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# 'Failing' school is 'betraying' pupils and the community



Charity cyclist touched by Kintyre kindness

An aspiring endurance athlete, currently cycling 7,000 kilometres around Great Britain, has been touched by the kindness of a Kintyre resident who helped him get back on the road after he broke down near Glenbarr. For more on Harry Lidgley's Great British Lifeboat Challenge, which took him to Campbeltown Lifeboat Station on Monday evening, see page three. 50\_c21harrynli01

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

A retired Campbeltown Grammar School (CGS) teacher has described the school's ranking on a league table of Scottish secondary schools as 'a betrayal of the pupils and the community'.

But Argyll and Bute Council says exam results are only part of the story and do not reflect the positive achievements of almost all school leavers.

The teacher, who did not want to be identified, spoke to the Courier following the publication of The Times' school league table for 2021, which shows the percentage of S5 pupils in 340 schools who left school with five Highers.

CGS is ranked 334th, down from 245th last year, with just 12 per cent of students achieving five Highers.

The retired teacher said: 'The six schools ranked below CGS [Linwood High School, Renfrewshire; Lochend

Community High School, Glasgow; Govan High School, Glasgow; Wester Hailes Education Centre, Edinburgh; Northfield Academy, Aberdeen; and Craigmoynton Community High School, Edinburgh] are all in areas of high multiple deprivation. Other Argyll and Bute schools are all middle ranked.

'CGS's performance is scandalous, a betrayal of the pupils and of the community which has always supported the school, an indictment of the leadership of the school coming hard on the excoriating Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) reports and which must now necessitate this failing school being brought into special measures.

'If this humiliating race to the bottom is to be halted and the future of our young people and our community is to be protected, pressure has to be put on our education authority, our councillors, MSPs and MP to take action.'

A concerned parent, who

chose to remain anonymous, also contacted the Courier. He said: 'This is a school that claims to be at the heart of the community but I feel it is failing children in the area.'

'Just 40 miles up the road in Tarbert, there's a school that's almost 300 places above Campbeltown and it's a small rural school in a similar situation, yet one is thriving and the other isn't.'

Tarbert Academy is ranked 41st in this year's league table, with 56 per cent of students gaining five Highers.

South Kintyre's councillors share the concerns about the school's league table result, which comes after two 'unacceptable' inspection reports in recent years.

In a report dated April 24 2018, CGS was rated weak in three out of the four inspection categories and a follow-up report, on January 21 2020, stated the school had made insufficient progress against the points for action.

Continued on page four.





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From left: Intermediate section winner Josh Owens' ringed plover; Teigan Read-Edwards' butterfly and a shot of a rainbow by Iona Renton.

# Young photographers in the frame

A photograph submitted to the Rotary Club of Campbeltown's Young Photographer of the Year competition has made it to the national finals.

Budding young photographers were invited to submit a portfolio of three wild nature-themed images across three categories – junior: seven to 10-year-olds; intermediate: 11 to 13-year-olds and senior: 14 to 17-year-olds.

It was a shot of a ringed plover, submitted by Josh Owens in the intermediate category, that was awarded first place at the district final and has now been put forward for the competition's national final.

The winning entries in Campbeltown's junior and senior sections also did well at the district final, with Teigan Read-Edwards' shot of a butterfly taking second place in the junior section

and Iona Renton's image of a rainbow placing second in the senior event.

As well as having their submissions put forward for the district final, the three category winners received a voucher for a day course with Loch Visions of Ardfern to hone their digital photography skills.

A Rotary Club of Campbeltown spokesperson said: 'Congratulations go to those three.

Judging was not a walk in the park – the quality was so very good.

'So well done all and thank you for participating.'

Plans are in place for an exhibition of the entries at Campbeltown Picture House when it re-opens this weekend, with a follow-up event in the coming weeks, subject to Covid-19 regulations.

## Police warning after increase in fraud

Police are urging people in Kintyre and the Islands to remain vigilant regarding on-line and telephone scams after an increase in fraud-related crimes.

Common themes and preventions include:

■ False listings for boat engines and farming equipment listed on eBay or Facebook, where the money is exchanged and then no product received.

■ Advice: Use recognised registered retailers; do not exchange money until you are in possession of the item or face-to-face; physically see it before you buy it.

■ Emails and text messages

saying they are from your bank or internet company requiring you to input personal details or click on a hyperlink.

■ Advice: Do not respond to the message or click any links; go through the company's own website and only phone using the numbers detailed there; check whether they have sent the correspondence; consider upgrading your security software on any devices you own.

■ Cold calling by companies, either at your door in person or via telephone. Responsible companies avoid doing this.

■ Advice: never buy from or pass your personal or financial details to a cold caller.

■ Financial service providers, advertising on social media, offering high value returns for investments in shares or cryptocurrency.

■ Advice: Check the company with the Financial Conduct Authority; if a deal is too good to be true, it usually is; reputable firms don't cold call, pressure sell, use 'mobile numbers' or offer heightened investment returns beyond the ability of trusted businesses.

Sergeant Matthew Shaw of Lochgilphead Police Station said: 'I would urge people to be cautious and not trust any unexpected correspondence.

'Never pass your financial or personal details to anyone unless you are 100 per cent sure who they are and why they require that information.

'If you feel the need to reply to check the authenticity of a contact, please only use the company's verified official website and the communication methods detailed upon it.

'Especially where financial fraud is concerned, always, 'stop', 'think' and 'check' with a friend, relative or neighbour before taking any action.

'Any victims of such crimes, or anyone with any concerns can contact their local police station via 101.'

## POLICE FILES

### Man assaulted

A man and a woman, both 21, were traced and charged after allegedly assaulting a man in Burnside Street, Campbeltown, at about 10.30pm on Saturday May 8.

### Breach of curfew

At about 9pm on Sunday May 9 and at 9.50pm on Monday May 10, in Harvey's Lane, Campbeltown, a 59-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 on May 11.

### Drug driving

A 32-year-old man was arrested for allegedly failing a roadside drug test after the vehicle he was driving was stopped at about 12.20pm on Thursday May 13 on the A83 in Campbeltown. A blood sample was taken.

### Driver's details

A car crashed onto its roof on the A846 between Bowmore and Bridgend, Islay, at about 9pm on Saturday May 15. A 20-year-old man was charged with failing to divulge the driver's details and failing to provide a breath specimen.

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# RNLI charity 'spokes' man's lucky break

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

Charity cyclist Harry Lidgley was on the road to success until a spoke in his wheel threatened to send him off track – but a Glenbarr man came to his rescue this week.

More than two weeks into a 7,000-kilometre charity cycle around Great Britain, the 23-year-old aspiring endurance and adventure athlete's challenge came to a halt.

Thankfully, the breakdown – his first major set-back so far – happened less than one kilometre from the home of Kintyre Wheelers Cycling Club chairman Robbie Semple, who happened to have a suitable spare wheel.

Having set off from the RNLI's headquarters in Poole, in the south of England, on Saturday May 1, the Hampshire man's aim is to cycle to all 168 lifeboat stations in mainland UK to raise awareness and funds for the charity that saves lives at sea.

Equivalent to cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats five times or climbing more than seven times the height of Mount Everest, the Great British Lifeboat Challenge is no mean feat and it almost came to an end 17 days in, on Monday, when Harry's spokes pulled through the rim of his back wheel near Glenbarr.

But Harry was soon back on the road, arriving at Campbeltown Lifeboat Station at about 6.30pm on Monday evening, just behind schedule.

Robbie has undertaken a few of his own charity cycles, including riding from Perth to Passchendaele in France in 2017; joining world endurance mountain biker

## Harry's coastal challenge is rescued by Robbie

Richard Rothwell on a ride from Greenock to Shieldaig in Sutherland in 2018 and cycling from Argyll to Aberdeen in one day in 2019, meaning he was particularly sympathetic to Harry's plight.

Robbie said: 'A guy named Al Gow from Wheelcraft, a bike shop in Clachan of Campsie, gave me a set of wheels in case I needed to help anyone out in an emergency.'

'I've helped about four or five people from those initial wheels, recycling them as I go, but I think this is the end of the road for Harry's wheel.'

Harry added: 'Thanks to a miraculous turn of events, I made it to the lifeboat station in Campbeltown. Scotland has

**'When I was part of a team rowing round Britain, the RNLI was an enormously reassuring presence'**

been treating me very well so far.

'I've had the best weather here, which is not what I expected, and good weather really helps on an endurance challenge.'

Harry read Classics at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge, gaining a BA, before completing an MA in Environment and Development at King's College London last year.

He was part of the Exe Enduro team that rowed around the British coast in 2020, breaking a world record

for being the youngest team to complete the challenge.

He hopes to finish his cycling challenge within 42 days to beat the time it took the rowing team to circumnavigate the coastline.

To meet this target, he has to endure long days in the saddle, carrying with him everything he needs, including light-weight camping equipment and army-style rations to help him achieve the 7,000 calories he needs each day to keep his body fuelled.

As well as coming to the rescue with a spare wheel, Robbie offered Harry a safe space in his garden to pitch his tent on Monday night before he continued north on Tuesday morning.

Asked why he chose to support the RNLI, Harry said: 'It is an incredible institution so it needs little justification but my family has a sailing background and, last year, when I was part of a team rowing round Britain, the RNLI was an enormously reassuring presence although, thankfully, we didn't require their assistance.'

Harry added: 'It just made sense to support the RNLI when taking on my next challenge.'

Harry's progress can be tracked on his website at [www.gblifeboatcycle.com](http://www.gblifeboatcycle.com) and he is providing daily updates on the Instagram account @gblifeboatcycle.

Visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/gblifeboatcycle](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/gblifeboatcycle) to donate to the challenge's online RNLI fundraising page.



Robbie Semple, right, came to the rescue of Harry Lidgley, left, during his RNLI charity cycle.

50\_c21harryrnli02

## Stewarton river turned into 'stinking sewer'

Stewarton residents have spoken of their concern after a contaminant turned the burn which runs past the village into 'a stinking sewer', 'killing every fish for about a mile'.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) told the Courier: 'We have been made aware by a member of the public of pollution in a burn near Stewarton, Argyll.'

'A SEPA officer attended the site yesterday [on Tuesday] to investigate the source of what

appears to have been a localised pollution incident.

'There is no ongoing environmental impact and we are making further enquiries.'

'We would like to thank the public for notifying us of the incident and remind people that they can notify SEPA of potential pollution incidents 24 hours a day at [www.sepa.org.uk/report](http://www.sepa.org.uk/report) or by calling the SEPA Pollution Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.'

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# Further delays to start of ferry season

The start of the seasonal ferry service from Campbeltown to Ardrossan has been further delayed, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

Ongoing repairs to the MV Loch Seaforth have revealed more issues which will require attention before the vessel can return to service.

The Campbeltown-Ardrossan summer service was scheduled to begin on April 29, but has been postponed to allow vessels to be redeployed across CalMac's routes while the MV Loch Seaforth is repaired.

The vessel was expected to return to the Stornoway-Ullapool route by today, Friday May 21, at the earliest, but this date has now had to be pushed back, with Friday May 28 now being the earliest expected return date.

Specialist engineers working on the Loch Seaforth have reported that more work must be carried out to her engines, while the crankshaft also requires work, meaning the temporary changes to vessels across the network will remain in place for the time being.

Robbie Drummond, CalMac's managing director, said: 'This is frustrating news, as we were expecting to see the Loch Seaforth return to service sooner than this.'

'We will continue to work closely with customers to keep them updated on the latest situation and to minimise further disruption.'



The MV Isle of Arran, which typically covers the Campbeltown route, has taken over the overnight freight run on the Stornoway-Ullapool route while the Loch Seaforth is repaired. 50\_c19ferry04

John Armour, chairman of the Campbeltown ferry committee, said the group was 'very disappointed' that there had been a further postponement of the start of the seasonal service.

He added: 'The lack of suitable ferries is there for all to see and obviously when a major route loses one of the largest boats in the fleet, it has a huge knock-on effect elsewhere and Campbeltown and Arran are once again suffering because of this. The situation needs to change.'

'I highlighted this issue to Jenni Minto MSP during the election campaign and I welcome the news that, along with two of her fellow MSPs, she has asked for an urgent meeting with the transport minister urging action.'

'I agree with them that chartering or leasing ferries from elsewhere is looked at as a matter of urgency.'

Ms Minto, the newly-elected constituency MSP for Argyll and Bute, has joined forces with Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan and Cunninghame North MSP

Kenny Gibson to ask the Scottish Government for discussions about the ferry network 'as a matter of urgency'.

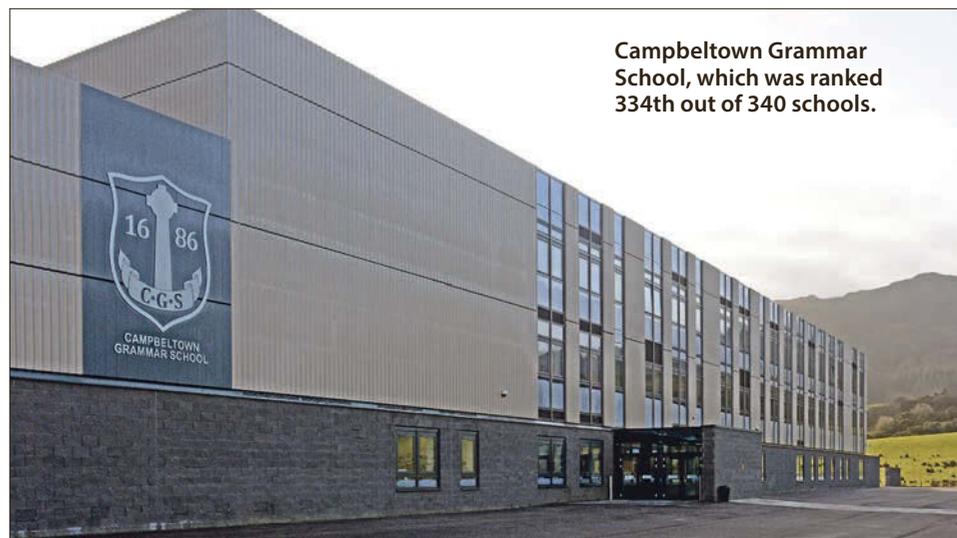
Ms Minto said: 'The need for new ferries here in Argyll and Bute, to ensure the vital services providing connections for our rural and island communities and businesses are reliable and resilient, could not be more clear.'

'I look forward to meeting with the Scottish Government and working to ensure our ferry fleet is fit-for-purpose timeously.'

Re-elected Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant is re-iterating her campaign for a fit-for-purpose ferry service in Scotland and has written to CalMac to ensure that the fleet can resume its scheduled service.

Mrs Grant said: 'The CalMac ferry network has been in chaos for the last few months, leaving communities short of supplies and struggling to maintain lifeline connections.'

'It may seem like it is only one or two ferries, but it has had a devastating domino effect throughout the network.'



Campbeltown Grammar School, which was ranked 334th out of 340 schools.

## 'Failing' school 'betraying' pupils and community

Continued from page one.

Councillor Donald Kelly said: 'For the past two years, I have been raising concerns at Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee meetings regarding the unacceptable results being produced by the school.'

He said that pre-Covid he had met with the head teacher and head of education to ask what was being done.

'The situation has gone from bad to worse and I share the concerns of many parents who have contacted me,' he said, adding that it was time measures were taken to reverse the trend of 'poor results'.

Councillor John Armour said he had been contacted by concerned parents. 'While league tables are not the be-all-and-end-all in assessing the performance of a school, I feel this needs investigation by the council's education department and I have contacted executive director Douglas Hendry asking for this to be looked at with urgency.'

Councillor Rory Colville

added: 'I assure your readers that I fully appreciate our community's concerns.'

'Innovations in teaching are constantly emerging, giving me confidence that all in education will rise to the challenges ahead.'

Jenni Minto, MSP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'It is broadly accepted there is so much more to a school's performance than raw exam results. I don't believe that league tables can truly reflect the immense work done by teachers and pupils in CGS this year, during a global pandemic.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said it was 'committed to delivering an education service that gives our young people the support they need to secure and sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life'.

The spokesperson added that CGS had a senior curriculum of personalised learner pathways and these offered a range of attainment and wider achievement courses and qualifications. 'Following con-

sultation with parents, the curriculum structure at CGS was updated in May 2019 so that pupils were able to increase the number of qualifications that could be undertaken from five to six. Since this change, results for August 2020 show that National 5 and Higher passes have increased as anticipated. We expect to see the increased success in National 5 qualifications last session, translating into an increased number of Highers achieved in 2020/21,' said the spokesperson. 'Measuring success through the number of passes at National 5 and Higher are not reflective of how schools evaluate and analyse successful pupil outcomes. They are only part of the story. It doesn't reflect that almost all school leavers in Campbeltown progress to positive destinations upon leaving school.'

'We have young people to be proud of at CGS and we will continue to provide them with the support, guidance and pathways they need to succeed.'

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# A brave new league world for Campbeltown Pupils

Campbeltown Pupils Amateur Football Club is carving a new chapter in its 102-year history by joining a newly-formed division of the West of Scotland Football League (WoSFL), writes John McCallum.

The club's acceptance into the 'development league' was announced last Tuesday by the league's committee.

It sees the Pupils leave the Scottish Amateur Football League (SAFL) after 44 years, with the new WoSFL season planned to start in July.

Campbell Robertson, Pupils' secretary, said: 'The club is delighted to be accepted into the newly-formed WoSFL development league. It's a really exciting move as it offers the potential to climb the Scottish football pyramid.'

'From the club's point of view, we want to find our standard amongst the new teams join-

ing the set up. We want to be the best we can be as the senior team of the Campbeltown and District Community Football Club.

'With our acceptance into the WoSFL, we can offer a pathway for the youngest age groups through to the under-20 side, being trained by Stuart Crossan, into our first team, representing Campbeltown in non-league football.

'With that, it's important to acknowledge the huge amount of hard work that has gone into making Campbeltown's community club a Gold Merit Award holder, one of only seven clubs in the Scottish Football Association (SFA) West region, encompassing all of Glasgow and the west. This accolade was a major factor in our acceptance into the WoSFL.'

Other factors in the Pupils'



Pupils' captain Keith Mitchell will soon lead his team into the West of Scotland Football League. 50\_c06pupils03

favour before WoSFL committee scrutiny included having changing rooms for two teams of up to 22 players each, a separate referee's room and an enclosed ground with spectator barriers.

Campbell said of the club's Kintyre Park home: 'The renovation of the pavilion is nearing completion thanks to a fundraising campaign led by club chairman Alex McKinven. The SAFL was a

great platform for us to play competitive amateur football for 44 years. In periods, we went through some wilderness years but we have happy memories of successful title-winning seasons too.

'In recent seasons, however, the club became disillusioned with how the league was going, with difficulty getting referees and sometimes teams to travel to Kintyre at a week's notice. This was not a feature against even rival teams in years gone by.

'In the WoSFL, our geography could not be a determining factor in league entry as we are SFA West region members, which meant that the criteria we could meet on a match day, and the quality of our community club pathway, mattered most.'

Meanwhile, the Pupils are gearing up for life in the

WoSFL with contact training resuming on Tuesday evening.

The team have been training twice weekly in a non-contact setting to build up their base fitness since March.

Campbell added: 'Training has been well attended, led by coaches Norman Thomson and Lewis Mackay, and although it has been hard to get the players together with ongoing restrictions, the squad are right behind the move and excited about the challenge ahead.'

Campbeltown Pupils are keen to hear from anyone who would be able to help with ground and park maintenance. Anyone who feels they are able to help can contact Campbell Robertson, club secretary.

For more club updates, follow @PupilsAFC on Twitter or Campbeltown Football on Facebook.



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## Pupils deserve better

This week's front page article about Campbeltown Grammar School's position in The Times' league table of Scottish secondary schools is not intended to humiliate or shame any of the school's pupils.

It is to highlight they deserve better.

Children attending the school come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, comparable to most other Argyll and Bute schools which all ranked much higher on the league table.

It has been pointed out that the staff and pupils have had a difficult year because of the Covid-19 pandemic but that is, of course, true for every school in Scotland.

Our children and our community deserve better – how will we ever attract people to live and work in the area when the only secondary school we have to offer is one of the lowest ranked in Scotland?

## Robbie to the rescue

When charity cyclist Harry Lidgley broke down in Kintyre, a call for assistance came through to the Courier from his mum Jan, with whom we had been liaising about his visit to Campbeltown.

We were delighted to put Harry in contact with Glenbarr man Robbie Semple, who had him back on the road in no time.

Robbie's kindness in helping not only Harry, but many unfortunate cyclists, contributes to the kind reputation for which the peninsula is renowned.

## Transport Scotland needs to just get on with it

I have been reading a lot of reports and letters in national and local newspapers about the problems experienced at the Rest and Be Thankful.

I have no doubt that those charged with keeping the trunk road operational and safe for drivers are doing their best in the circumstances.

However, there now seems to be an acceptance in Transport Scotland that a new solution has to be found.

In a letter to the press, George Allan points out that the 20-mile route from Strathlachlan to Colintraive and the eight miles between Ormidale and Tighnabruaich were designed and constructed in 12 or 13 years.

I was a member of the survey and design team on these routes. I was also involved in the construction of 100 miles of the A9 between Perth and Inverness in 10 years.

These civil engineering schemes demonstrate what can be achieved when there is real political will and commitment to prioritise projects.

I realise Transport Scotland has its own procedures for appointing consultants for the design processes and there are detailed environmental impact assessments to be done.

It does, however, seem to me that its programming of the Rest and Be Thankful improvement is completely lacking in ambition.

As a former director of roads and transport in Highland, perhaps I may be permitted to comment on the long-term solution.

I would say if there are no geological features found on the other side of the glen which will cause a repeat of current problems, then the construction of a new road in diversion would cause less disruption to traffic than trying to form landslip shelters or tunnels adjacent to the

existing carriageway. The main thing though is for Transport Scotland and their political masters to just get on with it.

Philip Shimmin, Inverness.

## Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance 'eighth birthday

This week, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) marks its eighth anniversary – after a year like no other.

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

In our busiest year ever, our aircrew have endured challenging working conditions, with additional procedures and cumbersome protective and safety equipment as they go about an already difficult and stressful job.

But they're not complaining. This is what the Scottish public ask of them, to save and improve lives, wherever the need arises, and they fulfil their role with courage and pride.

Our exemplary performance during this national crisis has been a tribute to how far SCAA has come in just eight years and I, for one, am immensely proud of what the SCAA team has achieved.

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

SCAA is the people's helicopter – funded by the people of Scotland, for the people of

Scotland – and our two frontline aircraft are stood by ready to help you, your family, your friends, colleagues, neighbours or anyone in your community when you most need us.

As we mark our eighth birthday on May 22, we are asking the people of Scotland, if they can, to support us into the future. Any donation, however small, to celebrate our anniversary will help to save a life – just like the numerous lives we have already saved over almost 3,000 missions.

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

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

## Sight loss charity support on offer throughout pandemic

At sight loss charity RNIB Scotland, we are concerned the Covid-19 crisis might have impacted on people who are blind and partially sighted, many of whom are older.

Covid has eclipsed all other health news in the past year but 10 people still start to lose their sight in Scotland every week. Add to that stress over Covid and the lockdowns and there could be more people needing support and reassurance.

Our Need to Talk telephone counselling service remains available in Argyll and Bute and the Western Highlands for anyone diagnosed with sight loss, as well as families, friends and carers.

Losing your sight can be devastating news to take in.

But our trained helpers can support you in coming to terms with your condition and finding the way forward.

The uncertainty during the Covid lockdown over access to basic shopping and medication, a lack of information in accessible formats, the social isolation, the barriers to being guided because of social distancing – these have all added to and compounded the mental and emotional stress people are experiencing.

But we want people with sight loss to know they are not alone and that help is available.

To contact the Need to Talk service, phone the RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999 or email needtotalk@rnib.org.uk

James Adams, director, RNIB Scotland.

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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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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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## Young people's mental health must be a priority for MSPs

As a coalition of leading providers of care and support to vulnerable children and young people, we congratulate all MSPs on their election and welcome the consensus there is between the major political parties to tackle the growing mental health crisis in our young people.

We have for some time raised concerns over a potential lost generation of vulnerable children and young people, whose mental health is being impacted even further by the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been dramatically increased waiting times for mental health treatment during lockdown.

In December 2020, for example, 14 per cent of children and young people had been waiting more than a year for specialist treatment, compared with 5.4 per cent in 2019, a truly frightening statistic.

A commitment by MSPs to focus on mental health, increasing investment, must be a priority, giving our young people care and support when they need it.

The frightening statistics on the deteriorating mental health of young people presents a compelling case for a radical new plan for struggling mental health services and to address what is a mental health pandemic.

This is a crisis we can overcome, but it will require a similar energy and commitment to that demonstrated for Covid-19 to achieve this and prevent many young people giving up on their futures.

**The Scottish Children's Services Coalition: Kenny Graham, Falkland House School; Lynn Bell, LOVE Learning; Stephen McGhee, Spark of Genius; Niall Kelly, Young Foundations.**

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Budding Lochgilphead photographer Aileen Gillies submitted this week's photograph. The cheerful image, taken during a visit to Campbeltown a few weeks ago, shows tulips blooming in the planters around Campbeltown Cross with the Royal Hotel in the background. Please email editor@campbeltown-courier.co.uk if you have a photograph you would like to share.

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# Lindsay's 50K walk raises nearly 10 times her target

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

A Kintyre woman who walked 50 kilometres back and forth across Westport beach in memory of her father has achieved almost 10 times her initial fundraising target.

South Kintyre Active Schools co-ordinator Lindsay Ramsay took on the 'Walk at Westport' challenge last Saturday to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of her dad, Bob Owen, who died last year.

Setting off on the first leg at 5.45am, she walked from Westport to Machrihanish Burn and back - a distance of about 10 kilometres - five times on what would have been her dad's 76th birthday weekend.

She hoped to raise £750 but has so far received almost £6,800 through an online fundraising page and donations on the day.

She invited as many people as possible to join her - socially-distanced - for the full walk or as many or few sections as people wanted and was overwhelmed by the number who turned out to support her.

Speaking to the Courier this week, Lindsay said: 'I had a brilliant day from start to finish. It was amazing to see so many people out supporting me and walking with me from the community.'

'It was great to have a blerher with lots of different people along the way and even more special that my twin sister Jennifer and my brother Ross and his family travelled from Paisley to surprise me.'



Lindsay chose to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, one of the largest British charities which provides specialist health care, information and financial support to people affected by cancer, because of the

**'It was important to me to mark my dad's birthday...I hope I did him proud'**

'invaluable' service it provides in Kintyre.

She said that although her dad's diagnosis came too late, she knows how crucial the charity's service is in the area, adding: 'Unfortunately, so many families are affected by cancer and it was important to me to try and mark my dad's birthday in a positive way and

I hope I did him proud.'

Lindsay completed the challenge within 12 hours and received a rousing welcome across the finish line from young piper Rio Arkell.

She said: 'I'd like to give a very big shoutout to all the individuals and businesses who helped make this happen and to my friends and family who supported me along the way and convinced me that 'Walk at Westport' was worth seeing through. I am so glad I did it.'

Lindsay's online fundraising page will remain open until this weekend, so there is still time to help her achieve 10 times her target.

Search 'Lindsay Ramsay Walk at Westport' on [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) to contribute.

All money raised will remain in Kintyre.



Clockwise from left: Lindsay Ramsay, wearing the green Macmillan Cancer Support top, was supported by her family on the day; family members helped by offering refreshments to keep the walkers fuelled throughout the day; support from friends, family and the community helped Lindsay complete the challenge.



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## FROM OUR FILES

## TEN YEARS AGO

Friday May 20, 2011

## Yacht crew saved from rock horror

A classic British racing yacht and her crew were saved from being dashed onto the rocks of the Mull of Kintyre on Saturday night by Campbeltown's lifeboats during a six-hour rescue operation.

The yacht was competing in the Scottish Islands Peak Race.

The rudder of the 70ft-long Sceptre had broken and force six winds from the northwest were driving her onto cliffs below the lighthouse.

Campbeltown's Severn-class lifeboat was launched with the inshore lifeboat following. They did not return to the harbour until after 11pm, with the casualty in tow.

The following day, Sceptre skipper Tom Smith praised the hard work and efficiency of the Campbeltown lifeboat crews.

Diver Robert Lamont, a member of the lifeboat crew the night before, went in and removed the damaged rudder ready for Sceptre to be towed by tug to Troon, the finish of the race.

The race sails from Oban to Mull, Jura and Arran then Troon, stopping at each island for a team of runners to complete a hill race.

Sceptre, with a crew of four, was carrying the boys' team from Glenalmond School, Perth.

She had run aground the night before entering Craighouse, Jura. Everything looked fine on the yacht, which was built in Argyll at Alexander



In 2011: Diver Robert Lamont, far left, removed the damaged rudder from Sceptre when she was safely back at Campbeltown Harbour. Also pictured, from left: skipper Tom Smith, Neil Blair and Roger Finbow.



In 1996: Malcolm Black, second left, and Ronnie Hamilton, second right, at the award ceremony in Oban.

Robertson's Holy Loch yard to compete in the America's Cup of 1958. 'As a precaution, we did not have the boys on board for the tough leg round the Mull of Kintyre to Arran,' said crew member Roger Finbow.

'They haven't missed the race; they were on board Blue Damsel, carrying the girls' team.'

The decision proved a wise move as not only did the rudder come loose leaving the yacht with no steering, it was flapping wildly and in danger of damaging the hull.

As a precaution, the lifeboat crew put a heavy-duty pump on board but this was not needed.

HMS Dragon broke off her sea trials to come to the aid of Sceptre. The Type 45 Clyde-built destroyer stood by until the lifeboat arrived.

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday May 17, 1996

## Calls for quick Irish ferry decision

Calls were mounting earlier this week for a Scottish Office decision on the proposed ferry link between Campbeltown and Northern Ireland.

The Scottish Office has been considering a business plan for state-owned Caledonian MacBrayne to operate the link with Ballycastle in Northern Ireland since the beginning of February.

The company needs Scottish Office permission to become involved in the project.

But concern is growing that unless a decision

is made soon the necessary harbour work at Campbeltown will not start until it is too late for the service to begin next year.

## Mercy men honoured with royal medal award

Two Campbeltown ambulance men were among six from Argyll recently presented with long service and good conduct medals by the Duke of Argyll.

Ronnie Hamilton and Malcolm Black travelled to Oban for the presentation, carried out by the Duke on behalf of HM Queen.

The medals are not awarded automatically but are made on the recommendation of a special panel.

The Duke told the ambulance men: 'What you do is not a profession, it is a vocation.'

He also paid tribute to their families, pointing out the ambulance men worked anti-social hours for long periods at a time.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Thursday May 20, 1971

## Colour TV comes to Campbeltown

Campbeltown was 'switched on' to colour television on Tuesday by the town's new Provost, William Craig, in his first official engagement.

The service has been brought to Campbeltown by Rediffusion, the firm which pipes television to several thousand subscribers from its mast at Crosshill Farm.

The firm's Scottish general manager Mr Colin Payne said that Rediffusion offered a public service of which they were proud.

'We looked at the television problems here. There were just BBC1 and STV and occasionally Ulster in the town. We said can we bring to Campbeltown the full range of colour programmes which are available elsewhere and the answer to that was 'yes'. There are now six programmes on the system. There aren't many places in the country which can receive this.'

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday May 21, 1921

## Sparks and flashes

An English steam liner which called in here for bait one day last week had full bunkers and a plentiful reserve of coal in various corners. She had gone to Ostende for the fuel.

A further restriction of the gas supply in the burgh comes into force on Saturday night. The hours during which there will be reduced and normal pressure respectively are given in advertisement.

The local branch of the Miners' Union opened a subscription list this week for the purpose of starting a communal soup kitchen. It is not intended, of course, to confine the benefits of the scheme to miners or their dependents. Over £50 has already been raised.

A welcome break in our comparative isolation from the mainland was made at the beginning of the week when the steamer Kinloch made a special run to the upper reaches, with mail, passengers and cargo. Many merchants, not only in Campbeltown but at Carradale and the west of Arran ports, were carrying very low stocks and this run was not made a day too soon to prevent absolute scarcity of not a few necessities.

Flour, for one thing, was running very short, and the new supplies got by bakers were very much-needed.

Alcohol is again tipped as a likely rival to petrol. The new motor fuel is being produced by the Distillers Company Ltd and consists of a mixture of 50 per cent of alcohol, 25 per cent of benzole and 25 per cent of paraffin. The idea of using alcohol is not new, but a fatal obstacle has been the unwillingness of the government to release its hold upon alcohol and permit it to be used for commercial purposes.



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# Appeal to help identify fallen St Valéry hero

As the anniversary of the battle of St Valéry-en-Caux approaches, an international search has been launched to uncover the identity of a fallen hero.

The soldier of the 51st Highland Division evaded capture during the infamous Second World War battle, in which almost 100 men from Kintyre fought, but would later be discovered and now rests in an unnamed grave.

Days after the mass evacuations at Dunkirk, thousands of men from the 51st Highland Division remained on mainland Europe supporting their French allies. As German troops advanced through Normandy, the 51st fought valiantly, protecting French citizens, hoping evacuation by sea would be forthcoming.

On June 12 1940, German tanks surrounded the division at the French fishing port of St Valéry. This, alongside a curtain of heavy fog, made the long-awaited flotilla rescue unviable and they were forced to surrender. Those who were not killed in the fighting were captured as prisoners of war and marched to camps in Eastern Europe, where they remained for five gruelling years.

Following the commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of the battle last June, a remarkable story has emerged. One brave soldier miraculously evaded capture and was taken in by a French family who hid him from the occupying German forces.

'We were contacted by Monsieur Patrick Prieur, a 65-year-old St Valéry resident whose grandparents and father remained in the town



The grave of the unknown St Valéry soldier, presumed to be Len Scott Keller, at the Franco-British military cemetery in St Valéry-en-Caux.

during the entirety of the war. He told us the story of the escapee and the tragedy that befell him,' said Dr Claire Armstrong, chief executive of Legion Scotland.

'As we approach the 81st anniversary of the battle, we hope to identify this Scottish hero, give him the recognition he deserves and bring peace to his family.'

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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Patrick Prieur recalled the tale his late father told him: 'A soldier from the 51st Highland Division was hidden by a family in the village. They bonded and the family learned he was a married man with a wife and two daughters waiting for him to return home. For several weeks, the soldier remained hidden but, regrettably, he was discovered by German troops and marched through the town to the municipal cemetery. After being forced to dig his own grave, he was positioned against the cemetery wall and shot. His death deeply upset the townspeople, who had been aware of his hiding, and especially my father, who was only 11 at the time. In later years, the Franco-British military cemetery was built and his body was moved there. His grave is marked as 'Known unto God' and my father and other villagers tended to it for decades after the war ended.'

Monsieur Prieur added: 'My father had been gifted a piece of paper on which the soldier's name was written, 'Keller Len Scott', and this became his prized possession. He desperately wanted to find the soldier's family to tell them what had happened to their beloved and where he was laid to rest, but having very little information, he struggled.

'My father passed away in 2014 and, being eager to finish what he started, I recently contacted Poppyscotland and the Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association to ask for help.'

Michelle McKearnon, head of engagement at the Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association, said: 'We started our own research to unearth the fallen soldier's identity but only got so far. We believe the name order on the piece of paper may have been written in military fashion, with the surname preceding any given names, so the family name might be Keller.'

'We're now at an impasse, so we need the knowledge of the wider community to continue our efforts. We are urging anyone who believes they know of or has any information about our 'Unknown Soldier', no matter how small, to get in touch. This brave man fought valiantly for his country and to repay our debt to him for his service would be an honour, not only for Legion Scotland as custodians of remembrance, but for his family, Monsieur Prieur's father, the people of St Valéry and, ultimately, for all the 'Unknown Soldiers' who sacrificed their lives for us.'

Anyone with information should visit [poppy-scotland.org.uk/stvalery](http://poppy-scotland.org.uk/stvalery)

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# Ben's Argyll trek makes ocean of a difference

The Argyll coast is playing host to an eco-adventurer with a mission to bring the ocean's plight to the world stage, writes Fiona Ross.

Twenty-six-year-old Ben Taylor is currently kayaking and walking along the coastlines of Kintyre, Knapdale and Lorn as part of his round-Britain expedition.

He is collecting litter as he travels and documenting it in a blog and photographs that he plans to take to the UN COP26 conference in Glasgow later this year.

'I had been volunteering for conservation charities and reading into climate change, but had come to feel hopeless about the sheer scale of the problem,' Ben explained.

'After thinking about it for a few years, I started looking into what I could do and realised in December that one person can make a difference, particularly when combined with community efforts.'

Ben describes his environmental mission as a personal journey he embarked on after a period of depression.

'The idea came to me one evening when I was standing in the kitchen chopping vegetables.

'I was listening to a song -

Albatross by Fleetwood Mac and suddenly I broke down in tears.

'From there the idea took hold and I got in touch with the Marine Conservation Society and the John Muir Trust and told them I wanted to fundraise for them and highlight their work while doing this trip.'

A website and an online fundraising page were next on Ben's to-do list, followed soon after by a host of practicalities he needed to work out.

Ben said: 'I'll be on the go around Scotland until COP26 in November, then continuing on to England.'

'I can't carry much food as I've already got a tent, stove, inflatable kayak and paddles. I was really pleased to find a company that does dehydrated vegan food in compostable bags, so I bought 120 meals and have mailed them in batches to post offices around the country so I can collect them as I travel.'

As far as training for such an extraordinary expedition is concerned, Ben explained he has participated in several endurance events, including multi-day running, in the past but now, three weeks since he left his starting point of

Glasgow, he is enjoying this trip more than these previous competitions.



'I'm loving this as it's not all 'go, go, go'. I want to be able

to sit back and take time and explore all the different parts of the coast.

'This trip has given me time to write, which is something

**Ben pictured on the shores of Loch Sween.** FR\_a21BenTaylor01

I've wanted to do for a while.' Ben's blog can be read on his website where he has also written in detail about the threat plastic litter poses to marine life and the environment in general.

'I wasn't brought up by the sea; I'm from Manchester,' Ben added. 'I worked at a youth hostel in Ullapool for a couple of years and felt a connection there.'

'When I'm picking up rubbish on beaches I feel really up and down about it all.'

'I feel so sad about what I find and about the amount that's below the ocean's surface. But then I realise I need to do what I can.'

On that note, Ben is keen to work together with locals who want to make a difference.

He is helping out at a beach clean in Oban this Friday, May 21. Information on this and how to donate to the John Muir Trust or the Marine Conservation Society can be found on Ben's [www.ukcoast-journey.com](http://www.ukcoast-journey.com) website.

**For more on the COP26 conference, see page 15.**

## Progress made towards carbon neutral goal

Argyll and Bute Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 27 per cent in five years.

The local authority's carbon report 2019/20 shows its emissions have dropped for a third year, thanks to a range of actions. These include buildings being made more energy and heat efficient, traditional lightbulbs being replaced with LED and a move to electric or hybrid vehicles.

Processing household and other municipal waste is highlighted as being responsible for around half of all the council's carbon emissions.

Actions to address this form part of the council's de-carbonisation plan which sets out a range of climate-friendly activities across all council services, including: a sustainable waste strategy; reducing disposable and single-use plastics; extending pre-ordering for school food; renewable heat incentive projects; solar technology at council properties and completing an LED streetlight replacement programme.

Council leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The steps we are taking are delivering progress. The actions we have planned will progress us further towards the goal of a net zero emissions organisation by 2045. We need to be ambitious to achieve the climate-friendly lifestyles a sustainable future needs.'

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# Safety first as shops reopen

Hairdressers to hotels, cafes to cinemas, pub chains to independent shops ... high streets across the country are opening up again. But it is important it happens safely!

Businesses are ensuring they comply with COVID-19 safety measures such as social distancing signs, PPE and hand sanitisers. Restaurants, salons and theatres

are among the venues to put in place new booking procedures, ensuring we can all enjoy meals or watch shows in relaxed and safe environments. It is vital all

customers also obey the rules ... hands, face, space and fresh air. For the latest on government guidance, retailers should visit [gov.uk/workingsafely](https://www.gov.uk/workingsafely)

## 'We ensure measures are effective'

**PAUL BAINES, MANAGER, STEPHEN JOSEPH THEATRE, SCARBOROUGH**

THE CURTAIN goes up again at Stephen Joseph Theatre on May 17 while Eat Me Cafe, in the bar area, and a gift shop, in the foyer, will also reopen.

"We were open for nearly six months of last year. We did a huge amount of work including introducing a one-way system, social distancing measures and putting down markers," said theatre manager Paul Baines.



"One of the biggest challenges was getting people in and out safely.

"We have to ensure the measures are genuine and effective and they are

visible. Visible reassurance is important for customer confidence.

"It is a juggling act because you have to balance creating a too clinical atmosphere with offering a unique theatre experience."

The theatre has been awarded the VisitEngland We're Good to Go industry standard mark, signifying that it adheres to government and public health COVID-19 guidance, also approved by UK Theatre Seat Safety.

## 'People need care and pampering'

**ROSIE FRASER, OWNER, THAT ROSIE GLOW, EDINBURGH**

ALONGSIDE FAMILIAR COVID-19 safety measures, Rosie Fraser has introduced a new service called "Silent Treatment".

"We love a good chat but we also understand some people prefer not to," said Rosie, whose beauty salon opened in 2019.

"Clients can see the service as soon as they look at the online booking menu and add it with whatever treatments they are having.



"We still carry out a full consultation and then let them just relax."

Also in place are bespoke engraved screens between stations, extra time for

cleaning, screening forms for track and trace, PPE and sanitising measures. Rosie emphasises that it is safety with style!

Members of the seven-strong team are carrying out rapid COVID-19 tests at home thanks to the UK Government asymptomatic testing initiative.

"We have exciting plans for this year in expanding. COVID-19 and lockdown has reaffirmed how much people need care and pampering to feel good."

## 'Trade boost from vaccine confidence'

**JOHN LAVERY, OWNER, FISH CITY, BELFAST**

INVESTMENT HAS helped Fish City in Belfast continue operating.

The award-winning seafood restaurant extended its seating, installed outdoor heating and started a delivery service. Since reopening for outdoor dining, it has been doing a brisk trade bolstered by confidence in the vaccine programme.

Reopening indoors is scheduled to start on May 24. "We created a dining room



upstairs with a completely different feel," said John, who owns the restaurant with his wife Grainne.

Safety processes include a digital thermometer

mounted at the door which all staff and customers are required to pass before entering. Anyone recording a high temperature is refused admission.

Hand sanitisers are also available. Kitchen and front of house staff are required to wear masks and wash their hands regularly. Tables and chairs are cleaned rigorously after every diner. The restaurant's commitment to the safety is also seen in its recognition as COVID-19 Compliant by Tourism NI.

## 'We worked hard to train all the team'

**MEURIG JONES, LOCATION MANAGER, PORTMEIRION VILLAGE, PORTMEIRION**

"IF I could do cartwheels, I would" is one retail chief's response to welcoming the public back.

"When we saw the first trickle of people coming back last month, it was lovely," enthused village location manager Meurig Jones.

"Portmeirion needs people here.

"It's lovely but it isn't what it should be without people



appreciating it. It's easier this year in that it was such a new thing when we opened in July.

"We had to do a lot of work to train the staff into a

new way of working. We're constantly improving and we're learning as we go on."

App orders and one-way systems will ensure ongoing safety.

Outside seating, pods and marquee are also available. Misting machines, meanwhile, will keep hotels "squeaky clean - safe for staff and guests".

Meurig added: "There's hand sanitiser outside every shop and we ask people to wear masks indoors, but not outside."



## Enjoy your high street safely

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# World leaders could be heading for Argyll

Global leaders – potentially including US president Joe Biden, China's president Xi Jinping and Pope Francis – could be on their way to Argyll later this year.

Argyll and Bute Council is putting together plans for an event to mark the Conference of the Parties (COP26).

Several hundred thousand delegates are expected to attend the global climate change conference at Glasgow's Scottish Exhibition Centre (SEC) from November 1 to 12, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

Originally scheduled to take place in 2020, the conference was postponed due to the



**Council leader Robin Currie says 'we can all do something to support the planet and the resources on which we all depend to live'.**

worldwide pandemic. The council's Climate Change Board is proposing a

programme of activities to run alongside COP26, including:

■ An Argyll and Bute climate change virtual summit;

■ School visits to Glasgow's SEC and Science Centre;

■ A workshop on agriculture and land use in partnership with Argyll and Bute National Farmers Union;

■ Raising further awareness of the council's de-carbonisation plan.

This action plan was agreed by the council's policy and resources committee when it met last Thursday, May 13.

At the meeting, councillors heard of plans for an event which would most likely be

held in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre or in Hermitage Park's Passivhaus pavilion.

Council leader Robin Currie told the meeting: 'I think there will be a day, should COP26 get the go-ahead, when the local authority hosts something. We are keen to do this, particularly in Helensburgh, because we are not far from Glasgow.'

'People attending face-to-face could easily go to Helensburgh and we could have a good showcase for people visiting the country.'

Councillor Alastair Redman, the authority's policy lead for business, regeneration and

commercial development and vice chairman of its climate change environmental action group, added: 'I would certainly agree that with Helensburgh being a commuter town, if there is any benefit to Argyll and Bute we should make the most of it. It does seem strange they have a conference talking about reducing climate change while flying world leaders on jets to one area, especially with Zoom calls taking place these days. But Argyll and Bute should look to benefit from it and promote the constituency as best we can.'

In a statement after the meeting, Councillor Currie

said: 'COP26 will generate worldwide interest so is a great opportunity to ask ourselves 'what can I do?' and 'what can we do together?' The council is already taking action. We have reduced our carbon emissions by 27 per cent over the past five years and our de-carbonisation plan sets out actions planned across council services.'

'It's important we use this global event as a catalyst. As well as taking the actions we agreed at the meeting, the council will be looking for opportunities to work with our partners to deliver climate change activities across Argyll and Bute.'

## £1.2 million investment in energy saving work to reach a net zero goal

Argyll and Bute Council will invest more than £1.2 million to save energy and progress towards becoming a net-zero carbon emissions organisation by 2045.

The moves are also expected to deliver financial

savings that will cover the cost of the investment in 10 years.

The council's estate and buildings account for more than 20 per cent of its overall carbon footprint through use of

electricity, gas, heating oil and water. At its meeting last Thursday, May 13, the council's policy and resources committee agreed energy-saving actions in 11 premises across Argyll and Bute, including Kintyre

House in Campbeltown.

This work is expected to deliver a significant reduction of 463 tonnes of carbon emissions in the council's carbon footprint every year. The council will draw from the national Non

Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework to deliver the work.

Contractors signed up to this are required to provide energy performance guarantees and sign energy performance contracts.

Councillor Robin Currie, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'This investment is all about using energy efficiency solutions to help develop climate-friendly ways of working.'

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## Thought for the Week

Loneliness can be devastating. And often we have no choice but to do the tough parts alone.

And yet...

One night in the 1980s, a young British student felt compelled to get up and pray for 'Irina'.

She had no idea who that was. A year later in London she met the Russian poet Irina Ratushinskaya, released from a labour camp in the USSR where she had been imprisoned for her Christian faith.

Denied paper, she wrote poems on soap bars. In one poem she wrote:

*Believe me, it was often thus:  
In solitary cells, on winter nights  
A sudden sense of joy and warmth  
And a resounding note of love.  
And then, unsleeping, I would know  
A-huddle by an icy wall:  
Someone is thinking of me now,  
Petitioning the Lord for me.  
My dear ones, thank you all  
Who did not falter, who believed in us  
In the most fearful prison hour  
We probably would not have passed  
Through everything - from end to end,  
Our heads held high, unbowed -  
Without your valiant hearts  
to light our path.*

I have never forgotten that extraordinary poem. How far can kindness reach?

In Mid Argyll there is a group of people who offer prayers for anyone who asks. You don't have to be 'religious' - whatever that means - to ask. You can ask for yourself or someone else. It can be something huge, or something ordinary. It is totally confidential.

People are sometimes touched that people they don't know are thinking of them - a 'sudden sense of joy and warmth, a resounding note of love'.

Do ask. Contact us on midargyllprayers.co.uk or on our Facebook page Mid Argyll Prayers.

**Reverend Canon Simon Mackenzie,  
Lochgilhead Scottish Episcopal Church.**

## GIGHA

### Home testing kits available from island fire station

Gigha Fire Station is offering testing to anyone on the island with Covid-19 symptoms.

In partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Scottish Government, anyone with symptoms who is within walking or driving distance of the station can book a test there by calling NHS Highland on 01463 706015.

Dr Tim Allison, director of public health with NHS Highland, said: 'I'm delighted this service will now be offered from Gigha Fire Station. We've had excellent partnership from the start of this project and it's good to see that continuing.'

Assistant Chief Officer Stuart Stevens, director of service delivery for the SFRS, said: 'We are pleased that 22 of our sites across Highland and Argyll and Bute are participating in this programme, which means many more fire stations can assist rural communities to access Covid-19 tests closer to home.'

'Our staff have shown a real commitment to providing this service, whilst maintaining a capability to respond to emergencies, and I thank them for their ongoing efforts.'

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

## ISLAY

### Treasure trove of Fèis Ìle Islay malts go to auction

When it comes to whisky, few celebrations are as eagerly anticipated as Islay's festival of music and malt - Fèis Ìle.

Established almost 30 years ago, the festival draws visitors from across the globe to the island each year to experience its community, culture and its world-renowned whisky.

Now, the most extensive and complete collection of whiskies produced by the island's legendary distilleries to commemorate the festival is being sold by Whisky Auctioneer with a proportion of the proceeds from the



Examples from each of Islay's eight single-malt producing distilleries are being auctioned.

sale being donated to Islay-based charities and projects. Between Friday May 14 and Monday May 24, more than 240 limited-edition Fèis Ìle expressions from distilleries including Port Ellen, Laphroaig, Bruichladdich and Ardbeg are going under the hammer.

The treasure trove of bottles is part of Pat's Whisky Collection - the largest private collection of whisky to come to auction. Known only to the world mysteriously as 'Pat', he decided to part with his 9,000-bottle library last year, through a series of auctions, with a mission to share his passion for whisky with the world by passing his bottles on to new owners.

Joe Wilson, head of auction content at Whisky Auctioneer, said: 'Fèis Ìle is an iconic celebration of whisky and Islay culture that draws people back to the island year after year.'

'From Port Ellen to Bowmore and Bruichladdich to Ardbeg, this collection of Fèis Ìle bottlings is without a doubt the largest and most complete we have ever encountered.'

'The auction presents the rare opportunity for collectors and whisky drinkers to acquire some incredibly scarce malts that have been produced to celebrate the history of this iconic whisky region.'

Examples from each of Islay's eight single-malt producing distilleries feature in the sale, including complete collections of every single limited

edition festival bottling from distilleries including Bowmore, Laphroaig and Lagavulin. The sale also features bottles that have been donated to the Fèis Ìle committee by distilleries to raise charitable funds for the island through their Islay Wave Project, which will focus on ways to support culture, artists and youth.

Included in the charity lots is the oldest and rarest release directly from the iconic Islay distillery, Port Ellen. The Port Ellen 40-year-old '9 Rogue Casks' is the second release in the 'Untold Stories' series, which explores the intriguing history of the Islay distillery ahead of its re-opening after closure almost three decades ago.

Florence Grey, chairperson of the Fèis Ìle committee, said: 'Fèis Ìle was delighted to be given the bottles in this charity auction from Diageo, plus a signed bottle from the legendary Islay whisky maker Jim McEwan.'

'All the proceeds raised from these bottles will benefit our island community as the funds will kickstart our Islay Wave Project - an ongoing project that will begin after this year's virtual festival. Focusing on ways to support our island's culture, artists and youth, The Islay Wave Project concentrates on everything we celebrate throughout Fèis Ìle. We are grateful to Whisky Auctioneer for its support in bringing these bottles to auction.'

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A Benefits of Working Together webinar will be

chaired by Kerry Allison from SAC Consulting on May 25, between 7pm and 8.30pm.

Guest speakers will be Anna Robertson, project manager, Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society – the experts on co-operation and supply chain collaboration; Hector Munro, Foulis Farms, Ross-Shire, discussing the benefits of sharing machinery and Caroline Black, Backboath Farm, Arbroath. The first of a number on the subject, this webinar will focus on informal co-operation and neighbouring, which has always been a feature of the farming community.

While perhaps less popular than in the past, neighbouring is a great route to share

resources, reduce costs, save time, make lives easier and build relationships in a community.

It makes sense on so many levels, not least for social reasons, wellbeing and on safety grounds.

This is an opportunity to hear from those involved in the practice, why they did it, how they make it work and the lessons they have learned along the way. Check out the FAS website [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot) under 'events' for more.

**Agricultural co-operation can have many benefits.**

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# Fears farming will suffer in post-Brexit trade wrangling

Post-Brexit trade deals must not undermine Scottish farming's high standards, says Scotland's farming union.

NFU Scotland joined other UK farming interests in calling for ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations to recognise and support farmers and crofters and the high standards they meet.

Momentum is building behind a trading agreement with Australia, with discussions also under way with New Zealand.

The UK Farming Roundtable – involving 19 farming bodies from all four nations – said this week that the UK government must set up a statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission to scrutinise all future trade deals. It should be in place before any agreement is reached.

Five principles agreed include:



NFU Scotland president Martin Kennedy.

- Upholding high standards of production and positioning the UK as a global leader in sustainable farming and in tackling climate change

- Recognising the specific sensitivities of some UK farm-

- ing sectors
- Balancing improved access and lower tariffs for agricultural imports with quotas and other safeguards

- Ensuring any trade deal is genuinely reciprocal

- Acknowledging that these deals will establish precedents in all trade deals

The roundtable said that while it supports broad liberalisation of tariffs 'on a mutually beneficial basis', the UK's high

environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards should be protected.

The group also endorsed the government's 'commitment that UK farmers should not be undercut by unfair competition' as counterparties push for unrestricted market access by eliminating tariffs.

'Additionally, the suggestion that negotiators are now in a 'sprint' to finalise the details of a UK/Australia FTA gives rise to concerns that the UK will come under pressure to make serious and potentially damaging concessions to meet the expedited timetable.'

NFU Scotland has sought the support of Scottish politicians to ensure any trade deal follows the correct process.

NFUS president Martin Kennedy said: 'We share the concerns expressed regarding the Australia FTA

negotiations.

'Scotland's beef, dairy, sheep and grain sectors are particularly exposed should a deal be rushed through with Australia that fails to strike the right balance. All deals must be properly scrutinised and ratified to avoid any risks to the future viability of the farming sector.'

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

'UK consumers already enjoy some of the most affordable food in the world, produced to the highest standards. Employment, the prosperity of rural areas and our high standards should not be jeopardised for the sake of a headline-grabbing deal.'



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on 07860 522906

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/02112/PP	Change of use of land to form extension to garden ground and erection of summerhouse and garden shed (retrospective)	23 St Clair Way, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA30 8FB
21/00732/PP	Painting of white stonework at the front of the building in Terracotta masonry paint	Anchorage Restaurant, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UD
21/00811/PP	Engineering operations to re-profile ground (retrospective)	Land South Of Ardrishaig Water Treatment Works, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA30 8HF
21/00609/PP	Change of use of retail unit into 2no. residential flats to include installation of replacement front doors, 1 rear window of the same style and finish, installation of 1 rooflight and repainting of exterior	Shop Bayview And Cragfoot, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UD

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications-or-to-argyll-and-bute-council-development-management-kilmory-castle-lochgilphead-argyll-pa31-8rt> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

### TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

#### THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (CAMPBELTOWN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF SPECIFIED TURNS AND TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) ORDER 2021

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(a) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting specified turns, waiting, loading and unloading on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from Old Quay Roundabout, Campbeltown in a south easterly direction along Hall Street, Campbeltown to its junction with New Quay Roundabout, Campbeltown and thereafter from said junction in a north westerly direction along Hall Street, Campbeltown to its junction with Old Quay Roundabout, Campbeltown a distance of 495 metres or thereby. Prohibition Of Specified Turns

1. All right turns from St John Street, Campbeltown to Hall Street, Campbeltown
2. All left turns from St John Street, Campbeltown to Hall Street, Campbeltown
3. All right turns from Hall Street, Campbeltown to St John Street, Campbeltown.
4. All left turns from Hall Street, Campbeltown to St John Street, Campbeltown.

The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the road will be in operation from the 24th May until 8th July 2021 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Access to pedestrians will be maintained at all times. The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes, or a vehicle being used for carrying out the works.

#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

#### S LEES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers, Transport Scotland, Roads, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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

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

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

### 19th Argyll Scout Group Extraordinary General Meeting

7pm Wednesday 26th May 2021 via Zoom  
To receive the Zoom link please email [19thargyllscouts@gmail.com](mailto:19thargyllscouts@gmail.com)

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DEATHS

MACGREGOR

Peacefully at home, 28 Fernoch Park, Lochgilphead, on May 18, 2021, Donald MacGregor, in his 75th year. Formerly of Knapdale Terrace, Ardrishaig. Retired British Waterways Engineer. Beloved husband of Kathleen (Clark) and much loved father of Cameron and Shona. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. A private funeral service will be held at Ardrishaig Parish Church on Monday, May 24, 2021. For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral cortege will leave from Ardrishaig Parish Church at approximately 11.30am, travelling along Chalmers Street Ardrishaig on route to Achnabreac Cemetery. Please observe social distancing.

MOORE - William Moore of Achahoish, peacefully passed away on May 12, 2021 in his 86th year. Dearly beloved husband of Christine Moore, much loved dad to John and Lynn, father-in-law to Heather and Mark, devoted grandfather to Ross, Sadie and William. Family only cremation, Cardross, Wednesday, May 26, 2.15pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COLVILLE - Catherine, Ailsa and Katrina would like to thank family and friends for the wonderful support received through cards, letters, flowers and gifts. Grateful thanks are also extended to staff at Campbeltown Hospital and to all carers for the kind care Willie received. Sincere thanks to Rev. William Crossan for a

personal and comforting service and to Kenneth Blair and family for their professional and dignified manner. Finally, thank you to everyone who paid tribute to Willie at the Church and on route to the Cemetery.

MACBRAYNE - Mary's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy through cards, flowers and messages. Thanks to Reverend Crooks for his kind words at the graveside and to all at T A Blair Funeral Directors for their help and professional service. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Argyll and Bute Carers at Lorne Campbell Court for the affection and excellent care given to Mary and thanks also to the Community Nurses, Doctors and staff at Campbeltown Hospital. Finally we would like to thank all who paid their respects at the Church and on the route to Kilkerran Cemetery.

STRATHIE - Jim and family would like to thank friends, relatives and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, phone calls, food and visits following the sudden passing of Myra. Special thanks to Dr.Harris and her medical team and the paramedics Lorna and Gerrard for the care she received. To Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their care and attention to every detail, Morna for the beautiful flowers; the Grey Gull for the excellent purvey and the Rev. David Carruthers for his kind and caring service. To all those who braved the weather and

paid their respects to Myra on her final journey from Ardrishaig Parish Church to Achnabreac Cemetery, we were deeply moved. She will be missed by many. A beautiful light has just gone out. The generous donations raised £1,000 for Erskine Home, thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

GILCHRIST - In loving memory of Malcolm (Shorty), who died May 20, 2012, loving husband, dad and granda.

You are always in our minds.  
- Jean and family.

HESSEY - Treasured memories of Fionnaigh Margaret Hessey who died on May 23, 2020. A much loved daughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunt. No farewell words were spoken.

No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, And only God knows why.  
- Loved always, Dad, Moira, Christine and families.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Caroline MacDonald (February 11, 1967 - May 23, 2019). Loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure. Forever in our hearts.

- Calum, Iona and wee Calum.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Caroline who passed away May 23, 2019. Forever and always in our hearts.

- Love Mum, Neil, Linda and Duncan.

MCGOUGAN - Respectfully remembering my best friend, Angus McGougan (The Cat), who left us on May 22, 2016. Sadly missed along life's rocky road.  
- Welly.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. —Acts 1:14

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

on Sunday, 23rd 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

https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch  
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



South Kintyre Team Ministry  
Sunday services

10 am Saddell and Carradale Church SC002609  
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown SC002493  
11.30am Southend Church SC005484

Covid 19 restrictions apply  
Ministers  
Revd Steve Filcher  
Revd Christine Fulcher  
01586 830504  
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

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SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings are Sunday 23rd May  
Worship service 3pm  
Covid 19 measures in place  
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046  
Major Ruth Russell  
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor Kilmartin  
Sunday 23rd May 2021 11am  
Rev Robert McLeod  
All very welcome  
Please remember to wear a mask.

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 23rd May  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Colin Rogerson  
11.15am Sunday School  
7.00pm Fellowship Meeting (by Zoom)  
Wednesday 26th May  
12.00 noon Missionary Meeting (by Zoom)  
Covid-19 guidelines apply  
All welcome  
www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Sunday 11am  
Holy Eucharist  
St Columba, Poltalloch  
9am Holy Communion  
1st Sunday of the month  
6pm Evensong  
3rd Sunday of the month (SC013787, 31391)

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



A warm welcome awaits you  
in the Kirk Street Hall at 11:00 am  
Pastor Mark Jasper 01586 554 092 pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk  
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk  
www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch SC043322

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

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

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686  
Sunday 23rd May  
Morning Worship 11. 15am  
Rev W Crossan  
Covid 19 Guidelines apply  
There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 23rd May  
Tarbert - James MacLellan  
Skipness - John L Morrison  
There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am and Tarbert 11.30am  
Please wear a face covering and stay 2 metres apart for the services  
Contact 01880 820158 for pastoral care  
Charity number Tarbert SC002622 Skipness SC004280

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 23rd May  
Services in Achahoish at 9:45am and Ardrishaig at 11:00am (Hebrews 1)  
(Covid19 control measures apply)  
Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches

WESTLOCHFYNESIDE CHURCHES (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Sunday 23rd May 2021  
There will be a joint service in Cumlodden Church at 10.30am  
Sunday service will be led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace  
Due to covid seating is restricted.  
Please phone 01499 302 459  
To book your seat. Masks must be worn when attending church.  
Charity No: SC016665

ST. KIERAN'S, ST. JOHN STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

01586 552160  
campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk  
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All liturgies are Live streamed: https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch  
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Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

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**Inez Ronald, winner of the handicap prize in Dunaverty Golf Club's Macmillan Cancer Support Open.**

### Inez picks up prizes in winning streak

Dunaverty Golf Club's ladies had blustery but dry and sunny conditions for their annual Macmillan Cancer Support Open competition.

The course was in excellent condition for the event on Tuesday May 11 which was sponsored by Kate and Donnie McKerral.

Thirty ladies from Machrihanish, Tarbert and Lochgilphead clubs joined the Dunaverty ladies. A magnificent £600 was raised through entry money, donations and a raffle. Winner of the handicap prize was Inez Ronald, with a nett 55. Second was Linn Coffield with nett 58 and third was Lorna Cook with nett 61. Ailie MacBrayne claimed the scratch prize with a superb gross 74.

The May Medal was played last Saturday and Inez Ronald continued her winning streak coming first with nett 61.

Second was Elizabeth Marrison with nett 63 and third was Lea Brown with nett 65 (par). Elizabeth Marrison also claimed the lowest gross of 75.

# Mach 1 Stages Rally driven into action

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

Rally drivers and fans are gearing up for the 2021 Mach 1 Stages Rally which has been given the go ahead following a change in Covid-19 rules.

Confirmation the event can take place in the summer came after a relaxation in rules about dual occupancy in rally cars, announced last week by Motorsport UK (MSUK), the national membership organisation and governing body for four-wheel motorsport in the UK.

Plans are being made by Dunfermline Car Club (DCC), which organises the Marshall Construction Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship, for this year's rally, at Machrihanish Airbase Community Company Business Park on July 10 and 11.

The annual event had to be cancelled last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

An event spokesperson said: 'We have been granted the



Kintyre's George and Lois Fell taking part in 2019's Mach 1 Stages Rally. 50\_c30mach1stages05

event permit from MSUK and the team at DCC has confirmed the inclusion of the Junior 1000 championship at this year's event. Running at the end of the main field, this is surely going to be a challenge for the young up-and-coming teams.

'While the news is welcomed, there are going to be some changes to the way we organise

and run the event this year and are currently awaiting guidelines from MSUK on how this will be carried out. These will be shared as soon as we have them.'

The race regulations will be published on [www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk](http://www.dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk) on May 25 and entries will open on May 30.

Volunteer marshals and officials are asked to sign up

early to give organisers an indication of the numbers willing to help with the event.

The spokesperson added: 'We have already reviewed routes for this year and, mile for mile, the value for money, with just under 100 miles, is excellent.'

Anyone with any queries about the rally should email [strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk](mailto:strc@dunfermlinecarclub.co.uk) for more information.

### New member makes his mark at Dunaverty

Despite wind and rain, some excellent scores were recorded in Dunaverty Golf Club's Centenary Trophy event.

Kieran McGeachy was first to show on the leader board with a nett 63 in last Saturday's competition.

Next was Alistair McConnachie with a terrific scratch score of 69 – the best of the day – and a nett 63 but both players were outclassed by new member Steve Bleasby, who came in with a winning nett score of 59.

Result: 1 Steve Bleasby 71-12=59; 2 Kieran McGeachy 85-22=63 (bih); 3 Alistair McConnachie 69-6=63; 4 John Wareham 85-21=64 (bih); 5 Graeme McLennan 86-22=64 (bih); 6 Campbell MacBrayne 72-8=64.

This was the second qualifier for the Lephenstrath Trophy, the first one being the Spring Meeting. The following were the qualifiers on scratch scores: 1 Alistair McConnachie 65+69=134; 2 Lee Mathieson 70+73=143; 3 Campbell MacBrayne 73+72=145; 4 Ross Sinclair 77+72=149; 5 John Brown 75+74=149; 6 Eric Dunlea 74+76=150; 7 John Docherty 75+75=150; 8 Robert Coffield 75+75=150.

First round draw: Alistair McConnachie v Robert Coffield, Ross Sinclair v John Brown, Lee Mathieson v John Docherty, Campbell MacBrayne v Eric Dunlea.

## Sheena's success as Connor rises through ranks

Tarbert Golf Club's lady members gathered at Glenralloch last Saturday to play for Dickie's Cup.

Sheena Ferguson returned to the winners' circle with an impressive 58 nett, followed by Georgie Dickson on 60 and Rona Young on 61.

A successful five-week block of lessons, encouraging new lady members to join, finished last week and the club looks forward to welcoming these new starts.

Junior lessons, described as a 'roaring success' have also started with Craig Barrett, Kenny MacFarlane and Calum McCrae tutoring enthusiastic youngsters.

Connor McCrae had his most successful day yet in the Stephen Gallacher Foundation event at Linlithgow Golf Club with an outstanding one-under-par 35 to take first place, while competing in the under-10 event.

His score even beat those competing in

the under-12 section. Connor now moves up the rankings and can play in the stroke play events, which was his ultimate aim.

He has a break next weekend before competing at Glenberrie Golf Club on May 30.

Tarbert's gents return to action tomorrow (Saturday) with the second round of the President's Cup and first round of the John Reid Quaich.



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