



Three skiffs and hardy crews from across Argyll set off from Ganavan to meet with Oban Coastal Rowing Club out at sea and row around Kerrera.

Skiffing good time on Kerrera coastal row

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Four St Ayles skiffs and 21 crew from across Argyll rowed around Kerrera on a maiden voyage covering more than 26 kilometres.

Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club (CRC) skiffs Mingulay and Cruachan, and the newly formed upper Loch Fyne CRC with its skiff Mrs MacPhunn launched from Ganavan sands into calm seas and a falling tide to rendezvous with Oban CRC and its Moluag skiff off the north west point of Kerrera.

Melanie Grey from Loch Awe CRC reported on the day: 'Two white hulled skiffs, a blue hulled skiff with a yellow band and a black hulled 22ft skiff were a beautiful vision against the backdrop of Mull, Lismore and Ardnamurchan, with the Oban sailing club, CalMac's ferries and a melange of kayaks and paddleboarders as water companions.'

'Just around lunchtime



the four skiffs rowed round the north point and out of sight down the rugged west side of Kerrera to be joined by an inquisitive pod of porpoises.

Two of the Loch Awe coastal rowers were former Kerrera residents which made it a particularly special voyage for them and there was no shortage of boat banter from the four boats all the way round and during pit stops at

Barnaboc Bay and just south of Gallanach.

'A particular award for adventurous spirit had to go to the crew of Mrs MacPhunn, four of whom were octogenarians and who completed the circumnavigation of Kerrera in robust spirit.'

'Scottish Coastal rowing does more than connecting people in communities - it kindles a passion for the sea and holds no barriers to entry.'



Centre: The Loch Awe crew rounding the tip off Kerrera; and right, The Loch Awe - Andrea Lines, Heather Craig, Andy Vost, Marlyn Turbitt and Melanie Grey; above left, Martyn Webster from Upper Loch Fyne coxing Mrs MacPhunn; and Mrs MacPhunn's launch.

Council prepares for winter with a £2.2million budget

Council chiefs have approved a £2.2 million winter policy to keep people safe during the cold, dark nights and mornings.

Members of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee met online last week to rubberstamp the 2021-22 Winter Service Policy, prioritising how Argyll and Bute's roads will be treated ahead of winter hazards.

These winter standby arrangements operate from Friday October 29 2021 until Friday April 15 2022.

When cold weather hits, the council pre-treats 52 per cent of the road network. This is more than most other local authorities.

There are 31 frontline vehicles ready for action, and two spare in case of breakdown with a further six vehicles, as well as tractors and V ploughs, that can be deployed if necessary.

More than 11,000 tonnes of salt will be stockpiled to keep 750 miles of priority routes



A gritter at Barnacarry Hill near Kilninver in 2019.

clear. And there is a team of people who analyse local weather forecast data so they know by the end of each day what they need to do to make sure the roads are treated appropriately the following morning.

Councillor Rory Colville, policy lead for roads and infrastructure services, said: 'I know we all value this frontline service. I would like

to take this opportunity, as policy lead, to voice my personal appreciation for all the workers who brave the cold, dark evenings and mornings, sometimes in very poor conditions, to make the roads are safer for us all. Please look out for vulnerable neighbours when conditions underfoot are poor and if you can make use of local grit bins, please do. These will be filled up ahead of the winter season. I'd urge you to pay close attention to travel advice during poor weather conditions and stay safe.'

Every winter, the council works closely with colleagues in Police Scotland and promotes any relevant travel advice through our Facebook and Twitter channels.

Visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-roads for more, and bit.ly/2RjY5pB for facts on getting ready for winter driving.

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