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## An excellent Easter time for us all

Feature on pages  
12-13



### Tayinloan teen leads school to rugby win

Tayinloan teenager Charlie Maxwell Macdonald captained Stowe School to victory at the recent Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens rugby competition, the world's largest school rugby tournament. For more, turn to the back page.

# KINTYRE'S WINDFARM WINDFALL

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
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## Communities to benefit from £5.6m funding over the next 25 years

Kintyre will receive £3.4 million more than originally proposed in community benefit funds from the recently commissioned Beinn an Tuirc 3 (BaT3) Windfarm.

Following months of negotiations by East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) – a volunteer group working on behalf of Kintyre communities – an agreement has been reached with ScottishPower Renewables that ensures an annual community benefit of £225,000 will

be paid for the lifetime of the windfarm, rather than the 10 years initially tabled.

This means Kintyre communities will receive £5.6 million over the next 25 years, instead of £2.2 million over the next 10 years.

These funds will be equally distributed to the impacted communities of Campbeltown,

East Kintyre and West Kintyre, to enable communities to plan long term and develop large-scale projects that benefit residents.

A community benefit society – Lussa Community Wind Limited (LCWL) – with representation from all three communities on its board, will

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## Man avoids jail after 'appalling conduct' towards police

A Campbeltown man has been given a community payback order as an alternative to custody.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes ordered 240 hours of unpaid work in the community within 12 months as punishment for Robert Graham, of 64 Ralston Road. He warned him: 'If the work is not done, you will be brought back and sent to jail.'

The sheriff added: 'This was a sustained course of appalling conduct, directed at police officers.'

At an earlier sitting of the court, Graham, aged 36, admitted being threatening and abusive on two separate occasions, on October 1 and November 14 last year, at locations in the town and at the town's police station and while being transported in a police vehicle.

His actions included shouting, swearing, threatening officers and others with violence and making homophobic remarks to officers; refusing to stop when asked and struggling with one police officer, injuring him.

The sheriff had called for a criminal justice social work report to be prepared on Graham. He had been told the incidents happened after Graham had suffered bereavement.

Graham's defence agent, Ruben Murdanaigum, said the man 'regrets his actions'.

'He submits himself to any decision of the court,' he said. 'He accepts that what he did was wrong.'

## Hop on down to Wee Toon Easter Walk

Youngsters are invited to hop along to Campbeltown Ferry Terminal next Sunday, April 17, for the Wee Toon Easter Walk egg hunt.

The egg-stravaganza takes place on Easter Sunday between 11am and 3pm with the route marked out with decorated wooden eggs.

'There will be 10 clues to solve, so remember to mark your sheets with the punch markers,' said organiser Mandy Robertson. 'We will have goodie bags for about 400 children, so apologies if we run out.'

'Let's hope we have good weather for egg hunting.'

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# Non-harassment order for man after months of abuse

A 20-year-old Ardrishaig man must pay his victim £1,000 and has a non-harassment order in place after subjecting her to months of abuse.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said the actions of Cameron Williamson towards his former partner were 'horrible' and 'deeply disturbing for the person who suffered them'.

Williamson, of 2 Arran View, Kilduskland Road, was charged under the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. He admitted when he appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court previously that between August 1 2020 and June 26 2021, he had engaged in a course of behaviour which was abusive to his ex-partner.

The charge said that he repeatedly seized her on the body, pushed her on

the body, shouted and swore towards her, adopted an aggressive attitude and attempted to forcibly remove clothing she was wearing, seized her by the hair and pulled her around by the same; repeatedly pushed her on the body and forcibly removed her from his property in the early hours of the morning in a state of undress.

These incidents happened at Westport Beach, Kilduskland Road, the A83 at Inverneill and his home address.

He also admitted repeatedly pursuing her around the Argyll Inn in Lochgilphead, uttering offensive remarks towards her and pouring a pint of alcohol over her head.

When he first appeared before the court, Sheriff Hughes deferred passing sentence until he had received a

criminal justice social work report on Williamson who was a first-time offender.

At last week's sitting of the court, defence agent Ruben Murdanaigum said that Williamson had never been in trouble with the authorities before and the behaviour was out of character.

### Remorseful

He said: 'He accepts what he did was wrong and he is very remorseful.'

'He regrets the situation and is motivated and willing to make positive changes to his lifestyle.'

Under the conditions of the order, Williamson will be under the supervision of a social worker for 12 months and must work with them to address his behaviour.

He must also carry out 180 months of

unpaid work in the community within the next 12 months. Sheriff Hughes said the number of hours had been reduced because William pleaded guilty at an early stage during proceedings.

He must also pay his victim £1,000 compensation.

'This is an alternative to custody,' said the sheriff, telling Williamson that if he failed to complete any part of the order, he 'can expect custody'.

Williamson was also placed under a non-harassment order for three years.

He must not enter the area where his former partner lives and not contact her, or attempt to contact her in any way, in person or by any means of communication.

'Do not even refer to her on social media,' the sheriff warned him.

## Windfarm windfall

Continued from page 1.

manage all funds flowing from BaT3 to the anchor community charities: Campbeltown Community Windfarm Fund, East Kintyre Community Fund and West Kintyre Community Fund.

The charities are all Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) and will follow strict guidelines when allocating funds for projects to further community development, education and regeneration.

The community councils associated with this development have all recently been developing their community action plans to help the anchor charities deliver legacy projects and priorities identified by the communities.

EKREG has been working for two years with Local Energy Scotland (LES), with support from professional financial and legal advisors funded by an LES Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) grant.

### Support

Alasdair Bennett, EKREG chairperson, said: 'We are very grateful for the support from LES and pleased to have secured this important funding for our communities.'

Speaking on behalf of the communities, Valerie Nimmo, convener of Campbeltown Community Council, added: 'We are very grateful to EKREG for all the work they have done in securing a lifetime community benefit agreement with SPR in relation to the Beinn an Tuirc 3 Windfarm.'

'The funds are much appreciated and will greatly help

us deliver many community projects over the next 25 years.'

Since its establishment in 2019, EKREG has been in contact with 10 companies regarding 18 windfarm developments in Kintyre and South Knapdale, with a view to exploring opportunities for shared ownership.

'With the current energy crisis and tight net-zero targets, the growth of windfarms in Kintyre is likely to accelerate,' said a group spokesperson.

### Impact

'While each new windfarm will create employment during the construction phase, there will also be an increased visual impact on our landscape.'

'For every consented windfarm, EKREG will explore opportunities to maximise the financial benefits for impacted Kintyre communities via community-shared ownership and community benefit payments.'

The application process for applying for the community benefit funds will be announced via the Campbeltown Courier and the Kintyre Wind website at [www.kintyrewind.com](http://www.kintyrewind.com).

Kintyre Wind is a collaborative project between EKREG and the Kintyre community councils, aimed at maximising the financial return to the Kintyre communities from consented local windfarm developments.

More information about the activities of EKREG; Lussa Community Wind Limited; Campbeltown Community Windfarm Fund; East Kintyre Community Fund and West Kintyre Community Fund can also be found on the website.



Beinn an Tuirc 3 Windfarm.  
Photograph: R Eider

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## 14 YOUR VIEWS

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### Windfarm windfall

Well done to the East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) volunteers for securing a better deal on community benefit funding for Kintyre.

Kintyre's coastal location makes it an attractive target for windfarm companies, as can be seen from a map of developments which are operational, consented, awaiting planning decisions, at appeal and scoping on the Kintyre Wind website at [www.kintyrewind.com](http://www.kintyrewind.com)

The world undoubtedly needs to do more to meet energy demands and net zero targets but Kintyre seems to have its fair share of windfarms. If they are consented, though, at least it can benefit the community.

Whether you love or loathe them, turbines are now a major part of the landscape of Kintyre and it is only right residents are compensated for having the natural beauty of their locality compromised on such a large scale.

The people of Kintyre should be thankful to EKREG for working with partner groups to broker the best deal possible.

The group's work in securing such significant additional funding could effect real improvements across Kintyre.

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