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Thoughtful postie earns free night at Campbeltown hotel

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

A thoughtful postman is being offered a free night's stay at a Campbeltown hotel for his kindness in returning a lost room key – if the hotel's owners are able to trace him.

Tracey and Bruce Strang of the Dellwood Hotel contacted the Courier after a room key, which was accidentally taken home by one of their guests, landed in their letter box, but it was not sent by the person they expected.

Tracey explained: 'One of our guests, who stayed with us a couple of weeks ago, went away home with one of our door keys. He then phoned me up and told me he had found it in his pocket and said 'I'll just drop it into the post box and send it back to you'.

'I thanked him very much and thought that was the end of it. Then, last week, the key arrived in a sealed envelope, along with a note from a postman.'

The hand-written note, which arrived in a special delivery envelope, read: 'Found this key in a Royal Mail post box in Stranraer. From Steve Dunn, postman PHG [postman higher grade].'

It seems as though the guest had been speaking literally when he said he would drop the key – which was attached to a wooden keyring on which the hotel's full address was written – in the post box, depositing it unwrapped and without paying postage.

Also included on the keyring was a key to the hotel's main door. Both keys are traditional metal keys, not key cards like some hotels use, meaning the Dellwood's owners would have had to get replacement keys cut if the originals had not been returned.

'The postie took it upon himself to put them in an envelope and pay the postage,' Tracey said. 'I think that's lovely and I'd like to trace him and offer him a free night at the Dellwood.'

Right: Jenny Souden, a Dellwood Hotel assistant, also known as a 'Dellwood dolly', holding the lost room key and the note from kind-hearted postman Steve. 50_c20dellwood01



All room keys are attached to keyrings on which the hotel's full address is written, which meant the key could be returned.

50_c20dellwood02

'Royal Mail are up against it at the moment, with a lot of competition from big online companies, but you can't beat a good old-fashioned postie. They're always going above and beyond.'

The Courier has contacted Royal Mail in a bid to trace the thoughtful postman.



Vaccinations for under-50s begin today

Campbeltown Medical Practice has issued a statement to patients awaiting Covid-19 jabs.

The practice said patients aged 40 to 49 years should this week have received invitations to its vaccination clinic being held today, Friday May 14. It added that adults living in the same household as shielding patients should have received a letter from the Scottish Government and are encouraged to arrange an appointment, if they have not done so already. A spokesperson said: 'We thank you for your continued patience as we work our way through our lists. Under 40s, roll up your sleeves - we'll be in touch soon.'



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New inspector looks, learns – and loves Argyll

As police postings go, there can be few more beautiful places to be than Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles, writes Colin Cameron.

But it is fair to say it is taking a bit of getting used to for Inspector Paul Collins.

After 16 years in the force, primarily spent in Motherwell and other parts of Lanarkshire, the newly-promoted officer is now getting settled into life in Lochgilhead.

He started in post on April 26, taking over the reins from Inspector Julie McLeish, who moved on earlier this year to a position in Cumnock.

Looking for a fresh challenge, Argyll was the place he chose.

'I spent the last three-and-a-bit years working in Hamilton on missing persons for Lanarkshire, which is something I loved,' he explained.

'It was not so much on the investigations side, but more on procedures and working on protocols with local authorities, hospitals and the like.'

'It was about trying to prevent missing persons and minimising the time spent

looking for them, because every minute can be a minute of risk. I had autonomy and I really enjoyed that, which in many ways led to me being in Lochgilhead.'

He explained: 'Through the promotion process to inspector last year, I could have sat tight in Lanarkshire to see what came up, but "shy weans get no sweets" – so I had a look about and this job came up. Never having worked in rural policing before I had to decide whether to stick to what I knew, or take a risk and broaden my horizons.'

'I spoke with Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie and she was very helpful with information about what the job would entail. I went back and discussed it with my wife and the decision was made.'

The 39-year-old was brought up in the east end of Glasgow and describes himself as 'very much an urban guy growing up'.

'Through my mum's side of the family we've got links in Campbeltown,' he said, 'so I know I've visited there as a kid,



but I've never been back as an adult.'

He added: 'What that does mean is that I've got no preconceived ideas about the area. I'm taking everything and everyone at face value.'

Though fresh to the job and area, Inspector Collins won't be charging in with his new broom. 'I'm wary of coming in and trying to revolutionise

everything,' he said. 'There's no way I know more than the folk who have worked here for 'X' amount of years.'

'But that's not to say that I won't have ideas and plans going forward. Any plans I do have, though, will need to be linked to what I'm hearing from local people, both residents and police officers.'

As he looks, listens and learns, he emphasised the importance of the bond between the police and local communities.

'That working partnership is important,' he said. 'They need us, but we need the community as well. I come from a community policing background, and I do care about what I do – in a tight community people will soon know if I don't care.'

'I want our officers to be out there and visible, and in order for me to fix things I need the community to tell me what the problems are.'

Inspector Paul Collins comes from a community policing background.

Coming into the job during a pandemic, Inspector Collins sees the police role as supporting people as lockdown restrictions begin to ease.

'As traffic begins to pick up and there are more people around I believe we should be there to look after people in the community and help them to adjust to lots of folk coming in.'

'For visitors, we need to adopt an education stance because those leaving litter behind, lighting fires and the rest of it are often doing it from a standpoint of ignorance.'

'I want people to come and visit Argyll and enjoy it, but more importantly the people who live here have to be foremost in everything we do.'

The geography of Argyll is on a different scale to that seen in Lanarkshire, and the inspector admitted he was adjusting to this aspect of rural policing. With fewer police stations and big areas to cover, he says that partnership is key.

'I'd love to be able to click my fingers and open more police offices, but that's not the world we live in. It's about working smarter and in partnership with others.'

Though still travelling back to Hamilton at weekends to his wife and two-year-old daughter, the plan is to move the whole family to Argyll in time. Inspector Collins concluded: 'I'm looking forward to getting my wife and daughter across here, because I think they'll fall in love with Argyll just as I have.'

Return of hugs and indoor visits

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she felt 'a wee bit emotional' when she announced on Tuesday that, from Monday May 17, people will be allowed to hug their loved ones again – within permitted limits.

In the most significant relaxation of the Covid-19 rules this year, the first minister said much of mainland Scotland would move down to level two from Monday.

That will allow the number of people who can meet outdoors to rise to eight people from up to eight households, and up to six people from up to three households will be able to meet in each others' homes, including overnight stays.

Providing people stay within those numbers indoors, it will 'no longer be necessary to maintain physical distancing', the first minister said.

Alcohol will be permitted to be served indoors up until 10.30pm from Monday and venues including cinemas and concert halls can also reopen.

Amateur performing arts groups can perform outdoors initially and outdoor adult contact sport can also resume. More than one person can sing during religious services but congregational singing is still not yet permitted.

The first minister stressed it was vital to remain cautious and guard against Covid-19 as people could still be vulnerable and advised limiting the amount of people with whom to have close physical contact.

POLICE FILES

Pub posters

A number of posters were stuck to the external wall at the Kinloch Bar, Saddell Street, Campbeltown, between 10.30pm on Sunday May 2 and 9am on Monday May 3. No damage was caused and the posters have been removed but

police are investigating the incident.

Breach of curfew

At about 9.30pm on Tuesday May 4, in Burnbank Street, Campbeltown, a 60-year-old man allegedly breached bail curfew conditions imposed by the court by failing to be within his home address

overnight. Police arrested and charged the man the following day.

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



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Playpark fundraising gets off the ground

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

Campbeltown mum Iona MacLean's campaign to purchase an inclusive, wheelchair accessible swing-set for Jock's Adventure Playground is one step closer to success thanks to a wind energy company.

Last month, the Courier revealed that Councillor Donald Kelly had secured a pledge of £10,000 from an external funder towards the cost of this project, dependent on the community being able to raise the balance for the £25,000 equipment.

It can now be revealed that ScottishPower Renewables is behind the donation.

A spokesperson for the company told the Courier: 'We're very pleased to kickstart the fundraising for the new accessible equipment at Jock's Adventure Playground, with a donation of £10,000 from our Beinn an Tuirc 3 construction team.'

'This donation shows the positive contribution we make to the local communities where our wind farms operate.'

'We know the new play equipment will make a real difference for children and families in Campbeltown and we hope to see the fundraising campaign reach its target as soon as possible.'

Councillor Kelly added: 'I am delighted to have been able to secure this fantastic donation from ScottishPower Renewables and I would like to thank Gillian Arnot of the



Some of the children who took part in the sponsored teddy toddles.

company for her sterling work in this regard.

'Both Iona, and Catherine Dobbie of Campbeltown Community Council are working tirelessly in an effort to secure the balance of the funding required.'

'Any donation large or small will be most welcome and will contribute to making Jock's Adventure Playground inclusive and accessible to all children.'

The swing-set – with an adapted seat with straps on one side and a wheelchair accessible swing on the other – will be installed in a vacant area at the council-owned playpark which currently has just one wheelchair accessible item.

Iona was inspired to start the campaign after her own experiences when taking her children, seven-year-old Esmie and four-year-old Lyle, who has autism, to playparks in Campbeltown and surrounding villages, and no-

ting the lack of equipment for children with less ability. So far, £1,355 has been donated through an online fundraising page set-up with the aim of raising the additional £15,000 required.

In a bid to boost the total, Iona has organised the silent auction of a hamper of goodies donated by local businesses. Worth a combined total of about £775, the hamper includes a one-night stay for four people at Ugadale Cottages; a four-ball for Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club for four people; one Serenity Spa hot stone back massage; a selection of products from Serenity Spa; and a bottle of 18-year-old Glen Scotia single malt whisky.

The closing date for bids, which can be submitted privately via Iona's Facebook page, is 8pm on Sunday (May 16).

A further fundraising boost came thanks to two Campbeltown childminders,

Sarah Mckeown and Carol Linfield, who organised two sponsored 'teddy toddles' for the children who attend their settings.

Sarah said: 'Lyle has attended my setting for the past three years and we wanted to do something that the other children could join in with to help their friend raise the funds needed to purchase the inclusive play equipment.'

There were two walks, last Thursday and on Monday, so all the children could take part. Ranging in age from one to five years old, the children and their teddies walked, ran and danced to the former paddling pool, where they received special medals and certificates and enjoyed a picnic. On Monday, they were joined by Lyle at the finish line.

Visit [gofundme.com/f/inclusive-swing-for-campbeltown-playpark](https://www.gofundme.com/f/inclusive-swing-for-campbeltown-playpark) to contribute to the fundraiser.



Henry Canavan, right, presented thermal clothing to David MacPherson ahead of his Ben Nevis challenge.

David's warming up for Ben Nevis Challenge

Preparations for a Kintyre man's bid to reach the summit of the UK's highest mountain in a specialised wheelchair are heating up thanks to a donation of thermal clothing.

Henry Canavan from East Kilbride-based Cleaning and Wiping Supplies Ltd has donated a jacket to 45-year-old David MacPherson, from The Moy, who is planning to be the first person to reach the summit of Ben Nevis in a Joëlette wheelchair, created by the charity JAPES (Joëlette and

People Experiences). David, who suffered life-changing injuries in a car accident more than 20 years ago, will take on the Ben Nevis challenge on June 5 joined by his dad, David senior, members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue team, volunteers from JAPES and some Kintyre friends, who will help to power the wheelchair.

David senior said: 'Thanks to Henry for the kind donation of thermals for David's venture to Ben Nevis. It's a cracking jacket.'

Major military exercise under way off Campbeltown

One of the largest multi-national military exercises of its kind is currently under way off Kintyre's coast.

The major UK-led Exercise Strike Warrior 21, involving more than 13,000 military personnel from nine NATO nations – the UK, the US, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland – and one non-NATO nation, Australia – began on May 8 and will continue until May 20.

The exercise, involving 31 warships, three submarines and 150 aircraft, is part of the final preparations for the first

deployment of the UK's Carrier Strike Group next month and is intended to reflect a broad range of crisis and conflict situations which could occur in real-world operations.

The Royal Navy's fleet flagship at the centre of the CSG, HMS Queen Elizabeth, will deploy after the exercise is completed.

The waters around Campbeltown and Loch Ewe are hosting mine counter measures operations, while other activities are taking place at Cape Wrath weapons range, Garvie Island and the QinetiQ Hebrides range, and in the North Minch.

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SNP holds Argyll and Bute af



Jenni Minto at Holyrood ahead of her induction to the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday.

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

Newly elected Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto – the first female to fill the role – arrived at Holyrood on Tuesday for her induction to the Scottish Parliament, following an election unlike any other.

Last Thursday, May 6, voters across Argyll and Bute took to the polls in record-breaking numbers, with a turnout of 67.8 per cent – higher than all five previous Holyrood elections in Argyll and Bute.

Vote verification and counting – carried out under strict Covid-19 protocols – began at Lochgilphead Joint Campus promptly at 9am the following day, on Friday May 7, but not before ballot boxes had been delivered from polling stations in every corner of Argyll and Bute, with island ballots arriving in style by helicopter.

With 16,608 votes, Ms Minto was announced as the constituency MSP for Argyll and Bute at around 6pm, succeeding fellow SNP member Michael Russell

as the incumbent. She finished ahead of Donald Cameron, Conservative, with 7,645 votes; Alan Reid, Liberal Democrats, 6,874 votes; and Lewis White, Scottish Labour, 2,436 votes.

The total number of votes cast was 33,728, of which 165 were spoiled/rejected.

The candidates gave one of the shortest sets of podium speeches Argyll and Bute has heard; usually the larger crowds turn the candidates into orators but, on this occasion, the usual gaggle of observers from each political party and mass of local and national media was absent.

For safety reasons, the counting tables had been split between the school's gymnasium and the sports hall, with just four counters per table to comply with physical distancing, adding to the subdued atmosphere for which the count was notable.

The voting process itself was also different this year, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There was a greater proportion of postal votes than in past

elections and, for those who voted in person, safety was a priority. Separate doors to enter and leave the polling place, one-way systems, single-use pencils and, of course, the ubiquitous physical distancing and face coverings were some of the changes voters witnessed.

Extra council staff were on hand at busier polling stations, while election personnel were behind PPE screens.

On the podium, following Friday's results announcement by returning officer Pippa Milne, Ms Minto said: 'I think the people of Scotland have told us now that Scotland's future is Scotland's choice.'

Speaking this week about her election victory, she added: 'It is an incredible privilege to have been elected MSP for Argyll and Bute – Scotland's most beautiful constituency.'

'I would like to give my thanks to all those who voted for me and have put their trust in me to represent you.'

'The strength of the SNP's result here has humbled me but I think it's a fitting tribute



People were encouraged to take their own pencils to polling stations, as this voter did in Tayinloan. 50_c20election01



'It is an incredible privilege to have been elected MSP for Argyll and Bute – Scotland's most beautiful constituency'

Counting staff were split between two rooms and separated by clear plastic sheets. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.





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ter an election like no other

to the hard work of all our activists, our local councillors, our MP Brendan O'Hara and in particular our former MSP Michael Russell.

'I was able to spend the final 12 days of the campaign travelling around the constituency, meeting with people and discussing our shared passions for our communities.'

'What was clear to me is that those who live here, know what is best for their communities and that is the message I take with me to Holyrood. I look forward to getting my office set up in the coming weeks and getting to work for you, the people of Argyll and Bute.'

Shortly after 5pm last Saturday, the day after Ms Minto was announced as the constituency MSP, the seven MSPs for the larger Highlands and Islands region, including Argyll and Bute, were announced.

Inverness-based regional returning officer for Highland and Islands Donna Manson declared the results for the regional list, with the following

Right, counting staff has to wear face covering throughout the day. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

seven members elected on a 66.1 per cent overall turnout:

Douglas Ross, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party; **Edward Mountain**, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party; **Rhoda Grant**, Scottish Labour Party; **Donald Cameron**, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party; **Ariane Claire Burgess**, Scottish Green Party; **Jamie Halcro Johnston**, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party; and **Emma Roddick**, Scottish National Party.



Below: LiveArgyll staff Elizabeth Conley, left, and Rhona McSparran were on hand to ensure the voting process ran smoothly at Campbeltown's Victoria Hall. 50_c20election02



It was a nervous wait for the candidates, from left, Jenni Minto, Alan Reid, Lewis Whyte and Donald Cameron as returning officer Pippa Milne prepared to announce the results. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



The count was interrupted when a fire alarm caused Lochgilphead Joint Campus to be evacuated. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service personnel attended and declared it a false alarm.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



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BUILT IN

Town businesses strike back with sign wars puns

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

Armies of Campbeltown businesses are engaged in a heated battle to outwit and out-pun one another.

The #ToonSignWars began when Campbeltown Picture House declared war on several local businesses, challenging them to 'get reel' and join in with the pun war.

In a message written on a chalkboard sign, the cinema asked the café Munch, famed for its sweet milk drinks, to 'shake things up' and told alcohol shop Hall's of Campbeltown - owned by Beinn an Tuirc Distillers, whose name translates as hill of the boar and whose logo features an image of a hog - to join in and not 'be boars'.

A follow-up sign revealed the cinema 'had beef' with McGeachy Butchers and challenged Watt Whisky's owners to 'uncork' themselves and join in. It asked if Glen Scotia Distillery was 'too mature' to take part and declared that Café Bluebell was 'toast'.

It wasn't long before the businesses that were called out, retaliated and launched their own lyrical attacks.

The challenge proved to be a piece of cake for the town's eateries and bars - which hit back with some spirited responses - and gift shops -



which had things wrapped up in no time. Many of the town's hairdressers made the cut and rinsed the opposition while beauty salons waxed lyrical.

The Kintyre Shoe Company stepped up and put its heart and 'sole' into the challenge, McAllister Shellfish hit back with some snappy puns and children's favourite Utopia

toyed with the enemies. Olfactory Candles came up with some great burns and DM Fabrication showed its 'metal' and sparked war with several businesses through some riveting throw downs.

Glen Scotia Distillery baited The Fish Shop to 'batter in' with some puns, while the 'fun guys' at Kintyre

Campbeltown Picture House declared war on several local businesses through the #ToonSignWars. The Courier Centre took part, saying the challenge should be a 'cake walk' for the Harlequin Tearoom and inviting Hair By Iona to 'lighten up' and 'dye-ve' into the fun.

Mushrooms sent 'mush love' to the cinema for coming up with the idea.

Campbeltown Picture House manager Ellen Mainwood told the Courier: 'I got the idea from a town in Canada that has been doing it for a little while and it struck me that it's the sort of silly tongue-in-cheek thing the Campbeltown community would really get behind. Everyone in town - especially business operators - have been so supportive over the last year and what better way to show we love and appreciate each other than to throw a few friendly insults!'

'It has been so much fun seeing the more and more elaborate puns everyone has been coming up with.'

Check out Campbeltown Picture House's Facebook page, where most of the sign wars action has been shared.

Cinema preparing to roll out the red carpet

On top of inciting a sign war, staff at Campbeltown Picture House are busy preparing to re-open later this month, when restrictions allow.

Cinema manager Ellen Mainwood said: 'After some serious vacuuming, scrubbing and shampooing, we will be re-opening on May 21. We will be opening on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays initially but expanding during the school holidays and towards the end of the year.'

'Currently, social distancing is still in place so we would strongly encourage people to book before coming to the cinema to make sure they have seats and that they can sit where they like.'

The cinema will be opening with Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway which, judging by the response to the first film, staff expect to be extremely popular with families.

The live action and computer generated imagery film tells of Peter's latest

adventures, this time out in the garden, where he finds mischief is appreciated, but soon his family comes to bring him home.

Also hitting the big screen when the cinema re-opens is the new part-live action and part-animated Tom and Jerry - the latest tale of the renowned mayhem-causing cat and mouse - and action-smash-fest Godzilla vs Kong, a sequel to Godzilla: King of the Monsters and Kong: Skull Island.

Coming in the next few weeks will be Nomadland, Minari, The Father and A Quiet Place II. Alongside the newer films, the cinema has also rescheduled its 'Thirty Films to See Before You're Thirty' season, kicking off with Trainspotting and The Goonies. Ellen added: 'Along with social distancing please ensure to wear your mask at all times in the building, except when eating and drinking in your cinema seat.'

Happy lockdown birthday, Harvey

With the country still under some restrictions, people may be unable to celebrate their birthdays as they 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 this birthday boy.

Harvey Smith
Harvey Smith, from Campbeltown, is celebrating his ninth birthday today, Friday May 14. He will spend the day with his friends at school and will celebrate at night with



his family, who said: 'We all love you so much and we hope you enjoy your celebrations.'

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Challenging weather conditions for Tarbert golfers

Difficult conditions greeted Tarbert Golf Club members who gathered at Glenralloch last Saturday for the first round of the President's Cup, which was combined with the May medal.

The morning groups had to contend with a strong easterly breeze, while the later starters had the breeze combined with heavy rain, making scoring difficult.

Peter McLean junior continued his recent good form to take the May medal with 63 nett and the first round lead in the President's Cup with a 72. Peter's outward nine included four birdies with his only blip being a seven at the ninth when he drove out of bounds.

Slipping into second place in the President's Cup was Bruce MacNab with 76, followed by Iain Johnstone junior on 77.

It was good to see new member Andrew Henderson shooting 64 nett to take second place in the medal with Iain Johnstone junior third on 66.

The second round of the President's Cup takes place on May 22, along with the first round of the John Reid Quai.

On Thursday May 6, the club's lady members played a nine-hole Stableford, with Angela Vernal taking first place on 17 points followed by Georgie Dickson and Jo Kerr on 14.

Youngster Connor McCrae headed to Broomieknowe Golf Club last weekend for his latest Stephen Gallacher Foundation event.

He came third in the under-10 section with a fine 39, just four shots behind the winner. This week Connor heads to Linlithgow for his next event.

Enjoy running a MOK – but do so in safety

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

Organisers of the Mull of Kintyre 10K and Half-Marathon Race (MOKRUN) are urging runners to make full use of an eight-day window set aside for completing this year's virtual race.

A spokesperson said: 'We have asked entrants to complete their run at some point between Sunday May 23 and Sunday May 30.

'More than 700 runners have kept their place for the virtual event, many from outside Kintyre, who will run the event close to their home.

'We know many local runners will want to run the official MOKRUN courses, however, we are asking people to 'stay safe' by not all running the race at the usual time and date and to observe physical distancing when running.

'We would very much encourage people to try a different local 10K or half-marathon route. It's a great opportunity



The adult participants' T-shirt and medal.

to run when you're at your best. If you're a morning runner, do it early; if you're an evening runner, run late in the day. You could even run the course in reverse.'

Entrants will be emailed a downloadable and printable race number to wear during their run and instructions on how to upload and submit their race times to officials.

All times must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday May 30. Afterwards, runners with a PA28 postcode will be able to

collect their T-shirt and medal from Wee Toon Trends shop in Campbeltown's Main Street. The race committee is grateful to Wee Toon Trends for helping with this distribution. Competitors from other areas will receive their T-shirt and medal by post.

The spokesperson added: 'As disappointed as the committee is that the race had to be transferred to a virtual event this year, we hope the runners enjoy their run and that the community will still enjoy seeing the runners out, giving it their best.

'We would ask them to clap or shout encouragement if they see them passing wearing their race number during the eight days of the event.

'The committee would love to see participants' photographs of their efforts and would encourage them to send them to the MOKRUN Facebook page or via Messenger for us to share. We sincerely hope 2022's event will be back to a full-strength live event.'



Glenbarr Primary School pupils who are doing the virtual MOKRUN together model the junior T-shirt and medal.

Junior joggers warm-up for virtual event

Young athletes are also warming up for this year's junior virtual MOKRUN.

Entrants have the option of completing one mile or five kilometres but they don't have to run – they can dance, skip, hop or walk, the choice is theirs.

Once they have completed their distance, they must upload and submit their time so they can receive a T-shirt and medal.

There are still places up for grabs, with an entry fee of £10.

Once entered, participants can print off their race numbers and are encouraged to make them even more colourful.

There will be prizes for the best decorated bibs but participants must post photographs of their efforts on the MOKRUN Facebook page to be in with a chance.



Lady captain Margaret Richardson, right, presenting Linda Brannigan with the captain's prize.

Dunaverty's lady golfers back in action

Dunaverty Golf Club's lady members have had a busy start to the season.

With a score of 129, Lea Brown and Ailie MacBrayne won the Argyle Cup, played over two rounds. Runners up were Fiona Mcleod and Denise Fawcett with 136 points.

The Coronation Foursomes competition was played on a windy evening on April 27, with nine pairs braving the

conditions. The winners were Linn Coffield and Lorna Cook on 33 points and the runners up were Linda Brannigan and Ailie MacBrayne with 32 points.

Winning the Spring Meeting, on May 1, was Linda Brannigan with 62. Margaret Richardson, lady captain, presented Linda with the captain's prize of a bottle of champagne, glasses and an ice bucket. Mary Wilson was

second with 65 (BIH) and Linn Coffield was third. Ailie MacBrayne was first scratch with a gross 77.

The Florrie Niven, a joint competition with Machrihanish Golf Club's ladies, was played on May 4. First was Eleanor Hunter with 62, with Inez Ronald second on 65 and Katherine Hardman in third with 69 (BIH). Catherine Dobbie won the scratch with a gross 80.

Clarification

Last week, the Courier reported that Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre travelled to Southend on the day of golf journalist Jock MacVicar's funeral.

Robert was invited to attend the graveside service but declined, choosing instead to pay his respects at the roadside as the cortège made its way to Keil Cemetery.

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Steve could easily have decided it was not up to him to return the key, simply placing it in a 'lost and found' box and forgetting about it.

The pandemic has impacted postal workers, who have worked on the frontline throughout the last year, working under increased pressure with more people ordering items online. Hotels have also suffered, only recently being allowed to reopen, and this small gesture meant a lot.

Hopefully Steve can be traced so he can enjoy his free night's stay in Campbeltown, which is also recognised for its kindness.

Playpark plight

Confirmation of the £10,000 donation towards the campaign to improve inclusivity at Jock's Adventure Playground is fantastic but it is dependent on the remaining £15,000 being raised.

While the £1,355 donated on the online fundraising page so far is fantastic, there is still a long way to go and it would be a huge shame to miss out on this huge contribution.

Those behind the campaign are working tirelessly to boost the fund. All donations, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated.

Election thanks and congratulations

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the Scottish election and the many people who helped with my campaign.

I congratulate Jenni Minto on her election and wish her well in her job of representing the people of Argyll and Bute at Holyrood.

Alan Reid, Dunoon.

Open letter to Transport Scotland chiefs

The following is an open letter from John Gurr, chairperson of the Rest and Be Thankful Campaign group, to Transport Scotland's chief executive Roy Brannen and director of roads Hugh Gillies in response to an email following a meeting with officials from the transport agency last month.

Dear Roy and Hugh,

I am writing in response to an official Transport Scotland (TS) email to the Rest and Be Thankful (RABT) Campaign on April 27 2021 where you have sought to answer several questions posed by us at our meeting with your officials and in subsequent emails to you both. We are hugely disappointed by this response and its apparent contradictions.

We asked for a permanent solution within the next three years.

The email states: 'We are not waiting for anything and are pushing on with work at pace', yet your actions since the August landslide have only created delay.

Creating 11 options for consultation in November 2020, is, we believe, a time-wasting exercise. Five further options for consultation in March.

We strongly believe there are only three real options, with studies on these completed in your 2013 report. Conducting a geological survey which will take 18 months to complete, is a process that could have started last August, assuming you had not conducted such surveys in 2012.

We have asked for temporary use of the forestry road, away from the threats posed by landslides. It also states: 'We were clear without that information we are not certain the forestry track in its current form is safe for use.' Yet we would argue you already have a Transerv report produced in 2012 by Balfour Beatty and Mouchal Services Ltd for TS which suggested the forestry road could be upgraded in 10 to 12 weeks. How did Transerv arrive at this conclusion without a study of the ground conditions being done in advance?

This situation should be considered a safety, economic and social emergency, cutting through the red tape of consultation and delay. It further declares: 'We understand first-hand the delay that can be caused by procedural challenge...there needs to be a careful balancing of accelerating development and procedural risk to ensure we do not end up in the courts.'

While we understand the need for the right balance of speed and consultation, we think the safety risks, costs incurred by business and damage to the economy of Argyll should create the conditions for emergency action, delivering what should be a simple road realignment. This is not HS2. We are not asking to blight the countryside or people's homes. You do not have whole communities ready to challenge fixing the crisis at RABT.

What we want cannot be worse than the damage already inflicted on the hillside without consultation.

If you fixed the Rest, we will all be thankful.

The following questions still have not been answered in TS's official reply or in recent press statements:

■ If the next landslide, or subsequent diversion along the equally inadequate A82, results in a fatality who will be held accountable?

■ Who is responsible for the social and economic impact on the people and businesses of Argyll while we wait another 10 years for something permanent to be done?

We are business people and understand the need for safe environments, effective procedures, timely management and cost control, but what we have experienced over the past year does not give us confidence you will address the concerns we have.

We are not looking for you to defend your approach. What matters to us is the action taken to bring timescales down and resolve the problem within the next parliament.

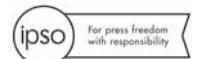
We are simply asking you to rethink your approach, look at how your team can cut through this 'business as usual' process and appoint someone who can find a way to re-align two kilometres of the A83 safely within the next three years.

By challenging your approach, we are hoping to see that after nearly a year of delay and diversion, there is a recognition of the cost impact to business, the significant safety concerns and that this will continue to blight Argyll as a place to live, work and invest in until a permanent solution is delivered.

We will be working with the relevant politicians post election and will continue to campaign for a change in approach. We would be happy to discuss what can be done to overcome any constraints you have to deliver a solution quickly and resolve the crisis at the RABT.

John Gurr, chairperson, Rest and Be Thankful Campaign.

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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Chance for this generation to end need for food banks

We stand at a once-in-a-generation cross-roads. Recently a thought-provoking poem, ACCEPTABLE? by the Anonymous Mother – judged for needing a food bank to feed her child – started a nationwide debate about whether the world's fifth richest country should need food banks to feed children.

This conversation needed to happen as our food bank crisis has become critical.

Last year, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network handed out 980,000 emergency food parcels for children in the UK. This surely cannot be acceptable.

However, fate has given us a rare opportunity, as history shows us that the best time to create a brighter future is after times of great darkness.

The pandemic has been the most devastating event to hit our country since the Second World War, but it also brought out the very best of our nation. We recognised our real community heroes, we protected the vulnerable, we didn't stand by when children went hungry.

But now, as we prepare to wake up from the pandemic nightmare, millions of British families still cannot afford food on their table.

As the Anonymous Mother poetically says – it doesn't need to be this way.

This pandemic has been our generation's darkest hour. This is now our new dawn, our choice. I urge you to do just one thing today and that is to seek out the poem that started all of this and reflect. If, afterwards, you agree with me and the hundreds of thousands of other supporters of the Trussell Trust, that we can do better, join us as we collectively create a 'hunger free future'.

Len Goodman, supporter of the Trussell Trust.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



As lovely as a clear blue sky is, sometimes clouds are a beautiful addition to a vista. That's what Debra Clarke, who took this photograph along Shore Road in Carradale, said when she submitted this image, in which a bank of white separates the azure of the sky and the aquamarine of the sea. Please email editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk if you have a photograph you would like to share.

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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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TEN YEARS AGO

Friday May 13, 2011

Course time smashed by local lads

A six-man team from Campbeltown Running Club was first home in Saturday's Kintyre Way Relay.

The lads set a new course record of eight hours 32 minutes in the annual 66-mile race from Tarbert to Campbeltown, a six-minute improvement on last year's winning time.

Play it Again SAMS, a team from Oban, was in the lead as far as Clachan, but Hector McMurchy of Campbeltown forged ahead on the beach section to Tayinloan and the lead widened as the Kintyre lads pounded along home turf.

At the Tayinloan checkpoint, supporters cheered wildly as Hector came into view and handed over to Kenny Campbell.

Kenny reached Carradale at five hours 48.5 minutes, 22.5 minutes earlier than the existing record at this point, though it must be said Play it Again SAMS were only 15 minutes behind, which meant they had also beaten the course record for the 46 miles from Tarbert.

The other members of the Campbeltown team, Tommy Morran, Stuart McGeachy, Scott MacBrayne and Charlie Dott, all contributed strongly to the record-breaking performance.

Play it Again SAMS finished in second in nine hours four minutes and third place went to Campbeltown Running Club team three, with a time of nine hours 22 minutes.

There were also four brave souls who attempted the ultra race of the 66 miles, though only one completed it – Stephen Bell from Helensburgh in 13 hours 59 mins.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday May 10, 1996

Creamery closure

Farmers on Islay were meeting earlier this week in a bid to save Islay Creamery.

Last week, at an extraordinary meeting, the shareholders in Islay Creamery Limited decided to shut down permanently from today.

Production at the creamery ceased a month ago for what was described at the time as a trial period.

Manager Ian Coffield blamed the closure on the high price of milk since the deregulation of the industry. The shutdown means the loss of nine jobs at the plant, but local farmers believe the knock-on effect on employment will be even worse.

Farmer and shareholder in the company Tony Archibald said: 'It could mean the loss of another job on every dairy farm, not to mention the

FROM OUR FILES



In 2011: Kenny Campbell, Stuart McGeachy, Tommy Morran, Charlie Dott, Hector McMurchy and Scott MacBrayne set a new record for the annual Kintyre Way relay.

milk tanker driver. The farmers are looking at ways of opening the creamery. It is very important because it is the one thing we have as a raw material for over here.'

The farmers were due to meet as the Courier went to press to discuss ways of re-opening the creamery and they also plan to meet representatives of Scottish Milk.

Mr Coffield described the closure as 'devastating'. He said: 'There's not a lot of work round here. The main feeling about the place is disbelief.'

The creamery produced about 308 tonnes of cheese a year.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Thursday May 13, 1971

Colour television comes to Campbeltown

Colour television is to be launched in Campbeltown next Tuesday by Rediffusion.

And to mark the occasion, Rediffusion is staging a demonstration exhibition in the town's White Hart Hotel, where about six sets will be on view.

The exhibition will be open to the public for three days. A Rediffusion spokesman said that, apart from Scotland's cities, Campbeltown was, as far as he knew, the first rural area to be offered colour television.

A buffet lunch attended by Rediffusion officials and Campbeltown town councillors will be held to launch the service.

Angus has hit first best-seller

Salt In My Porridge, Angus MacVicar's book about his family life in Southend and abroad, is now in its third edition and still selling well in local book shops and all over the country.

Angus said: 'This is my 61st book and the only one so far that can really be described as a best-seller. I am grateful to the Courier reviewer and to the other reviewers in the BBC, ITV and papers from Stornoway to London for giving it such a good start.'

'My advice to young authors? Stick at it. The

first 60 books are the worst!' His latest book for children, Super Nova and the Frozen Man, is also doing well in hard cover and paperback.

Most of Angus's books are published in European countries, and some in America, but only the other day he heard this one was being published in Japan.

'I'd rather have heard that my golf handicap is coming down, but that would be even more of a miracle.'

100 YEARS AGO

Thursday May 12, 1921

Change in publishing day

The change in the publishing day of the Courier to Thursday of each week instead of Friday has proved so acceptable to readers, particularly to the large number resident outside the district, that we have resolved to make the arrangement a permanent one.

Sparks and flashes

A meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Friday evening with the object of forming a branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach in Campbeltown.

Neil M'Bain is among the latest of the Ayr United Football Club players to fix up for another season. Neil is one of the Scots who will tour Canada and the United States. It is stated he is to get a benefit next season.

The first mixed jury to sit in Argyllshire was empanelled at Oban on the third inst. The occasion was a fatal accident inquiry and two ladies were included in the seven 'good and true'. The custom of handing over the jury fees – 5sh, 25 pence – to the nearest relative was observed.

The Picture House had to suspend business on the first three nights of this week on account of the films not arriving. It will be re-opened tonight (Thursday) with the full advertised programme for the second part of the week. Next week it is hoped to maintain the same arrangement – showing only in the latter part of the week.

The football benefit last week for David Thompson of Drumlemble brought out a gratifying attendance, the ropes being lined by quite 600 people.

The Drumlemble-Hearts combination were the winners against the 11 chosen from Former Pupils and Campbeltown, the score being 3-2.

The losers had a spirited attack, but the defence on the other side was particularly sound, and Drumlemble's keeper M'Phail gave one of his finest displays so far.

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Alex MacKinnon from Carradale supplied this photograph of his father, John MacKinnon, late of Auchnasavil Farm, Carradale, ploughing at the Skipness and district ploughing match at Arivore Farm, Whitehouse, in 1933 when, aged 23, he won the Kilchamaig Cup and RHAS Medal for the third successive year. Alex said his father, with the horses and plough, walked the 19 miles to Arivore the day before the match and left at about 4pm after the match, arriving home late. The mares in the photograph were called Maggie, left, and Fanny, and they were still alive and working at Auchnasavil into the 1950s.



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Sponsored by Campbeltown Heritage Centre



At the Courier, we love when readers share their nostalgic photographs with us because we know how much our readers enjoy history.

Here are some photographs which readers have recently shared with us, ranging in age from just 25 years ago to more than 100. Most of the images were sent in with detailed information but one was submitted in an attempt to gain more information.

Anyone who can provide any of the missing details in Pat McCulloch's photograph can contact her by emailing patmcculloch@virginmedia.com or via the Courier by emailing editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk or telephoning 01586 554646.

We would welcome any further submissions of old photographs which can be submitted through the above email address.

Jake Cameron sent in this 1996 photograph of Kintyre Rugby Football Club to mark 25 years since the team was named Glasgow and District division two league champions. Players in the photograph are, back row, from left: Archie Ronald, Richard Semple, Callum Semple, John Semple, Neale Williams, John Biggins, Keith Ballantyne, Steven Harrogate, Jamie Reid, Gareth Davies, Jake Cameron and Donald McKay. Front row: Kenny McAndrew, Craig Hughes, Ralph Hill, Stuart McLauchlan, Colin Craig, captain, Kevin Scally, Johnathan Sharples, William Ralston and Ewan Mitchell.



Pat McCulloch from Linlithgow, West Lothian, submitted this photograph for which she needs help in naming most of the women. The lady on the far right is Pat's paternal grandmother, Martha Craig Ralston, who was born in 1873 at Kilmichael and died in 1956 at Machrimore Mill, Southend. She married Pat's grandfather, Hugh Reid, who was born in 1864 and died in 1942, both at Chiskan Farm, Southend. Pat has been unable to identify the other ladies and wonders if they could be Ralstons or sisters-in-law of Martha.



Left: Robert Middleton, from Campbeltown, submitted this photograph that he took during the seamen's strike of 1966. The image shows the fishing boat Moira which took supplies from Campbeltown to Port Ellen on Islay.



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Tickled pink by flamingo flock



The flock of flamingos was spotted at Point Sands Holiday Park near Tayinloan recently.



Other caravan owners at Point Sands Holiday Park enjoyed the 'flamingo flocking'.

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

Keen bird watchers are being advised to keep an eye out for an unusual visitor to Kintyre – a flock of pink flamingos, which has returned to the area for the first time in eight years.

Those with ornithophobia need not fear, however, as the colourful visitors, which could make a surprise appearance anywhere in the area, are made of plastic and are intended to bring nothing but joy.

The 'flamingo flocking' initiative first took flight in 2013 as a fundraising campaign for CGS4Gambia, a charity set up to teach senior students at Campbeltown Grammar School about global citizenship through volunteering in Gambia.

In return for a donation to the charity, the flock would be planted, in the early hours of the morning, in the gardens of nominated Kintyre residents who would awake to find they had been 'flocked'.

Alternatively, those who wanted to prevent being

flocked could purchase 'anti-flamingo insurance' from CGS4Gambia.

The initiative proved extremely popular in the charity's early days, with the flamingos appearing at community events including Campbeltown Malts Festival and the Mull of Kintyre 10K and Half-Marathon Race as well as in people's gardens and outside businesses.

Following a season in Kintyre, the birds took off to enjoy retirement but, after the last year which could be described as somewhat dull, they are making a welcome return, bringing with them a bit of much-needed colour.

They have already been spotted near Tayinloan, at Point Sands Holiday Park, where flamingo fan Rosie celebrated her fourth birthday at the family caravan during the recent sunny bank holiday weekend.

As well as making the birthday girl's special day even brighter, the flamingos, which were spotted on the beach and on lawns around the park, brought a smile to the faces of



Flamingo fan Rosie received a special fourth birthday surprise.

the other holiday park caravan owners.

A CGS4Gambia spokesperson said: 'We can't thank Rosie's family enough for the incredible pictures they sent us. They are fabulous. Due to Covid-19, we, like other charities, have been unable to fundraise in the last year. We decided this is something

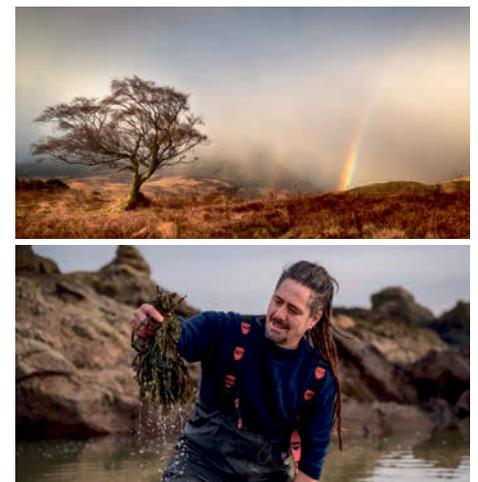
we can do safely, while also making the community smile, just like the previous flock did eight years ago.'

To find out how to get involved with the latest 'flamingo flocking' campaign, email Agnes Stewart on Ags1968@yahoo.com, telephone 07825 952537 or contact the @CGS4Gambia Facebook page.



SCOTTISH FIELD

June



Homes & Gardens...
56 pages of top tips for your home...
Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year...
Seaweed foraging... Sir Ian McGeechan's Credo...
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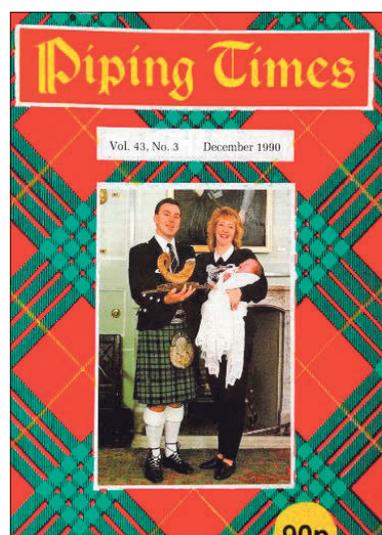
Campaign launched to protect piping papers

Scotland's National Piping Centre has launched a crowd-funding campaign to raise money to protect the legacy of its Piping Times and Piping Today publications.

The project involves the digitisation of the magazine archive, a resource that will be free to access online, and the production of a new annual publication that carries the Piping Times title.

With the Piping Times and Piping Today together recording more than 70 years of piping history, and recognised internationally as the most significant source of piping information, opinion and news, both were forced to cease publication in 2020 due to the unprecedented financial challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Piping Centre's director of piping Finlay MacDonald said: 'It was with the deepest regret that we have made the difficult decision to cease publication of the two magazines, Piping Times and Piping Today. Both titles hold a special place in the hearts of



The front cover of the December 1990 edition of the Piping Times shows a photograph of Campbeltown piper Willie McCallum with his wife Christine and the couple's daughter Hailey. Willie won the overall Glenfiddich Championship for the first time in 1990. He is the record holder for the most overall wins, having won this prestigious solo piping contest eight times.

pipers across the world. Sadly, publication of the magazines could no longer be justified on the grounds of the associated costs.'

The Piping Times was first published in October 1948 as the monthly 'house' magazine of the College of Piping.

As well as printing competition results, reviewing events and reporting general news in the piping world, it provided

a platform for the frank exchange of opinions and ideas. It was also influential in fostering an international piping community.

Contributors in the early years included legendary names in piping including Archibald Campbell of Kilberry, Willie Gray, John MacLellan, Robert Meldrum, John MacFadyen, J P Grant of Rothiemurchus, John Garroway and D R

MacLennan. Although not the magazine's first editor, Seumas MacNeill, co-founder of the college, was the convenor of the editorial committee that produced the magazine until 1959 when Seumas became the sole editor. He produced the magazine each month until his death in 1996.

Throughout these years, Seumas took no payment from the college and never missed a single issue.

Valuable

An acerbic style of writing made him a controversial personality but his commitment to the publication – and to piping – bequeathed the piping world a substantial and valuable historical record. Subsequent editors were Dugald MacNeill, Robert Wallace and Stuart Letford.

In 2018, when the College of Piping was incorporated into the National Piping Centre, the magazine archive and its continued publication became part of the centre's legacy commitment.

The National Piping Centre began publishing its own in-

house magazine, Notes, shortly after opening in 1996. As the focus of the publication shifted to encompass the broader world of piping, its title was changed to Piping Today. The bi-monthly magazine, under the editorship of the then director of piping Roddy MacLeod MBE, maintained a distinctive voice for almost 25 years.

Head of piping studies at the National Piping Centre John Mulhearn said: 'The history recorded in both magazines' archives is of great value to the international piping community. The unmatched resource it represents for students and scholars of the bagpipe cannot be overstated. In making this resource more accessible, future research will benefit profoundly.'

The money raised from the crowdfunding campaign will be used to professionally digitise the magazine archive. It will then be hosted on the National Piping Centre's website and be free for the public to access and search.

The crowdfunder, with a

target of £28,500, will be live until Monday May 31 and is accessible at crowdfunder.co.uk/pipingtimes

Donations to the campaign will also support the design and production of a new physical annual publication, entitled the Piping Times Annual which will be added to the digital archive each year.

Finlay MacDonald added: 'Creating a physical record of the year's piping news is still a priority for us. By publishing a Piping Times Annual we hope to create a new archive for the future. This first volume, covering the period from spring 2020 to autumn 2021, will be of enormous historical importance.'

'While, on the one hand, far less piping activity has taken place due to the pandemic, the innovations that have taken place – most notably the explosion in online competitions – may be seen as a pivotal moment in the development of piping performance. It is essential this is documented appropriately for researchers of the future.'

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Increased effort to protect livestock from dog attacks ahead of new law

Police are to work with farmers and dog owners in Argyll and Bute to guard against livestock attacks – ahead of these offences potentially carrying a jail sentence.

A report by a newly-appointed senior police officer for Mid Argyll and Kintyre has said that campaigns remain ongoing to stop dogs attacking animals.

Under a new law which is to be introduced later in 2021, dog owners could face a £40,000 fine or a 12-month prison term if they allow any such attacks to happen.

The report by Inspector Paul Collins, recently given responsibility for Campbeltown and Lochgilphead, went before Argyll and Bute Council's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) community planning group on April 28.

Inspector Collins said: "The



In the past, Argyll and Bute councillor and sheep farmer John Armour has appealed to dog owners to keep their pets on leads and under control, reminding people that 'even the friendliest family pet can turn into a killer' and that 'no-one wants to see their family pet destroyed'. 25_c13johnarmour01

to Royal Assent before becoming law in about six months.

'With lambing in full swing across the country, livestock attacks traditionally increase at this time of year and officers will work with farmers and dog owners to help prevent and detect these crimes. We regularly publish campaigns and increase awareness of the issue through our social media channels.'

The inspector also gave an update on the easing of Covid



Argyll farmers and NFUS members joined union officials, representatives from the police, vets and Argyll and Bute Council in 2019 to publicise the 'Your Dog - Your Responsibility' campaign. 06_a26NFUSdogattacks01

restrictions: 'As we move forward with the continuing easing of lockdown restrictions, we have put a local policing plan in place to direct, guide and inform officers who are directed to monitor the main arterial routes, ferry ports,

popular tourist areas and known wild camping areas.

'Officers will also be monitoring retail premises and licenced premises as they open.

'We will be liaising with Argyll and Bute Council environmental health and

trading standards where there are issues identified. Officers

are still instructed to follow the strategic police response which is the four-step escalation principles of engagement, explanation, encouragement and finally enforcement.'

Ofcom warning over latest phone scams

The UK telecoms regulator Ofcom is warning the public not to trust caller ID on their phones as it tries to stop people becoming victims of fraud.

Speaking to BBC Radio 4's Money Box, Huw Saunders, a director at Ofcom, said caller ID should not be used as a means of verifying a caller's identification.

Fraudsters are increasingly changing their caller ID to disguise their identity, known as number spoofing.

'This problem is global in its

scope,' says Mr Saunders. 'It's an unfortunate place to be in, but the same message is being given by our counterparts in the US, Canada, France, Australia and elsewhere.'

However, he admits the UK is behind other countries, such as the US, in tackling the problem.

'It's going to take a few years. If you look at a comparable situation in France, for example, they now have a timetable for the implementation of a particular technical solution

and that is over a three-year period.'

In the UK, the current phone network – Public Switched Telephone Network – is being updated to a new system – Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). Mr Saunders says when VOIP is in place, with a target date of the end 2025, the industry will be able to stop number spoofing.

'It's only when the vast majority of people are on the new technology (VOIP) that we can implement a new patch

to address this problem [of spoofing].'

Despite other attempts by the telecoms industry to stop number spoofing, a recent report from industry body UK Finance suggested the number of reported cases of impersonation fraud – including spoof calls – nearly doubled last year to 40,000.

Each case can involve the theft of thousands or even tens of thousands of pounds, leaving the financial and emotional lives of victims ruined.

With a boom in internet shopping during the pandemic, the regulator is also warning about a rise in text-message scam that infects Android mobile phones with malicious software.

The text message, which pretends to be from a delivery company, includes a link that claims to allow you to track a parcel.

However, this is an attempt to infect your phone with malware, which occurs if the link is clicked on. The scam text has

been received by customers on all major UK networks. One example of this text claims to be from DHL.

The malware, called Flubot, can allow criminals to access personal information on your phone, including online banking details.

If anyone receives one of these text messages, they should take the following steps:

Do not press the link. Report the text by forwarding it to 7726. Delete the text from the phone.

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Thought for the Week

We live in a time which more than ever recognises wrongs must be paid for.

'Black Lives Matter' (BLM) and 'Me Too' have set out to tackle abuses, call people to account and expose the realities of unknown suffering.

These campaigns testify not to an instinct for the 'survival of the fittest' but to an inbuilt recognition that justice should be done.

This should not be surprising. Our Creator is a God of justice; made in his image, we reflect his character.

He takes particular care to demand that minorities and vulnerable people receive not just equality, but special respect and privilege and that justice should be upheld.

Psalm 146:9 reads: 'The Lord watches over the sojourners; [racial minority], He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked, he brings to ruin.' Justice is good.

However, BLM and #MeToo aren't sufficient to right society's wrongs.

Why? Because while pointing to the guilt of others, they fail to recognise we're all guilty.

We've all failed to love our neighbours as ourselves, we've all marginalised and discriminated against those not like us, even the protestor, even the victim; perhaps not based on colour, but certainly on class, status or some other difference.

This is where the Bible paints the full picture, justice is right, but reconciliation happens only through forgiveness. The Lord who leads in justice and who will judge all guilt, also leads in forgiveness. In the cross of Jesus, he absorbed the price of justice.

He took the initiative. 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us'.

The gift of God's forgiveness is on offer. When we receive it and recognise all we've been forgiven, then forgiveness flows out to others and reconciliation begins.

Reverend Mark Jasper, Campbeltown Community Church.

ISLAY

Island byre to be converted into accommodation

Plans to convert a byre into living accommodation on Islay have been given the go-ahead by council chiefs.

The proposals by Simon Coughlin for the site at Brookfield House in Portnahaven were submitted to Argyll and Bute Council in February.

And with no objections received from the public, council planning officers have granted planning permission. An officer said in a holding report that the plans involved converting the barn into a one bedroom, one and a half storey annexe to the main house.

They said: 'The westerly elevation will have full height glazing/doors to the main habitable rooms. The land to the west is within the settlement boundary but has no housing allocation.'

'It is therefore not deemed there will be neighbouring amenity issues regarding the proposal.'

'The northerly elevation will have gable height glazing to the living room and the mezzanine void space. The bedroom/en-suite and office is served by rooflights. There will be a porch to the west for utility reasons which will have a sloping roof to the eaves. The main roof is to be traditional slate with the walls re-using the stone. There is a single door on the easterly elevation and a chimney for the stove on that roof elevation. A condition will be attached to any approval regarding the materials to be used. The design maintains the vernacular of the former byre and is deemed to be sympathetic to the main house and its setting as a listed building.'

The officer added: 'According to Scottish Water, there is no public waste water infrastructure within the vicinity of this proposed development and therefore advise the applicant to investigate private treatment options. The proposal can be fed from the Port Charlotte water works. The council's roads department highlights that the use of the existing private access to main road is acceptable. The proposal is deemed to be an acceptable repurposing of an appropriate vacant building within an existing community and using existing infrastructure. It is also consistent with the council's aim to reverse static or falling populations in a smaller rural community.'



Above: The abandoned caravan on the shore by the Skipness road with Arran in the background.



Left: Another caravan has been dumped beside the Kennacraig to Skipness high road.

SKIPNESS

Abandoned caravans blight beauty spots

The road between Kennacraig and Skipness has to be one of the most scenic in the region, with stunning views across Arran to the east and Jura on the western side – yet the view may not be the first thing visitors see.

Concerned residents have complained about two old caravans which have apparently been abandoned or fly-tipped at the roadside – one on the shore near Skipness and the other on the B842 high road from Kennacraig.

One lady said she failed to understand the 'inconsiderate people who fly-tip caravans at beauty spots'. She added: 'I have contacted the council and I believe many have contacted them before. The one on the shore has been there for

more than a year, but the caravan on the high road has been left there as no-one overlooks that spot.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We remove anything on council property and if any of the areas identified are private land it is the responsibility of the owner or occupier to act. We will make sure they are notified, work with them to have items removed and do what we can to identify the offender.'

'The fixed penalty notice for fly tipping is £200. If it is not paid, prosecution could result in a fine of up to £40,000. We all have to play a part in keeping our communities free of rubbish by using the many waste and recycling centres we have in Argyll and Bute.'

'We are committed to ensuring public spaces in Argyll and Bute are maintained to a high standard and ask that any fly-tipping is reported to us either online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk or by calling 01546 605514.'

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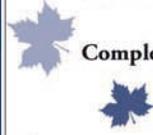


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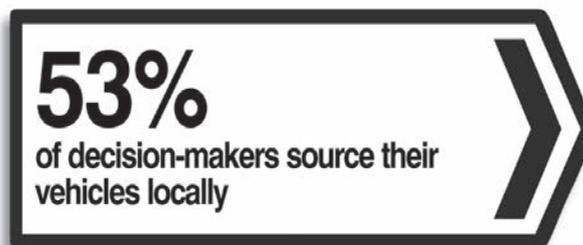
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Subaru UK is proud to announce the introduction of the long-awaited all-new Outback, due to arrive in showrooms from the 27th of May, but S&S services are bringing you a sneak peak early.

Since its launch in 1995, the sixth generation Outback has built a history as the forerunner of a new car segment, the station wagon crossover SUV, combining the attributes of both passenger car and SUV.

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and drivability. The sixth generation is our most technologically advanced, luxurious, and safest yet. Limited, Field and Touring Outback model variants, all built on the SGP, confer superior passenger protection alongside the latest driver assistance and collision avoidance technology.

S&S brings you the All New Subaru Outback, Field trim in Autumn Metallic Green this weekend.

One of the longest serving Subaru & Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services, has missed seeing everyone in Oban for over a year and staff are returning with their May Madness road show. John and Matthew Spicer are both excited to be coming back and seeing some familiar faces. John said: "This past year has been tough on everyone and we have been working hard to meet each customer's individual needs remotely. We are so excited to be back and we are bringing some fantastic models to showcase. We have been supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years, through three generations, and during that time we have formed many friendships, and founded a trusted, reliable business. Come and meet us at Tesco Oban this weekend, we look forward to seeing you."



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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank you

To all my family, friends and neighbours for all the lovely cards, gifts and flowers you sent me on the occasion of my 80th birthday. I was so overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity, thank you so much. I must give my sister Jan and my granddaughter Megan a huge thank you for pulling out all the stops in secret and making an old lady very happy. My cake by Frances was a huge surprise and gorgeous. Thank you all very much, from Cathy.

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Resilience is the word

The Scottish farming community has had to be resilient in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic

Planning work around social distancing with 'bubbles' and coping with increased isolation has been a major part of farming life during the last year and no one is denying that it has been tough.

But the good news is that marts are reporting that prices for prime stock continue to climb nationally and demand is soaring for calves as prime beef prices keep rising.

Shows and social events have gone online across the land and there is a mix of what is and is not on this summer.

Right now the industry is getting ready for its busiest time of the year – when farm implements will see their greatest use and need to be kept in the field with servicing repairs and spares on hand and on call.

It is also important that the right supplies arrive at the right time and at the right price, so farmers across the West Highlands and Island right now are spending wisely with businesses they know and trust.





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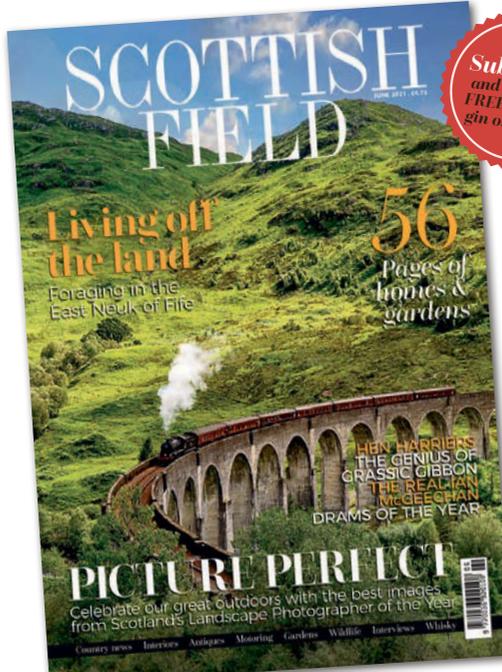

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Dalmally Show Centenary Year

This was always going to be a big year for Dalmally Show as it is the centenary and the committee are hoping to keep things that way.

They are going forward with plans for the show, and are 'optimistic' with all their planning for the big event while factoring in the need to adhere to whatever Covid restrictions might be in place on the day.

The advantage it has is that Dalmally is one of the last shows of the year so it is held much later than others in Argyll.

Lorn Show has already told The Oban Times that it will not run this year.

Fiona Dickie, Secretary of Lorn Agricultural Society, told The Oban Times: 'After much deliberation the committee have taken the decision to cancel the 2021 show.'

'The main concern was the social distance aspect and how it would have been monitored.'



Royal Highland 'Showcase'

There is just over a month to go to Scotland's premier farming event, the Royal Highland Show. It has been cancelled in its traditional form, but the Royal Highland Showcase this year; it will be live streaming a 'behind closed door event'.

Bill Gray, the chairman of the

Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland announced in March: 'Despite our best efforts, and I did promise that we would leave no stone unturned, as a result of Scottish Government guidelines, and the current Covid-19 pandemic situation, the board of directors were left with no option but to cancel the Royal Highland show 2021.'

'It is really difficult to convey how disappointing this is, even more so I think than last year for the simple reason that we're all desperate to get together and have a show under our normal circumstances.'

'We have been working hard behind the scenes to think of some options we might be able to deliver and it's really exciting that we're planning a behind closed door event which will give us the opportunity to live stream live information out to the wider public and to our members of the normal things you would see at the show, whether it be livestock, farriery or sheep shearing or equestrian. We hope that you will all get behind us and give us an opportunity to do what we possibly can this year.'

'We would all wish that you were here with us at Inghliston and hopefully what we put on and were hoping to put on will be the next best thing.'

Praise for young farmers

Young Farmers Clubs across the UK form one of the biggest social networks for family members and farming industry workers.

The great social life is coupled with learning more, improving skills, sharing information and getting involved with national issues.

The president of the Scottish Association has been elected for 2021-22, and it is Bill Arnot, a past national chairman.

Despite a massive online presence membership has dropped during the pandemic but Bill is sure it will bounce back.

Bill says it has been a tough year but one where people have learned about how to make progress.

He has said: 'Membership is down, as is to be expected when very few actual face-to-face meetings were held and life has been conducted virtually, but Young Farmers are a resilient bunch and once we come out of lockdown I am confident we will see enthusiasm for membership and competitions rise again.'

He is not alone in his praise for his fellow members. HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Rothesay delivered a personal video message to the Scottish Young Farmers earlier this year.

In it he praised the work the association does and their 'tenacity' over the last year.






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NFUS welcomes crop of newly elected MSPs

Scotland's farming union leader looks forward to 'strong and positive' links with MSPs as a raft of new members were voted in at last week's election.



NFU Scotland President Martin Kennedy said: "The newly elected Scottish Parliament faces some major tasks as the nation recovers from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and we look to build a prosperous green post-Brexit future that delivers for all of Scottish society."

tainable and profitable future for farmers and crofters and our key asks were clearly mapped out in our manifesto for these elections. We want to use that manifesto as a building block to work with the new government and all parties on the nation's green recovery and our response to the climate change crisis. With agriculture, rural affairs, land reform, environment and food policy in the hands of the Scottish Parliament to deliver, there are big decisions to be taken by this new crop of

MSPs which will be extremely significant for NFU Scotland members. 'NFU Scotland has always enjoyed strong and positive links with parliamentarians of all colours since the Scottish Parliament was established, and we look forward to continuing this engagement in the new parliamentary term. 'Over the coming days, key cabinet appointments for our industry will also be made, and we will look to meet with those ministers at the earliest possibility as we work together on solutions to the unique opportunities and challenges now facing our industry.'

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Around the markets

United Auctions, Oban May 8: sold 449 store cattle, 10 breeding cattle and 768 sheep of all classes.
Bullocks sold to £1,220, for a CHARx from M/s Leitch, Fernoch Farm to average £905.16 (+£177.31) while heifers sold to £1,500 for a LIMx from A & BA Campbell, Achnacree Beag to average £823.56 (+£122.56). Bullocks sold to 345p/kg for a BRBx from M/s Troughton & Co, Ardachy Farm to average 274.36p/kg (+£1.63p/kg) and heifers sold to 375p/kg for a LIMx from A & BA Campbell, Achnacree Beag to average 260.06p/kg (+£45.39p/kg). The combined sales of Dalmally and Oban and staged at Oban Livestock Centre proved popular with sellers and buyers alike, resulting in 157 more cattle sold on the corresponding sales last year and a full capacity of buyers while adhering to Covid-19 rules.
Leading prices per head
BLKS - AAx - £1,090(4), 10 Eoligarry, Barra; £1,070, Homeston; £980(2), Steall. BSHx - £1,070, Inverfolla; £1060, 16 Carnoch; £1050(2), £1,030, £980, Inverfolla; £925(5), Auchlyne. BRBx - £1,065, Shenavallie; £1,060, Tyree; £1045, Ruaig; £1000, Tyree; £940(2), Ardachy. CHARx - £1,220, Fernoch; £1210(3), Tiraghoil; £1,060, Fernoch; £1,000, £960(3), Barnakill. LIMx - £1,200(2), £1,160, £1150(4), Achnacree Beag; £1,140, Ardachy; £1,130, Tyree; £1110, Duntarrin; £1,080, Achnacree Beag; £1,080, Ardachy; £1,060, 16 Carnoch; £1,060, Ardachy; £1,060(6), Tiraghoil; £1,045, Ruaig; £1,040(2), Ardachy; £1,040, Achnacree Beag; £1,020, Tiraghoil; £1,010, Achnacree Beag; £1,000, 13 Eoligarry, Barra; £1,000, Achnacree Beag; £1,000, Barbreck(5); £1,000, Dunans(3). LUX - £815, Ardencaple. SALx - £1,000, Dunans; £905(3), Barnakill. SIMx - £1,125(3), £1,070(6), Tiraghoil; £1,045, Barbreck; £1,000(2), Dunans; £955, Saulmore; £950, Tiraghoil.
HFRS - AAx - £1,030(2), Poltalloch; £860, 10 Eoligarry, Barra. BSHx - £1,220, Auchlyne; £1,090, Poltalloch; £1,080(3), £940(2), Auchlyne; £915, Ellary Farms; £900(2), Dunans. BRBx - £1,180, Ruaig. BAX - £825(2), Barbreck. CHARx - £1,210, Tiraghoil; £1,010, £1,000, Fernoch; £980(5), Tiraghoil; £975(4), Fernoch. LIMx - £1,500, £1,125, Achnacree Beag; £1,075, Barbreck; £1,060, Achnacree Beag; £1,030, Ardachy; £1,000, 10 Eoligarry; £990, £965, Craigmore; £950, Ardachy; £945(4), £930, Tiraghoil; £930, Tyree; £920, Craig Farm; £915(9), Ellary Farm. SIMx - £990, Kilvaree; £980, Brough; £965, Kilbride; £930, Achnacree; £920(2), Glenamachie; £900, Arileod.

Leading prices per kilo
BLKS - AAx - 274p, Scotstown; 267.6p(4), Kilbride; 265.2p(2), Homeston. BSHx - 304.5p, Glenure; 304.3p, Inverfolla; 292.9p(3), 287.6p(3), Glenure; 282p(5), 271.7p(2), Auchlyne; 270.7p(2), Ellary Farms; 263.7p, 16 Carnoch. BRBx - 345p, 338.5p, Ardachy; 333.3p, 327.2p, Tyree; 304.2p, Ardachy; 290.8p, 274.2p(2), 264.3p, 260.6p, Ruaig; 260.5p(3), Shenavallie. CHARx - 301.9p(3), Barnakill; 268.9p(3), Tiraghoil; 263.7p, Fernoch. LIMx - 341.5p(3), 338.5p, Ardachy; 322.4p(2), Creich; 321.9p, Barbreck; 321.2p, 317p, Ardachy; 315.4p(9), Tiraghoil; 303.8p, Tyree; 302.8p, 302.4p, Achnacree Beag; 301.7p, Ardachy; 301.2p(2), Aird; 301p, 300.7p, Craig; 296.7p(4), Barbreck; 294.8p, Tiraghoil; 291.7p(2), 289p, Ardachy; 288.8p, Achnacree Beag; 285.9p(2), Craig; 285.7p(2), Ardachy; 284.1p(2), Dall; 281.4p, Craigmore. LUX - 258.1p, Brough. SALx - 270.1p, Brackley; 264.6p, Dunans; 263.8p(3), Barnakill. SIMx - 310p(3), Ballard, Coll; 307.1p(2), 2 Kiel Crofts; 307.1p(2), Dall; 304.5p(7), Glenure; 303.2p, Dall; 303p, Arileod, Coll; 297.8p(4), Glenure; 296.6p, Ballard; 293.6p, Saulmore; 292.9p, 290.1p(5), Glenure; 289.8p, Saulmore; 288.2p(2), Arileod; 285.3p(2), Kilvaree; 282.6p(2), Glenure; 282p, Brough.
HFRS - AAx - 256p, 10 Eoligarry; 247.8p(3), Homeston; 236p(2), Scotstown. BSHx - 303.4p(3), 279.8p, 275.7p(2), Auchlyne; 265.8p(2), Glenure; 263.2p, Ellary; 253.6p(3), Auchlyne; 251.2p, Poltalloch. BRBx - 357.6p, Ruaig; 250p, Shenavallie. BAX - 257p(2), Barbreck. CHARx - 301.9p, Barnakill; 271.6p(4), Fernoch; 268.9p, Tiraghoil; 264p(6), Ardmaleish; 262.2p(3), Couston. LIMx - 375p, Achnacree Beag; 332.7p(2), 312.1p, Ardachy; 301.9p, Tyree; 295.1p(2), Creich; 293.2p, 291.3p(2), Ardachy; 291p(3), Craig; 289.4p(3), Ardachy; 288p, Corranmor; 283p, 282.2p, Ardachy. SIMx - 303p, Arileod; 292.8p, Feall; 291.5p(3), Glenure; 285.4p(2), Ballard; 282p(4), Glenure; 281.3p(5), Arileod; 280.8p(2), Saulmore.
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EWES - SUFFx - £102, Tiraghoil. TEXx - £82, 6 Leanish; £76, Achnacree; £75, 6 Blaich. CHEV - £81, Ballard; £75, 6 Leanish; £70, Shenavallie. CROSS - £63, 17 St Brendans Rd, Barra; £60, Glenaros. BF - £66, Glenaros; £65, Auchinellan; £60, Kintraw.

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- Includes all joining pins/stakes

OPTION 1
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
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MARRIAGE

MACKINTOSH RAYAN - On Skye, May 5, 2021. Donald, eldest son of Donnie and Maureen, to Natasha, only daughter of John and Mildred, Adelaide, Australia.

DEATHS

COLVILLE - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on May 5, 2021, William Colville, in his 83rd year, 21 Burnside Cottages, Stewarton, dearly beloved husband of Catherine McSparran, much loved dad of Ailsa and Katrina and a loving and much loved brother and uncle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCMILLAN - The family of the late Robert McMillan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy. The family would like to thank the Argyll and Bute Homecare staff team, the Macmillan team (Maggie), Campbeltown hospital and the funeral directors T A Blair.

MCNAIR - High Smerby. Norma, Susan and Robert would like to convey their sincere thanks to family and friends for the overwhelming support they have received through cards, flowers, phone calls and other gifts. We would also like to sincerely thank the manager and staff of Carr Gomm, Carers Direct, Community Nurses and Ambulance crews for their dignified and very kind care of John. Mr William Crossan for a lovely, warm and comforting service and Kenneth Blair and family for their professional and dignified manner. Thanks to everyone who paid tribute to John at church and round the town on the day.

WARDROP - The family of the late Ellen would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy through cards, flowers and messages. Thank you to Reverend Crossan for a moving and personal service and to Ross Connor for piping so beautifully at the graveside. Thank you to

all who paid their respects as the cortège travelled to Kilkerran Cemetery and to Kenneth Blair and staff for outstanding professionalism. Also to Raymond Hosie and Kenny Craig who helped keep family who could not be there, connected.

IN MEMORIAM

SLOSS - Treasured memories of Christopher, who died on May 16, 2010. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear.
- Love Granny, Auntie Caroline, Uncle Tam and family.

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Our building is open and our Service will be in the church
on **Sunday, 16th May 2021 at 11am**
If you cannot make it in person, you can still join us online. To join the Zoom service, send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com and you will be sent a link to join us on Sunday via Zoom. Covid restrictions will apply in the building – masks and social distancing
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
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Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



South Kintyre Team Ministry
Sunday services
10 am Saddell and Carradale Church SC002609
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown SC002493
11.30am Southend Church SC005484
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Ministers
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Revd Christine Fulcher
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SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings are
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Worship service 3pm
Covid 19 measures in place
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Major Ruth Russell
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH
Barr Mhor Kilmartin
Sunday 16th May 2021
11am
Mr James McLellan
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask.

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George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 16th May
11.15am Worship Service
Mr Angus MacKay
11.15am Sunday School
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)
Wednesday 19th May
12.00 noon Missionary Meeting (by Zoom)
Covid-19 guidelines apply
All welcome
www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

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LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
Sunday 16th May
Morning Worship 11.15am
Rev W Crossan
Covid 19 Guidelines apply
Maximum attendance 50
There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 16th May
Tarbert - Angela Stather
Skipness - John L Morrison
There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am and Tarbert 11.30am
Please wear a face covering and stay 2 metres apart for the services
Contact 01880 820158 for pastoral care
Charity number Tarbert SC002622 Skipness SC004280

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 16th May
Services in Achahoish at 9:45am and Ardrishaig at 11:00am (Psalm 96)
(Covid19 control measures apply)
Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches

WESTLOCHFYNESIDE CHURCHES (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Sunday 16th May 2021
Cumlodden Church at 10.00am
Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace Inveraray Church at 11.30am
Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace
Masks must be worn when attending either church.
Charity No: SC016665

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Helen Bapty, left, and Linda Wallace after winning the handicap and scratch captain's prizes in Machrihanish Golf Club's Spring Meeting.

Starting the season with a swing

Helen Bapty and Linda Wallace are celebrating after winning the handicap and scratch captain's prizes in Machrihanish Golf Club's Spring Meeting.

Held in April, 17 members of the club's ladies' section took part in this competition on the Pans Course.

Linda also won the April Medal and the International Match Fund Stableford, with Helen also winning the Blind Veterans UK competition with a magnificent 42 points.

Both ladies attribute their early season success to participating in the winter league, sponsored by G1 Architects, with Helen winning overall and Linda winning the Stableford trophy.

Full results: April Medal: Linda Wallace. Spring Meeting and Captain's prizes: handicap Helen Bapty; runner up Lea Watson; scratch Linda Wallace; runner up Ann Gallagher.

International Match Fund: Linda Wallace 36 points; Elizabeth MacBrayne 33 points. Blind Veterans UK: Helen Bapty 42 points; Jennifer Gilchrist 40 points. May Medal: Alison Fox.

Birthday boy breaks Kintyre Ultra record

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

This year's Kintyre Way Ultra marathon champion had more to celebrate than just finishing in first place.

Nicholas Gemmell also smashed the course record, completing the 32-mile race from Tayinloan to Tarbert in four hours, 15 minutes and 36 seconds, beating last year's record-breaking time by 38 minutes – all on his birthday!

Ahead of last Saturday's event, organisers watched the weather forecast change almost hourly. And one thing was clear – the competitors were going to get wet and cold at some point during the day, it was just a question of where and when.

With the Covid-19 pandemic ongoing, special measures were put in place to ensure the safety of competitors, organisers, marshals and the community throughout the event.

The first section, which took runners north along the various beaches from Tayinloan, proved extraordinarily tough with headwinds and heavy rain.

Never has the climb up to Clachan caused so much pain.

The normally glorious views of Arran from the middle section were hidden on Saturday with some runners experiencing very low visibility and just having to slog it out, while the hills around Skipness broke a few hearts but not spirits, with a high percentage of runners making it to the finish line in Tarbert, considering the conditions.

It wasn't only Nicholas who broke a course record. Alexandra Kane, the first lady home in five hours, eight minutes and 26 seconds, set a new women's record.

The veteran 50+ men's race was won by Angus Robertson in four hours, 57 minutes and 12 seconds, while Lesley



Men's solo race winner Nicholas Gemmell, left, and fourth placed finisher Mark Webster, who both celebrated their birthdays on Saturday.

McKerral was triumphant in the ladies' veteran 50+ race in seven hours, two minutes and 47 seconds.

A race spokesperson said: 'Thank you to all the runners and our wonderful marshals who were out in the wet and wild conditions. Also to those who helped the few who found it a bit much and sensibly dropped out.'

More than 60 professional staff and volunteers took part.

'Thanks to the local businesses for sponsoring prizes; Tarbert Hotel for catering, especially the reviving hot soup; Tarbert Harbour for the welcome hot showers and Darren's lovely tables; rescue medics

for dotting back and forth to check on the folk who dropped out and to KitST whose timing and tracking service meant we could see where everyone was.'

Next year, organisers are hoping to 'spread the love' by running the southern third of The Kintyre Way from Campbeltown to Machrihanish and are asking anyone who would like to help in any way to contact them by emailing Suse Coon on suse@larickhouse.co.uk or Rob Reid on info@kintyreway.org

Results: Men's solo race, sponsored by Kilkerran Single Malt: 1 Nicholas Gemmell 04:15:36; 2 Stephen Ross 04:35:00; 3 Alasdair



Alexandra Kane, the first lady home, smashed the women's course record.

Maciver 04:42:08. Women's solo race, sponsored by Beinn an Tuirc Distillers: 1 Alexandra Kane 05:08:26; 2 Laura MacDonald 05:19:20; 3 Maria Mott 05:46:01. Veteran 50+ race, sponsored by Loch Fyne Whiskies: Male: Angus Robertson 04:57:12; Female: Lesley McKerral 07:02:47. Relay teams, sponsored by Fyne Ales: 1 Relay Short Shorts 04:20:26; 2 Frigate Bound 04:29:39; 3 Auld Alliance 05:09:58.



The winning relay team, Relay Short Shorts.

MORE SPORT ON PAGE 7.



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