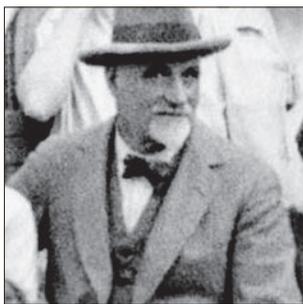




Kilninver garden opens to celebrate bees

This week: Join us on Bid4Oban's gift trail on pages 22-23

End of an era?



Chalmers family share history of ancestor's legacy.

• See page 14 and 15 for more.

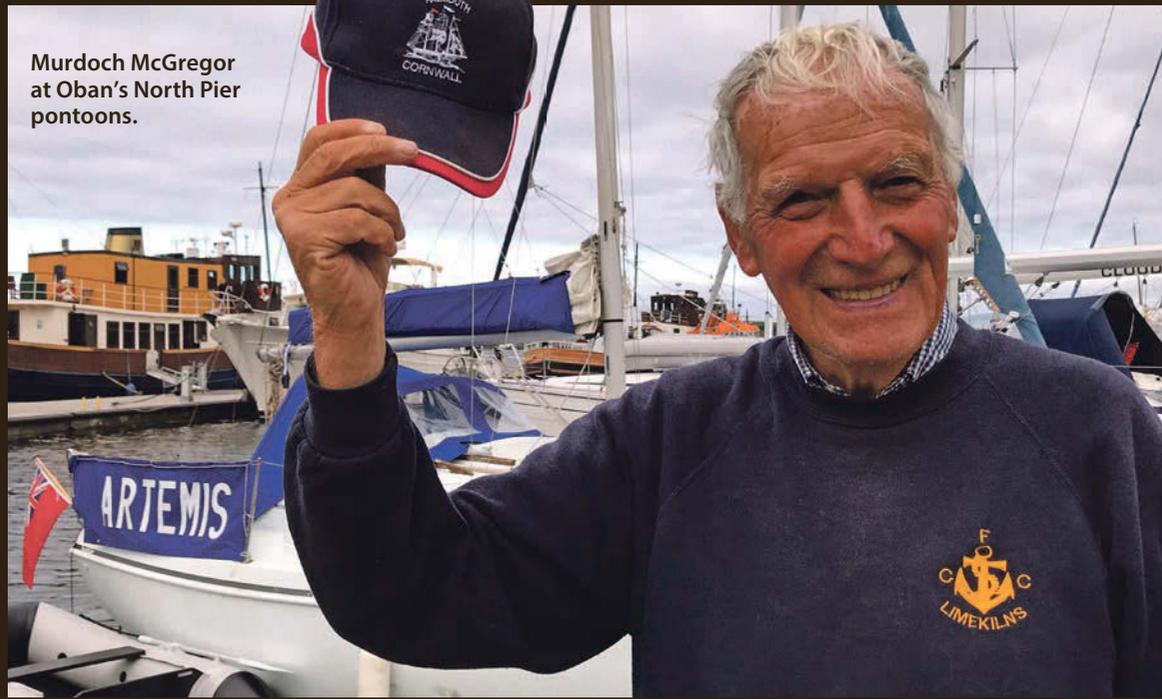
Games are a go!



150th annual gathering to take place this month.

• See page 2 for more.

SEA-GOING SENSATION



Murdoch McGregor at Oban's North Pier pontoons.

Solo sailor Murdoch McGregor, 82, stopped off in Oban this weekend on his 1,900 mile voyage around Britain.

Murdoch, who only took up sailing 10 years ago, set off from his home port of Alloa on June 5 to circumnavigate the UK, raising awareness and funds for Mental Health UK.

The journey in his 23 foot yacht Artemis has taken him to Edinburgh, Berwick-Up-on-Tweed, Newcastle, down to Dover, then bypassing the Isle of Wight to Oban before another 230 miles to reach Cape Wrath, Shetland and Orkney, before heading back home. 'I've still got a bit of work to do but I'm loving it,' said Murdoch. Asked if he ever gets lonely on his one-man mission, he said: 'Never. There's me and myself onboard and we get on just fine!'

To support Murdoch's fundraising visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/murdoch-mcgregor1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/murdoch-mcgregor1). See next week's Oban Times for more on this story and more photographs of Murdoch in Oban and the new friends he met.

No respite on Coll

Islander offered sheltered flat on Mull for blind and deaf mother after being told respite home care not available.

by Kathie Griffiths
kggriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Elderly people needing home care on Coll are being ignored and treated as 'substandard citizens', it has been claimed.

Islander Colin Kennedy says when a week's home care was not available for his 92-year-old blind and deaf mother, the only option offered was for him to take her to Mull's Bowmore Court

sheltered flats, 75 miles away and involving two ferry trips and a night-stop in Oban – and that was just to get there.

Mr Kennedy says the situation on Coll is 'simply outrageous' and that it was known months before this happened last month that accommodation on Coll was unavailable for carers and there would be problems.

He says he even offered a flat for carers but it

Continued on page 3.

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OT

Game on for the 150th Argyllshire Gathering

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

One of Argyllshire's largest events is to return at the end of the month and organisers cannot wait to welcome everyone back.

The 150th Oban Games has been confirmed as going ahead, with a special anniversary of the gathering taking place on Thursday August 26 at Mossfield Stadium.

The focus this year is on the event's long and successful history. However, the committee is also looking to strengthen local links forged over the years to put on a truly great spectacle for Oban and the surrounding area.

Games director Paul Nicoll said: 'We are delighted we've been given the go ahead for The Games, particularly after our event and many others were



The Argyllshire Gathering March in 2017.

cancelled last year. Thanks to EventScotland funding, we have some security and have been able to start organising, albeit slightly later than in a normal year.'

The Games already has strong ties with Oban High

School, which benefits from use of The Games tents for its own Highland Games Day and in turn provides pupils with the chance to take part in the athletics, dancing and piping competitions and deploy senior pupils to help on the day.

'It's a great partnership that has been strengthened by the enthusiasm of Peter Bain and his staff who attend committee meetings,' added Mr Nicoll.

'I would like to thank the committee and the school for all their hard work and we

really want to make sure this year's games are a truly local affair and would encourage people to take part, as well as attend.'

The famous march to start The Games will leave Station Square at 10.30am. Highlights include the aforementioned March of the Stewards led by competing world-class pipers, cheering on the runners in the Hill Race, hearing Oban High School Pipe Band entertain the crowds, watching teams fight it out in the tug-of-war, fun races for all ages and enjoying tasty local food and drink.

Visitors to The Games can also visit the Heritage Tent, sponsored by The Oban Times, to gain an insight into Argyll's past, present and future.

For more information go online to the new Games website www.obangames.co.uk or on Facebook @obangames

Search still on for missing pet, Gizmo

Dog owner Natalie Crawford has told the Oban Times she is still hopeful of finding her missing dog, Gizmo, and that he may have travelled as far as Oban after vanishing during a walk on a Loch Lomond mountain more than a month ago.

Natalie, who works for the Scottish Ambulance Service, has spent almost every day searching for her Staffordshire bull terrier, after the pair got separated on Beinn Ime on Thursday June 17 around 10.30am. Natalie has left clothes of hers in the area in case three-year-old Gizmo can recognise her scent, installed trail cameras and contacted the local mountain rescue team which is keeping a watch when it can. A crowdfunding appeal has raised £2,300 as a reward to anyone who finds Gizmo.

Anyone with any information or who can help search for him, should call Natalie on 07903 484385. Updates are also posted via the Facebook page, Gizmo missing Beinn Ime.

Stay mindful of water use

Water providers are monitoring Oban's supply source with Gleann A Bhearraidh reservoir currently just over 70 per cent full.

To keep some communities sufficiently supplied, Scottish Water has been tankering extra water into some parts of the country, including Tighnabruaich and Portavadie in Argyll, and bringing additional boreholes online on Arran and in the Fort William area.

A Scottish Water spokesperson said: 'The prolonged warm spell may have ended for now, however, demand on our network is still high and we are asking people always to be mindful of the water they are using and to treat it as the precious resource it is.'

Demand was so high as temperatures soared recently that Scottish Water had to produce more than 200 million litres of extra water per day nationwide to maintain normal supplies. That's enough water to fill 100 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 2.4 million baths.

The call to watch how much water you use is being aimed at customers in communities throughout the country and at summer holidaymakers and visitors to rural and island communities.



Water levels in reservoirs are currently below average for the time of year.

Kes Juskowiak, Scottish Water's water operations general manager, said current water levels in reservoirs are below average for this time of year.

'If people across the country - residents and visitors or holidaymakers - can take small, simple steps to reduce their water use, they can make a big contribution towards our efforts to maintain normal supplies for everyone and if we can reduce demand it will also be good for the environment as there will be fewer tankers on the roads.'

Some top tips for saving water are: Use a watering can instead of a hose when watering plants in the garden, avoid jet washers altogether, only fill

padding pools a quarter full and re-use that water to water plants.

In some areas around Oban where homes rely on private water supplies, availability had almost run dry in peak sizzling temperatures.

Argyll and Bute Council's online advice for anyone affected by this is that responsibility lies with the users or any third party which provides or manages the supply by contract.

In some circumstances when supplies run dry or are at serious risk of doing so, the council might be able to help but that is usually only to supply bottled water to get over the immediate need. You can call to ask for help 01546 605519.



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Theft marks end of road for honesty box

Sneaky thieves who raided a rural honesty box for its cash and cakes have spoiled Beth MacDonald's appetite for her homebaking sideline.

The dishonest acts, reported to police, mean regulars who enjoyed making trips to the upcycled postbox near her home on the Bonawe road to get their fill of cakes, scones and tablet will now miss a treat.

Beth and husband Iain's luck took another hit during the latest dry spell when their emergency water pump, needed to supply their home and thirsty cattle in a next door field, was also stolen.

Kind neighbours came to their rescue with the loan of a replacement pump but the thefts have left the couple feeling fed-up and Beth heartbroken.

Three CCTV cameras have now been set up to keep a look out for any other wrong-doers.



Recent thefts mean Bonawe's Beth MacDonald, right, has removed her Granny's Homebaking honesty box from outside her home.

Beth, whose jolly roadside scarecrows bring many a smile to passers-by, started the Granny's Home Baking

idea during lockdown to keep busy. 'I'm sad to say the thefts only started happening when the tourist season kicked off.

I'm sure it wouldn't be locals. I've had £20, £8 and another £20 taken

plus cakes, so I've decided I'm not doing it again. I've taken the box away.

'It's such a shame because it was so successful.

'I left a little notebook out and got such lovely comments from people.

'The first day I did it, everything sold out.

'We get so many unknown cars and campervans down our road now. The loch is a popular spot.

'We think whoever took the water pump was also an opportunist. It was a heavy thing, worth about £200.

It would've needed a couple of people to take it away.

'The only comfort is knowing whoever did it, slashed the suction hose with a knife so would've got soaked head to toe.

'My husband was annoyed about the water pump being

stolen but was more gutted for me about the honesty box.

'We've given statements to the police for them to investigate.

'It's heart breaking it's come to this. I can't understand why anyone would be so horrible. I'd like to meet them to ask why.

'I'd be interested to find out if anyone else's honesty boxes have had the same happen,' added Beth, who also runs the Atlantis Leisure Centre cafe.

After working 12 years at the cafe, Beth only took it over 11 months before the pandemic struck and had to shut.

'I was probably the last cafe to open in town because of being in the leisure centre. I'd missed out by just weeks on getting early support from the government and although

'I did get a bit of help later on but it's not been the easiest of times. These thefts just topped it off.'

Family up in arms over home care problems on Coll

Continued from page 1.

Mr Kennedy says Coll's elderly are 'being deprived of any appropriate level of care' and are being failed and he has written to Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Pippa Milne, NHS local area manager for Oban, Lorn and Isles Morven McPhillips, councillors and parliamentary representatives to raise his concerns. He says the current situation goes against the government care directive and that previous questions asking why his mother was only getting 25 per cent of visits due in her care plan have gone unanswered.

'It has been known for many months that accommodation on Coll was unavailable for carers and that care was going to be a problem. I offered a flat for accommodation, an offer which was ignored,' said Mr Kennedy. 'In so far as Coll and its people are concerned, the elderly with care plans are simply being ignored,' said Mr Kennedy, who claims he has also been told existing care plans might have to change to suit carers' availability rather than being based on the elderly's assessed care needs.

'The time is long past for elected members to take control from the failing executive

which is incapable of delivering any service comparable with those in other areas of Argyll and Bute,' he wrote in his letter, adding it is 'a violation of the human rights of the elderly on Coll who are treated as substandard citizens.'

'It should be remembered the vast sums of additional funding Argyll and Bute Council receive from government directly for islands, yet Coll can get nothing but failure where the elderly are concerned.

'Dare I say, were this animals on a farm being treated in this manner, the RSPCA would take appropriate action which would in all probability result

in the owner being banned from being in charge of any animals in the future. Only Argyll and Bute could treat the elderly in such an appalling manner,' said Mr Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy believes only about 25 of the full-time adult population living on Coll are under the age of 55, with just one GP, a visiting district nurse from Tiree and limited carer support when available.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said it was 'a sorry state of affairs' and he was deeply concerned by Mr Kennedy's statement. 'I really do feel the islands are being ignored and a prime example of this is the

scandalous care situation on for our elderly. The very least people on Coll can expect is to get the same quality of care as you can get on the mainland. We shouldn't be having to ask for that.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said it was not appropriate to comment on an individual's care but it was recognised there are 'significant pressures' on 'care at home services on Coll'.

He said: 'This is due to a variety of reasons including recruitment issues, difficulties in attracting carers to work on the island and the lack of suit-

able accommodation locally. We are working closely with families to discuss available options to ensure their relatives continue to receive care and we will continue to engage with them as we work towards achieving a sustainable service.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said he has contacted the new interim chief officer of Argyll and Bute HSCP Fiona Davies to raise the issue directly with her.

'It is important everyone with a care package receives the appropriate level of care for their needs, no matter where they live,' he said.

Recipe

A little hot in the kitchen today?

Freshen up with this light and filling chicken and quinoa salad which will make for ideal lunchbox leftovers too

Ingredients

- 200g dried quinoa
- 4 cooked skinless and boneless chicken breasts, roughly shredded
- 4 red apples, cored and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 4 celery sticks, thinly sliced
- Small bag of baby spinach leaves
- Bunch of spring onions, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and finely chopped, to serve
- Small handful of fresh chives, finely chopped
- Small handful of fresh mint, finely chopped

Chicken and quinoa salad



For the dressing:

- 200g fat-free natural fromage frais
- 3 tbsp fat-free vinaigrette
- 2 tbsp roughly chopped bottled gherkins

Method

1. Cook the quinoa according to the packet instructions, then drain and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, put the chicken in a large salad bowl with the apples, celery, spinach and spring onions.
3. Mix all of the dressing ingredients together in a bowl and pour over the salad.
4. Add the cooked quinoa and toss to mix well. Scatter over the eggs and fresh herbs to serve.

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OT

POLICE FILES

Alleged assault

About 10pm on Sunday August 1, at Station Road, Oban, a man was allegedly assaulted by two other men. Subsequently, a 25-year-old man was arrested and charged. Another identified male has yet to be spoken to by police in relation to this matter. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Charged

About 10pm on Saturday July 31, at Victoria Crescent, Oban, a woman was allegedly assaulted by a man. A man was arrested and charged. The man has been released on undertaking that he appear in court and report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Crash

About 7.15pm on Monday July 26, on Deanery Road, Oban, a 41-year-old man was located by police following reports of a crash. The man allegedly provided a positive breath test and was arrested. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Fundraisers mark £500,000 milestone for cancer research

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban fundraisers are celebrating raising £500,000 after 54 years of supporting Cancer Research UK.

The Oban Local Committee started raising funds for Cancer Research UK in 1967 and the half million pounds has been raised through a number of activities over the years, including door-to-door collections, fashion shows, ceilidhs, Christmas merchandise sales and street collections, to name but a few.

Glynis Dewar, who leads the Oban Local Committee, has praised Oban's generosity.

'I would like to thank the generosity of the people in the Oban area, they've always been very supportive of the work that we do and are the main reason that we have been so successful in raising this



amazing sum,' she said.

Money raised by the Oban Local Committee funds research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, helping to make sure more people in Argyll and Bute and across the UK survive.

Gillian McManus, Cancer

Research UK fundraising Relationship Manager for Oban said Oban has made a huge contribution to fighting cancer.

'The Oban Local Committee has made a huge contribution to Cancer Research UK's work over the past 54 years and we

are incredibly grateful for the part they have played in the fight against cancer.

'Our determination to beat the disease hasn't faltered and we are more focused than ever on our ambition of seeing three in four people survive their cancer by 2034.

Gillian McManus, Cancer Research UK fundraising relationship manager for Oban with Oban committee chairperson Glynis Dewar and committee secretary Neil Angus.

'However, our progress relies on the incredible dedication and commitment of volunteers and supporters like the Oban Local Committee without whom we would not be able to fund our life-saving work. One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime. All of us can support the research that will beat it,' she said.

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity saving lives through research and work of more than 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses. Today, two in four people survive their cancer for at least 10 years. Cancer Research UK's ambition is to accelerate that progress to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Interested in finding out more? You can call 0300 123 1022, visit www.cancerresearchuk.org or follow the charity on Twitter and Facebook.

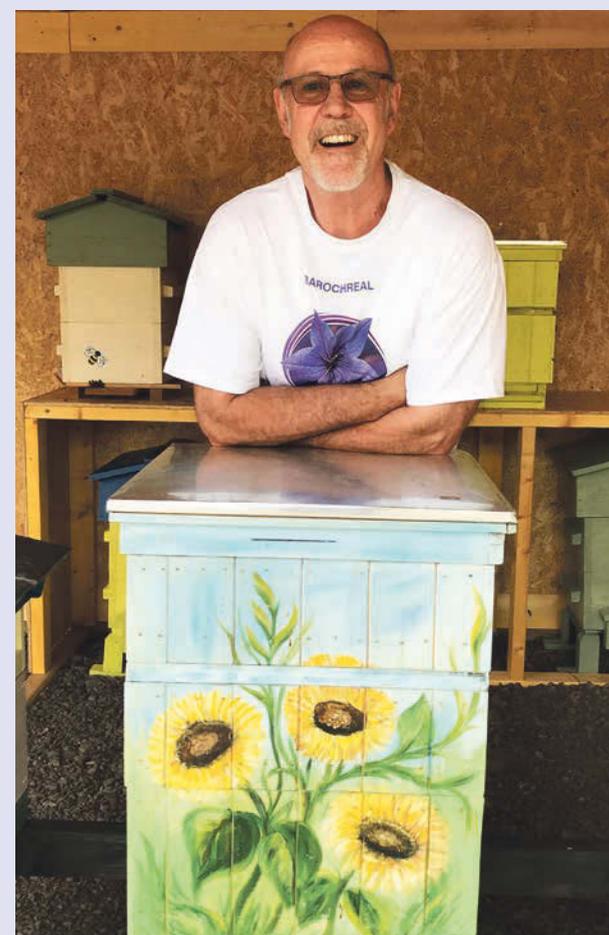
Kilninver's Barochreal has a buzz to it

Barochreal at Kilninver opened its garden without appointment this weekend in celebration of bees, writes Kathie Griffiths.

As part of the national Big Bee Challenge Weekend, Toni and Nigel Mitchell opened their garden gates wide welcoming people to come and see for themselves why their place is such a des res for the buzzy little creatures.

Delightful Barochreal, which also has its own red squirrel colony, is part of the yellow signposted Open Garden Scheme.

The pollen paradise is not just home to squirrels and all sorts of beautiful flowers, plants and trees – it also has eight hives – including one shipped over from Poland, a colourful hand painted hive that is top-range in the world of bee accommodation because it is insulated making it nice and cosy for its residents. Fascinating facts: A hive can have up to 50,000 bees, boy



Nigel Mitchell at Barochreal and the hive from Poland. He built a bee shelter for six of the hive, more are out in the garden.

bees can not sting because they have big bottoms and a single bee in its lifetime produces just one teaspoon of honey.

If you would like to visit

Barochreal to enjoy the garden, meet the bees and find out more about its history – once a village that existed long before Oban – call 01852 316151.



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POLICE FILES

Theft

Between 5pm and 5.20pm on Thursday July 19, in Tesco Car Park, Oban, a woman reported her handbag stolen from within her vehicle, a Jaguar S Type.

Failure to report

Between 1.45pm and 2.50pm on Saturday July 31, in Tesco Car Park, Oban, a white VW Amarok, was damaged after being hit by another vehicle while parked. The other car was driven off without leaving details. Police are investigating.

Driving allegation

About 5.30pm on Wednesday July 28, on the A85 near Oban, police attended a road traffic collision. As a result of enquiries made at the scene a woman (71) was charged with allegedly driving without due care or attention. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

If anyone has information in relation to the above they can contact their local Police Station on telephone number 101, or through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Oban residents warned 'there may be noise'

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Residents living near scheduled Scottish Water tunnelling works in Oban are being warned to expect 'significant noise and vibration disturbance' lasting eight weeks.

Scottish Water is moving to the second phase of a major £2.8 million project to upgrade its water network infrastructure in the Soroba area of Oban.

The work involves a new water main along a new route to prevent bursts and flooding in Lonan Drive, which has previously been occurring due to the old pipe.

The new water main has now been fitted in McCaig Road ready for Phase Two to start, tying in the new man to an existing one in Glencruitten playing fields.

New pipework now needs to

be laid along Jura Road and Shuna Terrace, under the railway line to Oban High Sports pitches, down the footpath towards the playing fields.

Directional drilling will be needed, for about eight weeks, starting at the end of this month. Network Rail has stipulated drilling operations must be 24/7 while working so close to the railway line and it will involve two segments of two weeks.

Caledonia Water Alliance, Scottish Water's alliance partner, who are delivering this project, has been liaising directly with all stakeholders, including Oban High School, Argyll and Bute environmental health, and local residents groups, throughout these works.

Scottish Water's corporate affairs manager in the west, Georgina Reid, said: 'We recognise there may be sig-

nificant noise and vibration disturbance during this time for those residents closest to the works.

'We have been engaging with the local community for several months regarding this and we will continue to work to minimise the disruption as far as possible.

'Independent surveys to properties were carried out earlier this year and we will be speaking directly to those closest to the drilling site in the coming weeks.

'We appreciate the support and understanding shown by local residents and stakeholders to our teams on the ground during these essential works. By working together we have been able to make great progress and we are committed to keeping the community informed.'

A well-used footpath from the High School to the hostel and



Scottish Water is moving to the second phase of a major £2.8 million project to upgrade its water network infrastructure in Soroba, Oban.

the community playing field will be shut until November for the work to be carried out.

A new pedestrian footpath is

also be made from Dalintart Drive along the north side of Oban High School's all-weather pitches.

OBAN SHERIFF COURT

In charge of a car while over limit

A woman in her parked car at Ganavan Sands, Oban, smelled so strongly of alcohol police officers decided to breath-test her.

Amanda Lawn, aged 35, of 26 Rhuvaal Road, Oban, had a breathalyser reading of 82 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath; the limit is 22.

'When she got out of her car she was unsteady on her feet, slurring her speech and again there was a strong smell of alcohol coming from her breath,' Mark Nicol, procurator fiscal depute, told Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Lawn admitted being in charge of a car after consuming excess alcohol. The car engine was running and the lights were on when police came across the car late at night on February 19 this year.

Sheriff Simon Fraser fined her £200 and ordered 10 penalty points be added to her licence. He said: 'I take into account everything said on your behalf; you are a first offender in the true meaning of the words.'

Lawn's defence agent Graeme Wright said his client, 'a young lady of good character who has found herself in circumstances not necessarily of her own making', had gone to Ganavan



Oban Sheriff Court.

'to get herself together'. She had experienced major trauma in her life.

'Turned his life around'

A 32-year-old chef was found to be under the influence of drugs when his car was stopped by police.

Oban Sheriff Court was told at an earlier hearing in June that officers had cause to stop a car driven by Ross Entwistle of Tigh Geal, North Connel, on the A85 on the evening of June 6 last year after he overtook another vehicle at speed.

'Officers became aware there was a strong smell of cannabis

coming from the car,' James Dunbar, procurator fiscal had said.

Entwistle took a roadside saliva test and this showed positive for cannabis and cocaine.

At the police station a further test showed a level of 253 micrograms of Benzoylconine, a chemical produced when cocaine is broken down by the body; the legal limit is 50.

Defence agent Graeme Wright said Entwistle had already surrendered his driving licence. The bereavement of an employer and lockdown had been difficult for the chef, who is very highly regarded by his current employers.

Sheriff Hughes disqualified Entwistle from driving and called for a criminal justice social work report to be prepared, telling him: 'It is important the court has the appropriate information to help you.'

Entwistle appeared in court again last week, before Sheriff Simon Fraser, and Mr Wright told the court that since the incident Entwistle 'had turned his life around'.

After listening to the plea in mitigation and reading the reports Sheriff Fraser fined Entwistle £800 and disqualified him from driving for three years, backdated to his initial court appearance in June.

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

We have a few events happening this month which I'm absolutely delighted about as it heralds a return to a more normal life.

On Saturday, we have Oban Rotary Club's annual Duck Race. I've bought ducks for everyone I know this year, so fingers crossed one of us wins.

It's also the end of West Highland Yachting Week which brings a great buzz to the bay and pontoons. One of my favourite things is when there are crafts of all descriptions sailing about and I have a comfy seat and a cup of tea to sit and watch.

This month also sees the return of the Oban Games. It won't be quite the same as normal but I'm looking forward to watching the pipe bands march up and the activity it brings to the town. Games day always has a special feel to it and a few interesting people wandering about.

The Corran Halls is also starting to advertise events which will, all being well,

WHERE IS THIS?



take place over the next few months. These include a Queen tribute act in September.

The Lorne Bar is restarting quiz nights on a Wednesday. I can't wait to go to a quiz again and although my favourite quiz master, Craig Munro, is sadly no longer with us, Graeme Bass is equally as good at bamboozling me and causing bickering within my team as we debate who is right.

If anyone else has events taking place, don't forget to let us know at BID4Oban and we can include them on our Facebook pages and the Oban Town Diary.

The photograph last week, which seems to have puzzled a few folk, was of the big cheese outside Alba's Kitchen Garden. This week's photograph should be a little easier.

Rare book sale opens a new Ardchattan Centre chapter

Books owned by a London Couture model and her husband who travelled the world living in diplomatic circles are helping raise funds for Bonawe's Ardchattan Centre.

More than 200 books will be going under the hammer, at the centre's open day this Sunday, August 8.

The books were part of a vast and varied library belonging to Anne and Mike Reynolds of Ardachy House in North Connel. Their daughters Fiona and Bee Reynolds, now in Australia, said their parents would be 'delighted their books were supporting the Bonawe school project and providing wit and wisdom to a wider audience'.

The books are one of two unique and generous legacies gifted to the project transforming the old school building on the shore of Loch Etive into a community hub.



Amber Richardson with some of her father Barrie's paintings and books from the Reynolds family that will be sold in aid of the Ardchattan Centre this Sunday August 8

Amber Richardson has also curated an exhibition of more than 30 of her father's paintings. They, too, will be on display and be sold in aid of the project. Bonawe man Barrie Richardson was a trained illustrator who also painted for fun any time he had a spare moment. In 1997 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but he learned to work with the disease and took up painting again using his art to raise awareness of the condition and raise funds for support groups.

Ardchattan Centre's Breege Smyth said: 'They are both unique and such generous donations by local families supporting our project.'

The Reynolds' books reflect

the family's past life and interests. Anne was a child in the 'roaring 1920s' and her early home was a French cavalry chateau in Algeria with beautiful grounds bursting with flowers where she rode her pony she named Swordfish after a flight she took in a 1930s Fairey Swordfish biplane.

The couple both served in World War Two - Mike in the Royal Marine Commandos and Anne, who had been a fashion model, in the Women's Royal Naval Services before retiring to Argyll in 1964 after several diplomatic postings.

'Both contributed greatly to the community, Mike as County Commissioner for the Scouts for many decades and with the Field Sports Society.

He was also a Piping Steward. Anne was awarded an MBE for long time service to SSAFA the armed forces charity in Oban, and for many years provided flowers from her garden to the Corran Halls for the Argyllshire Gathering,' said Breege.

Mike died in 2008 and is buried at Achnaba Church. Anne, who had dementia, died in 2019.

Also at Sunday's open day, from 11am to 4pm, people will have the chance to take a look at progress inside the buildings and sign up to two upcoming projects. One includes working on wallpaper designs and soft furnishings for the perfectly preserved Victorian school-house which will become a heritage space where stories from the school will go on display.

Cake and teas will be available in an outdoor marquee.

Major refurbishment work is likely to start in 2024.

More policing needed to control growing problem of Islay litter

A bigger police presence is needed to control littering on Islay, says an island councillor.

Ward councillor Alastair Redman is calling on Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, also the Local Area Commander in charge of Kintyre and the Islands, for more support to keep the rubbish problem in Bowmore under control.

Councillor Redman says he has also been in contact with Argyll and Bute Council and the Islay High School head teacher about the matter.

In a letter to Chief Inspector Baillie which was also sent to The Oban Times, councillor Redman said: 'For some time now there have been issues in terms of littering on the isle of Islay. As the school summer holidays approach their end, I wanted to make contact with you to request a higher police presence during school inter-

val times outwith the school premises.

'I understand the head teacher and wider school leadership team do their very best to monitor the pupils at the school and that the school has held positive talks with pupils around the impact of littering on their community.'

Councillor Redman has also asked that the council bins are emptied more often.

'I have requested the council empty bins more frequently, however, I believe a higher police presence would deter some of the behaviours we are seeing across our island.'

Councillor Redman has heard back from Chief Inspector Baillie who said she has been liaising with the police team on Islay about litter.

In a response to The Oban Times, Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie said: 'Local

officers are committed to tackling littering on Islay and there are plans to visit the school to do preventative work with staff and pupils. We will also aim to increase patrols during peak times in the centre of Bowmore in an effort to deter this behaviour. We will also work in partnership with council services to reduce littering and ensure Islay continues to be a beautiful place to live and visit.'

A council spokesperson said: 'We are increasing our collections to twice weekly in the summer to deal with the increase of rubbish. This includes uplifts during weekends.'

'With limited resources, we are covering 2,300kms of roads, 3.02 million household waste bins and 780 litter bins.'

'We encourage people to play their part by taking litter home and using recycling facilities.'



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Mobile cinema cautious as safety measures lifted

Regional Screen Scotland – owner, operator and manager of the Screen Machine mobile cinema – welcomed Tuesday’s announcement from the Scottish Government that from August 9 cinemas across Scotland can operate without physical distancing measures.

A spokesperson said: ‘These will enable us to welcome more people to the Screen Machine, whilst still offering a safe facility. We have consulted extensively with our audiences, and as a result we will voluntarily retain a measure of physical distancing for at least the next two months. This will involve setting a cap on the total number of tickets available for each screening at 60 (75 per cent of possible capacity).’

However, the spokesperson said the cinema will not visit Mull as part of its current tour of Argyll due to circumstances beyond its control but it hoped these can be resolved for future visits. Screen Machine had been planning to visit Bunessan and Tobermory the week of August 16.

Fighting back against disability hate crime

Businesses, shops and organisations in Oban, Lorn and the Isles are being urged to join an initiative aimed at raising awareness of disability hate crime, writes Fiona Scott.

Keep Safe is a Police Scotland led project in partnership with the I Am Me Scotland charity.

Seen as one of the most under-reported types of crime in Scotland and the UK, it is estimated that around 97 per cent of disability hate crime goes unreported.

Keep Safe aims to work with individuals and groups to create safe places for people to go if they need help – maybe because they are lost, they have lost their wallet, a phone or are a victim of disability hate crime.

Premises displaying the Keep Safe sticker will provide assistance in any way possible.

Keep Safe places in Oban



already include Nationwide, ACHA, Calmac Ferry Terminal, Carr Gomm, Police Scotland, North Argyll Carers Centre and The Corryvreckan (Wetherspoons) Public House.

To become a Keep Safe place, interested premises have to

meet criteria which include a minimum number of two staff in place at all times and must complete a form to allow Police Scotland to undertake background checks.

Once these checks are complete, staff undergo training

Nationwide Oban are just one of the local businesses on board with the Keep Safe initiative.

After the training, the premises will be issued with a Keep Safe Business Pack, funded by the Argyll and Bute Community Justice Partnership and Keep Safe.

Jim Tomlie, chairman of Oban and District Access Panel, said: ‘The Keep Safe initiative is a brilliant way of promoting independence for people with disabilities throughout Oban. We hope local businesses will engage with this and put themselves forward for the training.’

‘Part of the panel’s work is to help businesses support people with disabilities and joining Keep Safe is one way local businesses can do that.’

Anyone interested in becoming part of this initiative should contact PC Laura Evans, Dunoon Police Station, by email at Laura.Evans@Scotland.pnn.police.uk.

which is provided free of charge by Police Scotland. The training is tailored to each individual premises and can last as little as 30 minutes.

It can be done face to face or remotely through Microsoft Teams.

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OT

Mull tunes up for Fiddle Week

Mull is fine tuning plans for its Fiddle Week starting this Monday.

Excitement levels are rising for the event, says Laura Mandelberg from Mull Music Makers.

'There is a real buzz among the team of tutors about working together and they can't wait to come to Mull to teach for a week,' she said.

For the main fiddle programme, young people up to the age of 25 have signed up for the free week from Oban, across the Highlands and as far away as Tayside – as well as a good number of youngsters already getting tuition as part of the Mull Music Makers programme. It is open to players of all levels from beginners to professional string teachers.

The mentoring project with leading Scottish fiddler and composer Patsy Reid is also taking shape with online training sessions under way.

'We have a great Highland-based bunch of music students on the mentoring project coming from Skye, Iona, Highland and Argyll. They will be



Mull Fiddle Week offers free expert tuition to musicians aged five to 26 across Mull and Argyll and Bute but spaces need to be booked in advance. Photograph: Richardkellertphotography.com

working closely with our expert tutors throughout the week, shadowing and leading sessions,' added Laura.

Charity Hear My Music, a community music organisation working with people who have complex needs and or an Autism Spectrum Disorder, has teamed up with the Lochside

Centre, formally Lochgilphead Resource Centre, to run daily music sessions throughout the week and there is the possibility some sessions will be held in Campbeltown. Tutor Patsy posted on Facebook: 'Everything is shaping up nicely for our Mull Fiddle Week and there are still a few spaces.

We have wonderful tutors – Adam Sutherland, Daniel Ellis Thorpe and Vanessa Edwards.'

Accommodation is busy on the island but it is possible for commuters from Kilchoan as well as those who live on Mull to still take part and join in the celebration of traditional fiddle music. The venture, a

first for Mull Music Makers, got 100 per cent funding from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo two years ago but had to cancel the event in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Workshops will be focused on learning to play traditional fiddle tunes by ear as well as through movement connecting the music to dance.

There will also be the chance of pop-up performances and informal sessions on the streets of Tobermory. At the end of the week, there will be a chance for the young people to showcase their achievements.

The event will follow whatever Covid restrictions are in place at the time, said Laura.

Interested in booking a place? Call 01688 400364 or email laura_mandelberg@hotmail.com

Also coming up on Mull is the Salen Show on Thursday August 12. Although sections will be limited and there will be no marquees, it is still going ahead. Organisers are asking visitors to take a lateral flow test within 24 hours of the show starting.

Still time to have say on power upgrade

There is still time to have a say on proposals for upgrading Argyll and Kintyre's power transmission network.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) has thanked everyone who has got involved so far in making comments on the plans but wants to remind people the consultation does not end until August 13.

The online consultation can also be viewed at any time and includes exhibition boards, maps, videos, and an interactive 3D model which allows the visitor to view visualisations of the proposals at a number of vantage points along the route. It presents proposals for the three elements of the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy;

Creag Dhubb to Dalmally, the newly proposed Creag Dhubb to Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line, and the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations project.

Visit www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy

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Arts, crafts, boots sellers and petting animals will be at the Racer Cafe's Little Lorn Show in Barcaldine on Saturday August 7 from 10am to 3pm.

Who will be the best in show?

No kidding! An alternative to the cancelled Lorn Show is hoping to bring along a few furry friends to Barcaldine's Racer Cafe on Saturday, August 7, writes Kathie Griffiths.

If all goes to plan, a goat and its kid, a Highland cow and calf as well as some feathered animals to pet will be at the outdoor event and market.

Past president of the Lorn Show Duncan Buchanan will be bringing the Highlanders and has also agreed to help judge the 'best in show' from the 'static' animals brought

along by crafters and car booters in a bid to take the winning title all for fun.

Instead of real animals on show in rings, each exhibiting crafter, artist and car-booter with a stall is being asked to put forward an animal of their own – knitted, carved or created in any other way. There will also be a barbecue, live music and children's entertainment.

Joy Cameron, who is one of the organisers, said it is going to be lots of fun with thanks to the Racer Cafe's owners for their support.

The day starts at 10am and

finishes at 3pm, with judging at 2.15pm. The plan is to auction off the Best In Show entrants.

The idea is for the Barcaldine event to finish in time for people to head over to Oban for the Rotary Club's Duck Race where hundreds of plastic ducks will race along the Black Lynn from the Combie Street bridge to Oban Bay via the tunnel adjacent to the Lismore pier.

Duck tickets are on sale in various shops in town and also at Tesco and Bossards tomorrow, August 6 and on Saturday, the latter up to 3pm.

Cyclist's appeal to drivers after 'near death' experience

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Drivers are being urged to be cyclist-aware after a Barcaldine cyclist had 'a near death experience' with a fast car that wiped him off his bike. Leighn Chambers, a rider with North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) was left battered and bruised after the incident 300 miles into a gruelling 1,500 mile endurance race that started out from Lockerbie.

Leighn, who escaped serious injury, had to pull out of the race after he was hit by the car near Unthank in Northumberland. NACC's Steven Groom said:

'Ninety nine per cent of cars are careful and courteous but the nought point nought one per cent is scary and so selfish.

There will be a never ending debate about cyclists and cars, but we'd urge all drivers to be cyclist aware and remember that on every bike is a son, daughter, mum, dad, husband or wife.'

He added: 'Leighn was wearing yellow and three lots of flashing red lights when it happened.'

Recent figures show at least three cyclists every week suffer serious injuries on Scotland's roads. A Cycling Scotland survey suggests two thirds of people in Scotland are unaware

it is a careless driving offence for motorists to close-pass a cyclist. Close-pass means overtaking with less than 1.5 metres space or a car's width.

If the case is brought to court, drivers can be given three points and fined up to £100 or get a criminal conviction for more serious offences.

In sports news, North Argyll Cycle Club's Shona Maclachlan and Heather Shanks represented the club at the Scottish National Women's Road Race Championships on Saturday July 24. This was their first competitive road race, against some high calibre riders, but Heather took ninth position and Shona was 15th overall.

Heather Shanks is a relatively new member to North Argyll Cycle Club, having joined earlier this year, encouraged by the club's focus on women's cycling. Having competed in mountain bike racing many years ago, the club's support has helped Heather venture into group road rides.

After hearing through the club about the Scottish National Road Race Championships, she signed up for the event in Alford, Aberdeenshire. Shona Maclachlan is one of the strongest female NACC members, having been part of the club for four years. She also represents the Torvelo Racing team.



Aeris Brass performing at Historic Kilbride in the open air.

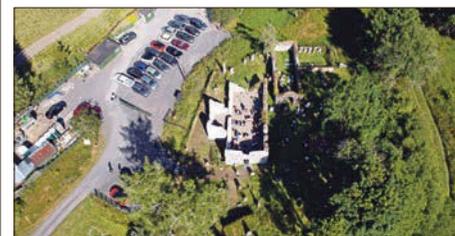
More to come at historic Kilbride, says Friends

The sun smiled on Historic Kilbride on Sunday when Oban Music Society presented a concert by award-winning trombone quartet Aeris Brasin in and around the newly-restored ruins of Kilbride Kirk, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Friends of Kilbride said the event was a great success and

are keen to develop the site as an outdoor resource for the whole community.

The concert was enjoyed by 60 people who were able to choose their degree of social distancing – as a bonus the gentle breeze kept off the midges, said a Friends spokesperson.



An aerial view from a drone as the concert takes place.

LHO HEALTH TIP

Be aware of what triggers your habits

Habits can be thought of as purely effective and not so much good or bad. They simply serve a purpose via a mental shortcut and deliver an outcome or reward. Obviously some of these outcomes will take us closer to the identity we wish to achieve and some will take us further away.

Most habits exist because of a cue or trigger which leads to a craving which causes a response which delivers a reward or outcome. For example if we are walking along the high street in the morning on the way to work and smell bacon we may crave a bacon butty. The response is to pop into the café and buy a bacon sandwich and the reward is satisfying our craving for some extra breakfast.

However if done enough times the trigger or cue for future trips to the café could well become a walk along the high street on the way to work. If this becomes an unconscious habit it becomes difficult to remove from our daily routine. So by making the triggers of bad habits invisible, we can begin to move away from destructive unconscious thoughts. In this case perhaps



Rob Graham, Healthy Options.

we could take a different route to work and remove ourselves from the high street?

Alternatively, when we want to code a new habit into our brain it can really help to make the trigger as obvious as possible. This could be placing your workout kit on the bed before going to sleep for those early morning workouts or having your running shoes ready where you take off your work shoes if you intend to train straight after work.

But first of all list all your daily habits and acknowledge those that bring you closer to

where you want to be and those that take you further way. Some will be neutral, but this process is a great starting point and requires a lot of honesty. Next week we will move on to how we make the craving for our bad habits less appealing and how to make our good habits more attractive.

For the full message go to the free resource section on the lornhealthyoptions.co.uk website.

Rob Graham, Lead Exercise Professional, Healthy Options.

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OT

Scaled down games a winner

Mull Highland Games organisers have hailed this year's alternative gathering a winner.

When the virus threatened to put a stop to the traditional games for a second year running, organisers decided to come up with something new to keep the spirit of the event alive and kicking on the island.

The usual games were scaled down, races still went ahead, picnics were encouraged, with a producers market on site and Tobermory High School Pipe Band still put on a parade.

With many of the familiar heavy weight

contestants not travelling this year, Brian Robin – who has been competing and running events throughout Argyll for more than 45 years – invited Edinburgh's iron man Kyle Randall to come and coach some new competitors from the island, encouraging them on to the throwing field.

In support for the event, the Co-Op at Tobermory presented a £200 cheque to organisers for a new banner and Covid-19 signs.

Mull Highland Games chairman William Hume said the games would be back in full next year, Covid allowing.

'Going ahead with a smaller gathering was the right thing to do this year and we were rewarded for it with a good turnout and sunshine.'

'We didn't want to see another year without the games because we would've had to build it all up again. This way we managed to keep the spirit of it alive. All being well, Mull Highland Games will be back to its usual self in 2022,' said Mr Hume, who thanked everyone who worked so hard for the gathering to go ahead, especially mentioning the generous support from sponsors and patrons.



Mull Highland Games President Andrew Kain received a £200 cheque from Tobermory Co-Op manager Martin Brant with Games chairman William Hume looking on.



A competitor at Mull Highland Gathering takes the competition all in his stride. Photograph: Alan Harris.



A solo piper plays in the sunshine at the alternative Mull Highland Gathering. Photograph: Alan Harris.



The chase is on as two runners battle it out to cross the finish line first. Photograph: Alan Harris.

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Members of Tobermory High School Pipe Band take a breather in the sunshine during the gathering. Photograph: Alan Harris.



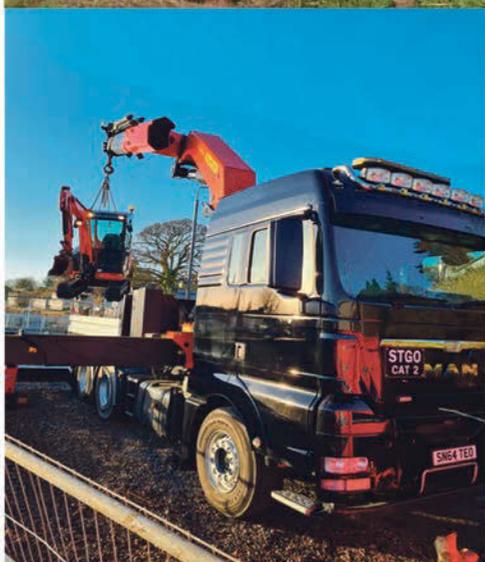
Heading for the finish line in one of the 2021 Mull Highland Gathering races. Photograph: Alan Harris.



Getting ready to throw at the 2021 Mull Highland Gathering. Photograph: Alan Harris.

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Can you help support families?

A charity helping families cope with the early hurdles of family life is looking for more volunteers.

Home-Start Lorn has been supporting families for more than 30 years and starts a training session for new helpers on August 18.

Anyone interested should go along to an open day at Home-Start Lorn's 15 Lochside Street base in Oban on Tuesday August 10 between noon and 3pm. You can also call 01631 566749 or email manager@homestartlorn.org.uk.

Now that lockdown restrictions are easing, the charity is returning to more face-to-face work, providing emotional support, respite and friendship to parents and carers and their children. The support often comes through days out that include swimming, walking, going for a coffee, shopping trips, playing in the park and a trip to the beach.

Anyone who can spare one to two hours a week could be a match.

More information can also be found at homestartlorn.org.uk

Romantic film made in Oban is screened in Los Angeles



The Right Bus was filmed in and around Oban.

A romantic movie filmed in Oban and Kerrera has been screened at a Los Angeles film festival, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The Right Bus, based on a book by Glenn Ward who fell in love with Oban and the West Coast as a tourist, has won rave reviews, being named as a semi-finalist in the stateside LOVE International Film Festival.

Mr Ward, who used to live in Glasgow but has now made Spain's Costa Blanca his home, featured Oban and Kerrera in his book, with the Regent Hotel and the town's whisky also getting a mention in its pages.

So it was fitting that movie-maker Robbie Moffat, in association with Pink Flamingo Films, headed to the area with a crew to shoot it in 2018.

Mr Ward's son Ed plays the

part of a marine biologist David Gregson based on Kerrera who meets an American widow and her two children while tagging Arctic terns bred on the island with GPS trackers.

The plot revolves around him developing a relationship with the young widow who comes to Oban after inheriting properties from an aunt who fell for a soldier billeted in the town during the Second World War. Mr Ward, who came up with the storyline while sailing round the Mediterranean, said the theme of the book was about making the right choices in life – getting the right bus.

'At last, after all the pandemic delays, the film has been presented at the Los Angeles Film Festival and is a semi-finalist. This is hugely important for Oban which features so prominently in the book and film,'

said publicist Gwendoline Holliday who contacted The Oban Times to share the good news.

And Mr Ward said what pleased him most about publishing the book was the number of people who wrote to say how much it made them want to visit the area, particularly Oban.

'This sort of reaction came from readers who had no connection with Scotland at all or in the case of those who did have a link, a yearning to follow their instinctive wish to go there as soon as they'd finished reading it.'

'I have spent many years sailing along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts and can speak from first hand experience that there could have been no better location for The Right Bus than Oban.'

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LETTERS

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The Games are a go!

Following a year of cancellations due to Covid, it was fantastic to see Mull Highland Games go ahead, albeit on a smaller scale.

Races went ahead and picnics were encouraged, with a producers' market on site, and the Tobermory High School Pipe Band took pride of place at the parade.

And we were very excited to hear that the Oban Games have been given the green light.

As one of Argyll's largest events, we are delighted to hear that it will be taking place on August 26 on what is its 150th anniversary.

We wish them well and look forward to being there on the big day.

Dishonest few ruin it for all

One of the positives we, and many others, loved about lockdown was the people offering sweet treats to lift our spirits via honesty boxes.

So to hear that Beth MacDonald, who runs the cafe at Atlantis Leisure, has closed hers down due to a dishonest few stealing her cakes and cash is really disheartening to hear.

It may have only been a sideline for Beth but those selfish few have ruined it for many.

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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Buried treasure in Taynuilt

This summer, people in Taynuilt have been amazed and delighted by the miraculous appearance of swathes of wild flowers such as the Bluebell of Scotland which sprang up all around Muckairn church.

A vision of beauty to glorify God and lift the spirits in these troubled times.

A kirk elder cut paths through them so that they could be enjoyed without being trampled.

Jesus said: 'Consider the flowers of the fields. Solomon in all his splendour was not attired like one of these.'

Sadly some think these are not fitting surroundings for the final resting place of the folk of the village.

Now it is all mown before it can set seed. The grave stones stand stark above bare grass with rotting cut clumps lying about and the possible addition of trickles of weed killer.

Beauty in the eye of the beholder?

Muckairn church elder.

Looking after our young

We need to make sure that the young – and the very young – get through this pandemic.

In our country is a health system designed to look after the mainstream of health problems – and which mainly affect the old. We still see young people dying and afflicted with disabling conditions, developed before the pandemic, and now, a increasing health toll divide is emerging in the next generation.

S. Read, Ardrishaig.

Sunday service

One can't help but notice the plethora of problems that has plagued CalMac ferries over the past few years. We've heard it all – repair problems, technical glitches, major breakdown, unexpected overhaul, complex mechanical difficulties, mounting disruptions, travel chaos, harbour crash – the list of hitches is endless.

While the continuing ferry debacle on the Islands has become a big joke, it is plainly evident that no one is laughing. Happy smiles, once seen at ports on both sides of the Minch, have suddenly turned into despair and disappointment – and anger too.

Indisputable evidence shows that CalMac has been affected by a sea of sorrows ever since it began Hebridean sailings on Sunday, the Lord's Day. Their unwise decision to introduce Sabbath sailings has brought them nothing but endless problems and eye-watering bills. The

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



'S tric a chluinnear an seanfhacal mun a h-uile latha a bhith na latha-sgoile, agus saoilidh mi gum bheil an abairt fìor ann an iomadach dòigh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an seòrsa foghlaim a tha ga theagasg ann an sgoiltean cudromach dhuinn uile mar bhunait fiosrachaidh beatha agus cosnaidh, ach tha uimhir de sgilean a ghabhas ionnsachadh taobh a-mach seòmraichean-sgoile cuideachd a dh'fhaodas a bhith deatamach. Gu cinnteach dh'fhaodte comas snàmh a mheas mar aon de na sgilean sin. Ged a rinn mi oidhirp, feumaidh mi aideachadh nach do dh'ionnsaich mi fhìn snàmh ceart riamh, agus tha sin na thàmailt a dh'fhaodainn a leasachadh furasta gu leòr nam feuchainn. Ach tha sin, mar a tha a' mhòr-chuid de chomasan, fada nas fhasa greimeachadh air nuair a tha neach òg agus chuirinn mo làn-thaice ris an iomairt a th' air nochdadh bho chionn ghoirid ag iarraidh snàmh a bhith air a theagasg anns na sgoiltean. Dh'èirich an t-iarraitas sin ri linn nan tubaistean muladach a chunnacas feadh na dùthcha far an deach na h-uimhir a bhàthadh is iad air an tàladh dhan uisge an àm teas samhraidh, agus tha e smaointeachail da-rìribh ionnsachadh na bheil gan call anns an uisge gach bliadhna.

'S iomadh duine a th' air iongnadh a nochdadh thar nam bliadhnaichean mu cho beag de mharaichean a dhèanadh snàmh ged a bha iad a' toirt an cosnaidh aig muir, agus bha sin fìor am measg Ghàidheil agus eileanaich cuideachd.

Bhiodh m' athair ag innse dhuinn mar a b' fheudar dha fhèin snàmh ionnsachadh nuair a thilg a bhràithrean a bu shine e gu ruige na glumaig aibhne sam biodh iad a' cluich! Cha d' fhuair sinne snàmh ionnsachadh idir, agus theagamh gur e eagal a bh' air ar màthair gun èireadh dunach dhuinn anns a' mhuir oir cha robh an còrr àite dham faodamaid feuchainn.

Mun àm a bha mise faisg air crìochnachadh san àrd-sgoil bha a' Bhean-phòsta Magaidh Weir a' tadhal air bun-sgoiltean an Eilein Sgitheanaich gus lùth-chleasachd a thoirt dhan chloinn. Bha ise làidir na beachd air cho cudromach 's a bha comas snàmh agus chaidh aice air amar canabhais fhaotainn bhon Chomhairle agus bhiodh seo a' siubhal an Eilein ann a' bhan bheag agus ga chur suas aig sgoil mu seach ach am faigheadh a' chlann snàmh ionnsachadh. Aig an àm bha cuid a sgoiltean a' faotainn uisge à tobraichean agus uaireannan bheireadh e latha neo dhà a' lìonadh an amair tro phìob! Mo mhìle beannachd air "Cailleach Weir", cha robh duine riamh na b' airidh air an urram MBE a fhuair i airson a cuid strì gus amar-snàmh fhaotainn anns an Eilean. Thug i a' mhòr-chuid den airgead a bha i air a chur mu seach, airson dachaigh a cheannach, dha iomairt an amair sin agus bha i a' fuireach ann an carabhan! 'S iongantach mur do shàbhail na sgilean a thug i dha na bha sin de chloinn beatha neo dhà thar nam bliadhnaichean, abair teisteanas!

financial results have proved to be a massive loss, not a gain.

Yes, CalMac have found out, to their bitter cost, there is a heavy price to pay when we violate God's law and ignore His commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.' They fail to appreciate, as a wise Divine once said, that, 'The Sabbath is God's special present to the working man, and one of its chief objects is to prolong his life and preserve efficient his working tone. The savings bank of human existence is the weekly Sabbath.'

The Sunday opening of any door for worldly purposes, whether on land or on sea, does not bring great gain and greater profit. As the words of an old rhyme reminds us: 'A Sabbath well spent brings a week of content, and strength

for the toils of the tomorrow; But a Sabbath profaned whatever may be gained, is a certain forerunner of sorrow.' Just ask CalMac, and they will say 'Amen'.

Mr Donald J Morrison, Inverness.

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DISTRICT NEWS

TAYNUILT

Book shed open for business

Taynuilt bookworms are over the moon this week after the village's new book shed opened following a lengthy delay.

Launched during lockdown in conjunction with Benderloch's Bookends Book Festival, a 'book bins' initiative was well received in villages including Taynuilt, Connel, Kilmore and Barcaldine.

Taynuilt Bookend ambassador Marlyn Turbitt originally set up a blue recycling bin in the village with books from the bookroom for locals to browse and exchange.

This proved popular, but problems with the bin falling over and people putting rubbish in it meant Marlyn was forced to think again. Taking up the story, she told The Oban Times: 'I enquired about using the defunct phone box in the village and after it was acquired from BT, we were planning to adapt it for books. Then the pandemic arrived and it was decided to make it into a food bank instead. That has proved so popular it has been agreed to keep it going.'

'Taynuilt Community Council subsequently approached me about them providing a shed for the book exchange, instead of the phone box, along with some funding.'

Marlyn took them up on the offer and was delighted when Buildbase in Oban generously provided cladding wood for free.

As with all new builds, however, there were hitches along the way, but earlier this month



Keen readers George and Emma Bannantyne celebrate the opening of the shed with initiator Marlyn Turbitt.

the shed was finally opened, stocked with books from the Bookends Bookroom and some donated by the people of Taynuilt.

'We are incredibly grateful to Buildbase and Taynuilt Community Council,' added Marlyn.

'I was disappointed not to have it open for the village during lockdown, but it is being well used now.'

The shed will be open round the clock for anyone to browse, take away or exchange books from the large variety of adult and children's titles on offer. Hand sanitiser and wipes are available so the books can be kept Covid safe.

Anyone wishing to donate books should contact Marlyn, rather than leave them in the shed.

It is now hoped someone will make a Taynuilt Book Shed sign for the front door, preferably in wood with the letters either carved or burned.

SEIL AND LUING

Marathon Macmillan walk

Friends from Seil and Luing are stepping out on a marathon in the footsteps of one of Scotland's most famous folklore figures later this month.

Willie Munro, Tracy White and Alison Young are taking part in the 2021 Rob Roy Mighty Hike in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on August 28.

The route will take them on foot from Callander to Killin with a number of pit stops on the way.

The trio, who are putting themselves through their paces in training for the event, hope to raise £750.

You can find their justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macmillanmightymeander

'Usually there'd be a big coffee morning on Seil for the charity, but that's not happening this year because of the pandemic so although our hike isn't instead of it, we're hoping it will help give a bit of a boost to funds for the amazing work Macmillan does,' said Willie. 'The cause is close to our hearts as our families have been affected by cancer over the years,' he added.



Alison Young and Willie Munro are walking 26 miles in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on August 28.

At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Devastating blow

The closure of Chalmers store in George Street has dealt a devastating blow to Oban's economy.

I was, as with many other people, shocked to hear of its immediate demise, and on a number of levels.

Principal among the reasons for my dismay is what this kind of event does to the people involved.

One of the five members of staff so summarily ditched is a good friend of mine, so I have a personal interest in empathising with these good folk.

It is too often the case that the human element is overlooked when this kind of business failure is reported. The focus, understandably, is on the economic impact and the reasons for a company folding.

So have a heart and think about what this means to the five Chalmers employees whose jobs have been sacrificed in what seems to be a spat about the lease terms and conditions. They have more than 50 years of service between them and are wholly innocent victims of executive decision-making.

I am trying to remain positive, however, and tip my tile to the excellent work done by BID4Oban, and the success of the town's economy otherwise.

On that positive note, the Chalmers store is a superb space in a wonderful location and offers some bright entrepreneur a brilliant opportunity to transform the premises into a different business.

Show stopped

Another disappointing item of news was the decision to scrap this year's Dalmally Show, one of the highlights of the Argyll agricultural scene.

This cancellation was, of course, as a result of the Covid pandemic, the fallout from which continues to blight so much of our society. The crisis has put paid to so many of the landmark events in our calendar.

People keep talking of getting back to normal, but I'm not sure we'll ever return fully to the way things were.

I suspect we'll have to settle for a new 'normal', but I hope it will include the Dalmally Show, Oban Live and other major events.

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

Selkie ticks off more of RowAround challenge

Seil's skiff Selkie has completed another section of her RowAround Scotland mission.

On Saturday, her crew from Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club took part in a nine-mile row from Craobh Haven back to base at Balvicar boatyard, stopping off for a picnic on Eilean Gamnha - Isle of the Stirks.

On Friday, the St Ayles skiff travelled 11 miles from Ardfern Yacht Centre to Craobh Haven through the tidal-gate Dorus Mor which translates as Great Door.

The Sound of Mull is next, involving other coastal rowers. By October this year, it is hoped to finish the circumnavigation, potentially involving up to 70 coastal rowing clubs across the country.



Selkie's crew before setting off from the pontoons at Craobh Haven back to Balvicar. Photograph: James Fenton.

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Chalmers decendants a



Gill Chalmers would like to hear from anyone across the Oban area who knows about the family business.

by Ellis Butcher
editor@obantimes.co.uk

The sudden closure of a prominent building and business in Oban has seen family members come forward with an appeal for information about its history.

Gill Chalmers, pictured above, and her identical twin sister Heather were among those deeply saddened by the bombshell announcement that Chalmers at 42-46 George Street has permanently closed after an apparent wrangle over the lease between the landlord and Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

Gill, aged 44, who lives near Inverness and has an older brother Matthew, had been making frequent visits to Oban researching the family history.

The name was always important growing

up – being a source of pride for her own late father Alexander, with the business established by her great-great-grandfather William Chalmers.

Gill Chalmers would like to see the closed shop become a centre for tartan, tweeds and woollens.

Gill told the Oban Times: 'I just feel really sad for Oban people as it's part of their history, too, and they have said how sad they are.

'It's been going over 100 years and people have grown up with it. I feel part of Oban and would love to have contact with those that were there.'

Gill is keen to hear from anyone who can help fill in any gaps and said she would love the building to once again become a centre for traditional tartan, tweed and woollens.

Anyone who can help should contact Gill on lorneSTAR1999@yahoo.co.uk.

Five years after the turn of the 20th century, a large pink granite and red Arran sandstone building was constructed on George Street in Oban, writes Heather Chalmers.

The building was completed two years later and comprised a shop downstairs and flats above known as Argyle Mansions. It was described at the time as one of Scotland's 'finest tenement' buildings.

It was a busy time in Oban for construction, with the railway line between Glasgow and the town having been completed in 1880. There was a lot of incoming trade with Glaswegians descending during the city's two week holiday in August known as the Glasgow Fayre.

A young tailor from South Lanarkshire called William Chalmers had moved to Oban in 1880.

He had been born in Hamilton on 12 August 1858 to his mother Elizabeth Aird and Robert Chalmers. His father gave his profession as 'tailor' and he was the first in three generations of tailors in the Chalmers family.

William left school at the age of 12 and he, too, became an apprentice in a tailoring business.

In 1880, at the age of 22, he came to Oban having obtained a position as a tailor with a local firm. He continued until he had established himself sufficiently to buy the business and ultimately the property in 1896.

Subsequently, the original building was demolished and the present building erected in 1906.

William met Mary Kennedy, who was born in Shiskin on the Isle of Arran and they married in 1883. She had come to Oban to help her uncle who owned the Station Hotel.

William became a wealthy and successful tailor, and his business, the Chalmers Highland Tweed Warehouse, grew from strength to strength. The extensive ground floor area was specifically designed to give the best possible display of tweeds and tartans and cashmere knitwear, for which the firm became well known.

In the season, 60 tailors were employed and the tailoring work rooms were bright and spacious.

In the original plan, flats for let were constructed and they are still regarded as among the best in Oban.

William and Mary's first son, Robert Chalmers, was born on 10 October 1884. He was joined by younger brother William Kennedy Chalmers born on 21 January 1887.

Robert was trained in business while William became a doctor. In education, William excelled,



William Chalmers left school at the age of 12 to become an apprentice tailor and would go on to oversee the prominent Oban business.

leaving Oban High School with a merit certificate. He went on to university to study medicine and qualified as a surgeon for the Royal Navy in 1911.

Robert married first, on January 5, 1910, to Nettie Stewart Murray MacTavish, a local girl from Oban. They went on to have one child, a daughter named Mairi.

Robert was 30 at the time the First World War broke out and was called up for service in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.

Younger brother William, also served during the war and became a Royal Naval surgeon on medical ships around the world.

Their beloved mother Mary died on March 15 1916 at their home, Glencairn Lodge, believed to be in Oban. She was 68 years old.

She was the first of the Chalmers family to be buried in the family plot in the Pennymuir Cemetery. A large square family plinth was erected, and there are now 10 members of the Chalmers family buried in the plot.

Following Mary's death, Robert's wife Nettie went to look after her widowed father-in-law, William. Two years later it was decided to purchase Alt-Na-Craig house as a family home, which is on the outskirts of Oban and overlooking Carding Mill Bay.

After the war ended in 1918, Robert returned

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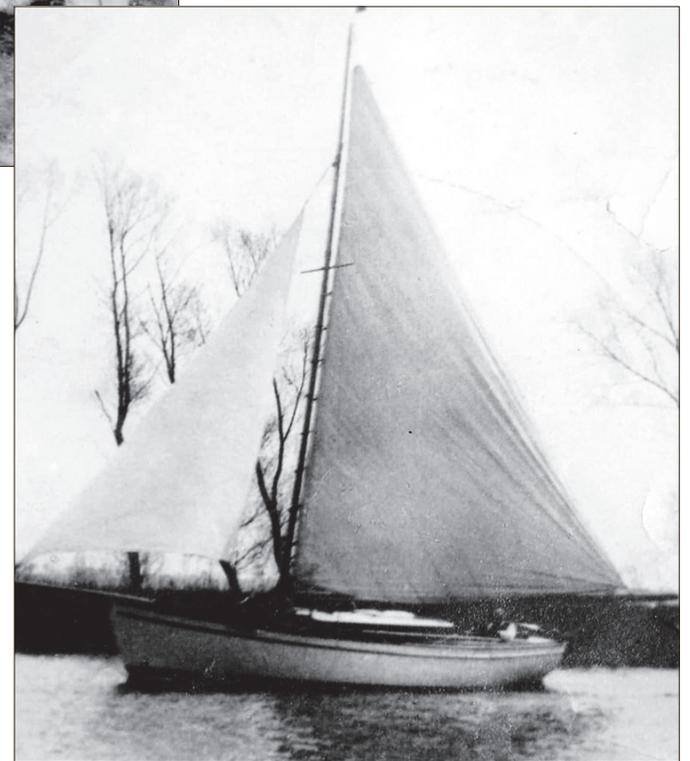


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Appeal for family history



to his wife and young daughter in Oban and ran the family business along with his father.

Following his naval service, brother Dr William Chalmers did a post-graduate course at Cambridge University.

He worked for some time at the now famous Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, which is the UK's largest specialist cardiothoracic hospital.

Following this, he became the local GP in Inveraray, moving into a house known as Stronshira.

Father William died suddenly in the Mediterranean while on holiday in Naples in Italy at the age of 75. He was on a yacht at the time. The family arranged for William's body to be taken back to Oban for burial in the cemetery alongside his wife.

From a humble beginning as a tailor at the age of 12 he had become a very successful businessman. He was also artistic and musical and had a great charm and manner.



From then on it was up to Robert to take over the family business while his brother continued his career in medicine.

Above: The Chalmers name became an epicentre for tailoring in the West Highlands.

Left: William Chalmers' son also called William, who was a surgeon in the Second World War.

Top right: 'One of Scotland's finest tenements.' A drawing of the Chalmers building which is in the Etive House care home.

Right: The sailing boat Trestra, owned by William's son, William.

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BUSINESS NEWS

New caterers for beach cafe at Dunstaffnage

Argyll and Bute Council is taking over the catering for a beach cafe near Oban.

The council's award-winning catering service team is now running the Ocean Explorer café at the Scottish Association For Marine Science building at Dunstaffnage.

The renamed Beach Café is in addition to the service's delivery of 6,000 school meals every day to more than 80 primary and secondary schools and 56 early years settings, as well as catering centres including Kilmory Staff Restaurant in Lochgilphead and The Café at Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

The Beach Café has been advertising for a catering manager and catering assistant.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead, business, regeneration and commercial development, said the Beach Café would see the catering team 'further expand their commitment to providing healthy, locally produced meals at a venue which plays a very significant role in the Oban community.'

Argyll and Bute Council's award-winning catering service holds a number of quality standards including ISO 9001:2015 Accreditation and its Kilmory staff restaurant has received a Healthy Living Plus Award, highlighting the council's commitment to healthy food choices.



Investment in people earns salmon farmer three awards

Scottish Sea Farms has won a hat-trick of prestigious Investors in People (IIP) accolades for its sustained investment in jobs, training and employee well-being.

The internationally recognised awards, which require companies to apply for reaccreditation every three years to ensure continual professional development, are seen as the global benchmark in people management.

The We Invest in People Platinum Award, first achieved by Scottish Sea Farms in 2018, has been retained, as has the We Invest in Young People Award at Gold level.

The salmon grower also scored gold for the first time in the We Invest in Well-being category, making it one of just two companies in Scotland to have achieved this level.

Scottish Sea Farms head of human resources Tracy Bryant-Shaw said: 'We have worked hard over the past three years to build on our 2018 performance and reach even higher standards.'

Key to the success has been the introduction of a comprehensive new health and wellbeing strategy; something that was already under way prior to the arrival of Covid but gathered new momentum in the months after.

'During the pandemic, when we couldn't see everyone, we looked at what more we could do for our employees and their families,' said Tracy.

'We offer a wide-ranging suite of support: from our employee assistance initiative and training programmes to new innovations, including a dedicated wellbeing app and one-to-one help with employees' physical, mental or financial health.

'We've also added staff wellbeing to our health and safety meetings as a further way of checking we're doing everything we can to support our people.'

Other initiatives introduced in recent years include:

- Real Living Wage – independently calculated based on what people need to live on and higher than the government minimum wage and national living wage



Scottish Sea Farms head of HR Tracy Bryant-Shaw with colleagues Emma Leyden and Claire Scott.

Photograph: Phil Wilkinson.

- Young People's Council – actively involving younger generations in the decisions that will shape the direction and growth of the business

- Family friendly policies – offering working parents enhanced maternity and paternity leave

- Aquaculture Academy and Management Academy – helping nurture and develop existing and potential employees

- Move to online learning – making training programmes more readily accessible to everyone, regardless of location.

There have also been new partnerships with the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre to help develop the sector's next generation of leaders; Argyll College UHI to offer Modern Apprenticeships in Aquaculture within the

region and local schools to introduce emerging talent to the sector.

The next challenge for Scottish Sea Farms Human Resources team is to improve on an already impressive achievement.

'We're thrilled to be where we are, but there is much more we can do in terms of employee engagement, management behaviours and skills and attracting our future workforce, as well as taking into account the feedback received through surveys and assessor reports,' added Tracy.

'And we will be integrating Grieg Seafood Hjalmland UK into Scottish Sea Farms, aligning their people with the company so they feel equally valued and empowered.'

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Mairi has bottle – and plenty of entrepreneurial spirit

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

One Lismore Show five years ago, Mairi Hawkes found a way to get more islanders to try oysters from her family farm in Port Ramsay – by simply adding alcohol.

When lockdown forced her Oban hair removal salon to shut, Mairi turned her foodie idea into a flourishing business called Slàinte Sauces making ‘tipsy drizzles’ for seafood, burgers, desserts, and cocktails, ‘sure to bring the celebration to your table’.

Now Mairi’s Slàinte Sauces, handcrafted in small batches on Lismore, has caught the eye of Dragon’s Den star Theo Paphitis, and she has ambitious plans to expand into Harrods, and Fortnum & Mason. But her success has not been easy: in particular, she discovered a desperate need for more business units in Oban and the islands.

Mairi grew up on Easdale where her father, the late Johnnie MacFadyen, was the ferryman, and then later on Lismore, where Johnnie started up the family oyster farm at Port Ramsay, now run by her brother Alan and Australian husband Geoff. The inspiration for her ‘tipsy drizzles’ came from an unlikely place in 2016, at the first Lismore Agricultural Show in almost 80 years.

Mairi had set up a stall selling her family’s oysters and was wracking her brains for ways to encourage more people to try them, for, as Jonathan Swift wrote: ‘It was a brave man who first ate an oyster.’ She hit upon the idea (bravely tried by your correspondent) of injecting the molluscs with gin, tequila, or Cointreau – whichever spirit the show-goers preferred. It was somewhat messy, but successful.

It was a light bulb moment. ‘It was the only way people would eat oysters,’ she said. ‘That was how I got into the sauces: you need sauces to pour onto oysters.’ She worked with a food technologist to get the recipes for her many sauces right.



The first ones were designed as accompaniments for oysters, such as spicy tequila or whisky with lemon and chilli, but then she started making sauces for desserts as well, like whisky, raspberry and vanilla – described as ‘cranachan in a bottle’ – and her biggest seller, white chocolate and raspberry martini. People loved them and said they made excellent cocktails too. The range has grown to 12 flavours in total – so far.

However, Mairi was also busy running her hair removal clinic in Oban – until March 2020

when the Covid pandemic hit. ‘I had to shut my business in lockdown,’ she recalled, but in three weeks she got back on her feet, deciding to run with her sauce idea, launching in May 2020. ‘This is a perfect time to branch out,’ she said. ‘Fortunately the Lismore Cafe allowed me to use their kitchen.’

‘It has taken off quickly. It is quite unique. They are easy to use and look good on shop shelves. They obviously taste amazing. You have your story. You have fabulous pictures to show.

Lismore entrepreneur Mairi Hawkes did not let lockdown stop her launching ‘deliciously tipsy drizzles for grown ups only’, which have now caught the eye of multi-millionaire Theo Paphitis from Dragon’s Den.

People love it. My websites were very buoyant during lockdown. The food industry is a very difficult thing to crack, because there are so many regulations. But it is very exciting and challenging. I am very ambitious.’

But Lismore couldn’t provide the infrastructure her growing business needed.

‘It is difficult to do this full time on Lismore because of the water supply,’ she explained. ‘We do not have a public water supply. Even basic things like internet connection is quite poor on Lismore. Getting deliveries can be difficult and expensive. Wee islands need units. Premises and expensive deliveries hold businesses back on small islands.’

In a bid to solve these problems, Mairi sought a business unit in Oban – but they were in desperate short supply there too.

‘Oban has to have more units for business, especially with Covid,’ she said: ‘So many are starting up and have nowhere to go. It was very difficult. There is nothing, and what there is gets taken up so quickly.’

Eventually Mairi was lucky to find premises on Lochavullin Road and can at last upscale her production, pitching her sauces to luxury retail giants such as Harrods and Fortnum & Mason.

Her sauces are already sold in many shops around Scotland, which are listed on her website. On September 8, Mairi will be showcasing her sauces at the Speciality Fine Food Fair in London’s Olympia Centre.

Last month she won a competition called Small Business Sunday, run by a star of the BBC show Dragon’s Den, Theo Paphitis. ‘I entered it every Sunday for a whole year,’ she revealed: ‘I thought I just have to keep going with this.’

Finally, her determination paid off. ‘We met him,’ she explained, and received ‘lectures and advice that has opened up a whole network of connections.’

‘Next year, I’m looking forward to employing people,’ she said. ‘It shows you can start businesses here, and help young people come back.’

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Mull Youth Theatre's TEN+1 Festival scores 10 out of 10

The 10-year celebrations to mark the founding of Mull Youth Theatre should have been celebrated in 2020 – but fell victim to lockdown.

In 2021, it finally got to celebrate with a TEN+1 Festival.

'The theatre on Mull has deep roots, firstly with The Little Theatre and now Mull Theatre enjoys nationwide acclaim,' recalls Mull Youth Theatre's director Andi Stevens.

'In 2010 a permanent youth theatre was established, comprising of Lewis MacLeod, Dexter Govan, Kate Stevens and Dominic Haunschmidt.

'Mull Youth Theatre has developed steadily ever since from four to 64 young adults.

'Bold programming and adventurous casting have ensured that youngsters continue to be drawn to the theatre.

'Over the years there have been many professionals and community members who have supported this venture. Thank you for all you have given.

'The 10-year milestone could not be allowed to pass without a celebratory festival.

'And in July we were able to mark this great achievement with a three-day performing arts gathering.

'During the festival our many students attended workshops in improvisational skills, stage design, puppetry, performance skills, storytelling, photography and costume.

'It proved to be a great mixture of intensive work, fun, gazebos, bunting, hand sanitiser, and amazing cakes.

'It all culminated in delivering a short performance



to show their talents based around newspaper puppets, time machines, steam punk hats and David Bowie. What a mix – but it worked!

'The focus, commitment and passion from our students

never ceases to amaze me,' said Andi.

'A heartfelt thanks to all the tutors and caring staff who assisted at the festival.

'Alan Melvin, Martin Low, Heather Waller, Sarah

Steampunk meets David Bowie at the performance of Mull Youth Theatre's TEN+1 Festival.

Darling, Holly Fusco, Flora Thommasson, Ruth Darling, Ruxy Cantir, and Sarah-Rose Graber.

'It has been 10 years of exhilaration and fun, from Edinburgh Fringe performances to a bi-lingual Macbeth performed on the canals in France on one of our many collaborations with

Carcassonne Youth Company. 'Some of our students have made their careers in the wider arts business. Mull Youth Theatre alum now work as actors, writers, directors, stage designers and creative learning practitioners.

'We have a great deal to celebrate our brilliant students of yesterday and today. I have been so proud to know all of them over the past 10 years,' added Andi.

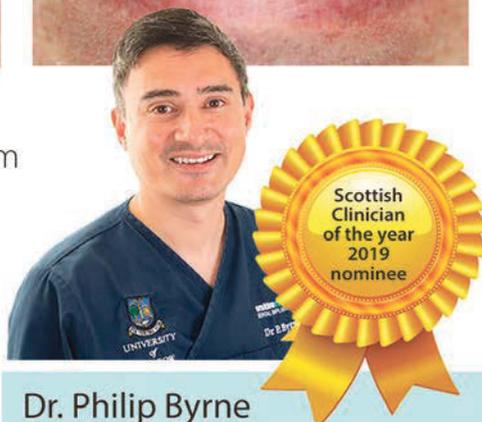
Mull Theatre's new chief executive and artistic director Rebecca Atkinson-Lord added: 'It has been wonderful to spend my first week living on Mull at the TEN Festival.

'It is an honour to have such a committed, inspiring and beloved artist as Andi on the team. I cannot wait to see what she does next.'

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SCOTTISH FIELD

August



Subscribe
and receive a
FREE bottle of
gin or whisky

Robert in lockdown

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



This week is quite an exciting one for Tide Lines for two reasons.

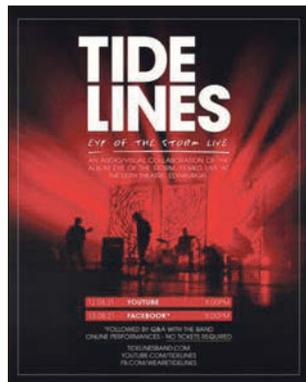
First of all, we're heading down to Hampshire for only our second live gig in a year and a half.

On Thursday evening, we'll be playing as part of a fantastic line up at Wickham Festival, which (over three days) includes headliners such as Van Morrison, Deacon Blue, and Fairport Convention, as well as plenty Scottish acts like Capercaillie, Eddi Reader, The Peatbog Faeries, Talisk, Duncan Chisholm, Mánran, Peat and Diesel, and Skerryvore.

As I've said so many times before in this column, for all musicians who pretty much exist to perform live, it will be a huge relief to get back on stage.

We had the pleasure of playing a couple of months ago in Glasgow Green for the Euro Fanzone and I'll never forget how great it was just to meet up with other bands backstage for the first time in so long and all share the joy of getting back out doing what we love to do.

I dare say it will be exactly the same down in Hampshire on Thursday although hope-



fully without the disastrous Scottish weather we were treated to that day in Glasgow. It is so exciting that there are signs live music is back on the horizon and I can't wait to get back touring fully.

Never again will I complain about an early sound check, a poorly equipped motorway service station, or a leaky tent at a rainy festival. I have missed every aspect of gigging so much.

Until restrictions lift fully, though, online events will remain a huge part of the music industry - which brings me on to the second reason I'm having a great week.

The other thing we are doing this week is announcing Eye of the Storm Live - an audio/

visual collaboration of our last album - filmed at Leith Theatre, Edinburgh.

This is a performance that is available to view for free on Facebook on August 12 and YouTube on August 13. Although there is no live audience at this show, it is nevertheless extremely satisfying that all the material from Eye of the Storm will finally be played live virtually.

The album was released in May 2020, in the depth of lockdown, and the traditional route of getting people to hear the material through live tours has been closed to us ever since.

Things are beginning to open up, of course, as evidenced by the fact we have a gig this week, but this online event is still a unique chance to play the album from top to bottom and we're very grateful for it.

We're also hosting an online question and answer session straight after the second night so it will be great to be able to chat with fans from around the world albeit via a computer screen. Hopefully it won't be too long before we see more of them in the flesh. This Thursday's gig in Hampshire is a good start!

Music society hosts first concert back in cathedral

This Saturday Oban Music Society hosts its first concert back in St John's Cathedral in the town since the beginning of the pandemic.

The evening concert, on August 7 at 7pm, welcomes back violinist Gina McCormack, who last performed in the cathedral as leader of the Brodsky Quartet, playing alongside pianist Nigel Clayton, both pictured right.

The programme features Mendelssohn Sonata in F, Amy Beach Romance and the Faure Sonata.

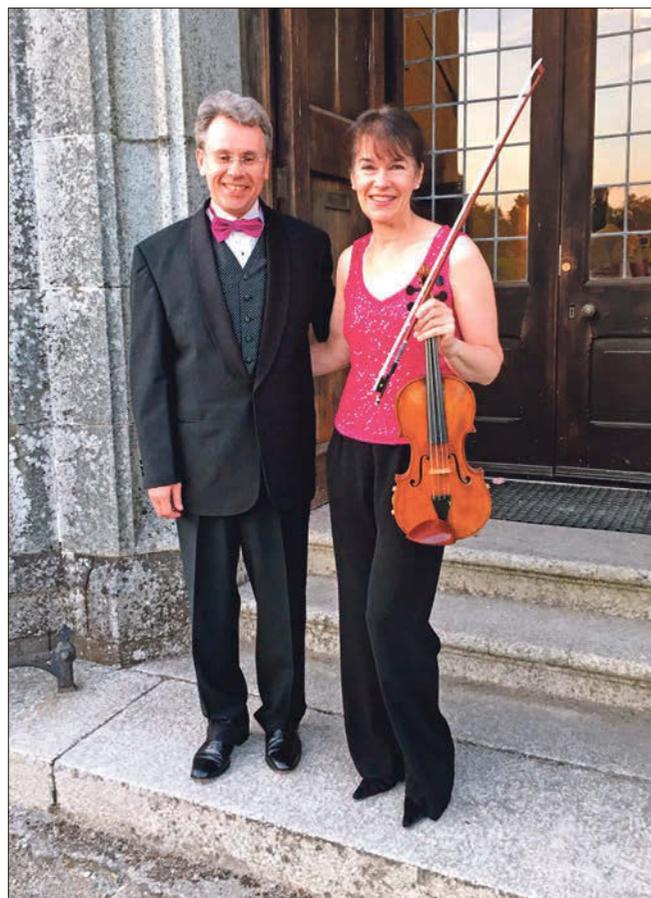
Tickets will be on the door at £10.

Arrangements at the cathedral will be different at the moment due to current Covid rules.

The concert will be only an hour long, and there will be no interval or refreshments.

Those attending can choose to be in areas with one-metre or two-metre social distancing.

There will be no toilet facilities except for emergencies.



What's on at Oban Cinema



THIS WEEK

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 + Wednesday 11 Aug (closed Mon-Tue)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Space Jam: A New Legacy U | 12:15/14:30 |
| The Croods 2 U | 12:00/14:45 |
| Black Widow 12A | 17:00 |
| French Cinema: C'est la vie! 15 | 17:30 EN Subtitles |
| The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard 15 | 20:00 |
| Off The Rails 15 | 20:15 |

Thursday 12 Aug

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Space Jam: A New Legacy U | 12:00/15:30 |
| The Croods 2 U | 14:30 |
| French Cinema: C'est la vie! 15 | 17:00 EN Subtitles |
| Off The Rails 15 | 18:00 |
| Matthew Bourne's Cinderella PG | 19:30 |

OFF THE RAILS

Comedy/Drama
A dying wish from their best friend, Anna (Andrea Corr), compels Cassie (Kelly Preston), Kate (Jenny Seagrove), and Liz (Sally Phillips), to put old feuds aside and take her 17-year-old daughter on an interrailing journey across Europe that they did not quite finish during their studies. Now in their fifties, they are older but not necessarily wiser. With some bad luck, train strikes and romantic entanglements thrown in their way, the trip promises as many laughs and tears and self-discovery as the first time around. The question is: will they reach their destination in time to honour their friend's memory?

FRENCH CINEMA: C'EST LA VIE!

Comedy EN Subtitles
A hectic wedding party held in an 17th-century French palace comes together with the help of the behind-the-scenes staff who share one common quality: they know how to throw a good party.

MATTHEW BOURNE'S CINDERELLA

Matthew Bourne's interpretation of the classic fairy tale has, at its heart, a true war-time romance. A chance meeting results in a magical night for Cinderella and her dashing young RAF pilot, together just long enough to fall in love before being parted by the horrors of the Blitz.

Face coverings must be worn when moving within the building. Once seated you can remove your face covering.

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MONDAY: 8am-12pm Breakfast show with Stephen
12-3pm Lunch with Bob G
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Marcus
7pm-8pm Highland Fling with Rosemary
8pm-9pm Calum McLuckies Show
9pm David Cullen Show

TUESDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-12.30pm Ken Hunter
1pm-3pm Macky on FM
3pm-5pm Mediation with Heartfelt Change
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Archie Darling
7pm-8pm Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers
8pm-9pm Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron
9pm Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal

WEDNESDAY: 8am-11am Breakfast Show with Stephen
11am-1pm Comfort Zone with Lesley
1pm-3pm Doug in the afternoon
4pm-7pm Drive Times with Campbell
7pm-9pm Country meets Rock N Roll with Len
9pm Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 8am-11am Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah
11am-2pm Lunch Show with Steve
2pm-3pm Mediation with Heartfelt Change
3pm-7pm Drive Time with Stephen
7pm-9pm Christine's Collections
9pm-10pm Ann's Ceilidh
10pm Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil
10am-1pm The Brunch Show With The One
4pm-6.45pm Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet
6.45pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda
2pm-4pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Scottish with Archie Darling
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs

SUNDAY: 9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.

Skerryvore's Peter West goes coast to coast carbon-free for charity

Skerryvore Business Manager Peter West is embarking on a 200-mile challenge to raise funds for charities which have lost out during the pandemic.

Named Light to Light – Carbon Free across Scotland, Peter aims to run and cycle across the country from Ardnamurchan Lighthouse to Scurdie Ness Lighthouse near Montrose.

His support vehicle will be an all-electric Skoda Enyaq, ensuring that the entire challenge is an emissions free event.

'Our family have organised a charity event, Mags Fish Supper Ceilidh, since 2006 but during lockdown we couldn't hold the 2021 event.

'So far we've raised over £185,000 for our charities, but this year we could only hold an online raffle and the £5,000 it raised is well short of our regular contribution.

'I decided to do more than think about an idea I've had for a while to do a cross-Scotland run and cycle, and set about more detailed planning and training,' said Peter.

The challenge will start at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse on September 7, with a run to Kilchoan, then it's on the bike towards Corran.

Other stages will include a run from



Peter West ready to face his across country challenge.

Kingshouse, Glencoe to Rannoch Station, cycling through Perthshire and onwards to Forfar, before finishing with a run over the last few miles to Scurdie Ness on September 11. Peter's all-electric support car will be driven by his wife Marion.

'Part of the challenge will include planning the logistics of making sure the vehicle can be charged in some of the

more remote areas where the charging network for electric vehicles (EVs) is still being developed.'

All money raised will go to the Edinburgh and Lothians Health Foundation charities, the Margaret Lee Oncology Fund at Edinburgh's Western General Hospital and the Breast Cancer fund at St John's Hospital in Livingston.

'Margaret was my sister-in-law and she organised the first Mags Fish Supper Ceilidh in 2006.

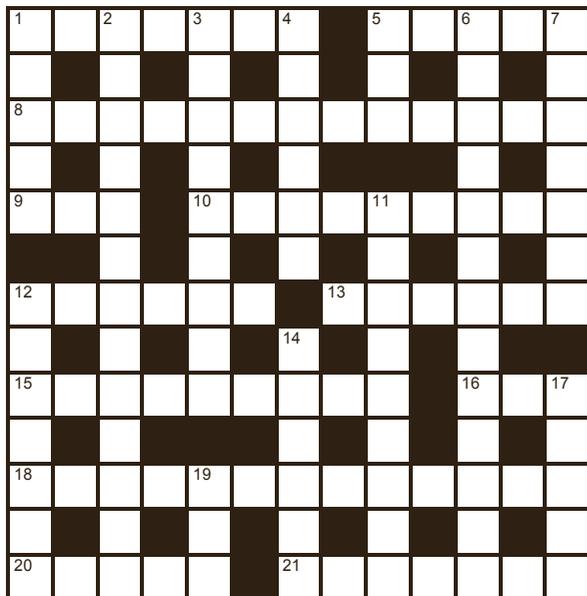
'I've not really got any target amount in mind for the challenge,' Peter said.

'I'm always astonished at people's generosity when we hold the ceilidh, so I'd be delighted with any amount that can be directed to these causes.'

Thanks for support are already due to Skerryvore, to West End Skoda in Edinburgh, suppliers of Peter's all-electric Skoda Enyaq, to SWARCO which manages Scotland's charge point network, to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust, and to accommodation providers Lea Cottage in Strontian.

Donations can be made online at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lighttolight. Follow the build up to and progress of the challenge on www.facebook.com/121runcycle

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 To begin... (7)
- 5 Water or wind (5)
- 8 Guided warhead carrier (6,7)
- 9 Woeful (3)
- 10 Thrush (9)
- 12 Stick together (6)
- 13 Harden (6)
- 15 Extortionist (9)
- 16 Without exception (3)
- 18 Type of yell! (13)
- 20 Out of kilter (5)
- 21 Gone (7)
- 6 Transference from public ownership (13)
- 7 View (7)
- 11 Defame (9)
- 12 They do the thinking (7)
- 14 Perplex (6)
- 17 Luminous energy (5)
- 19 Morning moisture (3)

Down

- 1 Concentrate (5)
- 2 24 hours (5,3,5)
- 3 Specialist group for problem solving (4,5)
- 4 Complain (6)
- 5 Ballet steps (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Richard and Peggy sail Co on way to UK's most remo

A 74-year-old retiree from the pub trade, is making a solo trip around Britain in his yacht Pegasus, 'Peggy', for third world charities.

Richard Kerswell and Peggy faced their greatest test so far when they powered through the world's third largest whirlpool, the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

Richard is fundraising for two charities: Give the World a Shot, which provides Covid vaccinations for third world countries, and Orphans in the Wild, which supports those devastated by HIV and Aids in Mufindi, Tanzania.

'I had an absolutely fantastic childhood in Tanzania, then Tanganyika, and would dearly like to give something back,' he explained on his webpage on

Richard on board his trusty yacht Pegasus.

www.peoplesfundraising.com, called Richard and Peggy's Magic Roundabout. Richard's solo journey began on June 24 in Penzance, Cornwall, before moving up the west coast to St Ives, Milford Haven, Solva, Dinllaen, Caenarfon, Puffin Island, and the Isle of Man to fill up his tanks.

However, he was refused



entry to the island but a couple of good samaritans rowed out with a can of petrol, plus a loaf of bread

After a few days' rest in Belfast, Richard crossed back over into Scottish waters on July 11, past the Isle of Arran to Largs.

Three days later Richard progressed up the Kyles of Bute, passing the paddle steamer

PS Waverley, to the Crinan Canal and a peaceful night at Cairnbaan, before both he and Peggy faced their most perilous test yet: the maelstrom in the Gulf of Corryvreckan between Jura and Scarba.

'It is one of the largest permanent whirlpools on earth, and one of the most dangerous stretches of water around the British Isles. Do



Malu Lücking, a bio-designer involved in the field of sustainable textiles, will give a talk about turning seaweed into clothing.



Can you turn seaweed into wearable clothes?

The Ross of Mull's experimental arts hub, Knockvologan Barn near Fionnphort, is hosting a talk on converting seaweed into clothing.

The presentation, titled 'seaweed as mediator between ocean and land', will be given by Malu Lücking, a bio-designer involved in the field of sustainable textiles.

Malu, who studied textile and surface design in Berlin, specialises in 'experimental material research at the interface of design, biology and social activism', developing 'new sustainable material solutions for our future use'.

'Commercial seaweed farming seems to be just what the world was looking for – the large-scale cultivation of a resource that is beneficial both to the environment and the perfect win-win situation for planet earth as we try to satisfy the

insatiable human desire to consume its resources,' writes organiser Rutger Emmelkamp.

'But what if in the future seaweed could also become the new cotton for our clothes, the new meat substitute to replace soya and the future fuel to heat our homes and power our industry?'

'Malu Lücking believes there is an urgent need to start such conversations going in order to demonstrate the fact that there is so much more potential for the use of seaweed than for it to be thought of as simply just another resource we extract from the ocean.'

She has turned seaweed into handcrafted materials and experimented with various digital pathways to reach those who have limited access to nature. The talk takes place on Sunday August 29 at 2.30pm.

Corryvreckan rocks island

keep safe Richard,' wrote one wellwisher on his Facebook page Pegasuses Places, before giving this update: 'He arrived at Corryvreckan, found the whirlpool, he had a good reconnoitre and made his decision.

'The tide was probably at its strongest as he got there, but it was a pretty calm day and went through the middle, as Richard would.

'He said it threw his aft about but said one has to do these things. I think we shall all give a big sigh of relief, especially me as he said he was going to do it.'

Victorious, Richard sheltered in Loch Spelve off the Isle of Mull, before setting sail for Iona, Eigg, Rum and Loch Harport near Carbost on Skye,

spotting a pod of bottlenose dolphins en route.

After a quick stop and photoshoot in Dunvegan, Richard moved up the Sound of Harris, setting his sights on St Kilda.

'Ok, checked forecast near Harris,' he wrote on July 26: 'It's a go.'

Finally, over 800 nautical miles and a month away from home, Richard reached a distant goal.

'Low cloud and mist,' he reported: 'Saw loads of seals, but no dolphins. A puffin panicked getting out of the way of Peggy. He swam away under water.'

From there, Richard and Peggy was due to continue to Thurso, Orkney, Fair Isle and Shetland, before coming back down the east coast. So far Richard has raised over £1,000.

Youth sailing charity returns to the waves

Scotland's largest sail-training charity has restarted its youth work at sea, following a 15-month wait due to the pandemic.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, which regularly visits Oban, supports more than 800 young people each year through life-changing residential youth work at sea.

It is funded by the Scottish Government's Cashback for Communities programme – an initiative that reinvests criminal assets into life-changing community projects. The 12-month programme includes youth work in schools, and residential activity in a unique sail training environment.

Young people are taught about risk-taking behaviours on land and at sea, while taking part in activities that provide life skills.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>DIARDAOIN 5 An Lunasdal THURSDAY 5 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 An Lot/The Croft</p> <p>19.30 Speaking Our Language</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>20.30 Fuine (Home Baking)</p> <p>21.00 Creachadh na Clarsaich/Plundering the Harp. The poetry of Derek Thomson</p> <p>21.45 Dealbh is Slighe</p> <p>22.00 Air An Rathad/On the Road</p> <p>22.30 Sar-Threanaichean/Mega Trains</p> <p>23.20 Dhan Uisge</p> <p>23.30 FUNC</p> | <p>20.30 Leugh Mi</p> <p>21.00 Feis Rois/Concert</p> <p>22.00 Sar-Threanaichean/Mega Trains</p> <p>22.55 Celtic Connections</p> <p>23.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22, Hibernian v Ross County</p> <p>00.45 Dealbh is Slighe</p> | <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo</p> <p>21.00 Air Tor Manachainn Dheir/ The Lost Monastery of Deer</p> <p>22.00 Trusadh – Mi Fhein is Macintosh/ Art on Fire</p> <p>23.00 Dàn</p> <p>23.05 Machair</p> <p>23.30 Alleluia</p> |
| <p>DIHAOINE 6 An Lunasdal FRIDAY 6 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 An Là -NEWS</p> <p>19.25 NEW Dàn</p> <p>19.30 Machair</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 Prosaig</p> <p>20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits</p> <p>21.00 Opre le Daniel</p> <p>21.50 Dhan Uisge</p> <p>22.00 An Bronntanas/Irish Drama</p> <p>22.50 Celtic Connections</p> <p>23.00 Manran aig Barrowlands</p> | <p>DIDÒMHAICH 8 An Lunasdal SUNDAY 8 August</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>18.15 An Là -NEWS</p> <p>18.30 Seachd Là / News Review</p> <p>19.30 Alleluia</p> <p>20.00 Fuine/Home Baking</p> <p>20.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coast Path</p> <p>21.00 An Drochaid/ The Bridgde Rising</p> <p>22.00 Feis Rois/Concert</p> <p>23.00 Am Bronntanas/Irish Drama</p> <p>23.50 Dhan Uisge</p> | <p>DICIADAIN 11 An Lunasdal WEDNESDAY 11 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Puir-adhair/Highland Airports</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our Language</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show</p> <p>21.00 Famous Five/Hibernian's "Famous Five"</p> <p>22.00 FUNC</p> <p>22.25 Manran aig Barrowland</p> <p>23.10 Creachadh na Clarsaich/ Plundering the Harp</p> |
| <p>DISATHAIRNE 7 An Lunasdal SATURDAY 7 August</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>17:45 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>18.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22, Hibernian v Ross County</p> <p>19.45 Binneas/Na Trads</p> <p>20.00 Prosaig</p> | <p>DILUAIN 9 An Lunasdal MONDAY 9 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Puir-adhair/Highland Airports</p> <p>19.30 Speaking Our Language</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits</p> <p>21.00 Trusadh – Mi Fhein is Macintosh/ Art on Fire</p> <p>22.00 Jimmy Johnstone</p> <p>23.30 Air an Rathad/On the Road</p> | <p>DIARDAOIN 12 An Lunasdal THURSDAY 12 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 An Lot/The Croft</p> <p>19.30 Speaking Our Language</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts</p> <p>20.00 An Là – NEWS</p> <p>20.30 Fuine</p> <p>21.00 Sorley Maclean/ Somhairle</p> <p>22.00 Air an Rathad/On the Road</p> <p>22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/ Most Dangerous Ways to School</p> <p>23.20 Dealbh is Slighe</p> <p>23.30 FUNC S1</p> |
| <p>DIMÀIRT 10 An Lunasdal TUESDAY 10 August</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 An Lot/The Croft</p> <p>19.30 Speaking Our Language</p> | | |

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VISITING OBAN? COME WITH US ON THIS WEEK'S TRAIL

Oban Gift Trail PART 1

FREE WiFi TOWN

Oban Gift Trail PART 1

This week we start the search for the perfect gift. Here in Oban, we are blessed to have such a plethora gift shops for every occasion, from artisans, local artists, national retailers to jewellery & clothing even furniture, the list is endless. With so many to choose from we split our trail into 5 weeks!

Oban Business Improvement District

www.bid4oban.co.uk

1. MATHESONS



A local family run store supplying quality carpets, furniture, beds and curtains on the West Coast of Scotland.
Address: Tweedmill Estate, Soroba Rd, Oban PA34 4HQ
Web: www.mathesons.co.uk

2. THE ORIGINAL FACTORY SHOP



Retail chain selling discounted homewares, furniture and electrical goods, plus toys and clothing and gift solutions. Check out their facebook page for weekly offers and specials.
Address: 18-20 Combie St, Oban PA34 4HN
Web: www.tofs.com

3. OBAN HARRIS TWEED CENTRE



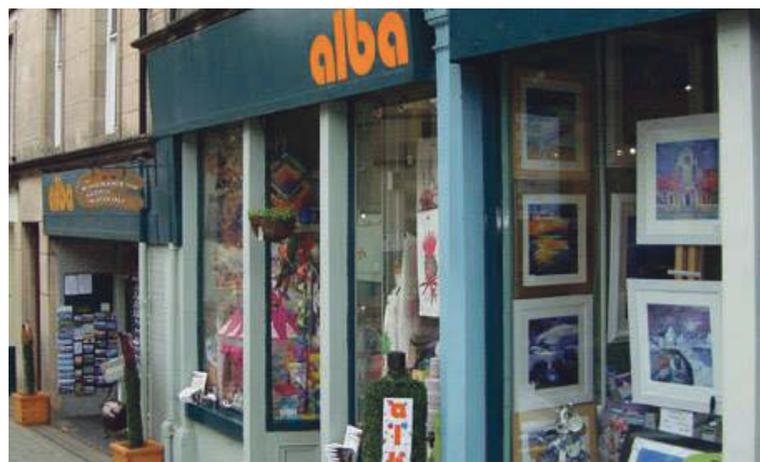
One of the largest retailers of Carloway Mill Tweed and proud to have over 100 bolts of single width Tweed along with coats and jackets, handbags etc. Happy to post worldwide
Address: 18-19 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT
Web: www.obanharristweedcentre.co.uk

4. SCOTTISH ISLAND JEWELLERY



Manufactures of jewellery in Platinum, Gold, Silver, Stainless Steel and copper. Commissions, have a piece of jewellery made especially for you or a loved one. Repairs of existing jewellery or add a sparkle by having yours professionally cleaned.
Address: 23 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT
Web: www.scottishislandjewellery.co.uk

5. ALBA ART SHOP



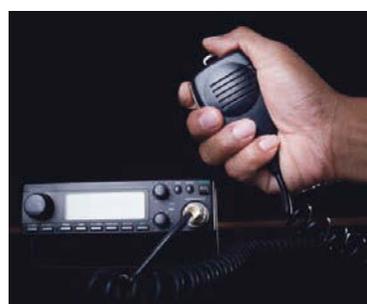
A small but perfectly formed art shop specialising in framed prints , e.g JoLoMo, unusual gifts and hard-to-find art materials.
Address: 6 Albany St, Oban PA34 4AR
Web: www.alba-artshop.co.uk

6. CAKEBREADS



Supplying Oban and Argyll's gardeners for over 25 years with everything they need for a thriving garden. Stocking an extensive range of plants and gardening supplies, and can order in plants or equipment that they don't hold in stock.
Address: Old Mill Estate, Tweed Mill, Soroba Rd, Oban PA34 4HQ
Web: www.cakebreads-garden-centre.co.uk

7. BELLS



For all your electronic needs including. E cigs and liquids Vaping shop, Mods, starter kits, Clocks. Mobile phones. Chargers. Cables and leads. Sat and free view antennas and more!
Address: 44 Combie St, Oban, PA34 4HS

8. WOOL & NEEDLECRAFT CENTRE



Established for over 30 years they have a good range of knitting yarns, haberdashery, needlework kits & supplies & gorgeous patchwork fabrics & notions.
Address: 13 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AU
Web: www.wooland-needlecraftcentre.com

9. BLACKS TOWN & COUNTRY



A prominent country clothing retailer in Oban stocking Outdoor Clothing and Equipment from brands such as Barbour & Dubarry.
Address: 23-25 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT

10. M&Co



Chain retailer of men's and women's fashion & home-ware, with special teen and petite-sized lines
Address: 1-4 Heritage Wharf, Station Rd, Oban PA34 4LW
Web: www.mandco.com

11. MADE IN ARGYLL



A great shop full of arts, crafts and gifts that have been handcrafted by 40 local artisans. Each day you will meet one of the people who actually make something in the shop, so please pop along and introduce yourselves.
Address: Railway Pier, Unit 5, The Waterfront, Oban PA34 4LW
www.madeinargyll.co.uk

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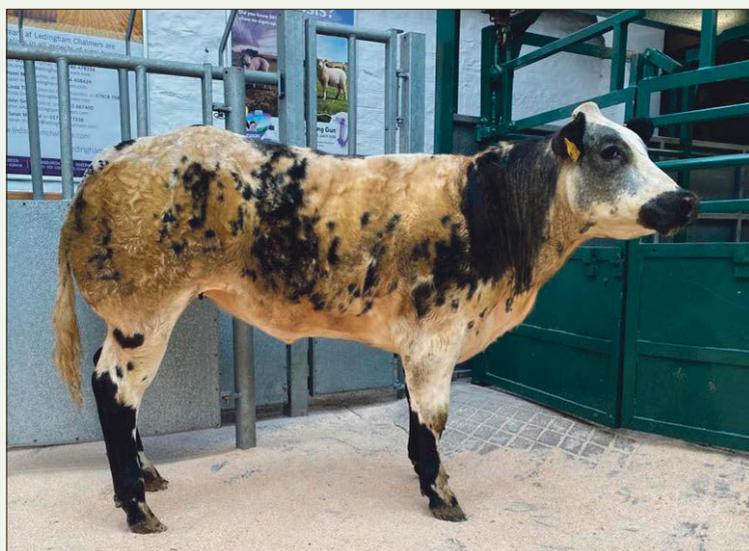


E S Warnock, D Cluckie, C J Hushwaite & G R MacLean an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 11982).

Around the markets

United Auctions, Annual Fair day, Dalmally Auction Mart, July 30: 393 head of Quality bred cattle was sold to a strong force of buyers. **Bullocks** sold to £1500 for a 598k Charolais Cross from D W Semple & Son, Dippen to average £1133.48 (+£150.59) and to 345.8 p/k for Limousin Cross from Dunolliebeg Farm Partnership to average 252.49 (+20.69p). **Heifers** sold to £1480 for a 362k Limousin Cross from J Campbell & Sons, Succothmore to average £1033.42 (+£172.85) and to 408.8 p/k for the same animal to average 253.94 (+25.66). At the show prior to the sale, judging was in the capable hands of Mr. W Gray, Balquharrage Farm, Lennoxton and his awards are as follows.

Bullock Class: 1st Dippen – Charolais Cross - £1500 to Mr. W Gray; 2nd Killoccrow – Limousin Cross - £1200 to W & J Cameron, Burnside of Edingight; 3rd Achnaba – Limousin Cross to W & J Cameron.
Heifer Class: 1st Killoccrow – BRB Cross - £1300 to Mr. W Gray; 2nd Strathnafenaig – BRB Cross - £1070 to J & A Steel, Craignathro Farm; 3rd Dippen – Charolais Cross - £1210 to A M Connon & Sons, Skilmally.
Pen of Four Bullock: 1st Dippen - £1215 to W & J Cameron.



Champion Animal – Killoccrow – BRB Heifer. Reserve Champion Animal – Dippen – Charolais Bullock. Best Animal (opposite sex to champion) – Dippen – Charolais Bullock.
PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES:

BULLOCKS: AAX - £1470(5), Ballygreggan; £1470, Blasthill; £1405(2), Ballygreggan; £1195(3), Polliwilline; £1170(10), £1120(8), Blasthill.
BRBx - £1275, Dippen; £1255, £1225 Killoccrow; £1215, Dippen; £1190,

Strathnafenaig; £1170(2), Succothmore; £1130, Uigle; £1110, Strathnafenaig.
CHARx - £1500, Dippen; £1320, Auchenviroch; £1310(4), £1275(3), Dippen; £1270, £1230(2) Gleneherve; £1230, Laggan; £1220, Gleneherve; £1215(3),

CHAMPION: BRBx Heifer from R & J Lines, Killoccrow Farm. Sold for £1,300 to the judge, Mr Gray, Balquharrage Farm, Lennoxton.

Dippen; £1200(3), Strath; £1200(4), East Laggan.
LIMx - £1270, Uigle; £1250(4), Dippen; £1240(2), Achnaba; £1230(3), Uigle; £1210(2), Killoccrow; £1200, Strathnafenaig; £1200(2), East Laggan; £1200, Killoccrow
SIMx - £1465(3), £1440(11), Balegreggan; £1200(3), Strath
HEIFERS
AAX - £1100 (4), Polliwilline
BRBx - £1480(2), Succothmore; £1300, £1200, Killoccrow; £1070, Strathnafenaig
CHARx - £1460, £1370(2), Balegreggan; £1250(3), £1210, Dippen; £1190(3), Gleneherve; £1150(3), Strath; £1140(2), Gleneherve
LIMx - £1360, Achnaba; £1320, £1300, Uigle; £1300, Dippen; £1300, Uigle; £1290, 9 Kileonan; £1260, Ballochgar; £1250, Dippen; £1240, £1200, Achnaba; £1170, Low Dunashery
SIMx - £1150, Strath; £1120, Dalmore.
LEADING PRICES PER KILO:
BULLOCK
AAX - 269.5, Homeston; 251.5, Barnakill.
BRBx - 297.5, Strathnafenaig; 285.9, Dippen; 277.1, Killoccrow; 276.6, Dippen; 276.1, 275.3, Strathnafenaig
CHARx - 285.9, Dippen; 277.8, Barnakill; 277.5, East Laggan; 276.6, Dippen; 274.2, Point
LIMx - 345.8, 323.7, 315.8, Dunolliebeg

Farm Partnership; 298.6, Killoccrow; 296.9, Low Dunashery; 294.3, 9 Killeonan; 293.5, Low Dunashery; 289.7, Fingals's View; 288.4, 288, Achnaba; 285.7, Strathnafenaig; 282.2, Achnaba; 281.7, 281.1, Killoccrow; 280.3, 279.4, Achnaba; 279.3, Kilwhipnash; 279, Achnaba; 279, 277, Killoccrow; 276.3, Low Dunashery; 275.3, Strathnafenaig
SIMx - 259.2, Uigle
HEIFERS
BRBx - 408.8, Succothmore; 291.5, Killoccrow; 283.1, Strathnafenaig; 259.7, Killoccrow
CHARx - 286.9, East Laggan; 270.1, Dippen; 264, 260.9, 259.9, East Laggan; 255.8, Auchenviroch; 252.9, Dippen; 252.2, Ardmaleish; 251.2, East Laggan; 250, Ardmaleish
LIMx - 361.7, Achnaba; 349.5, Uigle; 320.9, 311.6, Achnaba; 309.9, Uigle; 287.7, Fingals's View; 285.1, Uigle; 282.5, Kilwhipnash; 279.8, Achnaba; 279.3, Kilwhipnash; 275.9, Low Dunashery; 275.6, 9 Kileonan; 274.2, East Laggan; 273, Achnaba; 269.2, Dippen; 268.1, Ballochgar; 267.6, Low Dunashery; 263.5, 263.2, Uigle; 262.5, Low Dunashery; 261, Strathnafenaig
SIMx - 266.7, Dalmore
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MAIN FEATURES:
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• Includes all joining pins/stakes
OPTION 1
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen
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PARTS LIST:
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• 2 x 2-foot swing gates

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16 foot sheeted race, 2 way shedding gate, galvanised gate, race joiner. 100 foot of penning, will comfortably hold 200-250 fully grown sheep, **£2,450 + VAT.**
I can sell 10' wide x 5' high available in packs of 10.
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As standard, our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, 1 sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 full grown cattle (approx.)
The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.
MAIN FEATURES:
• Made from high-tensile steel
• All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
• A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
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• 20-foot race
• 60-feet holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
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email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

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**Please call or WhatsApp James on
07789 138028/ 07487 548703
Email: wanted4x4s@gmail.com**

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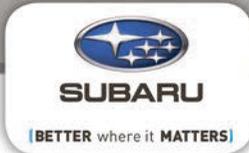
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Our current West Coast campaign consists of the following options

1. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment and wait with a coffee while your car is being looked after. Continue on with your day.

2. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, collect your free courtesy car and go about your business. Collect your car at the end of the day.

3. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, collect your free courtesy car and return home to the

West Coast. We will deliver your car home to you and collect the courtesy car for an additional fee of £50.00.

4. Call and make your booking. Visit us on the day of your appointment, if you are going on holiday and flying between Monday-Friday, between 8am-5pm we would be

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CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 16th August 2021

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the team at Lorn and Oban Healthy Options.

We are looking for an experienced, committed, and enthusiastic Business Development Manager to:

- Oversee all aspects of payroll, PAYE, financial reporting, budget preparation and financial management for the organisation.
- Co-ordinate and support the Board with governance requirements, including fulfilling the duties of Company Secretary.
- Lead on development and review of internal policies and procedures to ensure compliance with legal requirements and best practice.
- Lead on securing, managing, and reporting on funding as required for internal and external purposes.
- Lead on providing the appropriate information on monitoring and evaluation.
- Strategic involvement with social media, PR and marketing.

As Business Development Manager, you will work with our Chair, Board Members, Service Development Manager, and staff to contribute towards the future of the organisation.

Your work will help us to continue to deliver a high-quality service and encourage innovation in creating health in our communities.

Further details and how to apply please visit:

www.lornhealthyoptions.co.uk

Roy Clunie, Vice Chair, 07740835529



**Salmon Processor
Highland Smoked Salmon**

Fort William

£10.50 to £11.50 per hour

Rate starting £10.50 rising to £11.50, circa £24,570 - £26,910 per annum

Full time, permanent

Highland Smoked Salmon, a leading producer of Premier Smoked Salmon are looking to recruit a number of operatives in its production facility based in Fort William, Scottish Highlands.

Duties would focus upon processing salmon, smoked salmon and preparing the product for despatch.

Candidates should be good timekeepers and have a willingness to learn new skills.

Full training, including hygiene and health and safety will be provided. Applicants should be able to work well in a team and will be required to work some flexible shifts when required.

In return we offer a leading financial package increasing with experience.

A workplace pension scheme is also available. We look forward to you joining our team.

**Please send your CV to
info@highlandsmokedsalmon.co.uk or
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Location: Loch Fyne Area

Salary: Up to £27,509.76 per annum dependent on experience, inclusive of 1 in 3 weekend enhanced payment plus enhanced payment for weekday overtime.

Why work with us?

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- 650 + employees
- We sell to over 26 countries around the world
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- Sustainability is at the core of all our activities

The Scottish Salmon Company produces Scotland's Finest Sea Loch Fresh Salmon with Pride and Passion. With our head office in Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, we breed, rear and process superior salmon exclusively in the pristine waters of the Scottish Western Highlands and Islands. Our customers appreciate our product quality, service excellence and provenance guarantee. We are also the proud recipients of multiple industry awards recognizing our commitment to Scotland, our industry and employees. We are always looking for ambitious and motivated individuals to join our passionate team so if you want to test yourself in a challenging workplace, look no further... Due to significant investment within the company we are looking to recruit Marine Operatives to work as directed by the Marine Site Manager in the day-to-day operations in order to meet the needs of the business.

Duties:

- Feeding & movement of feed
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- Site maintenance including net changing etc.
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- Interest in aquaculture and fish husbandry
- Full clean driver's license
- Ideally have experience of working within the marine industry
- Follows safe working practices
- Ability to understand site KPI's and supports the site team
- Experience of working on and around boats

In return we offer over 15 employee benefits, including:

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How to Apply:

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Closing Date:

Wednesday 11th August 2021.

You can also check out our current vacancies on our website www.scottishsalmon.com

west highland housing

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

West Highland Housing Association is a charitable organisation working in the Oban and Lorn area. In part due to an expansion in the number of properties under management, we are recruiting for the following staff for our office based in Oban (some of our staff are currently working from home due to the Coronavirus restrictions).

Digital Lead, EVH Grade 6 Salary £28,766 - £31,448

You will support the Association through the development of ICT&D and work with the Group's ICT&D to ensure consistency where required in relation to data security, Microsoft 365, data integrity, business information and telephony. You will assist with the review, design, mapping, and improvement of business processes using appropriate technologies or smarter ways of working to free up resource capacity

Repairs Lead, EVH Grade 6 Salary £28,766 - £31,448

This is a new role in our Organisation. The purpose of this customer focused role is to lead a small team delivering the customer facing and administration aspects of our reactive repairs service. Your team will be responsible for repair diagnostics, customer support and advice, logging, issuing and tracking repairs and representing the customer's best interest. You will be experienced in a customer service environment and have access to your own vehicle.

Asset Planning Assistant, EVH Grade 5 Salary £25,044 – £27,832

This is also a new role in our Organisation. You will provide a data collection and input role ensuring the organisation has an up-to-date information database on its assets and be the main user of our spatial information system, Cadcorp. You will be involved in procurement, our planned and cyclical programmes, and undertake a range of site inspections. We will want you to demonstrate good ICT skills and an ability to manage a diverse workload. You will need access to your own vehicle.

Finance Assistant Trainee, EVH Grade 3 Salary £17,756 – £20,429

As part of a team of four, you will learn to carry out a range of finance functions including updating the purchase and nominal ledger, bank reconciliation, accounts receivable and petty cash. You must be numerical, keen to learn new skills, good on detail and enjoy working with others.

In return West Highland Housing Association is offering an excellent remuneration package which includes 25 days paid leave per year plus 15 public holidays and a contributory pension scheme. The organisation is a gold accredited Investors in People organisation and is committed to developing its staff team.

If you want to speak to us about any of these posts, please contact us on 01631 566451 and we will be delighted to talk further about our work and our expectations.

Job packs can be downloaded from our website at www.westhighlandha.co.uk

We will only consider completed job applications – no CVs. please Applications should be received by noon on 17th August 2021 Interviews will be held in early September 2021

Highland **Riverside Filling Station**

Evening Kitchen Staff

We are looking for evening kitchen staff to help us develop and serve a new takeaway menu. Exiting opportunity to help create something new. Enthusiasm and experience required.

Call for more information or email jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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HERITAGE FUND

Collections Assistant

This is a 2-year project funded post ideally suited to a new graduate with the possibility of further extension.

£25,000 per annum 37.5 hours per week

Kilmartin Museum are seeking a full-time Collections Assistant to assist the Director/Curator with general day-to-day curatorial work and additional work required to develop the collections, prepare and install a new exhibition and assist with the move back into the Museum's new facilities.

For further information and to apply, please visit www.kilmartin.org/jobs.

Closing date: 5pm 16th August 2021
Interviews: c24th & 25th August 2021

North Argyll House

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Currently recruiting for:

Senior Carer

Qualification; Nursing or SVQ level 3 in health and social care essential. £12.12 per hour

Care Assistant

From £9.50 to £10.00 per hour

Experience not essential. Enhanced benefits. SVQ training with college.

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RECRUITMENT

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

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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD will hold their AGM on **THURSDAY 19TH AUGUST 2021 AT 12:30PM**

DUE TO COVID-19 THE AGM WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS AND WILL BE FOR MEMBERS ONLY THIS YEAR. TO REQUEST YOUR INVITE - PLEASE EMAIL oriana@westhighlandha.co.uk.

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

1. RC Strachan, 1 Calgary, 0.226 ha, Site for a new dwelling house (108612)

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 03/09/21 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

The AGM of Oban Hospice Ltd

will be held via Zoom on **Monday 23 August 2021 at 7pm**

Anyone interested in attending should email enquiries@obanhospice.org.uk and a link for the meeting will be provided

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Alasdair and Samantha Firth have registered their croft Rhemore, Morvern 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 5 th December 2021. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7530.

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 |
|--------------|--|--|
| 21/01186/PP | Refurbishment and extension to derelict house, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access | Tigh Fionaghail Bothy, Balemartine, Isle Of Tیره, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UA |
| 21/01187/LIB | Refurbishment and extension to derelict house | Tigh Fionaghail Bothy, Balemartine, Isle Of Tیره, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UA |
| 21/01068/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage and installation of air source heat pump (Amendment to planning permission reference 20/02277/PP) | Plot 7, Land West Of The Haven, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute |
| 21/01264/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse with ancillary building, detached garage and installation of air source heat pump (Amendment to planning permission reference 20/02277/PP) | Plot 5, Land West Of The Haven, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute |
| 21/01079/PP | Formation of access off the A819 | Layby Off The A819, Lag Na Luing Forest On The North East Side Of Loch Awe, Near Dalmally, Oban, Argyll And Bute |
| 21/01237/PP | Provision of 2 freestanding temporary toilet cubicles | Dunstaffnage Castle, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1PZ |
| 21/01259/PP | Erection of 6 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access | Land North Of Bealach-na-mara, Port Appin, Argyll And Bute |

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-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



www.highland.gov.uk

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 |
|------------------|---|---|
| 21/03339/PIP | Land 120M SE Of 1 Pier Road Kilchoan | Erection of house with integral garage and bike hire business |
| 21/03392/PIP | Land 275M South Of Blaich Mhoir House, Blaich, Fort William | Erection of house |
| 21/03526/PIP | Land 120M NW Of Lageorna Isle Of Eigg | Erection of house |

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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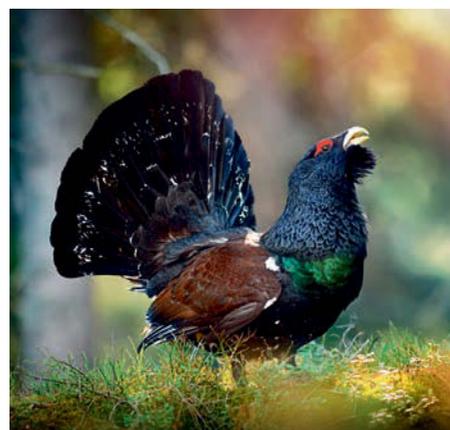
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SCOTTISH FIELD

August



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BIRTH

WELCH - Christina and Jonathan are delighted to announce the arrival of Lottie Mary on July 14, 2021. A beautiful wee sister to Archie and Millie. A new granddaughter to Karen and David, Ardrishaig and Lena and Archie, Castleton.

ENGAGEMENT

GILCHRIST - McFADYEN - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Sarah, daughter of John and Denise, Helensburgh to Craig, son of Hector and Anne, Oban.

DEATHS

BROWN - Suddenly at home on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, aged 65 years, James Robert Brown

(Jim), beloved husband to Shona, much loved dad to Stewart and Caroline, loving grandad to Andrew, Lewis, Elise and Erin, a dear brother, son-in-law, brother-in-law and uncle.

DAVIDSON - Mike passed away on July 12, 2021, aged 81 years, at Raigmore Hospital, accepting his last days with stoic humour and good graces. The family wish to express their sincere thanks to all the staff of Ward 2C. Mike was a well-respected former chartered civil engineer of Coromandel, The Knoll, Roy Bridge. A much-loved husband of Anne and devoted dad to Andrew, Neil and Fiona and his grandchildren. Funeral service on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 10am at Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge. A warm invitation is extended to friends.

No flowers please. Donations to MND Scotland c/o Manson and MacBeath Funeral Directors, Fort William. Crematorium service private.



FRASER - Alistair (Edinburgh). It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Alistair, who passed peacefully at home on July 18, 2021, with his loving family around him. Treasured husband of Anna and adored father of Colin, Lindsay and Jamie. Cherished grandpa to Winter-Rose. Also he is sadly missed by Lynne Peter and Sinead. Requiem Mass at Holy Cross Parish church, Bangholm Loan (Ferry Road) on Thursday, August 12, at 11:30. Committal at Warriston Crematorium at

1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Cancer Research UK.

MACAULAY - (Forres). Peacefully, at her home, on Thursday, July 29, 2021, Anna Ferguson MacAulay (née McDougall) of Mannachie Grove, Forres and formerly of Islay and Bishopton, aged 82 years, beloved wife of Cameron, a much loved mother of Janice and Iain, a dear mother-in-law of Duncan and Vicki, and a devoted grandmother of Niamh, Euan, Grant and Elissa. Funeral service private in accordance with government guidelines. Donations to Alzheimer Scotland in memory of Anna, if desired, may be forwarded to Tom Ross & Sons Funeral Directors, 8 Orchard Road, Forres IV36 1PJ.

MACLEOD - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, in his 85th year, William John Archibald MacLeod (Archie), beloved husband of the late Margaret. Funeral will take place at Pennyfuir Cemetery on Thursday, August 12 at 1.00 pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd on 01631 562269 to provide your contact details.

MACLEOD - Peacefully after a long illness, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on July 29, 2021 in his 86th year, James Edward Strang Macleod, beloved husband of the late Sheena, dear father of Flora and Morag, much loved grandpa of Tom, Paul, Isabella, Lucy, Marcus and Rory, a friend and colleague. Funeral will take place at St John's Cathedral, Oban on Tuesday, August 10 at 10.30 am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium for a service at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers should be made directly to St. John's Cathedral, Oban. PLEASE NOTE: Test & Protect details are required if attending the funeral. If you would like to attend, please contact the family.

McCUBBIN - (née Malloch). Peacefully passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021 at Belford Hospital, aged 80 years. Elma McCubbin, beloved daughter of the late Charlie and Mary-Jane Malloch, cherished wife of Bill McCubbin, loving mum to Kevin, Elaine and Ross and doting granny to Ryan and Cameron. Much loved sister to Moira and the late Peter and Iain and treasured Aunt. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The funeral service will take place at Nether Lochaber Church, Onich on Tuesday, August 10 at 1pm. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

NESS - Peacefully on July 30, 2021 at Ayr Hospital, Walter Robertson, formerly of Glenstruan, Pulpit Hill, Oban, only son of the late Mr and Mrs David Ness. Beloved husband of the late Irene, dearly loved dad of Sandra, David and the late Eileen, father-in-law to John and beloved grandpa of Natalie. Much loved brother of Helen and the late Betty, uncle, great-uncle and great-great uncle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ELLIOT - The family of the late Walter would like to thank all who attended Achnabeich as Walter left his home for the final time and also those who lined the route and paid their respects at the graveside service at Blarour Cemetery. Thanks to Rev. Malcolm Kinnear for his support and comfort throughout the day. A big thank you to Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team who carried Walter down to the bridge and to John MacCallum who piped along the way. Heartfelt thanks to the District Nursing team, Macmillan Nurses, Carers, Ballachulish Medical Practice who supported Walter so well in his home during the last weeks of his life. For their professionalism and

sympathetic arrangements, thanks also goes to McLellan's Funeral Directors. At this busy time of year when traffic volumes are high, thank you to Lochaber Police for assistance with traffic management. Thank you to the management and staff of the Ballachulish Hotel for excellent provision of refreshments. We will always be indebted to Walter's good friends both in the glen and elsewhere whose friendship and company meant so much.

SINCLAIR - Iain, Peter, Margaret and family would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and support received following the sad loss of Nance. Special thanks to all staff at Tarbert Medical Practice, the Tarbert Home Care team, Carr Gomm carers, Naomi and Tanya, and all family, friends and the community for the kind care and attention received, enabling Nance to remain at home over the last two years. Heartfelt thanks also to Rev Lyn Peden for her kind words and comforting service at the graveside, and for providing transport enabling Iain to join the cortège and attend the service. To Stan Lupton and his staff for their professionalism, care and compassion, Council staff at the cemetery, Fyne Flowers for the beautiful floral tributes, John Hunt for his excellent piping, and all the people from Tarbert and further afield who came along to pay their respects along the route to Carrick cemetery. Thanks also to everyone who expressed their condolences on All Things Tarbert. Donations, if desired, in loving memory of Nance, for Tarbert Church of Scotland, Property Restoration Fund, can be sent to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors, Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6TW.

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MEMORIAMS

MACCOLL - Annie (Nan), Kilmonivaig.

Tha gaol màthair sonraichte
Tha mi à toirt taing do Dhia
gu robh sibh Leamsa.

- June Anne xx
Love and miss you granny.
- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie
xxxx

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Helen Mary, who passed away on August 7, 2016.

Gone but not forgotten
Loved forever.
- Husband Donnie and daughter
Eilidh.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of our much loved dad, grampa and great grampa Iain, who passed away July 29, 2012.

A special person, a special face
Someone we loved and can't be replaced

Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories you left behind.

- Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda, Alastair and all their families.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Donnie, who passed away on August 5, 2020, dearly loved husband, dad, grandad and great-grandad.

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts
- Margaret, John, Rosemary, Patricia and families.

McNEILL - In loving memory of John, a beloved husband, father and father-in-law, who passed August 5, 2020.

So sadly missed.
- Fay, Douglas and Bunty, Tarbert and Inverness.

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear Mum, Nannie, and much loved Great Nannie, Jean, who passed away August 11, 2019.

Our loved ones leave behind a light

That will never dim or fade
It's kept by the love we feel
And the memories we made.

- Peggy, Alistair, and family xx

STEELE - Treasured memories of my dear son James, who was taken from me so suddenly on August 8, 2011.

Ten years since that tragic day
Lovingly remembered every day.
- Mum xx

Plockton pays tribute to John Don Finlayson

The sudden death of John Don Finlayson on July 12 came as a shock to his many friends and cast a gloom over a wide area.

John Don was born in Seaview, Plockton on April 26, 1951, to Ian and Katie Ann Finlayson. When he left Plockton High School he joined the army and afterwards he served his time as a joiner with MacKerlichs in Kyle of Lochalsh. He then went to work at Kishorn, helping to build the world's largest oil-rig where the workers became known as the Kishorn Commandos. After Kishorn he worked with Bond Helicopters and later at the Naval Base in Kyle where he worked as a joiner/craftsman until he retired.

John Don took a great interest in the old days of Plockton and had an amazing collection of old photographs and an equally amazing memory.

He enjoyed sailing in the Regatta in his Flying Fifteen and later he bought a yacht which he also made good use of. He was in charge of the local Cadets for many years.

He married Catherine, a local girl, in 1985 and they had three sons, George, John and Richard. Sadly after a short illness, Catherine died in 2000 leaving John Don to become mother, father and sole provider, with the help of his sister Sybil and her husband Ewen.

The birth of his first grandson William John, Richard's son brought him much joy in his later years.

John Don was also a keen fisherman and poacher in both lochs and sea and he had many fishing stories to tell.

He had many friends over a wide area and was loved by everyone, especially



his life-long friends Calum, Kenny, Finlay and Brian.

He loved talking to people and Donald (Hibs) tells of the time they went on a weekend trip to Paris. John Don spoke to many people at Inverness Station that when they reached London, Donald said you won't know anyone down here, but the first person they met was Sorley MacLean.

In 2016 John Don married Mags, a nurse he met while recuperating from his first illness. They were married at sea on Calum's boat and later had their reception in the Haven Hotel. Dancing followed in the Village Hall.

The couple went to live in Isleornsay where Mags had a house in Drumfearn. He regularly visited Plockton to see his yacht and visit his sister.

Earlier this year he was diagnosed with a terminal illness and sadly passed away suddenly while Mags was driving him to Broadford Hospital for a medical procedure.

John Don was known for his humour and kindness. The area will certainly be the poorer with his passing.

The funeral service was held in Plockton Free Church, conducted by Reverend Fred Vincent. Due to the Covid restrictions only 30 people were allowed into the church but crowds stood outside having the service relayed to them through loud speakers. Many people lined the streets in all the villages until the cortege reached the cemetery at Balmacara.

Sympathy is expressed to his wife Mags, sons George, John and Richard and his sister Sybil (Mrs Cameron).

C.M.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Despite all misgivings, it is great to see people enjoying their holiday.

Tourism is good for the community and the local economy. Especially as we emerge from lockdown. Holidays remind us of the importance of rest, leisure and freedom; a time for reflection, restoration and reassessment.

People of faith may also welcome the time of relaxation to take a look at what they believe, and its impact on their lives. The words of the Psalm come to mind: 'Be still and know that I am God'. In moments of quiet it may bring some release to 'activate' those words in our hearts. A practical suggestion is to gently repeat those words until the body begins to relax. Then just continue to repeat the phrase while gradually dropping the last word until we are left with just the word 'be'. Yes, just be, and experience what is.

One thing for sure: in that stillness of reality, it will become clear that God is not who we think He is. Images of a nasty, remonstrating and punishing God, for example, provoke fear, and are destructive, especially in times of crisis and human vulnerability.

Christians believe in a God who has wholeheartedly and totally taken on human vulnerability. We do not 'think' God, but we 'taste' his presence when in our wounds and contradictions he whispers, in the stillness and intimacy of the unfathomable deep, words of reassurance and peace that dissipate fear and anxiety.

The God who is beyond understanding is unveiled as love, compassion and mercy in the brokenness and powerlessness of humanity and of each human being. Covid surely has evidenced the presence of Love in the actions of humble, selfless men and women of all faiths and none.

Holidays can change our vision.

Father James MacNeil,
St Columba's Cathedral, Oban

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West Highland Yachting Week



West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) 2021 launched with the feeder races to Craobh from Oban and Gigha last Saturday July 31, writes Alison Chadwick.

The event, taking place until August 6, has returned after an absence last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The feeder fleet from Oban encountered light airs which benefited the slower handicapped yachts in the 13-boat fleet.

The Sadler 25 Wee Toddy from Oban took honours on corrected time, with Lochaber's Marian Austin and family in their Northney 34 Scintilla of the Sea second

and James Grant's beautiful McGruer class sloop Kelana third.

In Gigha to Craobh feeder race Ian Munro and team on the Elizabethan 30 Infinite Jest took the silverware from Andrew Peden's Stealthy with Shaun Douglas's Beneteau 40.7 Game Changer third in the five-boat fleet.

Despite a reduced number of yachts racing in what is popularly known as Yacht Week, the return of WHYW after a year out due to Covid-19 has been welcomed by host ports Craobh, Oban and Tobermory. However, organisers of the event, the Joint Regatta Committee, remind competi-

tors they are expected to follow Covid guidelines set out for each port.

A warm welcome from the first port of call, Craobh Marina, and sunshine conditions made for an excellent first night for the West Highland Week boats. Argyll Hog Roasts and the Lord of the Isles ensured catering needs of competitors were met and on the second night in Craobh, the ever-popular Mad Ferrets band played outside to entertain the fleet.

For the first day's racing of the series, Race officer Johnny Readman started yachts in light conditions on the set course around Shuna.

The white sail Argyll fleet was given one race, while the Tunnock's spinnaker fleet enjoyed another race in the steadily building afternoon breeze to count two sails for the day's overall results.

Tunnock's fleet

In the first race for the Tunnock's fleet in Class 1, Jack Aitken's Animal won from Scott Chalmers in his Sigma 400 Sunrise, with Robin Young's J109 Jings third. Stealthy took the honours in the second race from Jings and John Stanley Whyte's J109 Blue Jay.

The Sigma 33 Mayrise of James Miller took first in Class 3 in the first race, with the J92s

Satisfaction (Nick Marshall) and Samurai J (Alan MacLeod) fighting a hard battle to finish second and third respectively.

Race 2 saw Samurai J first from Eric and Irena Chapman's X-332 Elixir of Lorn second and Mayrise third.

After the two races it was a tied first place in Class 5 for Oban's Wee Toddy and Ian Munro's Infinite Jest from Fairlie Yacht club, with the Austin family's Scintilla of the Sea third.

Argyll fleet

Class 2 restricted sail was won by Alan Moore's Dehler 34 Delinquent with Hugh Wallace's Gumdrop second and Richard Grey's Leomaris

of Clyde third. Brian Wiseman's Sorr of Appin won restricted sail class 4 from Alan Dunnet's kenspeckle Swan 36 Valhalla of Ashton and the beautiful McGruer Lorne Classic Malindi of Lorne with Seonaid Reid at the helm.

Monday's race, moving the fleet from Craobh to Oban, dawned with no wind at the start of the south end of Shuna. Race Officer Readman took the fleet north through the tidal gate at Fladda to Insh Island to look for breeze to start racing. However, despite a few hours wait, there was no sign of the wind filling in and with reluctance the Joint

BEHIND THE SCENES AT ATLANTIS LEISURE OBAN

July has been a spectacular month with visitors flocking to Oban in blazing sunshine to enjoy the town at its best.

And as Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease, Atlantis Leisure has been finding its rhythm again.

Soft play

We were delighted restrictions allowed us to reopen our soft play area. Both sections are available to limited numbers, with sessions allocated via advance booking. It's amazing how much the centre's atmosphere has changed with the return of the sound of happy children playing.

Contact and close contact sports, including squash, have also returned, further adding to that 'Atlantis buzz' we've missed so much.

Café Atlantis

Beth MacDonald and the gang at Café Atlantis are back. The cafe reopened earlier in the month with a fresh new menu and a new floor.

Activity programme

Despite the disappointment of having to cancel the majority of our summer programme, Hebridean

Pursuits and Atlantis have been making waves with younger children at weekly Coasteering Adventures.

Every Monday, groups of eight children head out from Ganavan Sands to explore the rocky coastline. Climbing, bouldering and jumping into the water have ensured there has still been plenty fun on offer. And so far, the sun has been shining.

Atlantis has also been running a popular Kids Club on Thursdays, with a session in the morning followed by one in the afternoon.

Poolside

One-to-one private swimming lessons have continued to run during the school summer holidays, with more than 100 young people attending lessons in the past month. We're looking forward to group lessons restarting once the autumn term gets under way.

Staff

Congratulations to Craig MacCorquodale who successfully completed a pool plant operator's course this month.

Claire Keen and Cameron Johnson both started their Level 3 GP



The soft play area at Atlantis Leisure has reopened, much to the delight of these happy youngsters.

Referral training this month. This is a huge help towards the provision of Atlantis' StayActive service which continues to grow in popularity. We're also delighted to welcome Jenny Low to the Community Fitness

Programme team. Jenny's running a Tabata style class – fast-paced fun for all abilities and fitness levels.

The continued easing of government restrictions has allowed us to reduce social distancing to one

metre. Our programme of regular electro-static disinfection treatment throughout the centre remains in place to ensure our community's continued safety. Roll on next month.

Week begins with a splash



Regatta Race team abandoned racing for the day.

Meanwhile, competitors enjoyed watching Ceol Beag and crew expertly wake boarding, as well as other boats making the most of the Mediterranean sunshine with water fights, dolphin spotting and fishing.

The fleet was due to race Round Lismore (Tuesday) as The Oban Times went to press.

Yachts sail to Tobermory on Wednesday followed by a day's racing in the Sound of Mull on Thursday with a return to Oban to finish the regatta on Friday.

Tunnock's – headline sponsor for 2021

Reflecting the major sponsorship from Tunnock's, the spinnaker classes are again known as the Tunnock's Fleet.

The famous biscuit manufacturer has been headline sponsors for well over a decade and hugely supportive of the event. The unique range of Tunnock's products complement what is internationally recognised as a unique moving regatta. Tunnock's also sponsor the Tobermory to Oban race on the last day of the event, awarding the Thomas Tunnock Trophy for the Class 3 winner. Top up packs of Tunnock's products are given to every competing yacht for their 'survival box' – an essential part of WHYW.

Sir Boyd Tunnock, managing director and grandson of the founder of Thomas Tunnock Ltd, is a regular competitor and this year is again in Class 3 with his Moody 38 Lemerac. The Lemerac Cup is awarded on Thursday in recognition of the support given by Thomas Tunnock Ltd to WHYW.

The restricted, or white sail classes, where the emphasis is on family involvement, are known as the Argyll Fleet.

Other sponsors include Owen Sails, Noble Marine Insurance, Isle of Islay Gin, with help from Scottish Canals for yachts making passage to and from the event.

Competitors enjoyed a cracking start to Yacht Week over the weekend, and despite no wind on Monday, there was plenty of fun still to be had.



OT

Shinty round up

Artemis Macaulay Cup – quarter final Oban Celtic 1 Oban Camanachd 6

A clinical second half display gave Oban Camanachd a 6-1 victory over Oban Celtic at Mossfield on Wednesday July 28.

The tie was arranged for midweek to allow the winners to face Kyles Athletic in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi finals three days later and a good crowd gathered for the 7pm throw-up.

Oban Celtic were missing Andy MacDonald who was on holiday so George MacMillan was switched to half back.

Injury ruled out Oban Camanachd's Craig Easton and they started with a forward line of Daniel MacCuish, Malcolm Clark, Connor Howe and Daniel MacVicar.

Daniel MacCuish gave Oban Camanachd the lead on 17 minutes, cracking the ball over the keeper with a slight deflection taking the ball high into the net.

Oban Celtic pulled level on 33 minutes through Duncan MacDonald who fired high into the net from a tight angle.

The second half was just a couple of minutes old when Malcolm Clark evaded a challenge and scored from close in as the keeper and defender collided.

Oban Camanachd introduced Scott MacMillan, Ross Campbell and Lewis Buchanan, before turning the screw with four goals in the final quarter of the tie.

First, Connor Howe lost his marker to force home a cross from the right to make it 3-1 on 66 minutes. Four minutes later, Daniel MacVicar made no mistake as he fired past keeper Allan Duncan.

Garry Lord added a fifth on 82 minutes from 15-yards.

Scott MacMillan rounded off the scoring with a nicely worked goal five minutes from time. Blair MacFarlane sent a good ball down the line to Ross Campbell who crossed for MacMillan to score.

Whilst Oban Celtic were under a lot of pressure, especially in the second half when they had their backs to the wall at times, they had some possession in attack but the Oban Camanachd defence of Scott McKillop, Daniel Madej, Daniel Cameron and Daniel Sloss were in no mood to give anything away.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We competed well in the first half but it was a different story after half-time when we didn't do



Neil Carmichael, Oban Celtic, left, Keith MacMillan, Oban Camanachd, and Duncan MacDonald, Oban Celtic in action during the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter final tie at Mossfield. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

ourselves justice. The third goal knocked the stuffing out of us and their experience and fitness told. We created a couple of second half opportunities but didn't always choose the right options with the final ball.'

Oban Camanachd boss Stephen Sloss added: 'We created a lot of chances in the first half but a mixture of crowding around the ball and poor finishing meant we had just one goal to show for our efforts. We also lost a sloppy goal where we let the winger go and Cammy didn't see the shot until late. We were much better in the second half though and our fitness was good.'

Artemis Macaulay Cup – semi final Oban Camanachd 0 Kyles Athletic 1

Kyles Athletic reached the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final with a narrow 1-0 victory over Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

The only goal came on 50 minutes when Oban Camanachd fluffed a hit-in and Kyles earned a free-hit following a break forward. The set-piece was powered to the back of the 'D' by Thomas Whyte and, one-handed, Ross MacRae touched the ball to Robbie MacLeod who smashed a shot home.

Oban Camanachd had a chance to level midway through the second half when referee Des McNulty awarded them a penalty, penalising a sliding challenge after consulting with the goal judge. Daniel MacCuish rocketed the spot-hit, but John Whyte made a good reflex save.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron went up front

that cost us. Kyles are a bit more experienced than us and they did just enough to win. It's a blow as the Macaulay is a tournament we wanted to win. We have dominated Kyles recently so it is a step back. We need to move on, starting this weekend.'

Oban Camanachd's fixture this Saturday is predicated on the outcome of the midweek meeting between Kinlochshiel and Lovat. A Kinlochshiel victory will see Oban Camanachd host Lovat in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter finals, whilst there could be a home league match with Glasgow Mid Argyll if Lovat win.

Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup - first round Bute 4 Oban Celtic 2

Scott Harvey's hat-trick helped Bute beat Oban Celtic 4-2 at the Meadows.

Oban Celtic's Andy MacDonald was still unavailable, whilst Dylan Cooke and David Hill called off on Friday afternoon. Keeper Allan Duncan was also missing so Jack Hill came in between the sticks.

Scott Harvey put the islanders ahead on 22 minutes with a clean strike into the net.

Daniel MacMillan cut inside on 34 minutes and when the ball broke to him, he finished well to make it 1-1 and it stayed that way to the break.

Oban Celtic suffered a double blow when they were forced to replace influential duo Neil Carmichael and George MacMillan at half-time.

Scott Harvey got his second to put Bute back in front on 51 minutes but the Oban side levelled for a second time five minutes later. A ball out

of defence was played on by William MacEwan, then to Ross MacMillan and substitute Ewen Campbell before Lennon Campbell finished from 20 yards to make it 2-2.

Bute regained the lead when the referee allowed a quick free-hit with 15 minutes remaining. The ball was rolled short to Aaron McKirdy and although Jack Hill got his hand to McKirdy's 35-yard drive, he couldn't keep it out.

Bute sealed the win when they were awarded a penalty three minutes from time, Scott Harvey hitting the ball well to complete his hat-trick and rounding off the 4-2 win.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We are bitterly disappointed to be going out of the Balliemore at this stage to a team in a division below us and that's no disrespect to Bute who have a good crop of youngsters.'

'It was a tough game in midweek against Oban Camanachd and that affected us. We were lethargic and there was definitely a hangover from Wednesday night.'

Oban Celtic's weekend fixture also depends on the outcome of the Macaulay meeting between Kinlochshiel and Lovat. A Kinlochshiel win means a trip to Glasgow Mid Argyll in the league, whilst a Lovat victory triggers a trip west to face Kinlochshiel in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter finals.

Mowi Senior League C Inveraray 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll 4

Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) were 4-1 victors against Inveraray at the Winterton.

Ewen Fraser on five minutes and Craig Anderson on 29 minutes had GMA two up before Fraser Watt pulled a goal back a minute before the break. Ewen Fraser got his second on 54 minutes with Craig Anderson doing likewise on 61 minutes.

HIS Sutherland Cup – second round Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Kyles Athletic 4

The Kyles Athletic seconds won 4-1 against the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds at Peterson Park.

David Martin on 13 minutes and Scott Ferguson on 18 minutes gave Kyles an early advantage, with Cairn Limbert making it 3-0 on 41 minutes.

Former Skye player Angie Grant pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later but David Martin sealed the win a minute from time.

Kilmory W/O v Inveraray

The Inveraray seconds were unable to raise a team for their meeting with Kilmory at MacRae Park so the hosts were given a walk-over.

Mowi South League A Ballachulish 2 Col Glen 1

Ballachulish were 2-1 winners

against Col Glen at the Jubilee Park.

The home side's Cian MacPhee served the second game of a two-match suspension. A Cally MacNaughton own goal on seven minutes gave Ballachulish the lead and Liam Fraser Stewart made it 2-0 on 32 minutes. Hamish Harrison pulled a goal back on the hour but the hosts stayed in front to take the points.

Lochside Rovers P Taynuilt P

The game between Lochside Rovers and Taynuilt was postponed as Taynuilt were unable to raise a team.

Lochside Rovers learned their HIS Sutherland Cup fate when the quarter final draw was made during the week and the holders will host Kinlochshiel.

The other last eight ties, scheduled for Saturday August 14, see the Lovat seconds welcome Aberdeen University, the Newtonmore seconds play their Kyles Athletic counterparts, whilst the Beaulie seconds are at home to Kilmory.

It's an early start for Lochside this Saturday as they have a noon throw-up against the GMA seconds at Peterson Park in the Bullough Cup second round.

Mowi South League B Aberdour 2 Tayforth 3

Former Newtonmore player Duncan Gorman scored a couple minutes from time to give a more experienced Tayforth side a 3-2 victory over the Aberdour second team at Silversands.

Tayforth's Duncan Gorman put them in front on three minutes but 15-year-old Joe Burns levelled a minute later.

Joe Burns finished off a good move to get his second and give the hosts the lead five minutes into the second half, but Tayforth made changes and finished strongly.

Brendan Duggan broke free before sending the ball high into the net past keeper Kevin Latimer on 73 minutes and, with just a couple of minutes remaining, Duncan Gorman got his second as he found just enough space to execute a calm finish.

Mowi Central League Lochaber 0 Glenorchy 4

Glenorchy were 4-0 winners against the Lochaber seconds at Spean Bridge.

Connor Sartain put the visitors ahead in the opening minute and added a second on seven minutes. Sartain completed his hat-trick on 66 minutes with Ciaran MacKay making it 4-0 on 82 minutes.

Oban Celtic P Ardnamurchan P

The match between Oban Celtic reserves and Ardnamurchan at Ganavan was postponed because of travel restrictions.

The Oban Celtic colts play the Inveraray colts at Ganavan in the Bullough Cup second round this Saturday.



Andrew King of Kyles Athletic receives the man of the match award from David Thomson on behalf of the Macaulay Association after the Macaulay Cup semi final at Mossfield.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Above: Kyle Cooper scores the game's only goal. Above right: Donald Campbell. Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

Cooper strike sees off the Warriors

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Oban Saints | 1 |
| Stenhousemuir | 0 |
| Pre-season friendly | |

Oban Saints continued their build-up to the new season at a sunny Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon with Stenhousemuir Community providing the opposition.

The first-time visitors to Oban are the amateur wing of Scottish Professional Football League Two club Stenhousemuir FC and currently play in the Caledonian Amateur Football League Premier Division.

Clear-cut chances were at a premium and a solitary first half goal from Saints' teenage striker Kyle Cooper was all that separated the two sides.

Injuries to key players continue to restrict manager Willie Gemmell's options and the gaffer was dealt a further blow when Kerr Newbigging pulled up injured during the warm-up.

Striker Cammy Hill was deployed at right full back, while Kyle Cooper's recent impressive performances from the substitutes bench earned him a starting role up front.

And in the 10th minute Kyle scored the only goal of the game. The evergreen Ross Maitland made a good run on the right but saw Warriors' keeper Allan Pacitti race out of his box to intercept Cammy Hill's ball over the top. Pacitti's luck was out, however, when he could only direct the ball into the path of Kyle Cooper who showed great composure to lift the ball over Pacitti into the unguarded net.

The 16-year-old striker had the ball in the net again on 20 minutes, side-footing home a Ross Maitland cut-back. But referee Pat O'Donnell, who handled proceedings well, correctly ruled that Maitland's run had carried the ball over the bye-line in the build-up.

Willie Gemmell made his first change on the half hour,

replacing Steven MacLeod with Alex Craik in a straight swap in central defence.

Saints made a positive start to the second half with Cammy Hill and Ross Maitland combining well again on the right.

Maitland's lay-off to Hill sent the full back along the 18-yard line before firing off a low left foot shot wide of Allan Pacitti's left hand post.

Lewis Cameron was sent sprawling in the visitor's box in the 55th minute, however, Mr O'Donnell saw no infringement.

Ross Maitland sent Kyle Cooper into the Stenhousemuir box 60 seconds later but with Cooper ready to pull the trigger, Daniel McInnes got back with a perfectly timed sliding challenge to put the ball behind for a corner kick.

That proved to be Maitland's last involvement of a productive afternoon as he and Rory Dowd made way for Donald Campbell and Steven MacLeod. Willie Gemmell made his final change with ten minutes remaining, sending on Fraser MacFarlane to replace Lewis Cameron.

The home side kept pressing for a second goal and only an excellent save from Allan Pacitti prevented Kyle Cooper from completing his brace.

Gaffer Willie Gemmell will be pleased with another impressive performance against good Caledonian League opposition and a second consecutive clean sheet.

Saints' pre-season concludes this Saturday, August 7, with a visit from fellow Central Scottish League Premier Division side Steins Thistle. The two time East of Scotland Amateur Cup winners will provide Saints with a glimpse of the quality of opposition which lies in wait when the new league season kicks off on Saturday August 14. The game will be played at Glen 2 with a 2pm kick-off. Referee Tony McCann from Rhu will be in charge.

Ex-pat shinty players sought for capital gains



Above: London Camanachd players: George Mead, Ardnamurchan, left, James Livingstone, Dalmally, second left, and Fionn Ó Súilleabháin, right hand. Above right: Fort William's Matt Casey who holds the club record for the most goals scored in a game, 10 in a 14-1 victory.



Continued from page 48. Recently the London team set off to Bristol to start the defence of their English League title and came away with a 4-1 victory against Bristol Camanachd. On August 21, the team will face a strong Oxford side at Wormwood Scrubs before hosting the much acclaimed London Shinty Festival in Greenford on September 3.

If you are looking to try a new sport or to return to shinty we are training at Clapham Common at 3pm on August 7. Equipment is

Dalmally's James Livingstone.

provided and more details can be found on our social media pages,' added Fionn.

Although shinty has been noted as being played in England since the 1820s, London Camanachd was founded in 1892 through a merger of two previous London teams - London Northern Counties and London Scots.

Members of this club varied from aristocracy to merchants to soldiers who had found themselves in London. Among its notable early fixtures was a match against London GAA in

the first shinty-hurling clash, which it lost 0-3. Three players from Inverary, J Lawson, D Thompson and H MacVicar, were involved, while the rest were from either Inverness-shire or the islands.

The club entered the Camanachd Cup in the late 1920s and were drawn against North Bute twice, though it appears they conceded these games as the club started to wind down in the 1930s with lack of new players coming in.

Following a rebirth in the 1980s, London Camanachd had their most successful era against Scottish clubs, getting to the quarter final of the Camanachd Cup in 1984, winning the Skeabost Horn in 1985 and reaching the semis of the Balliemore and Bullough cups the same year.

'Apparently, from oral record Kilmory, came down to play London during this time,' added Fionn.

'Our club archives have no record of opposition or matches so we would be delighted if any of your readers could inform/correct our records.'

In early November 1992, Oban Celtic played the Brian Boru team of London, which shared many players with London Camanachd. Oban won 2-0. In 1994, the club beat a Mull team 11-0 before losing to Strachur 0-2. The club once



George Mead from Ardnamurchan is also the only caman maker in the history of London Camanachd and exports many to Scotland.



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*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.

Dawn sparkles in 20th Burns Crystal tournament

Isle of Seil Golf Club held its annual Burns Crystal Trophy Tournament, sponsored by Highland Arts, on Saturday July 24.

This is the 20th year the competition has been played and this year's much-deserved winner is Dawn Singleton who manages The Oyster Bar and Restaurant in Easdale.

The course was in prime condition and so fast previous winners were baffled. There were prizes for the longest drive, nearest pin, least amount of putts and birdie putts, of which there was only one, which went to the winner Dawn. There were also prizes for first, second third and fourth.

Results: 1 Dawn Singleton 61; 2= Pat Mill, captain, Scott Johnson 63; 3 Geo

Adam; 4 Barry Clark. Longest Drive, men, Kieran McLarty; Longest Drive, ladies, Jean Ainsley; Nearest Pin 4/13th, Geo Adam; Nearest Pin 8/17th, James Johnson; Least Putts, men, Geo Adam 30; Least Putts, ladies, Dawn Singleton 27; Birdie Putts, Dawn Singleton.

The special prize for best dressed golfer went to Geo Adam who always looks impressive.

Thanks were extended to everyone who helped to make it such a successful day, Isobel Smith – course owner, Pat Mill – captain and Mary Phillips – handicap specialist.

Sandwiches and refreshments were enjoyed by everyone under beautiful blue skies to round off the event.



Saints Under-16s with the youth tournament trophy. Photograph: Derek Black.

Saints U16s win youth trophy

Young Oban Saints footballers tasted trophy success on Sunday when they won the Oban Saints Youth tournament at the Oban High School Community 3G pitch. Central Boys from Grangemouth, who won the event in 2019, and St Patrick's Sports Academy from Lanarkshire provided the opposition for the under-16s, with all teams playing two 60-minute matches. The 2020 tournament was cancelled as a result of Covid.

For full report visit www.obantimes.co.uk

Ex-pat shinty players sought for capital gains

A shinty club based in the UK capital have been making their mark in the English League and are looking for relocated Highland players to help them build their club.

London Camanachd was established in 1894 when a team was set up for players from the Highlands working in London. Since then it has grown to welcome those who played at university or college in Scotland and those who want to try the ancient sport for the first time.

James Livingstone, from Dalmally, and George Mead, Ardnamurchan, are currently part of the squad which trains at Clapham Common. Fort William's Matt Casey holds the club record for the most goals scored in a game, 10 in a 14-1 victory.

Club chairman Fionn Ó Súilleabháin, who formerly played for Dunoon said: 'London Camanachd is the only shinty club in London and one of three areas in England you can play shinty.

'We train most Sunday afternoons and have recently expanded to involve two sites across the city: Blackheath in the east and Northfields in the west.

'Players of all abilities are welcome and we have opportunities for games and training at beginner and advanced levels.'

Continued on page 47.



John Taylor presents the trophy to Dawn Singleton.

Bowlers gather for Main event

Thirty players gathered under blue skies on Sunday to contest the George Main Triples title at Oban Bowling Club.

Teams were split into two pools of five to battle it out in a round robin format for a place in the final. Nailing the top spots in group A were the team consisting Rosemary Miller, Patrick Freytag and Semple Barrie, while the group B winners were Sandra Grieve, Malcolm Scott and Neil MacDougall, with the latter winning out overall.



Winners of the George Main trophy, from left, Neil MacDougall, Sandra Grieve and Malcolm Scott.



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 5 August, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|
| 5 | 0349 3.1 0945 1.6 TH 1558 3.2 2240 1.7 | 7 | 0513 3.5 1112 1.1 SA 1720 3.6 2353 1.3 | 9 | 0027 1.1 0628 3.7 M 1223 0.8 1833 3.9 | 11 | 0137 0.9 0729 3.7 W 1333 0.6 1937 3.9 | Ardrihaig -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 |
| 6 | 0432 3.3 1032 1.4 F 1641 3.4 2318 1.5 | 8 | 0552 3.6 1149 0.9 SU 1758 3.8 ● | 10 | 0102 1.0 0700 3.7 TU 1258 0.7 1905 4.0 | 12 | 0210 0.9 0800 3.6 TH 1411 0.7 2012 3.9 | |

OBAN WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 14°C to 18°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.

Saturday
Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH 18 LOW 13

9 MPH



Lochaber MSP Kate ties the knot in Dingwall

Visiting Oban? Check out Bid4Oban's gift trail inside

Racists not welcome on Nevis, says JMT

The charitable group entrusted with the protection of the UK's highest mountain have condemned the actions of an extreme far right group on the summit of Ben Nevis on Sunday.

The John Muir Trust (JMT) was contacted by members of the public who were on the mountain when more than a dozen members of what is believed to be the Patriotic Alternative (PA) group unfurled a 'White Lives Matter' banner.

The Lochaber Times understands bystanders booed when the banner was displayed and the group hid it away after filming their actions for only a few minutes.

JMT issued the following statement in response: 'We are deeply angered by the actions taken at the top of Ben Nevis over the weekend, from an extremist far right group appearing to use the Ben as a backdrop for their abhorrent racist propaganda.

'We did not and would not authorise permission for a film on our land that is counter to our belief that wild places are for all.'

'The John Muir Trust has zero tolerance to discrimination.'

NOW THAT'S A HOME WIN!



Some of the team working to restore Claggan Park at the ground on Monday night. Front: Mark Rydings, left, and David MacDonald. Back row, from left, Peter Murphy, Olly Stephen, Mark Gillespie and Iain MacKay. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Locals dig deep to save league and cup games at Claggan Park after Highland League bosses condemn state of home pitch.

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

In just a matter of hours on Sunday, enough cash was pledged to bring the Claggan Park football pitch in Fort William up to a standard that should satisfy Highland League bosses and allow the town's football club to play its league and cup home games at home.

There was shock last week at the decision by

the league to order Fort William FC to play all its league and cup games away from home after the condition of the pitch was highlighted by a member of the public.

Coverage of the bombshell decision in the Lochaber Times on Thursday was followed by more calls to help the club on social media, resulting in a meeting held at the ground on Sunday morning.

Continued on page 2.



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Free bottled water to homes after private supplies run dry

People in Lochaber and the wider Highlands with reduced private water supplies are to be offered free bottled water following recent warm weather through a Scottish Government support scheme.

Some springs, streams and rivers used for private supplies, particularly in the north and west, are now running dry and, despite the forecasts of heavy rain for parts of Scotland, many will remain vulnerable.

Some 272 properties in the Lochaber area have a private water supply, according to the council. Public water supplies are not affected.

Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson has urged people to continue to use water efficiently.

'It's likely that the drying up of private water supplies so early in the summer is a clear indication of the impacts of climate change,' he said.

'This is a stark reminder of the need to conserve water as one of our most precious natural resources.'

Peninsula comes alive to the sound of music

It's been a very long time since live music was anything other than overhearing my husband singing along with Alexa while he was cooking dinner, so two gigs in under a week had me giddy with excitement, particularly both so close to home, writes Nic Goddard.

The first was very impromptu, over at Lochaline pontoons on Monday night when a tip-off from a friend on Facebook about Pianocean calling in for an unscheduled performance between planned stops at Mull and Oban.

Pianocean is Marieke Huysmans-Berthouis; a sailor, singer songwriter and pianist who is sailing the world, writing songs and playing concerts as she goes with the piano on board her boat.

Sailing with Marieke is a tiny crew of her best friend, husband, toddler son and ship's



Marieke played and sang aboard her yacht to an appreciative audience.

cat – the husband and son joined the crew along the way.

She held the assembled audience, on moored yachts, a kayak, camping chairs and sitting on the pontoons captive with her beautiful voice,

talented piano playing and wonderful songs, including The Small Isles Song, written just that weekend as she sailed around and played concerts on Rum, Muck, Eigg and Canna. Marieke explained: 'I really

enjoyed it, it was unexpected because we've really improvised this concert at the very last minute and I was impressed how many people came. The audience was really smiley and offered us a warm welcome. All the crew was really happy to have made this port of call in Lochaline for this lovely small community.'

The people of Lochaline and beyond were delighted to have her there.

Community Development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova explained: 'I got in touch to ask if Pianocean could squeeze in a visit to Lochaline and she said she would consider it 'weather and fair winds permitting'.

'They arrived on Monday and played that night. The sound of the piano and Marieke's voice over the calm evening waters was magical.'

The second event was rather

more planned and took place in Strontian – the final destination in the Eden Court 'Under Canvas Across the Highlands' events. This took place in the open sides canvas tent complete with pop up bar and wood fired pizza oven in the Strontian showground.

We went to the Friday night event featuring well known local band FRAS. I've seen FRAS play a fair few times here in Strontian and on the Isle of Rum and having never managed to sit still at one of their gigs before, so it was no surprise that by the end of the evening there was almost a larger number of people out on the field dancing than there was sitting around tables under canvas. Foot tapping and hand clapping can only suffice for so long when pipes, box, flute and guitar all come together in such perfect combinations.



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The happy couple, pictured, had photographs taken at the Global Energy Stadium, home of Ross County FC, a short distance from the church. Photograph: Chris Hoskins Photography.

Local MSP Kate ties the knot at Dingwall

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes married her fiancé, Alasdair (Ali) MacLennan, on Thursday July 29 at a church service in Dingwall.

Family and friends were present at the ceremony, and due to restrictions on numbers, the wedding was also livestreamed on the internet so other well-wishers could

witness the happy occasion.

The couple – Ali is 41 and Kate is 31 – announced their engagement earlier this year.

Scottish finance minister Kate commented: 'We are delighted to get married, with some friends and family. Many watched online instead of joining us in person, because of Covid-19 restrictions.'

'After a difficult 18 months

for everybody, our wedding day has been full of joy. We hope other couples enjoy the same happy day, even with all the worries and frustrating of planning a wedding around restrictions.'

The wedding photographs were taken at the Global Energy Stadium, home of Ross County FC, a short distance from the church.

Two mates, two old bikes and three mountains

Mancunian chums Richard Brown and Jakeem Addman stopped off in Fort William and swapped their bikes for boots last week as part of their World War Two-themed charity cycle.

The intrepid pair were on their way from John O Groats to Lands End wearing vintage military uniforms and riding replica 1940s bikes in aid of UK armed forces and veterans charity Help for Heroes.

As well as taking on the

mammoth 1,000-mile cycle the duo added an extra twist to their altruistic endeavours by deviating to tackle the National Three Peaks Challenge by foot.

Richard and Jakeem stopped off overnight in Fort William on Thursday (July 29) and scaled the UK's highest mountain the following day.

The fundraising event will raise money for Help for Heroes and Mind. To donate to either charity visit: www.justgiving.com/team/ride-4-heroes

Richard and Jakeem prepare to tackle Ben Nevis as part of their fundraising event.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson



Locals dig deep to save games at Claggan Park

Continued from page 1.

Among those involved was former club youth coach Mark Rydings who this week spoke to the Lochaber Times about the incredible turn around in the Claggan Park pitch saga.

'We spoke to Michael Clark who is the greenkeeper at Kingussie and Gavin Irons whose business is sports pitches,' Mr Rydings told us.

Mr Clark agreed to come down and take a look at the Fort pitch, as did Mr Irons, with the latter expressing the opinion that the ground conditions were not as bad as some people were saying.

'That was really great news and gave everyone a bit of a lift,' explained Mr Rydings. 'They suggested that something like £17,000 to £20,000 would be enough to bring the pitch up to the level needed.'

'The problem was the club had no money in the bank for this sort of work. We had put together a little WhatsApp group and together with some phone calls it meant that between the Sunday morning meeting at the ground at 10.30am and 8pm that same day we had about £24,000 donated or pledged - it was so heartening to see such generosity and community spirit. Absolutely fantastic.'

As well as local businesses stepping forward, the offers of money also came from individuals. Mr Rydings continued: 'Local businesses really stepped up to the plate on this. We even had one retired person put his hand in his pocket to the tune of £2,000. It's all been so positive.'

The plan is now for improvement works to start as soon as next week and hopefully a playable surface can be ready in around four to six weeks.

'That timescale would mean the club would only miss three of its main home games - so it is do-able,' added Mr Rydings.

Fellow group member David MacDonald added that the club now expected League secretary Rod Houston to visit Claggan Park sometime within the next few weeks to see for himself how the works are progressing.

'It's absolutely fantastic how quickly all this has come together,' said Mr MacDonald. 'But we don't want to stop now - we want to get a proper programme of maintenance together.'

And now that the group has the bit between its teeth, those involved want to keep raising money - there is also an existing crowdfunder effort launched recently by club vice-chairman Colin Wood - to improve other elements of Claggan Park.

Local MP Ian Blackford has now also written to the League, asking the football authority to allow the club to continue playing their home games at Claggan Park once repair work on the playing surface has been completed.

'The current decision to forbid the team from playing a home match for the entirety of the season would have a devastating impact, not only on the club, but with its links to the local community as well,' added Mr Blackford.

Giving his reaction, Mr Wood said: 'It has been humbling to see the amount of support the club had from the local community over the past few weeks, with a lot of local tradesmen and businesses giving up time and money to ensure that Highland League football has a future in Fort William.'

Plea over plans for memorial garden

Highland Council is being urged to abandon part of its plans for an extension to the memorial garden at the Commando Memorial near Spean Bridge to allow for further consideration and consultation with veterans groups, writes Mark Entwistle.

The call came from Bill Harvey, a Highland member of the national committee of the Commando Association, who is objecting to the design and the proposed area of the extension, which he says would see granite boulders placed in the area where there are memorial plaques and where the ashes of a number of former marines have been scattered.

Mr Harvey's father was killed while serving with the Army's No 4 Commando in the Netherlands in 1944. Mr Harvey's mother, Margaret, was among those invited to the unveiling of the memorial in 1952.



Margaret Harvey, third right, with other No 4 Commando widows meeting the Queen Mother in 1952, as Lord Lovat looks on.

put them there fulfilling their wishes. I have been an associate member of the Commando Veterans Association since it was formed and nobody contacted me or members about the proposal.

'I was shocked to see the planning notice in the papers. Proper consultation has not been done with all those people who put plaques and scattered or buried ashes in that centre area.'

Mr Harvey added: 'Please Highland Council abandon the plans for the centre area as it will cause hurt to relatives of those heroes who fought for our freedom. The granite would be fitting if it was placed outside the memorial area.'

Highland Council recently explained that proposed redevelopment is a result of discussions between the Commando Veterans' Association - now replaced by the Commando Association - and the Royal Marines, with whom it manages the famous site under a tripartite agreement.

But Mr Harvey, who made it clear his objection is personal and not an official one from the Commando Association, has

now contacted local MSPs and Lochaber MP Iain Blackford over his concerns.

Speaking to the Lochaber Times, he told us: 'I have been coming to the memorial for years and you would find ashes scattered all over the site. There was a specific area for scattering ashes but I know that many of the Commandos wanted their ashes beside the plaque in the central area [of the garden] and their relatives

Recipe

A little hot in the kitchen today?

Freshen up with this light and filling chicken and quinoa salad which will make for ideal lunchbox leftovers too

Ingredients

- 200g dried quinoa
- 4 cooked skinless and boneless chicken breasts, roughly shredded
- 4 red apples, cored and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 4 celery sticks, thinly sliced
- Small bag of baby spinach leaves
- Bunch of spring onions, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and finely chopped, to serve
- Small handful of fresh chives, finely chopped
- Small handful of fresh mint, finely chopped

Chicken and quinoa salad



For the dressing:

- 200g fat-free natural fromage frais
- 3 tbsp fat-free vinaigrette
- 2 tbsp roughly chopped bottled gherkins

Method

1. Cook the quinoa according to the packet instructions, then drain and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, put the chicken in a large salad bowl with the apples, celery, spinach and spring onions.
3. Mix all of the dressing ingredients together in a bowl and pour over the salad.
4. Add the cooked quinoa and toss to mix well. Scatter over the eggs and fresh herbs to serve.

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Benevolent buyer still sought

NatureScot is still seeking a 'beneficial owner' for Rum's Kinloch Castle, but has denied that the property is on the open market for £1, contrary to recent media reports.

'We have nothing new to update,' said a spokesperson for the castle's current owners NatureScot, Scotland's nature agency formerly called Scottish Natural Heritage.

Its predecessor, the Nature Conservancy Council, bought the late Victorian pleasure palace in 1957 from Lady Monica Bullough, wife of the mill magnate Sir George Bullough who built it in 1897-1900.

Over time Kinloch Castle, described by the poet Sir John Betjemen as 'an undisturbed example of pre-1914 opulence', has been ravaged by leaks, damp, woodworm, and dry rot, despite huge sums spent on it to keep it wind and watertight.

In 2016 Scottish Natural Heritage had warned that the Grade A listed building faced demolition unless it could find £20 million for restoration. An asset transfer

bid by the Kinloch Castle Friends Association to buy the crumbling pile for £1 failed in 2019.

'Kinloch Castle is not for sale on the open market,' NatureScot told The Lochaber Times. 'We continue to work to identify a beneficial owner for the castle and grounds.'

'Any future owner will need to contribute towards three key objectives: securing the conservation and preservation of the castle, contributing to the sustainability of the Rum community; and enhancing nature on Rum, including - promoting its enjoyment, and minimising the castle's impact on the natural environment.'

Otter fundraiser goes by the book

The auction of books written by Ring of Bright Water author, Gavin Maxwell, in aid of the Skye-based International Otter Survival Fund has so far raised over £230 for the charity's hospital facility. There are several books still available, including God Protect Me From My Friends, by Maxwell, as well as Hebridean Shark, by Tex Geddes and are still available to buy on the IOSF eBay site.

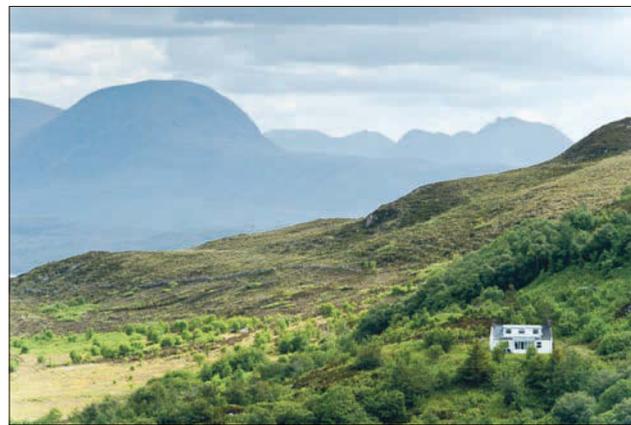
Deer management key to meeting recovery target

Amid heightening global concerns over the climate emergency and loss of nature, the John Muir Trust has signalled its intent to accelerate the transformation of the land in its care, to increase carbon removal and improve habitats for wildlife, writes Fiona Scott.

The trust will be increasing its deer culls and exploring options for developing long-term community hunting models.

The charity currently manages 25,000 hectares of Scotland's best-known landscapes, including Ben Nevis, Li and Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart) and Strathaird, Sconser and Torrin on Skye, and has pledged to maximise natural carbon capture on the land, with the active involvement of local communities.

'All across the globe, alarm bells are ringing over the climate emergency and the ex-



Tanera Mor, Summer Isles - an example of growth when no deer are present.

Photograph: Niall Bervie.

which prevents the natural regeneration and expansion of native woodlands,' added Mike.

'The role of woodland and peatland in capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere cannot be overstated.

'If Scotland is to achieve its climate targets, we must place an emphasis on expanding native woodland and protecting peatlands.

'We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to modernising deer management regulation to address damage to woodlands and peatlands during the lifetime of this parliament.

'In the meantime, the John Muir Trust will ensure the land we look after is playing its full part in combating climate change and aiding nature recovery by significantly increasing deer cull targets.'

tinction of species,' said Mike Daniels, the trust's head of policy and land management.

'Every year, new record temperatures are recorded and in the past few weeks we have seen blistering heatwaves in the United States and catastrophic flooding in Northern Europe.'

The John Muir Trust has a long history of sustainable land management, but the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises demands that all those who manage land need to intensify efforts to meet climate and nature

recovery targets.

Currently, 12m tonnes of CO2 are absorbed by Scotland's forests and woodlands each year.

The trust believes that by reducing deer numbers existing woodlands and peatlands will be protected and allow expanding woodland to absorb even more carbon.

'One of the greatest barriers to achieving healthy living landscapes - capable of removing carbon and supporting a diversity of wildlife species - is the destructive impact of intensive deer grazing pressure,

Popular restaurant closes its doors, saying au revoir to Skye

Management of a popular Skye eatery has blamed Brexit for its temporary closure saying that they 'cannot continue to do our home cooking in such a situation', writes Fiona Scott.

New Creelers Restaurant, right, in Broadford was named as one of the six best seafood restaurants in Scotland by the Herald newspaper earlier this year but after experiencing difficulties in sourcing staff, food, wine and custom from Europe the management team sent the Lochaber Times the following email this week.

'We would like to inform you that we are closed, probably until next year.

'The three main reasons are:
■ It is impossible to find staff, especially a chef. With Brexit we can no longer get work permits for seasonal workers and most British people do not want to work so far from a city.
■ It's impossible to get vegetables from the UK or Europe.



We get onions from Mexico, garlic from China of poor quality, we have to dump more than 50 per cent. European wines take more than a month to be delivered, the customs declarations are too high. In addition, there is currently a bacterium that makes the shellfish unfit for consumption. Even in a shop like the Co-op (Portree, Broadford or Kyle) there are days without vegetables.

■ The significant drop in tourists, especially those from Europe and Asia.

'We apologise for this situation, but we cannot do our home cooking in such a situation.'

We managed to catch up with manager Eric Davet earlier this week who told us that he was in the process of making his way back to his native France and that his business at the New Creelers had been put on hold.

'If they (tourists, activities) don't come back it will be too late,' he told the Lochaber Times, 'I will focus on other restaurants abroad.'



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Motley the macaw swoops in for a view of Glenfinnan

You see a lot of weird and wonderful sights at the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) centre at Glenfinnan, but perhaps none quite so colourful as one recent exotic avian visitor, writes Ribh O'Neill.

Recently, staff and visitors were treated to an appearance by Motley the Macaw, quite possibly the world's most famous Instagram influencer parrot.

Motley – Instagram handle @motleys_adventurez – was on his holidays with owner Chloe Brown.

Chloe, a zoo biology student and part-time employee at The Royal School for the Deaf Derby, hand-reared Motley the harlequin macaw from when he was about 21 weeks old.

Chloe decided to train Motley to fly free without any

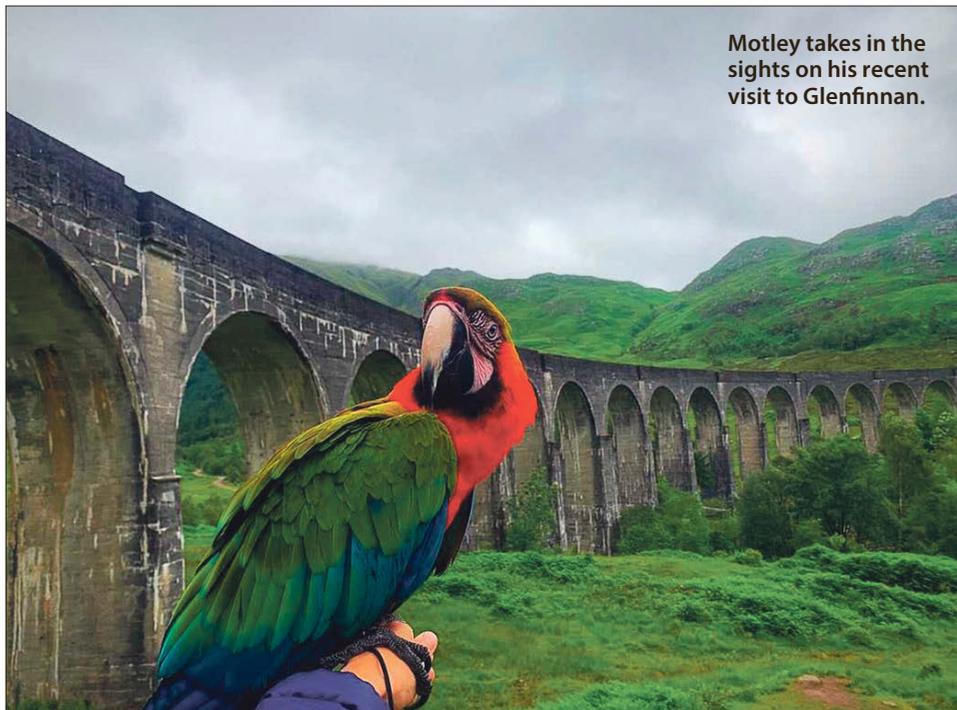
restraints after researching its mental and physical benefits both for owner and bird.

She also strongly believes it is cruel to keep such long-lived birds locked in cages or to clip their wings.

Allowing Motley to do what he was born to do by flying free has also created a strong bond between him and his young owner.

Whilst Motley is on a strict training regime to ensure he can be a top level free flier, on his days off from scouring the Peak District, he goes on adventures with Chloe and his recent trip to the Highlands saw him even canoeing on Loch Tay.

In Glenfinnan visitors are more likely to encounter eagles than majestic macaws, however with the positive public relations success stemming from Motley's visit,



Motley takes in the sights on his recent visit to Glenfinnan.

perhaps the skies over the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, which featured in the Harry Potter films, will soon be filled with brightly coloured parrots rather than eagles or Arthur Weasley's flying Ford Anglia.

When asked for advice about owning a macaw, Chloe opened up about the potential downfalls: 'They're loud, destructive and expensive.'

'Our lives revolve around our birds, we have a whole bedroom for them, along with a netted garden.'

'With Macaws living to around 50 years of age and needing a lot of time, money and effort to look after, perhaps these beautiful birds aren't for everyone.'

'Even so, it's great to live in a world where you can take even the strangest of pets with you on holiday!'

Free ferry travel for young people plea repeated

Free ferry travel should be included for young people after Transport Minister Graeme Dey announced plans to introduce free bus travel for under 22s last week, according to one islands councillor.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of transportation and infrastructure Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'The introduction of free bus travel for under 22s is very welcome.'

'The minister rightly states that 'reducing barriers created by transport costs is one really positive action we can take'.

'So we would strongly suggest, once again, that free travel for under 22s be extended to ferry travel.'

'The minister, again rightly, highlights that 'young people have been disproportionately impacted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic'.

'Don't young people in the islands, who have also been disproportionately impacted, deserve the same consideration as their peers on the mainland? Free bus travel for under 22s in Scotland will begin on January 31 next year.'

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Unfair island delivery charges row rumbles on

Online shoppers in the Outer Hebrides are being discriminated against according to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of sustainable development.

Councillor Donald Crichton has written to Paul Scully MP, minister for small business, consumers and labour markets, regarding delivery surcharges to the islands.

In his letter, he stated: 'As you will be aware online shopping is of particular importance to individuals and communities across the Outer Hebrides.'

'With the Covid-19 pandemic reliance on on-line shopping has grown exponentially across the UK and this is equally true on the islands.'

He pointed out that consumers and small businesses had reaped many benefits from the increase in online sales but the issue of unfair delivery surcharges or no delivery option for the islands had been an on-going problem.

'Claims like 'free delivery' or 'standard UK delivery' prove to be illusory for many online

shopping experiences, leaving island customers aggrieved and frustrated, with a real sense of discrimination,' he added.

'Many customers in the Outer Hebrides have a story to tell about unfair delivery charges.'

'These charges may be £10 or £20 each time but repeated surcharges of this type very quickly add up to create significant detriment to island consumers and small businesses.'

'I appreciate that individuals have some level of potential redress through the processes at www.deliverylaw.uk and www.consumeradvice.scot.

'It would appear unfair, however, that it is the individual consumer that must proactively seek redress rather than the system being organised in such a way as to prevent discriminatory or unfair approaches arising.'

Councillor Crichton asked whether there were any plans being considered to regularise the situation for island communities across the UK.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Growing business activity and confidence

There are welcome signs of recovery in the Scottish economy with the Scottish Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic indicator published this month and the latest survey from the Fraser of Allander Institute both reporting feelings of growing confidence and optimism across the Scottish economy.

According to the Scottish Business Monitor report published this week by the Fraser of Allander Institute, activity has risen in Scotland as the wider economy continues to re-open. It indicates businesses are optimistic about their volume of business, employment levels and turnover over the next six months. For the first time in more than a year, businesses in Scotland can see the first shoots of recovery as COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, according to a quarterly survey by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce

whose Quarterly Economic Indicator for the second quarter of 2021 indicates more positive growth across all sectors surveyed, although 'caution' is still the watchword for many businesses.

Commenting on the report, SCC president Tim Allen said: 'Priority must be given to continuing the provision of targeted financial support where it is needed most and, looking ahead, both governments must create the right environment for businesses to get back on their feet, create jobs and trade successfully again.'

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is part of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce network, Scotland's largest business network with more than 12,000 business members, across a network of 30 regional Chambers of Commerce, providing business support, intelligence and connections.

If you'd like to access the benefits, resources, information and events available to your business in Lochaber, get in touch on membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk

West Coast to host one of the world's most expensive races

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

One of the world's most expensive races, a 'luxury' ultra-marathon costing each competitor £15,499 to enter, will course the wilds of Argyll and Lochaber next April.

Over four days, 40 athletes in the 'Highland Kings Ultra' will run 120 miles and ascend a total of 10,000ft – more than twice the height of Ben Nevis – across the mountains, bogs, woods and sheep tracks of Glencoe, Dalmally, Portavadie and the Isle of Arran.

'The event is set to the stunning backdrop of the Scottish west coast – a fantastic region dotted with islands, lochs, forests, coastal paths and rugged fells. There's no better spot,' avers polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, guest speaker at a gala dinner at the finishing line on Arran.

'The Highland Kings Ultra



The Kings ultra-marathon will be the first of its kind on Scottish soil.

Photograph: Scott Seefeldt/Trashhouse Panda.

is set to be the most exclusive, luxury ultra-run experience on the planet,' explained the organisers, Largs-based Primal Adventures. 'The event will be a true physical challenge for athletes, yet will deliver comfort and luxury rarely associated with endurance events.'

Competitors can 'race like a warrior, recover like a king', travelling in style via speedboat, sleeping in luxury bell tents, eating breakfasts, snacks on course and recovery meals prepared by Michelin star chefs and recharging in lounges with physiotherapist, masseuse and hydrotherapy pools.

The first stage of the race, the 26-mile Dalness to Dalmally leg, begins in Lochaber. 'Surrounded by five Munros and with the breath-taking scenery of Glencoe and Rannoch Moor, and the waters of the adjacent River Etive and

nearby Loch Etive, Dalness is the ideal setting for the start of Highland Kings,' said organisers.

The second day begins in the hilly terrain of Strath of Orchy, covering 32 miles of tracks via the Duncan Ban Monument vantage point of Loch Awe, Glen Shira and the landscaped parkland of Ardkinglas Estate, before stopping at serene Loch Fyne overnight.

The third stage starts at Cairndow and follows a 34-mile route by the Arrochar Alps, Ardgoil, Loch Riddon and Loch Striven, to Portavadie on the Cowal peninsula.

Climbing

The fourth and final day, described as 'hard' and 'very rough' climbing 6,001ft overall, begins with fast rib boats to the Isle of Arran where a 28 mile course awaits, dropping steeply down into Sannox Glen, passing through Glen

Rosa valley, a steep mountain climb to the summit of Goatfell then a last slog through forest to cross the finish line at Dougarie Estate.

Training will begin in October, seven months before the event: 'All runners will receive a specialist training programme, combining content from experts that will be individually designed around each athlete's psychological condition and developmental needs,' said organisers.

Each athlete will receive support from world leading coaches and nutritionists, physiological and sweat composition testing and a pre-programmed factory sealed Garmin MARQ Athlete watch, which will allow frequent performance checks throughout the journey.

Tempted? If you're still swithering, the £15,499 price tag includes VAT.

Fort former Job Centre takes on new role

The former job centre in Fort William's High Street has now been refurbished to provide modern accommodation for a number of the town's organisations, writes Mark Entwistle.

The vintage café run by Nimble Fingers is already a major attraction for other organisations, while Care Lochaber and Lochaber Hope top right, also have accommodation in the Waverley House building.

Lochaber Hope has its additional accommodation in the building's New Connections centre, but still has its base in the Belford Road.

Care Lochaber's Allison



Nimble Fingers is a popular attraction.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

Kane told us: 'We are excited to have the new office space on the High Street and this is going to be a great space to promote the Car Scheme alongside Lochaber Hope and its new venture.

'We were in An Drochiad in Claggan previous to this but have been working from home since the pandemic began.'

Care Lochaber will host another public open day on August 11.



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Housing, hospital, car parks and weeds on menu for community councillors

The Belford Hospital replacement project, housing in Upper Achintore and car parking were all on the agenda for discussion at the recent July meeting of Fort William, Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council.

Community councillors and members of the public attending the meeting, which was held virtually, heard that the first newsletter on the Belford project was in the process of being distributed. All community councillors were urged to forward them on to as many people as possible.

The project team is moving forward with delivering the initial agreement to the Scottish Government by October and the timeframe is presently on track, the meeting heard.

The meeting also discussed the site visit to the Blar Mhor that took place in June with the



The arch at the Craigs cemetery which once stood as the entrance way to the old Fort, but now with weeds growing out of its stonework. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

architects, who are working with West Highland College UHI on a master plan proposal for the site layout and design.

Also discussed was the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group's recent meeting and the planning application for 27 houses, plus the plans for the remaining 325 houses planned

by Link Housing Association. Councillors heard that the complexity and sheer volume of the documentation was felt to be 'extremely difficult to comprehend', and that a large number of concerns had been raised by residents in the area, particularly about potential flooding after completion of

the development. The meeting agreed the community council should acknowledge the need for, and support the principle of, housing at this location.

However, this is the biggest single development to take place in Fort William in more than half a century and as a result both the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group and the community council agreed that both groups should object and request that the council's decision on this project be deferred until the many issues and concerns are addressed.

Also discussed was Forestry Land Scotland's policy on management of its car parks,

especially areas such as North Face and Braveheart car parks and the picnic area site on the A82 alongside Loch Linnhe.

Highland Council staff have said they are replacing the traffic calming island on Lundavra Road, put in to support the 20mph speed limit but which is not working as well as it could, so is being replaced with three cushions (sleeping policemen).

A perceived lack of maintenance of green areas, verges and lanes was also discussed with examples given including the trees, weeds and shrubs growing out of the wall and arch at the Craigs and along the lanes in the town leading from the High Street to Middle Street, especially at the library.

The wall along the front of the former St Mary's school site was described as 'looking awful'.

The picnic site at

Blarmafalach is unfortunately now no longer maintained by the council, the meeting heard, and it would be better being removed.

The meeting wondered if something could be done by the council to request that shop owners weed and clean up the back of their buildings.

The community council said it understood that the Covid pandemic has had an impact but it was agreed that other towns in council area are managing, so why not in Fort William.

'The Town Team is doing a great job but they are volunteers,' recorded the draft minutes. 'The Highland Council resources for maintenance in and around Fort William are inadequate. This is after all the largest town in Highland and an important tourist destination.'

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Morvern pier used to unload timber plant for first time

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Drimnin Timber Transport (DTT) has confirmed its new pier at Auliston Point on Morvern has been used for the first time to bring heavy equipment in to service the three forests in the north-west of the peninsula.

This realises a long-held ambition to avoid transporting such equipment along the single-track section of the A884 and the single-track B849 roads.

Since October last year, DTT has been building 12kms of timber road and a floating pier at Auliston Point, which lies at the entrance to the Sound of Mull opposite Tobermory.

The road has been constructed by DTT on behalf of its members, Mungosdail, Carnacailliche and

Auchnasaul Forests, with support from the Scottish Government's Strategic Timber Transport Scheme.

It will enable 200,000 cubic metres of timber – equivalent to 20,000 trips by truck – to be shipped out over the next 15 years without using the narrow and unsuitable public roads. Timber shipments will begin shortly.

At sunrise on July 23, a landing craft delivered to the pier a large timber

handling machine and timber truck required by JST Services, the company transporting the timber over the new road from forest to pier and operating the floating pier.

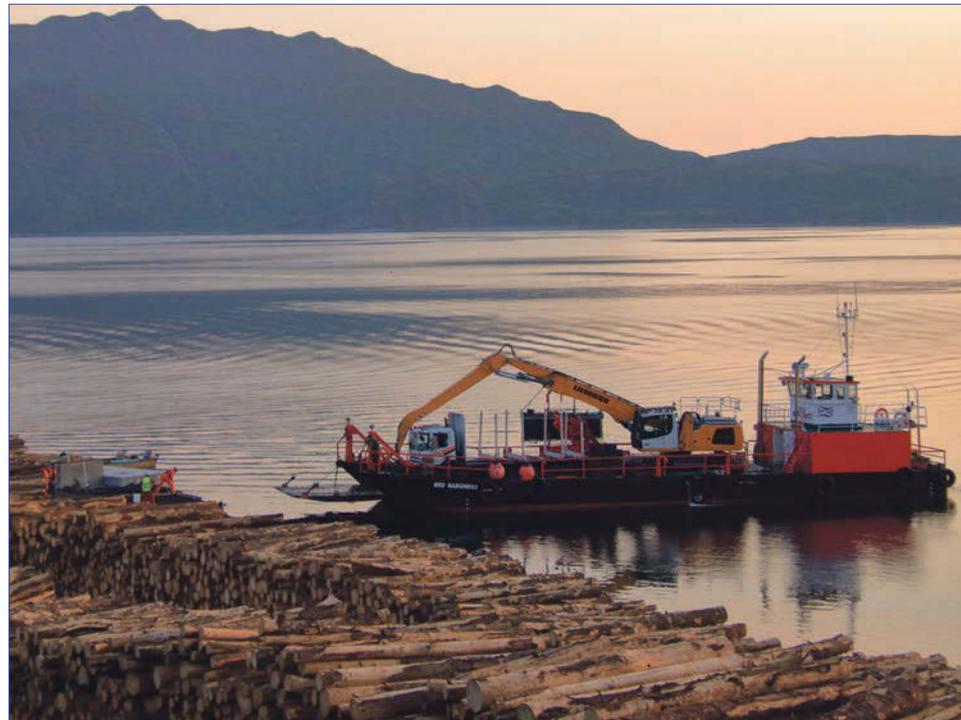
This is the first time it has been possible to bring such equipment into the area other than by using the B849 road. It will enable most heavy

equipment such as timber harvesting and forwarding machines to be brought in by sea.

Derek Lewis, a director of DTT, told the Lochaber Times: 'This represents a major milestone in our efforts to remove the need for heavy forestry and timber traffic to use the B849 and to adopt more environmentally-friendly sea transport.'

'The benefits to the local community and the environment will become increasingly evident as large-scale timber shipments from the pier start in the coming weeks.'

Unloading the timber truck and timber crane at Auliston Point with Ben Hiant in the background.



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Dog owner says search is still on for beloved missing pet, Gizmo

Dog owner Natalie Crawford, from Paisley, has told the Lochaber Times she is still hopeful of finding her missing pet, Gizmo, and that he may have travelled as far as Fort William after vanishing during a walk on a Loch Lomond mountain more than a month ago.

Natalie has spent almost every single day searching for her Staffordshire bull terrier, after the pair got separated when clouds descended on Beinn Ime on Thursday June 17 around 10.30am.

Natalie has left clothes of hers in the area in case three-year-old Gizmo can recognise her scent, installed trail cameras and even contacted the local mountain rescue team which is keeping a watch when it can.

Natalie, who works for the Scottish Ambulance Service, says she will never give up looking for her beloved pet and last week appealed to people in and around Fort William.

A crowdfunding appeal has now raised £2,300 to be given as a reward to anyone who tracks down Gizmo.

Asked if she thought



Natalie with Gizmo.

Gizmo will be found, Natalie told the Lochaber Times: 'I am yes, although it is really difficult to remain so hopeful as time goes on. But his body has been searched and searched for and has not been found yet.'

'So until my worst nightmare comes true then, yes, I still think he will be found or handed back or spotted on a for sale site if someone has taken him. I won't give up on him until I have answers.'

'We are still searching and setting up various trail cameras and lots of hikers are still on the lookout for him. All it takes is just one sighting of him.'

Anyone with any information or possible sightings of Gizmo or who thinks they could help search for him, should call Natalie on 07903 484385.

You can also check for updates via the Facebook page Gizmo missing Beinn Ime.

Kilmallie minister Rory scales Ben Nevis for army charity

Three soldiers, one local minister and a five-day trek on Ben Nevis, saw a tremendous effort in the recent scorching weather to raise money for the Armed Forces' mental health charity Combat Stress, writes Iain Ferguson.

Kilmallie minister Rory MacLeod joined some of his former Army colleagues, Staff Sgt Chris Johnstone, WO1 Wayne Marquis and Sgt Mitchell Jackson – all members of 154 (Scottish) Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps – on the fourth of their five days of fund raising climbs to the top of the Ben and back.

Formed in 1919 as the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society, primarily to help those suffering from 'shell shock', it now assists veterans of more recent conflicts with advice, help, and treatment for mental

health conditions, such as a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Each ascent was successfully completed and the group had the added advantage of being able to enjoy the spectacular views, with none of the usual mist and rain experienced by many travellers on the path to the summit.

Rev MacLeod commented: 'I enjoyed joining them on one trip, but I must have held them back, leaving at 6.15am and returning at 1.35pm. I'm sure that must have been one of their slowest times of the week!'

Kilmallie minister Rory MacLeod, second from left, enjoys the weather on the summit of Ben Nevis with the charity team.

Photograph supplied.



New ideas sought for new housing fund

Funding of £43 million for housing should be used in new ways to reach peripheral communities in the Western Isles.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader Councillor Roddie Mackay says he is keen for the local authority to find ways to invest some of the just-announced £43million of new government housing cash in affordable housing where demand may not be apparent through traditional mechanisms.

The Scottish Government recently confirmed the Resource Planning Assumption (RPA) for 2021-2026 which will see the £43m investment being made available for the comhairle area.

This builds on the previous allocation of £25m over the past three years, which saw more 120 new homes being completed and over 150 currently in development.

The new allocation is expected to make a significant contribution to the provision of affordable homes, and to the economy.

The comhairle has met with its main delivery

Leader calls for ways to invest in remote communities

partner, Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP), and representatives from the contracting sector to discuss approaches to the delivery of the programme over the next period.

Councillor MacKay commented: 'I believe innovation and flexibility will, however, be required to address the very specific housing needs in the Outer Hebrides.

'In particular I am keen that we invest in housing that will offer young families a route onto the housing ladder; that will bring empty and under-utilised properties back into productive use; and that will help provide new homes around emerging business opportunities.

'I am keen that we find a way to invest in some of our more peripheral communities where demand may not be apparent through the traditional mechanisms of assessing demand.

'I am hopeful that the Scottish Government will

allow us this flexibility and we will be developing some new approaches and pilots to present to the minister over the next weeks.'

Councillor Kenny John MacLeod, chairman of the Communities and Housing Committee, added: 'The recent announcement of £43m for the Outer Hebrides is excellent news that has the potential to deliver significant numbers of new affordable homes over the next five years.

'The meeting with HHP and the contracting sector was positive about the investment opportunities ahead and there is good commitment to deliver on the opportunity.

'All parties believe, however, that a more flexible approach will be essential to ensure the full £43m allocation is utilised.

'A range of ideas were discussed at the meetings and we will be collating and further developing these to discuss with the Scottish Government.'

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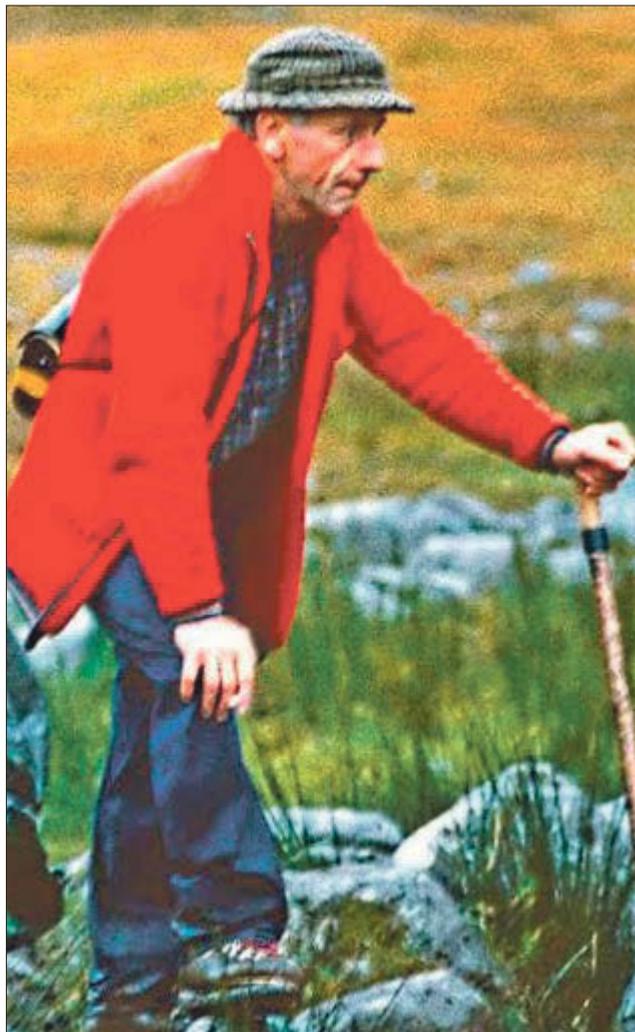
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LT



Walter Elliot.

Walter Elliot of Glencoe, 1930-2021

This month saw the passing of the last of the indigenous shepherds of Glencoe and Glen Etive, with the death of Walter Elliot of Achnabeich.

A gathering of close family and friends attended at Achnabeich, Mr Elliot's home for 91 years, for his funeral recently.

Among the mourners were members, past and present, of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team of which Mr Elliot had been a member, and it was fitting that it was team members who carried his coffin down the road for the last journey to the bridge, where piper John McCallum played *The Sons of Glencoe and Mist Covered Mountains*.

The funeral cortege then drove down the old road, through Glencoe village and Ballachulish before making the final journey to Kilmonivaig at Spean Bridge, where the Elliot family are interred.

There follows an appreciation of Mr Elliot's life:

Walter Elliot, 1930-2021

Walter Elliot lived his life in a manner of his own choosing; he lived where he wanted, he lived at his time, at his pace and he made his own decisions.

At the end, he left by the same principles; he left from his own

home, he left quietly without fuss – knowing that it was his time.

You may think this is a description of a rather inconsiderate man. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Walter gave his life to the service of two enduring features of this part of the West Highlands. Firstly, he served the land and secondly, he served those people who made the use of this land.

Born in 1930 Walter came to a time when big changes were coming to the Scottish glens and hills.

For the first time, people from the cities had transport, some money and spare time and this led them out to explore lands which were new to them.

Some came simply to look at the scenery, some learned to ski, some walked and some climbed.

As the numbers of people going up the hills increased rapidly, so too did the numbers coming back down – quite often a lot faster than intended.

Still only a schoolboy, Walter rapidly acquired his knowledge of the hill and, under the guidance of his father and support of his brother Willie, became involved in the business of mountain rescue.

There would be fatalities – a hard task for a young man – but Walter took it in his stride.

There would be people who were injured, people who were lost, people who were frightened.

The circumstances did not really matter to Walter – he simply answered their call for help. He did not judge or blame. He did not lecture foolish people (well – perhaps just a little bit now and again).

But, most importantly, he asked for neither thanks nor recognition. He just did it. This was his life.



Members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team carry his coffin from his home in the village.

Almost certainly to his immense embarrassment Walter's work and commitment to rescue was indeed formally recognised in 1968 with the award of a British Empire Medal for his services to Scottish mountain rescue.

Some people at that time – and even today – feel that he should have received an award of higher status.

It didn't put Walter up nor down – 'Oh it's just a shiny bit of metal in a box!'

You could have given Walter a knighthood or elevated him to the House of Lords – it didn't change Walter.

As time went on Walter's knowledge of the land became quite outstanding. He learned everything – forgot nothing.

Nowadays it would be referred to as 'proactive land management and development' or some other stupid name.

But, to Walter, it was simply a matter of getting the best out of the land without damaging it.

Sheep were very much to the fore and right up to his last few days Walter still tended to sheep at the house.

He tended to them every day, preparing extra feed when necessary, checking their condition, bringing them in closer at night.

And, all the while guarding them against the greatest enemy. No – not foxes – but over enthusiastic tourists. Walter did not like them.

Walter had a keen eye with a gun and was a first-class marksman.

He made full use of the stalker's greatest skill – patience. Last year, on his 90th birthday a small group of us took Walter to Isle of Eriska hotel for lunch and a bit of clay pigeon shooting.

I have to confess I was a little concerned on how he would

handle a shotgun at his age. Not a bit of it! Bang! Smash! Bang! Smash! With a glint in his eye Walter turned round – 'Oh, not too bad then!' Then came turns for the rest of us – let's just leave it at that!

The home at Achnabeich was a place for hard work – but there was always a place for relaxation and time off. It was especially enjoyed by the new generation of the younger children.

Rae, Sandy and Mairi spent a huge part of their young years here – school holidays and regular weekends. There was a welcome place, too, for the next oncoming generation – Mary, Cameron and Billy who loved the house and looked on Walter with great affection and high regard.

In the most recent time, Walter was clearly quite taken with little Ella, his great-great-niece.

Walter taught respect for the land and also respect for yourself and those around you.

You did not ask for help and if you were properly prepared, you did not need it.

Walter's philosophy on life was to do things for yourself – that's what made you a true individual.

The social side of Achnabeich was almost legendary. To visit at New Year was really an experience when the house was open to, quite literally, hundreds of visitors over the period of two or three days.

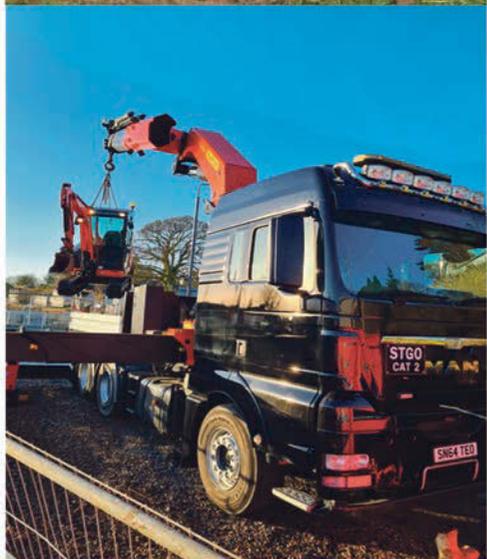
For so much of the time it really was 'standing room only'. It is particularly hard for us here today to accept that these days are gone.

We may be tempted to say now that Walter has gone – but think of this – long after we are all gone and forgotten Walter Elliot's impact on this land will remain. It will remain here for a very long time.

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Mental Health Matters



NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

When you get a message from the person you are meeting to interview saying 'sorry, I'm running a few minutes late. I got distracted by mushrooms!' and they appear brandishing a gift of a tiny bottle of larch cordial, and a wide basket worn across themselves inviting you to venture forth with them into the woodland, you know you are in the company of a forager.

I met up with Ardgour resident and wild food aficionado Lucy Cooke to learn a few tips about gathering your food free and how foraging is great for physical and mental health.

Our walk through the ancient Ariundle Oakwoods may not have been as high octane and adrenaline filled as hunters and stalkers searching for food, but as gatherers it was no less exciting or filled with watchful progress, detective work in looking for clues and still netted us bounty in the shape of a basket filled with fungi, leaves and berries.

Unlike deer stalking or bird shoots I have tagged along with in the past, there was also no requirement to be quiet for fear of scaring off our prey.

Chanterelles and blaeberrys rarely move faster than you do once you have spotted them.

Lucy combines her passion for foraging with her post as a development officer for Kinlochleven Community Trust and is involved in various wild food and foraging events and experiences locally.

Having grown up in rural Shropshire where bramble picking was part of childhood late summer-time, Lucy is a self-taught forager who explains that there is often more detective work at play in identifying wild food than simply checking a picture in a book.

As she darts off the path to pluck a stunning looking fungi holding it aloft and showing me how the underside of it turns from beige to blue as she touches it, almost like an instant bruise, she confidently identified it by appearance, behaviour and location, as true to its name – birch bolete, it is growing beneath a birch tree.

This particular mushroom is only edible once cooked but as I shamefacedly admit that I don't actually like mushrooms anyway, Lucy assures me I am a forager's dream accomplice as it means she does not need to share her haul.

She stops again whipping out a special knife to cut a small amount



Lucy Cooke shows some of her foraging haul to correspondent Nic Goddard.

of chanterelle mushrooms before spotting a prize patch of blaeberrys. This is a find I am more than happy to sample.

Lucy explains how gathering wild food, which is available in every season of the year and in all of the different habitats we enjoy here in

Lochaber – from coastal salt marshes, to woodlands to mountainsides – is a real boost to mental wellbeing.

The very act of being outside, getting fresh air, gentle exercise and exchanging greetings with people you walk past is known to improve our mental health, but the slowed down mindfulness and connectivity to nature which foragers depend on to find their treasure adds an extra dimension to that time outside.

Understanding the brief and transient nature of wild food, knowing the perfect combination of weather, temperature, time of year, location and conditions ticks boxes in learning new skills, connecting to the outdoors, remembering that just like the perfect season for gathering elderflowers will pass and return, it is also important to leave part of any crop behind, to share with others whether they are birds, pollinators, fellow foragers, mammals or simply your future self as your return later in the season to gather elderberries.

Being able to look forward to the coming seasons and know that there is always more and better to come is a good motto for life.

Of course eating lovely fresh

produce, rich in flavours along with vitamins and often packed with beneficial physical health properties, offers yet another benefit.

There is definitely a sociable aspect to gathering wild food, too, if you want that, whether it is heading out with someone else of a different height to you (my children were excellent foraging buddies when they were small, often finding low hanging bounty that others had missed), or friendly competition to see who has gathered the most.

However, foraging should always be approached with care – never pick or eat anything you are not sure of, make sure you are adhering to guidelines about access, never damage paths, plants or property, and never take more than half of what you find to make sure there is plenty left behind.

There are many wild foraging walks, courses, books and events happening where you can learn more.

Based on Lucy's groaning basket of finds when we said goodbye at the end of our walk, I can highly recommend getting in touch with her to find out more too.

Write to Thewildcooke@gmail.com for more information.

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LETTERS

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Town digs deep for club

What an incredible effort by all those who pledged or gave cash that will help bring Claggan Park football pitch up to scratch so the Fort William team can play its league and cup home games on their own turf.

After finding out they needed around £17,000 to £20,000 to get the work done, within hours of the problem being shared on social media, £24,000 had been donated or pledged.

Local businesses have been at the heart of this effort, either donating cash and/or their time and skills.

And this bodes well, as the pitch and other facilities at the club will need maintained or improved.

The generosity and community spirit in the town, and among those connected with the town, should make everyone proud.

Congratulations!

We were delighted to hear of the marriage of our local MSP Kate Forbes to her fiancé, Alasdair (Ali) MacLennan in Dingwall last Thursday.

We wish the happy couple every blessing as they begin their married life together.

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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Buried treasure in Taynuilt

This summer, people in Taynuilt have been amazed and delighted by the miraculous appearance of swathes of wild flowers such as the Bluebell of Scotland which sprang up all around Muckairn church.

A vision of beauty to glorify God and lift the spirits in these troubled times.

A kirk elder cut paths through them so that they could be enjoyed without being trampled.

Jesus said: 'Consider the flowers of the fields. Solomon in all his splendour was not attired like one of these.'

Sadly some think these are not fitting surroundings for the final resting place of the folk of the village.

Now it is all mown before it can set seed. The grave stones stand stark above bare grass with rotting cut clumps lying about and the possible addition of trickles of weed killer.

Beauty in the eye of the beholder?

Muckairn church elder.

Looking after our young

We need to make sure that the young – and the very young – get through this pandemic.

In our country is a health system designed to look after the mainstream of health problems – and which mainly affect the old. We still see young people dying and afflicted with disabling conditions, developed before the pandemic, and now, a increasing health toll divide is emerging in the next generation.

S. Read, Ardrishaig.

Sunday service

One can't help but notice the plethora of problems that has plagued CalMac ferries over the past few years. We've heard it all – repair problems, technical glitches, major breakdown, unexpected overhaul, complex mechanical difficulties, mounting disruptions, travel chaos, harbour crash – the list of hitches is endless.

While the continuing ferry debacle on the Islands has become a big joke, it is plainly evident that no one is laughing. Happy smiles, once seen at ports on both sides of the Minch, have suddenly turned into despair and disappointment – and anger too.

Indisputable evidence shows that CalMac has been affected by a sea of sorrows ever since it began Hebridean sailings on Sunday, the Lord's Day. Their unwise decision to introduce Sabbath sailings has brought them nothing but endless problems and eye-watering bills. The

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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'S tric a chluinnear an seanfhacal mun a h-uile latha a bhith na latha-sgoile, agus saoilidh mi gum bheil an abairt fìor ann an iomadach dòigh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an seòrsa foghlaim a tha ga theagasg ann an sgoiltean cudromach dhuinn uile mar bhunait fiosrachaidh beatha agus cosnaidh, ach tha uimhir de sgilean a ghabhas ionnsachadh taobh a-mach seòmraichean-sgoile cuideachd a dh'fhaodas a bhith deatamach. Gu cinnteach dh'fhaodte comas snàmh a mheas mar aon de na sgilean sin. Ged a rinn mi oidhirp, feumaidh mi aideachadh nach do dh'ionnsaich mi fhìn snàmh ceart riamh, agus tha sin na thàmailt a dh'fhaodainn a leasachadh furasta gu leòr nam feuchainn. Ach tha sin, mar a tha a' mhòr-chuid de chomasan, fada nas fhasa greimeachadh air nuair a tha neach òg agus chuirinn mo làn-thaice ris an iomairt a th' air nochdadh bho chionn ghoirid ag iarraidh snàmh a bhith air a theagasg anns na sgoiltean. Dh'èirich an t-iaratas sin ri linn nan tubaistean muladach a chunnacas feadh na dùthcha far an deach na h-uimhir a bhàthadh is iad air an tàladh dhan uisge an àm teas samhraidh, agus tha e smaointeachail da-rìribh ionnsachadh na bheil gan call anns an uisge gach bliadhna.

'S iomadh duine a th' air iongnadh a nochdadh thar nam bliadhnaichean mu cho beag de mharaichean a dhèanadh snàmh ged a bha iad a' toirt an cosnaidh aig muir, agus bha sin fìor am measg Ghàidheil agus eileanaich cuideachd.

Bhiodh m' athair ag innse dhuinn mar a b' fheudar dha fhèin snàmh ionnsachadh nuair a thilg a bhràithrean a bu shine e gu ruige na glumaig aibhne sam biodh iad a' cluich! Cha d' fhuair sinne snàmh ionnsachadh idir, agus theagamh gur e eagal a bh' air ar màthair gun èireadh dunach dhuinn anns a' mhuir oir cha robh an còrr àite dham faodamaid feuchainn.

Mun àm a bha mise faisg air crìochnachadh san àrd-sgoil bha a' Bhean-phòsta Magaidh Weir a' tadhal air bun-sgoiltean an Eilein Sgitheanaich gus lùth-chleasachd a thoirt dhan chloinn. Bha ise làidir na beachd air cho cudromach 's a bha comas snàmh agus chaidh aice air amar canabhais fhaotainn bhon Chomhairle agus bhiodh seo a' siubhal an Eilein ann a' bhan bheag agus ga chur suas aig sgoil mu seach ach am faigheadh a' chlann snàmh ionnsachadh. Aig an àm bha cuid a sgoiltean a' faotainn uisge à tobraichean agus uaireannan bheireadh e latha neo dhà a' lìonadh an amair tro phìob! Mo mhìle beannachd air "Cailleach Weir", cha robh duine riamh na b' airidh air an urram MBE a fhuair i airson a cuid strì gus amar-snàmh fhaotainn anns an Eilean. Thug i a' mhòr-chuid den airgead a bha i air a chur mu seach, airson dachaigh a cheannach, dha iomairt an amair sin agus bha i a' fuireach ann an carabhan! 'S iongantach mur do shàbhail na sgilean a thug i dha na bha sin de chloinn beatha neo dhà thar nam bliadhnaichean, abair teisteanas!

financial results have proved to be a massive loss, not a gain.

Yes, CalMac have found out, to their bitter cost, there is a heavy price to pay when we violate God's law and ignore His commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.' They fail to appreciate, as a wise Divine once said, that, 'The Sabbath is God's special present to the working man, and one of its chief objects is to prolong his life and preserve efficient his working tone. The savings bank of human existence is the weekly Sabbath.'

The Sunday opening of any door for worldly purposes, whether on land or on sea, does not bring great gain and greater profit. As the words of an old rhyme reminds us: 'A Sabbath well spent brings a week of content, and strength

for the toils of the tomorrow; But a Sabbath profaned whatever may be gained, is a certain forerunner of sorrow.' Just ask CalMac, and they will say 'Amen'.

Mr Donald J Morrison, Inverness.

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DISTRICT NEWS

LOCHABER



Eco bikes are the way forward says Lochaber group

A project aimed at helping the people of Lochaber manage their carbon footprint by making everyday changes has been powering ahead.

Funded by the Climate Challenge Fund, Low Carbon Lochaber is a Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) project.

Transport is a key part of the project and the group have been running an electric bike share scheme in Fort William as well as an e-bike library.

Emma Walters, LRG environmental development officer (travel), explained: 'Making the shift from short car journeys to cycling can make a big change to your carbon emissions but we recognise that this can be an expensive lifestyle change.'

'For longer, hilly journeys or for people who are injured or who no longer feel fit enough to travel by bicycle regularly an e-bike can make all the difference. E-bikes can be charged at home; you just plug them in to a domestic plug, and can easily be parked in a shed or garage.'

'If you think you would like to try one out before making the commitment to buy Lochaber Environmental Group has five bikes available to borrow.'

'The fleet consists of a Trek Powerfly 4 (mountain bike style), two Raleigh Motus, a Trek verve and a Raleigh Centros.'

'The bikes are available for short and long loans and all we ask is that you keep a travel diary so we can record the carbon offset of your journeys for our funders.'

In addition to the power-assisted bikes the group has recently purchased some accessories for young families to borrow if they are considering travelling by bicycle with children and babies and want to 'try before they buy'.

'We have a trailer, two rear-mounted children's seats, a tag-along bike and a towhee, which converts a child's bike into a tag-along,' added Emma.

To borrow any of these items from the library email info@lochaberenviron.org.uk.

LEG are having an E-bike taster ride on Tuesday, August 24. Location An Drochaid (meet at car park). Email info@lochaberenviron.org.uk for more information.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Low Carbon Lochaber project can read more on the website at lochaberenviron.org.uk

FORT WILLIAM



Portillo steams ahead

TV presenter Michael Portillo joined the passengers and crew of the Jacobite steam train in Fort William as part of his new series on Coastal Railways. He also visited Oban to take a look at the dedicated bicycle carriages and spent time in Mallaig looking at its long history with the West Coast Line. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

KYLE

Lifeboat called to 77-year-old injured kayaker

Kyle lifeboat was called out last week after a kayaker fell and suffered a suspected broken hip on Guillamon Island off Broadford Bay.

FORT WILLIAM



The cast delight their audience from their open air stage. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Scottish Opera pops up at Nevis Centre

The Nevis Centre is now open for business and recently hosted its first event since lockdown, with a performance by Scottish Opera – in the car park.

Two of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-known and well-loved productions of HMS Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance featured in the mini pop-up opera performed by a small cast of a storyteller, two singers, two instrumentalists – and a sumptuous set of specially created illustrations.

A total of 90 people formed the socially-distanced audiences for a spectacular afternoon of entertainment in the bright sunshine with 30-minute potted performances of the best tongue twisting tunes which are the trademarks of Gilbert and Sullivan.

In a novel twist, a narrator gave a brief

outline of the plot in a cleverly written script explaining the characters and their relationships before they took their place centre stage.

A Little Bit of HMS Pinafore: Aboard the ship HMS Pinafore, Josephine, the captain's daughter, is in love with one of the crew. Her father definitely doesn't approve. Overturning social order and parental wishes alike, the couple plan to elope.

A Little Bit of The Pirates of Penzance: A young man bound by an overactive sense of duty, a soft-hearted pirate king with a hopeless band of rogues at his side, a beautiful young girl, a very modern major-general and an ineffectual bevy of policemen add a plot hinging on the technicalities of having a birthday on February 29.

The kayaker was part of a group who were exploring the area and decided to go ashore on the island last Tuesday. The woman was climbing out of her kayak when she slipped and fell, injuring her hip badly.

The lifeboat arrived on scene at 1.15pm and put two crew members ashore to give first aid. The crew assessed the injured woman's condition

before making her as comfortable as possible.

She was then transferred onto a stretcher and carried to the lifeboat. The lifeboat made its way to Broadford where an ambulance was waiting to transport her to hospital.

The injured woman was handed over to the Scottish Ambulance Service at 2.30pm and the lifeboat returned to Kyle.

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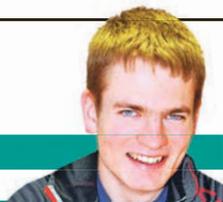
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Robert in lockdown

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



This week is quite an exciting one for Tide Lines for two reasons.

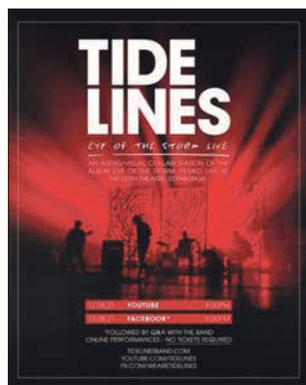
First of all, we're heading down to Hampshire for only our second live gig in a year and a half.

On Thursday evening, we'll be playing as part of a fantastic line up at Wickham Festival, which (over three days) includes headliners such as Van Morrison, Deacon Blue, and Fairport Convention, as well as plenty Scottish acts like Capercaillie, Eddi Reader, The Peatbog Faeries, Talisk, Duncan Chisholm, Mánran, Peat and Diesel, and Skerryvore.

As I've said so many times before in this column, for all musicians who pretty much exist to perform live, it will be a huge relief to get back on stage.

We had the pleasure of playing a couple of months ago in Glasgow Green for the Euro Fanzone and I'll never forget how great it was just to meet up with other bands backstage for the first time in so long and all share the joy of getting back out doing what we love to do.

I dare say it will be exactly the same down in Hampshire on Thursday although hope-



fully without the disastrous Scottish weather we were treated to that day in Glasgow. It is so exciting that there are signs live music is back on the horizon and I can't wait to get back touring fully.

Never again will I complain about an early sound check, a poorly equipped motorway service station, or a leaky tent at a rainy festival. I have missed every aspect of gigging so much.

Until restrictions lift fully, though, online events will remain a huge part of the music industry - which brings me on to the second reason I'm having a great week.

The other thing we are doing this week is announcing Eye of the Storm Live - an audio/

visual collaboration of our last album - filmed at Leith Theatre, Edinburgh.

This is a performance that is available to view for free on Facebook on August 12 and YouTube on August 13. Although there is no live audience at this show, it is nevertheless extremely satisfying that all the material from Eye of the Storm will finally be played live virtually.

The album was released in May 2020, in the depth of lockdown, and the traditional route of getting people to hear the material through live tours has been closed to us ever since.

Things are beginning to open up, of course, as evidenced by the fact we have a gig this week, but this online event is still a unique chance to play the album from top to bottom and we're very grateful for it.

We're also hosting an online question and answer session straight after the second night so it will be great to be able to chat with fans from around the world albeit via a computer screen. Hopefully it won't be too long before we see more of them in the flesh. This Thursday's gig in Hampshire is a good start!

Music society hosts first concert back in cathedral

This Saturday Oban Music Society hosts its first concert back in St John's Cathedral in the town since the beginning of the pandemic.

The evening concert, on August 7 at 7pm, welcomes back violinist Gina McCormack, who last performed in the cathedral as leader of the Brodsky Quartet, playing alongside pianist Nigel Clayton, both pictured right.

The programme features Mendelssohn Sonata in F, Amy Beach Romance and the Faure Sonata.

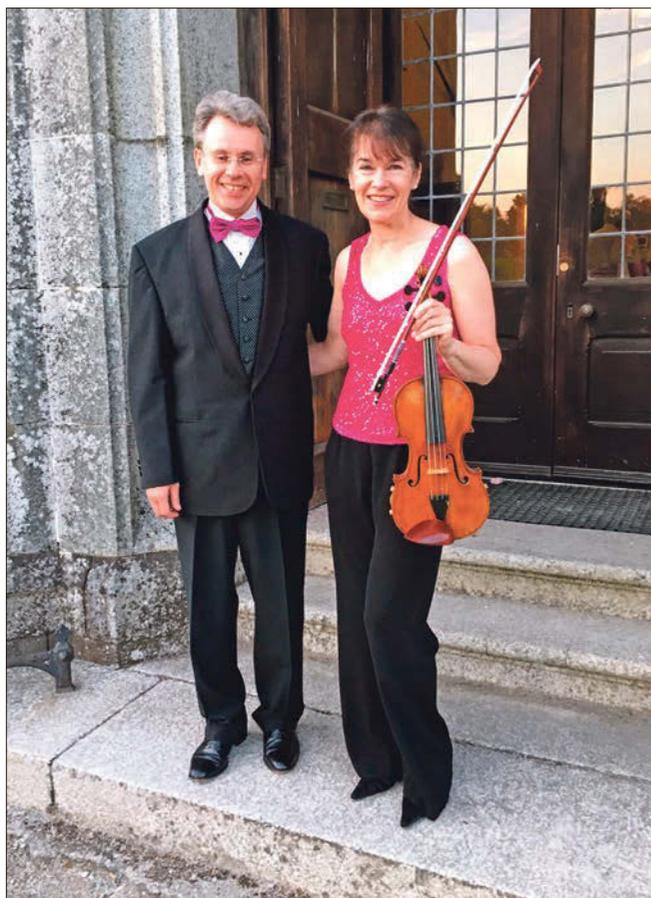
Tickets will be on the door at £10.

Arrangements at the cathedral will be different at the moment due to current Covid rules.

The concert will be only an hour long, and there will be no interval or refreshments.

Those attending can choose to be in areas with one-metre or two-metre social distancing.

There will be no toilet facilities except for emergencies.



HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 6TH - THUR 12TH AUGUST



FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

MONDAY 9TH AUGUST

Spirit Untamed (U) *Bairns at the Box Office: 11am.*
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST

Highlands From The Air (U) 12:30pm.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm. Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm.
The Suicide Squad (15) 1pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

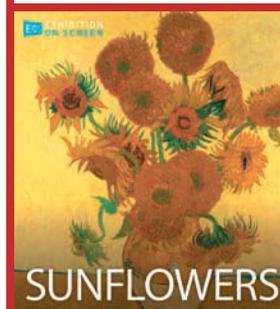
WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

THURSDAY 12TH AUGUST

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am.
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.
Spirit Untamed (U) 1:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm + 7:15pm.

COMING SOON!



SUNDAY 15 AUGUST



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PRINCE OF MUCK
THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 6PM

HERE TODAY
WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST, 7PM

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LT

Shinty round up

There were plenty talking points following the shinty action on Saturday July 31.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – second round Northern Section Skye Camanachd 0 Lovat 2, after extra time

It took extra time to separate Skye Camanachd and Lovat in their 3pm throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye were missing Will Cowie and Martin Pringle, but Ross Gordon and John Gillies returned. Lovat's only notable absentee was Martin Mainland and they started with Lorne MacKay at centre, flanked by Drew Howie and Lewis Tawse.

Lovat had the better of the first half, but Skye were on top after the re-start.

Both goalkeepers were key with Skye's Ryan Morrison keeping out a Greg Matheson piledriver with his face, whilst Lovat's Stuart MacDonald made an outstanding double stop to deny Jordan Murchison then William MacKinnon.

Skye claimed a Sam MacPhee free-hit had come off a Lovat stick before being allowed to enter the Lovat net but the referee waved away their claims.

The goals that made the difference were both good strikes from Lorne MacKay on 110 and 114 minutes. The first came following a Lovat hit-in on the left whilst the second was a smart drive from the right.

Lovat now go through to play 2019 Camanachd Cup finalists Oban Camanachd in the quarter finals.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – first round Kinlochshiel 8 Lochaber 0

Kinlochshiel were too strong for Lochaber, recording a resounding 8-0 triumph in their 3pm throw-up at Rèaraig.

John MacRae got onto David Falconer's long ball down the left before beating keeper Calum MacDonald at his near post on 12 minutes. Keith MacRae doubled their advantage with a shot from the right which deceived the goalie, creeping in at his near post on 20 minutes.

John MacRae got his second on 36 minutes. MacRae was left of centre when the ball broke out to him and he fizzed a shot over the keeper.

Jordan Fraser sent a penalty low to the keeper's right on 40 minutes to make it 4-0 at the break.

Jordan Fraser then went on a scoring spree, getting his second on the hour. Donald Nixon's long ball into the 'D' wasn't dealt with and Fraser touched the into the net.



Craig Ritchie, Newtonmore, left, and Fraser Munro of Kingussie in action in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup second round tie at the Dell on Saturday. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

It was Jordan Fraser again on 70 minutes, driving the ball home from around the penalty spot, and he took his tally to four just four minutes later when he was left unmarked in front of goal and forced the ball home at the second attempt.

There was no respite for Lochaber and Finlay D MacRae made it 8-0 with a couple of minutes remaining. Duncan 'DA' MacRae and Jordan Fraser combined on the left to set up the youngster, who was unmarked at the front of the 'D', and he swept the ball home on his backhand.

Kinlochshiel play their Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-final tie against Lovat at Blairbeg on Wednesday August 4. Kingussie await the winners in the semis.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – second round Kingussie 3 Newtonmore 1

Kingussie beat Newtonmore for the third time this month, winning 3-1 at the Dell.

Ruaridh Anderson gave Kingussie an early lead. Calum Grant found James Falconer wide on the right. Falconer sent the ball low into the danger area and Anderson won a challenge before running in to score.

Roddy Young made it 2-0 on 58 minutes, netting following a corner on the right.

Steven MacDonald converted from the penalty spot on 82 minutes to give Newtonmore hope. However, Ruaridh Anderson scored the goal of the match with four minutes to go when he produced a sublime turn to out-fox his marker on the left before finishing well.

**Mowi Senior League A
Kilmallie 3 Glenurquhart 0**
Kilmallie scored three first half goals to see off Glenurquhart at Canal Parks.

Daniel Stewart returned

from injury for the hosts, with Steven Stewart serving the second match of a two-game ban. Under 17 player Dylan Monk kept his place in the side following a fine performance the previous week and joined a backline of Robbie MacFadyen, Frankie Innes and Innes Blackhall at buckshee back with all four outstanding throughout.

Lewis Birrell scored the opener on 19 minutes, firing a bouncing shot through a host of players on his left side with the ball going past an unsighted Stuart MacKintosh in the Glenurquhart goal.

It was Lewis Birrell again with a great effort on 28 minutes when he sent the ball high into the net after some nice one-touch shinty.

There was a melee on 31 minutes and when the ball broke to Craig MacIsaac on the left and his low shot deceived the keeper.

The one down-side for Kilmallie was captain Innes Blackhall's red card with 10 minutes remaining. Blackhall was ordered off by referee Alex MacVicar following a challenge, with Kilmallie dis-

puting the call. Blackhall faces a long period on the sidelines as he was already due to start a two-game suspension for a disciplinary points accumulation.

Kilmallie don't have fixture this Saturday so their next match is against Kingussie in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup.

Speaking afterwards, Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart said: 'It was a good performance. Lewis [Birrell] never misses the target and Michael [Rodger] was pulling the strings up front. Our defence were terrific throughout and that gave us something to build on. It's frustrating not to have a game this Saturday but I'll go and watch Kingussie ahead of our cup tie.

'We've lost Innes [Blackhall] so Robbie MacFadyen will take over the captaincy for the remainder of the season.'

It's been a good week for Kilmallie as they have also signed former Lochaber player Stuart Callison. Martin Stewart added: 'Stuart approached us at the start of last week and he's already looking great in training. He's an important addition, especially



Liam Symonds, Caberfeidh, battles with Ross Forbes, Beaulieu, in their Mowi Senior League B match played at Castle Leod at the weekend. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

with Calum MacDougall out injured, and he will play his part as we are building something good here.'

Mowi Senior League B Caberfeidh 3 Beaulieu 4

Caberfeidh's match with Beaulieu was played on Friday July 30 2021 with a 7pm throw-up.

Caberfeidh's Liam Symonds was free to play ahead of a one-match ban for a points accumulation. The influential Blair Morrison was still out, whilst Scott Mclauchlan continued in attack.

Beaulieu placed their trust in a forward line of Ryan MacKay, Jack MacDonald, Robbie Brindle and Ross Forbes.

It took a penalty shoot-out to separate the sides in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup a couple of weeks earlier before Beaulieu went through and this was another close encounter.

Beaulieu hit the front with Robbie Brindle scoring after five minutes and Jack MacDonald made it 2-0 after 35 minutes.

Kevin Bartlett pulled a goal back a couple of minutes later and Craig Morrison levelled the contest on 40 minutes.

David MacLean scored three minutes later to give Beaulieu a 3-2 advantage at the break.

Caberfeidh bounced back with Craig Morrison getting his second five minutes after the re-start to make it 3-3.

However, David MacLean made the difference with what proved to be the winning goal on 57 minutes.

There were no goals during the last half-hour and Beaulieu did just enough to deserve the win, extending their recent good run.

HIS Sutherland Cup – second round Section 3 Kinlochshiel 3 Skye Camanachd 0

The Kinlochshiel colts scored three times in the second half to beat the Skye Camanachd colts 3-0 in their noon throw-up at Rèaraig.

Skye travelled with just 13 players so a couple of early injuries left them up against it.

Kinlochshiel youngster Archie MacRae scored twice on 67 and 89 minutes, either side of Lewis MacVicar's 74 minute effort.

Kinlochshiel now travel to holders Lochside Rovers in the next round.

**Mowi North League A
Lochcarron 2 Fort William 2**
Lochcarron came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with the Fort William second team at Battery Park.

Fort William's Greg Kelly netted on three minutes with Cameron Stevens making it 2-0 on 35 minutes. Niall Arnott pulled a goal back four minutes before half-time.

And it remained 2-1 until a

minute from time when veteran Gregor Cushnie popped up to secure Lochcarron's first point of the season.

Mowi North League B Inverness 1 Kingussie 2

The Kingussie second team were 2-1 winners against the Inverness first team at the Bught Park.

Dylan Borthwick gave Kingussie the lead on seven minutes and Bobby Russell made it 2-0 on 16 minutes. Iain Hunter halved the deficit on 79 minutes but Kingussie ran out winners.

Lovat 1 Newtonmore 1

The Newtonmore seconds dropped their first point of the season, drawing 1-1 with the Lovat seconds at Balgate

Tristan Ross rounded the keeper to score on 15 minutes but a brilliant swerving Raymond Rennie shot from 30 yards went into the top corner of the net to equalise.

Caberfeidh 4 Glenurquhart 0
The Caberfeidh colts beat the Glenurquhart colts 4-0 at Castle Leod.

The match remained goalless until three minutes before the break when Ruaridh MacLeman continued his good scoring run. It was Ruaridh MacLeman again on 53 minutes before Kyle Grant made it 3-0 on 60 minutes.

Ruaridh MacLeman completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes from time.

Mowi North League C Strathspey Camanachd P Aberdeen University P

The meeting between Aberdeen University and Strathspey Camanachd was reversed to Grantown Grammar School.

However, the pitch failed a Friday inspection so the match was postponed.

Strathglass 3 Inverness 3

The match between the Strathglass colts and the Inverness colts at Cannich was brought forward to Friday July 30 with a 7pm throw-up.

Robbie Stokes put Strathglass ahead on seven minutes but a Gavin Butler own goal a minute later made it 1-1.

Things looked good for Inverness when Ruairidh Hughes put them ahead on 26 minutes and Iain Hunter made it 3-1 on 51 minutes.

But the match finished 3-3 as veteran Darren Reid earned the hosts a point with late strikes on 71 and 88 minutes.

Mowi Central League Lochaber 0 Glenorchy 4

Glenorchy were 4-0 winners against the Lochaber seconds at Spean Bridge.

Connor Sartain put the visitors ahead in the opening minute and added a second on seven minutes.

It was a good afternoon for Sartain as he completed his hat-trick on 66 minutes with Ciaran MacKay making it 4-0 on 82 minutes.

Ex-pat shinty players sought for capital gains



Above: London Camanachd players: George Mead, Ardnamurchan, left, James Livingstone, Dalmally, second left, and Fionn Ó Súilleabháin, right hand. Above right: Fort William's Matt Casey who holds the club record for the most goals scored in a game, 10 in a 14-1 victory.

A shinty club based in the UK capital have been making their mark in the English League and are looking for relocated Highland players to help them build their club.

London Camanachd was established in 1894 when a team was set up for players from the Highlands working in London. Since then it has grown to welcome those who played at university or college in Scotland and those who want to try the ancient sport for the first time.

James Livingstone, from Dalmally, and George Mead, Ardnamurchan, are currently part of the squad which trains at Clapham Common. Fort William's Matt Casey holds the club record for the most goals scored in a game, 10 in a 14-1 victory.

Club chairman Fionn Ó Súilleabháin, who formerly played for Dunoon said: 'London Camanachd is the only shinty club in London and one of three areas in England you can play shinty.'

'We train most Sunday afternoons and have recently expanded to involve two sites across the city: Blackheath in the east and Northfields in the west.'

'Players of all abilities are welcome and we have opportunities for games and training at beginner and advanced levels.'

Recently the London team set off to Bristol to start the defence of their English League title and came away with a 4-1 victory against Bristol Camanachd. On August 21, the team will face a strong Oxford side at Wormwood Scrubs before hosting the much acclaimed London Shinty Festival in Greenford on September 3.

'If you are looking to try a new sport or to return to shinty we are training at Clapham Common at 3pm on August 7. Equipment is provided and more details can be found on our social media pages,' added Fionn.

Although shinty has been noted as being played in England since the 1820s, London Camanachd was founded in 1892 through a merger of two previous London teams - London Northern Counties and London Scots.

Members of this club varied from aristocracy to merchants to soldiers who had found themselves in London. Among its notable early fixtures was a match against London GAA in the first shinty-hurling clash, which it lost 0-3. Three players from Inverary, J Lawson, D Thompson and H MacVicar, were involved, while the rest were from either Inverness-shire or the islands.

The club entered the



George Mead from Ardnamurchan is also the only caman maker in the history of London Camanachd and exports many to Scotland.

Camanachd Cup in the late 1920s and were drawn against North Bute twice, though it appears they conceded these games as the club started to wind down in the 1930s with lack of new players coming in.

Following a rebirth in the 1980s, London Camanachd



had their most successful era against Scottish clubs, getting to the quarter final of the Camanachd Cup in 1984, winning the Skeabost Horn in 1985 and reaching the semis of the Balliemore and Bullough cups the same year.

'Apparently from oral record, Kilmory came down to play London during this time,' added Fionn.

'Our club archives have no record of opposition or matches so we would be delighted if any of your readers could inform/correct our records.'

In early November 1992, Oban Celtic played the Brian Boru team of London, which shared many players with London Camanachd. Oban won 2-0. In 1994, the club beat a Mull team 11-0 before losing to Strachur 0-2. The club once again wound down in 1995. In 2004, the club was restarted by Graham Love and entered the Bullough Cup, beating Aberdeen in their first game. In 2007 it won the Rosedene Shield which they lost to Kilmory 2-5 in 2008. In 2019 London Camanachd won the Fingal Shield.

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Mallaig's Pawel king of the mountains after completing UK Big 3

A Polish athlete living in Mallaig has completed one of Britain's most demanding endurance challenges, claiming to be the first from his country to do so.

Pawel Cymbalista ran the UK Big 3 mountain rounds, which covers 187 miles, 113 mountain summits and 83,000ft of ascent, in under 12 months and each in a sub 24 hour time.

The Lochaber Athletic Club member has trained for many years in Glen Nevis and Glenfinnan and when lockdown struck in March 2020 decided to focus his training on the Big 3 Challenge.

'It is a huge personal achievement for me. From running local hills to completing The UK Big 3,' he told the Lochaber Times.

Each round is an ultra-distance classic in its own right and Pawel's adventures began in August 2020 in Lochaber.

Named after the first man to complete it, the Charlie Ramsay Round, also known as the Scottish Classical Round, took Pawel to 24 mountain tops, including Ben Nevis. The route is 90km long with 8,534m total ascent. Pawel completed the round in 23 hours and 17 minutes.

In May this year, Pawel switched his attention to Wales where he completed the Paddy Buckley Round, 98 kms long,

8,534m total ascent over 47 mountain tops, in 22 hours 48 minutes. And on July 18, the Challenge was completed when Pawel conquered the Bob Graham Round, 97kms long, 8,229m total ascent and 42 mountain tops in the Lake District. He completed this round in 21 hours 43 minutes and was met in Keswick by his proud wife Ashley, who was unable to attend the first two due to having to stay at home and look after their daughters Maiya, 10, and Freya, three.

Pawel, who works for Mowi's harvest station in Mallaig, said: 'It was absolutely amazing to have her there.'

Pawel had plenty other support during each round with a large team making sure all he had to focus on was the run.

'You have to make sure people are in the right place at the right time which makes it even a bigger challenge,' he added.

Pawel thanks Scott Brown, Ross Coles, Jim Loudon, Markus Mertens, Helen Smith, Corrina Mertens (Scotland); Andy Gibbons, John Parkin, Steve Rhodes, David Taylor, Warren Renkel, Sally Parkin (Wales); Adam Armata, Andrew Jackson, Steve Rhodes, Ross Coles, Ian Oldham, David Taylor, John Parkin, Maria and his wife Ashley (England) for all their support.



Pawel and wife Ashley celebrate his completion of the UK Big 3 in Keswick.

Fraserburgh fire four past Fort

Continued from page 48.

penalty when Jamie McConnell brought down the Fraserburgh striker. Garry Harris stepped up to add his second and Fraserburgh's third to further dampen the Fort's spirits. And only six minutes later the job was complete for Fraserburgh with a well worked goal and a great finish from Harris completing his hat-trick (4-0).

Speaking after the match, club captain Danny Mackintosh said: 'It was a difficult afternoon for the lads. We have a very young squad and some key players missing

so we knew it was going to be tough. Four-nil wasn't the result we wanted but I'm proud of the boys as they fought right until the final whistle. Each week we are learning more and more and becoming a stronger outfit.

'Unfortunately the news earlier in the week is gutting we but we have to deal with it and we will use this as motivation to give our club the fans and something to be proud of this season.'

Fort's next game is away to Fortmartine United on Saturday.



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Youngsters enjoy summer football

Football is fun and for everyone, as demonstrated by primary school age children who went along to Canal Parks in Caol recently as part of Highlife Highland Active Schools' Get Into Summer' programme of activities.

South Lochaber Thistle (SLT) Football Club manager Alan Gray and first team player Fraser Clark, helped in Caol by Jason Findlay, led the activities.

Alan and his team have also been running sessions in Mallaig and Kinlochleven, where SLT committee member Albie Robertson gave a hand.

Every session proved popular with many children taking advantage of the good weather to get outdoors and on to the playing fields.

Strontian is the next destination for the footballing fun, while many other organised activities take place across the area.

For more photographs visit www.lochaber-times.co.uk



Young players enjoyed practising their skills in the sunshine. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fraserburgh fire four past Fort

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Fraserburgh | 4 |
| Fort William | 0 |
| Highland League | |

Saturday's trip to Fraserburgh marked the end of a dramatic week for Fort William Football Club with defeat to Rothes followed by the bombshell news that all of the club's Highland League and Cup games had to be played away from Claggan Park, writes Ally Rowantree.

Focused on putting the news behind them, Fort manager Ashley Hollyer named a much-changed starting 11 at Bellslea Park, with Alexander White captaining the side as club captain Danny MacKintosh could only make the bench after picking up a thigh injury.

A few other key players were missing or only able to make the bench. Play got under way after a minute's silence was observed in memory of Rothes Football Club Secretary Garry Davies.

Fraserburgh took the lead after 20 minutes when Garry Harris slotted home past Fort keeper Kulbacki. Scott Barbour doubled the lead for the home side and sent Fort William into the changing rooms 2-0 behind at half time.

With 61 minutes played, Fort William conceded a harsh

Continued on page 47.

On the run to success

On the weekend the Olympic Games opened in Tokyo, members of Lochaber Athletics Club were racing to glory in Inverness.

Callum Fraser won the UHI Inverness 5K Open, one of two top class road races which sees runners battle it out over four and a half laps of the UHI grounds.

Callum Fraser, having completed the Dollar Hill race six days' previously, led from the start, followed by runners from Cambuslang Harriers and Peterhead. He finished in an impressive personal best of 16 minutes 57 seconds.

Callum said the short power races were also good strength building for hill running.

Equally impressive was

Lochaber junior section's Fraser Anderson who came tenth, improving by three minutes on his previous 5k best with a time of 18.32. Racing over a different type of event will give him good experience at this level.

It was a busy weekend for the juniors as two also participated in the last open graded track and field meeting of the season on the all-weather track in Inverness. Angus Davies made his 800 metres track debut. He was in second place after the first lap and finished the race in fourth place in two minutes 52 seconds. Angus also debuted in the high jump with a leap of one metre 25cm and jumped 3.94 and near his personal best in the long jump.

Maddison MacMillan was third in the 200m and improved on her personal best time with 31.1 seconds. This followed a time of 14.9 in the 100m. Maddison completed the afternoon with fourth place in the long jump with 3m 45cm, just below her personal best. Although the North District track and field championships were cancelled due to Covid restrictions, Elgin Athletics Club has organised a North Area Trophy event at the end of September in Inverness which will effectively be an area championship. Lochaber youngsters are encouraged to take part to gain experience of track and field and to compete against athletes from other clubs.



Above left: Callum Fraser powers his way into first place in the UHI Inverness Campus Open 5km race. Above right: Fraser Anderson took three minutes off his previous 5K best time.



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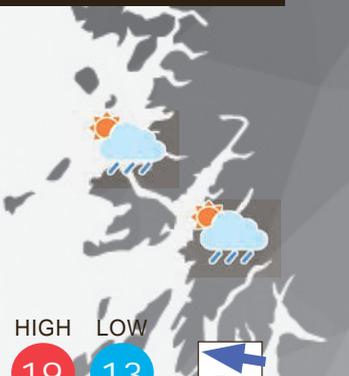
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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 5 August, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 5 | 0349 3.1 0945 1.6 TH 1558 3.2 2240 1.7 | 7 | 0513 3.5 1112 1.1 SA 1720 3.6 2353 1.3 | 9 | 0027 1.1 0628 3.7 M 1223 0.8 1833 3.9 | 11 | 0137 0.9 0729 3.7 W 1333 0.6 1937 3.9 |
| 6 | 0432 3.3 1032 1.4 F 1641 3.4 2318 1.5 | 8 | 0552 3.6 1149 0.9 SU 1758 3.8 | 10 | 0102 1.0 0700 3.7 TU 1258 0.7 1905 4.0 | 12 | 0210 0.9 0800 3.6 TH 1411 0.7 2012 3.9 |

| FORT WILLIAM WEATHER | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| Light rain showers and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 18°C. | Light rain showers and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 19°C. | Light rain showers and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 18°C. | Light rain showers and a gentle breeze Temperatures 12°C to 17°C. |

FRIDAY FORECAST



| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Ardrishaig | -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 19 LOW 13 7 MPH