrifices to protect our NHS and save people's lives, the outstanding efforts of those receiving honours are a welcome reminder of the strength of human spirit and of what can be achieved through courage and compassion."

"The 2021 New Year Honours offer us an opportunity to salute their dedication and recognise many who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to our country."

"As we begin a new year and continue to come together to fight this virus, may their service and stories be an inspiration to us all."

■ For more information on Honours recipients, go to gov.uk/honours



JACQUIE WINNING

JACQUIE WINNING'S award "recognises the achievements of everyone" at Forth Valley Sensory Centre following "an exceptionally challenging year".

The 55 year-old from Falkirk was recognised for going the extra mile to manage "wrap-around" services to people with sensory loss during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone, but more so for people with sensory loss. Those with hearing loss face challenges due to face masks and social distancing interfering with their ability to lip read. "Those with sight loss face



significant challenges managing to maintain physical distancing while undertaking essential trips out," explained the MBE recipient. Jacquie's support included providing Braille copies of virus information, establishing telephone, text and email befriending lifelines to address isolation and producing podcasts providing vital updates. "The impact is that some of the most vulnerable people in society have been incredibly well supported during the most challenging of times. Thanks go to the dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to adapt by our team, volunteers and partners, and tremendous support of our board of directors."

TAMAS SZAKMANY

CABINET OFFICE confirmation of Dr Tamas Szakmany's award made him "astonished, touched and humbled". The 44 year-old from Newport explained: "I thought I was doing my job like everybody else. I didn't think for one minute it would result in this. I'm really surprised. Once I was allowed to talk about it, the first thing I said was how fortunate I was to work with this team. "2020 was difficult professionally. Personally, I had many successes. It was a double-edged sword. The MBE is recognition for the enormous effort everyone has made to get us through the first wave. I hope



we have similar success again." The Royal Gwent Hospital critical care consultant, recognised for exceptional service to the NHS, spearheaded Welsh Critical Care Network response during the pandemic, rapidly disseminating information on lessons learnt via traditional and social media platforms. Filming his personal and professional life, he helped produce an emotional deeply personal documentary "Critical: Inside Intensive Care Coronavirus" episode, broadcasted by BBC Wales and included among American Society of Chest Physicians and Society of Critical Care Medicine teaching materials.

Play your part

communities honoured



GOLAM CHOWDHURY

A BRITISH Red Cross refugee support staff emergency responder initially thought his honour announcement email was spam!

Golam Chowdhury was then "humbled" when his British Empire Medal was confirmed. "I had no idea I had even been nominated," said the 51-year-old from Portsmouth.

"It's been challenging, both personally and professionally, but I am always amazed by human resilience and community spirit. Watching how people

come together to support each other has been incredible."

Involved in active front-line response to COVID-19 in Hampshire as a Refugee Support staff member, Crisis Response South East tactical cell weekend coordinator and local Emergency Response, City of Sanctuary and Cycling UK volunteer, Golam received his accolade



for outstanding achievements in healthcare during the virus pandemic. "I don't do my job – or my volunteering – for praise," said the father-of-two. "I do it because, if the tables were turned and I was the one that needed help, then I would hope that there was someone out there to support me. "I'd like to dedicate my award to everyone in all communities who are helping others."

MICHAEL BRIGGS

A BELFAST community worker is celebrating "the surprise of his life" after being honoured. Michael Briggs' MBE was rewarded for services beyond the call of duty in the voluntary sector and community.

"Even though we've hardly moved out of the office, it's all been pretty busy," explained the East Belfast Community Development Agency Executive Director.

"We've been managing our COVID programme, buying bulk food to get out to groups we support. We developed a network of groups delivering small packages to people who are



vulnerable, shielding or in financial need." The 57 year-old continued: "There are so many stories from older people who say 'it's just good to know people are thinking about us.'"

Thinking the honour email was promotional, Michael initially "didn't actually take it seriously".

He revealed: "I nearly didn't open it. Then I saw it was from the Cabinet Office. "For me, it's about the efforts of other people as well.

"So many people have been very supportive over the years. I'm the one who ends up getting the award, but other people have been involved in the success of my work."

Play your part



Follow the rules. Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

All together >

FROM OUR FILES

TEN YEARS AGO

Friday January 14, 2011

First minister asked if he can save Skykon for second time

He's done it before and he wants to do it again.

First Minister Alex Salmond, speaking in an exclusive interview with the Campbeltown Courier, said that if he and his government fail to save the Skykon factory, it won't be for want of trying.

Negotiations are taking place behind the scenes and he has met with potential buyers.

The Courier asked the first minister the question that everyone in Kintyre would ask him, especially the 100-plus workforce left in the lurch at the wind turbine tower manufacturer at Machrihanish after the collapse of its Danish owners: 'Can you save the factory?'

Mr Salmond said: 'Nobody can give an absolute promise.

'At this stage, these are difficult negotiations but I am deeply committed to this plant and I am going to strain every sinew to save these jobs, not for the first time but for a second time. I am hopeful that it can be done.'

He added: 'I have been personally in touch with potential buyers of the Machrihanish factory.

'I know the area and I think it is a great plant with a great future and a fine workforce and these are great assets for a potential buyer.'

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday February 2, 1996

Call for media campaign to launch ferry

The vice-chairman of the new Argyll and Bute Council planning, development and tourism committee is calling for a major public relations drive in Ireland to support the launch of the proposed ferry link between Campbeltown and Ballycastle.

Councillor David Webster said the service should be marketed as a new 'gateway to Scotland' in Irish newspapers, and on television and radio. He told the Courier that he believed the creation of the new council offered a 'never to be repeated' opportunity to put Argyll and Bute back on the tourism map.

Mr Webster called for the creation of four local marketing groups, including one for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay, to bring together councillors and trade representatives.

Mr Webster also wants more done to persuade television companies and film makers to use locations in Argyll and Bute, more done to attract business conferences to the area and better facilities for sailing.

He is also suggesting persuading ship operators to offer week-long cruises in Argyll and Bute similar to ones run in Norway.

Mr Webster said: 'Argyll and Bute is on the threshold of a boom in tourism and economic development, but only if the council takes and maintains a lead in promotion, publicity and



In 2011: Primary 4 pupils at Dalintober Primary School were thinking of others when they made up food boxes for the Salvation Army Food Parcel Appeal.

development, albeit in co-operation with Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and the new area tourist board.'

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Friday January 15, 1971

Piped TV charges to be raised

Weekly piped television charges are to be increased at the beginning of April from 2s 9d to 3s 6d. Rediffusion Ltd announced this week in a letter to Campbeltown Town Council about the service in the town.

Mr CM Payne, general manager of Rediffusion in Scotland, states that the increase is made necessary by the 'uneconomic nature' of the operation to 'duplicate' the network to allow

for provision of BBC1, BBC2 and STV colour television on the relay.

Mr Payne writes that the Rediffusion board of directors accepted his recommendation to proceed with the necessary engineering works.

Of the increased charges to subscribers, Mr Payne writes: 'We are naturally concerned in having to take this step, but as I mentioned above, the service is presently uneconomic, and in order to bring the network up to a standard capable of distributing at least three colour programmes on 625-lines standard as well as the 405-lines standard transmissions, we shall require to spend a large sum of money.'

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday January 8, 1921

Sparks and Flashes

Mr Duncan Macdougall Snr has given up the local agency for Singer's Sewing Machines, which he has held for 20 years, and is being succeeded by his son Mr D Macdougall Jnr.

Visitors of Campbeltown Poultry Show had a tangible reminder that 'oor birds' have much more than local fame by seeing on view the Larkhall Jubilee Silver Cup, a handsome trophy, valued at 25 guineas, which was won by Kilkerran greys at Larkhall's great jubilee event.

The local Ne'erday 'Marathon' Jock v Geeke came off in the Showfield at half-time during the match between Drumlemble and Hearts. The race had a most satisfactory finish - both won! The spectators were generous and the doughty runners were the richer by £10s 5d each.

The Dochas Carer Centre

Supporting Unpaid Carers

We are **still** here for you even though the Centre has to remain closed

We provide a service to unpaid adult carers across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles (MAKI). We have three teams: **Support outreach worker team, Qualified counselling team, Volunteer befriending team**

The Outreach/Support Team are maintaining regular contact with carers via telephone. Our team is providing a listening ear during this challenging time and we have been fortunate to receive additional funding to support carers and those they care for with creative solutions to help with their mental and emotional health while in isolation.

Please visit our website - www.dochasfund.org.uk and Facebook page - www.facebook.com/dochascenre which will be updated regularly with information and advice. We are available 10-4pm Monday to Friday. Contact number for the centre 01546 600 022. Email - enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk Contact numbers for the outreach/support team Mid Argyll: 07464 308 418 • Kintyre: 0753 503 6953 • Islay/Jura: 0791 201 5393

The Volunteer Befriending Team

Our volunteer befriending service called Circle of Friends is continuing to run. Volunteers are maintaining contact with the individuals they are befriending by telephone. Our Co-ordinator, Ryan Taylor, continues to support this service. We are looking for more Telephone Befriending Volunteers. We would love to hear from you if you wish to help, please contact us on 0793 203 9801.

Dochas Counselling Team

The dedicated Counselling Team are currently offering online and telephone counselling to unpaid carers and their families, those who have been bereaved or those living with a long term or terminal condition. During the Covid-19 crisis, the Team have also set up a telephone support service for anyone feeling anxious or struggling during lockdown.

For further information or to arrange an appointment, please telephone Alison Whitefield, Lead Counsellor, on 07432 231217 or contact the service via counselling@dochasfund.org.uk or message the Dochas Facebook page. We are here to support you.



Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Are you a young carer? We are here for you...

MAYDS are still providing support for children, young people and families where we can. Anyone needing advice or help can contact the above at anytime.

We are providing our child and adolescent counselling services via skype, phone etc., and still open for referrals for any young person feeling isolated or in need of support. Our Young Carers are still being supported by our team across MAKI and again referrals are still being taken.

We have regular information and updates on our facebook page mid Argyll youth development services.

Online support is also available on www.cool2talk.org.

Contact 07788900049 or fiona@mayds.org.uk lynn@mayds.org.uk

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Exclusive Newsletter



POWs on the move in mid winter through Poland

The Courier continues to share more from Campbeltown soldier Gunner Neil MacLean's previously unpublished prisoner of war diary.

**Gunner
Neil
MacLean.**



Gunner MacLean was captured following the 51st Highland Division's surrender at St Valéry-en-Caux during the Second World War.

The diary, and several photographs of Neil during and after the war, were supplied by Neil's son Calum, who knew nothing of the diary until after his father's death.

This week moves on to **January 1945:**

Wednesday January 24th, moved out of Tiegenhof, [Poland] on the march. We had a sleigh with us to carry our packs. Arrived at Newminterburgh after two hours. Thousands of people here, horses, army lorries.

January 25th, our guards got lost in the rush, so our party made for a farm about two

miles away, managed to get a bed in the cow stall. 26th, the farmer did not want us so nine of us moved out and landed on a small farm about two miles

away. So here we are, settled down in another cow stall.

January 27th and 28th, helped the farmer.

Huie and Dave went out

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Sponsored by Campbeltown Heritage Centre
Open 11am to 4pm every Monday to Friday until September



to see what was doing near Tiegenhof. Came back after six hours and decided to stay where we are at present. Heavy snow storm.

January 29th and 30th, helping the farmer. Huie and Duncan went in search of cereal and were successful. 31st, helping the farmer.

Huie and Duncan were away for seven hours and returned with bread and tobacco.

February 1st, helping the farmer. 2nd, moved out at 3pm and went over on the ferry. Landed at a small place. 3rd, left here at 11am by lorry and arrived in Danzig [Poland] about 2pm, then walked to the camp. We arrived at the French camp and had to move on to one of our own. Arrived

there after a dreary march with heavy kit. Once we had a cup of tea we were OK. About 500 of our boys in Stolenberg [Germany].

February 4th, made a bed to sleep in and got our kit dried out. At night there was a dance same as 5th, 6th, 7th.

On the 8th we were working helping making beds for wounded soldiers in a school in Danzig. 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th 14th, 15th, working all day at beds. On the 12th, needle for TB and doing well. 16th, re-called from work at 11am.

17th, moved out of camp at 8am and marched to Karthaus, about 28km. 18th, moved out at 6.30am and marched till 10pm. All tired and weary.

Pustram 32km. 19th, moved out at 10am and marched till 9pm to Lupow, 38km.

February 20th, day of rest, waiting for the remainder to catch up on us. 21st, moved out at 10am and marched to Stoep, 26km.

Received a hot soup today (very good). 22nd, moved out at 10am and marched till 5.30pm, 20km to Nemitz.

23rd, moved out at 8am and marched till 5pm, 29km. 24th, moved out at 9am and marched till 6pm, 20km to Zachen. 25th, moved out at 8am, marched through Kolberg [Poland], 35km, marching along the coast with heavy wind.

Concludes in next week's Courier.

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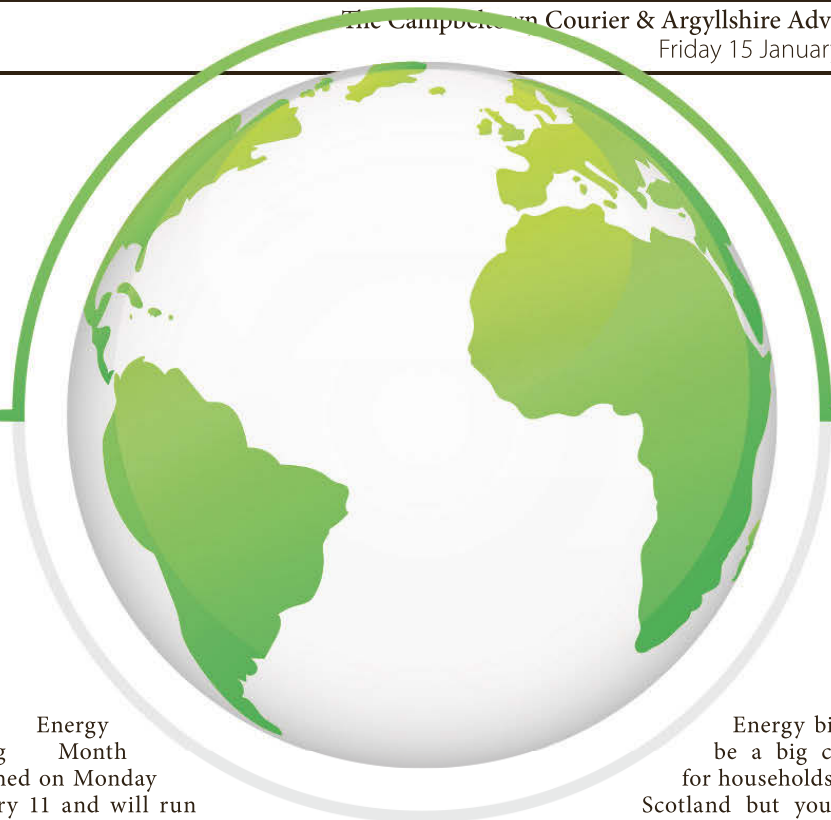
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Big Energy Saving Month 2021

Big Energy Saving Month launched on Monday January 11 and will run for three weeks until Sunday January 31.

This national campaign, bought to you by Citizens Advice Scotland and Home Energy Scotland, aims to help people cut their energy bills and get the financial support they are entitled to.

We all have the power to save energy, money and the environment through everyday actions.

Simple changes such as switching energy supplier

or tariffs, accessing discounts or grants and making homes more cost-efficient can make a big difference.

Let's save your energy:

We can give you the power to save time, money and energy. You can get advice on your energy issues on our public advice site by accessing the links below.

Save time:

Energy bills can be a big concern for households across Scotland but you could save money on your fuel bill by checking you're not paying more than you need for your energy.

Check you're getting the best deal from your current supplier, switching isn't the only way to get a better deal.

Make sure you're getting all the benefits and help you're entitled to. If you're struggling to pay your energy bills, or simply want to make sure you're getting all the financial help you're entitled

More than 20,000 people receive help through Warmer Homes Scotland

Warmer Homes Scotland provides free heating, insulation and more to households that are struggling to stay warm and keep up with energy bills.

More than 20,000 households in Scotland have benefited from the scheme's help since it was launched in 2015, each of them saving around £300 a year on their energy bills.

The £224 million scheme provides a step-by-step service to help make homes warmer and more comfortable.

Assistance can include installing new and efficient boilers, fitting new radiators, insulating lofts or working with partners to install gas mains to make heating homes in hard to reach areas more affordable.

All work is carried out by

registered and accredited local sub-contractors who work to rigorous quality standards across the country.

Warmworks is the managing agent of Warmer Homes Scotland and receives referrals to the scheme from Home Energy Scotland.

With the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 now enshrined in legislation, both the extent of the Scottish Government's ambitions and the scale of the task ahead are clear.

While the end goal for the eradication of fuel poverty may be some years away, there is no question that the help available under Warmer Homes Scotland will play a key role in helping

people become warmer, happier and healthier in their homes.

Ross Armstrong, Warmworks' Managing Director said: 'It has always been important to Warmworks that the delivery of Warmer Homes Scotland results in real and lasting benefits for vulnerable people and communities across Scotland. I am delighted to have helped more than 20,000 households in Scotland and we hope to build on our success as we continue our efforts to move towards greener, fairer and more affordable ways to heat our homes.'

To find out more about Warmer Homes Scotland, or to make an application, contact Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282.



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to, your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help you check that you are not missing out on any benefits. You can also call the Money Talk Team helpline on 0800 085 7145.

Save money:

Many people stay on the same tariff or with the same energy supplier for a number of years, without realising they could be getting a better deal elsewhere. By switching supplier or tariff you could save hundreds of pounds.

Check whether you could save money with the Citizens Advice energy price com-

parison tool. It's free, uses a full market comparison and is totally independent. www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/

Get advice on switching energy supplier and understanding your energy tariff.

For some, switching isn't simple or it isn't possible due to your energy tariff. If you live in a home with electric-only heating and you're stuck with your existing tariff or supplier or you're looking for practical ways to lower your costs, you can get advice from your local Citizens Advice Bureau. You

can contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 for advice on getting the most out of your electric heating system.

Save energy:

The best way to pay less for your fuel is simply to save energy around your home. This doesn't mean going without - you can waste less by being energy efficient.

You can contact Home Energy Scotland for free and impartial advice on how you can make your home more energy efficient. Call 0808 808 2282.

Research from Energy Saving Trust

Based on a typical three-bedroom semi-detached gas heated house, with an 85 per cent efficient gas boiler and average gas tariff of 4.17p/kWh and electricity tariff of 16.36p/kWh. Correct as of April 2020 and valid for one year.

- Turning your central heating thermostat down by one degree could save you £60 a year - based on turning down a room thermostat from 22 degrees to 21 degrees in the main living areas.
- If everyone in the UK switched from higher temperature washes down to 30 degrees, together we could save more than £230 million on electricity bills a year.
- Electricity is almost four times more expensive than gas. The average electricity tariff is 16.4p/kWh, with gas at 4.2p/kWh. Electricity bills have also been rising faster than gas. Between 2017 and 2018, the average electricity bill across all payment types rose by £39 (7.1 per cent), while the average gas bill across all payment types rose by £3 (1 per cent). (Source: BEIS' Domestic Energy Price Statistics, December 2019)

Let's save on your energy bills today. Visit <https://www.cas.org.uk/BESM2021> to find out more.

Intelligent heating installed by Team MacLeod

The Mitsubishi Electric range of Ecodan air source heating pumps is one of the most advanced heating systems available for homeowners and businesses. With an A++ ErP Energy Rating Label across the range, this is the ideal clean and green intelligent heating solution.

The entire line up is also certified by the Microgeneration Certificate Scheme (MCS)

which certifies that it's an intelligent technology that produces heat from a renewable source.

Highly versatile and compatible

Whether installed in small flats or large detached properties, Ecodan can reduce running costs, lower CO2 emissions and offer reliable, sustainable heating and hot water all year around for the majority of homes and small commercial properties. Ecodan can be installed to replace an existing heating system or work alongside it in a hybrid set up.

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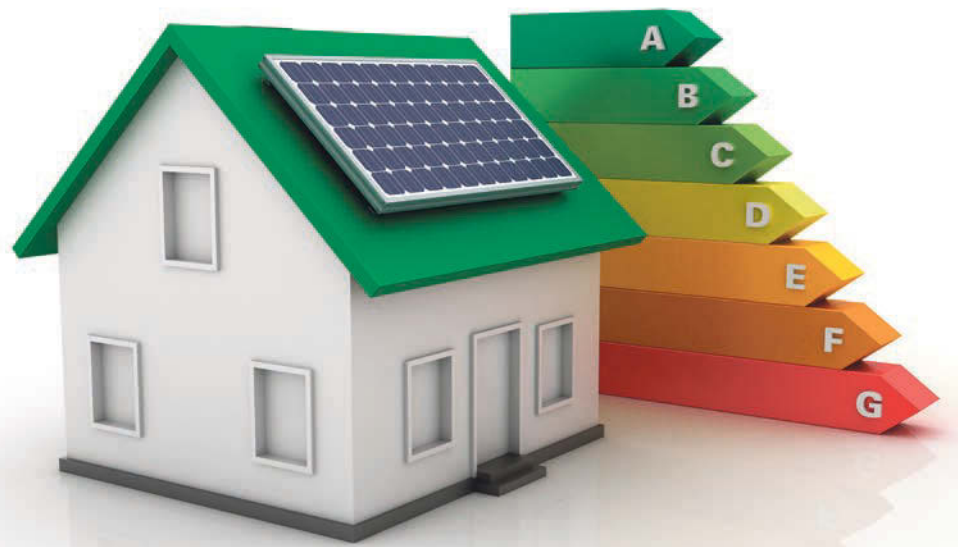
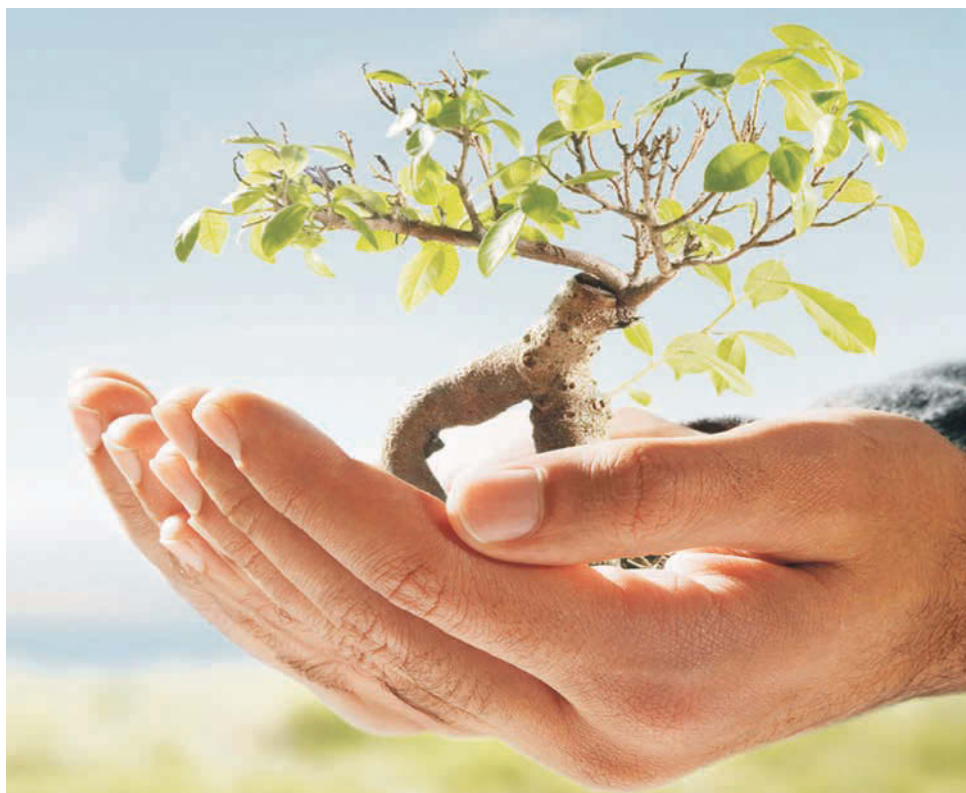
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Cut your carbon footprint

Solar electricity is green, renewable energy which doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants. A typical home solar PV system could save around 1.3 to 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year, depending where you are within the UK.



What are solar panels?

Solar panel electricity systems, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy using photovoltaic cells.

These cells don't need direct sunlight to work – they can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day.

The cells convert the sunlight into electricity, which can be used to run household appliances and lighting.

How do solar panels (PV) cells work?

PV cells are made from layers of semi-conducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced. Groups of cells are mounted together in panels or

modules that can either be mounted on your roof or on the ground. The power of a PV cell is measured in kilowatts peak. That's the rate at which it generates energy at peak performance in full direct sunlight during the summer.

PV cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most PV systems are made up of panels that fit on top of an existing roof, but you can also fit solar tiles. For more information visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or contact your local installer.



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Storage heaters - expensive hot air

Storage heaters were great in the 1970s when energy costs were low and one solution to Britain's heating needs.

Now electricity costs are way higher and many people are finding them unaffordable and uncontrollable.

The most common storage heater tariff across the west of Scotland, from SSE, is Total Heating Total Control (THTC). This is generally considered to be one of the more expensive on the market. Other energy suppliers struggle to offer a suitable equivalent tariff and many people feel they have nowhere else to go. More info www.alternativetostorage-heaters.co.uk

Modern electric heating, using the properties of radiant heat rather than warm air, with cutting edge temperature and timing controls is the solution, www.economicelectricheating.co.uk.

These can either be German clay core heaters, www.germanelectricheating.com, which are now regularly seen advertised on television and in the papers, or far infrared

heaters of various types. www.scottishinfraredheating.co.uk

When changing, disruption is minimal as your new heaters can usually use the existing wiring.

Some small changes are required to the connections in your meter box by your electrician, but it is a straightforward job.

Once you are on a single meter tariff you can then readily shop around for the best price for your electricity and save even more money. We recommend Martin Lewis' cheap energy club to check out your options. www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub

In 2025, the government is banning the use of traditional oil fired or gas boilers in new homes. Instead new houses will be heated predominantly by state-of-the-art electric heating systems. Why not change now?

Elsco Heating has been supplying economic electric heating across Scotland for ten years from bases in Elgin and Glasgow.



A Heater for a New Year?

Its cold outside and could get colder!

Replace those old storage heaters with our modern German electric heating

Ten Years Of Happy Customers

Elsco Heating supply top quality German heaters, across Scotland from our bases in Glasgow and Elgin. These are a new energy efficient alternative to old fashioned storage heaters.



Most storage heater owners are unhappy with the quality of heat, the lack of control and the high running costs. Our German Chamotte Clay Core heaters give you complete control over your heating, a quality of heat second to none and a significant saving on your heating bills.

This heating is becoming increasingly popular not only in Scotland but across Britain.

You will no doubt have seen the adverts on TV from other UK wide suppliers of this great heating solution. You can **save** on costs and probably get a **better quality** heater with the same levels of efficiency, by buying your heaters locally from us.

Many storage heater owners in Scotland are on a tariff called Total heating Total Control (THTC), one of the more expensive on the market. Our heating enables you to easily change to a standard (single meter) supply, choose between all available energy suppliers and save even more money.

Costs are similar to what you might pay for a modern replacement storage heater.



We are happy to give you budget prices for your individual requirements over the phone. We can also usually visit you at home to work with you to establish the best heating solution for your individual needs. This service may currently be restricted due to Covid, but please ask.



We have just built up our stock levels for the Winter and if you act quickly, you might not have to wait very long, but when they are gone, they are gone!

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Around the markets

United Auctions Stirling, Thursday January 7, sold 3,812 prime sheep comprising 3,000 prime hogs selling to an average of 261.35ppk and 812 ewes and rams.

Old season lambs (3,000) – Doune Farms (BTeX) £149.00 x2 & £148.00; Pitcairn (BTeX) £148.00; Doune Farms (BTeX) £147.00; West Quarter (BTeX) £146.00; Ballinloan (Tex) £148.00 x3; Cherryfield (Tex) £143.00 x2; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) £140.00; Grangefield (Suf) £127.50 x2; South Flanders (Suf) £127.00; Wardhead (Suf) £122.00 & £121.50; Ballinloan (Chev) £127.00; Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) £123.00; Penston (Chev) £121.50; Carse of Trowan (Cross) £123.50; East Bracklinn (Cross) £119.50; Dalchirla (BF) £123.00; Dunruchan (BF) £116.00; Glenfermate (BF) £115.00; Penston (BF) £113.50; Auchenrivoch (Mule) £118.00 x2; Wardhead (Mule) £115.50; Drimsynie & Plean Cott (Mule) £114.00. Old Season Lambs (3000) – West Quarter (BTeX) 356.00ppk; Doune Farms (BTeX) 352.00ppk; Dall (BTeX) 343.00ppk; Pitcairn (BTeX) 339.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 343.00ppk; Carse of Trowan (Tex) 341.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 339.00ppk; Ballinloan & Easter Greenhill (Tex) 335.00ppk; Ballinloan (Chev) 288.00ppk; Fridayhill & Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) 280.00ppk; Invermilton (Suf) 280.00ppk & 274.00ppk; Grangefield, Wardhead & Halkerston (Suf) 267.00ppk; East Bracklinn (Cross) 271.00ppk; Plean Cott (Cross) 269.00ppk; Easter Deans (Mule) 264.00ppk; Drimsynie (Mule) 262.00ppk; Coulshill & Meadowfield (Mule) 257.00ppk; Grange Farms (BF) 264.00ppk; Penston (BF) 263.00ppk; Pitcairn (BF) 258.00ppk; Fridayhill (BF) 257.00ppk.

Ewes (812) – Aikerness, Orkney (Tex) £185.00; Cairn (Tex) £177.00 & £150.00; Oatfield (Tex) £147.00; Cairn (Tex) £145.00; Southfield & South Flanders (TexX) £140.00; South Flanders (TexX) £138.00; Oatfield (TexX) £130.00 x2; West Lundie (BTeX) £135.00; Cairn (Suf) £129.00; Upper Firth & Neuk (Suf) £124.00; North Balloch & Montalt (Cont) £127.00; Ballinloan & Cherryfield (Cont) £126.00; Strageath Mains (Cont) £124.00; Cherryfield (SufX) £119.00; Muckraw (SufX) £115.00; North Balloch (SufX) £114.00; South Flanders (Mule) £115.00; Blackcastle (Mule) £104.00; Strageath Mains (Mule) £100.00; Hatton Knowe (Mule) £97.00; Smithy Hillock (Mule) £96.00; Cairn (Cha) £114.00; Auchenrivoch (BFL) £113.00; Lilyburn (BFL) £100.00; Ballinloan (Chev) £112.00 & £94.00; Luckenburn & Coulshill (Chev) £87.00; Easter Cammock & North Balloch (Chev/Mule) £110.00; Coulshill (BF) £84.00; Glenhead (BF) £82.00; Pathcondie (BF) £80.00; Jaw, Drimsynie & Allanfauld (BF) £77.00.

Tups – Balnacree (Chev) £130.00; Fairview Hill (BTeX) £128.00; Jaw (Suf) £128.00; Wester Cameron (Suf) £127.00; Easter Deans (Tex) £125.00; Kinclaven £123.00; Easter Deans (Suf) £111.00; Milnbank (Blue Tex) £100.00; Dunruchan & Jaw (BF) £93.00.

Virtual hustings for candidates

Candidates standing for top office bearer roles with NFU Scotland will, for the first time, take place in virtual hustings, starting on Friday January 22.

A traditional part of NFU Scotland's election process, hustings would normally see candidates tour Scotland with all regions holding their own member event.

However, due to the exceptional circumstances as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the hustings will now take place online with members urged to register to hear from each of the candidates.

The four nominations for the two vice presidential posts are, in alphabetical order: Andrew Connon, North Quilquox, Ythanbank, Ellon, Aberdeenshire; Willie Harper, Gryffewraes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire; George Milne, Kinaldy, St Andrews, Fife and Robin Traquair, Wellington Farm, Millerhill, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

Current vice president Martin Kennedy, who will stand unchallenged for the position of president, will also take place in the following virtual events.

Friday January 22, noon till 1.30pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9auixHdbQw257tc4-UltTQ>

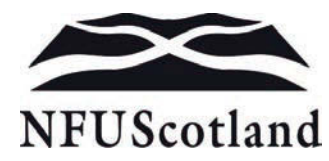
Tuesday January 26, 7pm till 8.30pm, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/WN__MKwj_i4ROKpu6rcX-6_3Vw

Thursday January 28, 7pm till 8.30pm, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/WN_G7X_5K4FQ8yB-4-3h3LBuw

Biographies for all five candidates are available on the union's website www.nfus.org.uk/nfus-elections-2021.aspx

The elections will take place at the union's virtual council meeting on Friday February 12, with online voting arrangements for council members in place.

NFU Scotland Chief Executive Scott Walker said: 'It is hugely encouraging that we have so many excellent candidates standing for election. I wish each one of them the very best and, while missing out on the traditional tour of Scotland, I urge them to make the most of these online meetings. They all have the skills and experience to do a great job for NFUS.'





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The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements

MAIN FEATURES:

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

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

Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 45).

OPTION 2
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
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Comes with

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• 12 x joining pins/stakes
• 2 x 2-foot swing gates

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

The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

MAIN FEATURES:


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

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Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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
20/02008/PP	Change of use of Class 1 Cold Food Takeaway to Hot Food takeaway (retrospective)	One Fyne Deli, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UA
20/02268/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02314/PPP (Site for erection of two dwellinghouses, formation of new access and installation of two septic tanks)	Land South East Of Achnaclaud Cottage, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
20/02269/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02315/PPP (Site for erection of two dwellinghouses)	Land 200M South West Of Kilchamaig Gate, Whitehouse, Argyll And Bute
20/02161/LIB	Replacement ventilation terminal/external housing (retrospective) to existing duct work through rear roof and replacement metal railings	42 Main Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6AD
20/01910/PP	Change of use of land to form residential curtilage	Ivy Cottage, Keills, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8PQ
20/01901/PPP	Demolition of outbuilding and erection of dwellinghouse	Land North Of Swallowtale, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute

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

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 20/01345/MFF
Proposed development at: North Kilbrannan Fish Farm, North Of Our Bay, Kilbrannan Sound, East Kintyre, Argyll And Bute
The proposed development at the address noted above is subject to environmental impact assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to a EIA Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Mowi Scotland Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Formation of fish farm (Atlantic Salmon) incorporating twelve 120m diameter circular cages and siting of feed barge.

Possible decisions relating to the application are: approval of the application without conditions; approval of the application with conditions; or refusal of the application.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental report and the associated planning application(s) may be inspected 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 during the emergency period. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk, or tel. 01546 605518. In the event of the emergency period ceasing, documents will be available for inspection by appointment during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD. Documents will be available for a minimum of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the additional information may be purchased from Mowi Scotland Ltd at a cost of £50.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the additional information should make them in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice. Written comments can be submitted by email to planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

Signed: Mrs S. Davies, Major Application Team Leader on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, LOCHGILPHEAD) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2021

On Tuesday 15th December 2020, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period, the following restrictions will apply:

SCHEDULE 1 - PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME

U12 Union Street, Lochgilphead

On the northern side of the road, from its junction with Argyll Street heading in a generally south-east direction to its junction with Manse Brae, a distance of 331 metres or thereby.

C67 Lorne Street, Lochgilphead

On the northern side of the road, from its junction with Manse Brae heading a generally western direction to its junction with U007 Lorne Street, a distance of 219 metres or thereby.

C67 Lorne Street, Lochgilphead

On the western side of the road, from its junction with Poltalloch Street (A83 Trunk Road) heading in a generally north-east direction for a distance of 132 metres.

SCHEDULE 2 - PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

Colchester Square From its junction with the Tarbet-Kennacraig Trunk Road (A83) extending northwards to its junction with (C62) Argyll Street a distance of 40 metres or thereby.

Argyll Street From its junction with the north side of Colchester Square northwards to its junction with Union Street a distance of 72 metres or thereby.

Exceptions will apply to a vehicle being used in an emergency for fire and rescue services, ambulance or police purposes, a vehicle being used for carrying out the works, or a vehicle requiring access/egress to and from affected properties when possible and as directed by traffic management operatives on site. The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required to allow essential works to be carried out on or near the road will be effective when indicated by signs from 0001 hours on Monday the 18th of January 2021 until 2359 hours on Monday the 5th April 2021 or until the works are complete, whichever is the earlier. Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working

in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

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Comhairle Earra -

Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Kilmory/Dunadd Camanachd will take place on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 8pm.

Due to Covid restrictions this will be a virtual on-line meeting.

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting must submit their details to Club Chairperson (angusjgilmour@outlook.com) before 4pm on the 19th January 2021.

RECRUITMENT

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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank you

Helen and Bill Hunter, Southend would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to us with flowers, gifts, cards and phone calls on our diamond wedding anniversary.

The McDougall family would like to sincerely thank Team Tarbert & the people of Tarbert for their over whelming generosity after the tragic events of Christmas day. We would also like to thank Police Scotland, Ambulance & Fire Crews in attendance.

Thought for the Week

Are you glad to have a glass?

Question: 'Are you a glass half-full type of person, or is your glass half-empty?'

Answer: 'I am just glad to have a glass.' That comment, which I heard shortly before Christmas, has stuck in my mind.

It is stating the obvious, I know, but as we live through another lockdown, it is tempting to focus on the liberties lost and freedoms curtailed, when there are many good things still to celebrate.

Not least of these is hope, another word that is used a lot in these days.

We hope the vaccines will make a difference; we hope things will get better; we hope our children will get back to school; we hope the planet can be brought back into balance; we hope.

But where is the ground for hope? Science and human skill?

A talk on the radio a few weeks ago, before Christmas, spoke about gifts and posed the question that the vaccines that have been developed might be God's gift to humanity this Christmas, and the skills of the scientists ultimately come from God.

Because for people of faith the ultimate hope is in God, who is the source of life and who Christians believe came to earth in Jesus to show us the way forward.

'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son...' John 3:16

Where is our ground for hope? Surely the power of love is our only hope, the steadfast love of the Lord who 'never leaves us nor forsakes us' (1 Kings 8:57) and is with us every step of the way.

Just be glad you have a glass.
Reverend Steve Fulcher,
Church of Scotland – South Kintyre
Team Ministry.

WHITEHOUSE

Mystery scholars identified

This photograph of a mystery group of scholars was published in the Courier two weeks ago in a bid to identify the pupils and teachers pictured, the school they attended and the year in which the photograph was taken.

It was submitted by Anne Duff, who found it among her items belonging to her late father, Ian MacDonald, a renowned historian and genealogist who died in 2013.

Anne did not think any of her own family members were in the image but thought it could have been taken at Glenbarr Primary School.

Courier reader Alex Gillies got in touch to say that the photograph was actually taken at Whitehouse's primary school, which is no longer in existence, probably around 1935.

Alex's mother Marjory (nee Bird), now aged 92, is in the photograph and was able to name most of the other children, as follows:

Back row, left to right: teacher Miss Ellis, unknown, Billy Miller, Duncan Thompson, George Miller, unknown, Tommy Bird, teacher Miss Livingston, Margaret Thompson.

Middle row: Betty Bird, Margaret Miller, Marjory Bird, Rachel McGregor, Jessie Bird,



The mystery photograph was actually taken at Whitehouse's primary school.

Joanne Bird, Jenny Henderson, Audrey Graham, Elda McPherson. Front row: Archie Miller, Robert Miller, James McGurk and Jackie Bird.

If any other readers can identify the two remaining unknown pupils, please get in touch by emailing editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk or telephoning 01586 555453.

LOCHGILPHEAD

Fire station in rural and remote Covid testing trial

Lochgilphead Fire Station is one of two Covid-19 testing sites introduced as part of a trial to increase access in remote and rural areas.

The trial at Lochgilphead and Thurso fire stations began on Wednesday January 6 and runs until Friday January 29 in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), which will store samples ahead of courier collection.

Scottish Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said: 'With this trial, our aim is to give people with Covid-19 symptoms in these areas more consistent access to testing and to see whether this approach could be adopted across other remote and rural areas of Scotland if successful.'

I am grateful to the SFRS, Argyll and Bute Council, Highland Council and NHS Highland

for their excellent partnership working in making this trial possible and for their ongoing support throughout the pandemic.'

Assistant chief officer Stuart Stevens, SFRS director of service delivery, stressed the fire station would retain its capability respond to emergencies,

He added: 'It is imperative that everyone in Scotland, particularly within our more rural and remote communities, has access to consistent testing.'

'We will continue to support the Scottish Government, our partners and communities wherever possible through this challenging time.'

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland in the Lochgilphead trial.



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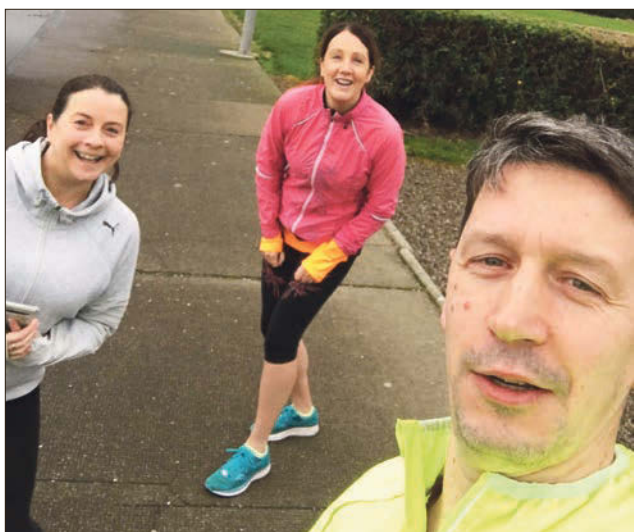
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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.



Take Five challenge creators Tracy Chambers, left, and Sarah McFadzean, centre, were inspired by David Brown, right.

Take Five challenge heads to Tarbert

A charity challenge encouraging people to recognise the importance of fresh air and exercise, which began in Kintyre, is being rolled out across Tarbert and Mid Argyll.

Mental health charity ACUMEN (Advancing Community Understanding of Mental and Emotional Needs) wants individuals and groups from those areas to take part in the 'Take Five' campaign.

Among its roles, the charity delivers activities promoting recovery, wellbeing and awareness of mental health issues in communities.

Sarah McFadzean, development worker with ACUMEN, covering Kintyre and Mid Argyll, explained: "Take Five is about setting a challenge that suits the individual's abilities, the goal being to spend some extra time outdoors from your normal routine and to add

some additional movement into your day. By taking five for ourselves – whether it is five minutes of walking, five deep breaths of fresh air or a five-kilometre walk or run each day – the aim is to boost our sense of wellbeing and to support each other to do so."

Sarah launched the Take Five challenge with Kintyre Link Club manager Tracy Chambers in November after being inspired by Campbeltown Tesco manager David Brown's personal 5K-a-day challenge.

Sarah said: "I would love to hear from any individual or group in Mid Argyll who would be interested in taking part over the month of March, either for their own benefit or to fundraise for a group or club."

Email sarah.mcfadzean@acumennetwork.org for more.

Can we still travel to the hills to walk for exercise?

Now that the country is in a new period of lockdown, can people still travel to the hills for exercise?

Scottish Mountain Rescue, which represents 24 of the country's volunteer mountain rescue teams, has published a few pointers based on Scottish Government guidance.

The answer to the question really is – it depends how close walkers live to the hills.

Scottish Mountain Rescue distils the latest government guidance to a number of key points, as follows:

To minimise the risk of spreading the virus, people must stay at home as much as possible.

By law, in a level four area people can only leave home (or garden) for an essential purpose.

Examples of reasonable excuses to go out include local outdoor recreation, sport or exercise, walking, cycling, golf, or running that starts and finishes at the same place, which can be up to five miles from the boundary of home local authority areas.

Though homes can be left for these purposes, people should stay as close to home as possible.

Travel no further than is needed to reach a safe,

non-crowded place to exercise in a socially-distanced way.

Up to two people from two separate households can meet outdoors for sport, exercise or social interaction.

Scottish Mountain Rescue has stressed that while mountain rescue teams are still responding in lockdown, Covid-19 has had an impact. In particular, rescues will take longer than normal.

It also advises:

■ PPE is designed for indoor environments, it does not work effectively in the mountains in winter.

■ Winter callouts are manpower intensive and hard work (lots of heavy breathing).

■ It is unlikely that rescue team or the casualty can effectively be protected if either a team member or the casualty is already infected.

■ Rescue teams work hard to manage risk, but Covid-19 is not a risk that can effectively be managed on winter rescues and it will be luck whether rescuers and rescued get infected or not.

If allowed and able to visit the hills, people should not push their limits or the conditions; take extra emergency clothing and food; and follow the Thinkwinter guidance. (www.mountaineering.scot/



safety-and.../thinkwinter)

If anyone needs help on the hills, call 999, ask for police, then ask for mountain rescue.

Arrochar Mountain Rescue team on a recent exercise on Beinn Ime. Photograph: Arrochar MRT.

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