

Roar with laughter and raise cash on Red Nose Day **Pages 14-15**



A year on from first Covid-19 lockdown

by Hannah O'Hanlon
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Fifty per cent of Campbeltown patients vaccinated as restrictions start to ease

One year on from the first UK-wide lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19, more than half of Campbeltown Medical Practice's patients have received their first dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine.

In a social media statement last Saturday, March 13, a spokesperson for the medical practice revealed that 55 per cent of its practice population – patients aged over 16 years – have now received their first dose.

The spokesperson said: "Thank you to all patients who have attended so far. The uptake has been outstanding and this is very encouraging."

"Thank you also to our staff who are working extremely hard to keep the practice running smoothly and providing our normal day-to-day service plus organising and carrying out Covid vaccination clinics, and to hospital staff carrying out vaccinations of front-line

workers, residents and staff of the care home and carers. What a great team we have.

"Special mention also to Jamie Girvan and postal workers at our local Royal Mail who have gone beyond the call of

Travel across mainland Scotland is expected to be allowed from April 26.

duty ensuring our vaccination appointments are delivered, more often than not, at very short notice."

It comes almost exactly a year after restrictions were first put in place across the UK in a bid to halt the spread of coronavirus.

On March 16 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said

it was time for people to 'stop non-essential contact and travel'. A week later, on March 23, the Prime Minister officially announced the first lockdown, ordering people to 'stay at home' under measures which legally came into force on March 26.

Throughout the last year, restrictions have been relaxed and tightened, at local and national level, depending on the Covid-19 infection rates at the time.

On Tuesday this week, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon unveiled major changes planned for April and May with April 26 in particular seeing a 'significant' relaxation of lockdown measures.

Most of Scotland has been under level four lockdown since Boxing Day, following a one-day relaxation of rules on Christmas Day, but by April 26 all those areas are expected

to move to level three. Travel across mainland Scotland is also expected to be allowed from April 26, the First Minister said.

The date would also see cafés, restaurants and bars again able to serve people 'outdoors' in groups of up to six from three households, until 10pm, with alcohol permitted. There will be no requirement to order food. On that date, it is also hoped 'limited indoor hospitality' will be allowed to reopen, but will be restricted to the serving of food and non-alcoholic drinks until 8pm.

Hairdressers look set to be back from April 5 with indoor hospitality expected to return on May 17.

There is no confirmation yet on allowing people from other households to visit each other indoors but the rule is expected to be lifted by May 17 - if not before, the First Minister said.



Mascot Jack cheers for Scotland

A 10-year-old rugby fan from Stewarton was one of four lucky youngsters chosen as virtual mascots for Scotland's fixture against Ireland in round four of the Guinness Six Nations on Sunday. Covid-19 restrictions meant Jack Tait-Bennett was not able to attend the match at BT Murrayfield but he cheered the team on from home.

See back page for full story.

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Councillor defends recycling decision

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

Members of the community are continuing to call for Argyll and Bute Council's decision not to extend Kintyre Recycling Limited's (KRL) kerbside collection contract to be reversed.

At a virtual meeting of the full council on Thursday February 25, when the authority's budget for the next financial year was set, councillors voted in favour of taking recycling services in Kintyre in-house as of October 1.

The move, which is expected to cost £210,000 through the purchasing of a blue bin for every home in Kintyre, could put 19 KRL jobs at risk.

This week, the Courier asked Kintyre and the Islands councillors Robin Currie, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, and Alastair Redman, who both voted in favour, to explain why they had.

Councillor Redman had not responded by the time



Council leader Robin Currie.

the Courier went to print but Councillor Currie said: 'Our officers have been working with KRL over the past few years and the council has also provided a number of financial awards over the same period, always with a view to support KRL to continue delivering services for as long as possible.'

'However, changes in Scottish Government legislation are going to have a very considerable impact on how recycling services are delivered. In rural areas, this is likely to result in considerable additional costs,

accompanied by very stringent targets to meet.

'All of this means we have to find ways of providing these services in as sustainable a way as possible.

'It is vital to address that as soon as possible. We have no choice but to comply with the requirements of that new legislation when it comes into force. Similarly, any other organisation responsible for the delivery of recycling services would also have to bear these additional pressures and significant costs which could potentially be prohibitive for smaller organisations.

'Therefore we took the decision to agree a six-month extension to KRL's contract, to work towards the longer-term sustainable delivery of recycling services for households in Kintyre, but also to give time to work with KRL in relation to the scope for transfer of their employees when the service is brought in-house.

'Every effort will be made to mitigate the impact of the

decision to transfer the service back to the council.'

Kintyre and the Islands' third councillor, Anne Horn, who voted against the decision, said: 'When council officers suggested bringing recycling in-house on Islay it proved much more difficult than envisaged and over the anticipated budget. This is another reason I objected as the precedent proved to be a cost burden rather than the proposed saving.

'The employees from KRL are inspirational in their attitude to their job and want only to work to the best of their ability.

'There must be some replacement for the support the employees have while at the workplace and this will reflect on resources from the Health and Social Care Partnership.'

Last week, Councillor Rory Colville, South Kintyre, who voted in favour of the move, said it was because of 'changes in the recycling market' that 'undermine KRL's business model'.

POLICE FILES

Window vandalised

Police are investigating after a front-facing window of a house on Longrow, Campbeltown, was damaged between 9.15pm and 9.30pm on Monday March 8.

Drug driving

A motorist was stopped on the A83, near Muasdale, at 1.50pm on Tuesday March 9 for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a 25-year-old man, was then charged with failing a roadside drug test. A blood sample was later taken for analysis.

Careless driving

A white Ford Transit van was allegedly seen being driven in a careless manner while overtaking other vehicles on the A83 near Westport about 10am on Wednesday March 10. The van was stopped by police and the 36-year-old male driver was charged with the offence.

Trailer stolen

Police are appealing for witnesses after an Ifor Williams drop-side trailer worth £6,000 was stolen from Bengullion Road Industrial Estate, Campbeltown, between 5pm on Thursday March 11 and 8am on Friday March 12.

Assault with iron bar

A 31-year-old man was arrested and charged with assaulting a woman and a man with an iron bar in Bolgam Street, Campbeltown, at 5.45pm on Friday March 12.

Abusive behaviour

A 53-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner at the Co-op supermarket in Bowmore, Islay, about 3.30pm on Saturday March 6. He was later traced by police and charged.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on the above or any incident to phone 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Preferred Rest solution should be identified 'shortly'

A preferred solution to decades of landslide problems at the Rest and Be Thankful should be identified 'shortly', according to transport bosses.

Transport Scotland officials responded to claims by Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Robin Currie that the ongoing situation at the stretch of the A83 road was comparable to 'a far-off, distant country'.

The Rest and Be Thankful has been hit by multiple closures due to landslides since October 2018 – though

the problem dates back far longer than that.

Councillor Currie commented at a virtual meeting of Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership on Wednesday March 10. Claims were also made at the meeting that the Old Military Road, which opens in the event of the main A83 stretch being closed, is in a poor condition.

Councillor Currie said: 'Being blunt, the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful is not just a road into Argyll; it is a

road into most of Argyll and Bute, including the islands of the area, and a big chunk of the Highland area.

'So it is a major road and if this happened anywhere in the central belt, there would have been a solution found, no doubt about it.

'There has been millions of pounds spent to date, but today there will be an announcement saying there is rain in the forecast and the road will be shut.

'This is the stage we are at and it

is absolutely ridiculous. You would think you were in a far off, distant country.

The community planning partnership should also be writing to the Scottish Government, backing up what we have been asking for – a solution as quickly as possible and certainly in the length of the next parliament.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'Design work is well under way to identify an alternative to the cur-

rent A83 route and find a long-term solution to the challenges created by the Rest and Be Thankful section of the road. This work is expected to identify a preferred corridor shortly.

'Following this, designs will be progressed in the preferred corridor and, as with other projects to improve the trunk road network, there will be a need to complete the necessary environmental assessments and statutory process to allow land to be acquired and the project constructed.'



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State-of-the-art golf clubhouse rises from ashes of old building

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

Just over two years after the clubhouse at the world famous Machrihanish Golf Club burnt to the ground in a devastating fire, a new £2.5 million building has risen from the ashes.

On December 19 2018, the world stood aghast as the historic building and some of the club's prized possessions and memorabilia were destroyed by fire.

The keys for the new building, designed by G1 Architects and built by Kintyre firm McKinven and Colville, which stands on the same site, were officially handed over to the club on Monday.

As well as offering a range of state-of-the-art facilities to golfers and non-golfers, the clubhouse offers hope and a bright future to the community in the form of several new jobs - many of which have already been filled - and a vibrant visitor attraction.

It also provides an opportunity, once Covid restrictions are lifted, for the club to bounce back in the most spectacular fashion from the devastation of the fire and the impact of Covid-19 on golf and the club in general.

The clubhouse has been designed with spectacular views at its core with panoramic views through the tall glass windows upstairs, where members and visitors can enjoy the modern bar and catering overlooking the famous first tee down below.

Downstairs is the working hub of the club - home of the official administrative area



Clockwise from top left: Barry Colville, managing director of McKinven and Colville Ltd, left, and club captain William Livingston; The new Machrihanish Golf Clubhouse has spectacular views and sits on the same site as the old clubhouse which was destroyed by fire.

and committee meeting room; the trophy cabinet filled with historic trophies rescued by staff and members before the 2018 fire took hold; the club champions' boards and the gents', ladies' and junior locker rooms - for the first time all under the one roof.

The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly the new £30,000 swing room on the ground floor. It is fitted with the latest TrackMan technology to trace ball flight and swing speed statistics.

This can be used as an indoor practise area for members, by the golf club professional to take individual coaching sessions or to take group coaching of the club's junior golfers. It also offers golfers a virtual golf simulator where they will be able to play some of the best courses in the world.

In line with the focus on

reducing the club's carbon footprint and the ambition to become more environmentally friendly, the new clubhouse boasts the latest air source heating technology providing the most efficient renewable heating.

Juniors

Aligned to this bright future, the number of junior members at the golf club continues to boom despite the recent lack of clubhouse facilities. There are now 90 members under the age of 18, making up 10 per cent of the total membership.

Club captain William

Livingston said: 'This truly is a momentous moment in the club's history. The design by G1 Architects has always stimulated the imagination and it coming to life has been truly inspiring.

'The club would like to thank Roy Malcolm and the design team at G1 Architects for delivering this outstanding building.

'The skill and workmanship of Barry Colville and his team in building this magnificent asset has been outstanding, particularly with all of the challenges laid out on a

construction site during the global pandemic. They have worked tirelessly to bring the project to completion in such a short timescale and we want to pass on our sincere gratitude to them for the wonderful job they have done.

'I'd like to thank the club's staff and the committee who, over the last two years, have worked incredibly hard to support the project over and above undertaking their normal club duties.

'The club looks forward to welcoming all members, visitors and guests to share in this wonderful new facility just as soon as the Scottish Government advises us that it is safe to do so.'

Barry Colville, managing director of McKinven and Colville Ltd, said: 'Firstly, I'd

like to express how incredibly proud I am of both our staff team and our sub-contractors for providing the endless expertise, dedication and commitment they have shown in bringing this magnificent project from design to completion.'

He also thanked the design team for their spectacular design and support.

'Finally, I'd like to thank the Machrihanish Golf Club committee for having the faith in awarding this contract to McKinven and Colville Ltd.

'We very much look forward to the club opening its doors to all the members in the near future, allowing us all to enjoy this new, 21st century building which, I believe, will be an envy of many golf clubs throughout the country.'



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Happy lockdown birthday

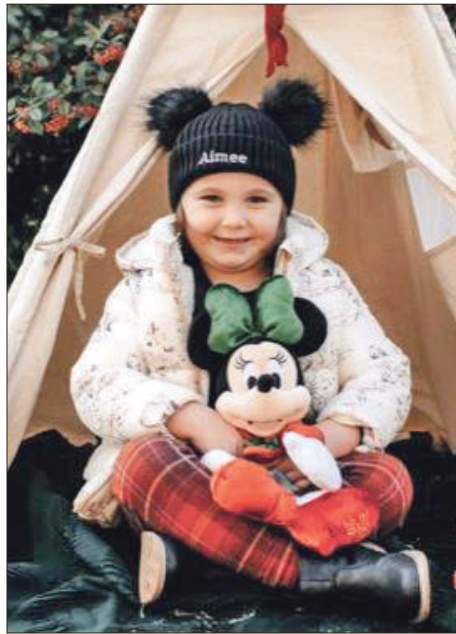
With the country still in lockdown, people are unable to celebrate their birthdays with friends and extended family as they perhaps normally would.

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 girls and boy.

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.

Aimee McIlroy

Aimee McIlroy, right, from Campbeltown, turned five on Wednesday March 10. It was her second lockdown birthday. She had a lovely LOL-themed tea party with cake and balloons. All the family send her lots of love.



Louie Goddard

Louie Goddard, from Southend, will be three on Tuesday March 23. This will be his second lockdown birthday. He is going to have a party at home with his mum, dad and big sister Elle.



Laila MacMillan

Laila MacMillan, from Campbeltown, will celebrate her third birthday on Monday March 22 with cake and party games. Her mummy, daddy and big sister Sienna wish her a very happy birthday.

Young people will remain a priority

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education has said the local authority is 'dedicated to helping young people flourish', writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly was speaking at a meeting of the council's community services committee last Thursday, March 11.

Councillors heard about the work already carried out by the council over the last three years to give children and young people a voice and its plans to expand this. This includes: Listening to children and young people; consulting with children and young people on education, health, social care, housing, environment and leisure; assessments to ensure children's rights are a

key consideration in policy and strategic planning; being guided in all work with and for children and young people by recognised wellbeing indicators and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These actions were hailed 'a great success' but the authority says it wants to build on this and the Argyll and Bute Children's Rights Report 2020 to 2023 has been developed as a result. This report focuses on: Ensuring assessments are consistent and rigorous; ensuring children's voices are central to the development of services; ensuring effective multi-agency working; further support for children with a parent in custody; increased focus on and teaching of children's and

human rights in the curriculum and advance the Rights Respecting School Award programme; develop the automated benefits approach, for example, in relation to free school meals and school clothing grants; and give access to organisations and amenities which promote and encourage wellbeing.

Councillor McNeilly said: 'All children deserve to have a positive childhood and experience life to the fullest and we are committed to achieving this for every young person in Argyll and Bute. We are dedicated to helping young people to flourish, to realise their full potential and ensure they are aware of their rights and we will continue to work hard to make sure we achieve this.'

Seventh secondary school year for some students

Plans to offer a seventh year at secondary school to S6 pupils with additional support needs have been approved by councillors.

A report suggesting the offer could be made on a one-off basis due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was unanimously backed by Argyll and Bute Council's community services committee.

The option was proposed to be made available to 11 young people across the area – at least two in each of the four administrative areas of the council.

It is estimated an additional 140 hours of support staff time

per week would be needed, costing the council £85,540, if all 11 pupils took up the option. The community services committee held its meeting virtually on March 11.

Helensburgh Central councillor Lorna Douglas said: 'I think this is an inspiring idea. It is absolutely brilliant.'

'It ensures a much smoother transition into adulthood than before and I absolutely back the recommendation.'

In a report to the committee, council executive director Douglas Hendry wrote: 'The Covid-19 global pandemic will have implications for many

children and young people's wellbeing and achievement. To ensure equity, careful consideration requires to be given to our most vulnerable children and young people.'

'For those with complex needs and a disability, making the transition from school to their adult lives is already a very challenging and anxious time for them and their families. It is important steps are taken across services to reduce the chance of young people being disadvantaged further.'

The committee unanimously agreed to the recommendations.



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Donna Robertson's sign reads: 'If your dog poops, you scoop'.

Humourous sign with serious note

A woman frustrated by the amount of dog mess left in one of Kintyre's most scenic areas has put up a sign to encourage people to pick up after their pets.

Donna Roberson, who has spent lockdown at home in Campbeltown, placed the sign on the path at Machrihanish Dunes which leads to Westport beach. It reads: 'If your dog poops, you scoop'.

It also features a 'poop emoji' and some paw prints.

Donna said: 'I was annoyed

by the amount of dog poo on the path.

'I thought a bit of humour would encourage people to pick up after their pooches.'

It comes after Argyll and Bute Council's leader said it was time for the authority to 'show it means business' in tackling the 'never-ending problem' of dog fouling across the area. Councillor Robin Currie said he wanted to see irresponsible dog owners charged or 'hit in the pocket' if they are seen failing to clean up after their pet.

Entrepreneur awards seek spirited entries

by Hannah O'Hanlon
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One of Campbeltown's three historic whisky distilleries is encouraging the town's business owners to enter a national awards scheme founded by a woman with Kintyre heritage to celebrate entrepreneurial and innovative spirit.

Earlier this year, Glen Scotia Distillery revealed a new partnership with the Great British Entrepreneur Awards (GBEA), which opened for entries on Monday.

Established in 2013, the awards acknowledge the hard work and inspiring stories of entrepreneurs and businesses across the UK.

To mark the partnership, Glen Scotia is sponsoring the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award at the regional and

national ceremonies and is encouraging like-minded business leaders from Kintyre to champion their ventures on a national stage. Winners in the Entrepreneurial Spirit category will be given their own limited edition GBEA bottle of Glen Scotia 15-year-old whisky, with a bespoke Glen Scotia 18-year-old presented to all national winners to mark their achievement.

Glen Scotia is one of the last Campbeltown distilleries to have maintained production from the heady days of the 1830s when the region was known as the whisky capital of the world.

Backed by almost two centuries of craftsmanship and experience, Glen Scotia continues to enjoy success and its award-winning whiskies are renowned for their distinc-

tive maritime influence and Campbeltown character.

Iain McAlister, master distiller and distillery manager at Glen Scotia, said: 'As beneficiaries of the early entrepreneurial spirit shown by our founders in 1832, we want to celebrate like-minded Campbeltown business owners. At the heart of our tight-knit community, we know there are many entrepreneurs in the area who deserve the chance to share their story and join their peers and the GBEA provides the perfect platform.'

'Its engaged community of alumni and judges features some of the best in UK business and we're pleased to be able to foster the innovative spirit shown by our predecessors through our support for this year's event.'

Francesca James, founder of

the GBEA, said: 'When we set up the awards in 2013, our aim was to establish a community of like-minded business people in the UK that could learn from one another and it's great to see Glen Scotia recognises the value of entrepreneurship and innovative thinking, which are embedded in its DNA.'

'With my family hailing from the Moy area of Campbeltown, it's been incredibly exciting to work with Glen Scotia and our winners are in for a treat with their own bottle of whisky to mark the occasion.'

'We're pleased to be able to open entries for this year's regional events and can't wait to see which businesses will share their stories.'

To find out more and to submit an entry, visit www.greatbritishentrepreneurawards.com



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2019 (19) Peugeot Rifter Allure BHDI 130. Blue, 18800 miles, alloys, Car Play, parking aid, auto lights. **£15499**

2019 (69) Peugeot 208 Signature PureTech. Grey, 11200 miles, parking sensors, alloys, Car Play, DAB radio. **£11299**

2018 (67) Peugeot 308 Allure PureTech 110. Blue, 15000 miles, glass roof, sat nav, parking aid, alloys, USB. **£10999**

2018 (18) Dacia Stepway Ambiance 0.9 TCE 90. Red, 16800 miles, electric pack, radio/USB, roof rails. **£7999**

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TEN YEARS AGO

Friday March 18 2011

Crowds gather to say farewell to HMS Campbeltown

People gathered on Campbeltown's promenade to say farewell to its namesake ship as she fired an 11-gun salute to mark her visit.

HMS Campbeltown left the town for the last time on Monday morning and she carried out the salute with the ship's company lining its decks.

A six Verey pistol salute from Dalintober Quay, a lone piper at Campbeltown New Quay and locals to see her off, packed the front of the town.

The type-22 frigate is due to be decommissioned in Plymouth in April.

During her time here, the ship's company went ashore to take in the best on offer in Campbeltown, such as surfing, golf and clay pigeon shooting. She heads for St Nazaire in France on March 25, then heads for Devonport for her decommissioning on April 7.



In 2011: Commanding Officer of HMS Campbeltown, Keri Harris, presented Donnie Cameron of TS Campbeltown Sea Cadets with an ensign, something to remember the town's namesake ship by, after a service at Lorne and Lowland Church on Sunday. It was one that had been used by the ship at sea.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday March 15 1996

Children's paddling pool filled in as complaints of glass grow

Argyll and Bute District Council plans to bulldoze the crazy golf course and trampolines at Kilkerran Green within the next few weeks.

The paddling pool at the Quarry Green children's play park is being filled as part of the major renovation of the children's public play area.

The council decided to dismantle the crazy golf and trampoline area and replace them with a £12,000 'galleon' style climbing frame with safety surface.

A council spokeswoman said a putting green was also being considered for the site.

The paddling pool is being filled in after it was learned it would cost £10,000 to re-line to prevent leaks. The safety of youngsters using the pool was also causing concern.

District councillor Mr Archie McCallum said: 'There have been growing complaints about the amount of broken glass being thrown into the pool during summer months.'

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Thursday March 18 1971

Cod's truth

Many strange things have been dragged up in fishing nets, but a find last week by a Campbeltown fisherman beats anything we have ever heard about.

Mr William Colville, of Davaar Avenue, is a crewman aboard the local boat Kirsteen Anne (CN263).

While he was gutting and cleaning a large cod at sea, something fell onto the deck.

When the deck was cleared and washed down, Mr Colville examined his find... the honeycomb from a bee's hive!

How on earth it managed to find its way to the murky depths and into a cod's stomach we will never discover.

It is just 'one of those things'.

Councillors call for removal of rusting tug 'eyesore'

Campbeltown councillors are up in arms about a 'rusting eyesore' on the shores of Campbeltown Loch.

The ex-Admiralty tug Empire Ace ran aground at Southend nearly two years ago and was towed to the loch where it was beached. It has lain at the Rocky Burn area since.

The vessel caused a row between the Town Council and the firm who owned it, George Hood and Company of Helensburgh.

At a meeting last September, it was suggested that the firm be charged dues.

Councillor Harry Moffat was quoted as saying: 'If people are allowed to dump boats in the loch, I can go and dump a car and nobody can do anything about it.'

The council discussed the question of taking legal action against the firm.

Rust

A considerable number of people have since remarked on the unsightliness of the vessel, which has started to rust.

Fishermen returning from the grounds were using the Empire Ace as a mooring stage while they cleaned and washed their catches.

But a spokesman for the Helensburgh firm said that it had sold the vessel months ago.

The spokesman refused to reveal the identity of the buyers but, after inquiries, we ascertained it was purchased by McFadyen's, the local contracting firm.

A spokesman for Archibald McFadyen and Sons said the Empire Ace was purchased by the firm about two weeks ago. He added that breaking up work was to start on the vessel 'within the next few days'.

Tobacco firm expands further

The well-known Campbeltown firm of Richard Daniels Ltd, tobacco wholesalers and distributors, has opened a depot in Peebles to meet an increased demand from customers on the east coast.

The firm, whose custom stretches from Aberdeen to Middlesbrough in England, has just been awarded a 'very large' contract from a brewing firm to supply its retail outlet - public houses.

Asked if the Peebles opening would create redundancies locally, Mr James Daniels told the Courier that staff in Campbeltown would be unaffected.

'It is merely a new phase being added to the business,' he said.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday March 19 1921

Castlehill Church Sunday School

The children of the Kinloch Church Sunday School had a highly enjoyable social evening on Friday last.

After the customary tea, brief addresses of a helpful nature were given by Rev N Mackenzie, Mr Drysdale, superintendent of the school, Mr Dick, Mr M'Dougall, Mrs M'Kerrow and the chairman Rev CVA MacEachran.

Among the singers were Misses M'Naughton, M'Cloy, Black and Burnfield and among the reciters Misses M'Naughton, Macdonald, and Gilchrist and John M'Lachlan and Don Gilchrist.

The two most juvenile performers were amongst the best - Nancy Noal and Norman Keith.

A sketch carrying a good moral was cleverly presented as well as a duet in character by J Black and Babette Burnfield.

During the evening, Mrs Keith, Gowanlea, presented about 25 certificates from the Church of Scotland for perfect attendance throughout the year and 30 for regular attendance.

The musical programme reflected much credit upon Miss Finlay and Mr Hogg who trained the children and upon Miss Rae who was accompanist.

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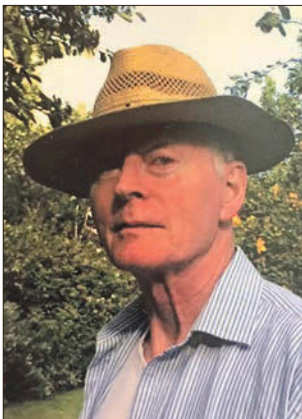
Potter creates prize in memory of distinguished poet father

Campbeltown Pottery owner Simon Rochford is creating a bespoke commemorative plate as the main prize in a new international poetry competition in remembrance of his late father, the distinguished poet Gerard Rochford.

The Gerard Rochford Poetry Prize 2021 launches on World Poetry Day – Sunday March 21.

Organised by the Mist and Mountain Creative Residency in collaboration with Gerard Rochford's Literary Executors, the competition invites writers to submit an original poem on the theme of 'family'.

The overall winner – selected by Dr Wayne Price, senior lecturer in creative writing at the University of Aberdeen – will receive £150 and a large, bespoke commemorative plate, courtesy of Campbeltown Pottery, with an excerpt of Mr Rochford's poetry, while two



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Sponsored by Campbeltown Heritage Centre



Gerard Rochford's son Simon, far left, of Campbeltown Pottery, is creating the competition's main prize. Left: Simon's father, the distinguished poet Gerard Rochford.

magazines, chapbooks and poetry collections. At the heart of Aberdeen's vibrant poetry scene, Gerard was highly respected, not only for the quality of his own work, but for his generosity of spirit and time, mentoring and championing the work of nascent poets.

A regular visitor to Canada, Rochford established himself as a transatlantic poet and became an important and active part of the poetry scene in Victoria.

Poetry was a lifetime labour of love but, as father to 10 children – including Simon – with his wife Anne, who was of Indian descent, Gerard's greatest joy was his family.

The closing date for entries

to the Gerard Rochford Poetry Prize 2021 is June 30 and winners will be announced on Sunday September 1.

Full details and entry rules for the competition are available on the Mist and Mountain Creative Residency website at <https://mistandmountain.co.uk/the-gerard-rochford-poetry-prize-2021/>

runners-up will each receive small commemorative plates and £50.

Dr Price said: 'I am honoured to judge the Gerard Rochford Poetry Prize 2021. Gerard was a highly accomplished poet, whose writings reflected a broad hinterland of experience, exploring human relationships, wildlife and pol-

itics. He was always generous with his time and advice too, nurturing and encouraging others to express themselves, write creatively and get into print. Hosting a competition in his name is an ideal way to acknowledge his achievements while promoting new poetry and poets, as Gerard so often did in his lifetime.'

Brought up in Worcestershire, Gerard Rochford, 1932 – 2019, was educated at Hull and Oxford universities but lived most of his life in his adopted home city of Aberdeen, where he was a distinguished professor and psychotherapist.

Poetry was his true vocation and he was widely published in newspapers, influential online

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Looking ahead to a brighter future

The last year has undoubtedly been a hard one for us all.

As a community, we have suffered hardships and loss, and many individuals have suffered their own losses – whether through Covid-19 or not.

People have missed their loved ones' funerals, weddings – when small ceremonies were allowed – and the births of friends' and family members' babies.

Education has been massively disrupted but all young people have suffered the same disruption and now, together with their teachers, they can work towards a brighter future.

Things may not return to complete normality for some time, but the changes to restrictions announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon this week are a step in the right direction.

A year ago, many of us thought we might have to work from home for just a couple of weeks, or months at the very most.

Even those most in-the-know seem to have been surprised by the severity of the pandemic – Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on March 19 2020 that the UK could 'turn the tide of coronavirus in 12 weeks'.

While it's reassuring to have the new dates to look forward to, it's important to remember that relaxation of the rules depends on declining rates of infection.

We have done so well sticking to the rules for so long. Let's keep up the good work and see this through together.

Misinterpretation of my beliefs

With regard to Mr Wilson's letter, entitled 'mishmash of worn out tropes', published in the March 5 edition of the Courier, my initial reaction was not to conduct a political diatribe within the pages of the local paper; rather I would let others decide whose letter is more appropriate.

However, on reflection, I decided to reply to the comments relating to my vaccine observations in which he states that for me 'to denigrate the EU vaccine programme is crass and over simplistic', followed by 'our success is an illusion until both doses are administered', and therefore I am accused of not only 'crowing about vaccines' but of being presumptuous and inappropriate.

Mr Wilson has a total misunderstanding of who I am and what my beliefs are. I care about mankind in general and the plight of its citizens, particularly where there is a prevalence of political ineptitude affecting their lives.

To reiterate, the EU purchasing system regarding vaccines was and still is chaotic, with the bureaucratic executive in Brussels initially lashing out and currently certain members within the group are endeavouring to buy supplies of vaccines for their citizens.

In addition, we now have a ban by some countries of vaccine exports from EU manufacturers to non-EU countries, an action which has angered the World Health Organisation and upset Australia and other countries.

Regarding the comment that the vaccine success is an illusion, perhaps the perusal of some scientific pronouncements in relation to the efficacy would be appropriate.

To accuse me of crowing is not only resented

but hurtful. I have an extended family in France. My daughter is married to a now retired French army captain and she is an environmental scientist and director of a laboratory in the IRD (France), a French public research institution. While her mother-in-law has had her first vaccination and in the last week so has her husband, she does not know when she will get an appointment.

Currently, in certain areas of France, the virus is very active and part of her remit involves travel to some of these hot-spots when working from home is not practicable. This situation is very concerning to me.

I also do not know when I will be permitted to see them, either in France or in Scotland. Crowing, indeed, I think not.

John Newall, Campbeltown.

Democracy is not pick and mix

Amidst the miscellany of economic disaster claims awaiting an independent Scotland thrown up by Michael McGeachy in last week's Courier, I am gratified Mr McGeachy does, at the very least, accept that Scotland has no debt at the point of independence. This is progress.

Unfortunately, Mr McGeachy then goes on to hold up Scotland's putative deficit as an ace card in the unionist case to 'prove' that Scotland is an economic basket-case surviving on English largesse. In reality, it demonstrates the opposite.

Scotland's 'deficit', created within the UK, with our overall budget set by another government - that's 70 per cent of Scotland's revenues and 40 per cent of our spending - is a damning indictment of Westminster's reckless economic vandalism. It is the cost of Westminster Tory rule and the union's failure.

Indeed, if being part of the UK was such an

advantage, Scotland would have a stronger economy than our northern independent competitors.

That they are all considerably more successful, with fewer economic resources than Scotland, makes the case for Scotland to have control of all the sovereign economic levers required to succeed in the global economy.

Mr McGeachy concludes with the familiar splenetic 'you had your referendum' in 2014. In this time we have had three Prime Ministers, two Westminster elections and one Holyrood election, not forgetting England's Brexit imposed upon Scotland.

Democracy is not pick and mix, Mr McGeachy. The 'Better Together' parties can huff and puff about 'taking back control' to London, but Scotland is not their possession.

We still live in a free country and if Scots vote this May for an SNP government focused on Scottish priorities, including the right to ensure that Scotland's future is Scotland's choice, not Boris Johnson's, democracy, as we saw with the election of President Biden, will prevail.

Ron Wilson, secretary, Kintyre SNP.

Glaring Scottish digital divide

The fact the SNP has produced a new digital strategy document will come as little consolation to residents of the Highlands and Islands, who would struggle to download it even if they wanted to.

The SNP has left the Highlands and Islands in the digital dark ages.

The 2016 SNP manifesto committed to deliver superfast broadband to every home and business by 2021. This has comprehensively failed, with ministers refusing to discuss completion dates. A December 2020 report logged an average download speed of 2.06Mbps in Glen Shiel. That is 134 times slower than Scotland's fastest street.

Press policy



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

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FERN COMMUNITY FUNDS

The Cour Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community councils of areas of Tarbert & Skipness, West & East Kintyre.

The fund is now open for applications until the 30th of April 2021.

Details of the application process and fund criteria can be found at ferncommunityfunds.com/cour-community-fund/

If you wish for any further information about the fund please get in contact via contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com or call 07871 785583 or by mail to:

Fern Community Funds PO BOX 6653 Blairgowrie PH 10 6AU

The pandemic has exposed the glaring digital divide that exists between rural and urban parts of Scotland.

Scottish Liberal Democrats want our remote and rural communities to be great places to live, work and study.

That's why we are setting out new proposals to put power in the hands of community managers and prioritise investment in catch-up zones to ensure everyone has access to the digital services they need to prosper.

Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrats' lead candidate for the Highlands and Islands.

Know ovarian cancer symptoms for early diagnosis

As resources within the NHS are stretched to their limits, charities like Target Ovarian Cancer need help.

Whilst we are all fighting coronavirus, Target Ovarian Cancer is putting the needs of women with ovarian cancer before everything else.

In 2010, my mother, actress Marjie Lawrence, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer just three weeks before she died. Had we and her doctors been aware of the symptoms, she might be alive today.

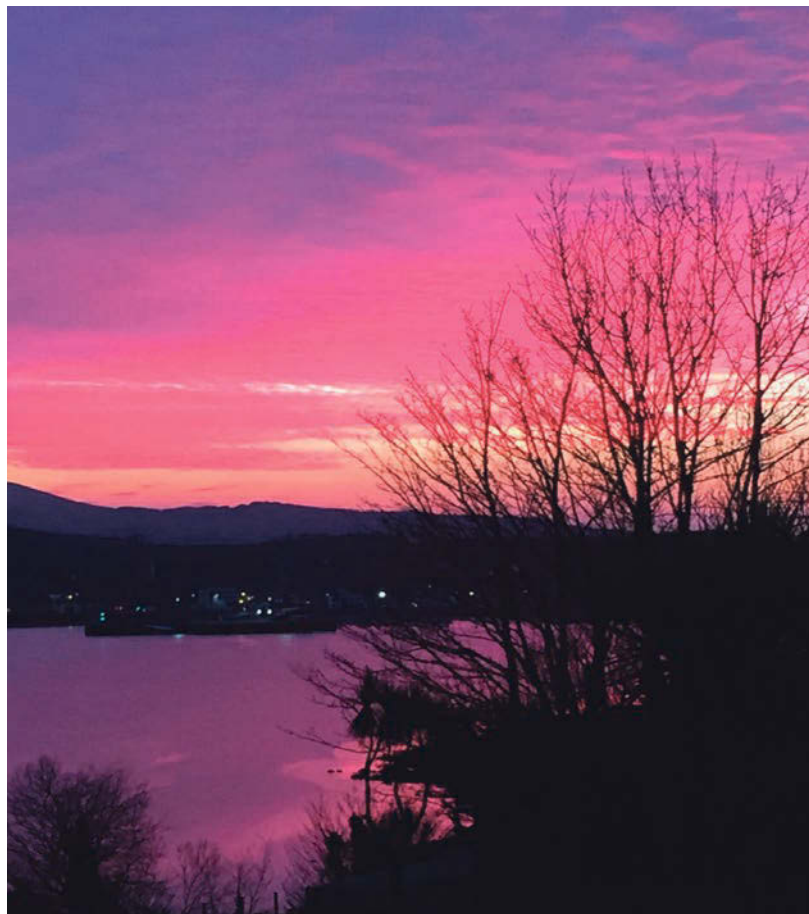
If diagnosed at the earliest stage, nine in 10 women will survive. But two thirds of women are diagnosed late, when the cancer is harder to treat.

The main symptoms of ovarian cancer are: persistent bloating, feeling full or having difficulty eating, tummy pain and needing to wee more often or more urgently.

Please show your support and visit www.targetovariancancer.org.uk/March

Sarah Greene,
Target Ovarian Cancer patron.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



This week's photograph is another shot of the stunning sunset which lit up the skies over Kintyre on March 1.

This image was taken by Roberta Conley from the sitting room window of her High Askomil home at the end of 'a glorious day of sunshine'.

If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk or send it via the Courier's Facebook page.

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The Editor welcomes letters and emails for publication, however we reserves the right to shorten, amend or refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although details can be withheld from publication. Phone numbers, if available, should be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

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There Has Never Been a Better Time to Give Up Smoking



Do you find you've been smoking more during lockdown?

Stopping smoking can reduce your risk of severity of Covid-19 symptoms, potential of complications, and even death. If you're thinking of giving up, Argyll and Bute Quit Your Way (QYW) Stop Smoking services would like to reach out to all smokers at this difficult time to offer our services to help you Quit Your Way.

Covid-19 can be more severe if you smoke

Smoking can increase your risk of severe symptoms on infection of Covid-19, complications and death according to a review from the World Health Organisation.

UK Government advice is that smoking generally increases the risk of contracting respiratory problems and more severe symptoms of ill health once infected with Covid-19

The risk of catching or spreading the Covid-19 virus increases due to the hand to mouth and

face contact involved in smoking.

In addition, spending more time indoors means smoking within the family household may increase family exposure to second hand smoke, which exacerbates their risks of Covid-19 along with other known harm that it causes.

Smoking also contributes to other life changing diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and having such underlying conditions also increases the risk of complications from Covid-19 infection.

To talk to someone directly, contact your local advisor for Kintyre:

Caroline Glen
Tel. 07812485058

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

Creative youngsters invited to showcase visual artwork

Young people aged between 11 and 17 from across western Argyll are being offered a unique opportunity to have their visual artwork showcased online and in print.

A collaboration of youth workers and artists from across the region are behind the project, which grew out of a conversation and shared concerns about the wellbeing of young people during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown.

The initiative is open to all 11-to-17-year-olds living within the catchment areas of Campbeltown, Tarbert, Lochgilphead, Islay, Oban and Tobermory secondary schools.

Young people are being invited to submit photographs of any kind of visual art – collages, paintings, sculptures, graphic art, drawings, photographs – but no selfies – or even doodles – which will be exhib-

ited via a dedicated Instagram account @ayelovetomake.

As many examples as possible will be published in the Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Oban Times newspapers.

The artwork, which must be created specifically for this showcase, can be on any surface – as long as it can be photographed and submitted – but it is limited to one image per person. It is not a competition and none of artwork will be judged.

Gigha-based youth worker Kenny Wilson, one of the project's organisers, explained: 'As youth workers, we kept hearing the same phrases from young people, phrases like 'my bedroom has become my classroom' and 'I feel like the walls are closing in on me'. Young people were asking questions like 'Where can we go?' Nowhere. 'Who we can

meet?' No-one. 'What are we allowed to do?' During lockdown, very little.

'The idea is to give artistic young people something to do that's not prescribed by the Curriculum for Excellence [Scotland's education framework] or by the government; to give them the freedom to choose what they want to do, to design whatever they want to design.

'The reward will be seeing their artwork published online and in the newspapers. The purpose of the project is to increase the wellbeing of young people, to give them a boost. It's as simple as that.'

He added: 'It could well be that something catches the eye of someone in the wider artistic community and they could be put in touch with the young creator of the piece in question, but that would have to be arranged through the



Youth worker Kenny Wilson is encouraging youngsters to get creative.

purposes of the showcase and will never be passed on to any other organisation or third party without your explicit permission.'

Those interested in taking part should email ayelovetomake@gmail.com with their first name and location.

They are not required to submit their surname, full address or age, as long as they are within the 11-to-17 age range.

When the project officially launches on Friday March 26, they can then send photographs of their artwork to the same email address so it can be uploaded to the project's Instagram account where it will be made visible to the public after the Sunday April 25 closing date.

Kenny added: 'If you are a young person with a desire to create, then go for it.'

youth workers, subject to careful child protection measures, and with parents' consent.'

Kenny explained that safeguarding was an essential part of everything youth workers do and, as such, the organisers had created a GDPR statement

which reads: 'We will ensure that all personal data that we collect will only be held until all the images have been showcased and will be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner and only collected for the legitimate

Children challenged to design own face masks to win £500 for school

Kintyre pupils could win money for their school by designing their own face masks for charity.

Healthcare provider Medicspot has launched a competition to promote mask-wearing, challenging children aged five to 14 years at primary and secondary schools across the country to put their creative skills to the test and design their own face mask.

Youngsters are encouraged to complete the Medicspot Face Mask Challenge by printing out the face mask template from the Medicspot website and letting their creativity flow.

The winning entry, judged by CBBC presenter and YouTube star Joe Tasker, will win £500



Children are asked to put their creative skills to the test and design a face mask.

for their school to spend on supplies, as well as 30 face masks featuring their design to share with their classmates.

Twenty runners-up will win a face mask featuring their design, with four in each of the five age categories – ages five and six; seven and eight; nine and 10; 11 and 12 and 13 and

14. Face masks featuring all the winning designs will be made available to buy online – with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to NHS Charities Together.

Dr Johnson D'souza, medical director at Medicspot, said: 'We wanted to give children across Campbeltown the opportunity to get involved in the challenge and design their own face mask.'

'We hope the competition will encourage children in the area to keep wearing their masks when necessary and allow their imagination to run wild.'

Children have until the end of May to submit their entries.

To download the mask template and enter visit www.medicspot.co.uk/mask

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**SELF-
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Following **FACTS** is an essential part of life right now to help stop the spread of the virus.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings can provide extra protection to you and those around you. They're mandatory in shops, workplaces and on public transport.

They must securely cover your nose and mouth.

Avoid touching your face when wearing a face covering and clean hands before and after use.

Wash reusable ones after each use and bin disposable ones responsibly.

TWO METRES DISTANCE

Keep at least 2m distance (6 feet) away from others, both indoors and outdoors, even when wearing a face covering.

The virus can spread through droplets when you cough, sneeze, speak or breathe. Staying 2m apart reduces the risk of catching it and passing it on to others.

AVOID CROWDS

Close proximity to others seriously risks spreading the virus, even outdoors.

Avoiding crowds reduces your risk of catching the virus and spreading it to loved ones.

SELF-ISOLATE

Self-isolate and book a test immediately if you have coronavirus symptoms - a continuous dry cough, a raised temperature, or a change in your sense of taste or smell.

Don't go for one last shop and don't wait for your test result to start isolating. Only leave your home to get tested.

Book a test at [NHSinform.scot](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/conditions/coronavirus) or by calling 0800 028 2816

CLEAN HANDS

Clean hands and surfaces regularly. Wash hands with soap and water for 20+ seconds.

When out, avoid touching hard surfaces and sanitise hands frequently, to reduce your risk of catching the virus from contaminated objects or surfaces.

#WeAreScotland
[gov.scot/coronavirus](https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus)

Thought for the Week

I was a naughty child. Once my mum told me off and I pointed out she had done the same thing herself.

She replied: 'Don't do as I do, do as I tell you. It is for your own good.'

Double standards? We face them again and again.

A teacher corrects a child for doing something the teacher has also done. A boss criticises a worker for an unavoidable error. A law officer takes a bribe. A cashier short changes a customer...I could go on.

Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard remained a Christian all his life, but was critical of the church in his day for its double standards.

As we approach Easter, I think of how the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, pulling branches off the trees to wave, shouting 'Hosanna' so enthusiastically, were largely the same crowds calling for his blood only days later when they called 'crucify'. How could they turn so quickly? Where was their integrity?

Some just followed the crowd; others feared Jesus was challenging the accepted order so better get rid of him for the greater good.

If we face betrayal, injustice, double standards, how do we react? Revenge, get our own back?

That is a natural reaction, but the consequence is to prolong the bitterness, perhaps ramp up the situation.

Jesus asks us to step back, to 'turn the other cheek' (Matthew 5:39), to suck up the injustice, the double standards and let peace rule.

Impossible? Well, that is what He did at the cross and because of Him, I think it is possible.

I don't always get it right in my life, but 'don't do as I do - in my worst moments - do as He tells you'. In the long run, it is for your own good.

**Reverend Steve Fulcher,
Church of Scotland,
South Kintyre Team Ministry.**

JURA



Jura Care Centre in Craighouse.

Breathing space for threatened respite flat

Volunteers campaigning to save a respite flat on Jura have won a two-month reprieve.

After a meeting between Jura Care Centre Group (JCCG), Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), the respite flat that is part of the care centre in Craighouse can stay open for the time being.

Last month, our sister title The Oban Times reported how JCCG members were 'dismayed and shocked' when they found out only by chance that the HSCP decided on Christmas Eve 2020 to stop funding the flat.

Arrangements were being made to clear furniture out of the flat and move in a full-time resident mid-February when the JCCG eventually heard what was happening.

A spokesperson for JCCG said the meeting on March 5 between the three partners had resulted in a two-month reprieve to try and find a solution. 'We are fairly hopeful we will work

something out,' she said. Another of the flats, owned by WHHA in the same building, had become empty, temporarily allowing the respite flat to stay available for now.

More meetings are now planned to discuss the future of the flat used for Jura residents to convalesce after hospital treatment before returning to their own homes, as well as allowing carers to take much-needed breaks.

Over the years, the JCCG has put forward various proposals on how to help support the cost of the flat, including short-term holiday use for visitors with mobility issues, which could still be an option for consideration.

The HSCP apologised last month for any concern and distress caused to the care group and community, while WHHA pledged to continue to be supportive of the Jura Care Centre Group and 'be happy' to discuss specific accommodation requirements that would help the community.

ISLAY

Funding boost will support one of the UK's rarest birds

RSPB Scotland has received £20,000 from SUEZ Communities Trust for its project Restoring Coastal Habitats at the Oa on the Isle of Islay.

Islay's coastal habitats are one of the last places in Scotland where chough, one of the UK's rarest birds, can be found.

Through this project, RSPB Scotland will work to reduce rank, overgrown vegetation across a key section of coastal habitat that benefits island wildlife, particularly the Scottish Biodiversity Listed chough and promote biodiversity across the reserve.

David Wood, RSPB Scotland's site manager at the Oa, who is looking after this restoration project, said: 'The money from SUEZ Communities Trust will be vital for the reserve, enabling us to target our livestock grazing onto the most suitable areas for foraging chough.'


'Without this, areas of coastal grassland can quickly become unsuitable for chough, reducing the feeding habitat available for this threatened species.'

Marek Gordon, chairman of SUEZ Communities Trust, added: 'SUEZ Communities Trust provides funding awards through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. We were delighted to be able to offer funding to RSPB Scotland.'



An adult red-billed chough. Photograph: Martin Yelland.

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The law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland

From March 26th this year, the law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland.

If you're aged 16 or over, you will be considered as a possible donor after you die, unless you opt out. Whatever you decide, please let family and friends know your decision, so they can honour it.

For more about the law change and your choices, visit organdonationscotland.org or call 0300 303 2094.



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Roar with laughter and raise c

Red Nose Day is back on Friday March 19 and hopes 'to bring the UK together through laughter and helping others, showing just how powerful humour can be through the toughest of times'.

All our Red Nose Day donations will help tackle important issues including homelessness, hunger, domestic abuse, and mental health problems, all of which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Money raised will support some of the most vulnerable people and communities in society who have been hardest hit by the Coronavirus crisis, including those now reliant on food banks, and provide vital

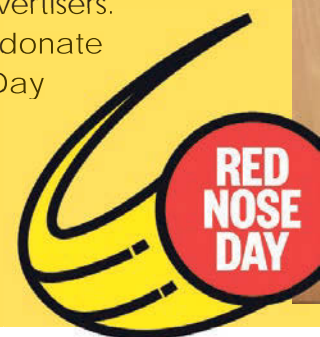
funding to under resourced front line charities as they adapt and navigate through these difficult uncertain times.

While this Red Nose Day will feel different, there will be lots of exciting ways to support if you feel able to, from celebrity challenges, buying a Red Nose and official Red Nose Day tee-shirt, watching BBC TV specials, and much more.

It all helps bring the country together through the power of humour, with a not-to-be-missed evening of hilarious sketches, live performances and one-off comedy specials in store.



A big thank you to the pupils at Drumlemble Primary School (pictured) for getting involved in our Red Nose Day feature, drawing lovely pictures to represent our generous advertisers. The Oban Times group will donate £300 directly to Red Nose Day so thank you once again!



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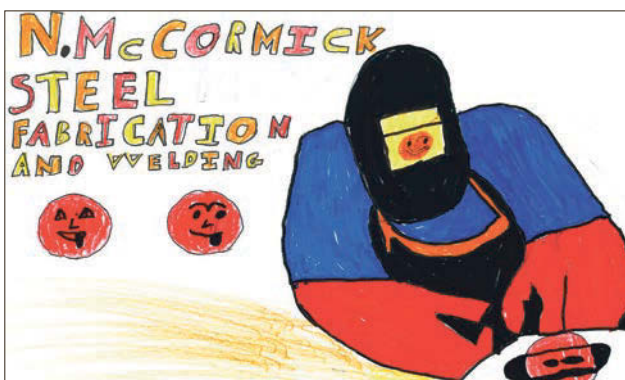
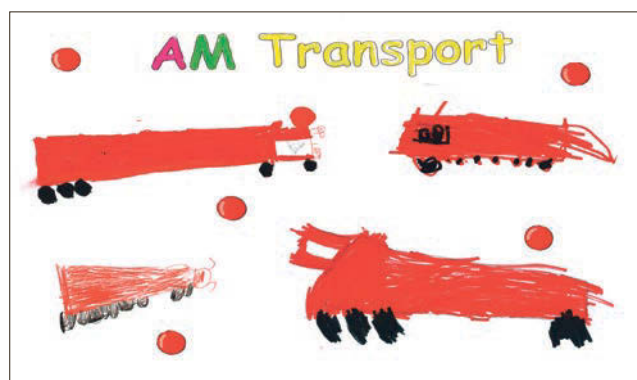
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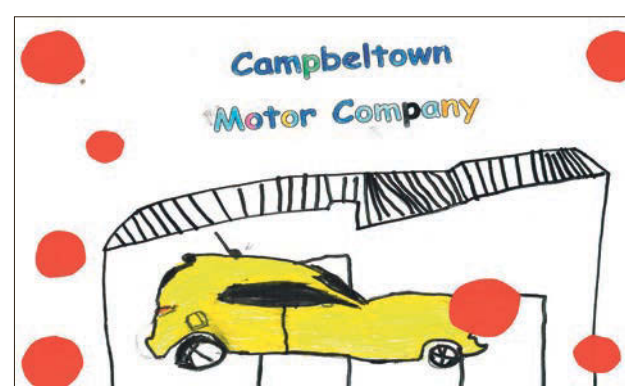
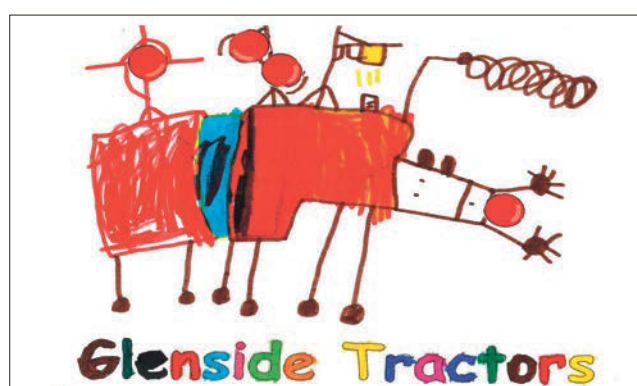
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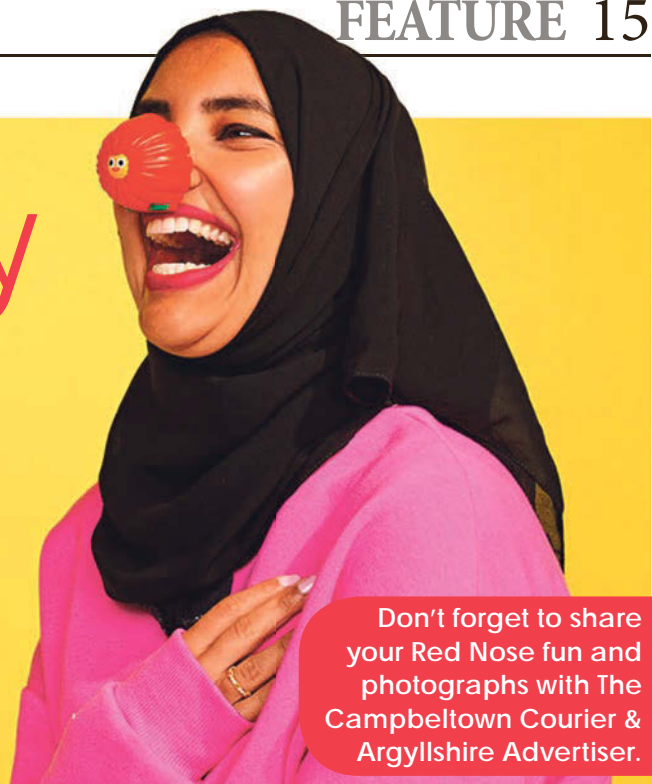


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Laugh on Red Nose Day



Don't forget to share your Red Nose fun and photographs with The Campbeltown Courier & Argyllshire Advertiser.

Comic Relief co-founder, Sir Lenny Henry, said: 'We all need cheering up, so this year Red Nose Day will be a bit different. Of course we want to raise as much money as possible for people who really need it in the UK and around the world. But we also want to make you smile and bring you some laughter!'

As Covid-19 continues to impact people all over the world, it has never felt more important to raise smiles and money for those who are struggling more than ever. For 35 years, Comic Relief has shown how laughter can make a difference, raising over £1.4 billion to help change millions of lives, all thanks to the enormous generosity and kindness of the British public.



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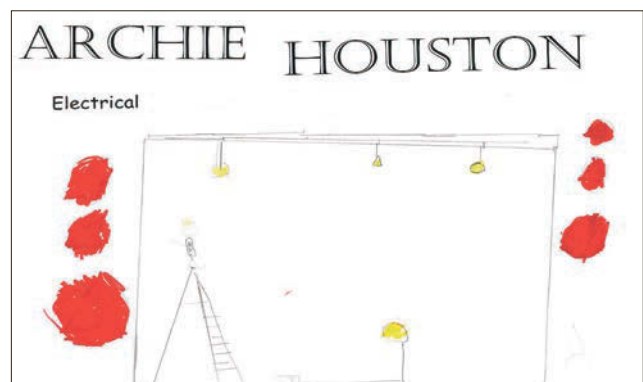
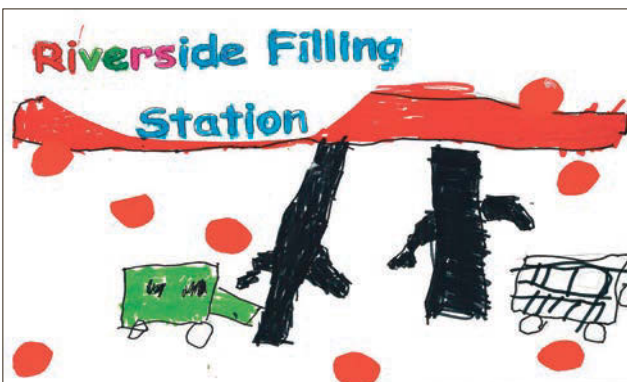
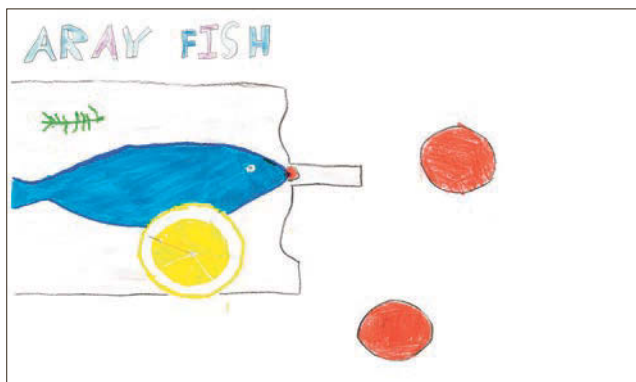
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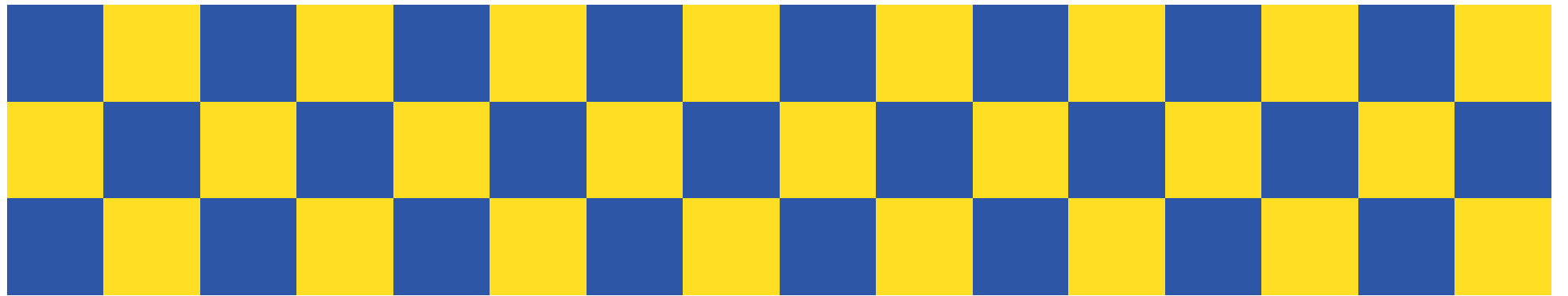
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We all know about the blue light services: police, fire, ambulance and coastguard but what about the times when your home sends out an SOS?

Fear not we have the people at hand; these are the house heroes who will rescue you from the jaws of disaster. Their expertise is just a phone call or message away so why not store their details in your phone as your backup and for peace of mind.

The biggest risk to property, after fire, is water damage. A burst pipe in the wrong place can bring down ceilings, or mean the removal of plasterboard and flooring or a costly rewiring project. Not to mention weeks, if not months, of having to dry your house out.

Just as important as the safety of your incoming fresh water supply is the outgoing waste water.

That is why a plumber's expertise is so vital. If in doubt call the plumber out – it will save you in the long run.

And for many properties in the West Highlands and islands waste water means your own private provision with a septic tank. You NEVER want this to go wrong, trust us on this; we do not need to go into the gruesome details here. Let's just say that experienced companies that can

empty, maintain or install new tanks and pipes are a Godsend.

Away from houses, if you have a well maintained car, do your own maintenance and only drive locally you might want to consider avoiding large annual motor club bills and call on the services of a local recovery service if needed.

And sometimes the emergency service you require is legal. A first call

to Citizens Advice Bureau is common sense. It could save you a hefty legal bill and, if its well-trained volunteers cannot help, they will, if necessary, point you in the right direction.

So if something goes wrong, make sure you know who to call. The locally-based people who know the West Highlands like the back of their hands and the type of emergencies we are likely to face in day-to-day life.




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If you smell gas or your carbon monoxide alarm goes off

- Turn off the supply at the meter if safe to do so
- Get out and leave doors and windows open
- Do NOT turn any electric switches on, even your lights
- Call the National Gas Service Emergency Line on 0800 111 999
- You then might need to arrange for a Gas Safe Register installer to come and fix the appliance.

Report the leak to your gas supplier. Their details are on your bill. If you don't know call the Gas Network Identity Line on 0870 608 1524.

CARBON MONOXIDE?

If you think you have been exposed to carbon monoxide gas, you should go and see a doctor immediately and ask for a blood or breath test.

Gas warning signs

- excessive condensation on windows
- sooty marks
- yellow or orange flames instead of blue - but not in your 'real flame' gas fire
- pilot lights that keep going out

ELECTRIC

- Treat electricity cables as live; never think otherwise for your own safety.
- Call the fire service if there is fire on 999.
- Stay away and if you have an emergency to report call as soon as possible on 0800 31 63 105 or 105 - free to call from a landline or a mobile phone.

Outside of your home remember that if you see electricity lines that are down or causing significant risk to the public please call 999.

WATER

Within your home a burst pipe is your responsibility and it should be fixed immediately. Never underestimate how much damage this can cause to your property.

- Call a plumber
- Make sure you know where the stop cock is to turn off the supply to your house.
- If the leak is outside your property contact Scottish Water via its webpage or call 0800 0778 788

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Ringing the changes for farming's future

British beef suckler farmers will be able to share real-time cattle data with their vet while in the field thanks to a new mobile app.

Created by the veterinary services team at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the Herd Health Planning app enables farmers to collect and record data as events occur – and immediately share this with their vet.

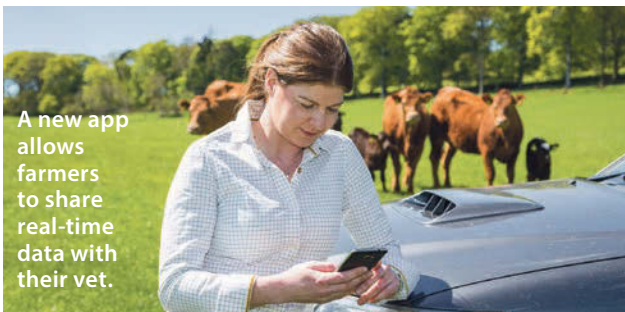
Vets can then analyse the information and help farmers set priorities, and improve efficiency and animal health, through the health planning process.

The app – which is free for Scottish farmers registered to the Animal Health Planning System (SAHPS) and available to others for a small subscription – includes an e-medicine book which complies with farm assurances and other

statutory requirements. It is also connected to the British Cattle Movement Service's tracing system (BCMS), meaning cattle records such as births, deaths and movements, can be updated instantly. No internet is required to record events, with all data stored locally on the app and sent to both BCMS and SAHPS systems as soon as Wi-Fi and/or mobile data become available.

The Scottish Government-funded app, which is now downloadable for Android and Apple devices, allows farmers to:

- Provide early communication of herd health to their vet
- Download all cattle currently on the holding through BCMS
- Record bulls in/out dates
- Record movements, births,



A new app allows farmers to share real-time data with their vet.

deaths and upload to BCMS

- Record disease incidents and production data
 - Record animal treatments, creating the e-medicine book
 - Record and save data off-line
 - Enter information once and use it multiple times
- Health planning development manager Dr Foteini Manolaraki said: 'We recognise that time is a precious commodity for today's farmers. 'Rather than taking notes

while out in the field or in the shed and then copying them into the computer, this new app allows them to share their cattle data with their vet while on the move.

This information is then shared multiple times via BCMS and SAHPS software, which could allow earlier vet intervention if necessary.'

Visit www.sahps.co.uk or email enquiries@sahps.co.uk for more information.

Jubilant mood at Islay sale

United Auctions sold 764 store cattle on Saturday March 13 at Islay Auction Mart. Bullocks averaged £975.67 (+£79.92) and sold to a top of £1,220 for a pen of six LimX, weighing 499kg, from Mr A N McArthur, Lossit Farm and a 512kg LimX from N Wood, Octofad. Heifers averaged £906.01 (+£120.46) and sold to £1,120.00 for two LimX, weighing 450kg, also from Lossit Farm. Bullocks averaged 258.46p/kg (+27.08p/kg) to a top price of 323p/kg for two LimX, weighing 269kg, from M/s McMillan, Ardbeg Farm while heifers averaged 250.65p/kg (+34.46p/kg) to a top of 320p/kg for two LimX, weighing 322kg, also from Ardbeg. An excellent selection of quality bred stock greeted a strong force of mainland buyers resulting in Islay sellers returning home in a jubilant mood. Leading lots and prices per head: BULLOCKS – AAx - £1,080, Octofad; £1075 (9), Octomore; £1,035, Corrary; £1,030, Aoradh; £1,010, £1,005 (17), Octomore; £1,005 (2), £990 (13), Octofad. BRBx - £1,060, Blackrock; £1,025

(2), Eorabus. CHARx - £1,170, Balaclava; £1,070 (3), Craigens; £1,070 (2), Balaclava; £1,050, £1045 (8), Craigens; £1,045 (7), Tallant; £1,045 (2), Eorabus; £1,040 (2), £1,040 (4), Tallant; £1,035, Aoradh; £1,035 (4), Craigens; £1,030 (2), £1,030 (5), Eorabus; £1,000 (4), Craigens; £990 (5), Eorabus; £985, Carrabus; £985 (3), Aoradh; £980 (4), Ballinaby; £980 (12), Eorabus; £960 (5), Craigens; £955 (3), Aoradh; £950, Balaclava. LIMx - £1,220, Octofad; £1,220 (6), Lossit; £1,145 (2), Ardbeg; £1,145 (3), Kilchiaran; £1,135, Blackrock; £1,130 (3), Octofad; £1,130 (2), £1,125 (3), £1,120 (3), Ardbeg; £1,105 (4), Lossit; £1 100, Knocklearach; £1100 (2), Ardbeg; £1 100 (5), Eorabus; £1,100 (3), Octofad; £1,095, Dunlossit Estate; £1,090, Lossit; £1,080 (7), Octofad; £1,080 (2), Kilchiaran; £1,080, Tallant; £1,075 (2), Octofad; £1,075 (4), Kilchiaran; £1,070, Brybruih; £1,070 (7), Ardbeg; £1,065, Carrabus; £1,060 (8), Blackrock; £1,055, Ballychattrigan; £1,045 (5), Eorabus; £1,040 (2), Brybruih; £1,025 (4), Eorabus; £1,020, Octomore; £1,020 (8), Ardbeg; £1,010 (4), Kilchiaran; £1,005 (6),

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Octofad; £1,000, Tallant. SIMx - £985, £970, Corrary; £915, (2), £910, Island. LULIX - £755, (8), Duich. HEIFERS - AAx - £1,120, Tallant; £1,075, Octomore; £1,055 (3), Eorrabus; £1,045, Tallant; £1,005, Octomore; £1,005, (5), Eorrabus; £1,000, Tallant; £1,000 (12), Octomore; £995 (2), Corrary; £940, Octomore; £920, (5), Knockrome; £910, Ballinaby. BRBx - £945, Blackrock. CHARx - £1,090, Eorrabus; £1,080, Aoradh; £1,040 (2), Tallant; £1,020, (11), Eorrabus; £1,000 (5), Craigens; £990, (2), Tallant; £970, (8), Craigens; £970, (8), £960, (5), Eorrabus; £955, (5), Craigens; £950, (4), Tallant; £950, (2), £940, (5), Eorrabus; £930, (2), Tallant; £930, (5), Aoradh. LIMx - £1 120, (2), Lossit; £1 040, (6), Ardbeg; £1,040 (4), Lossit; £1,030 (2), £1,010, Ardbeg; £1,000, Brybruch; £1,000 (7), Kilchiaran; £1,000 (3), Lossit; £990, Octomore; £970 (6), Kilchiaran; £970 (6), Ardbeg; £960 (4), Octofad; £960, Brybruch; £950, Coillabus; £945 (3), Blackrock; £945, Knocklearach; £940, Tallant; £940, Octofad. SIMx - £870 (2), Corrary; £860 (3), Carrabus. STXx - £960, Eorrabus. Leading lots and prices per kilo: BULLOCKS - AAx - 321p, Grulinbeg; 283p (17), Octomore; 276p, Tallant; 275p (2), Grulinbeg; 268p, Tallant; 267p, Duich; 267p (2), Corrary; 260p, Coultorsay; 259p (3), Knockrome; 258p (13), 254p (2), Octofad; 244p (9), Octomore. BRBx - 299p, Carrabus; 284p, Blackrock. CHARx - 305p (5), 297p, Carrabus; 296p (3), Aoradh; 293p (5), Kinnabus; 292p, Carrabus; 291p, Octomore; 290p, Carrabus; 287p (3), Aoradh; 287p (7), Tallant; 280p (5), Aoradh; 280p (2), Carrabus; 272p (5), Tallant; 265p, Aoradh; 264p (3), Craigens; 262p, Aoradh; 260p (2), Tallant. LIMx - 323p (2), Ardbeg; 305p, 297p, 295p (4), 292p, Carrabus; 289p (7), Ardbeg; 285p, Dunlossit Estate; 284p (4), Tallant; 284p (8), Blackrock; 281p (3), Eorrabus; 281p, Tallant; 280p, Blackrock; 279p (2), Ardbeg; 276p, Octofad; 275p (2), Ardbeg; 273p (12), Octofad; 273p, Brybruch; 271p (6), 265p, Tallant; 263p (2), 262p (3), Ardbeg; 261p (4), Tallant. SIMx - 297p (3), 295p, 271p (7), Carrabus; 251p, Corrary; 250p (3), Island. HEIFERS - AAx - 283p, Octomore; 270p (5), Knockrome; 258p, Grulinbeg; 254p (4), Aoradh; 253p, Octomore. BRBx - 268p, Blackrock. CHARx - 296p (3), 282p, Carrabus; 270p (8), Tallant; 270p (9), Carrabus; 269p (4), 267p (3), Tallant; 265p (2), Carrabus; 265p (5), Aoradh; 264p (2), 263p (2), Tallant; 263p (2), Eorrabus; 263p, Carrabus; 261p (5), Eorrabus; 260p, 259p (4), Aoradh; 257p (5), Craigens; 256p (2), Carrabus; 256p (6), Craigens; 255p (2), Eorrabus; 254p (2), Tallant; 254p (6), Eorrabus; 254p, Kinnabus; 253p (2), Aoradh; 251p (4), Ballinaby. LIMx - 320p (2), Ardbeg; 301p (4), Blackrock; 284p (2), 282p (2), Carrabus; 279p, Knocklearach; 275p (10), 273p (3), Tallant; 270p (6), Ardbeg; 270p, Carrabus; 269p (9), Eorrabus; 268p (3), Blackrock; 263p, Octofad; 260p (3), Ardbeg; 258p, Tallant; 257p, Aoradh; 255p (6), Kilchiaran; 254p (4), Eorrabus; 254p (9), Ardbeg; 253p (9), Eorrabus; 251p (9), Octofad. SIMx - 265p, 264p (3), Carrabus; 256p (2), Corrary. STXx - 254p, Eorrabus.

Call for vigilance to tackle rural crime

Rural crime remains a major blight on Scotland's countryside but working nationally and regionally with Police Scotland and other stakeholders in the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) progress is being made.

With vehicle, quad and machinery theft still an all-too-common occurrence on Scottish farms and crofts, NFU Scotland has used the most recent edition of its membership magazine, Scottish Farming Leader, as a reminder of steps that can be taken to protect property against opportunistic and organised crime.

The union is urging greater vigilance as a spike in incidents of rural crime is being seen in many parts.

NFU Scotland vice president Robin Traquair said: 'The threat of rural crime is ever present and there is a need for everyone who lives and works in rural Scotland to remain vigilant and take steps that can help protect their livestock, property, vehicles and home.'

'I urge you to secure vehicles, fuel, tools and property properly; invest in trackers and report suspicious people and vehicles to help keep crime at



The deployment of Police Scotland quad bikes in some parts of rural Scotland has made a positive contribution to the ongoing challenge of rural crime in these areas.

bay.' Writing in the union's membership magazine, Inspector Alan Dron, Police Scotland's national rural crime co-ordinator stated: 'Criminals are getting more intuitive and using smarter technology to carry out crimes, so any steps farmers, crofters and smallholders can take to protect their property will help.'

'Some criminals are using drones, Google Earth as well as more traditional drive-bys to check where security cameras, vehicles and machinery are stored and spot if people are working on the farm or around buildings. They can relay this information to their

partners on the ground and be in and out of a location without being noticed.'

'Despite this and thanks to many farmers, crofters and smallholders already taking steps to protect their property, Police Scotland are managing to retrieve more and more stolen agricultural vehicles, plant and quads as a result of many businesses investing in smart technology, security and trackers to protect their property.'

'Currently the popular targets are quads, trailers and tractors. There's a market for them but sadly don't be fooled into thinking lightning doesn't strike twice. Quite of-

ten the thieves can return a few weeks after the initial incident as they know there will be a new replacement vehicle on site that is there for the taking.'

'Personalising any vehicle will help with identification and recovery.'

'Make notes about the vehicle identity number, distinguishing or unique features and take photographs.'

'The more information you can share with the police the better. Based on the farmer's description, we recovered a tractor which had been shipped overseas that still had the rightful owner's furry dice and stickers in the cab. If you have a dent or anything added to the vehicle that's personal then record that. It all helps.'

'It is also really important you report any crime or suspicious behaviour to 101 - or 999 if a crime is under way - noting things like vehicle registrations.'

'A small incident on your farm or croft may not mean much to you but if it happened to two or three or more of your neighbours, it becomes three or four reported incidents and strengthens evidence that we can work with.'



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OPTION 1
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Applications to be made in writing with CV to: Roro Estate, c/o Edwin Thompson, 76 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP, or via email to galashiels@edwin-thompson.co.uk

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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/00002/PP	Installation of micro hydro scheme	Land South East Of Ardnackaig, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
21/00249/PP	Erection of temporary wind monitoring meteorological mast up to 90m in height for a period of 5 years	Land Approx 1.6km East Of Beinn An Tuirc Windfarm And Approx 4km South West Of Carradale, Kintyre, Argyll And Bute
21/00147/PP	Erection of bridge and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Ellerg Mhor, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute
21/00360/PP	Siting of a metal building for use as a bait store	Land Opposite Old Police Station, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/00254/PP	Formation of 5 parking spaces as part of the public access plan for Blary Hill Wind Farm	Land At Majors Field, North Of Smithy Cottages, Glenbarr, Argyll And Bute
21/00081/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Innean Lodge, Machrihanish, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
21/00126/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse on ruin of existing derelict cottage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of West Skeroblin Farm, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute

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

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



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

NEW ISLAY FERRY

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), in partnership with CalMac Ferries Limited and Transport Scotland, will hold a second online community consultation meeting to engage island communities and stakeholders on the new vessel to service Islay and Jura.

To participate, please register via www.cmassets.co.uk/NewIslayFerryMeeting
The meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams, which is free to download online.

Tuesday 23 March 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

The event is open to everyone with an interest in the new vessel, and will provide an update on the project and the next stages.

Questions or any other queries regarding the project can be emailed to islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk, or write to Jim Anderson at Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow, PA14 5EQ.

CMAL | cmassets.co.uk | 01475 749920

THANK YOU

Christine, Debbie and Ruaridh want to say a huge thank you for all custom and loyalty, and for the many cards, gifts and good wishes received due to the branch closure.
Thank you all very much.
Take care

30 candles on your cake
And we'd just like to say

'Happy Birthday Jonathon'
Enjoy your special day



Love from all the family xx

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BIRTHS

ANDERSON - Gary and Lynsey are delighted to announce the birth of Wynter Phoenix on March 10, 2021, a wee sister for India. Another grandchild for Brian and Janice, Zena and John and Archie.

WARDROP - MADGETT - On March 10, 2021 to Fallon and Mickey, a perfect baby boy, Harris Michael. First grandchild for Catherine and Ian.

DEATHS

MACARTHUR - On March 15, 2021, peacefully after a long illness, Helen Elizabeth MacArthur, née Wright, aged 79 years, beloved wife of Cameron and much loved mother of Craig and Donna. Sadly missed by all. A private funeral service owing to current restrictions, will take place at Glen Shira Cemetery. For those wishing to pay their respects, the cortege will leave from Inveraray Parish Church, on Tuesday, March 23 at 12 noon and proceed down Main Street on route to the Cemetery.

MACKINNON - On March 11, 2021, peacefully at Mid Argyll Hospital Lochgilphead, Donald MacKinnon in his 86th year, beloved husband of Meg and much loved father of Alison, Ishbel and Donald, a dearly loved

brother of Mary and all the family, father-in-law of Jim and Carol, and dear grandpa and papa of Jim, Catherine, Mollie and Finlay. A private funeral service and interment was held at Achhabreac Cemetery, Lochgilphead, on March 18.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Mary, Libby and David would like to express their heartfelt thanks to family, friends for cards, flowers and phone calls following the sad loss of our dear mum Catherine Campbell. Many thanks to Kenneth Blair and colleagues for their professional handling of the funeral arrangements during this pandemic. Thank you to all who came to pay their respects to mum on her final journey. Thank you also to carers who provided continuous care through these uncertain times, and community nurses who attended mum. Finally to Rev William Crossan for the service outside mum's home and at graveside. Thank you all. We miss her xx

CAMPBELL - Christine, Shona, Kirsty, Colin and families would like to express their sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Colin. Special thanks to the Rev Rodger Crooks for his comforting service and

to all family and friends who were able to attend the graveside service and to all who lined the route to Achhabreac Cemetery to pay their respects. Our thanks are extended to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their caring and efficient arrangements and to Morna and Corrina for all the beautiful floral tributes, to Rod for the piping tribute and to Martin MacLean for sending the recording of his singing of Psalm 1. We would also like to sincerely thank the community care staff and district nursing staff for all their devoted care and kindness to Colin.

GALBRAITH - Davie, Jean and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls following the sad passing of Lizzie. Thanks to Kenneth Blair and Co for their guidance and professionalism. The Rev Willie Crossan for his comforting service, and to everyone who paid their respects to Lizzie on her journey to Kilkerran cemetery.

IN MEMORIAMs

ELRICK - In loving memory of Yvonne, who sadly passed away on March 15, 2020. Miss you always - Margaret and Angus.

ELRICK - To our dear friend Yvonne, Goodbyes are not forever, Goodbyes are not the end, They simply mean we'll miss you, Until we meet again. - Love always, Morag, Gail and Janice.

JOHNSON - In loving memory of Gordon, who left us on March 19, 2020. The tears in our eyes we can wipe away The ache in our hearts will always stay. - Mum and family at home and away.

KENNEDY - Joan. In loving memory of Joan, in this her centenary year, who passed away on March 20, 2017. Much loved mum, gran and great-gran. - Sheena, Catherine, Alastair and William (her boys).

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Hector, died March 21, 2015. Remembered fondly every day. - Mary and family.

MCGEACHY - In loving memory of Margaret, died March 18, 2010. I remember our shared hopes and dreams. The laughter, tears, sorrow and joy. But most of all, I remember your love. Ae Fond Kiss. - Leslie.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. — Psalm 37:3
We will hopefully be opening our building soon but until then you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on **Sunday, 21st March 2021** at 11am
To join us online send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch>
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



South Kintyre Team Ministry
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

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

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.

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH
George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 21st March
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)
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)
Wednesday 24th March 12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)
From Sunday 28th March our Sunday morning services will be back in the church.
Covid-19 Government guidelines will apply
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

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
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
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SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Mid-Argyll & Arran

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

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.

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

charity number SC001002
Although our buildings are closed we are still active. Our website is full of information & links to keep you informed & provide opportunities for worship on-line Please look it up & keep in touch
www.northknapdale.org

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
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

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

in Ardrishaig and Achahoish Churches will resume on **Sunday, 28th March** (Palm Sunday) Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches (Psalm 97)

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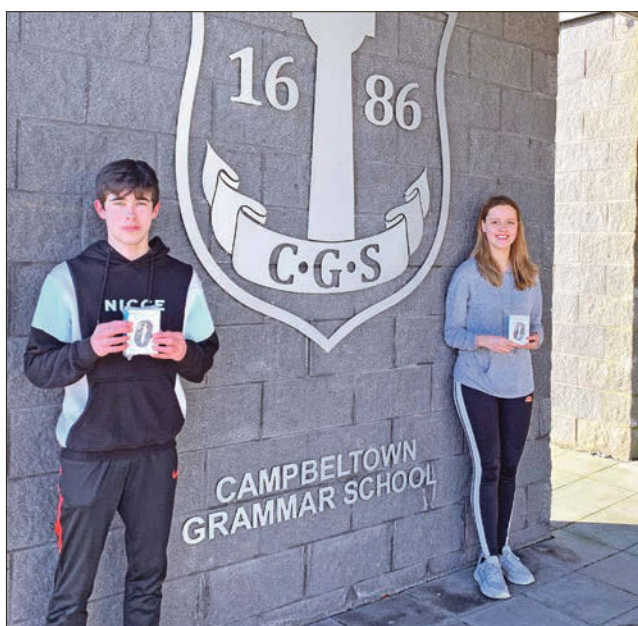
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School challenge pushes youngsters to stay active



The winners of fitness tracker watches at Campbeltown Grammar School were Kyle Paterson and Iona Renton.

An initiative aimed at helping secondary pupils stay active during lockdown and home-schooling has been deemed a success.

Organised by LiveArgyll's Active Schools and Sport team, the School Strava Challenge encouraged young people at secondary schools across the area, including Campbeltown Grammar School, to keep active and healthy while not having access to regular school activity.

Staff and pupils in every school were given the challenge of walking, running or wheeling as many kilometres as possible over a five-week period. The schools were pitched against each other to offer a competitive element and pupils vied for top spot in their school community.

A total of 10 schools, 378

pupils and 112 school staff amassed an incredible 29,670 kilometres over the course of the challenge.

Tobermory High School took the honours for the highest average number of kilometres per pupil, followed by Tarbert Academy and Tيرة High School, with Dunoon Grammar School winning for the highest number of kilometres travelled. The top schools were rewarded with a selection of sports equipment for their efforts.

The top performing boy and girl from each school were awarded a fitness tracker watch for clocking up the highest number of miles. At Campbeltown Grammar School, these were won by Iona Renton and Kyle Paterson.

This week, under the Scottish Government's phased school

return plans, pupils in P4 to P7 returned to school, joining their P1 to P3 classmates who returned last month.

All secondary students are also now expected to spend 'some time in school' before their expected full-time return after the Easter break on April 19.

The Active Schools and Sports team is working on a number of projects to restart extracurricular activity when this allows and have already produced online resources for school pupils to keep them active at home.

These can be found on the LiveArgyll website at www.liveargyll.co.uk

Contact the Active Schools team by emailing active-schools@liveargyll.co.uk for more information about activities in a particular area.

Golden oldie Sandy wins at Dunaverty

Another day of strong winds and heavy showers greeted the Dunaverty Golf Club members who turned out for a Stableford competition last Saturday.

The conditions tested their skills to the full and it was experience that won out in the end.

Golden oldie Sandy Watson once again demonstrated age is no barrier to posting winning scores.

Calling on all his experience, he reached the turn with a fabulous score of 24 points and, despite faltering a bit on the inward half, he managed to hold off Peter Paterson and Don Hardman, who did their utmost to catch him but to no avail as both fell short by one point. A well deserved win in adverse weather.

Result: 1 Sandy Watson 40 pts; 2 Peter Paterson 39 (bih); 3 Don Hardman 39; 4 Matthew Ralston 38; 5 Bill Brannigan 37; 6 Alex Arkell 35.

Virtual mascot Jack cheers on Scotland from home

Even with a mascot from Kintyre cheering them on, Scotland's rugby Six Nations hopes were dashed after defeat to Ireland last weekend.

Drumlemble Primary School pupil Jack Tait-Bennett, aged 10, was one of four youngsters selected to be a virtual mascot for Scotland's fixture against Ireland in round four of the Guinness Six Nations at BT Murrayfield on Sunday.

Despite the youngsters' support, Scotland suffered a 27-24 loss to Ireland.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the young mascots were not able to receive

the traditional experience of leading the team out, however, each received a virtual prize package including a season 20/21 replica Scotland shirt, a Macron hoody, a signed letter from Gregor Townsend and a special video message from captain Stuart Hogg - Jack's favourite player.

Jack's grandad, Bob Tait from Machrihanish, entered the youngster into a competition for the opportunity to be a virtual mascot and the pair watched the match at home. Jack's mum Carole said: 'We were totally surprised and delighted that out of so

many children Jack was chosen. He was very excited and wished him and the other mascots could have been there in person at Murrayfield to support the Scotland team.

'Jack's uncle Greg is from Ireland so I'm sure he was pleased with the end result.'

Jack, a member of Campbeltown Rugby Club, grew up supporting rugby as it is important to his family.

At the age of 15, his grandad played for South of Scotland vs Wales at Cardiff Arms Park and Jack's dad has played rugby for various teams abroad.



Scotland rugby fans Jack Tait-Bennett and his grandad Bob Tait.



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