

MID ARGYLL - the epicentre of an ancient nation

MID-ARGYLL was once the important epicentre of an ancient nation whose influence helped to make Scotland what it is today. Irish and Celtic warriors from the 5th and 6th centuries found their way to Mid-Argyll where they took over the fortified rocky outcrop of Dunadd in Kilmartin Glen, displacing or assimilating with the people already there.

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Set in an ideal location to explore Mid-Argyll is The Galley of Lorne Hotel at Ardferrn, on the B8002, just off the main road from Oban to Lochgilphead. Ardferrn is a haven for yachting and artists who know a good hotel when they see it. It is also the gateway to Craignish Point with spectacular views across to Jura, Scarba and Mull, not forgetting the amazing Corryvreckan Whirlpools and

the abundance of wildlife in this area.

This 17th century former drover's inn was taken over by Andrew and Sarah Stanton who want to make your stay as memorable as possible.

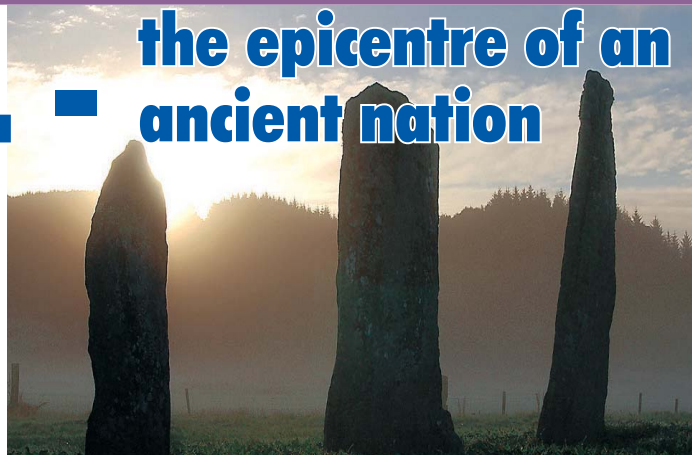
Since they arrived, the hotel has undergone a huge refurbishment programme with six new-look en suite bedrooms tastefully and comfortably furnished and a redecorated public bar and reception area. With its roaring open fire and attractive surroundings the public bar, the oldest part of the hotel dating from 1680, is a great place to eat and drink and chat with the locals.

For dining or a wedding reception, anniversary or corporate function, the hotel's lochside dining room simply can't be beaten. Its massive picture window offers breathtaking views across to Loch Craignish. It's romantic and its menu rivals any top restaurant in Oban. The dining room can seat 120 and if required a large marquee in the hotel grounds can cater for larger numbers. Andrew and Sarah will happily find you any services you need for your wedding including a Highland piper, florist or ceilidh band, all of whom can be found locally.

The Galley of Lorne Hotel is just half an hour's drive from Oban and a few minutes by car from world-famous Kilmartin Glen with all its links with Scotland's ancient past. The hotel is also only two hours by car from Glasgow. The village of Ardferrn itself offers horse riding, cycling, walking and golf and crafts are also available. These can also be found elsewhere in Mid-Argyll as well as climbing, sailing, fishing, mountain biking and woodland walking.

Nearby is Craobh Haven village and marina which offers stunning views of the islands of Shuna, Seil and Luing as well as Jura and Mull.

Lord of the Isles Restaurant and Bar at Craobh Haven provides some of the



Some of the standing stones near Kilmartin. Photo Kilmartin House Museum

best meals in a wonderful atmosphere.

Argyll Trail riding holidays at Brenfield Farm, Ardrishaig, have hacks, treks, family picnic rides, pub rides, beach gallops, daily riding or residential holidays. Disabled riders welcome. Qualified instruction to suit all ages and abilities. A great day out - clay pigeon shooting is available all year round for groups or families.

Kilmartin village sits in the centre of Kilmartin Glen where there are ancient monuments such as burial cairns, rock carvings and standing stones, as well as Dunadd, capital of Dalriada until 850AD.

The village of Kilmartin has a hotel and shops and the important Kilmartin House Museum where Argyll's ancient past comes alive.

People have lived in the glen for thousands of years, gradually shaping the extraordinary landscape you see today.

There are over 150 prehistoric sites and monuments within six miles of Kilmartin Village - come and explore enigmatic standing stones, five thousand-year-old rock carvings, burial cairns and Dunadd, fortress of the earliest Scots Kings.

Experience their auto-visual show, see ancient artefacts and learn more about the people who created them in this internationally acclaimed award-

winning museum. Adults and children can take part in one of the activities or workshops which focus on a variety of traditional skills, crafts and art, and permaculture.

There are also special exhibitions throughout the year.

Visitors can also sample the delights of the award-winning cafe/restaurant and browse the book shop which also sells local crafts and gifts.

The Giving Tree in Craobh Haven has been re-opened after a 2 year absence!

The newly refurbished coffee and tea shop has been transformed into a bright and airy friendly meeting place, offering freshly ground coffee, a selection of fine teas and an ever changing selection of delicious and unusual home baked cakes!

Some of the more unknown guest coffeee's will be periodically hosted at the Giving Tree, from unusual locations such as Yemen, Rwanda and Nicaragua.

The Giving Tree will be stocking a selection of postcards, greeting cards, arts and crafts, including the very collectable Tain Pottery and unusual tea bag art items from South Africa, along with a carefully selected range of handicrafts from Scottish crafters.

Fine art paintings will be initially displayed from local Craobh Haven artists, Clare McNiven, Alison Lyons and Andy McIlvrde and thereafter The Giving Tree will also be available to local artists for exhibitions or groups to hold meetings.

Open daily from 9am to 5pm and located at 1 The Green, Craobh Haven, Argyll Tel: 01852 500300

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Local Artist Exhibition

Tel: 01852 500 303

KILMARTIN MUSEUM HOUSE

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CAFE/RESTAURANT

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lord of the isles

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The Giving Tree

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- Fine selection of coffee and tea's
- Delicious and unusual home baking
- Selection of fine art and local crafts

Open Daily 9-5pm

1 The Green
Craobh Haven
Argyll
Tel: 01852 500300