



Princess Anne opens new CAB in Barra

INSIDE THIS WEEK: Summer in the Garden for outside inspiration



SPEEDO MICK ARRIVES IN OBAN

No go for level zero

Scotland's full return to normality looks set to be delayed until late July, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has indicated, writes Ellis Butcher.

A full review of protection levels for the country is due next week, but, addressing the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday, the First Minister said cases rose 'fivefold' in the past week alone and are now five times higher than they were in early May, adding: 'Instead it is more likely we will opt to maintain restrictions for a further three weeks and use that time to vaccinate, with both doses, as many more people as possible.'

In Oban, the high school has confirmed a case of Covid, with pupils identified as being close contacts of the student now self-isolating.

Latest figures from June 5 to June 11 from Public Health Scotland show across Argyll and Bute there has been 31 confirmed cases of the virus, including five in Oban South and three in the Benderloch Trail area. Other neighbourhoods in Oban, Lorn and the Isles might have zero to three cases but those figures are not shown in a bid to protect patient confidentiality.

Continued on page 2.

Homeless man shocker

Council under fire after charity claims man needing emergency accommodation was told to 'sleep at the police station'

A charity boss has blasted Argyll and Bute Council after a homeless man was told to sleep at Oban police station due to there not being any emergency accommodation available in the town, writes Ellis Butcher.

William McColgan, who is in his 40s, bedded down for two nights on a metal bench in the foyer of the Albany Street station on the advice of a council social worker, according to Colin McInnes, chairman of Homeless Project Scotland.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has now called on council bosses to provide a 'full explanation' after it failed to help Mr McColgan in his 'hour of need'.

The Glasgow-based charity got involved after Mr McColgan reported being homeless via its national helpline having been suddenly laid off from a job with tied accommodation.

The charity advocated on his behalf and accommodation was provided by the council

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OT

Anger over homeless man shock

Continued from page one.

after his two nights in the police station, but Mr McInnes remained highly critical about the council's speed of response, its quality of provision and an apparent breakdown in communication which left Mr McColgan waiting on a phone call, he said.

'It's criminals who sleep in police stations, not homeless people,' said Mr McInnes, a co-founder of the charity. 'I have never before come across a situation of someone being told to sleep in a police station. It is appalling, unacceptable and totally inhumane.'

'To comply with the law in Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council should have some temporary or emergency accommodation available and if it doesn't, it should ensure it gets someone into a hotel, hostel or temporary furnished flat. As a charity we are very upset.'

The incident happened on Bank Holiday Monday and there had been difficulty contacting hotels to secure a room, he said. The problem came to light after the charity recently announced it had raised the

issue with council leaders, councillors, local ministers and Scottish Government ministers, including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, and hit out after what it called a 'lack of acknowledgement' to the problem.

Mr McInnes pledged: 'Homeless Project Scotland will be coming to Argyll and Bute and scouring the area to check whether homeless

'It's criminals who sleep in police stations, not homeless people.'

people are being properly supported. This is only one incident that we know about. How many others are not being represented properly?'

He also claimed the council had asked Mr McColgan if he could get to Dunoon – a 75-mile trip from Oban – which was impossible because he had no transport or money, with the charity paying £10 into his account for food.

Brendan O'Hara, who represents the area for the SNP

in Westminster, called it a 'concerning and unfortunate' incident.

He said: 'My first thoughts are with him and I am grateful to the police officers who gave him somewhere to stay.'

'A police station bench is far from ideal, however, and I have written to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council to ask for a full explanation of what happened and a reassurance that anyone who is in need of emergency accommodation in Oban or any other part of the constituency gets the appropriate assistance they need.'

The council has remained tight-lipped and said it cannot comment on individual cases.

A spokesperson said: 'We do everything we can to provide temporary accommodation for anyone who approaches us stating they are homeless or about to become homeless. We then work with registered social landlords in the area to find appropriate, long-term accommodation.'

Mr McInnes said police in Oban 'had the decency' to give Mr McColgan shelter and do as much as they could, despite it not being their responsibility.

Parents to have say in uniform row

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Parents are going online to get their say on 'silly uniform rules' at Oban High School.

Comments raging on Facebook led to Information Oban shutting down the uniform discussion and a new chat page was set up instead to carry on the conversation at OHS Uniform Chat.

Oban councillor Julie McKenzie also got inundated with calls and now plans to host a surgery-type meeting on Zoom on June 21 at 7pm so parents can be heard and she can fully represent their views to the council. She has also set up an online poll.

Last week The Oban Times reported how one 14-year-old was sent to guidance for wearing flesh-coloured tights even though there was no mention of tights in the school's uniform policy. The policy was amended later that same day to list black tights as being acceptable.

Councillor McKenzie said: 'I just want to help find a solution. I think this will be a good starting point for parents to feel their voices are being heard.'

'Feelings are running high. These parents are crying out for proper dialogue.'

'Council policy is clear that we don't enforce that children wear uniform yet there are these silly rules going on,' she said.

It was recommended at a meeting of the education committee in August 1997 that all schools in Argyll and Bute should encourage adopting 'a distinctive dress code' but guidance states school uniform is not compulsory and that it is not policy to insist on pupils wearing it.

Head teachers are asked to include that information in their school's handbook, also saying pupils will not be deprived of any educational benefit as a result of not wearing it.

Councillor McKenzie said: 'Our priority should be settling pupils back into school after Covid and that means not making it harder for them.'

'There is a risk of damaging a young person's self-esteem if they get stopped at the door for not looking right or fitting in.'

'I am not anti-uniform. I wore uniform myself at Oban High School and was proud to wear it.'

'Uniform is important but I believe the school is taking it a step too far with nit-picking over little items. I have been told the school even has its own collection of shoes if any pupils come in wearing ones deemed inappropriate.'

Councillor McKenzie is still waiting for answers from the council on the uniform and enforcement issue.

'I'm getting no answers out of the council which is highly concerning. I'm horrified with the anecdotes I've been hearing from some parents. Because of the level of representation I've been getting I'm planning a Zoom meeting for parents so we can have a discussion and share information while looking for a sensible way forward and trying to find a solution,' she said.

To get the link for the June 21 meeting either email julie.mckenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk or go to www.facebook.com/JulieMcKenzieSNP/posts/3965137723599950

The link for the online poll on uniform rules can be found at on the uniform rules at <https://poll.app.do/ohs-school-uniform-rules/tY9PYW86>

Superbusker's mum says thanks

The family of a young busker who saved a runaway toddler have thanked the community for their heartwarming well wishes and generosity, writes Ellis Butcher.

Aidan MacLeod, aged 19, who regularly busks outside The Corryvreckan, scooped the youngster to safety after he made a sudden dash for the dockside having slipped his parents as they left the Wetherspoons venue last month.

Eyewitnesses watched in horror as the youngster climbed onto the wall high above the water before Aidan suddenly appeared to stop him falling over the side.

A GoFundMe fundraising page was set up for people to show their support and in a short time it raised more than £400 for the teenage singer and guitarist whose bravery was featured on the front page of The Oban Times.

More than 26,000 people saw his story on the paper's Facebook page and others have



Aidan MacLeod and his mum wanted to thank everyone.

been quick to dig deep and drop donations in his guitar case when he is out entertaining. A national newspaper in Scotland also followed up his heroics.

Aidan's mum, Amanda Waddell, has now thanked all those who have contributed, while Aidan said he plans to use the money to purchase a new laptop to create and write his own songs.

Amanda said: 'We are all very proud of him. The

response has been overwhelming and really nice for Aidan. We have had loads of messages on Facebook and WhatsApp from hundreds of people, from family and friends to the wider community. Everyone has said what a little star he is.'

As a baby, Aidan was not expected to live after contracting a life-threatening form of meningitis at four months old, said Amanda, who works at St Columba's Primary School.

He spent 10 weeks in a specialist hospital in Edinburgh – three of those in intensive care – with his family warned he would be left severely brain damaged. But a top neurologist called him 'a little miracle' and Aidan fought back to confound the experts and go on to live a fulfilling life, attending Oban High School and learning the guitar.

Aidan said: 'I was overwhelmed with all the nice comments and everyone that donated. I keep getting people asking, 'were you the guy on the front page?'. It has not stopped.'


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Princess Royal flies in to open Barra's CAB office



by Kathie Griffiths
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Barra marked the official opening of its new Citizens Advice Bureau with the help of royalty.

HRH Princess Anne arrived by helicopter and was accompanied on June 7 by Vice Lord Lieutenant Elizabeth McAtear, who is based in Barra and is a founder member of the Barra CAB.

Two staff are based at Barra CAB giving free, independent, confidential and impartial advice four days a week to people living there and on Vatersay.

Figures from last year showed they helped 327 people with 546 problems resulting in an extra £141,550 coming into homes from new or additional benefits claimed, wages due or a reduction in debts.

Strategic manager for



HRH Princess Anne flew into Barra to open the island's new Citizens Advice Bureau.

Photograph: Stephen Kearney.

their needs and concerns. The need for and complexity of our services increases every year and we continually adapt to meet these new challenges. Debt, fuel costs, remote living, benefits and problems with mental health continue to be a major source of our work.'

Mr Hankinson added: 'Finding a suitable site for our offices is particularly hard and often any premises we do find do not have the length of lease to make our service secure. Therefore these premises at Castlebay are a vital part of the services we provide to the whole of the Western Isles.'

Registered charity WICAS also has offices on Harris, Lewis and Uist.

Western Isles Citizens Advice Service (WICAS) Steven Hankinson, who was there to welcome Princess Anne, said the real figure was much higher. He said: 'We can only audit figures notified to us by our clients. Research has shown that the actual figure is several times more than audited.'

'The service we provide is well known, well respected, well established and is vital for the people of the Western Isles. The frontline nature of the advice we provide often means we are the first to identify the issues affecting the citizens of the Western Isles and this gives us a unique insight into



Top: Princess Anne with Vice Lord Lieutenant Elizabeth McAtear and, above, Castlebay Community School pipers give Princess Anne a musical welcome. Photographs: Stephen Kearney

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OT

Faults cancel Oban breast screening sessions

Faults with a mobile breast screening unit meant about 200 routine appointments had to be cancelled in Oban, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The unit outside Oban hospital will now be staying two days longer than planned, with late evening sessions being run to allow as many of those cancellations to be rescheduled as possible.

The service arrived on April 6 but early on developed a generator issue which was repaired the same day. New appointments were given soon after.

On Thursday June 10 another fault developed, this time with the mammography equipment, and engineers were called in on Monday June 14 to fix it.

But the fault reappeared after two clients were imaged so the engineer returned and began to source parts to carry out more repairs, fixing it the same day, said a spokesperson for NHS National Services Scotland. Normal service was due to restart on Tuesday.

Anyone affected can expect



The screening service parks in the hospital car park.

a letter or telephone call offering a new appointment on or before June 25, meaning a maximum two-week wait for some since their cancellations.

Women not wanting to be screened in Oban will be offered an appointment where there is availability, as will anyone wanting screening once the unit has left.

'The service has made every effort to provide alternative appointments following this situation, which was outwith its control,' added the spokesperson, who said the unit is regularly serviced and that faults cannot be predicted on age.

Olle weighs anchor in Oban to thank charity

by Kathie Griffiths
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Sailor Olle Nash who has a rare form of cancer dropped anchor at Dunstaffnage Marina on his around the UK voyage raising money for Macmillan.

Mr Nash, who stops from time to time to return home for treatment, has so far raised £6,615 of his £10,000 target in his yacht Renegade.

The 63-year-old former gulf War veteran left Fox's Marina in Ipswich on May 22 heading north to Inverness, the Caledonian Canal, Oban and the Western Isles taking in Mull.

Mr Nash, whose daughter Toni died from pancreatic cancer, will be taking a break at the end of June for chemotherapy before heading back out to sea to Jura, Islay and over to Ireland before return-



Olle Nash, third right, on his yacht Renegade with friends, and Rosemary Young and Joyce Coope on the pontoon.

ing home on August 28 via Padstow, Plymouth, Poole and Brighton.

Oban Macmillan representatives Rosemary Young and Joyce Coope went to meet him at Dunstaffnage.

'It was almost dark when we met as he had been held up in the Caledonian Canal for five hours and everyone on board

was extremely tired. However, he was amazingly cheerful, positive and lovely,' said Mrs Young.

Mr Nash said his sea mission was his way of dealing with cancer as it helped focus him on something other than his health.

'There is no better way than to do something you enjoy

and for me that is sailing. I achieve this with the continued support I get from friends, family and the local Macmillan day centre where I get my chemotherapy treatment. I have experienced this amazing organisation during my own cancer treatment and tragically when my daughter needed help in 2017 and I cannot thank them enough,' he said, encouraging people to follow his sailing challenge and wherever they can visit him to say hello if he arrives in their home town.

To make a donation to Olle's Liferaft appeal go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olle-nash>

Robust talks promised for cluster school proposal

Robust consultations will be carried out before Argyll goes ahead any with plans for cluster schools, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Councillors at Thursday's Community Services Committee unanimously agreed there needed to be an extensive community engagement to discuss and develop new ways of running and maintaining rural schools.

A programme of consultations will be carried out on a council-wide basis to provide maximum opportunity for communities, parents and carers, teachers, head teachers, trade unions and elected officials to have their say.

Input received will be central to shaping the Education Transformation Programme proposals before they are presented back to the Community Services Committee.

The council says its Transformation Programme 'promises to enhance the region's education services through better access to resources and staff, strengthened leadership and enhanced connections among schools and that collaboration begins



Councillor Yvonne McNeilly.

right now with a proposal for community and stakeholder engagement.'

If the changes go ahead, it could see schools covering from ages three to 18 working together in clusters. Instead of each school having its own head teacher, there would be an executive headship for each cluster. Resources would also be bought and shared out in each cluster. Teachers would also work for a cluster rather than one particular school so they too could be shared, for example to give cover.

At Thursday's meeting, members of Argyll and Bute's Community Services Committee had been asked by officers to agree and note a

number of recommendations as part of a Transformation Programme.

In Argyll, 48 schools are listed as remote or very remote. Schools' locations would be a dominant factor in grouping clusters.

A report said the council's intention was to phase in the cluster model, starting first in Kintyre, Bute and Dunoon.

After Thursday's meeting Argyll and Bute Council's Policy Lead for Education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said she was delighted the Community Services Committee unanimously agreed to expand engagement with communities across Argyll and Bute.

'The best outcomes for our young people are at the heart of all our work. We are a council that listens to our communities and this proactive engagement programme will be at the core of our decision-making.'

'To provide the very best for our children and young people we must take positive action to deliver a sustainable education service. This expanded engagement programme is one such positive action,' she said.



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Speedo Mick makes braves Oban weather

by Ellis Butcher
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Speedo Mick lived up to his name, turning up in Oban skimpily dressed for a Scottish spring. The 56-year-old fundraiser caused quite the stir in his Everton swimming trunks, club scarf, New Balance trainers and trapper hat.

Having got off the ferry from Eriskay, intrigued female fans wanted selfies as generous donors stuffed notes into his hands. Mick admitted the Outer Hebrides had been 'absolutely freezing' but the warmth of the reception he receives keeps any cold at bay.

Oban was his latest port of call on a mammoth five-month trek across the UK and Ireland – not bad for a bloke who said he was never good at sport.

With lockdown eased, the founder of the Speedo Mick



Foundation is meeting charities as he redistributes funds from a previous 1,000-mile charity trek from Land's End to John O'Groats, just before Covid struck.

With the pandemic leaving many charities struggling to drum up money, it's been Mick's mission to go around and 'give back'. He said: 'The reaction has been absolutely

fantastic. People have been giving me £5 and £10 all smiling, all asking questions, all wanting to give us a hug and all wanting a photo. We've all been locked down and everyone's looking for a little smile and I give them it – in me knickers!'

Indeed, one adoring admirer in Oban suggested the rear of his trunks should be emblazoned not with Everton, but

Speedo Mick brought a hat and scarf to stave off the worst of the Oban winds.

the name of a certain North London football club!

The journey is all part of the ongoing turnaround in Mick's life from a difficult childhood and troubled teenage years. It led to homelessness, depression, addictions to drink and drugs, begging on the streets and suicide attempts.

But having finally plucked up the courage to ask for help in his mid-30s, he went on to swim the English Channel in 16 hours as a novice to raise money for a homeless charity, which is where the 'Speedos' idea took root.

The tag then stuck when he went to an Everton game, sneaked into the toilets at Goodison Park and emerged

before the stunned stadium clad in only his 'budgie smugglers' to announce he was back from the brink.

It was the channel swim that made Mick believe in himself again. His message to people was: 'Don't give up. Ask for help. I thought I knew all the answers but all my answers took me to homelessness, destitution and addiction. I had to learn to trust somebody else.'

Speedo Mick also got a big welcome in Taynuilt where he was given a bed for the night and food at the Taynuilt Inn. The next day he received a great send-off as Emma Hill piped him on his way to Loch Awe.

Taynuilt Inn manager Jordan Foster said: 'What a character Speedo Mick was.'

'He kept everyone smiling and laughing. We gave him £200 in donations from staff and villagers.'

Oban trials for MV Pentalina

Ferry spotters lined the terminal in Oban this afternoon to mark the arrival of the MV Pentalina catamaran.

The 70m-long Pentland Ferries vessel, based in the Orkneys, arrived at 12.30pm after a trip from Campbeltown.

It was then put through its paces under the careful watch of crew members, CalMac staff and intrigued onlookers.

It is undergoing berthing trials at terminals along the West Coast as Transport Scotland looks to solve a growing headache over the lack of resilience in the much-loved, but ageing, CalMac fleet serving island communities. No decisions have been made on any plan by CalMac to lease the catamaran as a potential back-up, but the arrival of the Philippines-built vessel drew a number of official CalMac onlookers as she went through different exercises at the dockside.

The MV Pentalina left Kirkwall on Friday and has called at Arran and Campbeltown with a visit to Mull expected.

See www.obantimes.co.uk for photograph special.

Mothballed school could be saved again

A Connel school set for mothballing in August has life left in it yet, says councillor Elaine Robertson, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Argyll and Bute Council's Community Services Committee approved recommendations to temporarily close Achaleven Primary School when it met online on June 10 but it might not be 'the end of the road' for it, Councillor Robertson told The Oban Times.

The tiny school was mothballed about a decade ago but was saved by villagers – and

that could happen again. 'If there is an influx of families moving into the area and they want their children to go to the school then it could re-open, so it's not necessarily the end of the road for Achaleven. It survived after being mothballed before,' she said.

The Community Services Committee will review it next June, deciding whether to continue mothballing it or start consulting on future options, including permanent closure. All the staff have been deployed, except the janitor

who will stay on. The community can also keep using it for events.

'I feel for the village, it's part of the community's fabric. It's an excellent school, achieving good results. Temporarily shutting it is no reflection on the teaching, there's just no pupils,' said Councillor Robertson.

ACHA has built more houses in the area but that has made no difference to pupil numbers at the school. In the early 2000s it had about 60 pupils on its register and a feeder nursery school.

Allow time to get Covid status in post

A Mull man planning a fishing trip to Iceland is warning other holidaymakers to allow plenty of time to get proof of their Covid jags in the post, writes Kathie Griffiths.



Getting an official record of his jags was neither easy or quick for professional fishing guide Guy Bolton, pictured, who was worried he might have to cancel the break, which has already postponed once because of the virus.

It took multiple phone calls to NHS information services

and him enlisting the help of Brendan O'Hara MP before he finally accessed the proof online he would need to show Icelandic airport officials – but even then it would not print out fully.

To get Covid status online via NHS Inform you need the username and password on the letter inviting you for your vaccine. But like many people living in remote areas of Argyll, Mr Bolton's call-up came over the phone.

When he was finally able to

request a written record of his jags via the Covid-19 Status Helpline he was told it would take up to 21 days to arrive by first-class post.

Mr Bolton from fishingonmull.co.uk told The Oban Times: 'If people are planning to travel and think they can leave printing out the status online until the last minute, they need to think again.'

Mr Bolton's paperwork should arrive in time for his trip. Not all countries require the same status proof as Iceland.

The COVID-19 Status Helpline is on 08081 968565.

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Our beautiful flower baskets and troughs are up now, adding to the general bonny-ness of our town and little bay.

Some sunshine, some visitors and we're all ready to go for a fantastic summer season – sunshine is the only unpredictable aspect of this, so we just have to pray and keep our fingers crossed.

We even have some events to look forward to with Oban Comedy Festival starting on June 24, the Oban Games returning in August and Motorfest in September.

There is another event in September but I don't know if I'm allowed to mention it yet, so I'll keep it under my hat for the moment. On top of all that we have Peat and Diesel and Del Amitri to look forward to in the Corran Halls later in the year – getting to hear

live music again will make my happiness complete, and I'm sure I'm not alone in that.

If everything continues to go well we may even have a number of cruise ships with British passengers visiting over the next few months.

Hopefully there will be an announcement by the end of June to let us know if that can happen. I'm really hoping so as there is a fantastic buzz to the town when we have a gorgeous big ship sitting in the bay and little boats ferrying people to and fro. It might all have to be done a little differently this year but with care and consideration shown by everyone I'm sure we can do it safely and continue to get back to normal.

The photograph last week was of the fantastic new fence at The Whisky Vaults beer garden: it's a work of art.

This week it may be just a little bit harder to spot where this is.



Oban man jailed over A816 crash

Driver was uninsured at time of incident

A motorist who caused the death of a woman driver after driving dangerously has been jailed for three years.

Samuel Lloyd crossed into the opposing carriageway of the A816 near Kilmelford before colliding with a Citroen being driven by Julie Goodman, who received fatal injuries.

A judge told Lloyd that Ms Goodman, who ran the Little Potting Shed Cafe in Oban with her husband, had done nothing wrong before the crash.

Lady Scott said the victim was a 'well-loved' woman who had been enjoying her life when it was sadly taken from her. Her family and friends were left devastated.

Lloyd, 28, was driving north-bound on the Lochgilphead to Oban road on the morning of



High Court of Edinburgh

'I have read the many testimonials in your favour which are compelling.'

October 15 in 2018 when the tragedy occurred.

Lady Scott told him at the High Court in Edinburgh last Wednesday, June 9: 'This was a road that you knew well.'

The judge said that to cross

the central line when it appeared he did not know what was coming presented 'an obvious risk of danger'.

Lloyd, of Rockfield Road, Oban, was earlier convicted, following a trial, of causing the death of 58-year-old Mrs Goodman by driving dangerously near to Oude Dam.

He failed to maintain proper observations and crossed into the opposing carriageway when it was not safe to do so.

Lady Scott acknowledged that he was driving within the speed limit at the time and has shown 'considerable remorse'.

She said a background report prepared on Lloyd was 'positive' and suggested that there was no indication he would reoffend.

She told him: 'I have read

the many testimonials in your favour which are compelling.'

The judge banned him from driving for five years and told him he would have to resit an extended test.

Defence counsel Niall McCluskey said Lloyd had shown genuine remorse and his mental health had suffered.

He said Lloyd had previously offered to plead guilty to the lesser offence of causing death by careless driving.

Mr McCluskey said that aggravating features such as speeding or driving after consuming drink or drugs were not present in the case.

Lloyd was also convicted of using the vehicle he was driving at the time while uninsured or unsecured against third party risks.

Can you fill cancer fundraising champion Lillian's shoes?

Marie Curie is looking for helpers in Oban as its fundraising champion Lillian Kermode takes a well-earned step back, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Over the past 13 years Lillian has led a team of dedicated supporters to raise more than £60,000 for the charity that gives care and support to people with a terminal illness and their families.

Lillian has been supporting the charity since Marie Curie nurses cared for her husband and she wanted to give something back.

Marie Curie nurses provide one-to-one care in people's own home allowing loved ones to make the most of their precious time together and Lillian wants to see Oban's support continue.

To help make that happen, Lillian is looking for someone she can pass on her years of knowledge to and would like to become the lead contact for the town.

Marie Curie would also like to give a special thanks to everybody who has supported Lillian over the years, with a special acknowledgement to Catriona Maitland who has been the treasurer and Irene



Lismore candlemaker Hazel MacCormick with Marie Curie fundraiser Lillian Kermode in 2019.

Main who has helped Lillian from the start.

Marie Curie employs more than 2,700 nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals, and, with its nine hospices around the UK, is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS.

Marie Curie community fundraiser for the area Sara Murray said: 'Lillian has been such a key link in the community and we would have been lost without her. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks for all of her support over the years. Lillian and the group have organised daffodil collections, tea par-

ties and much, much more.' And Sarah added: 'Lillian would like to see that the amazing support within Oban continues into the future helping to ensure that Marie Curie can be there when it is needed most.'

'If you have any time to spare and could help out in a small way it would be great to have a chat about the ways to get involved.'

Interested? Contact Sara Murray on 07753 268855 or email: sara.murray@mariecurie.org.uk

You can also visit the Marie Curie Oban Facebook page or go to www.mariecurie.org.uk



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Nothing alien about Coll house plan, appeal rules

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Planners who refused an 'alien' house on Coll have been overruled.

When crofter Colin Kennedy sought permission last October to build a home to downsize and retire to in Arinagour, Argyll and Bute planners rejected it saying it would intrude on views and would be an 'alien' feature on the landscape.

Coll-born Mr Kennedy was told officers had taken into account a commissioned report on building new houses on the island, dated 2006, which had gone on to shape the council's design guidelines for Coll.

The council determined Mr Kennedy's proposal to build on land east of Tigh Na Mara guesthouse would harm the wider landscape.

But Mr Kennedy took his battle to the Scottish Government and on June 3 he got the news he was waiting for – his appeal was successful and consent was granted.

The Scottish Government reporter who weighed up Mr Kennedy's appeal said being 'mindful' of the larger-sized

'The proposal does accord with the local development plan...'

Tigh Na Mara property opposite it, Mr Kennedy's proposal would in fact 'round off and consolidate the built southern boundary of Arinagour' and that it would fit in.

'I have concluded the proposal does accord with the local development plan's settlement strategy and sus-

tainable design principles,' he said. He ended his report by saying: 'It would neither have a significant adverse impact on the landscape or seascape of this part of Coll nor harm the southern approach to the village or its built environment.'

'Rather the proposal would not be an 'alien' feature as described by the council, but a modest, appropriately designed albeit modern, interpretation of a traditional building style reflecting the characteristics of the key traditional buildings in the village, and the island generally, as described in the adopted Isle of Coll Sustainable Design Guidance.

'I therefore conclude, for the reasons set out above, that the proposed development accords overall with the relevant provisions of the development plan and that there are no material

considerations which would still justify refusing to grant planning permission.'

Now Mr Kennedy wants to hear from the council how it got it all 'so far wrong'.

He also plans to claim back the £20,000-plus he spent on legal fees to win his case. 'My expectation is to get all my expenses back from the council,' he said, adding: 'Argyll and Bute Council has killed the economy of Coll. There's no building, no work left for builders. My planning application was straight forward.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We accept the DPEA Reporter's decision. While he disagreed with our conclusion, we note that the Reporter did not find fault with how the council handled the application, nor the manner in which we reached the decision.'

SAS 'review' service after Oban ambulance delay

The Scottish Ambulance Service has apologised and pledged a review after a man in Oban was left waiting more than an hour for medical help, writes Ellis Butcher.

It follows an incident on May 20 where a local man, said to be in his late-50s, ended up flat on his back in 'baltic weather,' in Crannog Lane after taking ill while on a dog walk.

People who rushed to help were concerned he may have had a heart attack or stroke and provided coats to keep him warm.

But they have raised concerns about the delay in response, saying the emergency was reported to 999 at least three times by different people.

One person at the scene became so alarmed that after 40 minutes of waiting, she said she drove around to the nearby ambulance station on Miller Road to raise the alarm in person.

The woman said she was 'shocked' to find three ambulance vehicles parked up on site.

She told The Oban Times she

was not 'putting any blame on any paramedics,' and said: 'The problem is the ambulance station in Oban hadn't been told.'

Her concern is that there was a serious breakdown in communication between the control room and paramedics, with fears it could happen again.

The ambulance service said in the aftermath of the incident that the reason for the delay was 'pressures' to its services that day. It also said the call had been prioritised as 'non life-threatening'.

The new claims were put to the Scottish Ambulance Service, but it declined to respond directly to them. But a spokesperson confirmed 'the first call' was received at 15.35pm and that its first resource arrived just over an hour later at 16.38pm.

A spokesperson said in a short statement: 'We are reviewing this case thoroughly to determine the exact circumstances of the incident and we would like to apologise for any distress caused.'

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OT

Pictured are Sam Newell, left, of Honeywagon, the toilet suppliers, James Fraser of the Friends and Stuart King of the Cawley Group.



Beauty spot toilets

After years of unsuccessful campaigning, the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs has decided to step in and provide temporary toilets beside the popular Duck Bay beauty spot at the southern gateway to Loch Lomond until October this year.

The initiative is being funded by a number of partners including Argyll and Bute Council. Sponsorship is also being provided by the Cawley Group which owns and operates the adjacent Duck Bay Hotel.

Alan Cawley has agreed to allocate staff to regularly clean the toilets and provide toilet-ries and cleaning materials.

The provision of toilets at the busy site, which is used by more

than 300,000 visitors a year, has been widely welcomed.

James Fraser, chairman of the Friends, said: 'It has been a long hard struggle to get to this point but we are delighted that our determination to make something happen at this site has finally paid off and we are grateful to all the partners for contributing to the funding package to enable long overdue and desperately-needed toilets to be provided.'

'I am also grateful to Alan Cawley, who has willingly stepped in to support the initiative with practical day-to-day assistance, as well as investing heavily in the neighbouring Knoll and Viewpoint which once again can now be enjoyed by thousands of visitors.'

Campaign targets selfish dog owners

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban councillor Jim Lynch has backed a new Argyll and Bute-wide poster campaign to up the ante against irresponsible dog owners.

Councillor Lynch was at the June meeting of the council's environment, development and infrastructure (EDI) committee where members were shown a number of poster designs including one with a pair of staring eyes, which is used by Keep Britain Tidy to stop foul dog mess.

Councillor Lynch agreed with members the council was just 'going round the houses' tackling the problem at the moment and more needed to be done – including the poster campaign.

'Some of the posters with eyes scare me but we are going



Councillor Jim Lynch.

round in circles here. I think we need to take more of a positive aggressive action on this, and I think it is a good idea to up the ante,' he said.

Now various groups across the area, including com-

munity councils, are to be contacted to help the Argyll and Bute authority address the problem.

South Kintyre Councillor Donald Kelly told the committee: 'The only way around it is naming and shaming to ensure that the police, maybe for a period of time, allocate some police hours to coach people through the correct process.'

Chairman of the EDI committee Kintyre and the Islands Councillor Robin Currie said: 'It is disgusting – we do not accept humans urinating in public places; why should we put up with dog fouling?'

He then read out this motion which was unanimously agreed: 'Every community in every council area in Scotland is affected by the scourge of dog fouling and the challenges of tackling this particular

anti-social behaviour.

'Here in Argyll and Bute, we want to do what we can for the people who live in and visit our communities.'

'Everyone who cares about their local community has a part to play in tackling dog fouling.'

A report put before the committee outlined some of the actions that the council can and does take to play its part.

'We want to build on this and work in partnership with our communities who share our views about the impact of this,' said Councillor Currie.

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Fly tipping complaints sees Islay recycling bins removed

Recycling bins on Islay have been removed because of fly tippers, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Council officials decided to take the bins away from Port Charlotte because of the volume of complaints they received about other rubbish being dumped next to them – The bins were also on private land.

The council has told Islay councillor Alastair Redman that it will not be looking at putting them back.

Councillor Redman said: 'It's baffling that our council will make it harder for people to recycle on Islay as a result of a few bad apples fly tipping.'

'If fly tipping happens at other sites will more of our recycling bins be taken away?'

He added: 'We should be encouraging people to recycle and taking away public recycling points is a step in the wrong direction.'

On the isle of Gigha residents are complaining about an old cattlegrid abandoned at the roadside.

Islanders want the mass of mangled metal removed but instead it has stayed where it



Recycling bins in Port Charlotte have been taken away by the council because of fly tippers

was left more than five weeks ago and is becoming an eyesore.

Councillor Redman said the council's lack of response was disappointing.

'I'm still receiving justifiable complaints from my constituents on the island about the mass of mangled metal which was the old cattle grid and was placed next to the road but has still not been removed.'

'The cattle grid had white wooden barriers on each side which were damaged during the removal of the metal.'

'These have now collapsed on one side and on the other side a single wooden beam is supported by a single wooden post which is not secure. The beam on this side could easily swing out and hit a vehicle,' he said.

And he added: 'It is disappointing that despite promises by Argyll and Bute Council road services to remove the mangled cattle grid the object is still sitting there as a blot on Gigha's beautiful landscape.'

However, the council did turn out to put a layer of tar on the old grid area.

The show must go on... but where?

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The search is on to find a new Oban site for September's visiting fairground.

Tommy Evan's Hamilton-based family have been bringing thrill and spill rides to the town for more than 150 years but this year they have hit a hitch. Traditionally the fairground takes up residence at Mossfield car park but that space has been lost to a Covid testing station that arrived back in December and will now be staying until the end of the year.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish is trying to save the day and find an alternative site for the fairground but says he is struggling.

One possibility, however, could be the Lochavullin car park near Tesco.

Mr Evans said: 'Oban people look forward to us coming and we look forward to it too. We grew up in Oban, so a lot of people know us and we know them. We wouldn't want to



The walk-through Covid testing site is currently at Mossfield seven days a week.

disappoint them. Roddy is doing his best for us.'

The fairground travels across Scotland, including Campbeltown and Inveraray, where permission is granted by the Duke of Argyll for the rides to go on the green at the

shorefront on Loch Fyne.

In the past the fairground has moved around Oban, originally at Lochavullin and also on an area where Tesco now stands.

'We are keeping our fingers-crossed we find a place.

We haven't officially been told Mossfield is ruled out but we can't be there if the testing centre is still there. We have got time on our side until September but didn't want to leave it too late.'

The walk-through corona-

virus testing centre opened at Mossfield car park in December.

At the time the UK government said it would stay in town as long as it was needed, open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm and part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities ever created in British history.

Councillor McCuish said: 'It's causing a bit of a problem. The car park is needed for a number of events that might still go ahead this year. Originally it was thought the testing centre would only be here until April but now it looks like it will be here at least until December. The ideal solution would be for the testing centre to move lock, stock and barrel temporarily elsewhere so the space could be used as events need. After generations of the fairground coming to Oban it would be a shame if the testing centre stopped it.'

Organisers of what would be the 150th Oban Games at Mossfield Stadium are still planning for it to go ahead

on Thursday August 26 but are looking for alternative car parking nearby.

Games steward Paul Nicoll said the games going ahead all hinged on receiving good news from the Scottish Government on a Covid recovery grant and any official announcements from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon closer to the time.

'At the moment we are planning as if the games are still going to go ahead. We're hoping to hear about the grant in the next week or so. Basically the grant would underwrite any money we pay out for the games if it has to be cancelled. We're a charity and can't afford to lose on it. We also depend on what announcements are made by Nicola Sturgeon closer to the time. It may be that we have to call it off for this year and wait for a 151st anniversary celebration instead.'

'We know the athletes are keen for it to go ahead, the heavy athletes in particular, and the Highland dancing. We've also had an email about the piping,' said Mr Nicoll.



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Porpoise can be found off Scotland's west coast and have a Special Area of Conservation in the Inner Hebrides and Minches. Photograph: Lewis Drysdale

Seal scaring devices may harm harbour porpoise

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Marine scientists in Oban have found noise from scarer devices used to stop seals eating farmed fish and damaging nets, may unintentionally harm other species like harbour porpoises.

Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs), used to stop seals eating farmed fish and damaging netting, emit an unpleasant sound and were introduced as an alternative to shooting seals.

A new study by scientists at Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and the Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) has made its findings based on combined noise from ADDs from 120 fish farms covering an area from Cape Wrath to the Clyde.

The study area included the Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for harbour porpoises, the largest of its kind in Europe.

Research using data from 2017 showed there were large areas in the SAC that were regularly exposed to high noise levels from ADDs and that the

accumulative levels could result in porpoises experiencing temporary hearing loss up to 28 kilometres from a farm.

The scientists behind the report are now urging marine policy makers and the aquaculture industry to consider the potential large-scale impact that farms emitting excess noise together could have on the eco-system.

'...the large extent of impact zones within a protected area for the species demand careful consideration'

Although newer ADDs are now available, the cumulative noise of these devices and configurations has not yet been assessed.

Lead author of the report Charlotte Findlay, a final year University of the Highlands and Islands PhD student based at SAMS, said previous studies on noise from ADDs had tended to only look at individual farms or areas in isolation.

'Although the ecological consequences of these findings for harbour porpoises are not

fully understood, the large extent of impact zones within a protected area for the species demand careful consideration by policymakers and industry.'

Reducing the noise level and the regularity at which ADDs produce noise and limiting the number of ADDs on a farm can all help to reduce the overall noise in the ocean, said Ms Findlay.

Dr Denise Risch a co-author of the study, published in the Journal of Applied Ecology, added alternative solutions to ADDs, such as the use of more robust netting material and better tensioning of net pens, do exist and have been proven successful in reducing seal predation in some areas.

'Their expanded use should be further explored and encouraged as a way to reduce the overall noise footprint from ADDs on the Scottish west coast,' she said.

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation says that there are currently no ADDs in use at Scottish farms but it would consider redeploying newer devices compliant with Marine Scotland and the US Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), adding that this consideration would be science led.

Special waste pick-up service resumes

Bulky waste removal has restarted in Argyll after Covid put a stop to it, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Argyll and Bute Council can now come and collect large items that do not fit in your wheelie bin, such as beds, mattresses and big pieces of furniture – but if they are in good condition think about recycling or selling them first.

Go to argyll-bute.gov.uk to find out more.

Each year Scotland throws

away around 5,000 tonnes of sofas and 9,700 tonnes of washing machines that could have been reused.

By reusing 15 per cent of all sofas, the equivalent of 1,500 tonnes of CO2 can be saved.

Policy Lead for Roads and Infrastructure Services Councillor Rory Colville said: 'Please make reuse or recycle your first consideration when replacing bulky items that you no longer want or need.'

'Many companies providing

white goods will now take away your old appliance for recycling if it's not fit to sell or donate to a new home.

'Recycling is not just good for the environment, it also helps to create jobs and boosts the economy.'

The charge for the special waste collection service is £69.90 for a 10-minute collection, if longer it may cost more.

Businesses needing large waste removed should go online to cushelp.com

Teachers undergo trauma training

Teachers and social work staff in Argyll and Bute have been undergoing training to become more trauma aware in order to help support children and young people affected by adversity and traumatic experiences.

Argyll and Bute Council is one of just three local authorities selected by the Scottish Government to take part in the pilot trauma training programme.

Delivered in line with the Scottish Psychological Trauma

Training Plan, developed by NHS Education for Scotland, the training helps to create a workforce that recognises when children or young people are affected by trauma so they can get the support they need.

The council's Policy Lead for Education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'People can be affected by all kinds of trauma: there is no rule book. That is why it is so important that those working closely with our children and young people are able to recognise the signs

of someone who is suffering. The training is not just about identifying a child or young person affected by a traumatic experience, it is about staff having an understanding of what they are going through, what they are feeling, why they are acting a certain way. It is about showing compassion and helping guide them to the care they need to recover.'

'This training is a positive step that will lead to changes and improve outcomes for our children and young people.'

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OT

Rubbish piles on the pressure for bigger bins

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Roadside litter between Dalmally and tourist attraction Kilchurn Castle has piled on pressure for more bins to contain staycationers' rubbish.

Dalmally's litter blight was raised by Oban South councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor at the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee online this month.

Councillor McGrigor said rubbish in the area was piling up.

'With a large influx of people, you get a large influx of rubbish. I passed the stretch between Dalmally and the Kilchurn Castle layby and there is one small bin there. It is a mess, with bags of rubbish everywhere.



'Have we no provisions for rubbish that will appear in hotspots? Is there something that can be done?' he asked.

Council leader Robin Currie

has now called for bigger bins to be put in problem areas.

'If bigger bins are required, then they should be put in place. I cannot accept that

Bigger bins are needed to contain staycationers' litter this summer.

the capacity is such that we cannot have any bigger ones. If there is rubbish piling up beside the bins, then we have to go back and do something,' he said.

Westport Beach near Machrihanish was also left in a mess over the Bank Holiday weekend but South Kintyre councillor John Armour praised the speedy work of the authority's environmental warden service.

He said as well as a serious litter problem that weekend there was also excrement on the dunes.

'I contacted officers for action to be taken, and I have

to say how much I appreciate the speed with which this was dealt with,' he said; but raised a question about how Argyll's wardens will be allocated to different areas.

Jim Smith, the council's head of roads and amenity services, said the council was not intending to leave a sole warden at any one location.

'Wardens are more effective when they are moving around and there is an experiment taking place with Police Scotland.

'Having officers there means that we can go through the corroboration process and have a witness to what is happening,' he said.

GETINTOUCH

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School counselling service

More than 60 referrals have been made to Argyll and Bute's secondary school counselling service in its first four months, a report has revealed.

Counsellors have been in place for pupils at the region's 10 schools since February.

A report to the community services committee at its virtual meeting on June 10 stated most of the 63 referrals were made by school staff. The average age of the pupils is 14.

The report said: 'There is a relatively even balance across males and females, with slightly more females being referred.

'A wide range of referral reasons have been recorded including anxiety, relationships, trauma, bereavement, bullying, low mood and self-harm. Referrals are mostly being received from school staff.

'Early indications are that young people with particular vulnerabilities, such as having additional support needs, being care experienced or being a young carer, are supported to access the service.'

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT ATLANTIS

As government restrictions continue to ease, community facilities like Atlantis are able to gradually reopen following closure during lockdown, writes Nick Wesley.

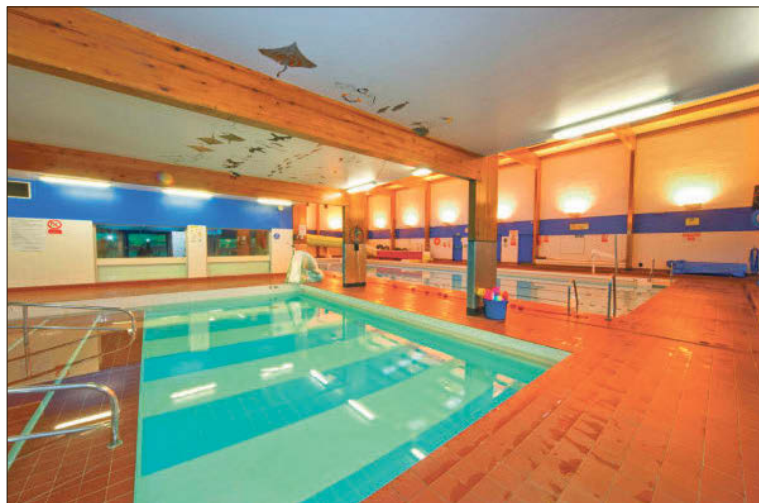
It's been all go at Atlantis as the team continues its phased reintroduction of activities. Read on to find out more.

Pool

The pools reopened on June 1 with lane swimming, private swimming lessons and family fun sessions available via an online booking system on our website.

We're delighted to welcome Emma D'Arcy as the new Oban Swim School Coordinator. Emma has always had a passion for swimming first lit many moons ago in our own small pool where she learned to swim with both Oban Otters and Oban Life Savers.

After a spell away from Oban to further her career in sports development, which included a stint in the United States, Emma came back to town and has already been helping out with the Swim School for the past seven years. Emma's appointment comes ahead



The pool has reopened for lane swimming, private lessons and family fun sessions via an online booking system on the centre's website.

working for many years in the team before pursuing a career in teaching and starting a family. Jade is helping us run our new Community Fitness programme, details of which can be found on our website.

PlaySport

PlaySport continues to enjoy enthusiastic participation as more than 100 young people join a team led by Claire and Kevin each week.

PlaySport offers access to a varied programme, including football, athletics, tennis and climbing. Gregor Brydon continues to support the programme with tennis tuition.

The team is boosted by two former Atlantis members of staff who volunteered to help out in whatever way they can. Lucy and Erin – it's great to have you back with us.

As the year rolls into summer, we're working in partnership with other local community-run organisations to plan a summer holiday programme that builds on the groundwork that PlaySport achieves throughout the year.

Details will be made available on our website and social

media channels once finalised.

Café

Beth and Iain have been busy behind the scenes to get the café ready for reopening in time for the summer school holidays. Some of the work they've completed includes a new coffee machine and new floor in the café itself. Keep an eye on our social media channels for news of when the café will reopen.

Facilities

We've been working behind the scenes to continue our ongoing grant funding applications.

Due to our success with some of these, we've been able to continue to look after the centre and ensure an excellent level of cleanliness in the post-Covid era. We've been able to renew some of the 25-year-old flooring throughout the centre, as well as refurbishing the wet-side changing toilet facilities. This comes as we continue our three-weekly electrostatic fogging schedule to ensure added protection and safety for the community and our staff.

of the Swim School starting back after the summer school holidays.

Ahead of reopening our pools, we recently ran a Royal Life Saving Society pool lifeguard session RLSS. This qualified the remaining cohort of staff to the highest standard, ready for the first of the returning swimmers.

Staff

Claire Hutchison has taken on a new role within the Atlantis team. Alongside working on

Atlantis' marketing, swimming teaching and coaching responsibilities, Claire will be co-ordinating our StayActive Programme.

StayActive works alongside Lorn Healthy Options graduates to help them keep up the great progress they've made. StayActive uses supervised sessions in the gym as well as education sessions to offer this support.

After four years of hard work and valuable input, Iwan Roberts is leaving Atlantis for pastures new later in the

month. Iwan will still be based in the town with wife Lindsay as they both continue to contribute to the life of the community, including Iwan serving as a director on the Adventure Oban board. Iwan will be sorely missed and we wish him all the very best with his exciting times ahead.

Group Fitness Class

We're delighted to welcome Jade Brown back to the coaching team at Atlantis. Jade is a familiar face in the centre,

Oban station toilets remain out of action

The toilets at Oban railway station look to remain shut for the foreseeable.

The loos have been out of action now for more than a year, said former community councillor David Gallant, a regular passenger.

He has raised the issue with ScotRail and Transport Scotland, and said the waiting shelter at Oban Station had also recently been roped off to prevent passengers from using it.

In reply, ScotRail said that prior to the pandemic and lockdown, it had been investigating a fault with the toilets at the station in Oban.

A spokesman said: 'However, when Covid-19 restrictions were put in place in March 2020, we took the decision that the configuration of the toilets did not allow for efficient physical distancing so they would close and remain closed until the restrictions were lifted. We will investigate the fault again once this happens.'

ScotRail confirmed the toilets at Dumbarton Central and Dalmeir were 'available



on request' after Mr Gallant said he had noticed they were also blocked to public access.

'The safety and comfort of our customers and staff is our top priority and we take the cleanliness of toilets and of all touch points extremely seriously at ScotRail,' said the company.

National transport agency Transport Scotland said it was aware of the closure in Oban.

SQUIRE inspections of stations, trains and CCTV are part of the Abellio ScotRail franchise agreement and are so-called as they are a 'service quality and incentive regime'.

But SQUIRE inspections have been suspended since

March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions and will only resume 'when government guidelines allow'.

This has meant issues such as station toilets have not been subject to the same level of scrutiny as they were pre-pandemic with some problems going unfixed.

Mr Gallant said on one occasion recently the toilets on a train service from Oban were also out of order which underlined the need for working conveniences at the platforms.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, depute provost for Argyll and Bute Council, said Oban had to do better for its reputation with visitors.

He said: 'It's with extreme disappointment that this has been brought to my attention.'

'I would urge ScotRail to arrange for the toilets to be reopened as soon as possible.'

'It's extremely bad when you have a reputation as a tourist town.'

'If ScotRail is simply struggling to find someone to do the work, I could put them in touch with a number of very good local plumbers.'

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OT

Oban sea cadets seek new shipmates

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban Sea Cadets celebrating a top award for sailing through lockdown challenges are looking for new shipmates.

A commendation by Sea Cadets Northern Area Officer Commander Garry Farmer put on record the exceptional achievements by the Oban cadets to keep going during the Covid-19 pandemic by meeting online.

Petty Officer Rab Neil said the cadets were pleased with the commendation just as the group starts a new recruitment drive for boys and girls aged 10 to 17.

They can now meet in person at the Cadet Hall in Tweeddale Street every Thursday at 6.30pm.

Earlier this month the sea cadets went aboard the TS Royalist sailing ship at Oban North Pier for their first offshore trip since lockdown began.

Petty Officer Neil said the cadets were excited to get back on the water and what better than a trip aboard the TS Royalist that won the 2017 Tall Ships Race. 'Once aboard, the cadets were put into watch groups - forward starboard and aft port. They were then given an induction on safety,



Oban Sea Cadets with TS Royalist, winner of the 2017 Tall Ships Race.

training drills for hosting sail, seamanship, steering the vessel and finally putting this all into practise once under way.

'A great day was had by all and many of the cadets said they would like to book onto one of the Royalist cruises. These tester voyages provided free to cadets are a great way to get youngsters involved in nautical adventure and possibly spark an interest for a sea career in the future,' said Petty

Officer Neil. Oban Sea Cadets also attended the memorial service at Pennyfuir of Oban's fallen hero of the Falklands War, Marine Gordon McPherson.

Last year Covid stopped the cadets from attending the annual ceremony.

Anyone interested in joining Oban Sea Cadets should email trainingobansea@obansea.gov.uk or telephone Petty Officer Neil on 07876 697415.

'These tester voyages provided free to cadets are a great way to get youngsters involved in the nautical adventure and possibly spark an interest for a sea career in the future.'



Oban Sea cadets on board the TS Royalist.



This was the first off-shore trip for Oban Sea cadets since the pandemic started.

GRAB yourself a loan of a litter pick from Oban Library

A charity is making it easier for communities to litter-pick by loaning out kit.

The GRAB Trust has come up with a Covid-safe way to get people started. Packs containing five litter pickers, a bucket and bin bags are available

on loan from Oban Library. 'A lot has changed in the world, some positive, some not so much. Sadly, litter being dropped and discarded in the environment continues. The influx of face masks and disposable gloves related to the COVID pandemic

has highlighted how irresponsible mankind can be,' said a GRAB Trust spokesperson.

But some folk have been picking up litter on their walks and the GRAB Trust wants to help them keep up the good work. 'The GRAB Trust Beaches

and Marine Litter Project is COVID safe. We hope you will use this equipment to enjoy positive time outside helping fitness and well-being, make your community a nicer place to live and contribute to efforts to stop the flow of plastic into the environment,'

said the spokesperson. People borrowing equipment will be asked to fill out a survey to monitor the scale of the single-use plastic problem and put pressure on businesses to look at their packaging. To find out more, contact Kerry.mackay@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Chilled raspberry-ripple lemon soufflés



1 Syn per serving | 1 hour | Serves 4

Ingredients

- 5 sheets leaf gelatine
- 200g raspberries, reserving 4 berries to decorate
- Zest and juice of 3 unwaxed lemons, plus thin lemon wedges to decorate
- 3 large egg yolks, 4 large egg whites*

Method:

- Tightly tie strips of non-stick baking paper around 4 individual, straight-sided soufflé dishes (about 9cm wide x 5cm deep, or 200ml), leaving a 4cm collar above the rims. Then soak the gelatine in cold water for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, purée the raspberries in a food processor and set aside.
- Put the lemon zest and juice, egg yolks and sweetener in a large, heatproof bowl. Boil a pan of water, then turn off the heat. Place the bowl over the water, making sure the base isn't touching the water. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the lemon mixture for 5 minutes, or until pale in colour and slightly thickened.
- Heat 3 tbsp water in a small pan, so it just covers the base. Squeeze the water from the gelatine. Put the leaves in the hot water, take the pan off the heat immediately and stir until dissolved. Then whisk into the lemon mixture (still over water); set the bowl aside to cool completely.

- 4 level tbsp sweetener
- 500g fat-free, no-added-sugar vanilla yogurt
- *Pregnant women, the elderly, babies and toddlers are advised to choose eggs showing the British Lion stamp if eating raw or partially cooked eggs

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11.45am and 6.15pm

Fort William - Salvation Army Hall,
Monday- 9.15am session full, 10.30am spaces left, new member
session 11.45am, 5.15pm.
Thursday- 4pm, 6pm.

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RNLI cyclist smashes two targets

An RNLI fundraiser who stopped off in Oban as he cycled Great Britain's coastline has smashed two targets.

Aspiring endurance and adventure athlete Harry Lidgley completed the almost 4,500-mile cycle in 34 days – eight days quicker than his 42-day target – visiting all 168 lifeboat stations on the UK mainland on the way.

So far he has raised £1,000 more than his initial £5,000 target, all of which will be donated to the RNLI, the charity that saves lives at sea.

Harry, of Hampshire, set off from RNLI headquarters in Poole in the south of England on Saturday May 1 and returned to the coastal town last Thursday, June 3, averaging 120 miles of cycling each day.

He was two weeks and about 1,500 miles into the challenge when a broken spoke in his wheel near Glenbarr threatened to send him off track.

But he was soon back on the road after Kintyre Wheelers Cycling Club chairman and

Glenbarr resident Robbie Semple came to his rescue.

Robbie gave Harry a spare wheel he happened to have 'in case of emergencies' and offered him a safe space in his garden to pitch his tent for the night.

Harry, who then went on to visit Oban's lifeboat station, said: 'The wheel from Robbie was an absolute lifesaver, though after all the battering it got on the rough roads around the top of Scotland, I was hardly surprised when another spoke broke near Scarborough. Luckily the rim was fine this time, so it was an easy fix.

'Apart from that, things went smoothly and I somehow made it back to Poole without a single puncture.'

Harry said he achieved everything he hoped for during the challenge, adding: 'I got immense satisfaction at completing my circumnavigation, the chance to cycle through some spectacular regions around our coastline and the opportunity to meet



Harry Lidgley completed his cycling circumnavigation of the UK mainland in 34 days.

many RNLI crew members.

'Everyone I met was really enthusiastic about my challenge, which was always a great morale boost.'

The mishap in Kintyre wasn't the only issue he faced during the challenge.

'It wasn't all plain sailing. I had just about every type of weather condition, enduring hail showers and cold nights in the south west of England,

a few washout rainy days in Wales, some very tough headwinds in Scotland and scorching heat on the English south coast as I neared the finish,' he said.

'On days like these I just had to grit my teeth and do the best I could but these are the really valuable days that build your capacity to endure and strengthen your mental

resilience, all good training for future events.'

Harry's online fundraising page remains open for donations at www.gblifeboatcycle.com

Action plan to help prevent suicide

A new group is working to reduce deaths by making Argyll and Bute a suicide-safer community.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Police Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, ACUMEN and other key third sector groups across the area are members of the group being chaired by Fiona Davies, interim chief officer of the HSCP.

The group links in with the Scottish Government's Suicide Prevention Action Plan and has its own action plan to make sure people at risk of suicide, and their families, feel able to ask for help and have access to skilled staff and well-co-ordinated support.

Other aims of the plan include ensuring people af-



ected by suicide are no longer alone, that suicide is no longer stigmatised and that better support is given to people bereaved by it.

'Suicide prevention is everyone's business.

'So let's not be scared to talk about it,' said Ms Davies, who thanked everyone who has got involved.

'We all know the last year in particular with the pandemic has been really difficult for many people and it is therefore really important there is support for people in Argyll and Bute.

'We are lucky to already have so many groups and organisations providing support and advice within their communities and we will continue to work closely with them in their suicide prevention campaigns.

It is important we support local campaigns and link into national campaigns and groups including United to Prevent Suicide.

'We will ensure there are regular updates from the Suicide Prevention Group and we would encourage everyone to get involved, start a conversation and save a life.'

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health or feeling suicidal, ask for help by contacting your GP, Breathing Space on 0800 838587, Samaritans on 116 123 or text SHOUT to 85258.

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Now more than ever, shop local is important, see how your vouchers help!

People thinking of buying a present for a family member, friend or loved one are being asked to buy a Love Oban Gift Voucher.

With Father's Day coming up and year-round celebrations from retirements to birthdays and now weddings, more than 80 businesses in Oban now accept the vouchers.

As well as being a help to those unsure what to buy someone, the highly successful initiative helps keep money in Oban and spent with local independents, said BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence.

Buying a Love Oban voucher ensures the money spent stays within the local economy to support businesses, jobs and local people, he said.

The initiative has proved popular with local people who want to see the town succeed and also people from outside the area.

They have purchased the vouchers online on behalf of those planning breaks in Oban or who are moving to the town to take up employment, said Andy.

He said: 'When you spend local that £1 then regenerates and goes into supporting someone at another local business and is spent in the town.'

'Not just local but every single business is important in Oban as it provides employ-

ment for local people and they also spend in the town.'

Andy said supporting Oban at this time is vital as retailers recover from the pandemic.

The process of buying the vouchers took just a couple of minutes and each comes with a handy guide to where they can be spent.

Andy added: 'We have a lot of new local businesses opening in the town and given what we have just been through, it's clear the town is extremely vibrant and people have got the confidence in Oban to invest.'

'We are a destination town and a key hub.'

As well as buying them directly from the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street, you can purchase vouchers from the following businesses.

The Sports Shop Oban, Argyll Square; Websters of Oban Photographic Centre, George Street; Oban Phoenix Cinema, George Street; Alba Artshop, Albany Street; Button Nose Boutique, Airds Crescent, and Etive Restaurant, Stevenson Street.

Alternatively, you can go online to the BID4Oban website and purchase them in denominations of £10, £20 and £50, but in as high a value as necessary. Visit www.bid4oban.co.uk/overview-love-oban



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Around the markets

United Auctions, Islay, Friday June 11: sold 214 Store Cattle. Bulls sold to £1120 for a LIMx from Mr R Epps, Ardnave to average £981.68 while heifers sold to £1130 for 2, LIMx also from Mr Epps, Arnave to average £925.75. Bulls sold to 319p/kg for 3, 307kg LIMx from Mr R Johnstone, Balaclava to average 251.41p/kg while heifers sold to 299p/kg for a 314kg, LIMx also from Mr Johnstone, Balaclava to average 246.26p/kg. An excellent show of quality bred cattle sold well and to a keen ringside of buyers with many vendors receiving in the region of £100 rise per head on the year. Leading Prices Per Head
Bulls – AAx – £1050(4), Gartacharra; £1050(3), Keppols; £960, £950, Tallant; £930(3), Keppols. CHARx – £1110, £1085(5), Ardnave; £1080(2), Tallant; £1075(3), Ardnave; £1060(6), Gartacharra; £1020(2), Claggan; £1000(2), Carrabus; £980, Claggan; £970(2), Tallant; £960(2), £950, Ardnave. HERx – £1060(3), Balaclava. LIMx – £1120, £1090(2), Ardnave; £1080, Claggan; £1080, Tallant; £1070, Claggan; £1070(4), Ardnave; £1070, Ardbeg; £1060(4), £1050(2), Claggan; £1050, Balaclava; £1030, Ardnave; £1000(2), Carrabus; £990(3), Balaclava; £980, Ardbeg; £980, Claggan; £980(3), Balaclava. SIMx – £970, Carrabus. Heifers – AAx – £940, Gartacharra.

CHARx – £1100(3), Gartacharra; £1060(2), Ardnave; £980(6), Claggan; £970(5), Ardnave. HERx – £865(5), Balaclava. LIMx – £1130(2), £1070, Ardnave; £1070, Claggan; Ardnave, £1040, £1030, £980(4), Ardnave; £940, Balaclava; £940(2), Tallant. Leading Prices Per Kilo
Bulls – AAx – 287p, Tallant; 251p(3), 249p(3), Keppols. CHARx – 290p, Carrabus; 266p, 265p(2), Ardnave; 263p(2), Tallant; 255p(3), 254p, Ardnave; 253p(3), Carrabus; 249p, Callumkill; 249p(2), 247p, Claggan; 243p(2), Tallant. HERx – 254p, 240p, Balaclava. LIMx – 319p(3), Balaclava; 316p, Ardbeg; 301p(2), Ardnave; 293p(2), Carrabus; 293p(4), Balaclava; 287p, Tallant; 286p, Claggan; 283p, 281p, Ardnave; 271p(4), Claggan; 270p, Carrabus; 263p, Ardnave; 262p, Carrabus; 258p(2), Claggan; 257p, Ardbeg; 256p(2), Claggan; 254p(3), Balaclava; 253p, Carrabus; 252p, Tallant; 251p(2), Ardnave; 250p(5), Keppols. SIMx – 285p, Carrabus. Heifers – AAx – 254p(3), Tallant; 248p(8), Keppols. CHARx – 261p(2), 258p(2), Claggan; 253p(5), Ardnave; 240p(6), Claggan. HERx – 252p, Balaclava. LIMx – 299p, Balaclava; 279p(4), Ardnave; 278p(2), 268p(2), Tallant; 267p(7), Balaclava; 264p, 262p(3), 254p(4), 252p, 246p, Ardnave; 246p, Keppols; 246p(2), Balaclava.

Highland triplets surprise

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

A Kintyre farmer was surprised to learn one of his Highland cows was expecting twins – but he got an even bigger surprise when she safely delivered triplets.

When the pedigree cow, registered as Ceiteag of Stac a Chagair with the Highland Cattle Society, was scanned her owner David Laing was told she was carrying two calves. This is not common in Highland cattle, which are a fairly small breed, but it is practically unheard of for a Highlander to deliver three healthy calves from one pregnancy.

But that is what happened about three weeks ago at



Killean, where David rents some land. He explained that after seeing the expected twins safely delivered, he returned to his house in Muasdale for the night: The next day I came up and standing there was the mother and two calves,' he

said. 'Then I heard this noise and I wondered what it was. I heard it again and two seconds later, a third calf came out of the rushes.

'I got quite a surprise. We were expecting twins but we got a wee bonus.'

A third calf was a 'wee bonus'. 50_c23highlandtriplets01

The all-female triplets – which have been named Penny, Poppy and Princess by David's wife Kate – were sired by Lachlan first of Stac a Chair.

David said their mother, a second calver, is managing to feed the trio herself with just a 'wee bit' of assistance.

Born to dam Ceiteag first of Ghiol, sired by Jock of Isle of Bute, the five-year-old cow appeared at Kintyre Agricultural Show when she was two.

In his 30 years of farming, David has never heard of a Highland cow delivering healthy triplets and said he will 'let her off' if the triplets' mother is not in-calf next year.

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Inputs: 3 furrow Ransome conventional plough; 1 furrow Ransome conventional plough; shear grab; quantity of slates; 1 485 Case tractor runs but in need of a some tlc; Fleming hydraulic double bale lifter (2017); Quicke Flexibal bale handler (2017); Chillton bale handler; Fraser M15T grain trailer; super single tyres; Grays buckrake; Marshall QM11 silage/grain trailer super singles; Teagle fertiliser spreader; Claas Aries 616RC tractor, 4500 hrs (2008); Kverneland TenX chopper metal detection. Further Inputs welcome, contact Andrew Weir 07384 514363

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

School dress code talks

Given the stress and disruption our children have had to their education over the past year or so, it is unfortunate many parents and youngsters have been further upset by Oban High School's strict enforcement of its uniform rules.

For many, a school uniform is seen as a good thing which helps foster a feeling of community among pupils. But given that some pupils are being singled out even though guidance states the school uniform is not compulsory, it would appear the opposite is happening and as Councillor Julie McKenzie points out, there is a risk of damaging young students' self-esteem if the school is nit-picking over the colour of tights.

Let's hope a solution that everyone is happy with can be found quickly.

Better safe than sorry

It looks like Scotland's return to normality will be delayed another three weeks, following Nicola Sturgeon's announcement earlier this week. We think her decision is sensible, particularly if it allows more people to be vaccinated fully – something that is already helping to keep more people out of hospital.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

The views expressed on our letters page are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of The Oban Times.

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Skye hospital row

On the subject of the ongoing arguments about the new hospital in Broadford, I know Portree is hoping to retain some facilities, but I feel that criticising the new hospital is not the way forward.

If there is a lack of funding, it should go to Broadford, where services can be co-ordinated across the island.

Interestingly, I found this letter, written by my father Dr Neil MacLeod, on May 25 1958.

'We have had some fun and excitement over the site of the proposed new hospital for Skye as you may have observed from various press reports.'

'We had our local meeting here on Thursday night and we left the department of health in Edinburgh in no doubt whatsoever as to what we wanted and what we intended to do if there was any question of closing down Broadford Hospital and building one in Portree. There was a meeting in Kyle the following night, which Iain Campbell and I attended as observers, and the Wester Ross people backed up the Broadford scheme unequivocally. So now we wait until in some weeks' time a final decision is given by Edinburgh.'

It just goes to show that the troubles over the hospital have not lessened in all the years since.

Una MacLeod, Sleat, Isle of Skye.

Young people and mental health

Resourcing mental health treatment for young people has never been more important after new statistics from Public Health Scotland indicated 161 young people in the NHS Highland area sought treatment between January and March 2021.

We should remember that the consequences of this can be long-lasting. As the report notes, the majority of adult mental health problems begin in childhood, with 50 per cent of mental health problems established by age 14.

This is a reason why my party will continue to push for 10 per cent of the health budget in Scotland to be spent directly on tackling mental health issues. Although NHS Highland's waiting time track record is better than the Scottish average, with 75.2 per cent people seen within 18 weeks, that is still well below the Scottish Government's target of at least 90 per cent of patients being seen within that timeframe. It has never been more important to ensure young people receive the help they need, when they need it.

Donald Cameron, MSP.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

'S iomadh sgeulachd iongantach a th' ann mu cheangal dàimheil eadar daoine agus ainmhidhean de chaochladh gnè, eisimpleirean de ghliocas agus dilseachd anabarrach a' fàs à càirdeas leis na beathaichean sin. Chan eil teagamh nach eil companas pheataichean da-rìribh cudromach dha iomadh neach, agus nan dìon bho aon-ranachd a bhiodh millteach air slàinte bodhaig agus inntinn, agus tha coin gu sònraichte air iad fhèin a dhearbhadh mar chobhair àraid ann an iomadh seòrsa suidheachaidh eadar iùl dha na doill agus lorg dhrogaichean mhì-laghail. Ach fad nan linn nan t-àraichean seo air a bhith ga mhealtainn tha mac an duine cuideachd air a bhith a' sealg 's a' marbhadh beathaichean, glè thrìc feumar aideachadh airson biadh, ach cuideachd airson spòrs! Am beachd mhòran chan eil an sin ach cothrom ga ghabhail air an uachdarachd a thug an Cruithaidhear dhan chinne-daonna thairis orra, agus tha fhios gum bheil an fheallsanachd sin air a dearbhadh feadh an t-saoghail gach latha nuair a tha feòil de gach seòrsa ga h-ithe agus beathaichean gan àrach airson na feòla sin a libhrigeadh. Ach tha ceistean cruaidh gan sìor chur a-nise air ceannardan dhùthchannan an t-saoghail a thaobh buaidh àrach sprèidhe agus ithe feòla air an àrainneachd agus teasachadh na cruinne, agus bidh an cuspair àrd air clàr-deasbaid a' cho-labhairt COP26 ann an Glaschu san t-Samhain seo tighinn.

Cha b' iad a-mhàin na còmhraidhean a bh' aig cruinneachadh G7 sa Chòrn a thug leithid seo

dom inntinn an t-seachdain seo, ach cuideachd naidheachd gum bheil paidhir de dh'ìolaire-an-mara a' neadachadh an cois Loch Laomainn airson a' chiad turas ann an còrr air ceud bliadhna. Tachartas àraid gun teagamh, agus tha dìon ga chur air làrach na nìd le rabhadh gum faod neach sam bith a thèid ro fhaisg agus a chuireas dragh air na h-eòin càin suas gu deich mìle not, neo fiù 's binn priosain, fhulang. Peanasan cruaidh da-rìribh, ach le barrachd cuideam ga chur air dìon nàdair tha aithne cuideachd gum bheil e deatamach binn a bhagairt a chuireas bacadh air daoine bho chion a dhèanamh. Tha sin ga mo thoirt air ais gu coinneamh na Còirne agus na ceistean dùbhlanaich a bh' aig a' chruinneachadh seo de chuid de na daoine as cumhachdaiche san t-saoghal a thaobh an t-srì an aghaidh Covid. Feumaidh dùthchannan an t-saoghail gu lèir stiùireadh a ghabhail bho eòlaichean-saidheans, agus tha iadsan ag aontachadh nach bi Covid19 fo smachd chun am bi banachdach air slughan an t-saoghail gu lèir. Ged a dh'aontaich dùthchannan an G7 co-obrachadh gus banachdaichean a libhrigeadh feadh an t-saoghail gus an smachd sin air a' bhioras a ghreasad, tha sinn fhathast ann an suidheachadh far am bheil daoine saor banachdach a dhiùltadh.

Gun ghuth air a' chunnart a dh'fhaodadh sin ciallachadh dhaibh fhèin, am bheil e cuideachd fìor gum faodadh na daoine sin a bhith a' dèanamh cron a' sgaoileadh na galair air a' mhòr-shluagh?

Let's 'paws' plastic

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is pledging 500 miles to Keep Scotland Beautiful's Summer Clean – and there is still time to take part.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is asking people to pledge time to pick up litter over the campaign, which ends on Sunday June 20 where one hour equals three miles.

Scotland's animal welfare charity received 273 calls to its helpline about animals affected by litter from January to May. That's almost two incidents every day. We see first-hand the devastating consequences litter can have on animals. Seals and birds get caught up in fishing line or wire or animals can ingest

small pieces of rubbish and choke or die. The public should be careful when picking up litter and we ask that children taking part be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Mike Flynn, SSPCA chief superintendent.

Equality or unoriginality

In connection with last week's story about school uniforms, this came to mind:

'We promote fairness and equality in all our schools, which is why we expect pupils attending Oban High to all wear the same uniform,' Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson.

'He shows great originality, which must be curbed at all costs,' school report for Peter Ustinov.

Pete Mackay, Oban.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Village residents make waves over flood concern

Residents worried about future flooding paddled down a coastal village street to raise awareness.

According to predicted sea level rise, Tighnabraich's main road could be underwater by 2050.

Concerned villagers gathered a fleet to make a video of themselves in action. The footage will be used as part of a livestream event by Extinction Rebellion UK.

The Tighnabraich action was one of a number of events at coastal locations the length of the United Kingdom in advance of the G7 summit in Cornwall.

Co-ordinator David Blair who rallied residents to join in the MakeTheWave campaign said: 'We did this to highlight the real threat climate change brings wherever we live on the planet.'

'It was a fun way to raise awareness of sea level rise which will pose a serious challenge to coastal communities in the coming decades.'

To see which areas are projected to disappear beneath the sea in the next 30 years go to coastal.climatecentral.org



Residents gathered a fleet of vessels on the shore road in Tighnabraich to draw attention to projected sea level rise overtaking their main road by 2050. Photograph: John Skarp.

At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Weight to go!

Much has been considered, predicted, speculated and said about the potential impacts on our health as a result of coronavirus, especially with regard to people's weight.

Now, I have to confess that, despite staying as active as possible, I am now officially a lard-arse, having gained more than two stones during the past year.

I mention this because it throws into perspective the brilliant achievement by a number of pals of mine in Oban, who have applied themselves far more beneficially during lockdowns and have lost weight.

I mentioned the other week Allan and Mary McKie, who have shed several stones between them, and then I bumped into young Chris Anton the other day. Chris was a fixture behind the bar at Aulay's for many years but is now working at the Covid test centre in town. He looks far better than when I previously saw him, having lost more than three stones.

They and others - and there are some I could name but won't - really take the biscuit (or not, rather obviously) and look absolutely splendid as a consequence. I simply envy them their determination and the reward it has brought.

I tip my tile to all of you who have managed to achieve what I have singularly failed to. Well done.

Looking fantastic

I mentioned once before that I wanted to send best wishes to Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald, who had a period of ill health.

I'm delighted to say that our paths crossed again very recently while I was carousing with friends in town, at the table next to a group of ladies, including Kay.

I didn't want to interrupt the girls, who were having a high old time, but we engaged eventually, and I was so chuffed to see how well Kay was looking, and by how much she was obviously enjoying being out and about again.

Great to see you, Kay!

What do you think? Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

CalMac helps community garden bloom

A wellbeing garden on Mull is blooming after a boost from CalMac.

Ross of Mull Community Garden will use a donation from CalMac Community Fund to increase activities and opportunities for people of all ages living on the island.

The garden is used by groups, including parent and toddlers and a children's nature club, as well as individual residents. Eight people have their own allotment-style spaces and garden volunteers are working on a scheme to grow native trees for replanting in Tiroran Community Forest. Set up by South West Mull and Iona Development (SWMID) last year, the garden has been developed by volunteers in the grounds of Ross of Mull Historical Centre in Bunessan, led by paid sessional workers.

The community garden is about more than just wellbeing, said Philip Yelder from SWMID. It is also about helping people feel less isolated and

encouraging them to learn more about gardening and growing food.

Mr Yelder said thanks to CalMac's help, the garden would be a welcoming place to be enjoyed by all local people - somewhere to meet, grow, learn and play.

'We will be able to provide a variety of activities, contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community, and reaching out to those who may otherwise be socially isolated,' he said.

Gordon McKillop, CalMac's corporate social responsibility manager, said the garden was a perfect example of a community-led project positively benefiting people's lives.

'The last year has been turbulent for so many and the third sector has responded magnificently across our network.'

'There are still many challenges to come as we progress through the Covid-19 pandemic and I hope the awards we have made alleviate some



Ross of Mull Community Garden at Bunessan has been given a funding boost by ferry operator CalMac.

of the social issues that consequently arise,' he added. For more information about the CalMac Community Fund, go to www.calmac.co.uk/community-fund

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2. Premier Inn



After a day of exploring, it's time to head back for a delicious dinner in their Thyme restaurant and a relaxing sleep in your ultra comfy Hypnos bed.
Website: www.premierinn.com
Tel: 0330 135 9041

3. The Ranald Hotel



Oban's 17 bedroom metro hotel open 365 days of the year. Check availability and book online.
Website: www.theranaldhotel.com
Tel: 01631 562887

4. The Royal Hotel



The Royal Hotel stands in the centre of town close to the harbour and ferry terminal with a wide menu for lunch or dinner. Let someone else do the clearing up for a change!
 Open: Monday - Sunday Lunch 12pm-2.30pm, Dinner 5pm-8.30pm
Address: Argyll Square, Oban, PA34 4BE
Tel: 01631 563021

5. Perle Oban Hotel & Spa



Perle Oban is a luxury hotel in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, merging the perfect mix of rural escape with cosmopolitan comfort. The hotel includes The Lulu Lounge, BAAB Meze & Grill and Mara Spa.
Website: www.perlehotels.com
Tel: 01631 700301

6. Palace Hotel



Modest, Victorian hotel in central location. Family Run with sea view rooms available on request
Website: www.palacehoteloban.co.uk
Tel: 01631 562294

7. The Whisky Vaults Hotel



Award winning boutique hotel in Oban, cosy Whisky Bar and unique Whisky Tasting Room.
Website: www.obanwhiskyvaults.co.uk
Tel: 01631 566722

8. Columba Hotel



The Columba's Victorian charm offers a warm welcome to locals and travellers alike. Their staff will ensure your stay is everything you could wish for.
Website: www.sgehotelgroup.com/columba
Tel: 01631 562183

9. The Scot



Set in the centre of Oban, the family owned hotel blends contemporary style with the local character of our seaside town. Whether you're staying for business or pleasure, the hotel offers a comfortable space to relax and unwind.
Website: www.thescotoban.com
Tel: 01631 562954

10. Muthu Alexandra Hotel



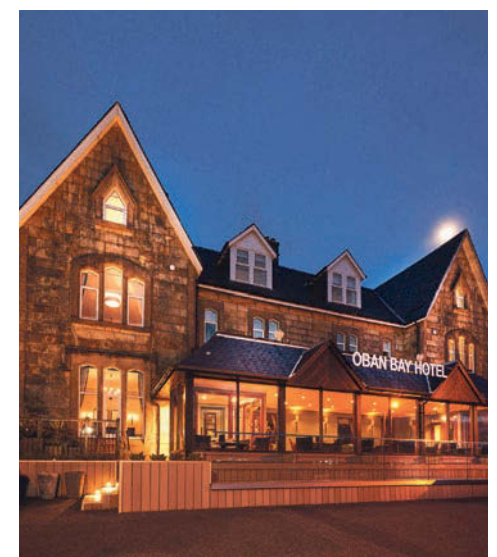
The Alexandra Hotel enjoys one of the most spectacular locations in Scotland. The views across Oban Bay to the island of Kerrera and beyond are an instant joy.
Website: www.muthuhotelsmgm.com/muthu-alexandra-hotel
Tel: 01631 562381

11. Best Western Muthu Queens Hotel



Best Western Muthu Queens Oban Hotel in Oban has been substantially refurbished to offer both Victorian charm and modern, functional accommodation.
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BUSINESS NEWS

Town centre funding boost

Town centres across Argyll and Bute continue to be supported by £1.6m aimed at stimulating economic recovery.

Among those benefitting from the Argyll and Bute Council cash, supported by the Scottish Government's town centre fund are Oban, Tobermory, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead.

A cash boost has been given to 28 projects which will help to bring £9 million to the local economy, the authority said.

Projects being helped range from town centre infrastructure, grants for charitable organisations and shopfront improvements.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for business, regeneration and commercial development at the council, said: 'Good things are happening across Argyll and Bute as we continue to recover from the impact of the pandemic.'

'The town centre fund is providing a welcome boost to many projects helping to support our construction industry and retailers. Creating vibrant attractive places is essential to help long-term economic recovery.'

'As we continue to create opportunities for our communities, we are also building for the future, attracting more people to live, work and visit the area.'

Funding has been granted to the following projects with a completion date of September: Tobermory on Mull will receive £198,000; Bowmore on Islay receives £118,500 and Oban £197,000.

In Oban, projects under way include new welcome signs, enhancements at McCaig's Tower and the town's public realm.

The money is also going towards 'mitigation measures' to deal with motorhomes, a grant to The Rockfield Centre and the town's shopfront improvement scheme.

Campbeltown is to receive £60,500; Rethesay £205,500; Dunoon £255,500; Helensburgh and settlements around Lomond £125,000, and Lochgilphead £233,500.

Seafood firm backs business support

A Kilmore seafood company is among the first to sign up to a new training initiative, writes Ellis Butcher.

Alba Seafood, run by Willie, Karen and Lindsay MacDonald, has joined The Academy, a series of programmes being delivered by Scotland Food and Drink Partnership and training experts Levercliff Associates.

It aims to support food and drink businesses, which were hard hit by Covid 19 and Brexit, sell themselves, build their brands and thrive in a highly-competitive market.

The three training programmes – seeding growth, accelerating growth and commercial excellence – are open to food and drink businesses of all sizes and ambition.

The programmes are the first major investment from Scotland Food and Drink Partnership's recovery plan which was backed with £5 million from the Scottish Government. It will run for two and a half years and support more than 200 Scottish businesses.

Alba Seafood recently joined the 'seeding growth' programme which runs for 12 weeks. It is aimed at companies whose primary focus is maximising their local markets and seeking opportunities in the wider Scottish marketplace.

Karen MacDonald, of Alba Seafood, said: 'My decision to join The Academy was based on the fact that whilst we felt we were able to provide good quality produce, running the business was an entirely different thing.'

'This last year proved to us that we needed to look very seriously at what we were doing and achieving as our business stopped in its tracks from the moment lockdown was announced.'

'The Academy and its programmes could not have come at a better time. With the support of Scotland Food and Drink, we are on our way to strengthening our business and looking at it from a completely different perspective.'

'We are looking forward to the future with confidence and enthusiasm we have never had



Karen MacDonald of Alba Seafood, Kilmore.

before.' Lucy Husband, market development and business engagement director at Scotland Food and Drink, said: 'The Academy aims to bring a renewed sense of positivity and optimism for businesses when it comes to growing their brands. It is fantastic to see so many food and drink businesses focus on their future and revisit their ambitions for growth after an extraordinarily difficult year. These programmes focus on knowledge sharing, upskilling and innovating, and help businesses deliver a real step-change for long-term growth.'

'While we don't know what the future might hold, food and drink will undoubtedly continue to be a key export and economic contributor for Scotland.'

The first cohort of the year-long commercial excellence programme is being finalised and starts next month.

To apply for future cohorts of The Academy visit www.foodanddrink.scot/the-academy/

What it's worth

- Food and drink in Scotland employs 119,000 people with a £14bn turnover – up 36 per cent since 2007
- Overseas food and drink exports from Scotland are worth £6bn – up £570m or 11 per cent from 2016
- Sales of Scottish food and drink brands across the UK are almost £2bn – up £500m on 2007
- 93 per cent of visitors to Scotland dine out, spending almost £1 billion per year, while 81 per cent of its long-haul visitors try local food
- Seafood is sold to more than 100 countries and Scottish salmon is both the UK and Scotland's biggest food export
- Other products Scotland produces and exports include red meat, soft fruit and potatoes

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Doors open on new bespoke Highlandwear Oban studio

The influx of new businesses into Oban after the pandemic continues with a new studio specialising in bespoke Highlandwear.

Alan Moore, director and founder of Connel Bay Scottish Highlandwear, trialled the concept eight months ago and has now made the arrangement permanent with premises at 11 Stafford Street.

Alan, who has family in Oban, already runs an established tailoring business Hunter Kingsley in his home town of Ayr.

He said: 'I have family in Oban so we're through quite often. I found whenever I came through friends of friends were always asking about kilts, tweeds, suits and tailoring but it was difficult to offer something as my business was so far away.'

'Once lockdown restrictions eased, I shared a small studio space with my sister-in-law, photographer Lauren J Fair, and brought up some tartan and tweed books to see if there was any interest.'

'I was overwhelmed by the initial interest from locals and very surprised by the amount of enquiries from clients down south or living abroad who have family in Oban or were visiting Oban to get married and looking for bespoke Highlandwear.'

Since lockdown and travel restrictions were lifted, he has now taken on the small studio in Stafford Street permanently.

Alan said: 'It means I can see clients more



frequently and can start to build a more solid reputation in the town as the 'go to' place for bespoke Highlandwear and tailoring.'

The shop hopes to start offering kilt hire soon and add to it as time goes on.

Alan said: 'Hire kilts is something I'm getting asked about daily and although it wasn't part of the original business model, it's a service I can't shy away from.'

'With the hire service, I'm looking to do things differently in that the range on offer will be 100



Alan Moore, director and founder of Connel Bay Scottish Highlandwear,

per cent made in Scotland, from the tartan and tweed, down to the cutting and sewing.

'There are plenty of Highlandwear hire businesses out there so I'm hoping what we offer will be that bit different and will encourage clients to travel to Oban to buy from us.'

Highland hospitality for carers

A family hotel group is helping give Scotland's army of unpaid carers a much-needed break in the West Highlands.

Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, which runs the Isles of Glencoe Hotel at Ballachulish and Ballachulish Hotel overlooking Loch Linnhe and Loch Leven, is supporting Shared Care Scotland.

The national carer organisation is running 'respite' – a play on words of respite and hospitality. The initiative involves hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses donating breaks which are passed onto unpaid carers across Scotland. Crieff Hydro has donated bed and breakfast stays at all eight hotels in its portfolio and is providing 50 family passes to Glen's Adventure Park at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Crieff, and a group 'Gin School' experience at 1881 Distillery, Peebles.

Nic Oldham, the group's head of customer and commercial, said: 'We hope our donation will allow many unpaid carers the opportunity to take time for themselves and recharge.'

Kerry Donaghy, Respite Scotland co-ordinator, added: 'With many support services still not operating at full capacity because of the pandemic, the pressure on unpaid carers is heavier than ever which is why short breaks are so important.'

'The tourism industry has also taken a massive hit due to Covid-19, so to be offered such a generous package of breaks from Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, particularly when it is still in the recovery period, will mean the world to unpaid carers who need these regular and energising breaks to help them continue caring.'

'We are absolutely delighted to have the support of Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels and look forward to working closely with it now and in the future.'

Furlough scheme still supporting Argyll and Bute

The UK Government's furlough scheme is still playing a vital role in protecting jobs and livelihoods in Argyll and Bute, according to Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

Mr Cameron, of the opposition Scottish Conservatives, said: 'The latest figures, to the end of April, show that 4,400 people across

Argyll and Bute were still being supported by the furlough scheme.'

'This level of support clearly shows the immense benefits of being able to pool the economic strength and resources of the United Kingdom.'

'We now need to harness that strength to de-

liver a lasting economic recovery as we emerge from the restrictions caused by the pandemic.'

'Nevertheless, I know many people will be reassured to know the chancellor has committed to maintain the furlough scheme until the end of September, which is a truly unprecedented commitment.'

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History of the boat yard on

Over the next two weeks Oban Times reader Douglas Lindsay of Kilmore shares his research on the history of the boat yard at Ardentrive Bay, on the Island of Kerrera

This island boatyard on the west side of Oban Bay was started 134 years ago and has provided a service to many sailors over the years.

Although I was personally involved with it for 25 years, it is only recently during lockdown that I started researching its background and somewhat chequered history.

The yard was started by John Munro, a prominent Oban entrepreneur, who claimed to supply everything 'from a trout fly to a steam yacht'.

He bought his first feu from the Breadalbane estate (which owned Ardentrive Farm) in 1887 and built the storage shed and pier, followed by a patent slip in 1894 and the purchase of more land in 1901.

Mount Pleasant, the house on the point near the yard, was built in 1886 by John Burrows who lived there but started the yard at Gallanach, down the Sound of Kerrera. Frank Cowper (author of Sailing Tours) came to Oban in 1894 or 1895 and he mentions a gridiron and patent slip in Ardentrive Bay.

An early client was CC Lynam who kept his yacht there from 1896 to 1904 and his cruises are detailed in The Log of the Blue Dragon. John Munro's brother Neil was the manager of the yard at this time.

John Munro died in September 1915 and Neil only a few months later. In 1920 John Munro Ltd passed ownership of the yard to a new company, Munro's Shipbuilding, Repairing and Engineering Co Ltd to separate the ship-building from the other businesses in Oban. John Munro Ltd continued to supply the yard with most of the hardware and ironmongery for boatbuilding.

A 1925 pilot book gives the capacity of the slip as boats up to 140 feet length and 500 tons weight, which allowed the yard to slip large steam yachts together with many smaller yachts for winter maintenance. The Gallanach slip was listed with capacity of 130ft and 300 tons but they had suffered a severe fire in 1921 which destroyed most of their buildings.

James Mumme was the manager from 1920 and he started a very ambitious expansion,

building large motor yachts in addition to the busy maintenance work and many of the skilled workers needed to be moved to Oban from the Clyde shipyards.

A Scottish Shipbuilding website lists the boats built by Munro's Shipbuilding, Repairing and Engineering Co Ltd:

1923 Acushla, 36ft, 2 Brooke petrol engines;
1923 Joan, 25ft, 1 Bergius petrol engine;
1925 Amalfi, 90ft, 2 Gardner oil engines;
1925 Dwyn Wen, 91ft, 2 Gardner oil engines;
1926 Callandia, 60ft, 2 Gleniffer oil engines;
1926 Herga, 100ft, 2 Gardner oil engines;
1927 Waveney II, 90ft, 2 Gardner oil engines.

In May 1925 Lynam mentioned going ashore 'to look at the three fine motor ships being built'. During the summer of 1925 there were articles about each of these boats in the Motor Boat magazine with detailed plans and it is clear that the boats were being built to a high standard.

They were launched on temporary slippery ways across the beach without their engines which were craned in at Oban. They were then moved back to Kerrera to be finished, which took about another month.

A great source of information about the building of Herga exists in the Derby records office.

Herga was built for the Strutts of Kingairloch in Morven and their main home was near Derby. George Strutt had his yachts serviced at Kerrera from when he bought Kingairloch in 1902 and he was also a shareholder in the company. Herga must have been built on a 'cost plus' basis as they kept copies of all the invoices relating to the build and these list the workers and the time spent each week and also every item of material used, down to the last sheet of sandpaper (1 penny each!).

In early 1926 there were 30 to 40 men working on the yacht. The company was declared bankrupt in May 1926 which was hardly surprising as, judging by the Herga accounts, they only added 10 per cent to the wages bill which could not have covered the management, timekeepers, ferrymen and all the other expenses of running a workforce of 50 to 60 men.

The yard was sold to a new company Oban Slipway Co Ltd, which finished Herga, but Waveney II had to be taken to the Clyde for completion, which would indicate that most of the workers had been paid off. This yacht was later called Tiger and came to a sad end in the West Indies in the late 1990s.

Lynam kept Blue Dragon III at Kerrera from 1922 until his last cruise in 1935 and has some



sad comments on the later service at the yard. By the spring of 1934 it appears that standards were slipping with the quote: 'Oh for the days of Neil Munro, when everything was in order on arrival at Ardentrive.' Blue Dragon was not ready with the cabin roof unpainted and leaking, and another yacht was launched without the bung in. Further comment was: 'It is to be

hoped that these strictures on the fitting out arrangements will induce the management at Ardentrive to put things on a more satisfactory footing for yacht owners.'

In 1937 the ownership of the yard changed yet again to the West Highland Slipway Co Ltd which existed until 1947.

More next week.

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Isle of Kerrera



Top: a panorama photograph of the Kerrera boatyard stitched together from three photographs taken in 1967; above, Munro slipdock workers; and, left, an early picture of the slipdock. All photographs: Douglas Lindsay.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



John Duncan, a Celtic shinty fan, got in touch with some helpful information about this photograph.

He said: 'I believe this picture is of a Celtic supporters' outing.

'The lady at the front in the white coat is Mrs MacLean. To the right of her are three of her daughters. Sitting with the mascot is Agnes, and beside her is Lexi, who is wearing the scarf, then it's Morag. I believe the lady at the back, who is standing next to the man in the cap, is Mary, Mrs MacLean's oldest girl.

'From left to right: I'm not sure who the lady

in the kilt is, but the young man is Donnie MacIntyre and beside him is his wife Morag. The man at the rear wearing the cap is Mr MacIntyre senior. His wife is standing in front of him, you can just see her head.

'To the right of Mrs MacIntyre is Janet Forgrieve. The lady behind her, wearing a hat is her mother-in-law, Mrs Forgrieve senior. Her sons Larry and Mick were both Celtic shinty players.

'The man behind Morag MacLean I believe to be Jack Wetherall. Unfortunately I'm unsure about all the others.'



The gents were training for something, but what? And when? If you know, email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



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Mother Na

When the time comes to create your garden, turn to the real expert. You are not the only one who has a say in how your finished garden will look - Mother Nature will have the last word. Because location, micro-climate, soil, drainage, topography and geology will all let you know what will and will not work in your garden. Scotland is a land of incredible variety. A garden

by the seashore will need plants that can withstand salt; a bog garden calls for plants that like to get wet; frost-pocket glens will need far hardier plants than an urban terrace surrounded by the reflected warmth of the built environment. Then there are wee pockets of magic where the west coast is blessed by the Gulf Stream or suntraps or a south facing wall that can make all the difference. It all makes visiting gardens around Scotland and its islands so fascinating.



ture knows best

You can use all these things to your advantage to create your perfect garden or you can dig drainage, plant wind-breaking stands of trees, use earthworks to build protective mounds, excavate a wee pond or an impressive lochan. You can give Mother Nature a hand but get it wrong and she will remind you who is boss. Look at how your house sits within the plot, within the streetscape or landscape to inform your design and have a look at neighbouring gardens to see what's thriving there before you start to choose plants.

Then there is climate change: plants that your grandparents would never have thought of growing in that particular spot might well be happy there now. Others have given up the ghost.

We also want to garden with more respect for the environment with well-sourced plants and products, encourage birds, bees and biodiversity while discouraging deer and rabbits. Who hasn't walked outside and been deeply

disappointed by the scene of a devoured garden?

Garden trends

The trend to grow our own, be it on a window sill or vegetable patch, continues. Expect to see more pots, planters and equipment to support this.

We are even more home-centred and extending our living space - not only out into the garden but also for longer. Think folding glass doors onto paved, decked or gravelled surfaces with heat and light well into autumn and milder winter days



and bringing the garden indoors with pot plants featuring more as part of our interior design.

We want to enjoy rather than always be working in the garden.

So trends are more towards low maintenance, thoughtful planting. This means careful planning with design, choice of hard landscaping materials and plants.



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Nowt prettier than a garden in June...

The early bird gets the worm and the early gardener gets the summer glory

Has there ever been a year when we have all looked forward to the summer holidays quite so much? After being cooped up most of the last 15 months, we have all been grateful for our gardens and now restrictions are lifted, we cannot wait to share them again with family and friends who were not fortunate enough to have gardens of their own.

Our gardens always take a bit of a battering during Highland and island winters and perhaps more so this year what with the belated snowfalls in April.

Kids and pets playing in frosty and damp gardens can wreak havoc with lawns, borders, shrubs and fences so there might be more work this year to repair winter damage. The ways in which you have used your garden during the Covid months Covid might inspire you to adapt it to suit this new role.

Now is the time to be changing your 'hard' landscaping - perhaps a new patio, or decking, or replacing and extending the old. Is your garden calling out for a new fence or the digging out, or filling in, of a pond?

This is the time to get it all planned, materials ordered and tradesmen and women booked, if you do not plan to DIY. Can your garden shed make do with a fresh coat of preservative this year or has the time come to buy new? Perhaps a bigger shed

makes sense to cope with the extra outdoor games, seating and barbecuing kit you have or intend to buy. Have you got room for a summer house?

Once you have the 'hard' work sorted it is time to consider colours for the season - there are some wonderful splashes of colour to cheer us up and annuals, hanging baskets and pots are a great idea.

Is this the year you are going to start a vegetable plot? Even a wee one to keep you supplied with salad can save you a fortune and lettuce, radishes and spring onions straight from the garden taste fantastic.

The green stuff

Are you looking out the window at a sad lawn? Has it been played and walked on too much recently?

Don't be worried if there is a lot of moss. This is the West Highlands everyone's lawn has the same problem. Some tender loving care right now will set your lawn up for some healthy sunshine growth:

- Clear the winter debris by scarifying
- Aerate it and let the lawn breathe; this stops the root system from becoming too compacted
- Feed it
- Weed it
- Seed it if there are bare patches or badly worn areas
- And show the moss who's the boss!



Spring clean inside and out

It is not just our homes that benefit from a good tidy up and a lick of paint:

Now is the time to:

- Tidy up beds and borders.
- Get the winter's debris out of ponds
- Keep on top of the weeds right from the start
- Likewise garden pests
- Get maintenance of fences, sheds and paving done now
- Move deciduous shrubs
- Tidy up perennial plants, thinning and splitting where necessary
- Clean and disinfect the greenhouse
- Start to sow seeds

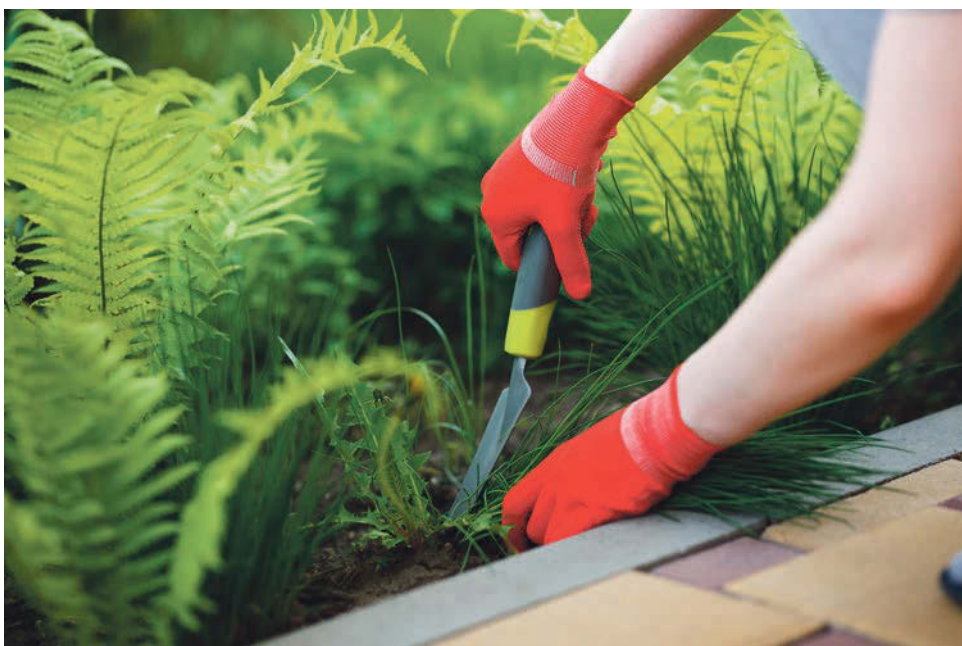
- Order summer bedding and veg seedlings
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Get tools cleaned and sharpened
- Book the mower in for a service now!

You are not the only one who enjoys your garden. Nature will fill it with more guests than you could ever invite human ones.

So invest in a takeaway business and become a property developer by having a bird table, nesting boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog box or a frog and toad house.

A good mix of bird food and plants will keep these guests coming back for more.

Gatecrashers to the party like rabbits and deer need not apply!



Think outside the house

Our space and how we use it wisely has become so important – the pandemic has taught us that.

And one way we can get the best use and value for money is to invest in more, or better, buildings in our garden.

It all comes down to budget, but there are so many ways we can add value to our garden space and, in turn, to our property.

The most obvious is to plan the garden 'into' the house, with bi-fold doors, traditional French windows, patios, seating areas, canopies and by some judicious purchases from the ever-increasing range of garden furniture, lighting and heating available to us.

Never forget the humble garden shed. Have you had a look at them recently? Suddenly they are not that humble. They are getting second lives as home offices, hobby dens, reading rooms and chill out zones.

A seriously good, secure shed can also be used to free up space in the home, with the creation of a good shelving and storage system.

Modern families have so many possessions.

Fill a shed in an orderly fashion and suddenly you have an empty attic to convert and you know where everything is - not just some vague idea that it is tucked behind the cold water tank in a black plastic bin bag, slowly gathering more dust.

Likewise, go for a larger garage and have a utility room included. This needs to be done carefully and with suitable electrical appliances in place.

Many self-builders, especially those who are living on-site in a static caravan for the duration of the project, make their first real construction project a good quality, large shed to help ease the cost of storage.

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New online concerts bring ceilidh and craic inhouse

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The first Scottish Dance Band online concert series starts next week under the watchful eye of musician and BBC Radio Scotland presenter Gary Innes.

The Ceilidh Craic and Culture Club concert series will showcase the top Scottish Dance Bands on the scene today, alongside some of the best Scottish traditional musicians.

Filmed in Coda Studios in Glasgow, the online show will include a one-hour set from a different Scottish Dance Band each month, an interval floor spot from a duo on the Scottish traditional music scene, alongside an on-the-sofa in conversation chat between presenter Gary Innes and the various musicians that are performing on the night.

The first online concert in



this series is on Thursday June 24 with Leonard Brown and his All-Star Band taking to the screens, along with the musical pairing of Ewen Henderson from Mánran and Ewan Robertson from Breabach.

An online concert will be broadcast each month in full HD, with the very best Scottish

Dance Bands and traditional artists on the scene today performing as part of each night's entertainment offering.

Gary Innes, series producer, said: 'I can't wait to bring this new and unique series of shows that celebrate Scotland's music to the wider world.'

I have been presenting BBC

Gary Innes is the series producer of a new online programme of Ceilidh and Craic monthly concerts starting on Thursday June 24.

Radio Scotland's longest-running music programme, Take the Floor, for the last five years and during that time I have become very aware of the huge following that Scottish Dance Band music has, not just at home here in Scotland but across the world.'

The series is supported by Creative Scotland and the line-up of Scottish Dance Bands for the initial year-long concert series includes Liam Stewart and his Scottish Dance Band, the legendary John 'Iky' Carmichael, the Lomond Ceilidh Band, Nicol MacLaren and the Glencraig Band, Alasdair MacCuish and the Black Rose Ceilidh

Band, Tom Orr and his Scottish Dance Band, Simon Howie and his Scottish Dance Band, The Seamus O'Sullivan Experience, Marion Anderson and her Scottish Dance Band and Robert Nairn and his Highland Dance Band.

Representing the traditional music scene will be Siobhan Miller, Mohsen Amini and Charlie Galloway, Kim Carnie and Innes Whyte, Ali Hutton and Ross Ainslie, Ingrid Henderson and Iain MacFarlane, Donald Shaw and Charlie MacKerron, Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson, Kathleen MacInnes and Mike Vass, Megan Henderson, Anna Massie and Jenna Reid, Alec Dalglish plus Iona Fyfe and Michael Biggins.

After two successful pilot events for the Ceilidh Craic and Culture Club in late 2019, Gary has worked with Creative

Scotland to bring this event to life with a commitment to a full year's concert series.

Scottish Dance Band is a popular genre of music, as can be seen with more than 70 box and fiddle clubs across Scotland and the north of England alone - not to mention the societies scattered across the world. However, in the last five years the only platform on which a traditional six-piece Scottish Dance Band would be showcased or get the opportunity to perform in full is on BBC Radio Scotland's Take the Floor as part of its Saturday night programme.

This new monthly series will be the only place that fans of the Scottish Dance Band genre will be able to watch a performance of a traditional six-piece Scottish Dance Band perform together.

For more information visit www.ceilidh.tv

Making Music for Mull Fiddle Week Advertisorial

A unique and FREE opportunity for budding young musicians



If you live in Argyll and Bute and play the violin or fiddle, take note of this musical opportunity coming your way in August on Mull.

Mull Music Makers is hosting a free week of learning for anyone aged five to 26 and booking for its workshops and sessions is open now.

Expert tutors including leading Scottish fiddle player and composer Patsy Reid and Adam Sutherland will be on hand during the week to energise everyone joining in the learning

experience which will include gaining new skills, composing melodies and building confidence for live performance.

'After a prolonged period of distance learning, Mull Fiddle Week aims to energise young people by immersing them in the spirit of traditional fiddle music using creative teaching methods such as Dalcroze, learning music through movement, engaging the whole body in the learning process,' says Laura Mandleberg, one of the organisers.

Once on Mull, all the sessions will be based in and around Tobermory - the dates are August 9 to August 13.

The venture, a first for Mull Music Makers (MMM), has 100 per cent funding from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Any young people living in the Argyll and Bute area interested in signing up should get in touch by emailing laura_mandleberg@hotmail.com before the 30th June and organisers will do their best to make sure you can take part.

Mull Fiddle Week

A FREE week-long course celebrating the riches of traditional fiddle music for young players aged 5-26 years from Argyll and Bute

9th-13th August, Tobermory, Isle of Mull



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DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 30th June





Robert in lockdown

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Monday, in the immortal words of the late Arthur Montford, was another disaster for Scotland.

I opened my bedroom curtains in the morning full of optimism and was greeted by a car driving down my street flying saltires out each back window and blaring 'Yes Sir, I can Boogie'.

I closed my curtains in the evening with that all too familiar sense of glorious failure. I write this article, however, in the eternal hope we'll achieve the impossible by turning it around by beating England and Croatia in the coming days.

Despite Scotland getting off to a disappointing start, it wasn't all doom and gloom for me over the last seven days because Tide Lines announced two of our first live gigs since March 2020.

One of them is directly related to the football. We will be playing at the Euro Fanzone on Glasgow Green on Thursday June 24. My complete lack of footballing talent meant I was never likely to be selected for Steve Clarke's Scotland squad this year but at least this fanzone gig means I can tell people I 'played' at the Euros!

To be part of such a big event would be exciting at the best of times but my anticipation is increased ten-fold given this will be our first live performance in about a year-and-a-half.



Also playing that evening are the Kinnaris Quintet and Breabach, two incredible bands who I am sure will be equally excited to get back on stage. Musicians tend to be sociable people and most agree meeting up with other bands on the same gig line-up is always one of the most enjoyable parts of the job.

Having been denied this opportunity for so long, it will be great to catch up with everyone again and I sincerely hope this is the beginning of the boom period for the music industry that I spoke about in this article previously.

Obviously, strict social distancing will be in place and people rightly still have to be careful but it will nevertheless be great to be back to doing what we love doing.

We also have a similarly socially-distanced gig as part of the Edinburgh International Festival on Monday August 9.

As with the Euros, to play at such an internationally renowned event would always be an honour but, on top of this, these gigs feel like a significant step forward for the industry returning to at least some form of normality.

I can only hope, with the vaccine still being rolled out at a fast rate - I am due my first jab this week - that some day soon we will be back out on the road with a full calendar of gigs.

That is all in the future though. The immediate priority has to be getting back behind the Scotland boys and hoping for an unlikely result against the auld enemy on Friday!

Mull and Iona maps out family fun

Mull and Iona has come up with a new fun way of encouraging families to explore its islands - whatever the weather.

The Quest is a trail of 25 locations, each with a clue leading to a fun fact discovery, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Children on the adventure will be invited to find answers to clues such as 'Who was the Terror of Tobermory?' or 'How many fairies are hidden inside the fairy door on the Calgary in Nature walk?'

Helen MacDonald, communications officer for Visit Mull and Iona, the islands' destination marketing organisation, who came up with The Quest idea, says it will introduce families to many fascinating parts of the islands and keep them entertained in the outdoors as places start to re-open.

The map can be downloaded from the website at mullandionaquest.co.uk or bought at shops on Mull for £5 per family.



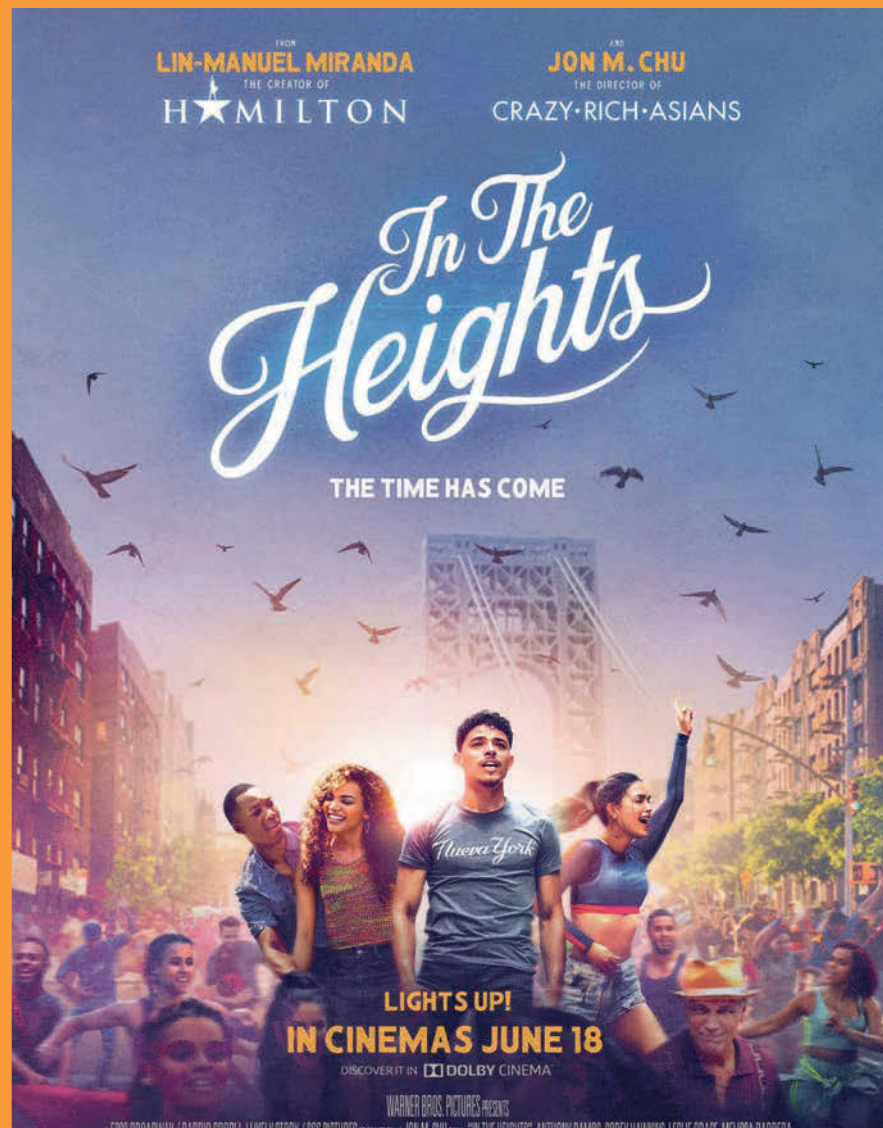
Children checking out The Quest clue at Glengorm Standing Stones - one of 25 locations on the discovery map.

Rewards are also being offered to anyone returning their answers to Craignure's iCentre. Helen said: 'The Quest is a fun way for families to take part in an outdoor adventure. Not all of our indoor attrac-

tions are open yet and we are aware families are attracted to the safety of open air as tourism re-opens on our islands.

'The Quest is the perfect way to entertain the children, whatever the weather.'

What's on at Oban Cinema



PRIDE MONTH AHEAD OF THE CURVE
With a fist full of credit cards, a lucky run at the horse track, and chutzpah for days, Franco Stevens launched Curve, the best-selling lesbian magazine ever published. AHEAD OF THE CURVE tracks the power of lesbian visibility and community from the early '90s to the present day through the story of Franco's founding of Curve magazine.

Friday 18 June	
Cruella 12A	16:15
Peter Rabbit 2 U	16:45
Ahead of the Curve 12A PRIDE	19:15
In The Heights PG	19:15
Saturday 19 June	
Cruella 12A	12:15
Peter Rabbit 2 U	12:30, 15:15
In The Heights PG	15:15/18:45
Ahead of the Curve 12A PRIDE	17:45
A Quiet Place 2 15	19:45
Sunday 20 June	
Cruella 12A	12:15
Peter Rabbit 2 U	12:30, 15:15
In The Heights PG	15:15/18:45
Ahead of the Curve 12A PRIDE	17:45
A Quiet Place 2 15	19:45
obanphoenix.com 01631 562905	

An Comunn Gàidhealach – Meur Chruachain
FREE ONLINE CEILIDH
Saturday 19th June - 7.30pm
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 Bean an Taighe – Joy Dunlop
 Singers – Arthur, Ruairidh, Eilidh & Iain Cormack
 Rebecca Hill – Clàrsach
 Graham Rorie – Fiddle & Mandolin
 Paddy Callaghan – Button Key Accordion
With funding help from Fèisean nan Gàidheal & Bòrd na Gàidhlig



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MONDAY:	8am-12pm 12-3pm 4.45pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Lunch with Bob G Talking Papers Drive Times with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary Calum McLuckies Show David Cullen Show
TUESDAY:	8am-10am 10am-12.30pm 1pm-3pm 3pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Ken Hunter Macky on FM Mental Musings with Mer & Vicky Drive Times with Bob G Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
WEDNESDAY:	8am-11am 11am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Steve Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight Breakfast The Small & Tall Show Brunch Show with The One Talking Papers Drivetimes Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling Evening Show with Dave Hobbs Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham.
THURSDAY:	8am-11am 11am-2pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	
FRIDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-1.15pm 4pm-6.45pm 6.45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm	
SATURDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 3pm-6pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm	
SUNDAY:	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	

An Tobar proudly presents from Mull

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mull's An Tobar Gallery is showcasing its spring programme, including new exhibitions for 2021.

Viewings are Thursday to Saturday, 11am to 4pm by appointment, and work by textile artist Eve Campbell from Argyll's Tighnabruaich is among the exhibitions.

Eve's Vestige exhibition will run until July 23 exploring the shapes and patterns of the Hebrides' cultural landscapes. Her collections Trace and Wildwood are made up of a series of screen prints on natural linen, inspired by the intricate patterns formed by the marks of nature and by the islands' inhabitants over thousands of years.

Eve has also collaborated with Mull-based drone photographer Carlyne Mazur to produce a commissioned new fabric print for An Tobar called Crackaig' after the abandoned village on the West of Mull.

More of Carlyne's drone photography project Fangan can also be seen at the gallery showing an intricate record of the stone fanks of Mull, Iona and Ulva - a fank is a sheep



Pinkie Maclure: 'It's 2020 - And I Miss My Mum'. See her work at An Tobar on Mull.

fold or pen. Tayport-based stained glass artist Pinkie Maclure has 'It's 2020 - And I Miss My Mum' on show.

Windows with Pinkie's work are now installed above one of An Tobar's main entrance doors.

'I wanted to try and reflect the emotional intensity of 2020, so I'm using red and blue. The figures are a socially-distanced mother and daughter trying to communicate via cyberspace. The cables are wrapped around a breaking heart, which is surrounded by dozens of keys, droplets, tears and stars. The

lost keys represent lockdown,' said Pinkie.

Until Sunday June 20, the swashbuckling adventure tale of The Three Musketeers is brought to online viewers by FoolHardy Theatre via audio and animation. Expect sword fights, deception and a right royal romance as you are taken back to the regal splendour of 17th-century France in this madcap comedy.

The Three Musketeers is a new online farce written by Sydney Stevenson and starring Robert Lindsay. A percentage of profits will also be donated

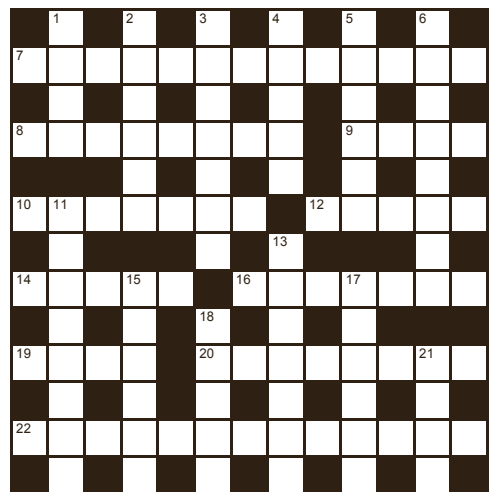
to the Royal Theatrical Fund and it is recommended for ages 16 plus.

Tonight, June 17, there is a chance to watch musicians Ross Ainslie and Tim Edey perform from TPot Studios in Ross' native Perthshire and Tim's adopted home. It starts at 8pm.

Go to An Tobar's website to book - www.comar.co.uk/about/venues/tobar

Ross and Tim will join the An Tobar audience for a 15-minute Zoom call just before start time to say hello and answer any questions.

CROSSWORD



Across

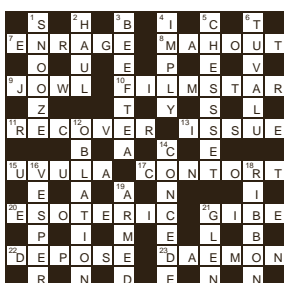
- 7 Similar in every way to another person (9,4)
- 8 Login word (8)
- 9 Desire (4)
- 10 Weakling (7)
- 12 Make merry (5)
- 14 Rules (5)
- 16 Rigging supporter (7)
- 19 Between black and white (4)
- 20 Inducer of forgetfulness (8)
- 22 Church member (5-8)

Down

- 1 Chances (4)
- 2 Windproof jacket (6)
- 3 Wonderful rarity (7)
- 4 Deli bread (5)
- 5 Position (6)
- 6 Bachelor (8)

- 11 Accurate (8)
- 13 Beside a canal (7)
- 15 Month of this flyer (6)
- 17 Guide (6)
- 18 Accomplish (5)
- 21 Successor (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Oban landmark lit up in cloak of many colours

Locals and visitors to Oban noticed new lights on the horizon when landmark McCaig's Tower lit up with artwork of nine artists.

Each artist has received funding from The Colmcille Legacy Award - a scheme created by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) to commemorate the life and cultural legacy of St Colmcille as part of the Year of Colmcille, 1500.

The artworks were projected onto the tower on June 9 after permission from Argyll and Bute Council, with support from Live Argyll and Och Aye Events.

Visual artist Alicia Hendrick from Mull is one of the artists. Her work features Gaelic text based on spending time at the Hermits Cell on Iona.

In the lead up to the Feast Day, the lighting for the tower was changed to cycle through a series of colours inspired by



Visual artist from Mull Alicia Hendrick was one of nine artists whose work was projected onto Oban's landmark McCaig's tower.

Photograph: Och Aye Events.

a famous St Colmcille story - Eithne's Dream - where a young Irish noble-woman suffers the dilemma of her children leaving home and dreams of a cloak in the colours of green machair, clover and daisies.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Robin Currie said the area was proud of the many iconic St Columba sites in Argyll and Bute

including Iona Abbey and his landing site at Southend.

'Argyll and Bute has a rich culture with many artists taking inspiration from the stunning landscape we're so lucky to have here. In what has been a challenging year, we're delighted the Colmcille Legacy Award is supporting artists to showcase their work.'

CHARTS also launched a new online showcase last week

featuring images and videos of the artworks created by the nine award winners. You can see this by visiting chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase

Seymour Adams from the Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles Board said: 'CHARTS and Bòrd na Gàidhlig are delighted to showcase the Colmcille awards which celebrate the life and works of one of Scotland's premiere Saints. The awards we have made illustrate the range, diversity and quality of artists working in all media across the West Highlands, but there is still time for more to be made. The scheme is open for further applications until the end of the year.'

Save our Green Space – Ganavan

The latest community survey of appropriate land use at Ganavan has pointed up nature on Ganavan's green space as being of paramount importance.



It is heartening to see just how much wildlife has been spotted recently in the mosaic of habitats that make Ganavan home to such an impressive and important diversity of species.

Photographs posted on the Friends of Ganavan (FoG) group Facebook page show sightings of the very rare Chequered Skipper and Marsh Fritillary butterflies as well as newts and black grouse – all species considered at risk.

There are only around 10 core areas where Chequered Skipper butterflies cling to existence in Scotland, with Ganavan at the southern end of these strongholds forming an important 'reservoir' for repopulation of other areas.

This illustrates the exceptional nature of the environment at Ganavan which we are all privileged to enjoy.

The habitats are easily damaged so it is really important to leave the entire area as untouched as possible.

The 'green space' at Ganavan behind the beaches and into the surrounding hills is design-

nated as a 'Potential Development Area' (PDA) for housing, tourism and recreation in Argyll and Bute Council's new Local Plan (LDP2).

Our communities have spoken regarding retaining the area for its environmental benefit, for education, recreation and health and well-being.

Opportunities such as these presented 'on our doorstep' are very special and to be appreciated by everyone.

Many of us would not know of any of these rare species had they not been flagged up as part of saving Ganavan's green space.

Alongside the abundance of flora and fauna, Jane Terri's Heritage Ganavan group is working up points of interest

on the historical walking trails throughout the area. These include the turf dykes, cup marks, a pre-historic hut circle, lazy bed cultivation and Second World War sites.

Add these to the outstanding geological features of the area and the educational element of all these dimensions and it is easy to see why the importance of the area to Oban, its communities and visitors is unparalleled.

Many visitors come to Oban because of Ganavan and all it has to offer in its stunning scenic setting. To lose this area when so much use is being made across the board would be as one of the survey comments outlined 'an outright act of vandalism'.

FoG has been campaigning to 'Keep Ganavan Green' since a first community survey showed everyone wished to preserve this area as it is for the benefit of communities and visitors.



Ganavan is one of the few areas the Chequered Skipper butterflies thrive in Scotland.

Oban comedy festival countdown



Oban Comedy Festival gets under way from Friday June 25, with more dates in early July. Organised by Andy Laird, right, of 112 Events Limited, he said a total of 30 comedians are heading for venues Cuan Mor and The View, including Jo Jo Sutherland and Billy Kirkwood. Tickets are available online from Tickets Scotland or from Oban retailers Day 2 Day Express, Dunollie Stores and the two venues. For more information go to @112events_uk on Instagram.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 17 An t-Ogmhios THURSDAY 17 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An t-Eilean/From Skye with love
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi /Book Show
- 21.00 Please Mister/Sgeulachd Tony Miller
- 22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an s-Saoghail/ Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.00 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 Mach a Seo!

DIHAOINE 18 An t-Ogmhios FRIDAY 18 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là -NEWS
- 19.25 NEW Dan
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 Tir is Teanga
- 20.30 An Lot /An Glasadh
- 21.00 Dòmhnallaich na Frainge / The French MacDonalds. From the Hebrides to France
- 21.45 Binneas / Na Trads
- 22.00 Gruth is Uachdar / Crowdie and Cream
- 23.00 Seirm

DISATHAIRNE 19 An t-Ogmhios SATURDAY 19 June

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – NEWS
- 18.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach / Sheepdogs Trials
- 19.00 Dòmhnallaich na Frainge / The French MacDonalds. From the Hebrides to France.
- 19.45 Binneas / Na Trads

- 20.00 Tir is Teanga
- 20.30 Sgoil nan Sagart/ Priest School
- 21.00 Seirm
- 22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail / Most dangerous ways to School
- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Ceòl Duthchasach/ Ken Burn's Country Music
- 00.50 Dhan Uisge

DIDÒMHNAICH 20 An t-Ogmhios SUNDAY 20 June

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là -NEWS
- 18.30 Seachd Là/ News Review
- 19.30 Slighe Anndra
- 19.55 Dan
- 20.00 Leugh Mi /Book Show
- 20.30 Dreach Ùr
- 21.00 'San Fhuil/ It's in the Blood
- 22.00 Seirm
- 23.00 Gruth is Uachdar/Crowdie and Cream

DILUAIN 21 An t-Ogmhios MONDAY 21 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Kerry is Kirsty: Asainnte
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Lot/ The Croft
- 21.00 Trusadh – Bogha-froise /Pride
- 22.00 Julie Fowllis / Ceòl Aig Baile
- 22.30 Thugainn dhan Phark / Park Bar Li
- 23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves

DIMÀIRT 22 An t-Ogmhios TUESDAY 22 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19.00 An t-Eilean/From Skye with love
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Dreach Ùr
- 21.00 'San Fhuil/It's in the Blood
- 21.45 Dealbh is Slighe
- 22.00 Trusadh . Bogha-froise / Pride
- 23.00 Dan
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.35 Slighe Anndra

DICIADAIN 23 An t-Ogmhios WEDNESDAY 23 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Kerry is Kirsty: Strath Narran
- 19.30 Speaking our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Sgoile an Sagart/Priest School
- 21.00 Cearcaill Ceo / Burning Rubber (Lewis Car Culture)
- 22.00 Mach a Seo!
- 22.30 Julie Fowllis / Ceòl aig Baile
- 23.00 Please Mister – Sgeulachd Tony Miller

DIARDAOIN 24 An t-Ogmhios THURSDAY 24 June

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An t-Eilean/From Skye With Love
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi
- 21.00 Leasan sa Bhas
- 22.00 Seòid a'Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves
- 22.30 Slighail Sgoile an t-Saoghail/ Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.00 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 Mach a Seo!



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29 October 2021

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
beautifultickets.com/events/scottish-field-whisky-awards-21st-anniversary
*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.
 For more information contact jboyle@scottishfield.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>;

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/02550/FUL	Nevis Range Development Co PLC Torlundy	Zipline from the face of Sgorr Fhinniosgaig to the back of the Nevis Range car park, new path to start point from existing path to viewpoint, start point, braking station and bottom station structures
21/02752/FUL	Land 160M South of Lavinia Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of storage shed
21/02215/FUL	Land 15M South of Crossroads East, Spean Bridge	Erection of holiday letting cabin
21/02145/FUL	Land to East Of Aldersyde, Kentallen	Erection of 4 flats and associated works
21/02033/FUL	Land 285M SW Of the Strath Glencoe	Change of use from agricultural to equestrian menage

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING


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. 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 or tel. 01546 605518.

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/00981/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land East Of Rowanbank Cottage And Julesbank, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute
21/00986/AMSC	Approval of matters specified in conditions 1 to 9 relative to planning permission in principle reference 20/00511/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land North Of Croft 5 Kilvaree, Connel, Argyll And Bute
21/00899/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Plot 3 Airdeny Mill, Tainuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/00839/PP	Formation of vehicular access (part retrospective)	Land South Of Barran House, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4QB
21/00980/PP	Alterations and change of use of barns to form dwellinghouse, formation of external terraces and installation of air source heat pump	Barns North Of Achnacone House, Appin, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/feedback-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
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
SCOUR PROTECTION WORKS
KIACHNISH BRIDGE, FORT WILLIAM

Notice is hereby given that Bear Scotland has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of carrying out scour protection works at:

Cost	£ 1,000,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Scour Protection	56° 46.389' N	05° 10.015' W
	56° 46.390' N	05° 09.982' W
	56° 46.370' N	05° 10.028' W
	56° 46.370' N	05° 09.989' W


(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3galVln>

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **00009236**.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing. A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicencing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.



First Registration of a Croft

Mr Peter D Kennedy has registered his croft 8 & 9 Blarmachfoldach, Blarmachfoldach, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 26th February 2022. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7745.

BOUNDARIES SCOTLAND
2019 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

We submitted to Scottish Ministers, on 10 June 2021, our proposals for councillor numbers and wards in Argyll and Bute Council area.

Our proposals can be inspected on our website www.boundaries.scot, and copies of our report have been made available to the council for display at selected council offices or libraries.

It should be noted that under the provisions of section 17 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Scottish Ministers must as soon as practicable lay our reports before the Scottish Parliament along with a draft Scottish statutory instrument giving effect to our proposals, for Scottish Parliament approval.

R100 SCOTTISH ISLES TELECOMMUNICATION CABLES
MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that British Telecommunication plc, plan to hold pre-application consultation events regarding proposed licensable marine activities within the Inner Hebrides section of the R100 Project for the installation of four marine telecommunication cables between:

Eigg (OS Grid Ref: 146917E, 788060N) to Mainland (OS Grid Ref: 165643E, 790431N)
Mainland (OS Grid Ref: 190191E, 745294N) to Lismore (OS Grid Ref: 189042E, 745578N)
Iona (OS Grid Ref: 128174E, 723386N) to Mull (OS Grid Ref: 129976E, 721907N)
Colonsay (OS Grid Ref: 140104E, 697535N) to Mull (OS Grid Ref: 137542E, 718844N)

The marine elements of the R100 Project are to install sixteen telecommunication cables to extend superfast broadband (30Mbps+) coverage across Shetland, Orkney, and the Inner Hebrides. These new cables will form part of the Scottish Government's 'Reaching 100%' (R100) programme contracted to BT Plc. Further information can be obtained concerning the proposed submarine telecommunication cable installation at R100.subseacableproject.co.uk

Due to the current restrictions surrounding Covid 19, the cable pre-application consultation event will be held online by visiting the following link:
R100.subseacableproject.co.uk; Date: 29/07/21; 13:00.

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed installation of the submarine telecommunication cables can do so by writing to the prospective applicant via their appointed environmental consultants, no later than 27th August 2021.

By e-mail to: stuart.mclaren@intertek.com; or by post to: Intertek EWCS, Prospect Business Centre, Dundee Technology Park, Dundee DD2 1TY.
Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return e-mail or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If British Telecom applies for marine licences to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the applications.

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

1. M MacLean, 5 Ruaig
0.008ha, Amenity ground (108849)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 16/07/21 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

1. A Maclean, 21 Reef Enlg 29 Balliphetrish
0.06ha, Amenity ground, Fencing/use conditions (109052)

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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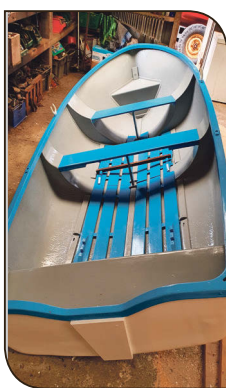
Please call or WhatsApp James on
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Email: wanted4x4s@gmail.com

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RECRUITMENT

Mull & Iona Medical Group Patient Facilitator

Band 3 (Aligned to Agenda for Change)

Our Patient Facilitators assist our GPs, nurses and other professionals to provide health care to the community in Mull and Iona. If you join our team, you will provide your colleagues with administrative and clerical support. We will encourage you, and help you, to develop skills in other health care related areas such as, dispensing, phlebotomy, and chaperoning.

This post will be based in the new surgery premises at Mull & Iona Community Hospital but you will be expected to work across the practice. The post is full-time (37.5hrs per week) but we would be happy to consider alternative working patterns for the right candidates.

For informal enquiries please contact Mairi Dunning on 01631 563175 or for a job description and application form, please e-mail her at mairi.dunnings@nhs.scot to be returned by 24 June 2021.

Chief Reporter

The Oban Times Newspaper Group wants to recruit an experienced, dynamic, and ambitious senior journalist to take up the role of Chief Reporter of the Group's stable of weekly newspapers in the West Highlands.

This role has been created for a talented and ambitious manager to lead the reporting teams at Head Office in Oban and various satellite offices. The successful candidate will be a clear thinker, who will add further zest to our team, and have the ability to use their knowledge and expertise to mentor, encourage, and develop the reporting staff.

They will require:

- A good news sense, be organised, and have an impeccable eye for detail
- A passion for accuracy and able to understand and conform quickly to house style
- Ability to work effectively and enthusiastically, leading the team on several projects simultaneously
- Experience of working on digital platforms
- Effective communication skills
- Digital and social media awareness
- A full driving licence is essential

The Chief Reporter's duties will include:

- Sourcing major news stories and developing investigative reports
- Working with the editor and sub-editors to ensure all titles are published on time and that the news desk runs smoothly and efficiently
- Ensuring that all articles are subbed and are ready for publication
- Sourcing the most appropriate images for articles
- Making best use of social media

The successful candidate will live and work in one of the most beautiful areas of the West Highlands, and local knowledge would be an advantage. Other benefits include a generous salary, contributory pension scheme and resettlement assistance.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Closing date : July 2, 2021.

VACANCY: PROCESS OPERATOR – TOBERMORY DISTILLERY, ISLE OF MULL

Applications are invited for the above-mentioned position based in Tobermory. The role will be a 5-day working pattern.

Overall Purpose:

A process operator's role is responsible for carrying out all of the operations in the distillery, including goods receipt, mashing, distilling, operation of services plant and warehousing duties. To ensure that all aspects of process operations are carried out to deliver best cost effective, efficient and quality results in line with corporate goals

Key Responsibilities

- Unloading of yeast and checking delivery agrees with ordered amount.
- Unloading of malt and checking delivery agrees with malt specification.
- Taking spirit accounts and loading of road tankers.
- Ensuring stock is used in rotation.
- Safe operation of running the mash house.
- Safe operation of the stillhouse.

Application

For full job specification, additional information, or to apply for this position, please email:

HRInternational@distellinternational.com

Closing Date: Monday 21st June 2021.

No Agencies Please.

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Reporter

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a bright, passionate and self-driven reporter to join The Oban Times' busy team.

The person we are looking for will have an NCTJ or similar qualification, including shorthand, and be multi-media literate. Previous experience of subbing copy would be an advantage.

We are passionate about good local journalism and like our reporters to get out into the local community, meeting people face-to-face, sourcing the best stories.

You should be bursting with ideas and have an eye for a good story, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing your patch, and be capable of working on your own initiative as well as part of a team.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

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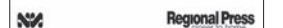
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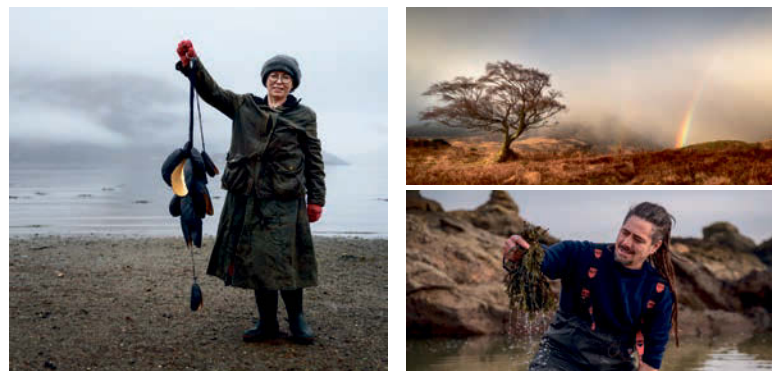
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BIRTH



NEISH - Siobhan and Ruaraidh are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their baby son, Teddy Macgregor William Neish. Teddy arrived on June 7, 2021 at Oban Maternity Unit. A wee brother to Colbie, Murphy and Honey. Loved by all grandparents.

DEATHS

CLARK - Peacefully, at Peacock Nursing Home, Livingston, on Friday, June 11, 2021, Peter, aged 75 years, father and father-in-law of Scott and Fiona. Grandad of Dean and Robyn. Funeral arrangement to be private due to current restrictions.

CLARKE - It is with great sadness that the family of Mr William Bonar Clarke announces his passing at the age of 69 years old. Bill passed away peacefully in his own home in Kilchrenan and is lovingly remembered by his wife and friend of thirty eight years, Sarah, their two

children Robert and Rowan, his cherished grandchildren Magnus and Róisín, and younger sister June. Bill was a graduate of Mathematics from Glasgow University and went on to work at Oban High School before becoming a successful self-employed businessman working for Everest. Later in life he started his own local company Cruachan Creative. Bill was a lover of live music, travelling and hill walking and was often planning his next adventure. His zest for life will be missed by many. The funeral service is yet to be arranged.

DOUGLAS - (Gartly/Lochaline). Peacefully at home with his loving wife on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, David, aged 78 years, beloved husband of Margaret, a dear father, step-father, brother and friend to many. Due to current restrictions David's funeral will be private.

MACINNES - Peacefully at her home in Barra, on June 9, 2021, aged 77 years, Rhoda, beloved wife of the late Donald MacInnes, much loved mum to Ian, Alasdair and the late Nonny, a devoted granny and great-granny, a dear sister and aunt. Sorely missed by all who knew her.

WILSON - Margaret, beloved wife of the late John and much loved mum of Kerry, Rhys,

Glenn and Jamie. Passed away peacefully in the Belford Hospital, Fort William on Friday, June 11, 2021, age 73 years. Funeral service will be held at the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven on Monday, June 21 at 2.00pm thereafter Kinlochmore Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

RICHARDSON - Joyce Elizabeth MB, ChB, DCH, FRCP (Ed). After prolonged illness, Joyce died peacefully on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at Colinton Care Home, Edinburgh in her 89th year. Devoted daughter to James and Mary Richardson, loved and supportive sister of Neil, sister-in-law of Hazel, aunt of Gavin, Shona, Jennifer and Kirsteen and great aunt of Kira, Finlay, Ewan, Xavier and Alexa. Retired Consultant Paediatrician at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow and the Vale of Leven Hospital, Alexandria. Regrettably due to Covid restrictions, funeral private by invitation at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 3pm, details of live video streaming available from William Purves Funeral Directors on 0131 447 5858. No flowers please but donations may be made to Parkinson's UK.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLAKE - Ann, George and family of the late Ian Blake would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, through flowers, cards, and messages of support following the sad loss of Ian. Thank you to all who attended the funeral at the church and graveside, also the people who stood at the roadside. A special thank you to the carers, the Medical Centre, the Belford Hospital and the Isles of Glencoe for the catering.

CAMPBELL - Mairi's family are overwhelmed by all the expressions of sympathy from family and friends with flowers, cards, visits and texts. It was so kind to think of us all on Mairi's passing. Thank you to Rev Dugald Cameron for a service of friendship and personal tributes. Ken Moncreiff for playing the organ and accompanying Janice who sang a special wish of Mairi's. Thanks to Catriona and James at Hamish Hoey and Son for compassion and professionalism. Special thanks to Eive House and their team for the exceptional care given to Mairi. All the beautiful floral tributes. Our heartfelt thanks to Oban for friends lining the streets to pay respects

for Mairi's final journey to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Colin and Joan at The Olive Garden for a perfect reception. Angus MacColl for piping at the church and graveside. In what's been an exceptionally difficult time for us all. Many blessings and thanks.

GRAY - William Alexander Gray (Bill). The family of the late Bill Gray wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind messages of sympathy and support expressed to them through cards, phone calls, letters and flowers. Thank you also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for arranging a church service which was so relevant to Bill's life and to Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his caring, compassionate and professional funeral arrangements. A special thank you also to all those who stood in the street and at the bowling club to honour Bill's passing and to Ward I at Lorn and Islands Hospital and the Lorn Medical Centre for their care and kindness to Bill in what turned out to be his last days.

REFFIN - The family of Joey Reffin would like to thank everyone for flowers, cards and telephone calls on their recent loss of their mum, granny and great-granny. Thanks also to Fr. Roddy Johnstone

and Catriona Hoey for a very efficient service, it was as mum would have wanted, also to Angus McColl for his musical tributes to mum and Taynuilt Inn for lovely refreshments.

MEMORIAMs

BANEY - In loving memory of Helen Harold Baney, darling wife of the late Trevor Baney. Loved and missed.
- Inserted by Teresa.

CAMERON - Precious memories of our dear parents Anne, who died June 21, 2001 and Duncan who died January 2, 2003. Forever in our thoughts.
- Irene, Junie, Catherine Anne and families.

CAMERON - Treasured memories of our dear mum, nana and great-granny Bella, who passed away June 19, 2019. We lost a mum with a heart of gold
How much we miss her can never be told
She shared our troubles and helped us along
If we follow her footsteps
We will never go wrong.
- Cameron family,
Knockvologan.

CAMPBELL - Remembering with love our dear parents, grandparents and in-laws, Angus D., who died April 27, 1981, Marion L., on June 19,

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2007 and our sisters and aunts Lexy Donaldson, on July 27, 1989 and Jessie MacKellar on November 20, 2019.

The hearts that loved you will never forget.

- The families Bunessan, Mull and away.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, Margaret who passed away June 17, 1995 and William who passed July 20, 1996.

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.

- Phemie, John, Fay and family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of Kathie, devoted mum and mum-in-law, who died June 20, 2013.

Those we love don't go away.
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Elspeth and Billy.

MACINNES - In loving memory of my husband Jackie, who died June 16, 2016.

Treasured memories.

- Marina.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of my dear mother, Marion Lawrie, who passed away June 21, 1992.

Forever in our hearts you'll stay
Loved and remembered every day

- Dugald, Janis and families.

REECE - Cherished memories of Alec, devoted husband, dad and pappy, who died June 20, 2002 and Catherine, who died on September 1, 2009.

Greatly missed but our love and memories ever strong and clear.

- Sandy, Kathleen and families.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of Mary (MacIntyre), who died June 18, 2010.

- Billy, Scott, Lorne and families.

SUTHERLAND - Ray

Another year has passed again
But in our hearts you still remain

Loved and missed

- Your family x

Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OBITUARY: MRS ILE CRAWFORD

On June 22 1938, Ile, first daughter and eldest of the four children of David and Katie Weir, was born at Octomore Farm, Port Charlotte, on Islay, the home of her maternal grandparents Willie and his wife Isabela Shaw, after whom she was named.

Ile had an idyllic childhood on the island of Muck during the Second World War. One of her earliest memories was waking one morning to find a seaplane below the family home above Gallanach Bay. Another was hearing a loud explosion as a mine hit a rock out at sea. More exciting still, however, was the discovery of oranges and Horlicks tablets found in crates washed up on the shore.

There was no school on Muck so, when Ile was six, David and Katie moved, firstly to the neighbouring island of Eigg, then to Ardpatrik, Knapdale, for the sake of their children's education. From Ardpatrik, Ile and her younger sister Lexa returned to Islay to spend holidays with their grandfather at Port Charlotte. The journey itself was exciting. A flag would be raised on the Ardpatrik flagpole to alert the captain of the Loch Eil ferry. Then the ferryman from the estate would row them out into West Loch Tarbert to the Loch Eil where they would climb a rope ladder and spend the journey on the bridge.

The family moved back to Islay for a few years and Ile clearly remembered and often spoke of her influential

Bowmore school teacher Mabel Weir, who helped her with her French. In 1953 the family moved to the farm of Rockhill, on South Lochaweside, where David, Ile's father, became the farm manager. But Ile stayed in Islay until she was 15 to complete her third year at the school in Bowmore.

She then transferred to Oban High School for fourth, fifth and sixth years, staying at Craigard Hostel, getting home at weekends via Bertie Lamont's bus to Taynuilt and Kilchrenan, then across Loch Awe to Portsonachan by ferry.

Teacher training at Jordanhill was followed by teaching posts at Achnamara and Furnace primary schools.

Ile married Ernie Crawford on August 2 1961, in Cumladden Church, Furnace, and they were blessed with three daughters, Catriona, Isobel and Elspeth. Since then the family has extended with sons-in-law Martin, Dave and Ewan and grandsons Finlay and Innes.

Family was so important to Ile and she especially enjoyed seeing Finlay and Innes grow up to be fine young men.

Ile loved entertaining people in her own home. Her neighbours remember the farm gatherings with as many as 20 people round the table for delicious meals at the clippings, gathering and markings.

She also enjoyed hosting local history meetings at Blarghour. Most notably, her meticulous editing, together with the addition of illustrations for It's



a Far Cry, Charlie Mitchell's history of Loch Awe, will ever enshrine her name.

Busy as she always was, Ile was the one relief teacher that Donald Beckett, then the schoolmaster, never had qualms about asking to come into Ardhonnell school 'where every child was always pleased to know she would be coming'.

After Ernie died and when Catriona and her husband Martin, after working for some years abroad, came home, Ile, having made over Blarghour

farm House to them, moved to the Shepherd's cottage on the hill above. Modernised by local architect Andrew Rose, with a glorious view of Ben Cruachan, she had a new home that she loved. Practical and perceptive as she was, Ile was a guiding force in the development of the family businesses, the conversion of farm buildings into holiday cottages and the development of the farm hydro schemes. Yet, despite this, her greatest pleasure lay in her love of nature, her knowledge of the changing seasons, the wildflowers, birds and most particularly the way of life of the past so embodied in the old ruined sheilings on Blarghour Hill.

A loyal friend to many, she was filled with such integrity, warmth and grace that all who met her were touched by the quiet strength of her spirit. Ile shines out in memory, a star that will never fade. MM

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Matthew 11: 28 - 'Come to me all those who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.'

It has been a year of change for us all, change that has sometimes challenged us and not always been desired. But changes both good and bad give us the opportunity to make decisions and in some cases require us to restructure our lives to face the future.

This challenges us all as we seek to make any change a positive influence on our lives, those of others and our environment.

Just before the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus comforted his disciples - John 4:1

'Let not your hearts be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me.'

His teaching and spiritual support remained with them throughout the traumatic times that would follow.

His disciples down the ages have found the same support, comfort and guidance in the spirit of Christ in our daily lives.

Janet and Geoff Fairbairn, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

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OT

Goals galore on second weekend of shinty action

There were goals galore on the second weekend of the shinty season on Saturday June 12.

South shinty

Mowi Senior League C

Oban Camanachd 13

Aberdour 0

Oban Camanachd returned to Mossfield after a long absence and proved too strong for Aberdour, winning 13-0.

Aberdour travelled west in the knowledge this 1.30pm throw-up was always going to be a tough encounter for the side promoted to the National Division for the first time at the end of the 2019 shinty season.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss had Scott MacMillan back and he started on the bench. Garry Lord was unavailable.

Kieran Pritchard debuted on the wing for Aberdour, the 15-year-old having never even featured for the Aberdour second team.

Oban Camanachd, who struggled to breakdown a stubborn Glasgow Mid Argyll side a week earlier, were clinical in front of goal and took the lead in the opening minute when Daniel MacCuish scored after a good passing move.

Connor Howe added a second a couple of minutes later before Daniel MacVicar displayed good finishing to net on 11, 24,

29 and 41 minutes, including a couple of shots from distance, to make it 6-0 at the interval.

Craig Callaghan in the Aberdour goal made some great reaction saves to restrict the deficit at the break.

The second half continued in the same vein as the Aberdour defence worked tirelessly under constant pressure.

Substitute Scott MacMillan came off the bench to score on 51 minutes and Lewis Buchanan, four minutes later, continued the goal deluge.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss was rotating his forward line and Daniel Madej bagged a brace on 68 and 71 minutes to make it double figures.

Daniel Sloss made the most of a rare chance up front when he scored on 74 minutes and Connor Howe took his account to four goals with efforts on 77 and 86 minutes to make it 13-0.

Aberdour did create occasional opportunities and battled to the end.

Speaking afterwards, Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss said: 'It's difficult to take much from such a one-sided game. We rotated the boys for most of the match to get players on the ball.'

'I felt for Aberdour. They were playing South 1 shinty in 2019

before reaching the national so this was a big step up but they never gave up. It's just the way the leagues are at the moment.

'We needed to score goals after drawing a blank against GMA the week before. They were all decent goals too, quite a variety, and they needed to be to get past their keeper who was outstanding.

'It was also good to have Scott MacMillan back. He's a very talented player but just needs to catch up on his fitness.'

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers don't have games this Saturday as this is their designated 'free' weekend.

Kyles Athletic 3

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Kyles Athletic beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2 at the Playing Fields, Tighnabruach.

Former Skye player Stewart Grant put GMA ahead on six minutes when a ball over the top caught out the home defence.

However, Ross Macrae equalised from the re-start and it remained 1-1 until the break.

Ross Macrae got his second seven minutes into the second half and Innes MacDonald made it 3-1 with a good shot from a tight angle on 66 minutes.

Craig Anderson made it 3-2 four minutes from time, but Kyles stayed in front to take the points.

Inveraray P Oban Celtic P

Inveraray and Oban Celtic agreed to reschedule their match at the Winterton to Tuesday June 15 with a 7pm throw-up.

Mowi South League A

Ballachulish 1

Lochside Rovers 2

Lochside Rovers came from a goal down to beat Ballachulish 2-1 at Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish were along usual lines with their five substitutes including former Scotland player John MacDonald.

Lochside had keeper Dougie MacDonald back in goal. Chrissie MacMillan started at full forward, joined in attack by David Cameron who made a return to shinty after a spell playing rugby.

Lochside started with the wind in their favour but were unable to find a way past Ballachulish keeper Kenny Michie who made a number of fine stops including stretching his right foot out to turn Chrissie MacMillan's 20-yard



Daniel MacVicar, Oban Camanachd, left, and Sam Evans, Aberdour. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

effort from the right around the post.

Ballachulish introduced John MacDonald before the mid-point of the first half and young Lochside defender Louis MacFarlane did really well against his more experienced opponent.

Lochside suffered a blow on the half-hour mark when Chrissie MacMillan was forced off with what looked like a back problem. Fourteen-year-old Alexander MacDonald came on in his place, making only his second Lochside appearance.

Ballachulish made a good start to the second half, with John MacDonald now more influential. They took the lead on 55 minutes when Lewis Bryson struck the ball across a helpless keeper and into the net from outside the 'D'.

Lochside levelled on the hour when substitute Alexander MacDonald fired a ball from the left into the opposite top corner of the net for what was a brilliant finish.

Lochside were boosted by the goal and took the lead three minutes later when Ross Campbell, who had a terrific battle in midfield with Cain MacPhee, sent the ball forward. It broke to Robbie Brown on the left and his shot deceived the keeper to make it 2-1.

Lochside almost extended their advantage but Callum

Kirsop's 30-yard effort was tipped over the bar by Kenny Michie.

Ballachulish finished strongly, but the Lochside backline of Scott Robertson and Jordan Kerr, alongside youngsters Callum MacMillan and Louis MacFarlane, were in no mood to let the Oban side's lead slip.

Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans was delighted and said: 'This was one of the best performances I've seen from a Lochside team over the six or seven years I've managed the side. I'm so pleased with the way the players stood up to the challenge and three points from two tough opening games is more than we could have expected.'

Col Glen 3

Inveraray 2

Col Glen came from two goals down to beat Inveraray's second team 3-2 at Glendaruel.

Inveraray raced into a two-goal lead with Steven Cameron on 10 minutes and Campbell Watt on 15 minutes scoring.

Chris Blair pulled a goal back on the half-hour so the visitors took a 2-1 advantage into the break. Sandy Paterson turned the match Col Glen's way with a brace on 65 and 75 minutes to give the home side a 3-2 victory.

Bute P Taynuilt P

The match between Bute and Taynuilt at the Meadows was postponed because of travel restrictions.

Mowi South League B

Aberdour 0 Bute 7

The Bute seconds won 7-0 against the Aberdour seconds in their 2pm throw-up at Silversands.

Leon MacMillan scored twice with Marcus Plank on target five times.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Kyles Athletic 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) colts defeated the Kyles Athletic colts 2-0 at Peterson Park.

Duncan Mitchell scored the only goal of the first half on 35 minutes and Iain Luke doubled GMA's advantage on 65 minutes.

Tayforth were the 'free' team in this five-team division.

Mowi Central League

Oban Celtic 4 Lochaber 6

There was late heartbreak for the Oban Celtic seconds as three goals in the final three minutes meant they lost 6-4 to the Lochaber second team at Ganavan.

Lochaber's David Langan scored on 11 and 13 minutes, but Keegan MacPhee on 28 minutes and Joe MacVicar on 38 minutes made it 2-2 at the break.

David Langan completed his hat-trick three minutes after the re-start but Andrew MacDonald's quick-fire brace on 69 and 71 minutes had Oban Celtic ahead for the first time in the match.

It stayed that way until late in the match with David Langan getting his fourth goal of the afternoon on 88 minutes to make it 4-4.

There was worse to follow for the Oban side as Neil MacDonald on 89 minutes and Rolands Frieman on the stroke of full time sealed a 6-4 victory.

Kilmory P Glenorchy P

Kilmory were unable to raise a team for the second successive Saturday, this time their 2pm throw-up against Glenorchy at MacRae Park.

Ardnamurchan P - P

Kilmallie

The meeting between Ardnamurchan and the Kilmallie seconds was postponed due to ongoing covid restrictions in Lochaber.

All throw-ups were at 2.30pm unless the match report states differently.

■ For the North shinty round-up and next week's fixtures, see www.obantimes.co.uk



David Langan of Lochaber, left, tussles with Lorne Robertson of Oban Celtic at Ganavan at the weekend. David came out of retirement to score four goals for Lochaber in the 10-goal thriller with Lochaber beating a young Oban Celtic side 6-4. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Argyll and Bute players keep in touch with rugby

Rugby is flourishing again across Argyll and Bute.

Senior training has started again at Oban, Mull and Islay with regular sessions under way, say officials.

Most of the mini rugby sections are back training too, with Oban and Taynuilt's Etive Vikings meeting recently for their first competitive fixtures post Covid.

Andrew Johnston, Argyll and Bute's rugby development officer, hailed the 'fantastic' weekend which

saw more than 50 children getting involved and 'some great rugby being played'.

For the first time in a number of years, a senior rugby touch session took place at Lochgilphead recently. Andrew reported that a dozen hardy former players and a sprinkling of new arrivals turned out for a 'great' introductory session.

The sessions will run at Ropework Park, Lochgilphead, from 7pm every Tuesday and are open to all ages and abilities from 16 years up.



The players who enjoyed a touch rugby session in Lochgilphead.

Lorn Healthy Options weekly health tip

How much water should I drink?

As we move into summer and the prospect of warmer and more humid conditions, we are often asked how much water is required to stay hydrated.

The stat that is often quoted is six to eight glasses, which comes from fairly dated studies completed more than 40 years ago. And it's worth noting this included the water we ingest through food and drinks including tea, coffee and juice.

Good hydration is critical for human beings who are 50 to 65 per cent water depending on age. But there are a few issues with the six to eight glasses approach.

Everyone's glasses are different sizes and this message has been perpetuated by large drinks companies down the years which are perhaps less concerned about hydrating the population and more concerned with profits.

If you repeat the message enough, people will believe it and sports drinks which claim to rehydrate us so effectively are just sugary water with a few electrolytes thrown in. There is little wrong with tap water and it's a lot cheaper.

Good hydration is important for cell production, effective digestion, waste removal and temperature regulation and we should not underestimate our body's ability to self-regulate.

Our brains will sense any potential high or low levels of water in our blood and send signals to our kidneys to correct the situation. Sometimes this results in less and more concentrated urine or a more diluted solution.

Don't over think the situation, drink at regular intervals throughout the day and obey your thirst mechanism.

Little and often is the way forward and if you find your urine has turned from a pale straw colour to a darker yellow, increase your water intake until the situation changes.

Alcohol can throw the body's natural processes out of kilter so if you are due to celebrate Scotland's participation at the European Football Championships, please hydrate well the following morning.

For the full message go to the free resource section on our website.

Rob Graham, Lead Exercise Professional, Healthy Options.



Abi and Helen were part of the 12-strong Scotland squad for the event in Lisbon.

Abi and Helen star for Scotland in Rugby Europe Sevens

Former Oban High School pupil Abi Evans and Glencoe's Helen Nelson lined up for Scotland Women who finished a credible fifth at the Rugby Europe Sevens Championship Series in Lisbon.

Abi, aged 25, and Helen, 27, were part of the 12-woman national squad playing at the event held on June 5 and 6.

Scotland lost their opening two games of four they had to play on the first day. They were edged out 14-15 to hosts Portugal then went down 12-24 to eventual finalists Spain who were runners-up to overall first leg winners Russia.

Scotland rallied on opening day with victories over Belgium (17-12) and Romania (31-5). That was followed with a thumping revenge over Portugal on the second day (33-10) and in the final game, for fourth place, Scotland narrowly fell (14-10) to Poland who clinched a try in the

closing minutes of the match. Chris Laidlaw, interim head coach, said: 'We made some big steps forward as the weekend went on and I am really proud of the players and staff for their effort across the two days.'

'The first day was a big challenge, having to play four games, however, the players dealt really well with this and got stronger as the day went on.'

'I am really encouraged and excited about this group getting another couple of weeks together before we head to Moscow for the second leg and look to build on our performances in Lisbon.'

Helen Nelson started playing at Lochaber Rugby Club at the age of six.

Scotland Women head to Moscow for the second and final round of the competition on June 25 and 26 with the tournament streamed live on Rugby Europe TV.

Saints U15s reach first cup final

Continued from page 44.

The Oban youngsters started the game on the front foot aiming to take the game to their opponents in the early stages and on eight minutes had a glorious chance to take the lead from the penalty spot.

Zander Craik nicked the ball off the toe of an Athletic defender midway inside their half and as he ran through on goal, the defender brought him down inside the box. The referee pointed to the penalty spot and showed the defender a yellow card. Up stepped Zander but the goalkeeper dived low to smother his spot kick to keep the scoreline at 0-0.

Four minutes later Zander had a chance to redeem himself after another run into the box, this time from the right, was brought to a halt after another foul and resultant penalty kick.

Zander stepped up again and with the goalkeeper initially saving his second penalty of the match, the Saints' youngster was quickest to react and much to the relief of his teammates knocked the rebound into the net to give Saints the lead. Some stout defending made sure the Oban side stayed in front, first a good block on the edge of the box from Michael Campbell before

Calum MacMillan made a goal line clearance moments later.

That was to prove important as on 29 minutes Saints doubled their advantage. Zander Craik cut in from the right and his pass across the box was confidently slotted home by strike partner Cody McCulloch to make it 2-0.

Eight minutes into the second half, Athletic reduced the deficit with Saints punished for a poor clearance after defending a corner kick. The sliced clearance fell at the feet of Athletic's captain who, just inside the 18-yard line, struck his shot into the net to make it 2-1.

The goal seemed to knock Saints out of their stride and two minutes later they had Josh Lane to thank as the goalkeeper dived low to make a good save from another shot.

Athletic had their tails up now and on 54 minutes they grabbed an equaliser, when their number 10 curled a low shot into the bottom corner of the net despite the best efforts of Josh Lane to keep it out.

Credit to the Oban boys as they grabbed back control of the game and three minutes later took the lead again, Aidan MacDonald picking the ball up in midfield and threading a great ball through the defen-

sive line for Zander Craik to finish expertly to put his side back in the lead.

Saints then survived a few nervy moments as Athletic threw everything forward in the last ten minutes. First a glancing header just missed the target from a wide free kick before a well-stuck shot from outside the box flew narrowly over the bar.

With the referee adding on almost seven minutes of injury time, the Saints' boys excellent game management allowed them to run down the clock, however they had defender Logan Black to thank for an excellent last ditch block to stop a goal bound effort from the edge of the box.

The full time whistle was greeted with scenes of celebration on the pitch as the Saints' youngsters booked a place in their first cup final.

Coaches Allan MacDonald and Alex Craik were full of praise for their players, who put in a top class performance to record their first win over Athletic in five attempts.

The boys are now looking forward to their first cup final which is scheduled to take place on Sunday June 27 against Knightswood at a venue in Glasgow still to be confirmed.



Action from Sunday's semi-final at Glasgow Green.

Bob tees up for 'another brutal test' at US Open



A happy Saints Under-15s squad celebrate reaching their first final.

Saints U15s reach first cup final

Oban Saints Under-15s are celebrating after reaching their first cup final.

The Oban side travelled to Glasgow Green Football Centre last Sunday to

play Glasgow Athletic in the Glasgow and District Youth Football League Divisional Cup semi-final, with both teams serving up an entertaining tie.

Having lost all four previous league and cup games against Athletic, the young Saints' team knew they would have to be at their best

Continued on page 43.

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

Bob MacIntyre says he faces 'another brutal test' at the 121st US Open, but his watchword for San Diego will be 'enjoy it'.

Ahead of flying out for his latest major and having undergone a Covid test in Glasgow, the 24-year-old from Oban faced more than 10 members of the sporting press on Thursday.

Of the upcoming challenge of Torrey Pines, where last year just one player finished under-par, and an eight-hour time difference to get his head round, the world number 47 said the basics needed to be good – swing technique, quality driving and being on top of the short game.

And while making the cut itself is an achievement and performances at The Masters and The Open have been encouraged by strong finishes, Bob knows what progress will look like.

'Obviously it's good to make all the cuts but I feel like I've not actually taken that step to challenge in one yet, but it's only five majors so we have to take it slow,' he said.

'I know it's going to be another brutal test with it being the US Open, but I think I have got used to what to expect.

'I've just got to try and get in the right mental state for tackling the task and mainly enjoy



Bob MacIntyre hopes to enjoy the US Open, despite it being a 'brutal task'.

it – that's the main reason we play the game.'

He added: 'You just have to have the acceptance that you're not going to hit every fairway and not every good shot is going to get rewarded.'

With the wind on the exposed coastal course always a factor, Bob said: 'Even with normal conditions on a PGA Tour event, I think nine-under is kind of the normal winning score.'

'So you put in a bit more rough and you're dropping that score down near level par.'

Of continuing to train and play shinty when he can, he said staying in touch was valuable for seeing pals and clearing his mind.

He also hopes to find some time to cheer on the Tartan Army as Scotland make an appearance in the European football championships for the first time since 1996 – the year he was born. It includes a mouth-watering group clash

against England at Wembley Stadium on Friday night. Asked if he would be tuning in during the week, Bob laughed: 'Aye, I'll be watching them!'

'Obviously my priority is to prepare for a golf tournament but if I can, I'm sure I'll be watching the football.'


Addressing a recent tweet about 'hate mail' and a letter having been sent to his father, Bob did not elaborate on the content, but shrugged it off.

'Ach, you get those kind of things,' he said. 'I was actually just laughing at it more than anything.'

The US Open starts today, Thursday June 17, and runs until Sunday June 20.



FULL SHINTY ROUND-UP AND RUGBY ON PAGES 42 AND 43.



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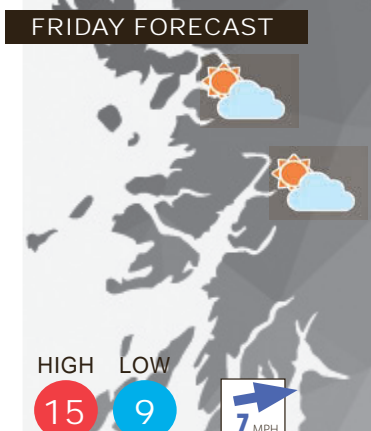
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 17 June, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

17	0420 1.7 1016 3.0 TH 1629 1.4 2229 3.3	19	0647 1.6 1249 3.0 SA 1838 1.4	21	0217 3.4 0856 1.3 M 1504 3.3 2053 1.1	23	0411 3.7 1038 0.9 W 1639 3.8 2251 0.7
18	0532 1.7 1124 2.9 F 1731 1.4 2339 3.3	20	0101 3.3 0756 1.5 SU 1406 3.1 1947 1.2	22	0318 3.6 0949 1.1 TU 1553 3.6 2154 0.9	24	0500 3.8 1124 0.8 TH 1725 3.9 2344 0.6

OBAN WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 8°C to 15°C.	Friday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.	Saturday Light cloud and a moderate breeze Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.	Sunday Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.
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FRIDAY FORECAST



Ardriishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

HIGH 15 LOW 9 7 MPH

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& OBAN TIMES

No 8568

Thursday 17 June, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p

Princess Anne opens new CAB in Barra

INSIDE THIS WEEK: Summer in the Garden for outside inspiration



BESTING THE BEN



Kinlochleven play parks slammed as 'disgrace'

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council has been accused of allowing play parks in Kinlochleven to fall into such a state of disrepair that they are almost unusable just a few weeks before youngsters break up for the summer holidays.

A small fence has been erected to try to prevent animals venturing into the play parks - the lack of people and traffic during lockdown has seen more deer venturing into the village - while the council removed a climbing frame on safety grounds but without allegedly notifying residents.

Long-term resident Mark Macgregor says he has frequently made two-hour car trips to let his two children visit other play parks because he says the Kinlochleven ones are in such a poor state.

'What on earth is actually happening with the Highland Council and this village? The place is a disgrace and Kinlochleven has two so-called parks and both of them are in

• Turn to page 3 for more

The team from Blythswood Care which tackled the Ben on Saturday morning. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Blythswood Care was delighted to challenge some of their supporters to conquer Ben Nevis on Saturday for a fundraising event, writes Mark Entwistle.

Sixteen participants, including Kilmallie Free Church minister Euan

Dodds, scaled the peak to raise funds for the charity's projects. Elma MacKay, Community Fundraising Manager for the Highlands, told the Lochaber Times: 'The participants were such a good group and managed up and down the Ben in just seven and a half hours. They

have raised over £9,000 for Blythswood. The funds raised will support people affected by poverty, rejection and isolation.

'Each of the participants has gone above and beyond to help others and we just want to say thank you

on behalf of our beneficiaries.' Blythswood Care is a Christian charity with a mission to transform lives through education, community action and gospel activities, both here in the UK and in Eastern Europe, India and Africa.

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Adventurer Tom puts North Morar home and business on the market

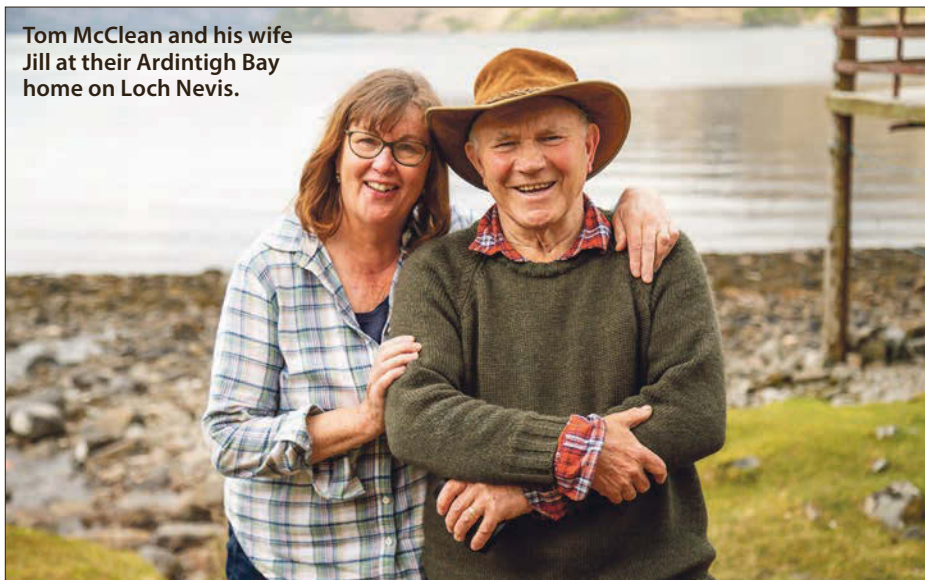
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Tom McClean has called Ardentigh Bay on the shore of Loch Nevis home for more than half a century, but the adventure legend and former SAS trooper is calling it a day and putting his home and outdoor centre on the market as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

The 78-year-old world record holder is selling Ardentigh Bay on the North Morar peninsula – his family home and business for more than 50 years.

Together with his wife Jill, he intends to retire from the Highland Outdoor Centre where they have hosted scores of army, corporate and family groups, each one keen

Tom McClean and his wife Jill at their Ardentigh Bay home on Loch Nevis.



to immerse themselves in the rugged, remote and spectacular terrain on the shores of

Loch Nevis. Included in the sale, which is being managed by Bidwells, is a two-bed-

roomed, one-and-a-half storey cottage; five wooden bunkhouses accommodating up to 24 people; a two-storey lodge; private slipway, pier and mooring; eight acres of land encompassing amenity woodland and stacks of development potential.

The property, which can only be accessed by boat or on foot, is described by the selling agents as presenting a 'rare lifestyle or business opportunity' in an outstanding location, with offers over £700,000 being sought.

Mr McClean, who also served as a paratrooper in the army, found Ardentigh in 1969 after an extensive

search, soon after achieving worldwide fame as the first man in history to row across the North Atlantic from Canada to Ireland.

He completed his epic voyage - in a boat he built himself - after passing through icebergs, encountering whales and surviving several storms with 50ft-high seas. Mr McClean also holds the record for being the first person in history to row across any ocean 'alone and unassisted'.

He commented: 'When I was serving in the SAS I was very privileged to meet and become friends with the founder of the regiment, Colonel David Stirling. It was he who introduced me to Ardentigh and on my first visit I was enchanted with its spectacular mountain scenery and its beautiful coastal location on Loch Nevis.

'After leaving the SAS, I decided I wanted to start up my own outdoor centre and was delighted to acquire Ardentigh.

'At first I lived in a tent within an old ruin before rebuilding it into the family home you see today.'

Since those early days in the wilds of Lochaber, the survival expert and father of two has achieved five single-handed crossings of the Atlantic – rowing it twice, sailing it in the world's small-

est yacht twice and crossing it again in his unique 37-ft bottle-shaped boat from New York to Falmouth.

Having not quite sated his taste for adventure on the high seas, in 1985 Mr McClean resided on the stormy crag of Rockall, 220 miles west of the Outer Hebrides for 40 days to reaffirm Britain's rights over the land, its mineral and oil rights.

One of the most prominent features at Ardentigh is 'Moby – Prince of Whales' – a 65ft long boat in the shape of a whale that Mr McClean built and in which he completed a circumnavigation of Britain in 1997.

On his half century at Ardentigh, he commented: 'It's been a privilege for Jill and I to have lived in such a special and spectacular place as Ardentigh Bay, on the shores of Loch Nevis, for all these years.

'We've had the most amazing life here and met so many wonderful people through running the centre.

'We have also enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of this enchanting setting with its wide-open spaces and panoramic views down the loch to the Cuillin on Skye.

'Now the time has come to pass on the baton for new owners to enjoy this magical place as much as we have.'



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The famous whale boat which 'basks' on the shore of Ardentigh Bay at sunset.

Kinlochleven play parks slammed as a 'disgrace'

Continued from page 1.

need of repair and renewal. The park on Leven Road/Park Road had its main play area demolished and now its not going to be renewed. Why? The park is also disgusting, muddy, paint flaking off, a broken bench and no bins, so rubbish everywhere.

'The youngsters in this village cannot have any fun without possible injury with the state of these so-called parks. They are in desperate need of a clean and a paint.'

'And the park at Wades Road/Lovat Road is actually pathetic to be honest. A sign stating Park Open and Play Safe is awful and the Highland Council should be embarrassed having that in place. Do they not care that our children are missing out on being young, having fun outdoors or even socialising and interacting with others



Mr Macgregor says Highland Council have promised so much over the years but failed the village again and again.

outside of their own family or group?

'Highland Council has promised so much over the years and in my mind have failed again and again. Play parks can promote health, help with illness and help mental health issues also, especially after the last year we've all had.'

And Mr Macgregor said he would no longer let his children use the village's play parks: 'I will not take my children to the play parks anymore in the fear they will get hurt due to the horrid state the Highland Council has allowed them to get into.'

'They don't even clean the



parks or keep the grass cut anymore.' Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward councillor Andrew Baxter said the problems were partly due to the deer problem – deer have been venturing into the village during lockdown – and to the council removing the climbing frame from one of the parks

without prior notice due to safety concerns.

He continued: 'They had no plan for any replacement so I am working to try and get council funding for erection of a higher deer proof fence and new equipment.'

And he added: 'In a debate in March, when the council

announced it had a significant year-end surplus, I argued that we should set aside £1 million to improve our play parks including new equipment.'

'The council administration dismissed this, instead putting the money into reserves. The budget they set aside for even routine maintenance is miniscule.'

Asked to comment, a Highland Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times on Tuesday afternoon that the Park Road play area would have work completed by the end of this week.

'We are removing stumps and making safe the surface following removal of a large climbing frame. A site visit is being carried out to the other play area in Kinlochleven this afternoon,' added the spokesperson.

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Marine accident report into Loch Alsh fish farm fatality published

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An investigation into a fatal accident at Ardintoul fish farm on Loch Alsh last year revealed that owner, Mowi (Scotland) Ltd, did not have an effective marine safety management system in place.

The enquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) came after the death of assistant fish farm manager Clive Hendry in February 2020. Mr Hendry, 58, drowned after he was crushed between a boat and a feed barge after falling from the barge's access ladder into the water during a boat transfer.

Mr Hendry, pictured, from Dornie, was attempting to climb onto the barge from the workboat Beinn Na Caillich. After he was crushed between



Clive Hendry, who died last year.

the boat and the barge, a technician on the barge spotted Mr Hendry hanging from the ladder and grabbed hold of the strap at the back of his lifejacket.

Mr Hendry told the technician he could not use or feel his legs, according to the MAIB report.

Shortly after, Mr Hendry lost his grip on the ladder and

slipped out of his oilskin jacket and lifejacket, which was not fastened at the crotch straps, and fell into the sea.

Mr Hendry's work colleagues managed to get him out of the water but, despite their determined efforts and those of the emergency services, he died.

The report said Mr Hendry had worked in the fish farming industry for more than 20 years and was regarded as a hard-working member of his team who was respected for his experience. The MAIB investigation concluded that the conduct of the boat transfer had not been properly planned or briefed and was not adequately controlled. A risk assessment for the transfer of personnel to and from the fish farm installations had not been carried out and a documented safe system of work had not been produced.

Recommendations were made to the vessel and Mowi (Scotland) Ltd to apply The Workboat Code Edition 2 to its fleet and implement a safety management system that complies with the principles of the International Safety Management Code. A recommendation to ensure that appropriate marine expertise is present or provided to the senior management team to oversee the safety of its vessels and marine operations was also made to the owner.

A spokesperson for MOWI told the Lochaber Times: 'Clive had been a truly valued member of our team for 12 years and we all continue to be deeply affected by his death. Our sympathies go to Clive's family, friends and colleagues. As detailed in the MAIB accident report, preventative actions were im-

mediately implemented and we are now reviewing the learnings from this report that include two recommendations made by the MAIB.' The MAIB report notes that safety recommendations do not create a presumption of blame or liability.

Mr Hendry's partner, Catriona Lockhart, described him as a 'fun loving, generous and kind, who would do anything to help anybody'. He loved his job, fishing and animals.

Ms Lockhart told the Lochaber Times she had been left 'devastated' by her partner's death, adding: 'My life has been destroyed by the events on February 18 2020. My partner Clive, of 28 years, loved life and for him to walk out the door of our home and never come home, and to see him dead in the hospital is the most heart-breaking, life changing event.'

Fort Covid cases at 97, says NHS

NHS Highland's Health Protection Team has confirmed that as of Tuesday this week, there were 97 cases of Covid due to the outbreak in Fort William. The community has been asked to remain vigilant for symptoms and anyone that becomes unwell should isolate immediately and seek a PCR test.

Last week, NHS Highland said although the number of cases had increased, the overall situation was improving.

Speaking last week, Dr Jenny Wares, consultant in Public Health Medicine with NHS Highland, said: 'This has been a significant outbreak and it is important the community remains vigilant for the symptoms of Covid-19. Please continue to follow all guidance from NHS Highland's contact tracing team.'

Police investigate

Police are investigating after several vehicles were vandalised in Lochside. A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'Three cars were vandalised at Fern Court in Fort William on June 14. Anyone with information should call 101, quoting 0709 of 14 June.'

Delay on sea wall repairs keeps traffic at bay

A single lane closure on the A82, Achintore Road, Fort William, will be extended to autumn this year following delays on the ongoing sea wall repairs, writes Fiona Scott.

After a delayed start due to weather conditions in January, BEAR Scotland encountered various environmental constraints which they have worked to overcome. Work has since progressed well, with 310m of the 675m wall constructed and new safety barrier installed.

Once the remaining 365m of wall and safety barrier is complete, the remaining 215m of safety barrier along this section of the A82 will be upgraded. Following which, the footway along this

890m section of the A82 will be reinstated and all traffic management will be removed.

BEAR Scotland engineer technician Calum Farquharson said: 'Works are now expected to be completed in the autumn and until such time, our single lane closure will remain in place 24/7.'

'The temporary traffic signals will continue to be operated manually during periods of peak travel flow to minimise the disruption to members of the travelling public and the wider community.'

Mr Farquharson thanked everyone for their patience during these essential works which were originally scheduled to end in August.



The roadworks were originally meant to finish in August.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson.



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Appeal after serious crash at Glencoe

Police officers are appealing for witnesses to help with their investigation into a serious road crash on the A82 just north of Kingshouse, Glencoe.

The crash happened around 1.30pm on Monday June 14 and involved a BMW motorcycle and a VW Golf car.

A 55-year-old man, the driver of the motorcycle, was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness with serious injuries.

Police Constable Mary Boyd, of the Fort William Road Policing Unit, said: 'We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been around at the time of this crash, particularly anyone with dash-cam footage that could help with our investigation.'

'If you can help please call us on 101, quoting incident number 1805 of Monday, 14 June, 2021.'

Family disgusted at desecration of bench

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An Edinburgh man says his family was disgusted when they discovered that someone had been using the flowerpot section of a bench erected in memory of his late mother in Glen Nevis as a firepit during the pandemic.

George Forsyth contacted the Lochaber Times to raise awareness that such incidents are taking place and told the Lochaber Times it was not the first time his mother's memorial bench had been desecrated.

'We as a family have been coming to Fort William for more than 30 years. For that reason when my mother passed away in 2011 she asked for her ashes to be scattered here,' Mr Forsyth said.



'At the time we liaised with Friends of Nevis and placed a solid granite memorial bench beside the curling rinks at the begin-

The memorial bench to the late Margaret Forsyth in Glen Nevis which has been desecrated on several occasions and, inset, the flowerpot section of the memorial bench has recently been used as a firepit by someone.

'Unfortunately due to recent circumstances of the Covid pandemic we have been unable to attend for over a year and a half.

'However, we managed to get there earlier this month but we were extremely upset and disappointed to find on arrival that someone had been using the flowerpot section of the bench as a fire pit and not just once.

'Unfortunately this is not the first instance, as only a couple of years after we placed the bench in situ we came for a visit on what was my parents anniversary to find someone had spread human excrement all over the seat.

'We find it hard to understand when there is a plaque attached to the bench explaining why it is there that anyone could defile or desecrate a memorial in such a way.

'Thankfully, whilst there we were approached by a couple of gentlemen from Friends of Nevis and when we explained the circumstances they, too, were disgusted by someone's actions in doing this.

'They assured us that there were some rangers starting work in the next few weeks to look after the area and they would keep an eye on the bench. This reassured my father and he said he looked forward to coming back in September knowing someone would be around to ensure the bench would hopefully be safe.'

Mr Forsyth added: 'We would like to make this latest incident public to may be deter any future incidents from occurring. We all love coming here, but finding things like this have happened leaves us feeling disgusted.'

Enterprising Fort Augustus pupils set up Mini Money Fund

Enterprising pupils at Kilchuimen Primary in Fort Augustus have been getting a taste of community funding and grant giving.

The P4/5 youngsters at the school set up the Kilchuimen Mini Money Fund to find out more about how a community benefit fund works.

Applications to the £400 fund were invited from all school and nursery pupils who had to outline the benefits of their proposed project, provide costings and explain how it would be delivered.

The fund received 12 applications, with six receiving cash, which was provided by sponsors Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company and Falck Renewables, owners of nearby Millennium Wind Farm.

The successful applications ranged from maths robots and sand pit toys to a tennis racket and balls for playground rounders. A group of pupils from primaries 5, 6 and 7 also received £100 towards their plans to hold a post-Covid treat for the elderly in the community, which is planned to take place in Fort Augustus Village Hall when regulations allow.



The P4/5 pupils who set up the mini money fund.

Teacher Evie Sandham explained: 'Setting up the Kilchuimen Mini Money Fund proved to be a hugely valuable exercise which really made the children think about the whole process - from the paperwork required to making decisions on which applications to grant and which to turn down.'

'The children who applied to the fund also benefitted - filling in application forms and providing evidence to back up their application are useful life skills which will serve them well in the future.'

Erin Murchie, Falck Renewables community relations manager, added: 'We

were delighted to support this fantastic project which gave the children a great insight into how community funding works and how to make decisions which will have real impact.

'A lot of the community funding from renewable energy projects like ours is administered by talented and dedicated volunteers who understand the needs of their area.'

'We hope the members of the Kilchuimen Mini Money Fund have enjoyed the experience and go on to be the community benefit fund experts of the future.'

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Working together is what Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is all about. We work to support and connect businesses to help grow our local economy and benefit our whole community.

Naturally, we are very excited about the recent announcement of Visit Scotland's new 'Destination and Sector Marketing Fund' set up to help the sustainable recovery of tourism in Scotland.

This £3million marketing fund is to help cities, destination marketing organisations and local marketing groups promote their areas and aid sustainable tourism recovery. The fund is part of a wider Scottish Government support package being delivered by VisitScotland.

Coronavirus has forced a monumental shift in the tourism industry and as we map our recovery we must recognise that we are now operating in a new tourism landscape. With international travel restrictions set to continue, stimulating domestic visitor demand and extending the season are crucial to Scotland's immediate tourism recovery.



The objective of the new Destination and Sector Marketing Fund is to encourage destination and sector groups to collaborate to develop strong visitor propositions that respond to identified post-Covid trends.

These trends include wellness tourism, artisan food and drink, local and authentic experiences, a holiday with some element of volunteer work and working from home in a different location.

With all our wonderful attractions and activities, stunning locations and excellent hospitality, we've got a lot of options to focus on.

As the guidance is all about collaboration and working together, we're pleased we are liaising with the area's different marketing groups with a collective aim of making sure Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, maximises this amazing opportunity for everyone.

Charities unite for evening on the Ben

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Representatives of 10 charities joined forces on Saturday night with a moonlit walk up Ben Nevis to show support for families of babies and children who were taken too soon.

The evening was a truly powerful one as more than 100 people joined in friendship for a shared goal and emotion filled the air as the lost children were remembered.

Big Steps for Small Feet was an inspirational vision that Fort William's Michael McGuire, co-founder of Anam Cara Fasgadh, had a number of years ago to commemorate his son Kyle.



Michael McGuire was inspired following his walk up Ben Nevis in 2019.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson.

Emma MacSween, Shirley Duncan, Siobhan Sharkey and Ben Cruickshank making up an incredible team of seven.

They set off just after 10pm, reaching the summit by 1am in truly challenging conditions. They arrived back down just after 4am, all still smiling and joking and full of stories. Even in the rain and wind, they managed to complete a pre-planned TikTok to 'Yes Sir, I Can Boogie' to wish the Scotland football team good luck.

Michael continued: 'Saturday's event was two years in the making, bringing together 10 children's charities all with a common goal of saving lives.'

'Big steps for small feet was a bespoke collaboration that was an opportunity for many to come together, form new friendships and raise vital awareness.'

'It's been a tough 18 months for so many. Hopefully the love and determination of those who lit up Ben Nevis might just have inspired others never to give up.'

Other charities taking part were Child Bereavement UK; Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity; SANDS Lothians; Bliss; Tommy's; The Lullaby Trust; Twins Trust and Together for Short Lives.

Michael climbed Ben Nevis on June 28 2019, a week after Father's Day, and with that Father's Day, and with that climb, as he watched the sun rise, the beginnings of the idea began to form.

Michael's vision was to see charities and organisations work together to bring those they support together to walk and talk in mutual understanding as they took in the sunrise on the Ben.

Though the wet and windy weather was certainly not part of his original plan, the general consensus was that everyone got much more out of the event than organisers could have imagined.

Following the trek, which saw his vision come to fruition, Michael spoke to the

walkers who stood united during an emotional address. 'Small feet truly leave the biggest imprint in our hearts,' he said.

'We can't thank the participants enough for showing such care towards bereaved families and for raising valuable funds for 10 incredible charities.'

'A huge thank you also to the charities involved. It's been two years in the planning and as well as it being a privilege to work alongside such a great team, we've formed friendships alongside it too.'

Fort William-based charity STAR for Harris joined the walk with Allan Ross, Gerry Halas, Patricia MacKay,



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The Star for Harris team before the walk up Ben Nevis. Photograph: Iain Ferguson.

Fort Covid outbreak scuppers school's S6 leavers and P7 transition events

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

All P7 pupils in primary schools in the Lochaber High School associated school group will miss out on what should have been this month's transition days introducing them to secondary education life ahead of the annual summer break due to the recent outbreak of Covid in Fort William.

Currently there are 97 positive cases attributed to the outbreak.

Local parents have not been slow to take to social media to lament the decision. One posted: 'Cancelling the P7 induction days to high school! Absolutely shocking, gutted for them.'

'Surely they could of still worked out a way for it to happen, even a few afternoons, and different days for different



Highland Council said that although transition events are important, the safety of pupils and staff were its top priority.

Asked to comment, a Highland Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'Following the recent prevalence of Covid-19 cases in the area and after listening to advice from Public Health and local NHS partners, we have made the difficult decision to postpone all June transition events for Primary 7 pupils in the Lochaber High School Associated School Group.'

'Transition experiences are an important milestone for young people but the safety of our pupils and staff members remains a top priority.'

However, Caol Primary School has opted to take matters into its own hands.

Posting online, the school stated: 'Our P7s were disappointed today to find out that their upcoming transition days have had to be cancelled. We share their disap-

pointment and to help cheer them up we have organised a graduation party for them all. Pupils will be invited to come back to school - after getting all glammed up - from 4-6pm next Tuesday, June 22, to celebrate the end of their time with us.'

'We're organising bouncy castles, a disco, photo booths and a buffet and hope to have a lovely time together.'

Parents were due to receive an email this week with more details and are requested to return an accompanying form.

The school added: 'We hope this goes some way to easing their disappointment and, as ever, we will try to give them the best end to their P7 year.'

Asked if there would be any leavers/graduation event rearranged for the S6 students who have now finished their final year at Lochaber High School,

the council spokesperson said the leaver events had been also cancelled due to the current Covid outbreak centred on the town.

The spokesperson added: 'Lochaber High School is very disappointed for the S6 leavers that such events have had to be cancelled.'

'The decision has been taken on the advice of Public Health and NHS partners, taking into account the local Covid-19 context.'

Asked to comment, Lochaber High School Parent Council said it had passed our enquiry onto its chairperson, adding: 'As parents of current S6 leavers, we feel and share the disappointment of the students at this difficult time.'

'I believe the school had plans for a small celebration but the current Covid-19 situation put stop to those plans.'

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Lochaber communities to be asked importance of Corran ferry service

A major socio-economic study is being launched to gather the views of as many residents as possible across Fort William, Ardgour, Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moidart, Morar, Morvern, Mull and beyond as a way of analysing the importance of the Corran ferry service, writes Mark Entwistle.

Stantec has been commissioned by The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) to analyse the economic, social and community benefits provided by the ferry service.

The purpose of this research is to feed into the business case being developed by the council for new vessels and terminal infrastructure.

The study is intended to highlight the importance of the ferry to the communities



previously mentioned in part through testing the implications of hypothetical scenarios where the service discontinued.

The purpose of this exercise is to understand how the ferry is used and the benefits which it offers. As such, there is less of a focus on the operational

details of the service, such as individual fares and operating hours, rather a larger focus on the use of the ferry service, including journey purpose and frequency.

More detailed consultation on the operational aspects of the ferry service will be carried out as part of the detailed de-

The Corran Narrows ferry is regarded as a vital lifeline service for communities on the peninsula.

sign stage of the Ferry Service Outline Business Case and as such does not form part of the scope of this study.

A council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'The Corran Ferry provides a lifeline route across the Corran Narrows of Loch Linnhe from the Ardnamurchan and Morvern peninsulas to the A82 travelling north to Fort William and south, to Oban, Glasgow and the rest of Scotland.'

'In 2019, a high-level feasibility study of a fixed-link across the Corran Narrows was completed and submitted to Transport Scotland for further consideration within the Strategic Transport Projects

Review 2 (STPR2) process. This process is ongoing but, even if a fixed link - bridge or tunnel - is prioritised through this process, its realisation 'on the ground' remains a longer-term proposition.

'In the meantime, however, there is an urgent need to invest in the ferry service to protect and develop the 'lifeline' link across the Narrows which serves Fort William, Ardgour, Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moidart, Morar, Morvern, the Isle of Mull and beyond.

'This is driven in part by the need to replace the ageing MV Maid of Glencoul, but also by vehicle capacity issues which leads to traffic queuing issues on either side of the Corran Narrows.

'The ferry, running all year round, seven-days a week, is the busiest when measured

against any comparable service in Scotland and many in Europe, making approximately 30,000 crossings per year and carrying 270,000 cars.

The ferry meets the supply chain needs of the communities. It is heavily used by commercial users and provides residents with daily connectivity to employment, health, education and everyday activities. It also acts as a gateway for tourists visiting the peninsulas and beyond and with the current trend for holidaying at home these numbers are continuing to rise. 'There exists, therefore, an urgent requirement for investment in the replacement of the vessels and infrastructure to ensure the sustainability of the service, until such time as a longer-term fixed-link solution can potentially be realised.'

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Fort William climate activists join G7 summit protest

In Fort William, a group of intrepid residents took to the water to add their weight to Make The Wave – an action by Extinction Rebellion, which travelled around the UK coast ahead of last week's G7 summit in Cornwall, writes Mark Entwistle.

The purpose was to draw attention to the impact of rising sea levels and to demand more action from the leaders of rich countries which have contributed so much to the climate emergency.

A spokesperson for the group told the Lochaber Times: 'Scientists have made it clear that greenhouse gas emissions must be halved by 2030 if the world is to stay within 1.5°C of global heating – the threshold beyond which extreme weather will take hold, small islands and low-lying areas will face inundation and swathes of the world will face water stress and heatwaves.'

'The UN estimates there could be anywhere between 25 million and 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050, many of those on the move because of the effects of sea level rise. And rising sea levels aren't just a problem



Lochaber citizens joined in the Make The Wave protest ahead of the G7 summit.

affecting someone else. Here in Lochaber we, too, will soon be experiencing coastal flooding, in the same way that's already impacting other island nations around the world.

'A sea level rise of 10 metres within decades is a real possibility and that, combined with storm surges from the increasingly unstable climate, would overwhelm the few paltry existing flood defences to inundate low-lying settlements around our coast.'

'The G7 countries represent just 10 per cent of global population, but a massive 58 per

cent of global wealth. With that global wealth comes global responsibility but, disappointingly, the G7 leaders seemed more focused on short-term trade deals and offered no new climate finance.

'That is a very short-sighted view, because the cost of dealing with the consequences of breaching the 1.5°C limit will be far greater than the cost of stopping it from happening.'

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Local government boundary review

Island communities of Canna, Eigg, Muck and Rum will be included in the existing Caol and Mallaig ward boundary at Knoydart if the latest review from Boundaries Scotland is accepted.

The advisory public body submitted its final proposal for councillor numbers and wards in the Highland Council area to Scottish ministers earlier this week, with only the above mentioned change included for Lochaber.

If approved, Ward 11 will be known as Caol, Mallaig and the Small Isles and will be represented by three councillors, forecast to represent 6.4 per cent fewer electors than absolute parity would require.

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 required the Commission to review six councils containing inhabited islands - Argyll and Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire, Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

The final proposal for The Highland Council area, which can be found on the Boundaries Scotland website,

proposes to reduce the current 74 members allocated within 21 wards to 73 members to 20 wards.

The member to ward allocation is as follows: one ward returning two members, eight wards returning three members, eight wards returning four members and three wards returning five members.

Proposals retain the existing Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward (20), with the name, boundary and four councillors to remain unchanged. Councillors in this ward are forecast to represent 15.9 per cent fewer electors than absolute parity would require.

The final proposal will be presented to a Highland Council meeting on Thursday June 24 to allow members to consider the full implications in terms of council business and service delivery within the proposed new arrangements and the running of future elections with a local government election scheduled for May 5 2022.

Honour for Harris Tweed's Catherine

Harris businesswoman Catherine Campbell had her work nationally recognised on Saturday when she was named in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Catherine was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to the Harris Tweed Industry and Economy on the Isle of Harris.

Daughter of Alistair and Katie, Catherine has inherited her family's passion for Harris Tweed and is continuing with the family tradition. She has opened the Harris Tweed Isle of Harris shop in Tarbert, which she has developed into possibly the largest stockist of Harris Tweed in the Hebrides. She is also continuing with the original Harris Tweed and Knitwear company and during the summer she holds an exhibition of Harris Tweed and has weaving demonstrations daily.

She told the Lochaber Times: 'I am deeply honoured and very surprised to receive this award and although I stand to accept this honour, I feel it belongs equally to my family who brought me up to love the Harris Tweed industry

I live and work in today, my staff who have worked tirelessly, supported and helped me throughout the years and my dear children, family and friends.

'A very special thanks also to The Harris Tweed Authority, which has guided us, as well as my many colleagues within the industry, for their support, encouragement and expertise throughout the years. I am eternally grateful.'

Catherine follows in the footsteps of her great aunt Marion who was awarded a British Empire Medal in the 1985 Queen's New Year Honours List for her service to the industry.

Ardnamurchan Distillery was also celebrating on Saturday when Edinburgh-based whisky expert Charles MacLean, who is a founding director of Adelphi Distillery Limited, was awarded an MBE for his services to Scotch whisky, UK exports and charity.

'Charlie and his famous nose have been guiding us for 27 years now, so we know this is a very well deserved nomination,' said a distillery spokesperson.



Catherine Campbell.


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Mallaig welcomes back the glories of sail with the arrival of Pellew

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Moored on a pontoon in Mallaig harbour for much of this summer, the Pellew is an elegant reminder of another age, but speak to her creator, master shipwright Luke Powell, and you soon realise she is anything but a museum piece.

A faithful recreation of the famous Falmouth pilot cutter Vincent, Luke brought her to life over a four-year £1.2million build at his yard in Cornwall that ended with her launch last year.

Constructed by hand in the old fashioned way at the yard in Truro under his Working Sail brand, Pellew is now in Mallaig for two months, booked to take guests on adventure sailing holidays around the Hebrides and St Kilda.

Measuring almost 70 feet with a displacement of 74 tons, Pellew is the largest of the nine pilot cutters that Luke has built in a career dedicated to preserving and passing on the skills of traditional wooden boat building.

Named for Admiral Edward Pellew, a Cornish packet-ship captain's son who rose to become a British naval hero of the Napoleonic wars, she is also the largest traditional wooden sailing vessel to be built in Britain for more than a century, using skills that Luke worries will almost certainly be lost in time if more is not done to help continue



their survival among younger people.

But Pellew has another mission, one even closer to Luke's heart, and that is to use the income generated from such trips to help fund sailing for young people and encourage the survival of those fast disappearing skills needed to build more wooden ships like her.

'These skills, of building wooden boats bigger than, say, 40 feet, are being lost. Of that there's no doubt,' Luke told me over a cup of coffee in the cosy saloon of Pellew, while his crew of Morag Slessor, Sam Bottomley and Felix Swallow got the ship ready for its next group of guests.

'Before I started building these boats from scratch I was involved with a lot of

rebuilt, but I eventually realised that repairing boats was not helping, it was just slowing down the process of decay and that to rebuild our population of large wooden boats we had to build new ones.

'I mean, look at the wooden Scottish MFV – a fishing boat known around the world of which thousands were built. Yet every year you come to a port like Mallaig or anywhere else, there will be one less wooden fishing boat than the year before.

'It's really sad when you realise what's being lost.'

Luke explains that the problem is not so much a shortage of wooden boat shipwrights, but rather a shortage of young wooden boat shipwrights coming into the industry to help keep it alive.

'We focus on building the bigger wooden boats because that's where the skills are being lost the most. I meet endless shipwrights working on houses instead of boats. The skills are still out there but they are all in shipwrights of my generation and older.

'The younger guys we employ in our yard are all in their 20s mostly and there's a fair gap in age between me and them.'

Part of the reason behind the demise of wooden boat building is the rise of the glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) moulded pleasure boats which are produced much quicker.

But Luke dismisses the age-old complaints of wooden yachts and boats being

Luke Powell on board the Pellew in Mallaig harbour last week. Photograph: Mark Entwistle.
Below: the Pellew under sail.

build, but a way to also build communities.

'Using wood is low tech method of construction and it is an economically sound way to build long lasting boats. A wooden fishing boat will outlast a steel one.'

'There's been a whole lot of propaganda against wooden boats. There's a big market pushing a GRP boats.'

The building of new pilot cutters and repair of older vessels in Falmouth has seen the area become something of a centre for the iconic boats.

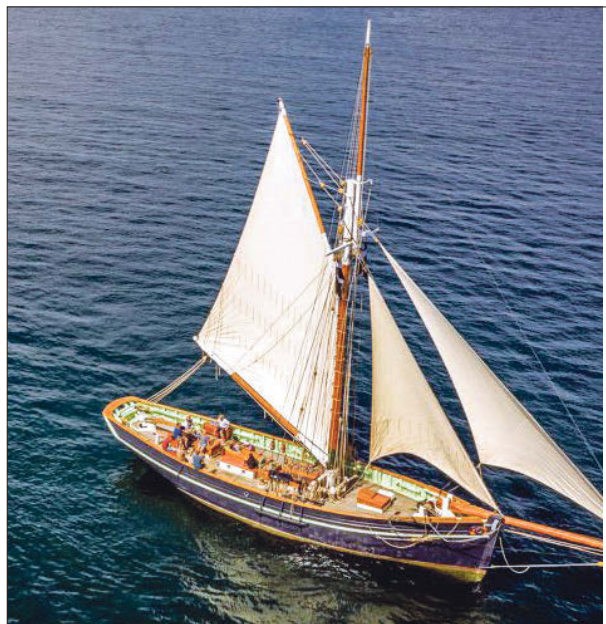
'It's probably partly because we started a regatta for pilot cutters, but if you go outside of Falmouth you will see very few,' added Luke.

Oak framed throughout and planked with locally-sourced Douglas fir mast and spars, for many years Pellew only existed in Luke's dreams.

So it is fitting that when she makes her first visit north to Scotland's West Coast waters it is her builder that is at her helm.

It is clear to see Luke's passion for Pellew and her ilk. And when he poses for a photograph with his hand gently resting on the tiller, he looks every inch a man who has found his place in the world.

'Being on the deck of a wooden sailing ship is like nothing else,' he tells me. 'It is freedom.'



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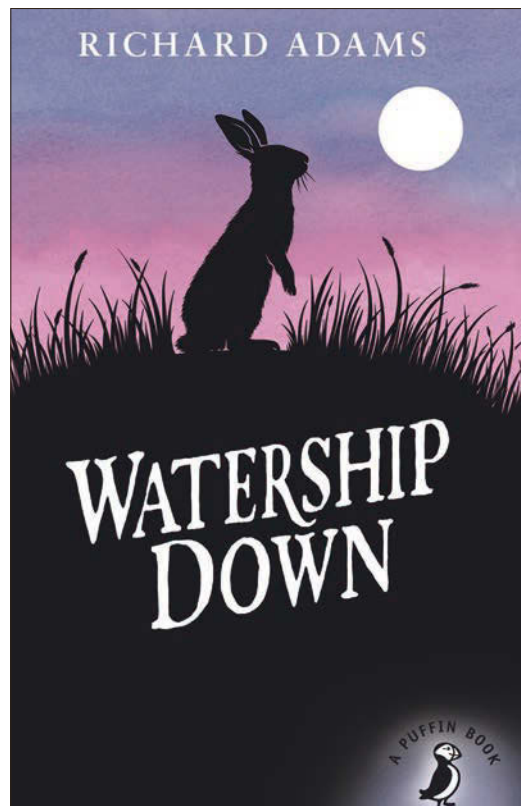
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Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Not just a story about rabbits

I am of the generation with vivid memories of the cartoon film adaptation of Richard Adams' children's book *Watership Down*.

For many children of the late 1970s and 1980s, the story of a group of rabbits escaping the brutal destruction of their warren was indelibly imprinted on our minds. Re-reading the book as an adult, it was clear how much that early encounter had shaped my perception of wildlife.

The story of *Watership Down* began as tales about rabbits Hazel and Fiver that Adams told his young daughters, Juliet and Rosamond, during long car

journeys. But since its publication in 1972, *Watership Down* has sold several million copies worldwide.

It has been translated into well over 20 languages and has been adapted several times, including the aforementioned 1978 feature-length animated film and most recently in 2018 as a major animated TV series by BBC/Netflix.

Now academics at the University of Glasgow and Cardiff University are to host a conference to celebrate Adams' debut novel on its 50th anniversary and examine its continuing appeal to children over five decades.

Children's author SF Said will be a keynote speaker at the Glasgow conference, along with Adams' daughter Rosemary Mahoney. Said said: 'I read

Watership Down as a child. It was my favourite book and inspired me to become a writer.

'I re-read it for the first time just after I finished writing *Varjak Paw* and was stunned to see how deeply it had shaped my imagination.

'There would certainly be no *Varjak Paw* without *Watership Down*. I believe it has shaped our entire culture, as only the greatest literature can.'

The three-day conference is being held at the University of Glasgow from September 2 to September 4 2022. The conference is also inviting academics to submit 20-minute papers on any aspect of *Watership Down*, its influences and legacy.

It is hoped these papers will be turned into a collection of essays to mark the 50th anniversary of the novel.

Adams famously said of his book that 'It's just a story about rabbits'. However, his daughter acknowledges it has become much more than that.

She said: 'People of all ages continue to connect with the story of *Watership Down* and its key messages about the environment, leadership and friendship are as important today as they were a half century ago.'

The ongoing battle to protect the landscape on which Adams based *Watership Down* shows how powerful the right story can be in this world.

Since 2012 there have been five planning applications for Sandleford Downs farmland, surrounded still by ancient woodlands. All five have – so far – been refused.

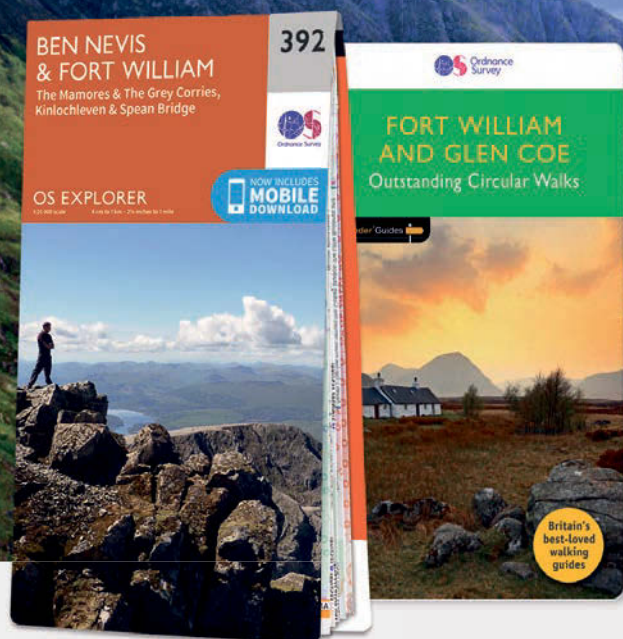
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The *Watership Down* Cover by Tracey Knight.

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Plockton and Portree pupils take part in peatland appreciation project

Plockton and Portree high school pupils are among more than 1,600 pupils from across Highland region taking part in outdoor science sessions to learn about the crucial role peatlands play in the fight against climate change.

The sessions will be provided by the Science Skills Academy (SSA) which will host more than 90 small groups of first year pupils who will carry out practical activities, including identifying and classifying plants that thrive in peatlands.

Pupils will also learn about the Scottish Government's goal of achieving a net-zero Scotland by 2045 - partially through the restoration of peatlands - which will be a key part of discussions at the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow in November.

April Conroy, STEM en-



Pupils learning about the importance of peatlands at a Science Skills Academy session.

Photograph: Gillian Frampton/HIE.

their significance locally and globally. We're helping them classify the mosses and lichen found in Highland peatlands. We hope they'll be able to recognise these plants and have a new appreciation of just how special our environment is.'

SSA is a partnership led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal which provided SSA with £3m for the project. Its aim is to help increase the number of young people with the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills needed for future economic growth of the region.

SSA will work in partnership with key organisations, including HIE, Highland Council, the University of the Highlands and Islands, Skills Development Scotland, High Life Highland and NHS

Highland, to deliver and to demonstrate this model of STEM delivery in a large rural area. In addition to the peatland project, SSA has created the Highland Newton Room network across the Highlands to encourage more young people to study STEM subjects. The STEM learning centres have already opened in Fort William, Thurso and Dingwall and a pop-up Newton Room will serve schools in Skye and Lochalsh.

Further information on how SSA aims to inspire and encourage children to explore STEM subjects in the Highlands and Island can be found at www.scienceskillsacademy.co.uk

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gagement manager at SSA, said: 'We've run our first few peatland sessions and have had a fantastic response from the

pupils. Peatlands are one of the most valuable ecosystems on earth, particularly as they provide safe drinking water,

minimise flood risk and help address climate change.

'Pupils are enjoying finding out about peatlands and

View from the Edge - Cath MacDonald

It was a beautiful evening. There was not a breath of wind and the sea was still and like a mirror.

The place was unusually quiet for this time of year. Some visitors had arrived on holiday but nothing like the number that had been expected.

Earlier in the year there was much talk of 'staycations'. It was expected that people who would in usual times have gone to Europe or other sunny climes would come to the Western Isles, adding to the large numbers of visitors who were accustomed to coming to the islands in the summer.

But there were problems. The MV Loch Seaforth which ran from Ullapool to Stornoway was in dry dock for repair meaning CalMac had to move some of their ships around.

Ferries also have to observe distancing restrictions and could not carry as many passengers as they used to on the routes. This led to cancellations when people who had booked holidays on the islands could not get a booking on the ferry.

The reduction in numbers arriving was disappointing for tourism businesses which, having been closed in 2020, were so much looking forward to at least some return to normality in 2021.

At the small campsite on our



croft, it was also different from former years. Everyone who arrived had booked. There was not the usual arrival of people with campervans coming to the door to ask if there was a pitch available.

CalMac had been advised it should only bring campers who had already booked accommodation on the islands, as well as island residents. Those who came with large campervans and motorhomes had their own toilets.

The number of tents is fewer than usual. Unlike past years, and as expected, no Europeans have arrived. Churches have opened and in our Church of Scotland we have about 20 people allowed inside in a bubble and another 20 members of the congregation the following Sunday. The services are still available on Zoom and You Tube. Community councils and other groups have continued their meetings on Zoom. This allowed discussion and progress to be made on matters but some miss the in-person

meetings, the chat at the end of the meeting and the personal contact with colleagues on committees.

There have been other changes over the years, not to do with Covid or other disease.

From my window I saw a neighbour from the next croft walking along the side of a hill on his croft with his sheepdog.

This being Sunday, it brought back memories of my childhood days. On Sundays in good weather, my father, his neighbours and male cousins from the nearby crofts, would meet on that hill on a Sunday afternoon and chat, putting the world to rights.

After a while they would return home and perhaps attend the evening service in the village Mission Hall.

This does not happen now. The Mission Hall closed many years ago. People can travel by car to the main church building, five miles from the village.

Those who met on the hill are gone, times have changed and those who remain have not the same need to meet and plan together for the next week.

Today, while most of Scotland moves into Level One, the Western Isles move into Level Zero. This June morning I heard the cuckoo for the first time this year. It seemed almost as though it had arrived to welcome the good news.

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Environmental health keeps a watchful eye on blue-green algae bloom

Highland Council was notified of a large blue-green algae bloom in the Minch last week which was being closely monitored by the local authority's environmental health department as it can pose risks to the health of people and their pets.

The bloom stretched for miles along the coast of Harris, Uist, Barra and Skye and there were fears it had potential to spread even further.

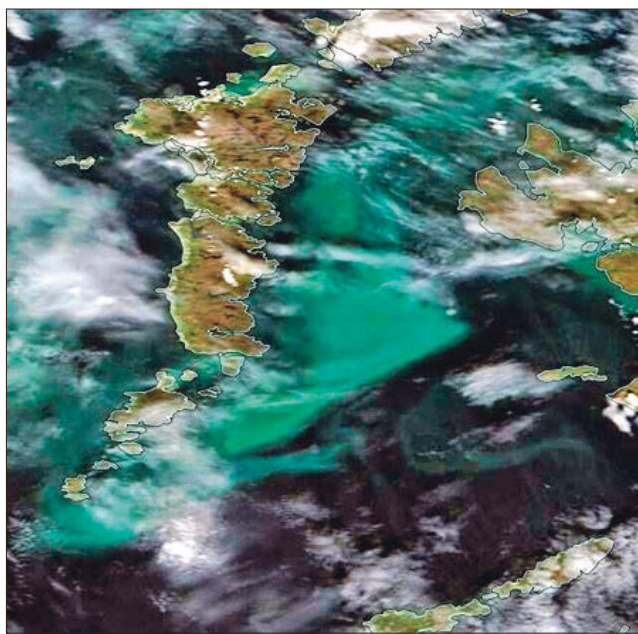
Satellite imagery provided by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) showed the vast extent of the bloom, which can cause problems for humans and wildlife or pets – though not always – which can include skin rashes, eye irritation, vomiting and diarrhoea, fever and pains in muscles and joints. Toxic algae has previously caused fatalities

among livestock, dogs, water birds and fish.

Blue-green algae exists throughout the UK and the world and it is particularly noticeable when their concentrations increase to form blooms or scums – looking like blue-green paint.

As a precautionary measure people are being advised to avoid any contact with any algal scum and to keep their pets away from it.

SEPA and the council's environmental health department will continue to monitor the bloom until it has cleared. The behaviour of algae is erratic and the level of its toxicity can fluctuate. It can also appear one day and disappear the next. It can be dispersed by the wind or even re-accumulate at any time.



The large blue-green algae bloom which has developed in the Minch and is being monitored by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. Photograph: SEPA.

MSP warns of terrible consequences for farmers

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has issued a stark warning in the Scottish Parliament about the catastrophic impact that tariff-free trade deals could have on Scottish crofters and farmers.

In an impassioned speech, the Islands MSP voiced his concerns about the UK Government's decision to offer trade deal terms to Australia which could see Australian farmers granted tariff-free access to UK markets and make it easier for them to export products including lamb, pork and beef.

Mr Allan warned of the consequences of domestic producers being crowded out of the market by cheaper and lower-quality food imports because of a lack of safeguards for domestic agriculture.

The proposed trade deal has also been heavily criticised by the National Farmers Union Scotland and the Scottish Crofting Federation.



Mr Allan said: 'While we all want to pursue good trading relationships between the UK and nations such as Australia, there are serious concerns which need to be addressed about the impact on Scotland's farmers and crofters.

'Are we really saying that countries in Europe which have broadly similar standards on animal welfare, the use of hormones and on environ-

mental impacts should pay tariffs, while countries which may be unconstrained by any of these factors should have tariff-free access to our supermarkets?

'How can agriculture in Scotland and the UK be competitive on price in such a situation without severely compromising all these standards? We may begin with Australia, but what do we do

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan voiced his concerns about the future of Scottish agriculture if local producers are not protected against international tariff-free imports.

if such a deal is also reached with major food producers like Brazil, whose environmental and other standards are so unlike ours as to raise even bigger concerns.

'This could have a catastrophic impact on crofting and farming communities. However, it seems the UK Government is heedless of the damage these deals may do as it rushes headlong into any trade deals with anyone in its frantic efforts to pick up the pieces from a Brexit disaster of its own making.

'This serves to underline why such huge decisions on Scottish agriculture should be in Scotland's hands rather than Whitehall's.'

Poignant book donation to Western Isles Hospital

The Radiology Department at Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway recently received a donation of radiography books from the family of Sarah Innes, a radiography student of Robert Gordon University at Aberdeen, who sadly passed away during the second year of her degree.

The books were donated in Sarah's memory to benefit future radiography students on placement in NHS Western Isles, which has a long association with Robert Gordon University.

Pictured with the books are Shuna Mighton, NHS Western Isles radiography practice placement co-ordinator; Siobhan Sheehy, radiography student from Robert Gordon University and Jane MacDonald, NHS Western Isles radiology manager.



Chilled raspberry-ripple lemon soufflés



1 Syn per serving | 1 hour | Serves 4

Ingredients

- 5 sheets leaf gelatine
- 200g raspberries, reserving 4 berries to decorate
- Zest and juice of 3 unwaxed lemons, plus thin lemon wedges to decorate
- 3 large egg yolks, 4 large egg whites*

Method:

- Tightly tie strips of non-stick baking paper around 4 individual, straight-sided soufflé dishes (about 9cm wide x 5cm deep, or 200ml), leaving a 4cm collar above the rims. Then soak the gelatine in cold water for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, purée the raspberries in a food processor and set aside.
- Put the lemon zest and juice, egg yolks and sweetener in a large, heatproof bowl. Boil a pan of water, then turn off the heat. Place the bowl over the water, making sure the base isn't touching the water. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the lemon mixture for 5 minutes, or until pale in colour and slightly thickened.
- Heat 3 tbsp water in a small pan, so it just covers the base. Squeeze the water from the gelatine. Put the leaves in the hot water, take the pan off the heat immediately and stir until dissolved. Then whisk into the lemon mixture (still over water); set the bowl aside to cool completely.

- 4 level tbsp sweetener
 - 500g fat-free, no-added-sugar vanilla yogurt
- *Pregnant women, the elderly, babies and toddlers are advised to choose eggs showing the British Lion stamp if eating raw or partially cooked eggs

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11.45am and 6.15pm

Fort William – Salvation Army Hall,
Monday- 9.15am session full, 10.30am spaces left, new member
session 11.45am, 5.15pm.
Thursday- 4pm, 6pm.

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Harry Lidgley completed his cycling circumnavigation of the UK mainland in 34 days.

RNLI cyclist smashes two of his targets

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

An RNLI fundraiser who stopped off in Oban as he cycled Great Britain's coastline has smashed two targets.

Aspiring endurance and adventure athlete Harry Lidgley completed the almost 4,500-mile cycle in 34 days – eight days quicker than his 42-day target – visiting all 168 lifeboat stations on the UK mainland on the way.

So far he has raised £1,000 more than his initial £5,000 target, all of which will be donated to the RNLI, the charity that saves lives at sea.

Harry, of Hampshire, set off from RNLI headquarters in Poole in the south of England on Saturday May 1 and returned to the coastal town last Thursday, June 3, averaging 120 miles of cycling each day.

He was two weeks and about 1,500 miles into the challenge when a spoke in his wheel near Glenbarr threatened to send him off track.

But he was soon back on the road after Kintyre Wheelers Cycling Club chairman and

Glenbarr resident Robbie Semple came to his rescue.

Robbie gave Harry a spare wheel he happened to have 'in case of emergencies' and offered him a safe space in his garden to pitch his tent for the night.

Harry, who then went on to visit Oban's lifeboat station, said: 'The wheel from Robbie was an absolute lifesaver, though after all the battering it got on the rough roads around the top of Scotland, I was hardly surprised when another spoke broke near Scarborough. Luckily the rim was fine this time, so it was an easy fix.'

'Apart from that, things went smoothly and I somehow made it back to Poole without a single puncture.'

Harry said he achieved everything he hoped for during the challenge, adding: 'I got immense satisfaction at completing my circumnavigation, the chance to cycle through some spectacular regions around our coastline and the opportunity to meet many RNLI crew members.'

'Everyone I met was really enthusiastic about my chal-

lenge, which was always a great morale boost.'

The mishap in Kintyre was not the only issue he faced during the challenge.

'It wasn't all plain sailing. I had just about every type of weather condition, enduring hail showers and cold nights in the south west of England, a few washout rainy days in Wales, some very tough headwinds in Scotland and scorching heat on the English south coast as I neared the finish,' he said.

'On days like these I just had to grit my teeth and do the best I could but these are the really valuable days that build your capacity to endure and strengthen your mental resilience, all good training for future events.'

Harry's online fundraising page remains open for donations at www.gblifeboatcycle.com

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Dedicated website will update public on property projects

A new website and social media campaign spearheaded by the Highland Council will keep the public up to date on the local authority's completed, ongoing and future building and property projects.

Members of the public will be able to easily view and track the progress of the re-profiled capital programme's education, housing and property projects across the region by accessing the website at www.highland.gov.uk/buildingourfuture-highland and through social media platforms using the #BuildingOurFutureHighland hashtag.

The dedicated webpage will make use of an interactive Google map to showcase the scale and progress of works across the region and the social media hashtag will help users to quickly locate relevant



press releases, photographs, videos and other engaging content for projects.

Chairman of the housing and property committee, Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben

Thompson, pictured, said: 'I would encourage anyone interested in the development of our housing, property and schools to use this new campaign and keep informed on the progress of works in Highland. This will hopefully become a regular and useful tool for communities to use so they can follow current and future projects happening in their area.'

'Investment in the council's estate will make a significant contribution to our economic recovery across Highland. It is especially great to see progress on housing developments which will greatly benefit communities, especially in

the more rural and island areas.' Education projects are also included in the campaign portfolio with the chairman of the education committee, Councillor John Finlayson, saying: 'A key priority is the ongoing addition to and the refurbishment and improvement of the council's large school estate, which includes more than 200 settings.'

'We are working hard to recover from the impact of the pandemic to deliver an excellent learning and modern environment for students across Highland. I am delighted parents, key stakeholders and the wider public will now be able to follow this large body of work online and I look forward to seeing the progress being made with the varied works in our many settings.'

As projects near completion, both the webpage and map will be updated and promoted to the public through the council's social media channels using #BuildingOurFutureHighland.

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LETTERS

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Catherine Campbell and Charles MacLean on each being awarded a gong in Her Majesty the Queen's birthday honours list.

Catherine was very modest about the announcement when she spoke to the Lochaber Times and she is no doubt right, very many people will have assisted and supported her in her endeavours. However, it has been her passion and leadership that has driven the vision forward and without her the industry would have been so much poorer.

Play park disgrace

The fact Highland Council has allowed two playparks in Kinlochleven to fall into disrepair is an absolute disgrace.

Given many families will be unable to go on holiday this year due to the restrictions, and with school holidays about to start, it doesn't seem too much to expect at least one usable play park in the village. And by usable we don't just mean a couple of pieces of equipment that haven't failed safety regulations.

Come on Highland Council, give the excuses a rest and sort this mess out for the sake of our children.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.



However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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Skye hospital row

On the subject of the ongoing arguments about the new hospital in Broadford, I know Portree is hoping to retain some facilities, but I feel that criticising the new hospital is not the way forward.

If there is a lack of funding, it should go to Broadford, where services can be co-ordinated across the island.

Interestingly, I found this letter, written by my father Dr Neil MacLeod, on May 25 1958.

'We have had some fun and excitement over the site of the proposed new hospital for Skye as you may have observed from various press reports.

'We had our local meeting here on Thursday night and we left the department of health in Edinburgh in no doubt whatsoever as to what we wanted and what we intended to do if there was any question of closing down Broadford Hospital and building one in Portree. There was a meeting in Kyle the following night, which Iain Campbell and I attended as observers, and the Wester Ross people backed up the Broadford scheme unequivocally. So now we wait until in some weeks' time a final decision is given by Edinburgh.'

It just goes to show that the troubles over the hospital have not lessened in all the years since.

Una MacLeod, Sleat, Isle of Skye.

Young people and mental health

Resourcing mental health treatment for young people has never been more important after new statistics from Public Health Scotland indicated 161 young people in the NHS Highland area sought treatment between January and March 2021.

We should remember that the consequences of this can be long-lasting. As the report notes, the majority of adult mental health problems begin in childhood, with 50 per cent of mental health problems established by age 14.

This is a reason why my party will continue to push for 10 per cent of the health budget in Scotland to be spent directly on tackling mental health issues. Although NHS Highland's waiting time track record is better than the Scottish average, with 75.2 per cent people seen within 18 weeks, that is still well below the Scottish Government's target of at least 90 per cent of patients being seen within that timeframe. It has never been more important to ensure young people receive the help they need, when they need it.

Donald Cameron, MSP.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

'S iomadh sgeulachd iongantach a th' ann mu cheangal dàimheil eadar daoine agus ainmhidhean de chaochladh gnè, eisimpleirean de ghliocas agus dìlseachd anabarrach a' fàs a càirdeas leis na beathaichean sin. Chan eil teagamh nach eil companas pheataichean da-riabh cudromach dha iomadh neach, agus nan dìon bho aon-ranachd a bhiodh millteach air slàinte bodhaig agus inntinn, agus tha coin gu sònraichte air iad fhèin a dhearbhadh mar chobhair àraid ann an iomadh seòrsa suidheachaidh eadar iùl dha na doill agus lorg dhrogaichean mhi-laghail. Ach fad nan linntean a tha an seòrsa càirdeis seo air a bhith ga mhealtainn tha mac an duine cuideachd air a bhith a' sealg 's a' marbhadh beathaichean, glè thric feumar aideachadh airson biadh, ach cuideachd airson spòrs! Am beachd mhòran chan eil an sin ach cothrom ga ghabhail air an uachdaranachd a thug an Cruthaidhear dhan chinne-daonna thairis orra, agus tha fhios gum bheil an fheallsanachd sin air a dearbhadh feadh an t-saoghail gach latha nuair a tha feòil de gach seòrsa ga h-ithe agus beathaichean gan àrach airson na feòla sin a libhrigeadh. Ach tha ceistean cruaidh gan sìor chur a-nise air ceannardan dhùthchannan an t-saoghail a thaobh buaidh àrach sprèidhe agus ithe feòla air an àrainneachd agus teasachadh na cruinne, agus bidh an cuspair àrd air clàr-deasbaid a' cho-labhairt COP26 ann an Glaschu san t-Samhain seo tighinn.

Cha b' iad a-mhàin na còmhraidhean a bh' aig cruinneachadh G7 sa Chòrn a thug leithid seo

dom inntinn an t-seachdain seo, ach cuideachd naidheachd gum bheil paidhir de dh'iolaire-an-mara a' neadachadh an cois Loch Laomainn airson a' chiad turas ann an còrr air ceud bliadhna. Tachartas àraid gun teagamh, agus tha dìon ga chur air làrach na nìd le rabhadh gum faod neach sam bith a thèid ro fhaig agus a chuireas dragh air na h-eòin càin suas gu deich mìle not, neo fiù 's binn priosain, fhulang. Peanasan cruaidh da-riabh, ach le barrachd cuideam ga chur air dìon nàdair tha aithne cuideachd gum bheil e deatamach binn a bhagairt a chuireas bacadh air daoine bho chion a dhèanamh. Tha sin ga mo thoirt air ais gu coinneamh na Còirne agus na ceistean dùbhlachd a bh' aig a' chruinneachadh seo de chuid de na daoine as cumhachdaiche san t-saoghal a thaobh an t-sri an aghaidh Covid. Feumaidh dùthchannan an t-saoghail gu lèir stiùireadh a ghabhail bho eòlaichean-saidheans, agus tha iadsan ag aontachadh nach bi Covid19 fo smachd chun am bi banachdach air slugh an t-saoghail gu lèir. Ged a dh'aontaich dùthchannan an G7 co-obrachadh gus banachdaichean a libhrigeadh feadh an t-saoghail gus an smachd sin air a' bhioras a ghreasad, tha sinn fhathast ann an suidheachadh far am bheil daoine saor banachdach a dhiùltadh.

Gun ghuth air a' chunnart a dh'fhaodadh sin ciallachadh dhaibh fhèin, am bheil e cuideachd fìor gum faodadh na daoine sin a bhith a' dèanamh cron a' sgaoleadh na galair air a' mhòr-shluagh?

Let's 'paws' plastic

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is pledging 500 miles to Keep Scotland Beautiful's Summer Clean - and there is still time to take part.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is asking people to pledge time to pick up litter over the campaign, which ends on Sunday June 20 where one hour equals three miles.

Scotland's animal welfare charity received 273 calls to its helpline about animals affected by litter from January to May. That's almost two incidents every day. We see first-hand the devastating consequences litter can have on animals. Seals and birds get caught up in fishing line or wire or animals can ingest

small pieces of rubbish and choke or die. The public should be careful when picking up litter and we ask that children taking part be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Mike Flynn, SSPCA chief superintendent.

Equality or unoriginality

In connection with last week's story about school uniforms, this came to mind:

'We promote fairness and equality in all our schools, which is why we expect pupils attending Oban High to all wear the same uniform,' Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson.

'He shows great originality, which must be curbed at all costs,' school report for Peter Ustinov.

Pete Mackay, Oban.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Museum 'delighted' with Queen's Award for volunteer staff



Volunteers at the West Highland Museum who helped to gain the award. Photograph: iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort William's West Highland Museum has become the third Lochaber organisation to be awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Nevis Radio and Lochaber Hope have also been presented with the top award.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Independent Committee chairman Sir Martyn Lewis, said: "There is no finer example of democracy in action than people getting together at a local level to tackle a problem or issue at the heart of their community."

"This year's magnificent award-winning groups touch virtually every area of need across our society."

"They also highlight the growing and key role which volunteers are playing in times of rapid change and unprecedented challenges."

"Whether driven by a neighbourly passion to help others or to achieve that well recognised 'high' of personal satisfaction, volunteering taps into a rich spirit of generosity, ingenuity and kindness."

"The Queen's Award's judges are proud to

FORT WILLIAM

honour the achievements of those who help to make our country great."

Ian Peter Macdonald, chairman of the board of the West Highland Museum Trust, said: "The West Highland Museum is delighted that the value of its volunteers has been recognised for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service."

"The volunteers who support our museum range from board members to acknowledged experts who give their time and intellect freely."

"The bulk of our volunteers are local enthusiasts who welcome the visitors to the museum with pride, knowledge and a smile."

"The museum provides a stimulating activity for an often retired community where they enjoy companionship with their colleagues, enjoy engaging with visitors and where they can enjoy learning a little more every day."

The three Lochaber groups were among 18 organisations to be honoured across Scotland.

BALLACHULISH

Safety first at primary school

A group of individuals are self-isolating for 10 days after a staff member at Ballachulish Primary School initially had a positive lateral flow device test for Covid early last week.

Although a further PCR test returned a negative result, it was decided as a precaution for some people to self-isolate as the staff member in question did display symptoms.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: "All necessary action has been taken at the school and the setting remains open. Updated letters were distributed to parents on June 8. The Highland Council continues to work in partnership with NHS Highland's Health Protection Team."

GLENFINNAN

Community council

Items discussed at the June meeting of Glenfinnan Community Council included rubbish bins, road signs, a planned new cycle trail linking the village with Fort William and the initial success of the new community car park.

Village bins: A request has been lodged to provide two bins at the new car park, one at the church and one at the pier. Two new 100-litre bins have been placed in the NTS car park.

The bin lorries would evidently struggle with the new car park surface. A bin would be positioned at the pier and possibly at the church car park, but there are concerns passersby would dump rubbish in the bins. More bins need to be obtained from Inverness.

Email exchange with David Mosgrove at Cona Glen about litter on the island: He did not think the estate should pay for anti-littering signs and that Highland Council should supply and empty bins.

The cycle trail between Fort William and Glenfinnan: Ross McNeill and Christopher Ferrier were on the Zoom call. Mr MacNeill gave an excellent presentation and a question and answer session prior to the annual general meeting.

Police report: There have been four reported incidents in the Glenfinnan area since the last meeting - one concern for a male walking to Knoydart; one report of people camping on an island; one road accident involving a deer and one report of speeding cars on the A830.

There was a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation report from Ingrid Henderson on

the new community car park, footbridge and new paths which were reported to be working well for visitors and residents.

'Glenfinnan Ambassadors' will be employed soon, but in the interim volunteers will be contacted to help at busy times.

The phone box refurbishment is almost complete. The plan is to use it to house a second defibrillator in partnership with Community Heartbeat Trust.

Pier Hut: A lease has been agreed and the septic tank building warrant has been approved. A 3D online presentation of the plan showed the community what is proposed and the next stage will be specification of works and fundraising.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday July 7.

LOCHABER

Shed project hailed a success

Pupils and staff of Glencoe House at Lochaber High School have been helping to transform a shed in dire need of renovation.

The group was delighted to get the chance to work on 'Project Shed' with Cameron Bauer, project lead at the community workshop at Lochaber Hope.

Mr Bauer welcomed the chance to help the school and work in partnership with the community workshop following strict social distancing and Covid regulations. He created a professional design incorporating storage, his love of carpentry and wood and Glencoe House's desire to recycle as much as possible.

Lochaber Hope kindly donated his time to the project and Mr Bauer did a remarkable job of transforming a humble shed into a modern potting shed and storage haven.

A member of staff from Glencoe House told the Lochaber Times: "Our project was also supported by our wonderful builders' merchants in Fort William, by Gerry at LBS, who kindly donated our decorating materials, and Sarah at Travis Perkins who kindly gave us a discount on our wood. The young people will enjoy the shed for years to come and witnessing the transformation has been a wonderful learning experience for everyone. Without all of your kindness, our project would not have been possible."

"To Cameron Bauer of Lochaber Hope, to Gerry and to Sarah from all at Glencoe House, Lochaber High School, we thank you most sincerely and whole-heartedly for all your support and kindness."

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Robert in lockdown

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Monday, in the immortal words of the late Arthur Montford, was another disaster for Scotland.

I opened my bedroom curtains in the morning full of optimism and was greeted by a car driving down my street flying saltires out each back window and blaring 'Yes Sir, I can Boogie'.

I closed my curtains in the evening with that all too familiar sense of glorious failure. I write this article, however, in the eternal hope we'll achieve the impossible by turning it around by beating England and Croatia in the coming days.

Despite Scotland getting off to a disappointing start, it wasn't all doom and gloom for me over the last seven days because Tide Lines announced two of our first live gigs since March 2020.

One of them is directly related to the football. We will be playing at the Euro Fanzone on Glasgow Green on Thursday June 24. My complete lack of footballing talent meant I was never likely to be selected for Steve Clarke's Scotland squad this year but at least this fanzone gig means I can tell people I 'played' at the Euros!

To be part of such a big event would be exciting at the best of times but my anticipation is increased ten-fold given this will be our first live performance in about a year-and-a-half.



Also playing that evening are the Kinnaris Quintet and Breabach, two incredible bands who I am sure will be equally excited to get back on stage. Musicians tend to be sociable people and most agree meeting up with other bands on the same gig line-up is always one of the most enjoyable parts of the job.

Having been denied this opportunity for so long, it will be great to catch up with everyone again and I sincerely hope this is the beginning of the boom period for the music industry that I spoke about in this article previously.

Obviously, strict social distancing will be in place and people rightly still have to be careful but it will nevertheless be great to be back to doing what we love doing.

We also have a similarly socially-distanced gig as part of the Edinburgh International Festival on Monday August 9.

As with the Euros, to play at such an internationally renowned event would always be an honour but, on top of this, these gigs feel like a significant step forward for the industry returning to at least some form of normality.

I can only hope, with the vaccine still being rolled out at a fast rate - I am due my first jab this week - that some day soon we will be back out on the road with a full calendar of gigs.

That is all in the future though. The immediate priority has to be getting back behind the Scotland boys and hoping for an unlikely result against the auld enemy on Friday!

Mull and Iona maps out family fun

Mull and Iona has come up with a new fun way of encouraging families to explore its islands - whatever the weather.

The Quest is a trail of 25 locations, each with a clue leading to a fun fact discovery, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Children on the adventure will be invited to find answers to clues such as 'Who was the Terror of Tobermory?' or 'How many fairies are hidden inside the fairy door on the Calgary in Nature walk?'

Helen MacDonald, communications officer for Visit Mull and Iona, the islands' destination marketing organisation, who came up with The Quest idea, says it will introduce families to many fascinating parts of the islands and keep them entertained in the outdoors as places start to re-open.

The map can be downloaded from the website at mullandionaquest.co.uk or bought at shops on Mull for £5 per family.



Children checking out The Quest clue at Glengorm Standing Stones - one of 25 locations on the discovery map.

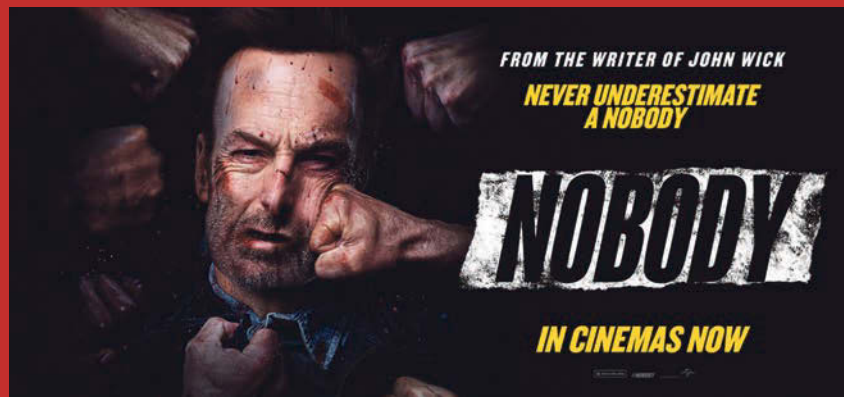
Rewards are also being offered to anyone returning their answers to Craignure's iCentre. Helen said: 'The Quest is a fun way for families to take part in an outdoor adventure. Not all of our indoor attrac-

tions are open yet and we are aware families are attracted to the safety of open air as tourism re-opens on our islands.

'The Quest is the perfect way to entertain the children, whatever the weather.'

HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 18TH - THUR 24TH JUNE



FRIDAY 18TH JUNE
 The Father (12a) 11am. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:15am. In The Heights (PG) 12:45pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. A Quiet Place II (15) 1:45pm. Cruella (12a) 4:15pm. Nobody 8pm.

SATURDAY 19TH JUNE
 Peter Rabbit 2 (U) 10:45am. The Father (12a) 11am. Cruella (12a) 1:15pm. In The Heights (PG) 1:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. A Quiet Place II (15) 4:45pm. Nobody (15) 7:45pm.

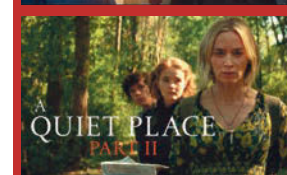
SUNDAY 20TH JUNE
 Cruella (12a) 10:15am + 1:15pm. Peter Rabbit 2 (U) 10:45am. In The Heights (PG) 1:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. The Father (12a) 4:45pm. Nobody (15) 7:45pm.

MONDAY 21ST JUNE
 Tom & Jerry (Screen & Scream 11am) The Father (12a) 1:30pm. In The Heights (PG) 1:30pm, 4pm + 7:15pm. The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It (15) 5pm. Nobody (15) 7:45pm.

TUESDAY 22ND JUNE
 Highlands From The Air (U) 12:30pm. In The Heights (PG) 1pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. The Father (12a) 1:45pm. Cruella (12a) 4:15pm. Nobody (15) 7:45pm.

WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE
 Cruella (12a) 10:45am. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:15am. In The Heights (PG) 12:45pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. The Father (12a) 1:45pm. The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It (15) 4:15pm. Nobody (15) 8pm.

THURSDAY 24TH JUNE
 Cruella (12a) 10:45am + 4pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:15am. In The Heights (12a) 12:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm. The Father 1:45pm. Nobody (15) 8pm.



FILM SYNOPSIS, TRAILERS, TICKETS AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER: WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK



LT

North shinty round-up

North shinty

Mowi Senior League A

Kinlochshiel 3

Glenurquhart 1

Kinlochshiel lead Mowi Senior League A after beating Glenurquhart 3-1 at Rèaraig.

Jordan Fraser gave Kinlochshiel the lead on five minutes with what was the only goal of the first half.

Duncan Matheson, who featured in defence for Kinlochshiel in recent weeks, added two more goals on 51 and 62 minutes.

Glenurquhart Jed Stoddart pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later but it was Kinlochshiel's day.

Lochaber P

Skye Camanachd P

The meeting between Lochaber and Skye Camanachd was postponed due to ongoing covid restrictions in Lochaber.

Kilmallie P

Fort William P

The meeting between Kilmallie and Fort William was postponed due to ongoing covid restrictions in Lochaber.

Mowi Senior League B

Caberfeidh 0

Kingussie 13

Kingussie turned on the style as they beat Caberfeidh 13-0 at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh boss Jodi Gorski was missing the injured Blair Morrison as well as Kevin Bartlett whilst Craig Morrison, who was unwell in the lead up to the game, started on the bench.

Kingussie manager John Gibson also had a number of absentees including Roddy Young, who has a pulled hamstring, Rory MacKeachan, Lee Bain, Fraser Munro and James Hutchison. Ryan Borthwick returned at wing back whilst youngster Iain Fraser and boss John Gibson were on the bench.

James Falconer opened the scoring on four minutes with a backhand shot from around the penalty spot which went into the corner of the net.

Dylan Borthwick made it 3-0 with goals on 8 and 12 minutes and Savio Genini grabbed a hat-trick with goals on 15, 21 and 27 minutes.

James Falconer got his second from near the penalty spot on the half-hour, this time on his forehand, and Falconer completed his hat-trick eight minutes later when he ran from the middle of the park, before darting past the full back and the keeper to make it 8-0.

Kingussie youngster Iain Fraser came off the bench to score on 41 and 46 minutes as the Kings made it 10-0.

Savio Genini got his fourth



Alexander Michie, Kingussie, and Fraser Macdonald, Caberfeidh.

goal of the afternoon on 65 minutes, whilst Iain Fraser completed his hat-trick on 68 minutes.

A fourth goal from James Falconer completed the scoring on 72 minutes when he went on a mazy run by his marker then the full back before tucking the ball past the keeper to make it 13-0.

Lovat 3

Beaully 2

A stoppage time goal from Lewis Tawse gave Lovat a 3-2 victory over neighbours Beaully at Balgate.

Beaully took the early initiative with Ross Forbes scoring on eight and 19 minutes. The Beaully full forward opened the scoring when he cut in from the left before slotting the ball past Stuart MacDonald in the Lovat goal.

Forbes then found space before blasting a great drive home to make it 2-0.

It stayed that way until 20 minutes from time when Fraser Heath, who came off the bench at half time, pulled a goal back from close range.

With just 10 minutes remaining, Fraser Heath got his second with a brilliant strike into the top corner of the net to make it 2-2 and his goal looked to have rescued a point for Lovat.

However, as the match moved a couple of minutes into stoppage time, Lewis Tawse

surged forward from midfield and found the net to give Lovat a 3-2 victory.

One concern for Lovat is the hand injury suffered by Martin Mainland which looks likely to keep him sidelined for several weeks.

Newtonmore 5

Strathglass 1

Newtonmore staged a second half comeback to defeat Strathglass 5-1 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore played with the elements in the first half but Strathglass keeper Adam Todd was equal to their efforts.

Strathglass took a shock lead on 39 minutes when Ruairidh Strachan found space in front of goal to turn home a rebound following Owen Fraser's save.

Referee Willie MacDonald awarded the hosts a penalty a minute into the second half after Michael Russell was up-ended inside the box and Steven Macdonald fired the ball low past the keeper.

Iain Robinson added a second on 52 minutes with a turn and shot following Steven Macdonald's free-hit from inside his own half.

Michael Russell cut in from the right on 63 minutes to score a fine individual goal from inside the 'D'.

Drew MacDonald made it 4-1 from a tight angle on the left on 71 minutes when Strathglass failed to clear their lines.

Max Campbell rounded off

the scoring on 76 minutes, finishing off a good move which saw Steven Macdonald turn defence into attack and Craig Macleod running down the left before finding Campbell and the edge of the 'D' and his rising shot beat the keeper.

Mowi North League A

Fort William 0

Glengarry 3

Glengarry are the team to beat in Mowi North League A as they defeated the Fort William second team 3-0 at An Aird.

Fort William won the toss and opted to start with the wind in their favour, towards the Caol end of the ground.

Both teams started well, but Glengarry looked the more threatening in front of goal.

On 19 minutes, a good Rhuairaidh MacDonald hit-in

from the right found Nick Dalgety on the left but instead of shooting on his backhand, Dalgety tried to switch the ball onto his forehand giving a Fort defender the chance to block the shot and the ball went out for a corner.

Dalgety made amends a couple of minutes later, however, when a lovely flick from Raymond Robertson found him 20 yards from goal and he blasted the ball past a helpless keeper.

Fort William's Mark Fraser pulled the trigger on 24 minutes from around 23 yards on the left but Glengarry keeper Gordon MacDonald calmly saved with his stick before clearing the ball to safety.

Glengarry extended their lead on 28 minutes when veteran Steven Cameron sent a lovely ball into the Fort defence where Raymond Robertson took it down 15 yards from goal, turned on his backhand and fired the ball into the corner of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Shaun Nicolson's 20-yard shot was well saved by Stuart Disher but with the rebound still in the 'D', a defender accidentally kicked the ball out for a corner and referee John Angus Gillies pointed to the penalty spot. However, Nick Dalgety spurned the opportunity as Stuart Disher saved the spot-hit. The ball came out of the 'D' and Dalgety scored from the re-bound but Matthew Ross had remained inside the 'D' and the effort was chalked off for offside.

Matthew Ross found space 20 yards out on 38 minutes, but Stuart Disher brilliantly turned his piledriver away with his stick.

Glengarry scored the goal of the match on 53 minutes with a passing move that started with Rhuairaidh MacDonald on the right before the ball was played to Matthew Ross who played it across to Raymond Robertson who found Shaun

Robertson who found Shaun Robertson who sent a 15-yard shot screaming into the roof of the net to make it 3-0.

The game went flat for a time but picked up in the final third. Stuart Disher made a tremendous save with his right foot to deny Raymond Robertson who was free on the right and the keeper cleared the ball for a corner.

This was a good, clean contest with no bookings. Glengarry looked strong in all areas of the park. Keeper Gordon MacDonald made several amazing saves, full back John MacKinnon had a great tussle with Mark Fraser and was the man of the match. Steven Cameron led the centre line Nick Dalgety was creative in attack.

Fort William should take encouragement from their performance. Mark Fraser created plenty up front and 16-year-old Craig MacDonald was excellent in defence with keeper Stuart Disher their top performer.

Fort William should take encouragement from their performance. Mark Fraser created plenty up front and 16-year-old Craig MacDonald was excellent in defence with keeper Stuart Disher their top performer.

Skye Camanachd 7

Lochcarron 4

The Skye Camanachd second team came from 3-1 down to beat Lochcarron 7-4 in an exciting contest at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Iain MacLellan gave Skye the lead on 10 minutes but Calum Dean Morris levelled four minutes later.

Niall Arnott put Lochcarron, who travelled with just 12 players, in front on 17 minutes and another from Calum Dean Morris on 25 minutes made it 3-1.

A second from Iain MacLellan on 40 minutes cut Lochcarron's lead to 3-2 at the break.

Skye made a great start to the second half with Taylor Matheson levelling the contest with a smart shot.

A superb strike from wide on the left on 62 minutes from skipper Ian MacPherson extended Skye's lead before Daniel Morrison's goal a couple of minutes later, a firm strike from outside the 'D' on the right, made it 5-3.

Lochcarron fought back and Peter MacKenzie hammered home a fierce strike on 86 minutes to make it 5-4.

Skye added two more goals at the death as James Robertson finished well on 88 minutes, with Iain MacLellan completing his hat-trick a minute later to make the final score 7-4.

The Kinlochshiel seconds were the 'free' team in this five-team division.

Mowi North League B

Kingussie 6 Caberfeidh 1

The Kingussie seconds notched



Kingussie's Savio Genini lifts the ball over the Caberfeidh keeper Iain Macall to score.

Young Fort players shine on new park

Fort William Under-14s got the chance to christen their new shinty park on Friday night when they took on neighbours Lochaber in a league match.

From the start they looked up for the challenge after their narrow defeat away to Lochaber recently.

Fort William laid siege to the Lochaber goal and it was no surprise when Jack Stephen opened the scoring in the 15th minute with a neat flick into the net. Fort William continued to dominate and it was no surprise when they scored their second through Stephen again. Lochaber were making a game of it, however, and quickly got a goal back when D Riddle scored on the break. Half time 2-1.

The second half started with Fort William in the ascendancy again and they quickly increased their lead in the 38th minute when Lex 'Suarez' Edgar scored a great goal. This was followed in the 44th minute when

Lewis Knox got in the act with a neat finish. Again Fort William attacked and in the 47th minute James Clark scored a screamer into the top of the net to make the score 5-1.

The coach took the opportunity to 'blood' some younger members of the squad and introduced them as substitutes. Young Charlie Campbell entered the fray and did well on his home debut. Lochaber were still playing good shinty and Jack Stephen scored his third of the night with another great finish. Most teams heads would have been down after this but not Lochaber's and they quickly reduced the deficit with Hannah MacDonald scoring a great goal followed shortly by a great team goal for Lochaber, D Riddle applying the finish.

As the clock was running down Jack Stephen finished his debut with his fourth goal of the night. Final score 7-3 to Fort William. This was a good display from the young



Action from the under-14 match between Fort William and Lochaber.

Fort William team, with no weaknesses. There were outstanding displays from Jack Stephen, James Clark,

Lex Edgar and Cameron Burns complemented with tremendous drive in the centre line and solid displays

throughout. Thanks to Lochaber for a sporting contest and Ian Kennedy for refereeing.

a five-goal winning margin for the second successive Saturday when they defeated the Caberfeidh seconds 6-1 at the Dell.

Martin Dallas put Kingussie ahead on five minutes and Michael Slimon on 23 minutes and another from Martin Dallas on the half-hour made it 3-0 at half time.

Ewan Baker added a fourth on 58 minutes and although Cameron Grant pulled a goal back minute later, Ewan Baker got his second on 67 minutes to make it 5-1.

Kingussie's Taighan MacLeod rounded off the scoring when he found the net on 83 minutes.

Inverness 2 Newtonmore 3

The Newtonmore second team beat the Inverness first team 3-2 at the Bught Park.

Struan Ross gave Newtonmore the lead on seven minutes with what was to be the only goal of the first half.

Arran MacMaster levelled

a couple of minutes after the re-start only for Newtonmore to hit a quick-fire double through another from Struan Ross on 57 minutes and Brodie MacBean on 59 minutes to make it 3-1.

Charlie MacDonald netted on 81 minutes to make it 3-2 but Newtonmore stayed in front to record their second league win of the season.

Glenurquhart 0 Lovat 2

The Lovat reserves scored twice in three first half minutes to beat the Glenurquhart reserves 2-0 at Blairbeg.

Gary Marshall got the opener on 36 minutes, with Ryan Ferguson making it 2-0 on 38 minutes.

Mowi North League C Strathglass 4

The Strathglass second team overcame Aberdeen University 4-1 at Cannich.

It was an even first half, although Strathglass led 2-0 at the break with goals from Darren Reid on 19 minutes and

Sam Cumming on 32 minutes.

James Ross made it 3-0 on 56 minutes and although Donnie MacRae pulled a goal back on 82 minutes, a second from Sam Cumming on 88 minutes made the final score 4-1.

Beauly 10 Inverness 0

The Beauly colts were too strong for the Inverness colts, winning 10-0 in their 2pm throw-up at Braeview Park.

Kyle MacDonald grabbed a first half hat-trick with goals on 6, 36 and 38 minutes, with Callum Flynn netting on 32 minutes, to make it 4-0. Calum MacVicar added a fifth on 41 minutes.

Callum Flynn got his second on 52 minutes, before Rory Tuach made it 7-0 three minutes later.

Torrin Cairns added his name to the scoresheet on 61 minutes, whilst Calum MacIver completed his hat-trick when he found the net on 72 and 82 minutes to make it 10-0.

Boleskine P Strathspey Camanachd P

Boleskine were unable to field a team for their meeting with Strathspey Camanachd at Smith Park. Boleskine later confirmed their withdrawal from all fixtures this season due to covid restraints, including the associated costs, as well as player issues.

Beauly P Lewis Camanachd P

The meeting between the Beauly second team and Lewis Camanachd was postponed due to ongoing travel restrictions.

Mowi Central League Oban Celtic 4 Lochaber 6

There was late heartbreak for the Oban Celtic seconds as three goals in the final 3 minutes meant they lost 6-4 to the Lochaber second team at Ganavan.

Lochaber's David Langan scored on 11 and 13 minutes but Keegan MacPhee on 28 minutes and Joe MacVicar on

38 minutes made it 2-2 at the break. David Langan completed his hat-trick three minutes after the restart but Andrew MacDonald's quick-fire brace on 69 and 71 minutes had Oban Celtic ahead for the first time in the match.

And it stayed that way until late in the match with David Langan getting his fourth goal of the afternoon on 88 minutes to make it 4-4. But Neil MacDonald on 89 minutes and Rolands Frieman on the stroke of full time sealed a 4-6 victory for the Lochaber side.

Kilmory P Glenorchy P

Kilmory were unable to raise a team for the second successive Saturday; this time their 2pm throw up against Glenorchy at MacRae Park.

Ardnamurchan P Kilmallie P

The meeting between Ardnamurchan and the Kilmallie seconds was postponed due to ongoing covid restrictions in Lochaber.

Feast of football coverage for Lochaber listeners with BBC Radio nan Gàidheal

Continued from page 44.

BBC during the 1990 Fifa World Cup in Italy. He said: 'It took me years to realise how fortunate I was to work for the BBC at Italia 90. At that time, we thought Scotland would be involved in every major competition but for 20 years we've been in the wilderness.

'It will be a wonderful feeling to be back.'

Tomorrow (Friday) presenter Niall

Iain MacDonald and his A' Mhadainn show on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal hope to spend time with up and coming audiences with a visit to Glasgow Gaelic School. Also tomorrow, in anticipation of the meeting between England and Scotland, BBC ALBA will revisit a special programme in which fans recall memories of other occasions when the teams met at Wembley.

Scotland's campaign will also be

covered on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's scheduled news programmes as well as on BBC ALBA's An Là and the regular Spòrscast podcast on BBC Sounds and Spòrs na Seachdain every Saturday morning between 9am and 10am.

The art of the commentator will be the subject of a special programme to be broadcast later in the tournament which follows one of the most familiar Gaelic football voices, Ailig O'Henley,

in his journey from Uist to being in the hot seat connecting audiences with these premier events.

Football fans will hardly need reminding of the important dates in the tournament but listeners can note these important dates and times to tune in to Radio nan Gàidheal: Friday June 18, England v Scotland at 7.30pm to 10.30pm and Tuesday June 22, Croatia v Scotland from 7pm to 11pm.

Chance to race round the world on Clipper

Continued from page 44.

Under the guidance of a Clipper Race Training Skipper, each group of recruits will be challenged to learn new practical skills, develop their self-belief and work as a team.

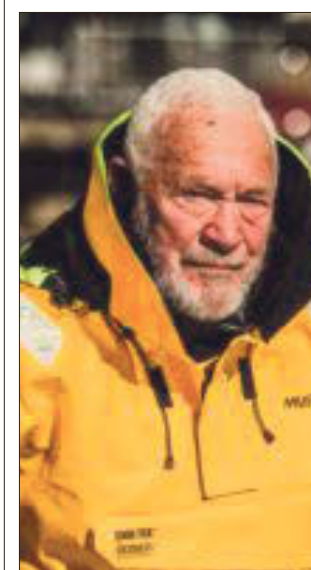
In addition, 10 of these recruits will be offered the opportunity to apply for an additional four weeks of intensive ocean racing training to be held at the Clipper Race Training HQ in Gosport, Hampshire.

If successful, they would receive a funded place on board the (70 ft) Our Isles and Oceans team entry which will be competing in the Clipper 2023-24 Race. Each recruit would complete one leg of the Clipper Race circumnavigation.

With young people being particularly impacted this past year, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, record-breaking sailor and co-founder of the Clipper Race, hopes this new programme will make a positive change in the successful candidates' lives.

'Sailing is so much more than just a sport or pastime as it gives you experience that is as useful in the workplace as it is on board a yacht. The sport develops self-confidence and self-esteem which is so important to restore following the pandemic,' he commented.

Recruitment for the Our Isles and Oceans campaign is now open and applicants aged 18-35 can apply through www.ourislesandoceans.co.uk.



Clipper Race co-founder Sir Robin Knox-Johnston who says the skills and confidence built during sailing can be transferred to other aspects of life. Photograph:

Matthew Dickens/imagecomms

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Feast of football coverage for Lochaber listeners of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal

Lochaber football fans have joined others from across Scotland to enjoy wall-to-wall coverage by BBC Radio nan Gàidheal UEFA of the Euro 2020 competition.

For many Scottish football fans this is their first opportunity to hear experienced commentary teams reporting on their national team's first appearance in major international finals since 1998 and their first appearance in a European Championship since 1996, when they also played England at Wembley.

And BBC Radio nan Gàidheal is committed to covering every kick of the ball.

For some of the Radio nan Gàidheal sports commentators it is their first time covering a major tournament with Scotland among the competing teams. Radio nan Gàidheal sports commentator Alasdair MacLennan said: 'I was only four the last time Scotland's men's team were part of a major finals and have no memory of it. Little did I think we would see Scotland at this year's Euros after how the last 23 years have panned out and that we would be there, commenting on every twist and turn in Gàidhlig, something I'm immensely proud to be a part of.'

'There are only three games in the group stage so, anything can happen.'

Sports presenter John Morrison worked with the BBC during the 1990 Fifa
Continued on page 43.

SHINTY ROUND-UP – PAGES 42/43.



The Clipper Round the World Race training yacht will be based in Oban this summer and local young people are encouraged to apply for sailing courses.

Photograph: Matthew Dickens/imagecomms

Rays of sunshine for anglers

It was a cracking start to the season for the shore section of Loch Fyne Sea Angling Club as members ventured north to Ardgor last weekend.

This was the club's first event since lockdown last year and anticipation was high as they embarked on the long-awaited trip to fish the shoreline of Loch Linnhe. Any thoughts of being a bit rusty after such a long lay-off were quickly dispelled with the first cast securing a pretty decent thornback ray. This heralded the start of a productive day's fishing which saw 15 thornbacks to 4lb 5oz and 13 dogfish brought ashore, weighed and safely returned.

The sunny weather was an added bonus with only the odd light shower during the five-hour match. Top three scores: Robert MacBrayne, 100 per cent; Gordon Law, 47 per cent; Steven MacBrayne, 24 per cent. Heaviest fish: Robert MacBrayne with a 4lb 5oz thornback ray.



Robert MacBrayne with one of several thornback rays caught at Loch Linnhe.

Chance to set sail on Clipper adventure

The seas off the coast of Argyll and Lochaber are the setting for a series of events this summer that could hopefully see young people from the area in contention for a berth in the next Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

The new campaign, Our Isles and Oceans, was launched in Scotland last week, outlining the creation of funded programmes for young people affected by the Covid pandemic and lockdown.

The cornerstone of the

project is a partnership with the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Through this partnership, Our Isles and Oceans and the Clipper Race will be providing funded sailing programmes for young people to learn to sail on the West Coast of Scotland with Oban used as the base for three five-week blocks over the next 18 months starting this summer.

Our Isles and Oceans is calling for 18- to 35-year-olds to apply as the pandemic has had a negative impact on this

age group's education and employment opportunities over the last 15 months.

The charity Young Minds ran survey* earlier this year and found that 67 per cent of young people believe the pandemic will have a long-term negative effect on their mental health.

Our Isles and Oceans says it aims to provide positive experiences for these young people.

The Clipper Race is the only event of its kind which offers everyday people the opportunity to train to become ocean

racing sailors. The confidence built and the skills learnt through the sport of sailing can be transferred from on deck to the workplace which is why the first Our Isles and Oceans programme will take place on a Clipper Race yacht.

This summer, along the West Coast of Scotland, up to 50 successful candidates will take part in a funded sailing course on board an Our Isles and Oceans branded (68 ft) Clipper Race training yacht.

Continued on page 43.



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 17 June, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

17	0420 1.7 1016 3.0 TH 1629 1.4 2229 3.3	19	0647 1.6 1249 3.0 SA 1838 1.4	21	0217 3.4 0856 1.3 M 1504 3.3 2053 1.1	23	0411 3.7 1038 0.9 W 1639 3.8 2251 0.7
18	0532 1.7 1124 2.9 F 1731 1.4 2339 3.3	20	0101 3.3 0756 1.5 SU 1406 3.1 1947 1.2	22	0318 3.6 0949 1.1 TU 1553 3.6 2154 0.9	24	0500 3.8 1124 0.8 TH 1725 3.9 2344 0.6

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 8°C to 16°C.	Friday Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 15°C.	Saturday Light cloud and a moderate breeze Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.	Sunday Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.
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FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

HIGH 15 LOW 9