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Pages 18-21



# Kintyre area records lowest figure for Covid-19 cases

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

Covid-19 cases in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) are lower than anywhere else in Argyll and Bute, according to a report for the area's health and social care partnership (HSCP).

In the week ending Friday January 15, fewer than 20 cases were recorded per 100,000 of population in the MAKI area, while Helensburgh and Lomond had 97 cases, Bute and Cowal had 89, and Oban, Lorn and the Isles had 60.

The total number of cases recorded in Argyll and Bute during that week was 58, the same as for the previous seven days. While Oban, Lorn and the Isles saw an increase week-on-week, the other three areas all saw a slight decrease.

The report was to be discussed at a virtual meeting of the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB) on Wednesday, alongside another report which reveals that, as of

Monday January 18, there had been 1,078 positive cases in Argyll and Bute, the vast majority of which have occurred since the start of September.

However, the number of cases per 100,000 people in the area has remained lower than in neighbouring council areas, with the exception of a period

**'Since December 26, cases in Scotland have increased rapidly.'**

in December when there was a contained outbreak at Faslane among Navy personnel.

Dr Nicola Schinaia, the HSCP's associate director of public health, said: 'During the second wave of the pandemic, rates of cases in Argyll and Bute have been lower than in neighbouring areas, with the exception of a peak in cases at the start of December due to a contained workplace outbreak.

'From around December 26, cases in Scotland have

increased rapidly. This may reflect increased mixing before Christmas but also the impact of the variant three with its increased transmissibility.

'Public Health Scotland (PHS) published an evidence from UK Government laboratories that 61.9 per cent of new cases in Scotland between January 10 and 11 were consistent with the new variant.'

Dr Schinaia added that, according to figures from the National Records of Scotland (NRS), 87 Covid-related deaths occurred in Argyll and Bute up to January 10, 23 registered since the start of September.

He said: 'NRS data on deaths includes both confirmed and presumed cases, and is based on "usual" residents of Argyll and Bute, which can include those living outside Argyll and Bute at the time of death if they have lived there for less than a year. PHS reports 54 deaths of Argyll and Bute residents within 28 days of a positive test, 19 of which have occurred since the start of September.'

## Snow fun for families



Families enjoyed a welcome distraction from the ongoing pandemic last week after a flurry of snow blanketed parts of Kintyre. It wasn't long before youngsters, like the ones in this photograph taken by Sharon Renton, dusted off their sledges and took to the hills in a distanced manner for a bit of light relief - which could perhaps have doubled up as home-school PE!

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# Distillery aims to keep spirits high with virtual Valentine's

Love is in the air, but so is coronavirus, so the team at Beinn an Tuirc Distillers have come up with a novel way to celebrate St Valentine's Day this year, writes Fiona Scott.

And so popular was the idea that tickets for the Valentine's virtual cocktail evening sold out in a day.

So, are people getting more romantic this lockdown or is everyone just taking any excuse to turn to drink? The Courier asked Emma Macalister Hall and Hannah Young, who host the Beinn an Tuirc themed nights what they thought.

'We think people just want to get together in an informal way and have a laugh,' said Emma. 'People join in wearing their joggers or jammies and we have a few drinks, play



Hannah Young, left, and Emma Macalister Hall at the virtual Gingle Bells night.

some games and have some banter. It's as simple as that.'

Following on from the equally popular Gingle Bells and January Blues nights, the next offering will take place on Friday February 12 and will be loosely themed around Valentine's Day.

Producers of the highly acclaimed Kintyre Gin, Beinn an Tuirc Distillers will introduce the Love Potion, Bramble Berry and Raspberry Espresso

to the mix. 'We hosted a total of 224 screens on our Zoom tastings last year and have loved every minute. It's not just about having a good nose into other people's living rooms, it's also about meeting their lovely pets and having a good old chat about our favourite subject - Kintyre Gin,' added Hannah.

The virtual tastings are hosted on Zoom and usually last one-and-a-half to two

hours with a guided tasting of three products. Private virtual tastings are for a minimum of six attendees, and usually a maximum of 20, while themed nights can be anything up to 25.

'Any more than that and it gets a bit crushed on the screens,' said Emma. 'The variety of people we have on is great too. We have folk joining from all over the country and beyond. People who have never met each other are enjoying a wee tippie together and join in our games which include bingo and quizzes.'

'Hannah and I join in for an hour or two and then leave and let everyone get on with it, some folk stay and chat until the wee small hours.' Next up for the team is a Mother's Day get together.

# Councillors object to removal of 55 pay phone boxes

A council committee has officially objected to plans by BT to remove dozens of telephone boxes.

Sixty-eight public pay phones across Argyll and Bute faced disconnection because of a massive fall off in use, with BT holding a 90-day consultation.

It included phones in Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Taynuilt and Dalmlally and in places across Mull, the Isle of Coll, Islay and Jura.

Figures show the vast majority of pay phones have an average of zero calls a month.

The most used box in Argyll and Bute was in Burnbank Street, Campbeltown, having seven calls a month.

Councillors on the planning, protective services and licensing committee (PPSL) objected to the removal of 55 payphones and agreed with

the proposed removal of 10. There are community plans to adopt three, with those wishing to adopt having to pay £1 and provide a contact email address.

Some are used to hold defibrillators, small libraries, cake shops and as general public information hubs.

BT said payphone use had declined by more than 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide them for emergency use had greatly diminished.

It said at 'least 98 per cent of the UK' now had either 3G or 4G mobile phone network coverage.

Because as long as there is network coverage, it's now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage from your own mobile provider.'

# GRIP gets masked up

The effects of coronavirus are so far-reaching that even Sir Antony Gormley's sculpture GRIP, which stands on rocks in Saddell Bay, has been given his own face mask.

Litter pickers across the UK are reporting a huge increase in the number of dumped disposable face masks being spotted during their patrols but, thankfully, the iron man's single-use disposable face covering was only in place long enough for a photograph to be taken.

Tommy Macpherson, from Saddell, took the shot last Sunday before removing the



GRIP with his temporary face covering.

face covering and taking it away with him.

People are being urged to dispose of single-use face

masks responsibly - they cannot be recycled but should be disposed of carefully - to prevent them ending up in

streams, rivers and eventually the sea where they could cause harm to wildlife and the environment.

## POLICE FILES

### Bench vandalised

Police are investigating and appealing for witnesses after slats on a bench on Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, were broken at about 8.45pm on Monday January 18.

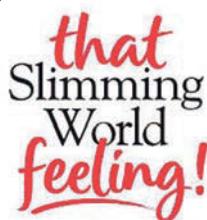
### No car insurance

A 38-year-old man was traced and charged after allegedly driving an uninsured car in Hall Street, Campbeltown, at about 4pm on Thursday January 21.

### Vehicle damaged

The lower door panels of a Volkswagen Tiguan car at Bowmore Pier, Islay, were allegedly dented between 12am on Saturday January 9 and 2pm on Monday January 11.

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



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Exclusive Newsletter



# Lifeline Jura road 'left to rot', claims islander

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

A Jura resident has said the island's only A road - a lifeline supply and commute route which provides vital access for emergency services - has been 'left to rot'.

Neil Gow, a member of Jura Community Council, spoke out in desperation, having complained about the 'utter disrepair' of a section of the A846 for months with little result.

He explained that a now-badly-potholed section of the road, a few hundred metres long, was resurfaced in October 2020.

'Within days, it was deteriorating to a far worse state than it has ever been,' Neil said. 'I believe other areas of Argyll had similar issues which were subsequently rectified. Jura was not.'

Neil said that despite some 'sympathetic responses and promises of action' after continuous complaints to Argyll and Bute Council from the

community council and members of the wider community, the condition of the road became worse rather than better.

'We were repeatedly told the road just needs time to settle,' he said. 'As the predictable wet winter weather set in, the stretch became increasingly dangerous, and was marked only by a solitary traffic cone placed by a member of public.'

Neil personally complained to the council after a fellow Jura resident received a response on December 4 advising that repairs would be carried out by January 3.

'Given the dangerous state of the road by this stage, and the speed of deterioration, I found this delay unacceptable - and the timing of the first Sunday of 2021 to be suspiciously odd,' he said. 'Predictably, the January 3 deadline was missed.'

'The only improvement that appears to have come from complaints so far has been the eventual erection of warning signs in late December - one of which blew down days later



The badly potholed section of the A846 which is causing concern on Jura.

and remains down. The road now is in utter disrepair in multiple sections. What holes have been patched have either been emptied within days, or dwarfed by the surrounding disintegration of the remaining carriageway.

'I understand that the present pandemic has caused disruption to services but, to state the obvious, this road is the literal lifeline for the island.'

'It is frankly a disgrace that Jura has been left to rot like

this. I am not interested in investigations, or blame, or heads rolling, or apologies, or excuses. The people of Jura need a road. Anything less is a failure.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson told the Courier: 'When lockdown eased in the late summer, we successfully completed five road re-tread programmes on Islay and Jura, at a cost of over £0.5 million.'

'These works were designed to have a minimal environ-

mental impact by recycling existing road material, adding bituminous binder and then regrading and compacting the surface. This treatment ensures that we can maximise the amount of surface treatment delivered from our limited available budget.'

'We are working hard to deal with the localised damage on the mile-long stretch of Jura road that was resurfaced. Localised damage is not unusual.'

'As well as monitoring and patching the potholes, we will arrange for a contractor to overlay the damaged areas. This is dependent on ferry availability, as the materials have to be brought from the mainland and used while they are still hot.'

'We would love to do everything our communities want us to, including full maintenance of our 2,300 kilometres of roads. The fact is, we would need to invest over £100 million to bring the entire road network up to an A1 standard.'

## Guardian service extended to council staff

Health and social care workers in Kintyre can now turn to a 'guardian service' when they are experiencing difficulty in their job.

The area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) has expanded its service to Argyll and Bute Council staff. It had previously only been available to workers in NHS Highland.

HSCP chief officer Joanna McDonald confirmed the move in an update before the partnership's integration joint board (IJB) at its virtual meeting on Wednesday.

Ms McDonald said: 'The service is independent and confidential and is for staff to discuss matters relating to patient and service user care and safety, whistleblowing, bullying and harassment, and workplace grievances.'

'The guardians are external to the HSCP and will provide information and emotional support in a strictly confidential, non-judgemental manner.'

The report also gives updates on other council services, including an additional £10,000 grant to help with cancer screening services in the area.

'This funding is part of a Scottish Government National Screening Programme initiative to ensure staff are equipped to promote screening to people they come into contact with in the course of delivering health and social care services,' added Ms McDonald.

## Have your say on Campbeltown's transformation projects

Members of the public can have their say on the regeneration project which transformed Campbeltown over the last 13 years through an evaluation process which is currently taking place.

Argyll and Bute Council has commissioned design and consulting services company Stantec to measure the success of the Campbeltown Town

Centre Regeneration Project between 2007 and 2020.

Working in partnership with the community, private and social enterprise sectors, the council delivered an extensive programme of heritage-led regeneration in the town centre.

The £10 million programme included three separate regeneration schemes:

■ 2007 to 2012 -

Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) round one, (merged with the Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative in 2009);

■ 2009 to 2015 - Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative; and

■ 2015 to 2020 - Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

(CARS) round six.

A council spokesperson said: 'We would love to hear your thoughts on the overarching regeneration programme. This will help us to demonstrate the impact the various schemes have had and identify lessons to be learned going forward.'

'The survey should only take five minutes, and your responses are completely

anonymous. While you are in the survey you may go back and edit your answers, but once completed and submitted there will not be a way to amend the information.'

The survey will be open until February 5 on the following link: <http://bit.ly/3oU00SA>

Any survey questions can be emailed to [info.glasgow@stantec.com](mailto:info.glasgow@stantec.com)



## 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](http://www.dochasfund.org.uk) and Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/dochascentre](http://www.facebook.com/dochascentre) 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](mailto: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](mailto:counselling@dochasfund.org.uk) or message the Dochas Facebook page.**

**We are here to support you.**



### Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

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**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](http://www.cool2talk.org).

**Contact 07788900049 or [fiona@mayds.org.uk](mailto:fiona@mayds.org.uk) [lynn@mayds.org.uk](mailto:lynn@mayds.org.uk)**

# Enterprising pupils turn chocolate kits into cash

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

Senior pupils at Dalintober Primary School showed entrepreneurial spirit when they more than doubled an initial investment by selling hand-crafted chocolate kits.

The P6 and P7 pupils were given £250 to take part in Virgin Money's 'Make £5 Grow' programme, which aims to give pupils an insight into how business works, helping them build skills for the future, such as team-working, problem solving, leadership, money management and creativity.

After ensuring they were getting the best value products possible with their money, the youngsters bought supplies from Amazon to make two types of hot chocolate kits, and s'mores kits - using mega marshmallows, digestive bis-

cuits and chocolate - and soon went into production.

As well as being offered to the children's families, the kits were available to buy from The Kintyre Larder in Main Street.

The total profit raised was £317.45, of which £50 was donated to Kintyre Food Bank and the remainder was reinvested to help the school with another enterprise in the future.

A school spokesperson said: 'Dalintober P6 and P7 would

like to thank everyone who bought their chocolate products and we would also like to thank Linda McLean from The Kintyre Larder for giving us an opportunity to sell to the wider public.

'It has been a fantastic experience for us all and we have learned all about sourcing, budgeting, marketing and team-work. We have gained transferable skills which we hope will help us in the world of work.'

Representatives from P6 and P7 presented a cheque for £50 to Mhairi Reid of Kintyre Food Bank. Right: Children put together s'mores kits using marshmallows, biscuits and chocolate.



## Young people to have say on Covid impact

Young people aged 12 to 25 years are being invited to make themselves heard across Argyll and Bute.

Covid has made a massive impact on young lives and a new have-your-say project from the Argyll and Bute Youth Participation scheme wants to hear all about it.

ABYouthVoice on Lockdown is hosting an online meeting next month and wants as many people as possible from far and wide across the region to join in so it can have an open and frank discussion on how Covid-related issues are affecting them - those issues could be anything from access to rights, education or mental wellbeing and the future.

The plan after the first meeting is to recruit a group of people passionate about championing their peers' voices and making sure those voices are heard and listened to by decision makers both during and after lockdown for the long term, says Rosie Sumsion, one of Argyll and Bute's representatives in the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Anyone interested in getting involved on Thursday February 11 at 7pm can sign up at [tinyurl.com/ABYouthVoice](http://tinyurl.com/ABYouthVoice)

The meeting is for anyone interested to hear more about the project and wanting to share their opinions.

Rosie added: 'You don't have to be an expert in consultation or participation.'

'You don't need to sign your soul away at the meeting or commit to joining the group, but we would love to get as many people as possible to come along and hear what they have to say.'

'It's a chance to share opinions and meet others. It's a really exciting opportunity to be part of a project that is being driven by young people.'

'I'd like to think of this group as being a megaphone to make sure we are heard and listened to. We are keen to work with children's champions and with councillors to make positive change.'

## Pupil support posts spared from savings options plan

Schools in and around Campbeltown will still benefit from pupil support assistants, despite the roles being touted as 'savings options' at Argyll and Bute Council's policy and resources meeting in December.

Councillors have also decided that school crossing patrollers will be safe as part of Argyll and Bute Council's budget-setting process in February - even though those posts were not explicitly mentioned in the most recent list of savings options.

A report which went before the December meeting showed that pupil support assistants were one of many savings options being proposed.

It was estimated that scrapping them would see 38 jobs lost, but councillors overseeing the budget process have confirmed that it will not be recommended.

However, the report did not explicitly mention school crossing patrollers, whose posts have been under scrutiny as part of the last two budgets. This savings option was not taken by the council on either occasion.

The authority will set its 2021/22 budget at a Skype meeting on Monday February

25. The authority's deputy leader, Helensburgh Central Conservative councillor Gary Mulvaney, who chairs the council's budget working group, said: 'The working group that we put in place to look at this year's budget, which includes cross party members, unanimously agreed that potential savings around pupil support assistants and school crossing patrollers should not be taken.'

'Whilst the council will not finally consider its budget until the end of February, and there are undoubtedly still difficult long term decisions to be made to safeguard services within tight public finances, it made sense meantime to provide some re-assurance to those particular staff affected.'

Other savings options which were also listed for the policy and resources committee in December included streamlining the council's property estate, reducing grass cutting services and holding more meetings virtually to cut down on councillors' expenses.

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# Forest landslide road repair complete

Work to stabilise a forest road that was partly washed away at the same time a landslide blocked the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful on January 29 2020 has been completed, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

The road, which runs parallel to the A83 but higher up the slope, gives Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) access to forests and land that it manages at Glen Croe.

Last January's event was the result of exceptionally heavy rain, that had caused a mini-slip that blocked an uphill drainage culvert.

That saw water dam up, overflow the forest road and wash away more than 1,000 tonnes of debris that landed on the road.

FLS planning manager John Hair said: 'The road blockage itself took a lot of clearing up and we initially focused on stabilising the landslide channel

and constructing a catch-pit to prevent any more debris from reaching the road surface.

'It was a seven days-a-week job to make the area safe, an operation that included having to underpin a 50-metre stretch of the forest road to strengthen it and prevent any further major collapse.

'Once that had been completed, we were able to look at the longer term effort to carry out all the work required to make the forest road safe.

'After drilling 300 steel bars 10 metres into the hillside, putting a concrete wall and beam in place, adding a guard rail and securing the downhill slope with 600m<sup>2</sup> of steel mesh, our forest road is open again.'

FLS engineers will now reinstate the forest road by constructing an additional retaining wall above the road, widening the running surface



What remained of the forest road after the January 2020 landslide.

and relocating the roadside drain. Led by FLS, the team included the geotechnical engineers and consultants

involved in resilience works elsewhere on the Rest and Be Thankful, and partners Transport Scotland and BEAR.

## Longer opening hours at Rest and Be Thankful

Longer daylight hours means extending opening hours at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful.

When weather conditions allow, the road will remain open from 8.30am to 4.30pm with the Old Military Road staying in use during the dark with traffic being convoyed through Glen Croe.

More work is being carried out on the steep channel below the A83 formed by multiple landslips in 2020 with a catch-pit at the roadside also being constructed to stop any debris from potential landslips reaching the carriageway.

Engineers have completed a 175m-long, 6.6m-tall temporary bund next to the Old Military Road to act as a protective barrier on the route and provide extra resilience during bad weather.

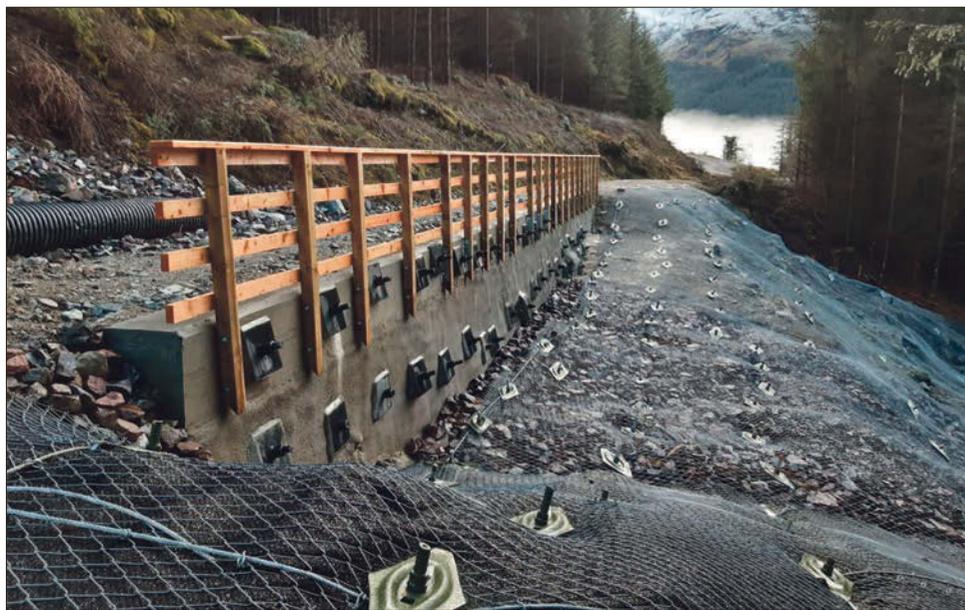
Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West representative, said: 'As the days are beginning to get

longer, we can start our daily monitoring and checks of the area earlier, meaning we can safely increase the length of time the A83 is open for.

'We're continuing to divert all road users via the Old Military Road staying in use during the hours of darkness as a safety precaution. Teams continue with work to develop further mitigation measures in the area, with teams monitoring and assessing the hillside and weather conditions in the area at all times.

'We thank all road users and the local community for their continued patience while we progress with our ongoing mitigation work at the Rest and Be Thankful.'

Real-time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland at [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org), twitter at [@trafficscotland](https://twitter.com/trafficscotland) or the new mobile site [my.trafficscotland.org](http://my.trafficscotland.org)



The completed reinforcement works where the road was partly washed away.

## Are you up for a television debate?

If you are the sort of person who loves a good debate, the BBC Debate Night team would like to hear from you.

The programme, Scotland's topical discussion programme, is back on the (virtual) road once again to give the people of Scotland the opportunity to have their say about the issues that matter most to them.

The next programme on Wednesday February 10 is open to applications from across the whole of Scotland.

A Debate Night team spokesperson said: 'We are looking

for members of the general public from different locations across the country to join our weekly online Zoom audiences and share your stories from where you are.

'Perhaps you're a frontline worker, a home-schooling parent, managing a business, or caring for loved ones; as a Debate Night audience member, it is your questions which lead the discussion and the stories, experiences and opinions you share with us that matter most.

'It is the only TV programme

of its kind in the country to give you the chance to put your questions straight to Scotland's key decision-makers and public figures.'

To apply, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/debatenight](http://www.bbc.co.uk/debatenight) and click 'Join the Audience' and select the location that applies to you.

Any information shared with the Debate Night team will be held in the strictest confidence in line with its privacy policy which is available to view at [www.tinopolis.com/privacy-notice](http://www.tinopolis.com/privacy-notice)



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## FROM OUR FILES

## TEN YEARS AGO

Friday January 28 2011

## Hector's starring role on TV

Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse will be featured in a film to celebrate 200 years since the first light was lit in 1811.

Produced by Caledonia TV, the BBC2 programme is narrated by Dennis Lawson and Campbeltown's Hector Lamont, who was previously a lighthouse keeper. His wife Esther also features on the programme.

The film takes viewers through the remarkable achievements of the Lighthouse Stevensons over the course of five generations from the late 1700s to the early 1900s.

The programme also features Fair Isle South Lighthouse, which was the last in Scotland to be automated in 1998, with interviews from the keepers serving at the time. It will be aired on March 1 at 9pm.

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday January 26 1996

## Pressure on for Irish ferry decision

Pressure was growing earlier this week on the Scottish Secretary to give Caledonian MacBrayne the go-ahead to operate the proposed ferry link between Campbeltown and Ballycastle in Northern Ireland.

Scottish Office officials are said to oppose state-owned CalMac's participation in the pro-



In 2011: Former Lighthouse keeper Hector Lamont of Campbeltown at the Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse.

ject. But earlier this week it was revealed they had asked CalMac to submit a business plan for the route.

The news was welcomed by the prospective Conservative candidate for Argyll and Bute, Mr Ralph Leishman.

He told the Courier: 'This is a definite step forward and knocks on the head suggestions that the Scottish Office is totally opposed to CalMac as the operator on this route.'

Scottish Office reservations are believed to centre on proposals to use the MV Claymore on the route.

This would mean £600,000 would have to be spent upgrading another vessel for relief work for its west coast services.

CalMac's participation in the project has been backed by politicians on both sides of the

Irish Sea. Both Scottish Secretary Mr Michael Forsyth and Prime Minister Mr John Major were believed this week to have been lobbied at Westminster by CalMac's supporters.

Northern Ireland secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew is said to be among those who have contacted Mr Forsyth to support CalMac's involvement.

The project supporters have been asking the Scottish Office to consider the economic benefits the ferry could bring to Ballycastle and Campbeltown, which are both areas of high unemployment.

The project is expected to create around 250 jobs, 170 of them in Argyll.

The only other company which has expressed an interest in running the service, Seacat, only wants to operate it over a four-month summer season.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Thursday January 28 1971

## Provost to open new terminal

The new passenger terminal at Machrihanish Airport will be opened on Friday at 3pm by Provost Dan McKinven, in the absence of Mr Michael Noble MP Minister of Trade, through illness.

The new building, which has been provided by the Department of Trade and Industry in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence, is a small one situated within a self-contained enclave and is designed to improve the facilities

of BEA passengers using Machrihanish.

Before the terminal was built, all BEA passengers had to be taken by bus between the aircraft and the old terminal building near the main entrance of the airport, and, latterly, to a dispersal point on the south side.

Under the new improvements, BEA aircraft will now taxi directly to the new terminal area, and passengers will be able to walk the short distance from the aircraft to the terminal.

A new road traffic control system has also been provided because aircraft taxiing from the runway to the terminal have to cross a public road.

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday January 29 1921

## Sparks and Flashes

The annual meeting in connection with the Campbeltown Cottage Hospital will be held on Tuesday first at 12.30 in the Council Room.

■■■

Local footballers had again an idle Saturday last week on account of bad weather. Campbeltown and Hearts will make a third attempt to meet on Saturday first, and, weather permitting, the kick-off will be at 3 o'clock.

■■■

The Courier Office received a visit from some boy burglars last week, the invaders making a 'corner' in coppers.

This time the police got a clue and the sequel is likely to be heard in the Juvenile Court.

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# Final words from Gunner MacLean to his fallen peers

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



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Last week saw the conclusion of the serialisation of Campbeltown soldier Gunner Neil MacLean's previously unpublished prisoner of war diary. Gunner MacLean was captured in June 1940 following the 51st Highland Division's surrender at St Valéry-en-Caux during the Second World

War. A copy of his diary, several photographs and a poem, below, which was written during his time as a prisoner of war, were supplied to the Courier by Neil's son Calum, who knew nothing of their existence until after his father died aged 94.

## Poem from the fields of St Valéry



### St Valéry poem by Gunner Neil MacLean

On the 12th day of June with old Blighty so gay,  
With the thoughts of their sons coming home on that day,  
But fate could not bring us the joys that could be,  
For the nearest of Blighty we saw was the sea.  
We fought there like brothers as down poured the rain,  
With visions of Blighty and also sweet hame,  
But our visions were shattered and gives memories to me,  
Of the boys that went under at St Valéry.

We were then taken prisoners, I'm sure you all know,  
But before we were captured we put up a show.  
Yet it broke all our hearts to see our pals die,  
For we got no support from the sea or the sky.

If our navy and air force had got there in time,  
They would never have marched us back over the line.  
But the facts were against us, the French all ran,  
And the odds were too heavy for mere mortal man.

We all did our best, we all want you to know,  
That we didn't succeed is our greatest sorrow.  
We trudged back through cities, shell shattered and torn,  
And felt proud of the fellows that fell in the storm.

We'll never forget them and neither will you,  
For those sons of Scotland were valiant and true.  
We that fought with them will honour their name,  
And by subsequent action will add to their fame.



Neil and the men of the Campbeltown-based 201 Anti-Tank Battery, which served alongside the 51st Highland Division in France in 1940, photographed at a reunion in Campbeltown around 1960. Many of the battery members, all from the Territorial Army, were captured when the majority of the 51st Highland Division surrendered to the German forces, but some made it back to Britain and were later sent to the Far East.

This photo shows, back row, from left: Malcolm Campbell, Robbie McArthur, John McNaughton, Duncan McIntyre, Duncan McIntyre, John McKinlay. Second back row: Jock McKay, John Shaw, John Robertson, Duncan McLaughlin, Alex McKinven, Alex Robertson, John Mathieson, James Morrans, Willie Cook, Hamish Lynn, Jacky McKinven, Dougie McDonald, Neil MacLean, Davie Finn, John McNaughton, Jimmy Finn, John McCallum, Andy Mathieson, Dan McKinven, Sergeant Major John McDougall, Willie McCormick. Second from front row: Willie Anderson, John McMillan, James Shaw, Finlay Huie, Hamish Morrans, Captain George Lewis, Major Macalister-Hall. Front row: Charlie Morrison, Neil Gillies, Duncan McCallum, Jimmy Cunningham, Berty Cook, Jimmy McIvor.

If you need help to pay for a loved one's funeral and receive certain benefits, you can apply for Funeral Support Payment. It's a one-off payment towards burial or cremation costs and more. People typically receive around £1700 in financial support and you can apply after a person has died until 6 months after the date of their funeral.

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Or call our specially trained team on **0800 182 2222**



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## No room for complacency

Well done to all those who have played their part in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands ensuring we have lower Covid-19 rates than anywhere else in Argyll and Bute, and in Argyll having lower rates than other local authorities.

It's not always helpful to scrutinise figures, of which there are so many, but sometimes it provides some positive news – in this instance, showing that the sacrifices we are making are helping to limit cases.

However, we should not let this positive news allow us to become complacent – the only reason the rate is as low as it is in Kintyre is because the majority of us adhere to the lockdown rules. Any relaxation of this could have a huge impact in making those figures rise.

And it is not a competition – devastatingly, more than 100,000 people across the UK have now died with Covid-19. We are all in this together and it is as a nation that we need to overcome this unprecedented challenge.

At least our young people were able to put the pandemic to the back of their minds to enjoy the snow for a couple of days last week – moments of excitement must be few and far between at the moment, so it is fantastic that they were able to enjoy the snow safely.

# GET INVOLVED

email [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk)

## Our fishermen deserve better

Remember the closing stages of the Brexit negotiations?

Boris Johnson pretended he was holding out to get the best deal for fishermen. In the end he agreed a deal that the Scottish Fishermen's Federation described as 'desperately poor' and 'the worst of both worlds'.

Fishermen are restricted to catch fewer fish in most key species. Lorries carrying stocks that have been caught were left to sit at Larkhall – unable to penetrate the new fog of bureaucracy. Scottish fishermen are forced to land the fish they can catch in Denmark – grim news for Scottish fish processors.

Instead of trying to fix the problem, Tory Minister Jacob Rees-Mogg says the fish are happier to be British. Of course they are – the fishermen aren't catching them.

The Tories must sort out this mess they have created. Our fishermen and fish processing workers deserve better than silly remarks about happy fish.

Councillor Alan Reid, Cowal ward.

## EU is not to blame for free trade barriers fiasco

By Jingo, Keith Abendroth has some brass neck in blaming the catastrophe facing Scottish fishing businesses on the dastardly EU. His solution is even more batty.

Driven by resentment and sepia-tinted post-Empire English nationalism, cloaked in talk of Britain and the UK, the Tories have jemmied the UK out of the world's largest and most successful single market.

Having placed the UK as a 'third country' outside the EU, alongside Somalia and Kazakhstan, it is not the EU to blame for the barriers to free

trade, Mr Abendroth, but the UK government and those who parroted the cruel myths of Brexiteer 'sunny uplands'.

Mr Abendroth suggests that the fishing industry merely sells into the domestic market as a replacement to EU trade, without thought to the timescales required to repurpose supply lines and create a viable home market – even if it could be done fishing businesses would already be bankrupt.

Scotland's economy and the living standards and opportunities of Scots have been thrown under the wheels of England's red Brexit bus. Never have the consequences of permitting Westminster to rule our country been more stark.

But the time is coming when Scotland will have the historic opportunity to regain the huge benefits of EU membership and become a normal, thriving, independent state at the heart of Europe.

There is an empty seat at the top table in Europe – and it won't be empty for long.

Ron Wilson, secretary, Kintyre SNP.

## Could part of the problem be in the supply chain?

Keith Abendroth is spot on with his call for the fishing industry in Campbeltown to supply the home market.

During my three-and-a-half years in the town it was possible to buy directly from the boat on occasion but it was nigh on impossible to buy fresh live lobster in the town's fish shop.

It is easier to get a full range of seafood and fish in Peebles, about 75 miles from the sea, which has an excellent fish shop supplied from Eyemouth on the East Coast.

Much Welsh shellfish is sent by air to Europe. I often wondered why lorries trundled from

Campbeltown across the Rest and Be Thankful and all the way to the English Channel crossings.

Much of the 21st century supply chain is a mystery to me.

For instance, much Pacific wild salmon is processed in China before being exported to the UK. It is an excellent alternative to the farmed version at roughly the same price.

Surely a town with an airport could develop a sea product freight service or is it simply down to volume, weight and cost?

Mark Davey, Peebles.

## Thank you for filling Blythswood shoeboxes

Two weeks ago, at Campbeltown Free Church, we received a letter of thanks from Blythswood Care for filling shoeboxes to support the 2020 Shoe Box Appeal.

However, we are aware that many who contributed do not belong to Campbeltown Free Church.

So, through the pages of the Courier, can I thank them for their kindness towards people they have never met but whose lives have been enriched by their generosity?

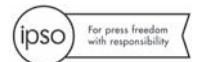
Dr Rodger M Crooks, Campbeltown Free Church minister.

## Lib Dem leaflets cross in the post to wrong destination

Like many, many other residents in Argyll and Bute I have received through the post a bizarre leaflet from the Liberal Democrats. Bizarre, because it promotes a candidate standing in a completely different seat – Caithness, Sutherland and Ross.

Meanwhile, the good folk of Caithness,

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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Sutherland and Ross have been equally mystified as to why the hapless Lib Dems have sent them leaflets promoting a candidate in Argyll and Bute!

The Lib Dems have certainly lost their way when it comes to their policy on the EU – but it seems that they've lost their way in Scotland too.

Les Wilson, Islay.

## Help to support RAF veterans

Although another national lockdown is necessary, these measures mean many of our veterans are facing the next several weeks – or months – completely alone.

And while the vaccine rollout out across the country provides some hope, social isolation and loneliness poses a real threat to our elderly this winter, among them many former RAF personnel and their partners supported by the fund.

To help combat this, last year the RAF Benevolent Fund introduced a weekly Check and Chat service to support members of the RAF Family experiencing loneliness. I speak to one such gentleman every Tuesday. He lives alone and spent much of 2020 totally isolated and, for him, this service truly is a lifeline. We chat about what he's been up to, what he's cooking for tea, to his time in the RAF and often I'm the only person he will speak to for days.

The fund also organises weekly telephone friendship groups, provides access to a listening and counselling service, relationship counselling support, and an online wellbeing portal to help support emotional wellbeing amongst the veteran community.

To refer someone to the RAF Benevolent Fund, please visit [rafbf.org](http://rafbf.org) or call 0300 102 1919.

Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot, chief executive, RAF Benevolent Fund.

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



This week's photograph shows the view towards Davaar Island taken from Kilkerran Road. Gayle Barrett captured the shot on a sub-zero day earlier this month. 'I took so many photos that day but this was pretty breathtaking,' she said. 'Like heaven and Earth meeting.' If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk) or send it via the Courier's Facebook page.

## CONTACTUS

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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**



# Happy lockdown birthday



Carla Cameron-Smith.

Carla Cameron-Smith from Campbeltown turned 16 on Monday January 25. She spent her birthday eating birthday cake and enjoyed a take-away dinner of her choice as she doesn't like the usual haggis, neeps and tatties that many people would have eaten that night!

Crissie Ewart, from the Sound of Kintyre, turned 10 on Tuesday January 26. She was disappointed not to be able to share her day with her friends but her family made sure it was special by making her a birthday cake instead

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

Don't forget to 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, birthday, where they are from and a bit about how they celebrated or plan to celebrate.



Crissie Ewart.

of buying one. After home schooling, they enjoyed a walk and played some games, before having a take-away dinner and club night in the evening with lights, music and a smoke machine.



Erin Ferguson.

Erin Ferguson, from Campbeltown, celebrated her 21st birthday on Thursday January 28. Born in January 2000, hair stylist Erin was a new millennium baby. She had a quiet day but will cele-



Ava Ross.

brate in style with family and friends when rules allow. Ava Ross, from Drumble, celebrates her 10th birthday today, Friday January 29. She will spend the day at home with her mum, dad and granny.



Millie and Kenny McPherson.

Saturday January 30. She plans to have some celebratory drinks in the house with her family and catch-up on Zoom with her loved ones who can't celebrate with her. All her family and friends send her lots of love.

Millie McPherson, from Campbeltown, celebrated her fourth birthday in lockdown on December 30, and her dad Kenny will spend his 40th in lockdown too, on February 5.



Rhian McSporrán

Rhian McSporrán, from Campbeltown, will celebrate her 21st birthday tomorrow,

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# Inveraray farmer given prestigious award

Inveraray farmer Dougie Ford is this year's recipient of the Stalwart award, presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region.

The Stalwart award, created in 2016 and awarded for the first time in 2017, recognises those who have given time and effort to the work of the union or who have made a significant contribution to agriculture in the area. Last year's winners were Southend haulage experts Donnie and Kate McKerral.

The NFU Scotland's virtual regional AGM saw regional chairman Duncan Macalister, of Glenbarr Farms, announce Mr Ford as this year's winner.

Mr Ford has spent a lifetime in farming, initially in Ayrshire, and for more than 40 years in Argyll. He has been

an active and participating member of NFU Scotland's Mid Argyll branch.

Although not originally from a farming background, his early career saw him working at the Hannah Dairy Research Foundation near Ayr focusing on the rearing of dairy calves.

He secured the tenancy of High Balantyre Farm at Inveraray and he arrived, driving his little grey Fergie, complete with his hen house on the back containing all his possessions. He set about building up a sizeable and successful business that started off with hens, turkeys, pigs and rearing calves providing the foundation to establish a beef herd that peaked at 80 cows.

However, the farm itself provided the platform for Mr

**Inveraray farmer Dougie Ford.**



Ford to help the next generation of farmers get their first step on the farming ladder.

Mr Macalister said: 'Dougie Ford is a very worthy recipient of this award because he has spent a lifetime encouraging and mentoring young people in North Argyll to achieve a career in agriculture.'

In proposing Mr Ford for the award, inaugural winner Sybil MacPherson said: 'Dougie's amazing knowledge of people and his ability to connect with young folk has, over the years, provided both education for youngsters, and equally importantly, given a home and moral guidance to numerous young people who had an interest in agriculture but also required a friend and mentor. 'He provided facilities, sup-

port and encouragement for around 20 years to many young people involved in Modern Apprenticeships Schemes to help them achieve a formal education in agriculture along with a practical understanding of life in general. His patience at times would be sorely tested, but he persevered, always looking for the best in folk and providing the stability of a home if necessary.'

Mr Ford said: 'I am totally surprised by the award but very delighted. I have always been keen to help young people with an interest in agriculture to get on and to provide them with the opportunities. It has been a pleasure to help with apprenticeships or see others take the first steps before progressing on to college.'



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- 2 x 2-foot swing gates



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# John McPhee

*Tracking the journey of Scotland's top motorcycle racer*



# John McPhee - From the beginning

With a mad keen amateur motocross rider for a father and a former Scottish Road Racing Championship 'Rookie of the Year' and BSB Superstock race winner in the family, John McPhee's interest in motorcycles was hardly surprising.

Dad, Alasdair, raced a Honda CR250 in local motocross events and the annual beach event at Weston-super-Mare, while Uncle Mark, campaigned a Yamaha R1 and Suzuki GSXR 1000 in the Scottish and British national championships.

'Racing bikes is something I have wanted to do for as long as I can remember,' said John, 'I dreamed of making a career from it but never really thought back then that I would.'

With bikes well and truly in his blood, John was bought an electric bicycle at the age of three and acquired a Yamaha PW50 at five. By the age of eight he was competing with the Oban Youth Motocross Club, rising through the ranks from 50cc to 85cc machines over the course of the next six years before signing off with a class championship in each year.

'This was when I really got a passion for racing,' he added.

'We used to travel around a lot with my dad and uncle and that was when the love of road racing really came to the fore.'

When John turned 12 the family bought an Aprilia 125 for a season-long Formula 125 campaign in the Scottish Championship, but after just two races the plans had to be put on hold for a year when he caught meningitis.

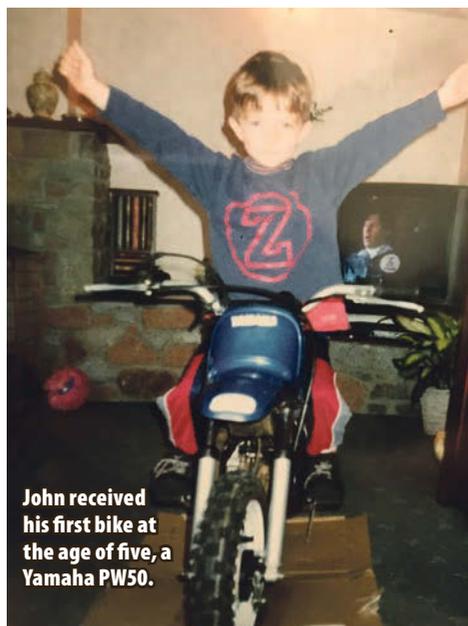
John resumed racing in 2007 and contested 15 races in the Scottish, North East of England and Melville Championships, claiming his first win and a total of seven podium finishes. A return to the championships in 2008 brought more success. He ended the year as triple Formula 125 champion courtesy of 29 wins



**Multiple Moto GP World Champion Valentino Rossi stops by to congratulate John on his first ever World Champion race win in Brno, Czech Republic, in 2016.**

and 37 podium finishes. His rise through the ranks signalled it was time to move on to tougher challenges and in 2009 he moved up a gear from Formula 125 to GP125 in the British Championship.

An uncompetitive bike impeded progress initially until KRP team boss Mark Keen spotted the privateer's potential and lent a hand with



**John received his first bike at the age of five, a Yamaha PW50.**

tuning and preparation. Results improved but a broken ankle eventually cut short his season.

He finished 36th in the championship overall and 11th in the integral U17s ACU Academy Cup but Keen had seen enough to recognise a race winner. As a result, in 2010 he joined the KRP squad for a full season in the British 125GP squad.

His first win came in the third round at Oulton Park after a race-long battle with the then-reigning champion James Lodge only for it to be disallowed due to a discrepancy between two sets of weighing scales used by the organisers.

But by the year-end the young rider from Oban had notched up a win that was allowed and four podiums to finish fifth in the championship and runner-up in the ACU Academy Cup.

In 2011, with backing from the Racing Steps Foundation (RSF), he continued with the KRP squad racing to 10th place in his rookie year in the CEV Buckler 125GP Championship in Spain and winning wildcard entries to three World Championship Grand Prix. His best placing was 15th in the British GP at Silverstone.

'When the RSF took me on and took me to Spain it was a real turning point for me,' said John.

'Up until then we had still been a small family run unit and were having to more or less fund ourselves. Spain is the central hub for Moto GP for two wheel racing. I realised then that if I wanted to make a career out of it then now was the time to knuckle down and prove myself.'

And that he did.

In 2012 John returned to the CEV Buckler Championship in the new 250cc four-stroke Moto3 category. John came seventh in the Championship, taking two podiums across the season. He also raced in the Moto3 World Championship in eight out of its 18 rounds, placing 36th.

2013 saw John riding with Jack Miller for SAXOPRINT RTG in his first Moto3 World Championships. He remained with the team for the 2014 season alongside new teammate Efen Vazquez, and 2015 with Alexis Masbou.

The following year he switched to the Peugeot Motorcycles Saxoprint squad, continuing to make his mark on the Moto3 category. Despite ongoing technical issues and injury he took

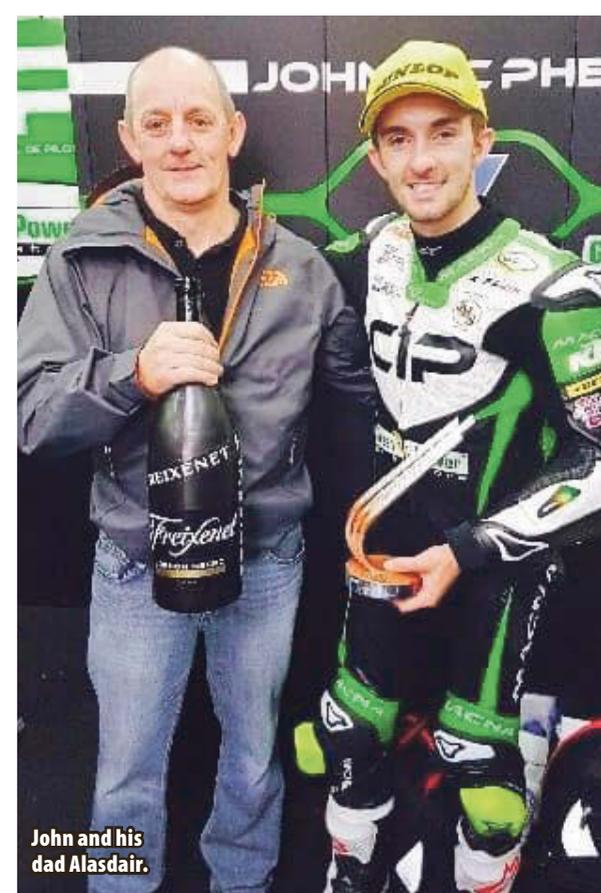
a stunning maiden victory in the rain at Brno.

Having raced with the newly created British Talent Team in 2017, John joined the KTM powered CIP Green Power Team in 2018, while 2019 saw him competing in the Moto3 World Championship with the Petronas Sprinta Moto3 Team, with whom he had a successful 2020 season.

**12-year-old John competed as a novice at East Fortune in 2007 on his first ever road race bike.**



**John and his mum Maggie.**



**John and his dad Alasdair.**

# The Petronas years and looking ahead

Having made the decision to continue his career in Moto3 rather than making the step up to Moto2, Connel race ace John McPhee signed with the Petronas Sprinta race team in the summer of 2018.

And he has never looked back since.

'Petronas came to me in June 2018 which was pretty early as most things don't happen in our season until around August,' he told us.

'They were the biggest team in the paddock at that point and I was struck by their professionalism, so I jumped at the chance.'

'It was at that point I made the decision to stay in Moto3 because I knew that with them I had a great chance at fighting to become World Champion.'

While John makes all the important career decisions himself, he is not averse to taking advice.

'I always discuss everything I do with my family,' he added, 'They have always been there, watch every race and I will never stop being grateful for their support.'

'Peter Ball from the RSF has also been a great help to me, as well as my good friend and ex-racer Michael Laverty.'

'I'm pretty happy with the choices I have made so far. It's pretty difficult to get into the World Championships, so to have been there for nine years now has been fantastic and something I would never have dreamed of when I first started racing.'

'Obviously I would like to step up at some point. I have a target of Moto2 and then maybe onto GP, but right now the main focus is to fight hard this year, win this Moto3 Championship and earn the chance to move up.'

In 2019 John raced his way to fifth in the championship, while last year he notched a seventh despite not finishing five of his 15 races.

Having notched two seconds and a third in a disrupted 2020 season, John took his first win since Le Mans in May 2019 in San Marino in September, coming from 17th on the grid for the dramatic victory. His participation in the event had been in doubt after an inconclusive Covid-19 test. A third test carried out just days before the race confirmed he did not have the virus.

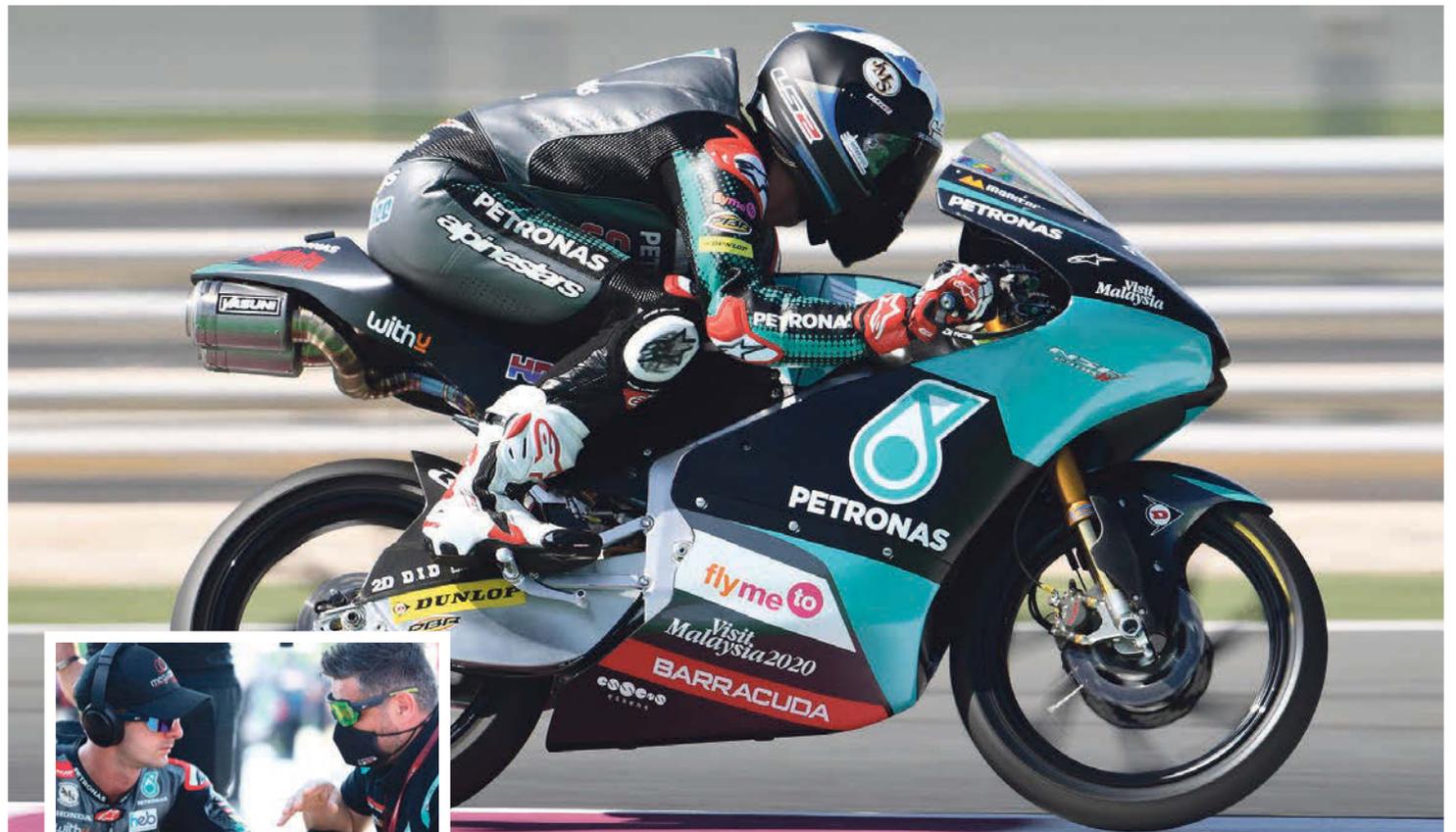
'In 2019 I had the consistency and wasn't making any mistakes and finished every race in the season, but there was the odd race where I was just missing that little bit of speed,' he explained.

'In 2020 I had the speed to win potentially every race but there was just a couple of errors being made. That and being taken out by other riders on a couple of occasions hindered me a bit.'

'There are definitely areas that can be improved on. The good thing is that the speed is there and the racecraft seems to be there, and if we can bring the whole package together I think we can be in for a strong 2021.'

Sentiments shared by his team boss.

Johan Stigefelt, PETRONAS team director told us: 'We really believed in John from the



beginning to step up our level in the category. He's a strong rider and we're delighted to continue our relationship for another third season together. The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing is the first team where John has stayed for more than one year, so that means our relationship is really good.

'In the first season together, we were able to see him mature and he was getting better and better at every race, achieving the first win for the team in France. That's was an historical moment for the whole team.'

'Last year the season was too much up and down when the potential was there to perform at the top level all the way through. There were external factors that perhaps didn't allowed us to focus fully on racing at some moments of the season. Anyway, we achieved another win and three further podiums and we were constantly fighting in the top positions.'

'John has the potential to be in the top three all the time so in 2021 we will work on ensuring this target.'

John will begin his 2021 campaign on March 29 at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar.

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**Congratulations to John on his continued success and best of luck for the 2021 Moto3 Grand Prix season.**

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### John McPhee's Racing to the top!

**2019: John finished fifth overall at the end of the 2019 Grand Prix season, with a momentous win in France in May.**

The 2020 Moto3 Grand Prix season was badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic this season, with 15 races able to go ahead from a total of 20 planned.

John finished the 2020 season in seventh place overall – a great result! On October 20 PETRONAS Sprinta Racing Team announced another year with John McPhee.

#### John's racing calendar – The Moto3 Grand Prix, 2020

Date	Event	Finishing position
8th March	Qatar	2nd
19th July	Spain	DNF (taken out)
26th July	Andalucia	2nd
9th August	Czech Republic	5th
16th August	Austria	3rd
23rd August	Styrian, Austria	DNF (crashed out)
13th September	San Marino and Rimini Riviera (Italy)	1st
20th September	Emilia Romagna and Rimini Riviera (Italy)	10th
27th September	Catalan (Barcelona)	DNF (crashed out)
11th October	France	DNF (taken out)
18th October	Aragon (Spain)	5th
25th October	Teruel (Spain)	6th
8th November	European (Valencia, Spain)	DNF (crashed out) <i>DNF = did not finish</i>
15th November	Valencian Community, Spain	11th
22nd November	Portugal	9th



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Incorporating the latest Honda Corporate Identity, this showroom also stocks and sells LS2 and AGV helmets, plus Oxford and RST clothing and boots. A three-bench workshop, an MOT station and Honda and Royal Enfield trained and licensed technicians completes Dundee's newest and most up to date motorcycle showroom.

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To enter submit your answer along with your name, address, email address and telephone number, either by email to [nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk) or by post to John McPhee/Ecosse competition, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. Closing Date is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The winner will be notified on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Editor's decision is final. The Motorcycle helmet size is offered in either medium or large. No cash alternative. Entries will be handled in line with GDPR regulations and will not be shared with any third party.

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## Thought for the Week

### Inauguration shines light on faith and hope

I was glued to the live coverage of an inspiring and memorable event that took place last week — the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.

I found it inspiring because it expressed values that, whatever their politics, I know many Americans share, values like optimism, hope, decency and truthfulness.

For me, it was inspiring also for something that was articulated without words, because the first act of the 46th president as he took office was to call for silence and for that silence to be filled with private prayer.

I cannot help but think that it bodes well for the future of that great nation to have a man of faith leading it.

Returning to the words, some of the finest and most moving that day came from a young woman called Amanda Gorman.

She spoke of lifting the gaze of the nation not to what stands between its people, but to what stands before them, of closing divides because they know that, to put their future first, they must first put differences aside.

'The new dawn,' she said, 'blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it; if only we're brave enough to BE it.'

In the first chapter of his Gospel, John says: 'The light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.'

We are called, all of us, to be part of that light and to be bearers of it into a dark and troubled world. May we rise to that call, as the new president rises to his.

**Reverend William Crossan, Lorne and Lowland Church, Campbeltown.**

## ISLANDS

### Young islanders to have their say in new network

Children and young people from all 96 of Scotland's inhabited islands – including Gigha, Islay and Jura – will be able to have their say and make their voices heard on issues in their communities through the setting up of a new forum.

The new Young Islanders Network will enable children and young people to help shape the delivery of the National Islands Plan, ensuring their interests and priorities are properly considered.

The network – which will initially meet virtually due to Covid restrictions – will also give those involved an opportunity to build their confidence, develop key skills such as leadership and organisation and to develop new relationships and friendships with others.

The network will explore issues such as the depopulation of islands and, crucially, will provide an opportunity for young islanders to raise the issues that matter to them most and make their views known.

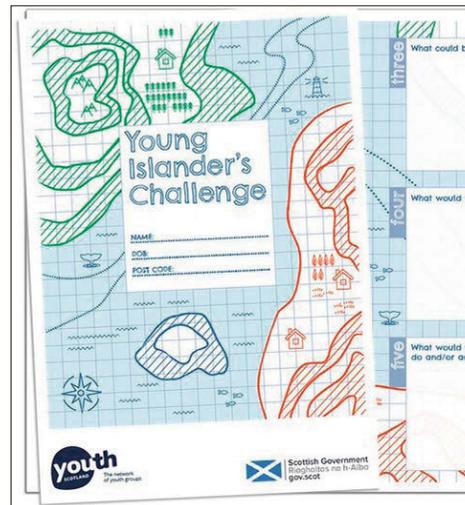
The project will also include a five-week online mental health awareness programme through Mental Health partners Place2Be for those working with young islanders.

Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP said: 'I am pleased that the Scottish Government is able to now establish this new and exciting network.'

'The network creates a great opportunity for children and young people on our islands to get involved in having their say and making their views known on key island issues and to help shape the future of their communities.'

'Our extensive National Islands Plan consultation made it clear that a network of this nature would be hugely beneficial, and that it will help to provide us with a better understanding of the experiences and views of children and young people and, through that, ultimately help us to create a better, more diverse living experience for all our islanders of all ages.'

'The network will also be hugely beneficial to those involved, as they will have the chance to be part of an exciting project, gaining valuable insights and developing themselves at the same



**The Young Islander's Challenge is another fantastic opportunity to not only be inclusive of young people living there, but to put them front and centre of a project for and about them.**

time. I encourage all children and young people living on our islands to get involved, if they can – and I say to them: if you take the time to make your voice heard, the government and I will take the time to listen to you.'

Youth Scotland is setting up the new forum.

Youth Scotland's chief executive Ian McLaughlan, said: 'Youth Scotland believes in better outcomes for all young people – whether that's in our urban cities and towns, rural communities or Scotland's island communities.'

'We are proud of our reach, membership and participation within the island communities. The Young Islander's Challenge is another fantastic opportunity to not only be inclusive of young people living there, but to put them front and centre of a project for and about them.'

'Thanks to our partnership with the Scottish Government and our island communities, we can work together to deliver both short-term and lasting impact.'

'I would urge any young person or group in our island communities to jump in, have your say and be part of something bigger.'

The full cost for delivering the Pilot Young Islanders Network will be £28,500.

To find out more, visit [youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/young-islanders-challenge](http://youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/young-islanders-challenge)

## ISLAY AND JURA

### Support for island newspaper campaign

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has added his support to a request from shopkeepers on Islay and Jura for a more reliable supply of newspapers, which has been disrupted in recent months.

Representatives of seven businesses from the islands wrote to a number of elected representatives including Argyll and Bute councillor Alastair Redman, a resident of Islay, who, in turn, sought the support of Mr Cameron.

Mr Cameron said: 'The Islay and Jura retailers make a compelling case for a delivery mechanism that allows them to receive a supply of newspapers at a reasonable time during the day.'

'Quite apart from the loss of business that the late and irregular deliveries are having, and the impact on the finances of the businesses concerned, many island people who may not have internet access are losing contact with what is happening in their communities.'

'Our local newspapers play an invaluable part in the life of communities, particularly in areas like Islay and Jura, which now, more than ever, need a reliable and trustworthy news service.'

'I do hope that they can persuade the powers-that-be to adjust their routines to ensure regular deliveries are restored.'

Councillor Redman added: 'The newsagents have taken a real financial knock as a result of the pandemic. We really cannot do without them here in Islay and Jura where they provide a crucial range of services which extends well beyond the supply of newspapers. But as the loss of newspaper trade may impact on their financial viability, I fear they may be put at risk.'



**MSP Donald Cameron and Councillor Alastair Redman**

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# What you can do in your ho

Life goes on regardless of lockdowns so use this time wisely to get yourself into the best possible position so you are ready for action when the time comes.

What can we do right now?

**'Essential work' only**

Amidst all the uncertainty of this pandemic one thing is for sure – we all need somewhere to live and our homes need to be kept in the best possible condition for our well-being.

And that includes not only our personal health and well-being but also our financial well-being; for the vast majority of people our homes are the biggest single expenditure – and asset – in our lives.

This is a time when we do need to keep spending on maintaining our homes because failing to do so would be false economy but in these financially uncertain times the money we spend has to be spent wisely. That means thoughtful and considered purchases of goods and services, materials and manpower.

And most importantly all this has to be done within the pandemic safety guidelines.

Scottish Government rules covering the containment of the Covid pandemic say that work carried out in someone's home can be only for 'the maintenance, upkeep or functioning of the home'.

The work must only be carried out where it is essential or where the house in question is unoccupied.

It is not just pandemic safety that is important, but building safety and that includes utilities.

Today our utilities are not just considered to be electricity, gas and water, be it mains supply or sewerage.

Communications are considered just as essential and include telecommunications and broadband.

The work on all these utilities should be safety checks and repairs, maintenance and installations only where these cannot be delayed.

The all-important definition is: 'repairs and maintenance that would otherwise threaten the household's health and safety'.

It is a fact of life that things break down and wear out and the work which can be done includes delivery, installation or repairing of key household furniture and appliances such as washing machines, fridges and cookers.

Non-essential work, as defined in the guidelines, includes cosmetic painting and decorating, or replacing kitchens and bathrooms; glazing, carpeting and electrical replacements where these are not required to maintain the health and safety of the household.

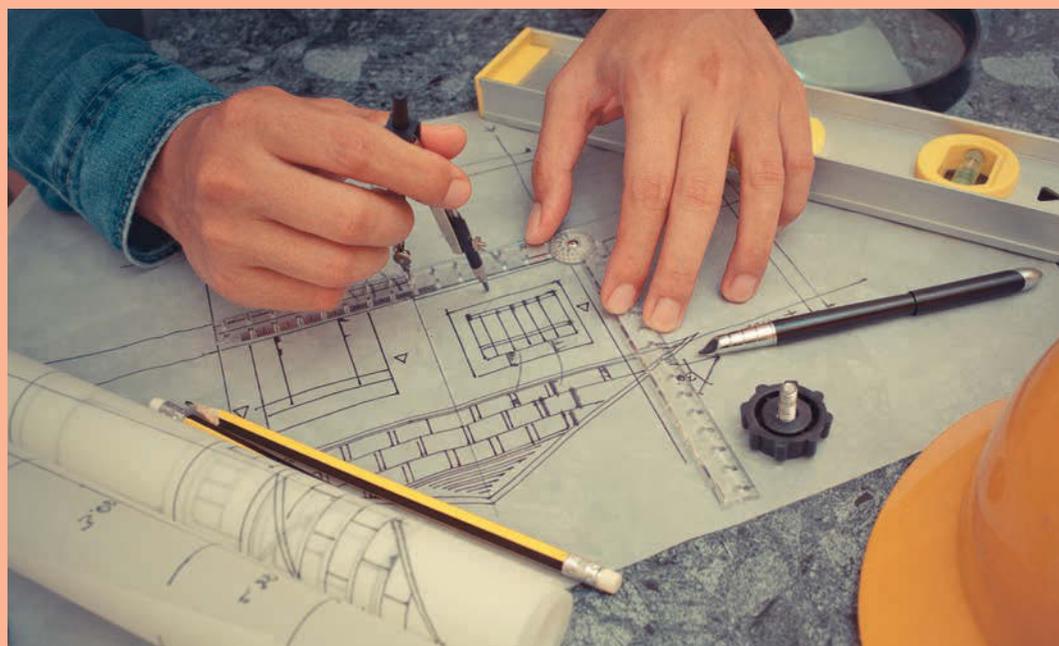
Travelling for the purposes of undertaking essential work on a property which is not your main residence should not be used as a pretext for a holiday, the government stresses.

You should not stay longer than for the length of time required to undertake the necessary work at any second or holiday homes.

The Scottish Building Federation has advised its members: 'Following the First Minister's statement in the Scottish Parliament on the afternoon of Wednesday January 13 the construction industry can continue to operate at this difficult time.

'However, legislation in relation to trades people undertaking essential work in homes has been strengthened as have laws on the requirement for employers to facilitate working from home.' The federation sends daily Coronavirus briefing emails to its members.

Just as we are all learning how to work from home, so too are architects and planners; the Scottish e-planning system had already taken up most of the work online way before the pandemic hit.



**What are you planning to do?**

If you are not moving house or embarking on a big self-build project, what are you planning to do?

Maybe you want to turn your garden into a paradise, perhaps adding some doors from the living room leading out onto a paved area or decking.

Perhaps the lockdown has made you realise you need to make some interior alterations, like an extra loo, shower room, or the conversion of loft or basement into office or school space; or maybe an extension or a garden room addition is what you need.

Has your old kitchen taken a battering with everyone at home and constant snacks and brewing up as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner for all while doubling as a school room? If your kitchen now resembles a war zone remember that famous military saying: 'Time spent in recognisance is seldom wasted'.

If there is one thing you have got now it is extra time on your hands and the internet is just the place to reconnoitre.

It is just bursting with home ideas to inspire you – from a simple change of cushions to freshen up the sofa to a remodelling of your entire property.

Be inspired by homes around the world as you dream your way through web pages and decide on the exact materials you want by visiting stores' websites – you can even price-up your projects. You have time to shop around and find the best value for money.

If you plan on doing the work yourself YouTube is full of helpful and instructive videos. Often you will find that leading manufacturers of materials and DIY stores have their own expert videos, to show you how to make the most of their products.



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# me right now

Plus many skilled trades people make their own videos – and they leave many of the daytime TV shows standing.

Pinterest is crammed full of ideas and so too are podcasts.

When it comes to gardens you can tour some of the most famous in the land online in search of inspiration and once again You Tube is packed full of experts and ideas.

And if you have a project planned – why not share it online by creating a podcast or You Tube videos of your own.

The internet is also packed with opportunities to realise your own plans – manufacturers have their own online planners for you to use to play around with ideas plus virtual makeovers for rooms.

As well as helping you to firm up your ideas, and cost-out your projects, you can also have a helpful collection of images to show your builder, gardener or decorator to explain your ideas to them.

As well as all this inspiration and planning, how about a little fun; ever wondered what your average movie star's home looks like on the inside?

Go to [www.dirt.com](http://www.dirt.com) and have a guided tour of the \$7.5 million 'equestrian estate' that Dwayne 'the Rock' Johnson has for sale in Georgia, or Sylvester Stalone's mansion in California.

If you prefer something with a little more history, visit [www.castlelist.com](http://www.castlelist.com) which has a selection of castles for sale around the world.

A mere €880k will buy you a listed 15th century moated castle for sale near Toulouse; a historic Moroccan Kasbah (requires renovation) for €6m, or nearer home Seton Castle, East Lothian, for £8m.



## Installing the heart of your home



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A stove is an extremely efficient space heater that can be run very economically in the super-insulated modern houses of today. It also provides a valuable and comforting source of heat during a prolonged power cut in an otherwise electric reliant system. And, of course, it goes without saying that a stove is a great looking visual asset which gives a

'heart' to the home and provides the perfect focal point to gather family and friends around! If you are building or renovating and are interested to know what benefits a stove could add as part of your heating mix then get in touch. With over 40 years' experience we can talk you through all the options available and work out what fits your needs best. Call us on 01631 720539.

*Just a short note to say thank you for all the help choosing and installing our new Woodwarm stove. Your very professional and extremely helpful family service was second to none. We only wish we had fitted the stove years ago as it has made such a difference to our family home.* Mr & Mrs Scott, Oban



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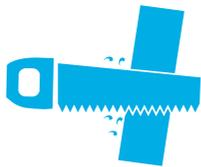
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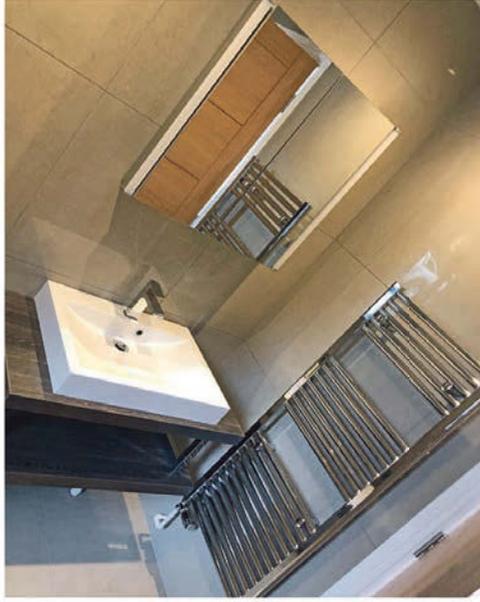
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# Give your car battery a fighting chance during the cold of lockdown, says GEM

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist says a few basic battery checks will help ensure your car engine starts when you need it.

During the current period of lockdown, only essential journeys are permitted, so many drivers will be using their cars much less... and mostly just for local journeys. Others will have decided not to drive at all.

Following a weekend of cold weather, the forecast is for another cold snap at the end of this week, potentially causing difficulty for cars, batteries and the drivers who rely on them, says GEM. GEM chief executive Neil Worth says every battery is potentially at risk if it's not being used. "Our recovery agents attend more calls to flat batteries than any other car breakdown.

"If your car battery is getting old, you may find it's simply not strong enough to start the engine. However, new batteries may let you down if they have been unused for a long period of time. "Cold weather slows everything down – including the chemical reactions that take place inside car batteries. It's estimated that when the temperature is at 0 degrees Celsius, a battery loses 35 per cent of its effectiveness.

"Yet so much of the equipment on your car demands electricity – meaning it's more important than ever to ensure your battery is ready to cope with the increased demands placed on it in cold weather.

GEM says it's important to remember that a battery doesn't last forever – in fact its average life is five years, so be ready to replace it as a matter of routine when the times comes; don't wait for it to let you down.

## SIGNS OF BATTERY TROUBLE

If the engine won't start, but you hear a slight noise from under the bonnet, the chances are your battery is flat.

If you hear nothing at all, it's likely to be either a loose connection on the battery, or the battery has no charge left at all.



If your car has remote central locking (via a button on the key fob), then this won't work if the battery is flat.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Check when your car battery was last replaced. Car service centres and garages are allowed to remain open during the current lockdown, so you should be able to book your car in for a battery check and replacement.

If you have a second vehicle available – and a set of good

quality jump leads – then it may be possible to jump start the car. Just remember to leave the engine of both vehicles running for several minutes after you've successfully started your car. Also, switch off both engines before removing the jump leads.

If you plan not to drive for the foreseeable future, it may be worth considering a trickle charger you can attach to the battery. Trickle chargers work by releasing a small amount of current to match your car battery's natural discharge rate. Contact your local garage should you be concerned.

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PRESS RELEASE

# Deer in the headlights: road accidents involving deer increase by 35 percent



Almost 1800 road accidents involving deer were officially recorded in 2018 although tens of thousands more go unreported, according to a Government advisory group.

Winter is a particularly dangerous time, when deer often move to lower ground for grazing and drivers face wet and icy driving conditions in poor light.

Official figures recorded 1,756 collisions involving deer in 2018, an increase of more than a third over the last decade.

However, when the Deer Working Group reported to the Scottish Government earlier this year on how Scotland should manage deer populations, the group concluded that the total number of road accidents involving deer is closer to 8,000 - 14,000, each year.

The significant difference between the official figures and widely accepted estimates of the total number of road accidents involving deer, is due to a number of factors but mainly it is inconsistent recording [see notes to editors].

Forestry & Land Scotland, which was asked to contribute data to the Working Group, reported that its rangers often get called out to tend to wounded deer near the forest areas it manages across Scotland. FLS is responsible for 650,000 hectares across Scotland or 9% of Scotland's land area and deer management is a significant part of its activity.

Ian Fergusson, Head of Wildlife Management for FLS said:

"Scotland's deer population is increasing and we have watched

the deer-related road accident statistics climb steadily over the past decade or so.

"Deer pose many challenges in terms of habitat management; the more deer there are the greater potential damage they can do. When deer numbers are high or food is scarce, they need to range widely for enough food and this often brings them down into more urban areas; and in terms of busy roads the results can be catastrophic."

Deer numbers in Scotland are estimated to have increased from around 511,000 in 1990 to around 1 million as of 2020. To help protect Scotland's national forests and land from the negative impacts of deer, Forestry and Land Scotland employs a number of techniques, including deer culling and fencing, where appropriate, to keep numbers down to a sustainable level, keeping herds healthy and mitigating against habitat loss.

Most recorded road accidents involving deer occur in the Highland, Aberdeenshire, Central Belt, and Fife regions, but areas in west central Scotland, including North and South Lanarkshire have also seen significant increases in the last decade.

Road Policing Area Commander, Chief Inspector Neil Lumsden, said:

"Country and rural roads have many unexpected hazards and the presence of deer on our roads, particularly at this time of year should always be a consideration of road users. It is impos-

sible to predict what will happen on the road ahead and you should always ask yourself "Do I know what is around the next corner?" and "Could I stop in the distance that I can see to be clear if I have to?"

"When using rural and country roads these are all questions you must continually be asking yourself. I would always remind people to drive to the conditions, understand and react to warning signs, they are there for a reason. Ensure you know what they mean, slow down, drive appropriately and expect the unexpected."

Winter is considered to be one of the most dangerous times on the roads for Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC), with deer typically being more active during dawn and dusk which falls at times when more cars are on the roads.

It's estimated that in Scotland, the actual number of DVCs involving human injury may exceed 120 per year.

#### **Advice to drivers involved in an accident involving a deer**

Being involved in a road traffic accident involving a deer, can be a traumatic experience, even when no-one is injured. Forestry and Land Scotland recommends the following advice:

- If anyone is hurt call 999
- If the deer is still alive, but injured, please call the SSPCA
- Do not get out of your car to check on the animal. You could get injured.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**RWE**

## Clachaig Glen Wind Farm Virtual Public Exhibition is open to view

RWE Renewables is exploring the potential to develop a wind farm of up to 12 turbines and other ancillary development located within Scotland's National Forrest Estate, close to our Deucheran Hill Wind Farm. We invite you to take part in our forthcoming online public exhibition where you can view and comment on the proposals.

Due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to carry out face to face public consultation events. The Virtual Consultation Room contains detailed information relating to the proposals and importantly, both an electronic and printable comment form so that feedback can be provided to the project team on the proposals.

The Virtual Consultation Room can be accessed via our project webpage [www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen](http://www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen)

If you are unable to access the website to view the information please contact [Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com](mailto:Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com) / 01224 060326 who will be happy to arrange a suitable alternative.

**The Virtual Consultation Room is now open to view.** An opportunity for a live chat session will be held where members of the project team will be available for a question and answer session via interactive text. This will take place on 24th February (3pm - 7pm) via the project website.

Please note that any comments made to RWE are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority. Please note all comments should be received no later than 12 March 2021.

[www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen](http://www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen)

### 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](http://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](mailto: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
20/01926/PP	Erection of building for office/storage use and installation of septic tank	Tarbert Farm, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AA
20/02260/PP	Change of use of land for falcon flight development to include; erection of buildings, siting of flight pens and associated works	Land South East Of Ifferdale Lodge, Saddell, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
20/01345/MFF	Formation of fish farm (Atlantic Salmon) incorporating twelve 120m circumference circular cages and siting of feed barge	North Kilbrannan Fish Farm, North Of Cour Bay, Kilbrannan Sound, East Kintyre, Argyll And Bute
20/02370/LIB	Internal alterations, erection of timber conservatory and formation of garden walls with railings	1 Ferry Land, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8UX

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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### MID ARGYLL TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS

AGM to held, by Zoom, on 24/02/2021 at 7:00pm.

Members will receive info, etc., prior to AGM. Any member of the public may attend: email [tighndarroch@btinternet.com](mailto:tighndarroch@btinternet.com) for info prior to date.



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If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:- HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is 5 February 2021.

### Receptionist / Dental Nurse (Part-Time)

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Closing date for the applications is 5th February 2021

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 Happy birthday Granny lots of love Lily xx

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**BIRTHS**



**MCMILLAN** – David and Nancy née Reid are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Tess Rebecca on January 7, 2021 at the RAH, Paisley, a little sister for Ben, Connor and Cate. Thanking all staff at Campbeltown Maternity Unit, with special thanks to Isabel.



**RENNIE – SNEDDON** – Steven and Lyndsey are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Marlowe Hope Rennie, born January 18, 2021 in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. Beautiful granddaughter for Billy and Rosemary Rennie.

**DEATHS**

**GRAHAM** - Peacefully at his sister's home in Dundee, on January 18, 2021, Alexander Graham (Alex) in his 64th year, 20B Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved son of the late David and Margaret Graham and a much loved brother of Margaret and Eunice and a friend to many. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Alex's funeral will take place on Friday, January 29. The cortege will leave the family home at 1.00 p.m. We will head along Davaar Avenue, Albyn Avenue, Millknowe and Aqualibrium Avenue, past the Cross on the way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Alex may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**MACPHAIL** - Dr Ian. (Edinburgh/Campbeltown). At Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on January 23, 2021, aged 103. Only 20 days after the death of Isobel, his much beloved wife of 71 years. The much loved father of Heather, John and Donella. A proud grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be greatly missed. Funeral private due to current restrictions. Donations in lieu of flowers to Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

**PONTON** - Peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Janette Victoria née Scott Ponton, beloved wife of Iaian Ponton. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to RNLI, Troon. Due to Covid restrictions, it's family only at the funeral.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**DETTMER** - James and Iain would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in the sad loss of their dearly loved mother Wilma. Your thoughts have been a great comfort. Special thanks to Annemarie, John, Mary, Martyn, Silvio, Fiona, Irene, Stuart, the staff at The Lochgilhead Resource Centre, Liz, John, Tricia, Linda, Helen, Jenny, Kevin, Louise and Tony, thanks also to Rev Ian Miller, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors and Piper John Hunt and to the many people who lined the route and paid their respects as the cortege passed on route to Cardross Crematorium. A final thanks to all who donated generously to the Dochas Fund.

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Donald MacDonald would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages, cards and phone calls of sympathy and offers of help following our sad loss. Our most sincere gratitude to the Campbeltown hospital dialysis unit and the British Red Cross for their excellent care and attention during Donald's long illness and to the Kintyre Dialysis Support group who worked so hard to bring this service to Campbeltown Hospital. Thanks also goes to our local medical staff. Special thanks to the Rev. Scott Burton for his comforting service and the support he gave our family, including members not advised to travel home to Gigha. Grateful thanks to the Funeral Directors TA Blair and staff for their professional services and guidance. Finally a special thanks to the island people who paid their respects by lining the route to the Cemetery.

**MACDOUGALL** - Eric and family of the late John MacDougall (Scooby) would like to thank friends for all their sympathy and support over recent weeks following their sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Robert MacLeod for a lovely service, Keli for the beautiful floral tribute. Thanks also to the captain and crew of Greensea service well-boat, for paying their respects to John by ringing the ships bell as we passed by and to the many people who lined the streets, also to pay their respects on a cold and frosty morning. We would also wish to thank Stan Lupton for his excellent and attentive funeral services.

**MCDUGALL** - The family of the late Peter McDougall, would like to thank everyone most sincerely, for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad and tragic loss. Special thanks to the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services for all their efforts and assistance on Christmas day and to Team Tarbert and the villagers of Tarbert

for their overwhelming generosity and kindness shown to the family. Thanks also to Rev Robert MacLeod for a comforting and personal service at Carrick Cemetery, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional handling of all arrangements, Piper John Hunt for leading the cortege and to all who lined the route to the cemetery and paid their respects. The family took a great deal of comfort from their support.

**WATSON** - Sandy and the family of the late Robert (Bobby) would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. A big thank you to Liz and her carers at Carr Gomm for their excellent care and compassion. Thanks to all doctors and staff at the Campbeltown Hospital. To all community nurses and carers and Shopper Aide, who all helped take care of Bobby. Thank you to Kenneth Blair and staff for their dignified professionalism and to the Rev Steve Fulcher for his beautiful service. Thanks to everyone who paid their last respects at Albyn Ave, the roadside and graveside.

**WINSTANLEY** - The whole family of the late Nancy Winstanley, would like to sincerely thank Dr. Lazarus, paramedics, Dr. Bartos and the A&E staff at Campbeltown Hospital. They all cared for our Mum in her last few months and hours, with great consideration shown towards both her and the family. Heartfelt thanks are also due to Nancy's many friends and neighbours who have written or voiced their condolences and personal recollections. To Fr. Tony Wood, thank you for the thoughtful service conducted, and the support shown to Nancy's family. We also appreciate all those who paid their respects as the cortege passed by. Finally, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Kenny Blair and the team at T.A. Blair Funeral Directors, who provided advice and sound guidance at this sad time. Nancy will be sorely missed.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

online Praise and Worship  
Zoom Service on  
**Sunday, 31st January  
2021** at 11am  
To join us online send your email address to [officespringbankchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officespringbankchurch@gmail.com) for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting [www.springbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.springbankchurch.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch>  
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**



**South Kintyre Team Ministry**

Due to the new regulations there will be no services held in the churches but an online service can be viewed on the South Kintyre Team Ministry page on YouTube.  
Ministers  
Revd Steve Fulcher  
Revd Chris Fulcher  
01586830504  
[www.kintyreparishes.org.uk](http://www.kintyreparishes.org.uk)

**SALVATION ARMY**



**Our meetings in the hall are currently cancelled Gospel message will be available via our FB page every Sunday**  
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046 Major Ruth Russell  
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

**CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH**  
George Street, Campbeltown



**Sunday 31st January**

In line with the current Covid restrictions, there will be no services held in the church building until further notice.  
Rev Rodger Crooks will record the service for this Sunday and it will be available on our website (see below) and on YouTube.  
4.00pm Sunday School (by Zoom)  
**Wednesday 3rd February**  
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)  
[www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**



Father, Reveal who you are. Set the world right. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
Luke 11 Verses 2-4 (The Lord's Prayer from The Message)  
Our building is currently closed but you are welcome to join our

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**



**Church services and activities suspended until further notice**  
Please feel free to contact us  
Pastor Mark Jasper  
01586 554 092  
[pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
[www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch](https://www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch)  
SC043322

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Mid-Argyll & Arran**

The Eucharist will be streamed live each Sunday at 11am on Facebook at [ChristChurchLochgilhead](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchLochgilhead) and on [www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk](http://www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk)

**ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH Lochgilhead**

**Suspension of Public Worship**  
Masses will continue to be Live Streamed via our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5MuOWIKEBFHQBQD37ui6yA>  
Please check our Facebook page and parish website for weekly Mass times and latest information.  
Fr. Ronald Campbell  
01546 602380  
[lochgilhead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilhead@rcdai.org.uk)  
(SC0002876)

**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](http://www.northknapdale.org)

**GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH**

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin  
**Please note due to lockdown restrictions our church is closed until further notice. We will be back in action as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then stay safe.**

**LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH**

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686  
There will be no services in the church during present Covid 19 restrictions  
There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday  
Rev W Crossan

**SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

The churches are currently closed - a reflection from the Rev Lyn Peden will be available on the Church of Scotland in Tarbert, Kilberry and Skipness Facebook page 01880820158  
Charity numbers Tarbert SC002622 and Skipness SC004280

**ST KIERAN'S RC CHURCH**

Current restriction announced by the Scottish Government mean it is necessary to close places of worship. Therefore, Holy Mass will regrettably only be celebrated without people present and will be broadcast on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>) and Zoom (Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6593787274>), at 10am Friday-Wednesday. Anyone requiring pastoral care should contact Fr. Wood: 01586 552160 or [campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk).

**ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES**

There will be No Services in Ardrishaig or Achahoish Churches until further notice.  
Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches (Micah 7)



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[www.facebook.com/campbeltowncourier](https://www.facebook.com/campbeltowncourier)

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# Government urged to invest in walking

Walking charities in Scotland have launched a new call for the Scottish Government to Walk Back Better, ahead of the Holyrood elections in May.

Living Streets Scotland, Paths for All and Ramblers Scotland shared a new manifesto for walking at an online launch event on Tuesday.

'Walk Back Better: a manifesto for 2021' calls for:

- Investment in a £50 million infrastructure fund to develop short walking routes, long distance routes, green neighbourhood networks and support under pressure mountain locations;

- Improved walking and wheeling conditions, including reducing pavement clutter, providing toilets, seating, signs, safety improvements, improved crossings and basic path and pavement maintenance;

- Improved access to local amenities, ensuring the planning system prioritises and delivers development within walking distance of local facilities as part of the 20-minute neighbourhood agenda;

- Increased investment for delivery of walking behaviour change programmes that particularly target the most vulnerable and help to reduce inequalities;

- Measures to improve safety, including a national speed limit of 20mph in all cities, towns and villages and enforcement of pavement parking legislation;



Westport beach has been a popular destination for walkers throughout lockdown.

- Investment in walking to school and reducing traffic and pollution outside school gates.

Although up to a third of Scots are not currently active enough, 71 per cent of adults visited the outdoors at least once a week during last year's lockdown – and this rose to 80 per cent by August 2020, according to a report published by NatureScot.

The manifesto's aim is for Scotland to become a 'healthier, cleaner, safer and happier walking nation', locking in the benefits of walking by providing improved opportunities for people to walk regularly.

Stuart Hay, director of Living Streets Scotland, said: 'We're pleased to be launching the Walk Back Better manifesto at

a critical time. After nearly a year of people taking exercise and essential journeys on foot during Covid-19 lockdowns, plans to keep the nation walking are more important than ever.

'The increases in people walking, has highlighted the lack of good infrastructure to support safe and enjoyable travel by foot. Communities that lack local facilities within walking distance have had challenges. That's why we are calling for investment in everyday walking to build back better after the pandemic, and respond to the challenges of air pollution, climate change and Scotland's health record.'

Ian Findlay CBE, chief officer of Paths for All, said:

'We launch our manifesto at a crucial point of change for Scotland as we begin to plan for life after Covid-19. During lockdown, we have seen a rise in the number of people walking as many used it as a way to cope with the pressures of everyday life, to reach essential shops and services in their area, and to connect with others and nature in a safe way.'

'But we need to do more to make regular walking an enjoyable and accessible choice for everyone in Scotland, from all walks of life. By investing in walking programmes and safe, attractive places to walk we can significantly improve the nation's health, reducing health inequalities and pressure on our NHS.'

## Mixed martial arts club in the fight for Co-op cash boost

A youth mixed martial arts (MMA) club is set to land a funding boost from the Co-op supermarket's Local Community Fund, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

Core MMA Campbeltown, which was established in October 2019 to help relieve the small town boredom that some youngsters experience by ensuring they remain focused on something positive, is planning to use the funds to upgrade its equipment and facilities to improve the quality and diversity of the training sessions provided.

A club spokesperson said: 'We invite both families and the public to exhibition events and support fundraising events. We liaise closely with schools and work with them to promote good mental wellbeing, positive pathways, and good community relationships. We encourage good citizenship in our members, and we offer advice on how their behaviour can impact others within their community. The club's ethos is "respect for all".'

Alongside charity The Hub - which provides a safe, alcohol-and-drug-free environment seven days and nights a week for young people, young carers and families in South Kintyre - and Meadows Under Fives Nursery - which would like

to buy iPads to encourage learning in younger members and allow staff to utilise software which would enable easier communication with parents/guardians and family members - Core MMA Campbeltown was chosen by staff at Campbeltown's Co-op to be the beneficiaries in the current round of funding.

When members shop with the Co-op, one per cent of what they spend on selected Co-op branded products and services goes into the Local Community Fund. Members select the cause to which they want to donate their community rewards online through their membership account or on the Co-op app.

To choose a local cause or to find out more about Co-op membership, visit [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership)

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