



Left to right: Brian Keating, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Nancy Mabius and David Southworth, and Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute.

21_c9ugadale03



The Duke of Argyll with David Southworth, one of two partners in Southworth Development LLC with a cheque to re-start the Kintyre Club and the donations to local charities. 21_c9ugadale01

Ugadale Hotel opens for business after major restoration

'The next phase is to improve the air, road and ferry links'

by RUTH McCLEAN
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THE 'painstaking' restoration of the Ugadale Hotel has finally been completed and its reopening celebrated on Saturday.

The hotel at Machrihanish in Kintyre was officially re-opened by their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Michael Russell MSP and David Southworth of Southworth Development LLC.

'We are thrilled with the results of the painstaking restoration process and look forward to celebrating the return of this iconic, turn-of-the-century hotel, which will bring a new standard of accommodation to the region,' said David Southworth, president and CEO of Southworth Development LLC.

To coincide with the hotel reopening the Kintyre Club was reinstated, with Brian Keating, founder and director of Kintyre Development Company, announced as its first president.

Curator of social history and art at Campbeltown Museum, Bob Clark, presented the original Kintyre Club horn, which was used previously to bring the guests and members to order.

Invited guests witnessed the official opening of the hotel at a special reception with the Machrihanish Dunes Pipe Band performing at the ceremony.

Willy Roe CBE, chairman of Highlands and Islands Enterprise attended and paid tribute to

the work of Southworth Development and the money it has injected into Kintyre's economy.

HIE invested £2.2million into the project, as well as further money into the Royal Hotel and Machrihanish Dunes Golf development.

'They are going to be one of the best and biggest employers in Kintyre giving people complete new opportunities at the top end of the hospitality industry,' said Mr Roe.

Brian Keating told *The Courier*: 'This is world class golf and world class hospitality. The next phase over the next few years is to improve the air, road and ferry links. I would like to get an air link directly from Prestwick to Campbeltown; it is only an 11-minute flight. We need to improve all this to get more people coming to the area.'

Councillor John Semple said he firmly believes that Southworth's redevelopment of this hotel and the Royal in Campbeltown has the potential to change the fortunes of South Kintyre.

'For local businesses to take advantage, they will need to have the confidence to invest, and fundamental to that will be better transport links into Kintyre,' he said.

Argyll First Councillor Donald Kelly, having been involved from the outset working with Brian Keating to ensure the golf course project was brought to fruition, said he is pleased to support Southworth Development with its hotel and property ventures.

'I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on the re-opening of the Ugadale,' he said.



Curator of social history and art at Campbeltown Museum, Bob Clark, and Brian Keating of Kintyre Development Company the first president of the Kintyre Club - with the famous horn for the Kintyre Club. 21_c9ugadale02



Robin and Iona Barr of Clochkeil Farm, whose land is being used for Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course, with Brian Keating. 21_c9ugadale05

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History of the hotel

IN 1895 a small guest-house opened at Machrihanish, which overlooked the famed first tee of Machrihanish Golf Course.

It was known as the Pans Hotel and was frequented by golfers and the Scottish 'elite'. Shortly after the hotel expanded and a program of renovations was made.

However an unfortunate fire, thought to have started in the chimney, ravaged the wooden expansion of the hotel in 1898, gutting the building.

The hotel reopened as the Ugdale Arms Hotel and was soon regarded as the pinnacle of luxury

accommodation in the west of Scotland.

The Ugdale Arms, in its heyday, regularly welcomed captains of industry and their families, who descended on Machrihanish for the summer holidays.

The hotel continued to provide extraordinary service. It eventually closed its doors to the public in the late 1990s.

The Ugdale Hotel has been lovingly restored to reclaim its former glory, with 22 luxurious guest rooms and suites, the re-instatement of Kintyre Club private restaurant and Serenity Spa based at the Ugdale.



The Duchess of Argyll officially re-opens the Ugdale Hotel. 21_c09ugdale08



David Southworth of Southworth Development with girlfriend Nancy Mabus. 21_c09ugdale07



Laura Kennedy of Serenity Spa, now based at the Ugdale Hotel. 21_c09ugdale04

Facts and figures

THE Royal Hotel in Campbelltown is also going through a restoration process by Southworth Development and is due to be officially opened on May 12.

THE project is owned by The Kintyre Development Company, operated by Southworth Development LLC, and Machrihanish Investors.

ONCE the Village at Machrihanish Dunes project has been completed, it is estimated more than 150 full-time hospitality-related jobs will be created.

THE ongoing operations of the project are estimated to bring in more than £3million to the economy annually.

SOUTH WORTH Europe has invested more than £30million in the overall project, with £2.2million from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and £886,000 from the European Regional Development Fund. In addition to this, HIE provided a grant totalling £509,606 for the development of Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course, which opened in 2008.



Machrihanish Dunes Pipe Band who played at the reception of the re-opening of the Ugdale Hotel. 21_c09ugdale06

Organic garden a growing attraction

THE Campbelltown Community Organic Garden (CCOG) has had a winter makeover and is in better shape than ever as springtime approaches.

The staff and volunteers who dug, sawed and planted their way through the winter are proud to present a new and improved garden to the community.

As well as continuing to deliver fresh produce to isolated people in the area, the Organic Garden would love to see more people come to the site, at Auchinlee Eventide Home, just out of town on the Carradale Road.

The walled garden and deep beds filled with fruit and veg will delight children and adults alike, evoking images of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit.

The garden is constantly being worked and visitors will see staff turning pickforks in the soil and perfecting the design to get the most out of what nature has to offer.

Visitors will have the chance to buy freshly-grown organic produce for their kitchens.

Wildlife lovers can find bird and butterfly feeders with attached cameras, and for the kids there's a children's play area - complete with sandpit.

Those looking just to relax can stroll through the garden, breathe the fresh air and relax on a bench to enjoy magnificent views across the Loch and Bengerhill opposite.

Innovation is a feature of the garden - notably the new bird and butterfly feeders positioned on trees and observed by unobtrusive state of the art cameras, streaming direct onto screens in the cosy, well-appointed hide nearby.

In what's truly been a community effort, many



Pupils from Castlehill Primary School raised money through a Christmas card competition. Laura Spence was the winner allowed, with the help of her friend Jennifer Wylie, to sell the cards in the school and donate the funds raised to a charity. They choose CCOG and the money will be used to buy nuts and seeds for the bird feeders in the wildlife area. 21_c09ccog01

local groups helped contribute to some of the innovative new designs. These included children from Castlehill Primary School who paid for bird feeders and nuts with money they raised for their Christmas card appeal.

After all the hard work, now the organic garden needs the community to use the facility and show it's all been worth it.

Whether it's stopping by to pick up some fresh organic produce, doing a spot of volunteering, or simply coming along to see and enjoy the plants and wildlife, CCOG would love to see as many people as possible get involved.



Informative posters and bird feeders are found throughout the garden. 21_c09garden04



Lettuce and other vegetables are grown under the market garden's polytunnels. 21_c09garden01



Chris Holden, Project Manager and Dave Pearson of CCOG. 21_c09garden03



THE new orchard garden was officially opened at Campbelltown Community Organic Garden (CCOG) last week.

Michael Russell, MSP came to do the honours, joined by children from Castlehill Primary School, who presented a cheque for new bird feeders and nuts.

Also present was Aln Paterson from Scottish Orchards, who helped CCOG staff and volunteers get the project off the ground.

The newly planted orchard at CCOG, sited behind Auchinlee Eventide Home just outside Campbelltown, contains apple, cherry, pear and plum trees. c09orch02a

