

Land and forestry career focus - page 19

INSIDE THIS WEEK: Spotlight on Inveraray feature



Friends prepare to follow in the footsteps of Rob Roy in aid of charity.

● FULL STORY PAGE 9

CATAMARAN PLAN SINKS

Scottish Government rules out purchase of new vessel for Mull



Mull and Iona islanders have called for the First Minister of Scotland to visit the islands after the Scottish Transport Minister Graeme Day refused to sanction the purchase of a new boat for Mull, despite a summer of chaos across Scotland's ageing ferry network.

Mull and Iona Ferry Committee (MIFC) has also called for Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), the Scottish Government-run ferry procurement company, to publish its own report into the potential purchase of a catamaran that a team of naval architects at Strathclyde University found would be one of the safest in CalMac's fleet.

Joe Reade, chairman of the MIFC, said: 'We believe it is now time for the First Minister to come to Mull and Iona to hear directly from islanders and get to grips with the complete shambles engulfing Scotland's lifeline ferry network.'

'Politicians and officials in Edinburgh

MV Pentalina undertaking berthing trials at Craignure Pier on Mull in June this year. MV Pentalina was designed by the same company who created the proposed Mull catamaran, and is of similar size.

Photograph courtesy of Mull and Iona Ferry Committee.

seem to be looking the other way, whilst we desperately try to tell them what the problems are and how to fix them. It's a slow moving car crash. The system is bordering on the dysfunctional.

'There is an ideal vessel available on the market right now, but CMAL seems to be too arrogant and incompetent to take advantage of the opportunity. But even worse than that, they seem to be deliberately obstructing this much-needed vessel in the most shocking and scandalous manner that shows only contempt for islanders.'

Continued on page 2.



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OT

Tobermory pupils continue to excel

Pupil grades at Tobermory High School have shown a year-on-year increase – including a 100 per cent Advanced Higher pass rate – for the second year in a row.

The school's National 5 pass rate increased from 92 per cent in 2020 to 94.6 per cent in 2021, while the Higher pass rate went from 96.9 per cent to 97.3 per cent.

Head teacher Richard Gawthrop told The Oban Times: 'I am delighted with these results which reflect the exceptional effort that has been put in by the pupils and the whole staff team. I thank everyone involved in supporting the pupils to help them achieve these results. I would also like to wish all of our leavers the very best of luck as they move onto a range of positive destinations. It has been a pleasure to welcome back all the students this week and see-

ing them so keen to continue their learning journey.

At Oban High School, the Higher pass rate decreased slightly from 87.5 per cent to 87.4 per cent.

The National 5 pass rate went from 84.3 per cent in 2020 to 82.4 per cent this year, while the Advanced Higher rate went from 97.3 per cent to 89.8 per cent.

Three High School saw its Higher pass rate increase, from 60 per cent in 2020 to 78.6 per cent in 2021. The National 5 rate went from 90.6 per cent to 72.5 per cent, while for the second year in a row, the school presented no candidates at Advanced Higher level.

All three schools retained their 100 per cent pass rate at National 4 level, which applied to all 10 council secondary schools in Argyll and Bute for the fifth year in a row.

The council's 10 secondary

schools returned pass rates above the national average when results were released last week.

A school-by-school breakdown of results was made available for a virtual meeting of the authority's community services committee yesterday, August 25.

For the second year running, the exam diet did not take place due to the pandemic, with grades awarded based on teacher estimates and previous evidence.

Council executive director Douglas Hendry said in the report: 'The council received Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) awards for all pupils entered for formal qualifications in session 2020/21 in August 2021.

'This provided comprehensive information on the outcome of the alternative certification model performance

for all pupils across each of the ten Argyll and Bute secondary schools.'

Following the cancellation of the formal SQA examination diet due to Covid-19, schools submitted provisional results relating to each presentation and level made on behalf of each young person.

The report presents an update to elected members on the authority and school outcomes at National 4 (pass only) and at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher awards (A-C) and (A-D) based on provisional results as outlined above.

Mr Hendry added: 'The 2021 presentation pass rates at school and authority level cannot be used for comparison with previous years' outcomes as the method of awarding grades is completely different.

'Our young people have the opportunity to be presented at different levels throughout their chosen senior phase pathway.

'This means a young person can undertake subjects at different levels of qualifications therefore, the outcomes include young people across S4, S5 and S6.'

September to remember as Oban Pride sets date



The Oban Pride team are all set to welcome you back.

Oban Pride organisers have released a date for this year's event and although there will be no grand march, the team has activities for everyone.

Following some hard work behind the scenes, the LGBTQ+ organisation has announced Oban Pride 2021 will take place on Saturday September 25.

Chairman Phill Dexter told The Oban Times: 'This will not be in the full format we hoped to deliver but we are delighted we can deliver any sort of event at all.'

So what can you expect from Oban Pride 2021?

'Well we are still planning on having our Stall Village

and our Family Zone and Youth Zone are being planned to provide activities for all ages. We will also have some fabulous live entertainment on our Rainbow Stage.'

All of the activities will be free, however, donations are welcome. The Stall Village, Family and Youth Zones are on a first come first served basis.

Pre-booked free tickets for the Rainbow Stage will be available.

'The Oban Pride committee has made the decision with very heavy hearts not to have a Pride March in 2021 but look forward to having one in 2022,' added Phill.

Catamaran plan sinks

Continued from page one.

CMAL has since defended its position saying its in-house naval architects and a third party naval architect firm both identified dozens of elements in the catamaran that did not comply with Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) requirements for a passenger certificate.

'We are acutely aware of the need to replace vessels in the fleet and we have commenced an ambitious plan of vessel replacement as part of a £587 million investment to cover vessels and harbours over the next five years,' said a CMAL spokesperson.

'In addition, we are actively searching the global market for second-hand tonnage to provide more immediate relief to the service.

'If this new-build catamaran was a viable solution, we would pull out all the stops to make the purchase happen. Unfortunately, the vessel is

not compliant with the strict standards required to operate in the UK.

'We have spent considerable time and resources over the course of a year assessing the vessel and engaging with the seller of the catamaran to address the modifications required to meet UK compliance and secure a passenger certificate. We were unable to secure assurances from the seller that these requirements would be met. As a public body, we simply cannot spend millions of pounds of taxpayers' money on a new-build vessel that may not be able to secure a passenger certificate and therefore never be able to operate on Scottish routes.'

Transport Scotland also assured members of the ferry committee and the island communities that the decision against pursuing the vessel has not been taken lightly.

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'There has

been a lack of confidence in the vessel's suitability from the outset of this process, but we are confident CMAL has given it the appropriate level of due consideration given the strong feelings from the community on the issue.

'We are actively exploring opportunities for chartering additional tonnage and looking at other credible, affordable and viable options to improve resilience. We would urge the committee to continue to work with Transport Scotland, CalMac and CMAL as we progress the MV Isle of Mull Replacement Programme.'

In its full account of events which have been published on its website, MIFC allege a catalogue of failings by CMAL in the handling of the potential purchase.

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Lerags Glen gears up for Kilbride Bell bronze pour

Preparations are in full swing for the casting of the replica Kilbride Bell this Saturday, August 28.

The procession will leave Cologin at 2.30pm, led by young piping stars Gregor MacDonald and Robin MacDougall, who will parade the original bell which was found at Dunollie.

The bell will be ceremonially welcomed at the entrance to Historic Kilbride by Madam Morag MacDougall, Chief of the Clan, and the Reverend Dugald Cameron.

Celebrated sculptor Irene Gunston will then give a practical explanation of the ancient art of bronze casting, while the furnace warms to the necessary temperature to pour the molten metal.

There will be limited parking at Historic Kilbride for those with limited mobility, but those attending may want to have lunch at the Barn Bar so that they can join the procession down the hill to Kilbride.

Dunbeg safety appeal

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Residents of a new complex in Dunbeg are appealing to their housing provider to do something about the health and safety issues they have reported before someone is seriously injured or worse.

Calls for West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) to step up and fix the ongoing problems came after a lamppost fell over in Stewart Way on Saturday August 14, as children were playing in the street beside it.

Claire MacDonald, whose 11-year-old son was involved in a road traffic incident on the same street recently, is just one of several concerned parents.

'It's a lovely place to live but if someone doesn't listen to us and come and fix these problems, we are afraid something awful is going to happen,' she told The Oban Times.

That something nearly did on Saturday when the lamppost toppled slowly to the ground. Claire's son witnessed it while

another younger child got himself underneath it and tried to push it back up again.

Another resident said that the lamppost had been listing since a works vehicle reversed into it some time ago.

West Highland Housing Association say the lamppost was hit firstly 'by a sub-contractor then made safe by another sub-contractor then hit again by a car a couple of weekends ago'.

A spokesperson added: 'The main contractor has made it safe and cordoned it off so it is lying on the ground. The sub-contractors insurers have been given a quote and the main contractor is waiting to hear from the insurers to accept the quote and it will be repaired once it has been agreed.'

In July, Claire and her partner Kenny Ahmed blamed the new-style 'pedestrianised' road in part for their son's accident and feel it is partly to blame for this latest incident too.

'If the pavement had been raised the van probably



The fallen lamppost, which has since been cordoned off, at Stewart Way was hit twice by motor vehicles according to the housing association responsible for the area.

take time for people to get used to the different open spaces but it has been designed in accordance with the Designing Streets criteria set out as a requirement of the Scottish Government who have contributed substantial funding to the new development.'

In addition, residents say the lampposts haven't been installed at the correct depth with the arrowed indicators on the bottom appearing well above the ground. 'Streetlights in Young Crescent haven't even got lamps at the top of them, leaving residents there in darkness,' added another tenant while the playpark is still lacking a rubbish bin that we were promised weeks ago.'

The housing association spokesperson said they weren't aware of anyone within WHHA confirming bins would be provided and that no bins had been proposed for the play areas as emptying bins added to the service charges of residents and that they hoped people would take rubbish home to dispose of it.

wouldn't have hit the post in the first place,' she said.

She and Kenny, along with other parents in the neighbourhood, say they have asked WHHA to fit gates at the end of the alleyways between houses to make it difficult for younger children to run out onto the road. They say the design of the area at the front of their houses makes it unclear to youngsters and confusing for motorists as to where the road starts and

the pavement ends. WHHA say: 'The play area is designed as an integral play space within the development and does not require a gate according to the design guides.'

'The access to the play area is quite remote from vehicle spaces and we are erecting signage to encourage vehicle drivers to drive slowly within the shared spaces.'

'This is a new layout for residents in this area and it will

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

By the time you read this, it will be the day of the 150th Argyllshire Gathering - and that's quite something to celebrate.

Well done to those organising it for pulling everything together in such difficult circumstances.

I've always enjoyed Games Day, with the march up to the field the thing I look forward to most. I love hearing the pipers in the distance and the swell in volume as they get closer, with the crowds following behind.

Over the last few years, Joe and I have been on George Street with the brochures for the Games which has been really good fun, meeting all the people who have come to the town especially for the Games and from almost every country you can think of. Their enthusiasm and excitement is really contagious.

It's amazing how looking at things through another person's eyes can alter how you see it. What we take for granted in Oban, the beautiful bay and scenery,

WHERE IS THIS?



the distillery and castle are things others get so excited about and luckily enough in my job I get to see things through fresh eyes every day.

Lots of events are restarting at the moment to great excitement. I've been to a quiz in the Lorne which was great fun, I have tickets for a few things coming up in the Corran Halls and I've now got the bingo in aid of the Dove Centre to look forward to. After so long with nothing to look forward to, there is a danger I'll soon have something on every night of the week.

Last week's photograph was of the Lady Avenel at the pontoons. This week might be a bit trickier.

Police call time on Oban park pests

Drinking and anti-social behaviour in and around play-parks will not be tolerated say the council and police.

Recent complaints about noise, drinking and mess at public spaces on weekdays and weekends have led to Oban police stepping up patrols in affected areas while the local authority says the lack of prohibitive notices is no defence for breaking bylaws.

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie said: 'We are committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities to keep people safe.'

'As a result of recent complaints, we are stepping up patrols whilst linking in with partners in an effort to provide additional measures to prevent and deter such activities.'

Oban residents fed up with the late night shenanigans told



Mess left behind by late night drinkers is blighting Oban beauty spots.

The Oban Times: 'We complain so much about the terrible things the tourists do, but the locals are not blameless.'

'Every weekend since the start of lockdown and some weekdays there have been youths partying at some playparks. We don't mind the young people gathering to socialise but when they were breaking lockdown to do so, getting drunk and being so loud they were waking younger children trying to sleep in their own homes it gets a bit much.'

'It often goes on until after midnight and once until 3am.' What residents mind more than anything, however, is the mess that is left behind.

'Why should we have to clear

up after them the next morning, time after time they say.'

'Dog walkers are good about taking something away with them, but why should we have to do this? If we didn't, these much-used areas would not impress our visitors.'

Concerns were also raised over the lack of signs warning that there are park bylaws which prohibit alcohol consumption and that this could lead the offenders to believe what they are doing is okay.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Police Scotland have powers to disperse groups displaying anti-social behaviour. This can be reported by phoning 101. Concerns about littering

can be reported to the council on our website: Report It (argyll-bute.gov.uk)

'It shall be no defence in proceedings against a person for an offence under these bylaws that the council has not erected signs giving notice of the effect of the bylaws.'

Details of areas covered by the council's public drinking bylaws are available on the website Public drinking bylaws (argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Chief Inspector Baillie added: 'We are acutely aware of the upset that any form of anti-social behaviour can have in our communities. I would ask anyone who is aware of such an incident occurring to contact Police Scotland on 101.'

Hope Kitchen celebrates volunteers



Oban's Hope Kitchen held a volunteer celebration evening on Monday August 23 to mark the success of its winners in the TSI Volunteer of the Year Awards, Alan MacDougall and Aidan MacLeod, and to say thank you to all of the centre's volunteers for their continued hard work and support. Beth Campbell, of Hope Kitchen, said: 'We could not manage without them.'



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Two divers treated for decompression sickness

Oban's recompression chamber was called into action on Friday night after two divers were treated for decompression sickness.

On Friday night at 7pm, a diver was flown to Aberdeen for treatment in the hyperbaric chamber at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after suffering decompression sickness at Lochaline. Divers suffering from decompression sickness on the west coast of Scotland are usually treated at Tritonia Scientific's Oban recompression chamber.

However, on this occasion, the Oban chamber had just started treating another diver, who had also been diving at Lochaline. That treatment had just started when the second emergency call was received.

Recompression therapy can take between five and eight hours to complete so there would have been a considerable delay before the next diver could have been treated. Because of this, the decision was taken to transfer the second diver to Aberdeen by helicopter.

Dr Martin Sayer, managing director of the Oban centre, explained: 'Scotland is unique in operating a national co-ordinated service for the emergency recompression of divers.'

'There are three NHS-registered hyperbaric chambers in Scotland - Oban, Orkney and Aberdeen - and they work together, managing where divers are taken to and how they are best treated.'

In this case, because the Oban chamber was already occupied, it made sense to transfer the second diver to Aberdeen.

'It has been busy for diver emergencies on the west coast this year and this is the second time a diver has been transferred to Aberdeen because the Oban chamber was full.'

'Transfers do also occur in the opposite direction and divers have been diverted to Oban previously because the Aberdeen unit was busy.'



Tritonia Scientific's Recompression Chamber at Dunstaffnage Marina.

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Appeal as Covid case numbers keep rising

Members of the public across Highland and Argyll and Bute are being urged to remain cautious and continue to be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19 as new confirmed cases for last week came close to hitting 600; 193 of these confirmed on Thursday August 19.

The cases are widespread across all of the NHS Highland area with Oban, Fort William, and the Isle of Bute are seeing particularly high rates.

Pippa Milne, chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'Argyll and Bute communities and businesses have worked incredibly hard to keep infection levels low. The rise in cases is a reminder to continue to be vigilant.'

'From self-isolating to getting vaccinated and volunteering for testing, even if you don't have any symptoms, we all

Public urged to remain cautious

have a part to play. By working together, we will keep infection rates low and enjoy life beyond Level 0.'

Health chiefs say there is no single situation driving the numbers up with sustained community transmission explaining the increase in cases.

As well as being vigilant for symptoms, members of the public are also being asked to remain cautious and minimise contacts during this period of high levels. Dr Tim Allison, Director of Public Health for



Pippa Milne, chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council.

regular testing using LFD tests when you have no symptoms and, when invited, please come forward to get vaccinated. All of these will help us keep COVID numbers down.'

Dr Allison also asked that communities remain vigilant for symptoms. Typical symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or fever and a loss of, or change in, normal taste or smell. However, people with COVID-19 can present with a range of symptoms including headache, sore muscles and joints, tiredness, sore throat, cold-like symptoms and diarrhoea and vomiting.

'Communities should remain vigilant. We do have a higher number of people in the area at the moment which is to be expected but I would really urge caution,' added Dr Allison.

NHS Highland, said: 'Whilst the number of people being admitted to hospital is lower than previous waves, the impact of Covid-19 on those affected, their families, schools and businesses remains significant.

There are still lots of things we can all do to help limit the spread even though many of the previous restrictions have eased. Wearing face masks when inside or in crowded areas, regular hand washing,

Dalmally Bear off to Tokyo on Paralympic mission

A special Dalmally teddy bear has travelled to Tokyo on an important mission.

Tokyo Bear, who was hand-crafted by Argyll artists Liz Gaffney-Whaite and Andrea Scott, is the mascot of the Irish Equestrian Team at the Paralympics, which begin in Japan this week.

The bear was commissioned for the team by Liz's sister Rosemary Gaffney, a dressage rider who will make her Paralympic debut later this week. He is one of the family of Book Cover Bears, oatmeal and green colour collector's items made using traditional skills.

'Tokyo Bear takes his responsibility as team mascot very seriously,' said Liz, 'and he has been doing his best to support and encourage the horses, riders and the rest of the team through the nerve-wracking last few days before their events. We will be cheering Rosemary, Mona and our Tokyo Bear on every step of the way. It's been a long journey for all of them and we're so excited to see what happens next.'

Tokyo Bear wears a smart horse-riding jacket, decorated with the green, white and orange Irish flag, and wears a tiny hat, with flowers in Irish



Rosemary Gaffney introduces Tokyo Bear to the team.

colours, and a matching tie pin. He even has his own felted horse, named Hope.

He travelled from Argyll to Ireland and with Rosemary and her horses has been in many countries. Tokyo Bear reports on their adventures via The Book Cover Bears social media pages.

Rosemary is a professional horse-woman and trainer who has ridden since childhood, and has fought back from two separate serious falls which damaged her legs and threatened her career. Having been a reserve for the Paralympics in 2012 and 2016, she won selection this year and will compete in the IV para-dressage grade.

Back in Argyll, Tokyo Bear's friends in the Bear Room at Heartfelt Studio in Dalmally Station are hard at work preparing flags, bunting and cake to mark the occasion.

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It's third time lucky f

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Participants at Mull Fiddle Week could finally celebrate getting back together this month after the event had been postponed twice due to Covid.

Mull Fiddle Week, funded by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, aims to immerse young people in the energy and spirit of traditional fiddle music. It was open to players of all abilities from Argyll and Bute, and attracted more than 30 participants.

The main fiddle programme was based in venues around Tobermory and was led by some of Scotland's finest fiddle players – Patsy Reid, Adam Sutherland, Daniel Thorpe and Vanessa Edwards, who travelled up from Lancaster to join the team. Also

taking part in Mull Fiddle Week was a group of young aspiring musicians, who all gained places on a mentoring programme led by Patsy Reid.

Emily Goan, one of the trainees from Innelllan, Argyll said: 'I had an absolutely fantastic week at Mull Fiddle Week and I have left feeling absolutely inspired to keep teaching. All of the tutors were patient, encouraging, helpful and supportive, as well as fantastic musicians. It was so great to be able to work with all of them and see their often very different teaching styles. I feel that I took something different from each of them.'

Another trainee, Lucy Houston from Ardnamurchan, said: 'This was one of the best weeks of my life. It was so much fun and such an incredible learning experience.'

The participants, aged between five and 17, took part in small, focused workshops

learning a traditional repertoire by ear and bowing techniques, musicianship classes experiencing traditional music through movement as well as creative composition classes.

The youngsters all learned parts to tunes such as Jig Runrig, An T-Eilean Muileach and Pinnacle Ridge, all specially arranged by Patsy Reid, which they performed en-masse to delighted passers-by on Tobermory Main St towards the end of the week.

Adam Sutherland, one of the event's leading fiddlers, said: 'You guys created such a great atmosphere for learning. A very happy bunch of young people indeed, all of whom did so well. So many inquisitive young minds. Bravo.'

Also taking place over the water was Mull Fiddle Week's special sister project, Hear My Music, spreading the joy and accessibility of traditional music to people



with learning disabilities. Emily Carr-Martin and Morag Currie, specialist music educators and fiddler players from the Glasgow-based charity, spent each morning running music sessions at the Lochside Centre (formerly the Lochgilphead Resource Centre) as well as working with groups at the Mid-Argyll Youth Development Service and groups in Campbeltown.

Mull Fiddle Week organiser, Laura Mandleberg said: 'The pandemic has hit the vulnerable members in our community the hardest. It was very special to see the amazing work of the Hear My Music team working at the Lochside Centre. Even though we were working apart, we were together through our music-making and working on the same pieces arranged by the wonderful Patsy Reid.'

You can find video clips of



Mull Fiddle Week on the Mull Music Makers' Facebook page.

Organisers were keen to thank the The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for the funding, and to the Western Isles Hotel for gifting

them some venue space. Laura gave a final thanks to 'all of our participants who played their socks off and made us all SO proud.'

Mull Fiddle Week 2022 anyone?'



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Visitors Audrey Baird and her husband were appalled by the mess at Bunessan Pier.

Visitors compelled to act over state of Bunessan Pier

Tourists sailing the West Coast as part of their holiday were so appalled by the state of the area around Mull's Bunessan Pier that they have contacted council officials and the area's MSP to try and get something done about it.

Audrey Baird and her husband came across the mess during an overnight anchor in July and after speaking to locals felt compelled to write to anyone who they thought would listen.

'We were deeply saddened to speak with a number of residents who told us how desperate they were to see their pier and shoreline made safe and clean and how they had struggled with littering, fly-tipping and abuse of the environment at and around the pier for many, many years,' she told The Oban Times.

'Given that we all now know how damaging plastic pollution is for people and marine

animals, it is appalling this pier is being trashed to such an extent.'

Mrs Baird wrote to three councillors, Roddy McCuish, Mary-Jean Devon and Jim Lynch and to Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto.

'I was told the pier is owned by the local authority,' she added.

'One of the local residents said they built a house at Bunessan a few years ago but now they're planning to move out because the environment is so compromised.

'I also understand school children help with community beach cleans and it's upsetting that some irresponsible people don't respect children's basic human right to grow up in an environment that isn't being degraded by mindless polluters.

'All the plastic and polypropylene ropes and other rubbish dumped in our seas

are breaking down into tiny fragments and ending up in the fish we eat. We all need to stand up now and stop people who are creating this vast problem for current and future generations.'

The Oban Times also contacted the three councillors but at the time of writing only Councillor Jim Lynch had responded. He said: 'I have raised the issues highlighted and have contacted officers for an update.'

Jenni Minto MSP said: 'Fly tipping and littering in many different spots across Argyll and Bute has been highlighted with my office.'

'I am raising this specific issue with Pippa Milne, Argyll and Bute Council Chief Executive, but I have also written to the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government to ask for a campaign targeting littering and fly tipping to be started in Argyll and Bute.'

Final call to help walkers raise cash for charity

Friends from Seil and Luig are finalising their training as they prepare to follow in the footsteps of one of Scotland's most famous folklore figures, raising money for charity in the process.

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

'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.

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.

Anyone who would like to donate to their cause can find their justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macmillanmightylander

Lomond School goes from strength to strength

Lomond School is once again celebrating another outstanding SQA performance, reflecting the hard work, determination and dedication of pupils and staff during what has been a challenging year.

The school achieved its highest ever pass rate at Higher and Advanced Higher, far exceeding the national averages of 87.3 per cent and 90.2 per cent. At National 5 the school maintained its pass rate of 98 per cent. Two new records were achieved at Higher with an outstanding 76 per cent A grades and 90 per cent of Higher awards gaining an A or B.

Principal, Mrs Johanna Urquhart, said: 'Given the challenges of the last year and a half, I am thrilled beyond words that our pupils have achieved so highly this academic year in the face of such adversity. I was confident, given the high quality academic and pastoral support

at Lomond that our pupils would achieve the results they so richly deserve.'

Saskia Miller from Oban, who is leaving Lomond School to study Psychology and Sociology at Edinburgh Napier University said: 'I joined Lomond

in S4 and immediately felt part of the family. The smaller class sizes and focus on achievement really helped me to gain an excellent set of results. I enjoyed living in the boarding house and making friends from all over the world, but being able to come home at the weekend meant I could keep in touch with my family and friends in Oban.'

Saskia's mother, Dr Anushka Miller said: 'As parents we are very grateful for what Lomond School has done for Saskia. She really learned how to learn, developed new aspirations and broadened her horizon. She also became very independent and going on to university will be no great shock for her, or us. The fact that the school picked her up on Sundays and brought her back to Oban on Fridays made it much easier to send her to boarding school and still feel like she lived at home. Lomond School was a good choice for Saskia.'

Almost three quarters of all S5 pupils achieved five or more Higher awards, with the pass rate, A-B passes and A passes increasing significantly from last year. Almost 40 per cent of the year gained five or more Highers all at A grade.

In Advanced Highers 70 per cent were achieved at A grade, showing the quality of passes has improved considerably. The S6 cohort leave to join universities as diverse as: the Sorbonne in Paris, University College London, Edinburgh University, University of Glasgow and Glasgow School of Art, studying a range of courses.

Academic Depute, Claire Chisholm said: 'Although extremely impressive, our results only convey a little of what was achieved by Lomond pupils this year. The real story is in the hard work, resilience and adaptability shown by our boarding and day pupils, our parents, and our staff.'

Principal, Mrs Johanna Urquhart, said: 'I am particularly delighted for our departing S6 pupils. They leave Lomond with some record-breaking results, but with so much more besides: they have confidence; life experience and a range of skills and qualities which cannot be measured in SQA terms.'



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Pupils overcome barriers to beat national average

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll and Bute's exam pass rates are again above the national average, official figures have revealed, as pupils across the area celebrate confirmation of their grades.

Final exam results from the Scottish Qualifications Authority were delivered to around 145,000 pupils across Scotland on Tuesday August 10.

The pass rate for National 5 in Argyll and Bute in 2021 was 87.33 per cent, which is 1.5 per cent above the national average, while the Higher figure of 90.15 per cent was 2.9 per cent above the national rate.

The Advanced Higher rate of 91.41 per cent is 1.2 per cent above the Scottish average, while all 10 council-run secondary schools maintained their 100 per cent pass rate at

National 4 level.

The National 5 pass rate for Argyll and Bute is down by 4.5 per cent on the pass rate for the area in 2020, while the Advanced Higher rate has fallen by 4.48 per cent.

The Higher rate has seen a very small year-on-year decrease of 0.33 per cent.

Tuesday's confirmation of pupils' grades follows the publication of provisional results earlier this summer.

For the second year in a row, the exam diet was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with teacher estimates and previous evidence forming the basis for grades awarded.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, pictured, policy lead for



education, praised the achievements of pupils.

'Congratulations to each and every one of our senior pupils,' she said. 'I never cease to be amazed by the talent and ability shown by our young people here in Argyll and Bute.'

'The last 18 months have been a difficult and uncertain time for everyone but our young people, with the support of their parents and teachers, have overcome any barriers and continued to work hard to achieve success. Their commitment and sheer determination to do well has clearly paid off and I am delighted for them.'

'I know there will be some young people who might be a bit disappointed because they perhaps didn't get the results

they had hoped for, but I want them to know that help and support is available.

'Exam results are only one way of progressing on to positive destinations.'

'There are many, many ways that young people can access appropriate pathways into work, even if they didn't get the grades they wanted. Should anyone need further support or advice at this time, I would urge them to get in touch with their school in the first instance.'

Advice is available for pupils by calling the Skills Development Scotland exam results hotline on 0808 100 8000.

A school-by-school breakdown of pass rates is expected to be made available for the next meeting of the council's community services committee, which is due to be on Thursday, August 26.

Skills boost bursaries to help Avich residents

A new educational bursary scheme has launched offering support to individuals living in Dalavich, Inverinan, Kilmaha and Lochavich who are seeking to improve their employability prospects or develop a new career.

Individuals who live in the area at least six months per year are invited to apply for up to £1,500 to help with the costs of attending training, an apprenticeship or a course leading to a recognised qualification. A total of £4,500 is available this year.

Bursaries can support a wide range of learning, for example a HGV driving course; apprenticeship in a trade; or a degree in land management or health care. They can help with course fees or accommodation, travel costs or driving lessons, study aids or tools required for the course.

The scheme is part of River Avich Hydro Community Benefit Fund, provided by Awesome Energy Dalriada Ltd. AED is a community benefit society, set up and run

by the local community to develop and operate the River Avich Hydro scheme.

Award decisions are made directly by Foundation Scotland, Scotland's community foundation, which is an expert in independent grant-making.

Sheila Clark, chairperson of Awesome Energy Dalriada, said: 'The bursary scheme is aimed at helping individuals seize education and training opportunities that will support them in finding or retaining employment, or in starting a new career or business. This in turn will bring benefits for the local area. Support for employment and related opportunities was identified as a priority during extensive community consultations, as set out in Dalavich Improvement Group's Community Action Plan.'

Applications can be submitted at any time. For full details and to apply visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk/avich-hydro-education-training-fund

ELC children to benefit from new outdoor learning in Oban and Mull

Hobbit houses, campfires and water walls are just some of the fun outdoor learning activities that children will get to experience as a result of Argyll and Bute's new Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings.

Willowview in Oban, run by Argyll and Bute Council, welcomed its first children this week.

The former day centre and care home has been transformed by landscape architects who were appointed by the council to create spaces for high activity; quiet time; socialising; investigation; creativity; and nature.

To meet this brief, the designers developed a 'traditional' play space with hard surfacing for ride-ons, marking and ball games, water play, sensory planting and a 'stage'. This is a standalone area, but a path also leads up through a quiet space and green tunnel to a high level 'hidden garden' with playhouse, sandpit, slide and scramble net to the lower level and a sheltered look-out with a view across the roof-tops.

The outdoor setting also has a natural area which offers future use for Forest School activities. In addition to the extensive external areas there



A Hobbit house is just one of the exciting additions to the new outdoor spaces.

is a partially covered internal courtyard which forms the parent entrance and a sensory breakout space.

Council-appointed architects also designed an outdoor area at Salen Primary's existing ELC unit which maximises the limited external space available.

Breakout areas have been developed as social spaces for science/experimental play, gardening, an outdoor classroom and sensory areas. The new area also has a ride-on 'circuit' and a speaking tube which connects the two Early Years gardens, as well as outdoor chalk boards, music, mirrors and a water wall.

The two new English and Gaelic medium spaces will be completed this autumn.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly,

policy lead for education, said: 'We have brought life to spaces that had been forgotten or neglected and placed them at the heart of learning for our youngest learners.'

'These sustainable spaces provide a wealth of opportunities for intergenerational activities, enhancing community cohesion and helping us build inclusive, resilient communities whilst delivering high quality ELC.'

'I would like to thank everyone involved for the tremendous effort they have put in over the years to get us where we are today. I truly believe we are leading the way with outdoor education in Argyll and Bute, paving the way for our children and young people to have the best start in life.'

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THE OBAN SPORTIVE



The beauty of a challenge!

Whether you are a seasoned-pro or a keen amateur rider, the Oban Sportive is a beautiful challenge to take on. This year's sportive includes 2 routes that offer spectacular views, quiet country roads and of course, the odd challenging climb! Finishing any of our routes brings with it a sense of achievement and a real treat of Scottish scenery.

Registration

Registration for the Sportive will be open on Sept 5th from 6.30 to 7.30am at the Oban Distillery yard.

Start Times and Places

Both routes will begin and end at the Oban Distillery. Riders will leave in small groups from 08:00, to ease our impact on local traffic. All riders are required to register before they begin the ride and your timing chip will be scanned as you leave the car park. Spectators who want to see the riders leave please be at Stafford street for 7.45 am.

Loch Awe – 87 miles

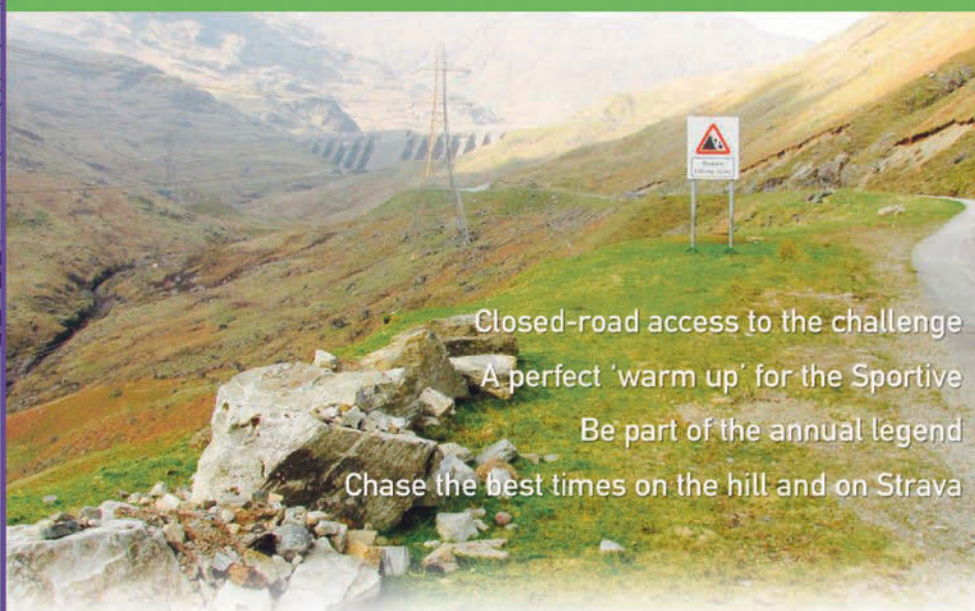
Our long course is around Scotland's longest Loch, Loch Awe and passes under the shadow of Ben Cruachan, the "Hollow Mountain".

Loch Avich – 56 miles

Our 56 mile course is quoted as one of the hardest Sportive courses around with repetitive short steep climbs and is on mostly quiet single track roads in the heart of Argyll.

DON'T MISS

The Ben Cruachan Inn Hill Climb



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Chase the best times on the hill and on Strava

Be Part of the Legend!

With great thanks to the team at the Ben Cruachan Inn and Drax, we have secured car-free access to the private road that climbs up Ben Cruachan to the dam. This 2.7 mile stretch climbs approximately 1,044ft with an average gradient of 6.9%. There are sections of 9% over 0.6 miles that lead up to the final ramp (of up to 18%), the so called 'sting in the tail' and yes, it is right at the end!

Riders should register at the Ben Cruachan Inn on Saturday Sept 4th at 1pm before the race begins. There is car parking available at the Inn or at nearby Loch Awe train station to prepare your kit and your clothing and cycling on to the main road provides a flat warm-up ride to the actual start at the foot of Ben Cruachan. The ride itself - at any speed - is one to be proud of and offers spectacular views of Loch Awe below.

Entry is now open for this event via www.obansportive.co.uk
Entries on the day are available for both events.

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Concerns raised over Argyll population decline

More than a quarter of Argyll and Bute's population is aged 65 and over – and nearly half of the council's staff is aged over 50.

These figures are revealed in a council document laying out the authority's financial strategy for the next 10 years.

The report also suggests that the area's population is projected to fall by nearly six per cent from 2018 to 2028 – compared with a predicted increase of 1.8 per cent for the whole of Scotland.

It has also experienced a population decrease of 5.9 per cent between 1998 and 2018, and a working age population decrease of 11.2 per cent in that period.

The financial strategy was put before the council's policy and resources committee at its virtual meeting on Thursday, August 12.

Executive director Kirsty Flanagan said: 'The area has one of the oldest age structures in Scotland with 25.5 per cent of the population aged over 65 and, in addition, is experiencing a net outmigration of people as well as natural decline in the population.'



Executive director
Kirsty Flanagan.

'Population decline is widespread among different geographies and island/mainland areas. The area also has the highest proportion of second homes of all local authorities in Scotland.'

'EU exit is likely to further exacerbate the declining population trend for Argyll and Bute and others parts of the Highlands and Islands.'

'Therefore, a targeted, inter-agency response is crucial to mitigate these trends. In particular, through the Convention of the Highlands and Islands (COHI) it has been suggested that a sub-regional population response team is established, whose goal should

be to rapidly impact on population issues in Argyll and Bute, the Outer Hebrides and Caithness and Sutherland, and bring forward a 'repopulation plan'.

'Demographic change will have significant impact on services as funding allocated from the Scottish Government is partly based on the population of an area.'

'Furthermore, projected population changes will have an impact on all service areas, particularly education and social care, where there will be a need to manage the transition from current service delivery arrangements to new models that are built around the needs of the future population.'

Ms Flanagan added that the most recent assessment of the workforce provided a positive picture with an improvement in filling professional posts, with the flexibility afforded by working from home.

She said: 'Argyll and Bute has an ageing population and the council's workforce reflects this. Around 48 per cent of the workforce is aged 50 or over and this is the most prevalent workforce risk across teams.'

'The council is managing this through structured succession and improving access to skills and training, more easily delivered through improved online learning. Managers are encouraged to review vacancies before filling them to ascertain the potential for a trainee to be brought in.'

'This is the core of our 'Growing Our Own' approach, and has been very successful, particularly in teams like ICT and digital.'

'However, managers continue to cite capacity demands as an ongoing barrier to taking on trainees or apprentices, as workload pressures have increased.'

'Earmarked reserves have been set aside to support investment in trainees for the highest risk teams, although this provides only limited scope to fill posts.'

'Fluctuating' spending as council could 'do better'

Argyll and Bute Council's spending on local contractors has been described as 'healthy' despite missing its target.

A report revealed that of the council contracts awarded between April and June, only 26.9 per cent of the net spend went to local contractors.

This was against a target of 35 per cent, prompting Mid Argyll Independent Councillor Douglas Philand to query the situation at a virtual meeting of the council's policy and resources committee on Thursday, August 12.

Council executive director Douglas Hendry responded by saying that the spend was always likely to fluctuate, but that he felt the outlook was sufficient.

Councillor Philand said: 'It says that there is a slight decrease due to the nature of the contracts – what does that mean?'

Mr Hendry replied: 'As per the commentary, there is a decrease, but it also says that



in overall terms, in the year to date local spend is pretty healthy. There are 16 bids in from local contractors and 14 were awarded locally with a value of over £2million.'

'We have reported this for a number of years. As Councillor Philand has raised, it is one which does go up and down, but in terms of general performance I think things are pretty sound.'

'We can always do better, but these will fluctuate on an ongoing basis. Some contracts are ones which local organisations don't have the expertise to come in on; others will have a fair bit of sub-contracting done locally.'

Health chiefs give assurances on social work overspend

Health chiefs have assured Argyll and Bute Council that they are working to minimise a projected £1.369million overspend on social work.

A report has revealed that the council is facing the projected gap at the end of the 2021/22 financial year in April.

The council assists the area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) to deliver social work services across Argyll and Bute.

At a virtual meeting of the council's policy and resources committee on Thursday, August 12, Mid Argyll Independent Councillor Douglas Philand queried the contents of the report which was published in advance.

The report, by executive director Kirsty Flanagan, said: 'There is a forecast overspend of £1.369m as at the end of June 2021. This projection results from social work and is due to a

combination of a high demand for services and some forecast slippage on the delivery of agreed savings.'

Councillor Philand said: 'There is a real concern for me reading that. What are the savings that are slipping and the reasons for them doing that?'

'Also, it surprises me that so far there is no recovery plan. If we are sitting there with a near £1.5m overspend it would be really good to see what the recovery plan is.'

Laurence Slavin, the council's interim head of financial services, responded: 'I cannot speak for the details of the social work savings as that is for the IJB, but a recovery plan is set up as soon as they determine there is going to be a forecast overspend.'

Oban North and Lorn Independent Councillor Kieron Green and Helensburgh Central Conservative

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, both members of the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB), also gave assurances.


Councillor Green then said: 'I would just confirm that at the finance and policy committee, we did raise the issue of a financial recovery plan. That will be reported through the usual channels in due course.'

And Councillor Mulvaney added: 'We are very much looking at the deliverability of savings that will come back to the IJB. Its members are working very closely on scrutinising these.'

'Our record on delivering these planned savings has not been the greatest. This was raised just before going into recess and we have asked for more information. They may not be our savings as a council but any financial difficulties wind themselves back to us as a partner body.'

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September



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OT

LETTERS

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

Everyone needs to help

Fly-tipping and litter seem once again to be dominating our news pages as the world opens up - pages 4 and 9.

While we can all be quick to blame the huge influx of tourists that are currently gracing our shores, locals can also be at fault while 'cash strapped' Argyll and Bute Council also has a role to play in helping to alleviate the problem.

A collective solution needs to be found - and quickly.

We have a fantastic community in Oban, Lorn and the Islands but no sooner have individuals and groups cleaned up the mess others leave behind, more appears.

More bins and signs would definitely help and the council is actively encouraging members of the public to report it on its website when they come across any fly-tipping or littering.

Keep Oban Beautiful's Doorstep Challenge is another exciting and innovative idea. Perhaps this could be taken out to the wider community and developed by other groups?

By working together, we can all help and maybe even say good riddance to bad rubbish once and for all.

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

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

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

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A pleasant return

Accompanied by my nephew Douglas, a nostalgic trip to Oban after several years away was a pleasant return.

We were in time to attend the Old Parish Church morning service, where we were welcomed at the door by old friend Helen Jackson.

We were also given a kind welcome from the lecturer by the minister, the Reverend Dugald Cameron.

Over the next day or two we met up with old friends from the Hunter, Lang, Preston and Tolmie families. Especially gratifying was meeting up with the King of Pulpit Hill, Ian Campbell.

It was remarkable to see Oban as busy as I remember it. It is clear the town is bouncing and that its future is secure.

Kind greetings to many friends and colleagues thriving in the lovely town. It was a great pleasure to return.

W Raymond Shaw, Glasgow.

Protect your right to protest

Not many people are talking about the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. But if it passes parliament, it will have an impact on all our lives.

The bill gives unprecedented powers to the police to ban peaceful demonstrations outright and to ban 'noisy' protests. The definition of a noisy protest includes a protest involving noise made by just one person.

It's been revealed the Police Federation was not consulted on this huge extension of police powers. Furthermore, a respected group of former police officers has expressed concerns.

In a letter to the Home Secretary they said: 'Echoing the concerns voiced by the National Police Chiefs Council and other professional bodies, we believe this Bill has dangerous and harmful implications for the ability of police officers to enforce the law and for the health of our democracy as a whole.'

If the next time a group of residents, or even a single resident, wants to protest against a housing development or a council decision, the police could just say 'no'. If any other readers are worried at the prospect of their right to protest being curtailed, I would encourage them to write to their MP and ask them to oppose this repressive legislation. Or they could support organisations like Unlock Democracy which are campaigning against the Bill.

Anni McArthur, by email.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Tha cuid gam breith ann am beartas, agus tha cuid eile air an tèid mòrachd a bhuileachadh.

Ach tha daoine ann cuideachd air an tèid uallaichean a bharrachd a chur nach eil iad ag iarraidh, agus ris nach eil iad fiù 's air chomas dèiligeadh.

Thig leithid sin de dh'uallach glè thrìc ri linn briseadh slàinte ann an dachaigh, agus dleastanas cùraim a' tuiteam air ball eile den teaghlach ann am prìobadh na sùla. Chan eil faclan agam a nì moladh gu leòr air feadhainn as aithne dhomh a ghabh leithid sin de dh'uallach agus a choilean e gu dileas, dicheallach, agus gun ghearain. Bha mi a' beachdachadh air an uallach a bharrachd a thathas ag iarraidh a chur air dotairean-teaghlach gus barail a thoirt air freagarrachd dhaoine cead a bhith aca gunna a chumail.

Gun teagamh sam bith dhearbhadh murt brònach chòigear ann am Plymouth am feum air smachd nas teinne air ceadan bhall-airm, oir 's e sin a th' ann, a bhith aig daoine.

'S neònach mur eil iomadh dotair a bhios a' faireachadh mì-thoilichte mun uallach a bharrachd seo a dh'fhaodadh tuiteam orra. Bidh iad mothachail gum bheil dleastanasan sìobhalta oirnn uile a thaobh ar modh-giùlain agus theagamh gum bi cuid de na lighichean a' faicinn na h-uallaich seo mar phàirt den dleastanas phearsanta sin aig euslaintich ga sparradh orrasan.

Cuin is càite an còir uallach phearsanta tighinn fo smachd chuideigin eile, leithid dotair-teaghlach? Tha fios gum bheil cuid a' dràibheadh

nuair 's dòcha nach eil an cuid fradhairc neo buadhan eile tuilleadh freagarrach, ach chan eil beachd dotair ga iarraidh, fhathast co-dhiù, nuair a tha cead-dràibhidh ga ùrachadh.

'S e firinn na cùise gum bheil dotairean cho dripeil san àbhaist 's nach eil iad a' faicinn dhaoine ach nuair a thèid iad thuca le trioblaid àraid, agus ged a thèid dèiligeadh ri sin, chan eil ùine gu bhith aig an dotair beachd a ghabhail air am bheil an neach sin comasach a bhith a' dràibheadh, gun ghuth air am bheil a shlàinte-inntinn freagarrach airson smachd a bhith aige air gunna!

Bha mi uair nam mhanaidsear aig companaidh a bha a' toirt seirbheis chruinn-togail ann an gnìomhachas na h-ola agus tuigidh sibh an t-uallach a bh' oirnn a thaobh an dà chuid sàbhailteachd nan uidheaman a bha sinn a' cleachdadh, agus comasan nan daoine a bh' againn gan obrachadh.

Thill fear a dh'obair an dèidh a bhith dheth le trom-inntinn agus cha robh adhbhar againn gun a leigeil air ais a' dràibheadh crann. Ach an ceann seachdain neo dhà thoisich gearain a' tighinn bhon chompanaidh dha robh sinn ag obair agus dh'iarr iad an duine seo a thoirt far an làraich sa bhad.

Mhol stiùiriche an roinn sgiobachd againn an dràibhear a chur às obair air sgàth 's gun robh trioblaid inntinn air, ach mar a chuir mise na shealladh bha pàipear aig an duine seo le beachd dithis de phrìomh lighichean-inntinn na dùthcha a' dearbhadh a chuid cèille! Cha robh leithid sin de phàipear aig a h-aon seach aon againne!

Concern over ragwort

I have been getting many messages about the amount of ragwort growing in the area, especially on roadside verges.

Our hard-working and at times hard-pressed farmers and crofters are particularly worried about its recent spread in many areas of Kintyre and the islands. Ragwort is a toxic plant and has gained significant media coverage in the past about its hazardous capabilities to livestock.

Ragwort poses a risk to animal health, with potentially fatal consequences if it is ingested by horses or livestock, either in its green or dried

state. All sensible measures must be taken to ensure ragwort does not spread, particularly to grazing areas or land which is used to produce conserved forage.

The National Farmers Union has been highlighting the problems with ragwort on a national level. Food security is an essential part of our economy and reducing the presence of harmful plants is a key part of that.

I have been in touch with the Argyll and Bute Council roads department and will continue to press for more action on dealing with ragwort.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands ward.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Clean win for Oban laundry in super duck race

As reported in The Oban Times, Oban Rotary's annual Duck Race was again a huge success raising in excess of £5,000 for local good causes.

Included in the race for the first time was the introduction of 50 'Super Ducks' which were sponsored by-and-large by local concerns at £50 a duck.

The winning duck (No 23) was sponsored by Oban Quality Laundry and Dry Cleaners based in Tweeddale Street and their chosen local good cause/charity to receive the £250 prize was Oban's MS Therapy Centre.

Oban Rotary president Kees van Rein is seen here handing over the £250 cheque to centre manager Nicola MacKechnie.

Also in the picture is Rotarian Ciorsti Baxter and past president and duck race convener Iain MacIntyre.

The Rotary Club of Oban also wishes to

thank the following for their sponsorship of a 'Super Duck': Jackson Bros (Butchers), Burn O'Bennie Distillery (Banchory), Ardent Spirits (Banchory), PDK Shellfish, Ee-Usk, MacIntyres of Oban, Manor House Hotel, Oban whisky and Fine Wines Shop, T Barbour Ltd, Argyll Aesthetics, John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd, Rutherford Hairdressers, CGL, Cuan Mor, C J Auto Repairs, CPH Insurance Brokers, Highland Clarity, Robert MacIntyre Golf Professional, McCallum Roofing, Iona Shop, MKM Building Supplies, Oban Inn, The Oban Times, Oban Fish and Chip Shop, Aulay's Bar, Oban Port Users, Kebabish Restaurant, Carmichael and Sons (Builders), Melfort Pier Holidays, E Thornton & Co Solicitors, MacQueen Brothers, Caley Fisheries, Morham and Brotchie, Room 15, Bid4Oban, Roy Rutherford, Lorne MacLeod, The Jetty Gallery and Go Naked Veg.



At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Money well spent?

There is an old saying about not looking gift horses in the mouth but the cynic in me did precisely that when I heard about the whopping £250,000 to be spent tarding up Gibraltar Street in Oban.

Gibraltar Street, for those who don't know, is the wee pedestrianised bit between Tesco's car park and the town centre, and is home to Bossards, the Highland Fold ice cream shop and cafe, a beauty parlour (I think), and some residential properties.

It is only a few yards long and boasts a couple of benches and, during good weather, tables and chairs from the cafes. There is also a bit of shrubbery and some flowers.

That aforementioned cynic in me wondered – out loud, worryingly – what could be done to improve the short thoroughfare, and where the £250,000 will be spent.

My initial and instinctive response to the news was that there must be far more deserving causes than this for such a large sum of public moolah.

Given that it comes from the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Fund, I suppose it must be spent on improving public spaces, but even then I think are more deserving projects.

However, I hope I am wrong and that changes in Gibraltar Street will mean me eating my words.

Please chip in

This Sunday sees the return of the excellent Oban Rotary Golf Am-Am, a major fundraiser run by those splendid club members who toil so diligently on behalf of good causes.

I've played in the event (though I'm certain my playing companions would rather I hadn't), and can testify that it is a brilliant day for those who take part, but also for the Rotarians behind it.

It has in the past raised amazing sums of money for the club's charities and I hope fervently that it does so again this weekend.

As ever, I would urge anyone who can to back the event financially and help the organisers generate as much cash as possible.

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

Tob2Tob challenge gets off to a flying start

Tobermory RNLI's #Tob2Tob challenge got off to a flying start earlier this month with the station's volunteers being joined not only by local supporters but also friends from around the world.

Unable to hold its annual Lifeboat Day fundraising event, the lifeboat team on Mull came up with the idea of the challenge which is taking place throughout August.

During the first week of the challenge the station's volunteers, friends and supporters walked, ran, cycled, swam and rowed the 3,205 miles between Tobermory RNLI lifeboat station and Tobermory Coastguard station in Ontario, Canada.

The challenge has been joined by Tobermory Coastguard Commanding Officer Sondi Schmidthorst Ryerse and her Canadian Coastguard colleagues while friends and supporters have also joined in from elsewhere in Canada, France, Romania, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

Highlights of the first week included:

Former Tobermory volunteer crew member and emergency mechanic Jane Slade, accompanied by a Tobermory RNLI teddy, walked along



Ferry skipper Davie Graham sets the bar high to be the best dressed #Tob2Tob challenger.

the canal where she lives with her husband Ian on a barge in Brittany, France.

Supporter and friend Ciprian 'Chip' Jucan walked in 42 degrees in Bucharest, Romania while Tobermory's retained Scottish Fire and Rescue firefighters gave the lifeboat crew a run for their money with Brian MacLeod and Bryan

Gibson putting in mega miles on their bikes.

Vanessa Maclean joined other wild swimmers on Mull to help cross the North Atlantic.

Caledonian MacBrayne Kilchoan ferry skipper Davie Graham set the bar high for the Best Dressed #Tob2Tob Challenger award by heading off for his first run wearing a kilt and a hard hat and Jackie Terry of Burlington, Ontario, has been showing off the beautiful area where she has been getting her steps in.

Lots of children and dogs have also joining in too.

Tobermory RNLI Station Coxswain David McHaffie said: 'We are all blown away by how enthusiastic our friends and supporters have been about our #Tob2Tob Challenge.'

'To have so many people taking part not only on Mull but from around the world, including our Canadian friends at Tobermory Coastguard, means a lot to everyone at the station and we have loved seeing all the photos.'

'To have travelled more than 1,000 miles in the first week is a great achievement and we may have to think about going the scenic route across the Pacific to Ontario if we smash the Atlantic target or going #Tob2Tob.'

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Tiree and Gigha haul in heritage cash

Gigha's Achamore Gardens and two historic thatched cottages on Tiree are among the latest projects to benefit from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) funding.

More than 20 heritage projects around the country will benefit from £241,995 this year as part of the Historic Environment Support Fund, which has distributed more than £1 million since it was launched in 2016.

Funding is awarded to projects which use the historic environment to make a positive difference in their area, supporting local economies, inspiring and engaging communities with the rich heritage on their doorstep and ensuring the historic buildings that give places their distinct character are protected and managed for future generations.

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust has been awarded £5,000 to develop a design plan for Achamore Gardens, while the owners of two traditional thatched cottages on the Isle of Tiree, 9 Barrapol and Drovers/Morvan Cottage, have been granted £2,500 each to rethatch both roofs - one of them using locally cut marram.

Alex Paterson, chief executive of HES, said: 'Despite Covid-19, many recipients have continued to adapt the way they work to continue delivering their crucial and invaluable work within the community - from online training and workshops to virtual events and conferences - and I am pleased to see these projects continue to shine a spotlight on and increase engagement with Scotland's historic environment.'

The next application deadline for the Historic Environment Support Fund is Tuesday November 30.



Gigha's Achamore Gardens.

Titanic's forgotten predecessor SS Norge - an Atlantic

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

The second worst civilian maritime disaster in the Atlantic after the Titanic, the sinking of the SS Norge, off Rockall, with the loss of 635 souls, is being commemorated in an exhibition touring the Outer Hebrides.

The display about the Norge maritime disaster more than a century ago, and the role played by the people of Stornoway in looking after survivors, opens at Comunn Eachdraidh in Ness, Isle of Lewis, in September.

It tells the tragic story of the foundering of SS Norge on a reef close to Rockall on its journey to New York in 1904. It was carrying nearly 800 passengers - Russian Jews, Norwegians, Finns, Swedes and Danes - and more than half were mothers and children. With only enough lifeboats for 215, only 160 survived and 635 perished.

Most of the lifeboats drifted in the Atlantic for days before being found by chance - one close to the Faroes, around 500 miles from the sinking - and the survivors from two of the closer lifeboats were landed at Number One Pier in Stornoway.

Some went on to be cared for in Lewis Hospital and others in private homes. Sadly, a number of them did not survive and they are buried in the cemetery at Lower Sandwick.

The last place to pick up a signal from the ill-fated ship had been Lloyd's Station at the Butt of Lewis on June 27, the day before she sank.

The disaster remains the second worst civilian maritime disaster in the Atlantic, after the sinking of HMS Titanic in 1912 with the loss of 1,500 lives, and it made headline news around the world when the story broke a week after it happened.

With no radio communications, it was a Grimsby trawler that was first with the news, having come across the first lifeboat of survivors and taken them back to its home port, a journey of five days. From that point, though, news travelled fast - by telegraph - and within 36 hours the tragedy was being reported in every



newspaper in America and elsewhere.

Tony Robson, one of Point and Sandwick Trust's community consultants, helped create the exhibition, entitled Titanic's Predecessor: SS Norge - An Atlantic Catastrophe.

Tony said he had felt compelled to produce the exhibition because it was a 'huge event' that was 'not talked about'. He also wants to 'highlight maritime history and the need for a maritime museum on Lewis' and to demonstrate that our maritime history is multi-faceted.

In Tony's view, the story of the SS Norge was eclipsed by the Titanic because the Titanic had carried so many rich and well-to-do passengers, whereas the SS Norge was 'full of refugees'.

Tony said the arrival of the lifeboat survivors in Stornoway would have been 'sensational by today's standards' and he described as 'wonder-

ful' the response from the town. He continued: 'The exhibition tells the great way Stornoway looked after them and there were huge crowds when the recovered survivors left Stornoway, going on to America. It is an epic story.'

Similar exhibitions could appear in museums across Europe after a number expressed an interest in receiving files for information panels during discussions with Tony. Some have already downloaded the files, including a museum in Russia.

Other interested museums include the Estonian Maritime Museum in Tallinn, the National Museum of Poland and the Maritime Museum of Denmark.

Tony obtained funding from Western Isles Development Trust and the Western Isles Lottery towards the cost of printing the informative banners, plus additional money from the local lottery to restore the lettering on the gravestone in the Sandwick Cemetery.

The exhibition opened at Breasclate and will be on show at the Comunn Eachdraidh in Ness in September before moving to Harris Distillery in October.

SCOTTISH FIELD

September

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Scotland's best street food recipes...

Predecessor: A tragic catastrophe



Clockwise from top left: The SS Norge; Norge survivors being treated in Lewis Hospital; the restored gravestone in Sandwick Cemetery; a depiction of the SS Norge sinking and Tony Robson, one of Point and Sandwick Trust's community consultants, who helped create the exhibition.



Dunstaffnage Castle tour tickets must be booked online in advance.

Flora MacDonald's castle re-opens to visitors

Dunstaffnage Castle has re-opened its doors to visitors.

The castle, outside Oban, which was the stronghold of the MacDougalls, has played a key role in Scotland's past, perhaps most famously known for where Flora MacDonald was held in 1746 before being sent to the Tower of London for aiding Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape.

The castle, operated by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), is now open to visitors as part of a continued rolling programme of re-opening of historic sites across the country.

Alex Paterson, HES chief executive, said: 'We are pleased to have even more of our sites re-opening across the country, including Dunstaffnage Castle, providing visitors with the opportunity to enjoy much-loved heritage attractions once again.'

'With more than 5,000 years of history in

our care, we've adopted a phased approach to re-opening, providing as diverse a mix of attractions as possible, as well as reviewing and implementing the individual re-opening requirements of each site, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

'We are now looking forward to welcoming visitors back to even more sites, providing further opportunities to enjoy Scotland's diverse and globally renowned historic environment.'

All sites will follow the HES minimum operating standards, which were developed to set a benchmark for the safe re-opening of historic sites and resumption of operational activities.

To guarantee entry, tickets should be booked online in advance from the HES website and are now on sale. To book and for more information on further HES sites re-opening, visit historyawaits.scot



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BUSINESS NEWS

The Scottish Salmon Company and Nofitech partner on RAS technology

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has signed a contract with recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) technology company Nofitech that will support the company in transforming its approach to salmon farming.

The agreement is part of a £49million investment to create a state-of-the-art RAS unit at its Applecross site in Wester Ross.

RAS technology is an indoor land-based aquaculture system which allows fish to be reared for longer in freshwater tanks before being moved to marine sites. Greater control of the freshwater rearing environment means farmers can produce larger smolt - juvenile salmon - reducing the marine production cycle, which in turn reduces the biological risk of rearing in the marine environment.

Milestone

Ian Laister, SSC managing director, said: 'This contract marks the first important milestone in our commitment to incorporate RAS technology across all our freshwater production, which is fundamental to our growth strategy.'

'Nofitech's experience in this field will ensure SSC is at the leading edge of RAS technology not only at Applecross but at future freshwater sites.'

Robert Hundstad, chief executive officer of Nofitech, said: 'I am delighted the Scottish Salmon Company has chosen us as a partner for its comprehensive, exciting and future-oriented RAS programme.'

'Nofitech has, from a strategic perspective, chosen to work only with the most experienced and solid players in the industry and our co-operation with The Scottish Salmon Company and Bakkafrøst falls well into this direction.'

The programme at Applecross is part of a commitment by SSC's parent company, Bakkafrøst, to invest more than £40 million a year in Scotland over the next five years, creating and retaining value in rural Scotland.

Region-wide gift card scheme gets unanimous backing

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll and Bute is to take part in a Scotland-wide shop local gift card scheme after councillors unanimously backed the idea.

The Scotland Loves Local scheme is the brainchild of Scotland's Town Partnership and is aimed at helping businesses recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillors agreed the area should take part at a virtual meeting of the council's policy and resources committee on Thursday August 12.

The initiative will be funded by the Scottish Government for its first year, with the council to review the possibility of any extension in 2022.

An authority official confirmed the gift cards will be able to be used throughout Argyll and Bute, wherever in the area they are initially collected.

After Fergus Murray, the council's head of economic development, gave a brief outline of the scheme, council leader Robin Currie said: 'In the last 18 months, there have been a lot more people shopping locally. Previously a lot of people had gone to Dumbarton or the Central Belt to shop and now don't do that.'

South Kintyre Liberal Democrat Councillor Rory Colville asked: 'Given the size of Argyll and Bute, how local is local?'

'Can you use it anywhere in Argyll and Bute? For example, people could get it in Campbeltown and travel to Oban or Helensburgh and use it there?'

Mr Murray responded: 'Yes, that is our geography, but the general feedback is that it is used locally. There have been no other examples of



People using the Scotland Loves Local gifts cards will be able to use them throughout Argyll and Bute.

this initiative in Argyll and Bute apart from the Oban Pound. That has been extremely successful locally and I hope that would continue. What we would do through publicity for this is to say it is to be used as locally as possible.'

Helensburgh Central Conservative Councillor Gary Mulvaney asked: 'It is a good initiative but there is a question around publicity and marketing. It could be the greatest plan in the world, but also the best kept secret.'

'Whose responsibility is it to market this to retailers and consumers?'

Mr Murray said: 'There are going to be two prongs to it. It will be on TV and radio through multiple channels.'

'We have seen quite a lot of Shop Local material and they are having regular adverts on that, which will be launched in the autumn. They were hoping to have as many councils as possible signed up before then.'

'We will also back that up with our own locally-targeted campaign.'

Councillors unanimously agreed to the council taking part in the project.

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Scottish Water providing support to 'aires' landowners

Scottish Water is helping support the growing network of motorhome stopover sites being set up around the Highlands by providing guidance to landowners around water supply.

With new sites – or 'aires' – being set up across the Highland Council region due to a temporary relaxation in licensing regulations, the byelaws compliance team has been engaging with site owners to offer advice on how to safely provide water for visitors.

More than 77 sites have been identified so far and the team is encouraging any other landowners who have set up sites to get in touch for advice on how to ensure they are compliant.

Craig McDonald, industrial byelaws team leader, said: 'With the boom in tourism to the Highlands, we are seeing a lot of these stopover sites being set up.

'We wanted to do something proactive to help landowners get everything in place to be able to safely supply water, which is why we have been out and about engaging with people across the region.

'It may not be quite as simple as people expect, so we are happy to provide advice on the differ-



ent options that are available and have extended the time allowed for people to make their sites compliant until the end of the year.'

Byelaws compliance office Kenny Grieve hit the road himself to speak to site owners, travelling around 2,400 miles in three weeks.

He said: 'It's definitely been a positive thing to do and most of the people I've met have been

receptive to engaging with us about the issues involved. For us, there is a risk of contamination if people try to connect to the drinking water network incorrectly which is why we want to limit any potential for that to happen.

'At sites which are not currently compliant, I can quickly install a tap check device, left, which provides a good level of protection against any contamination risk to the water network while we work with landowners to install a more permanent solution.'

If you would like advice on providing water for a motorhome stopover site, contact the Scottish Water byelaws team at byelaws@scottishwater.co.uk.

Last year, Scottish Water also published a guidance document in partnership with the Highland Council and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency providing advice for developers of new campervan waste disposal points, which includes information about waste water drainage options.

Scottish Water's connections team can be contacted for advice on 0800 077 8778 or by emailing help@scottishwater.co.uk.

Grow your career potential

Young people are being encouraged to find out about land and forestry sector career options.

From planning and planting to harvesting and logistics, there's a huge variety of roles on offer in this growing sector.

The team at Developing the Young Workforce West Highland is inviting young people and their parents or carers to come along to Grow Your Highland Career, its next online careers insight webinar, which will showcase opportunities in the land and forestry industry.

If you are a school leaver, current pupil or recent graduate, the event is an excellent opportunity to find out what jobs, apprenticeships and training schemes you could apply for.

You'll hear directly from staff who work at NatureScot, Ardtornish Estate, UNESCO Biosphere and West Highland College at this online event on September 1 from 2 to 3pm.

Ask questions at a live question and answer session after the presentations. Teachers are also welcome to join the session, which will touch on key issues of sustainability and 'green jobs' in response to climate change.

If you are a young person who would like to find out more about growing your career in the land and forestry industry, visit www.dywesthighland.org for more event information and to book your free ticket.

Covid hardship fund approved for businesses

Businesses affected by the Covid pandemic can apply for Covid-recovery grants from a fund of more than £500,000.

Argyll and Bute Council Policy and Resources Committee have approved the launch of the Covid Hardship Fund to support businesses facing financial difficulties due to the pandemic.

Three levels of grant award will be available:

■ £2,000 for businesses with no employees

■ £5,000 for businesses with up to nine employees

■ £10,000 for businesses with 10 plus employees

Funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis for applicants who meet key

criteria including: the business will suffer hardship if support is not awarded; the business has viable future or the circumstances are exceptional and Covid related.

Council Leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The pandemic's been tough for local businesses. This fund is all about making help available for businesses struggling to deal with, and move on from, the impact of Covid-19.'

Information

Initial information on the fund is available at Item 13 of the Policy and Resources Committee agenda - Agenda for Policy and Resources Committee on Thursday August 12 2021,

10.30am - Argyll and Bute Council (argyll-bute.gov.uk) Further information on the opening date for the fund, eligibility criteria and details of how to apply will be available in two weeks on the council's website and promoted through social media and other communication channels.

The funding comes from £2.4 million of Scottish Government funding allocated to the council.

The council has already awarded more than £1.9 million to businesses and approved the Argyll and Bute Covid Business Hardship Fund to distribute the remaining funds as the area begins to move out of Covid restrictions.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Vatersay in the frame

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

The Rockfield Centre hosts a stunning photography exhibition by Paul Glazier until October 31.

Eilean | Island is a 'lyrical' portrait of the island of Vatersay, the most southerly-inhabited island in the Outer Hebrides and includes images taken from different periods from the 1980s to the present day.

Glazier captures the changing face of the island's inhabitants and the landscape as time leaves its mark. The images reflect both the continuity and changes that have occurred in this community over the past three decades.

Some of the children in the original photographs now have their own children, and even grandchildren. The heart of the project is the portraits captured, but the presence of the rugged Hebridean landscape is never far away.

The exhibition is part of Everything Flows, a series of photography exhibitions and events between July and October



The images reflect the continuity and changes on the island.

in various coastal locations across Scotland. Everything Flows is a specially-curated, coastal exhibition trail programmed by Street Level Photoworks as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21.

Malcolm Dickson, director at Street Level Photoworks, said: 'Each venue will present the work of different photographers so people can follow the trail

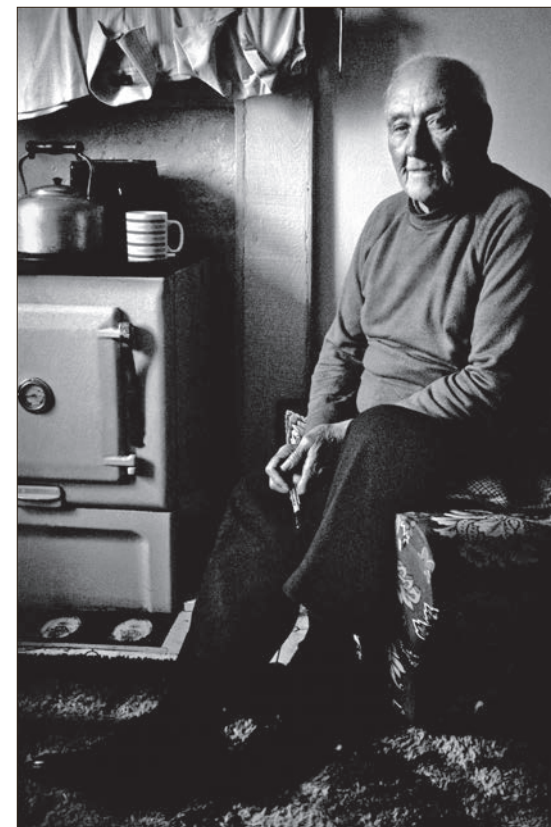
over the summer to see a wide variety of exceptional work in some of Scotland's most beautifully-located galleries. Everything Flows shines a light on some of Scotland's places where cultural activity and cultural hubs that support them are central to the regeneration and recovery of Scotland's places, something Rockfield provides for Oban.'

For those unable to visit the exhibitions in person, there will be a digital programme of online resources and artist talks. Glazier will be giving a talk on Thursday September 30 at 6.30pm.

Glazier grew up in London and studied fine art at Goldsmiths College, graduating in 1987. It was there he first printed his Vatersay photographs. By then he already had a strong relationship with the island, visiting since 1978 when he was 12 years old.

During his first visits back in the 1980s cameras would only be taken out for special occasions. This means that for some people Glazier's photographs are the only images they have of family or friends from that period. Over the years they have accrued a certain historical and nostalgic value for the islanders. Glazier continues to photograph the people of the island and hopes to be able to chronicle the island for many years to come.

The exhibition is open at The Rockfield Centre from 10am-4pm and entry is free.



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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Live music has well and truly returned to Glasgow with Atlantic Reel playing in the Islay Inn last weekend and the Park Bar music programme re-starting very soon also, I believe.

I didn't make it along to hear Atlantic Reel but have been greatly enjoying their lockdown contributions over the last year - Johnny Gillespie of Crooked Reel fame leading the live songs from the family living room with his son, young Jonathan from Trail West on the keys, and daughter, Emma, on vocals and guitar.

They are definitely a band to try and catch if anyone is having a staycation in Glasgow any time soon!

That same weekend, I was travelling down to Campbeltown with Tide Lines for our first non-socially distanced Scottish festival since prior to lockdown - Mull of Kintyre Festival.

Having played MOK Fest before, I have always been amazed at the sheer number of artists and bands who take part each year and this year, despite some limits on audience numbers due to restrictions, was no different.

In the hotel restaurant before the show, we bumped into Shetland's Ross Couper and Skye's Peter Morrison from the Peatbog Faeries, Scots singer Claire Hastings, and guitarist Jen Butterworth.

It was great to catch up with so many musicians.



Filming for a wee telly gig at Roshven House.

Fantastic local band Rhuvaal started off the show in the Victoria Hall that night, followed by our good pals Beinn Lee.

All were in great form and the always-brilliant Campbeltown crowd reacted wildly!

Congratulations to the whole committee of MOK Fest for pulling off a successful weekend in challenging circumstances given everything that has gone on in the last few months.

We took the long but beautiful journey back to Glasgow on Sunday and then, first thing on Monday, Ross and I headed back up the road to Roshven House for a filming project with Beezr Media for BBC Alba - no rest for the wicked.

When we left Glasgow, the city was thick with cloud. It began to clear slightly but the top of Rannoch Moor was covered entirely in mist.

As soon as we reached Onich,

however, the cloud began to lift and left us with the absolute perfect conditions.

Except for some people who were sunburnt and looking like lobsters by the time the cameras turned on.

I am not sure how much I am at liberty to tell you about said programme but let's just say: it contains beautiful Lochaber scenery, scorching sun, a white beach, the shimmering Atlantic, and Fergie MacDonald... so what's not to like?!

Like Campbeltown, it was great to be out and about and meeting other musicians back doing what we love doing.

What's on in Glasgow

September 3-5: The Riverside Festival

September 9: Biffy Clyro at Glasgow Green

September 10-12: TRNSMT Festival

September 18: 10 years of Trail West in the Barrowland Ballroom

October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands

October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand

October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands



Artist brews up artistic storm from Uist

Eilidh Stewart grew up on the Hebridean island of North Uist. She studied fine art at the University of The Highlands and Islands where she obtained a BA (HONS) in Fine Art during 2013.



She often travels to North Uist and the West Highlands in search of inspiration.

Each piece begins as a small locational sketch which often aims to capture the ever-changing light as well

as raw aspects of the sea.

Studies are later used as starting points to develop oil paintings. Eilidh's strong passion for subject matter invites the viewer to feel a sense of place and memory within her work.

To view or buy Eilidh's work, visit www.eilidh-stewart.com

What's on at Oban Cinema



THIS WEEK

Friday 27 August

Jungle Cruise 12A	12:30
Paw Patrol: The Movie U	12:45/15:45/16:30
French Cinema: Deerskin 15	18:00
Nowhere Special 12A	19:00
Our Ladies 15	19:45

Saturday 28 August

Jungle Cruise 12A	12:00
Paw Patrol: The Movie U	12:30/15:00
The Croods 2 U	15:00
Nowhere Special 12A	17:15
Deerskin 15	17:30
André Rieu: Together Again U	19:30
Our Ladies 15	19:45

Sunday 29 August (closed Mon-Tue)

Jungle Cruise 12A	12:00
Paw Patrol: The Movie U	12:30/15:00
André Rieu: Together Again U	15:00
Nowhere Special 12A	17:15
Deerskin 15	18:00
The Suicide Squad 15	19:45
Our Ladies 15	20:00

Wednesday 1 - Thursday 2 September

Jungle Cruise 12A	12:30
Paw Patrol: The Movie U	12:45/16:30
Nowhere Special 12A	17:00
Our Ladies 15	19:00
Deerskin 15	19:30

Face coverings must be worn when moving within the building. Once seated you can remove your face covering. All showtimes are subject to availability and change. Updates can be found on our Facebook page.

obanphoenix.com 01631 562905

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 Tune in to 103.3 Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.com or on the Tuneln app.
 For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

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 Sounds 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.



Art degree shows return bi

A first of its kind for the Isle of Lewis sees An Lanntair welcome Mir air Mhìr (Bit by Bit) – a collaborative exhibition featuring the works of 11 art school graduates from the Western Isles, writes Sandy Neil.

Due to the global pandemic, degree shows in universities across Scotland during 2020 and 2021 were cancelled, leaving students unable to physically present their years of work to the world.

In response, these island students have returned home to showcase and celebrate their final year's work with their own degree show, Mir air Mhìr.

Artist Eilidh Mairi Macleod said: 'Back in May, Mir air

Mhìr was an ambitious idea that has now been brought to life by 11 young creatives from the Isle of Lewis.

'Our motivations behind this exhibition come from our loss of opportunity due to the current pandemic. Having this shared loss amongst the group has generated a powerful team that has co-created Mir air Mhìr.

This exhibition is our chance to showcase our crafted work to our family, friends, and community.'

Opening in An Lanntair's main gallery, Mir air Mhìr provides a space for the islands' art students, who have studied across Scotland, specialising in various disciplines, to present their final

pieces to their community.

The Mir air Mhìr Exhibition Opening – taking place at 5pm on Friday August 27– will be the first public opening An Lanntair has held in over a year.

And An Lanntair also welcomes a selection of the graduate exhibitors to present an Artists' Talk on Thursday September 2, 7pm, where they will each discuss their work, studies, and collaboration in Mir air Mhìr.

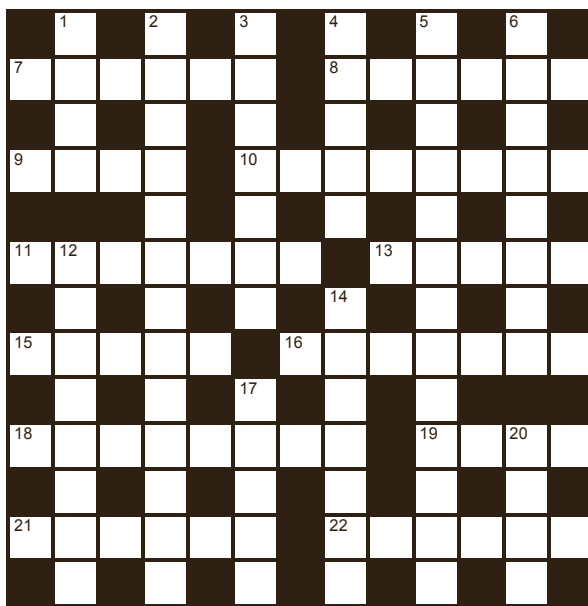
Head of Visual Arts and Literature at An Lanntair Roddy Murray said: 'The past year has been a frustrating and demoralising time to be in further education. Epitomised in the art schools by the cancellation of the de-

gree shows; the culmination of four years' hard work. So, it's been rewarding for us to be able to provide an alternative and showcase these 11 young graduates at An Lanntair, to ensure that their work is recognised and audiences get an insight into the remarkable levels of innovation and creativity they have achieved.'

Artists featuring in Mir air Mhìr are Megan Davies-Smith (three-dimensional design); Catherine Macdonald (fashion and textile design), and Bronwyn MacKenzie (painting), who all studied at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen.

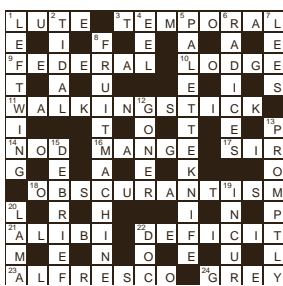
Students from Glasgow School of Art exhibiting are Danielle Macleod (commu-

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Bribe (6)
 - 8 Zero (6)
 - 9 Hand warmer (4)
 - 10 Foliage (8)
 - 11 A sage (7)
 - 13 Hooligan (5)
 - 15 Place to record daily events (5)
 - 16 Opening (7)
 - 18 Not tied anymore (8)
 - 19 Annoy (4)
 - 21 According to the time-piece (6)
 - 22 Go-getter (6)
- Down**
- 1 Wise one (4)
 - 2 Destructive fire (13)
 - 3 Final stages (7)
 - 4 Unkind look (5)
 - 5 Overcooked (5,8)
 - 6 Innocent looking (8)
 - 12 Science of flying devices (8)
 - 14 Troop (7)
 - 17 Fortunate (5)
 - 20 Car with a bar! (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Stephen King joins Bloody Scotland's 2021

Before Covid, Scotland could boast festivals dedicated to nearly everything: chutney, Vikings, ploughing, magic, ducks, to name but a niche few. Now, at last, it's the return of a festival celebrating crime.

But before our criminal readers pack up their burglar masks, lock picks, jemmies and false passports into their swag bags and jump into a fast getaway car to Stirlingshire, beware that you may become the subject of this festival celebrating the dark art of crime writing.

The Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival, which will reveal all in Stirling and online from September 17-19, has just teased lovers of crime fiction with its line-up of bestselling



authors. Given the pandemic, this year's Bloody Scotland will be a 'hybrid festival', giving festival-goers in Stirling the full-on festival experience, while allowing authors and readers who can't be there in person the opportunity to join in on its website: www.bloodyscotland.com

The 2021 festival will feature huge names including Stephen King, above, Kathy Reichs, Karin Slaughter, Lee Child, above right, Jeanine Cummins, Linwood Barclay and Robert Peston beamed into the Albert Halls where live interviewers will question them in front of a live and digital audience.

Meanwhile, pacing the

boards in Stirling itself will be the great and the good of the Scottish crime scene including Val McDermid, Ian Rankin, Denise Mina, Chris Brookmyre, Marisa Haetzman, Lin Anderson, Abir Mukherjee, Craig Robertson, Alan Parks, Morgan Cry, Craig Russell and Stuart MacBride. Plus some big names from outside Scotland: Paula Hawkins, Luca Veste, Mark Billingham, Mick Herron, S J Watson, Lisa Jewell, Stuart Neville, Kia Abdullah, E S Thomson and Louise Candlish.

Bloody Scotland has long been praised for going beyond the usual remit of a literary festival and this year is no different with old favourites Pitch Perfect and Crime



in the Spotlight, a performance by the Fun Lovin' Crime Writers and a cabaret twist on the normal quiz which will see each quizzier (Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Doug Johnston, Mark Billingham, Luca Veste and Stuart Neville) performing a musical number.

Up the road at The Golden Lion, panels will be recorded in front of a live audience and broadcast 24 hours later. Hosts of The Red Hot Chilli Writers, Vaseem Khan and Abir Mukherjee, will be on stage with a live version of their popular crime podcast. There is a discount for local residents, and organisers have improved disabled access with a taxi between venues for those that need it.



bit by bit

nication design/photography); Rachel Kate Macleod (communication design/graphic design), and Sian Mackay (product design).

And from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art will be Eilidh Mairi Macleod (product design); Freya Macleod (interior and environmental design), and John Miller (product design).

Rounding off the band of upcoming island talent exhibiting in Mir air Mhir are Ross Mactaggart, who studied computer graphics and animation at Robert Gordon University; and Lorna Scanlan, who completed architecture at the University of Dundee.

21 line-up

Following last year's digital first with The Never-Ending panel featuring 27 Scottish writers from home and abroad, this year's marathon digital-only event will be an A-Z of Crime starting with Megan Abbott and concluding with Anne Zouroudi hosted by the crime writers on the Bloody Scotland board. The global element continues with Around the World in 80 Deaths featuring authors from Argentina, the Sicangu Lakota Nation, Russia and Nigeria chaired by Craig Sистерson.

Festival director Bob McDevitt said: 'It's going to be a Bloody Scotland like no other but we do love a challenge and I can't wait to see all of our authors, and crime fans back together in real life while extending our global reach as we beam the festival all over the world.'

Atlantis Leisure – Behind the scenes this month

August '21

Schoolbags are packed, PE kits are washed and pencil cases are refilled – a new school term has started and we're headed for autumn.

In the year of the 'staycation', Oban put on a spectacular summer holiday for locals and visitors alike. Read on to find out what that was like up at Atlantis Leisure:

Facilities

With the latest relaxation in Covid-19 restrictions, our swimming pools and soft play facilities were able to start operating at a higher capacity earlier this month.

This also means that there is no longer any need to book in advance, with the return of 'walk-up' sessions for both activities.

We still recommend that you keep a close eye on the website for all the latest information and guidance before your visit.

It's great to see these areas of the centre busy again.

Clubs at Atlantis

A clear sign of life getting back towards normality is the return of regular club activity to Atlantis.

In particular, Lifesavers is back – with a brand new club programme and some lovely new committee members. We're all really pleased to see this Oban institution return after a prolonged hiatus.

Lifesavers is joined by a variety of sports-based clubs with the canoe club returning to the pool and basketball, table tennis and badminton clubs returning to the sports hall.

Clubs are a huge part of what Atlantis does and offers a direct way for us to support our local community.

We've missed their regular

visits each week, so it's brilliant to be able to welcome them back.

Our website provides further detail on all the clubs that use Atlantis for their regular activity – check it out for more information.

With the start of the new term, schools are returning to the Atlantis pool too.

Primary and secondary school classes are block-booking their regular slots each week and are adding their buzz and high spirits into daytimes at Atlantis once again.

Poolside

Oban Swim School started back on August 19 with more than 300 young people set to return to swimming lessons throughout the evening and weekend programmes.

A busy pool contributes so much to that 'Atlantis buzz' we all know so well, it's brilliant having our swimmers back.

Staff

It's new class time for the Atlantis Community Fitness Programme.

We're delighted to welcome Iain Bruce Low to the team with his new Forrest Yoga programme while Shanice Carson has also added a new class in the form of Shape-Up Bar-Bell, a new weights class.

Lots more information about these classes can be found on the Atlantis website – including up-to-date timings and schedule.

The whole Atlantis team extends a huge congratulations to our own Kirsty Summers and partner James Walker who welcomed baby Layla into the world earlier in the month.

We're chuffed to bits for them all and look forward to meeting wee Layla soon.



Shanice Carson has added a new class in the form of Shape-Up Bar-Bell, a new weights class.

M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 26 An Lunasdal THURSDAY 26 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers
- 22.00 Air An Rathad/On the Road
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/ Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 FUNC

DIHAOINE 27 An Lunasdal FRIDAY 27 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Celtic Connections
- 20.00 Prosaig
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits
- 21.00 Dennis Nilsen-Gradh a' Bhais!/ In Love with Death?
- 22.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Skipinnish aig Barrowland

DISATHAIRNE 28 An Lunasdal SATURDAY 28 August

- 16.00 Live Shinty.Cananachd Cup Semi Final
- 17.45 An La
- 18.25 Seachd- The Inaccessible Pinnacle
- 19.45 Port- Druthag Bheag Eile
- 20.00 Prosaig
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Under Canvas 2021/22
- 22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail / Most Dangerous Ways to School

- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 NYZSY
- 00.15 FUNC
- 00.45 Binneas - Na Trads

DIDÒMHAICH 29 An Lunasdal SUNDAY 29 August

- 16.00 Wallace and Gromit / Cuairt Chaiseach/ A Grand Day Out
- 16.25 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile
- 16.45 An Là
- 17.00 Seachd Là/News Review
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22 - St Mirren v St Johnstone
- 19.45 Binneas/ Na Trads
- 20.00 Alleluia!
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach
- 22.00 Bannan Pilot. Ep3
- 22.30 Bannan S1 Ep1
- 23.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 23.45 Dealbh is Slighe

DILUAIN 30 An Lunasdal MONDAY 30 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Druthag na Hearach/A Little Drop of Harris
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.15 Port
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich
- 21.00 Trusadh – Nar Lamhan Fhin/ In Our Own Hands
- 22.00 Bannan /S1 Ep2
- 22.30 Third Lanark
- 23.30 Air An Rathad

DIMÀIRT 31 An Lunasdal TUESDAY 31 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach
- 22.00 Trusadh – Nar Lamhan Fhin/ In our Own Hands
- 23.00 Eadar Chluich
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Alleluia

DICIADAIN 1 An t-Sultain WEDNESDAY 1 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Druthag na Hearach/A Little Drop of Harris
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Steelmen/Motherwell FC
- 22.00 Bannan S1 Ep1
- 22.30 FUNC
- 23.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers

DIARDAOIN 2 An t-Sultain THURSDAY 2 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers
- 22.00 Colin Macleod-An Ceol/Colin Macleod-The Music
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 FUNC



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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

MAREK KOCHMANSKI
Piano Recital
Sun 5th Sept,
3pm
St Conan's Kirk,
PA33 1AQ
£10 (on door)
 followed by
Teas, Cake and
Biscuits
Masks, Contacts

An opportunity has arisen for widows and widowers to share friendship and support at the Corran Halls on **Tuesday 7th September 2021 from 3pm-5pm.** Tea/Coffee/Biscuits provided. This group is particular aimed at those without children or family nearby **If interested please call Joyce, 07818 244572**



find us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

SCOTTISH FOOD & DRINK *fortnight*

4th – 19th September 2021

It's that time again where we celebrate & promote Scotland's produce and all the people who grow, make, cook and sell it!

Every year, Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight celebrates everything that makes food and drink such a special sector. Even through the most turbulent times, our long established businesses and plucky startups grow, manufacture and rear outstanding local produce. Bursting with passionate, talented and creative people, these brands adapt quickly to conquer any challenge, and are why Scotland's reputation for exceptional food and drink remains unmatched. And why our appetite for buying Scottish remains unquenched.

Scotland is a Land of Food and Drink. From the North Highland's artisan smoke-houses to Arran's cheesemakers and Fife's buffalo farms, local producers are selling incredible produce all across the country, every single day. So, as restrictions on travel and businesses start to ease, let's shine a light and remind people why Scottish food and drink is worth savouring, and worth supporting.



100% GRASS FED BEEF & LAMB from the ISLE of LISMORE

New for 2021: PASTURE RAISED CHICKEN

Animals raised ethically on herb rich Scottish pasture where our grazing practices help rebuild soil health and combat climate change.

Our Highland Beef & Shearling Lamb is dry aged for between 14 & 28 days to concentrate the flavours and enhance tenderness.

No herbicides, pesticides, artificial fertilisers, growth hormones or routine anti-biotics. Just delicious, nutrient-dense meat you can trust.

Regular home deliveries in the Oban area or collect from our farm.



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Pixel Spirits

Pixel Spirits, the first craft distillery in Lochaber, opened its doors in 2017 and has won various international awards with their Highland craft gin and rum, all distilled and bottled by hand in North Ballachulish. They create smooth and delicious spirits with full, vibrant flavours that are not lost in mixers or cocktails. These are true premium spirits, made using the finest ingredients; no sugar or artificial colourings are added, even their fruit is peeled by hand and dehydrated in-house.

Founded and run by a husband and wife team this small distillery also offers Gin & Rum School classes where you spend an afternoon with the Master Distiller learning about the production and recipe development and distill your own bottle of gin or rum!

Their signature range includes Devil's Staircase Highland spiced gin, named after part of the West Highland Way in Glencoe, as well as Drookit Piper Highland citrus gin with fresh summery flavours of pomelo, lime and lemon.

In 2020 Pixel Spirits launched their limited edition Artisan Range which also includes White Rum and Golden Rum, they are one of the very few distilleries making rum from scratch in Scotland, fermenting, distilling and ageing it themselves! This year Pixel Spirits' newly released White Rum was the overall style winner of un-aged column & pot distilled rum in one of the biggest and most prestigious industry awards, International Wine and Spirits Competition. True local gem for all gin & rum lovers!

www.pixelspiritsltd.co.uk

Recipe

Cullen Skink with Cheddar Topping

From Neil Forbes, Cafe St Honoré

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 550g smoked haddock pieces
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 large onion, peeled and diced
- 1 large leek, washed, sliced and chopped
- 500ml double cream
- Knob of butter
- 2 handfuls of fresh breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons curly parsley, chopped
- Zest of half a lemon
- 1 handful grated cheddar
- Good salt and pepper
- Extra parsley for garnish

Directions

Sweat the onions in the butter in a thick-bottomed pan until translucent. Then add the potatoes and cream. Cook until the potatoes are just soft, then add the leek and cook for another 3 to 5 minutes.



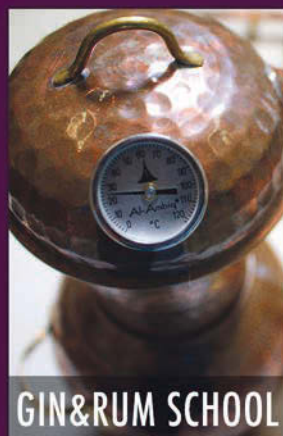
Reduce the heat and add the smoked haddock. Stir gently until the fish is cooked, and spoon into bowls. Make the topping by mixing the breadcrumbs, cheese and parsley. Add to each bowl and place under the grill until bubbling and golden. Serve with a sprinkling of parsley.



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Photograph (untouched)
by Tunnock's fan
Mrs Shirley Fraser

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

Oban
Gift Trail
 PART 4

Oban
Gift Trail
 PART 4

This week we continue 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

34. MITCHELLS CANDIES



From fudge to fried eggs, fizzy sweets to foamy sweets. This fully-loaded sweet shop has everything you've ever wanted! Go on, pick your favourites or treat yourself to a fabulous feast!
74 George St, Oban PA34 5NN

35. PICTURE THIS OBAN



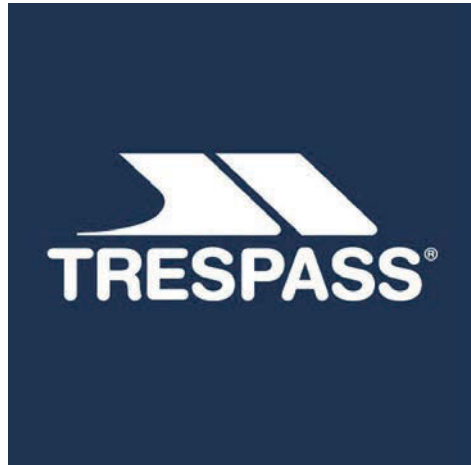
Expert picture framers, providing a personal, bespoke service to suit all of your needs and budgets. Also supply beautiful wooden crafted gifts.
9 Craighard Road, Oban, PA34 5NP
www.facebook.com/Picture-This-Oban

36. OBAN BAY GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS



Stocking a blend of Nautical and Scottish themed Gifts and Souvenirs, they look forward to giving you a warm welcome.
76-82 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.facebook.com/ObanBayGifts

37. TRESPASS



Specialist outdoor chain selling clothing, sport and camping gear, including accessories.
81 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.trespas.com

38. TIMPSON



Chain of locksmiths, also offering other services including engraving, watch repairs and shoe repairs.
83 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.timpson.co.uk

39. OBAN CYCLES



At Oban cycles we are passionate about exploring Scotland by bike. Renting & selling E-bikes, Hybrids and mountain bikes.
87 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.obancyclescotland.com

40. REGATTA



Britain's best outdoor clothing brand. Buy waterproof jackets, fleeces, walking boots & tents. Great value for all the family
94 George St, Oban PA34 5NR
www.regatta.com

41. BAY BATH & BODY



Recently opened shop stocking luxury skincare, indulgent body products and unique home wear.
98 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.facebook.com/baybathandbodyoban

42. THE JETTY GALLERY



Contemporary Art Gallery showing established and emerging talents in painting, sculpture, ceramics, wood, glass and jewellery.
100 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NR
www.thejettygallery.com

43. MCDUGALL'S OF OBAN



A specialist cook shop and kitchenware store, also selling gifts for the home and children's toys.
103-105 George St, Oban PA34 5NT
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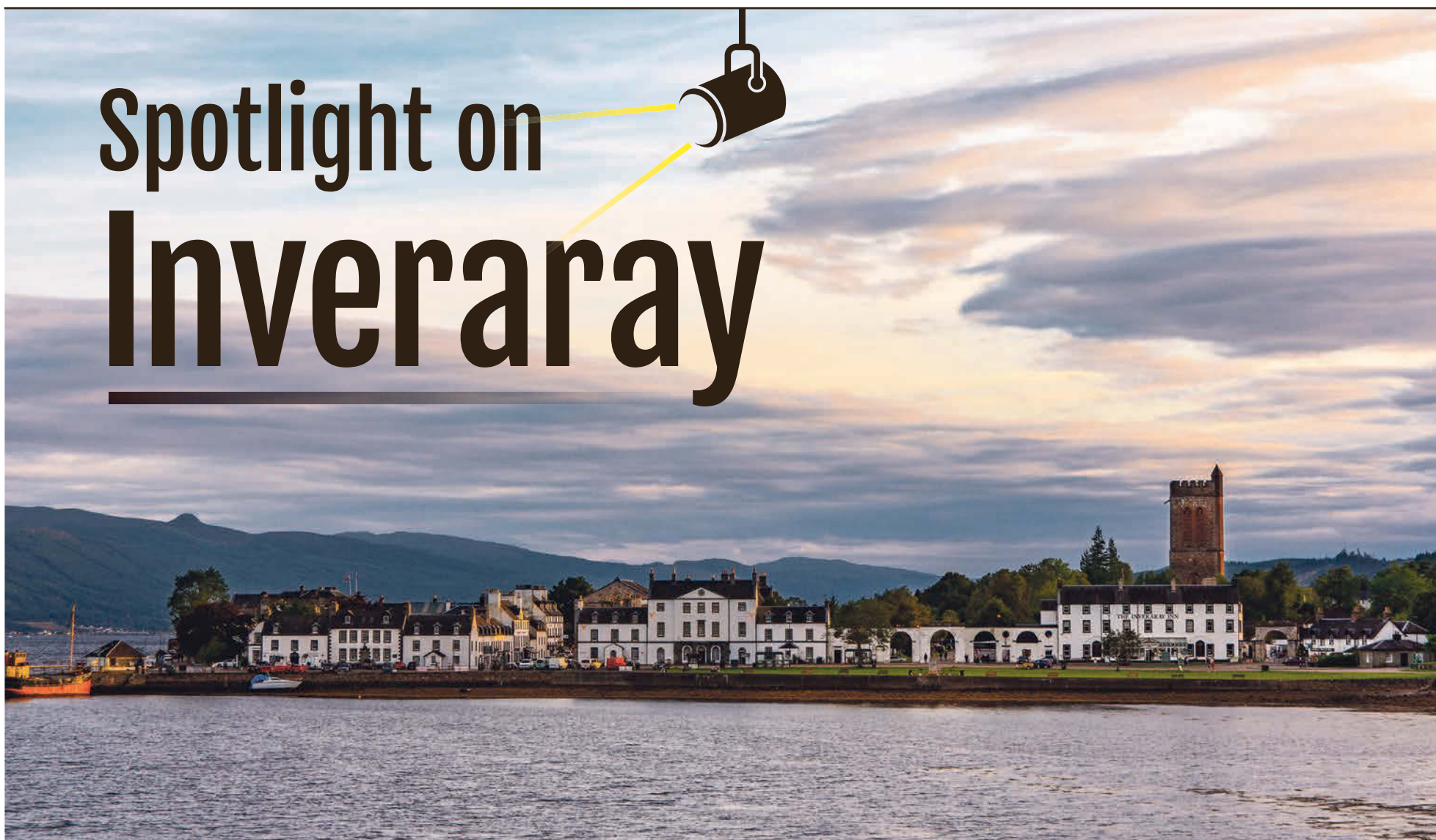
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Spotlight on Inveraray



There is nowhere quite like Inveraray.

A true gem in the heartland of Argyll, the Royal Burgh of Inveraray shines on the shores of Loch Fyne.

Home to the chieftain of the Clan Campbell - the Duke of Argyll - Inveraray Castle lies near the town. But their relationship was once a little more intimate.

Where Inveraray now sits, 250 years ago not a house stood. Deciding the village, then right beside his ducal residence, was a little too close for comfort, the (then) duke decided to demolish it and build a new town a little further away.

The New Town of Inveraray was built between 1753 and 1776 and today is one of the earliest and best-preserved planned towns in Scotland.

These days it is the perfect place for a break or day-trip. Inveraray offers a wide variety of excellent hotels and restaurants; distinctive independent shops where quality and locally-sourced products can be purchased and character oozes from every corner of the town.

There are world-class visitor attractions, including Inveraray Jail and the castle itself.

But it is the natural splendour surrounding Inveraray which sets apart the whole experience. Loch Fyne and Loch Shira sparkle in the sunshine towards distant hills, while the hill of Dun na Cuaiche, with its quirky folly, keeps watch over the scene.

A visit to Inveraray is truly something special.





Harbour Gallery

A welcome addition to Inveraray's main street is the Harbour Gallery.

Opened earlier this year as lockdown restrictions eased, this is the third such gallery opened by Tarbert-based artist Stuart Herd, following his original Tarbert outlet. Another opened in Ullapool in 2015.

The decision to open in Inveraray was taken by Stuart at Christmas and the shop opened at the end of April.

'So far it's been great,' Stuart explained. 'We've had amazing support from locals and visitors.'

The gallery features Stuart's own work, both original pieces and a variety of prints of all sizes.

Alongside stunning west coast scenes, a particular subject of interest to Stuart is rugby union. The new Inveraray premises also showcases his incredible rugby artwork, something that has grown in popularity with each passing season.

In addition to Stuart's work, visitors to the Harbour Gallery in Inveraray can browse fascinating memorabilia relating to Argyll.

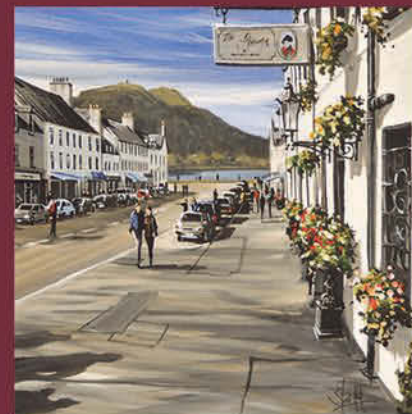
Stuart added: 'It was a gamble opening it during lockdown, but it's been a good move and I hope people enjoy what's available in the Harbour Gallery.'



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www.theharbourgallery.com www.artstuart.com



Inveraray Jail

Step through the doors of Inveraray Jail and go back in time to a 19th century prison.

Experience what life was like for men, women and children - some as young as seven - who were tried and locked up here. Explore the atmospheric historic buildings at your leisure and meet the costumed characters who animate the past in this unique living museum.

The jail's history is brought to life with the dramatic stories and immersive sounds from real characters of the jail's past. Hear from the governor, matron, warder and prisoners, including children, about life in a 19th century prison via a free audio guide.

The unique audio guide - with actors bringing the characters vividly to life - is available to download to your smartphone, or scan the QR code with your phone.

You can even sample the prison

punishments for yourself or get temporarily locked up with the help of the costumed guides.

Prison governor Gavin Dick said: 'Inveraray Jail genuinely has something for everyone, of all ages. It's a fantastic place to visit for all the family.'



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The Courtyard

It would be hard to imagine a more striking site for a shop than The Courtyard, with incredible views across Loch Shira.

The product range within the shop, though, more than matches the venue for quality.

Around six years after opening her original gift shop in Inveraray, Jenny McKillop decided to move to a bigger and better retail outlet, with stunning views, in the town's former tourist information centre.

At the start of 2020 her plans became reality - then Covid arrived.

'We were only open for six days then lockdown came, so that was a bit of a nightmare,' Jenny explained.

'I wondered if I'd done the right thing, but it's worked out fine.'

An independent gift shop, The Courtyard specialises in local suppliers where possible to keep things original and reduce the company's carbon footprint.

Beyond the shop's impressive facade, you will find a selection of products from Arran Aromatics, Highland Soap Company, silver jewellery and accessories, bone china, cards and home-wares. There is even an art gallery to show off local artists' work.

'There's something for everyone - visitors and locals - and it's been so busy,' Jenny added.

'We're differen, and you'll find things you won't find anywhere else.'



Skippers Bistro

Enjoy a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and great local food at Skipper's Bistro.

Management of the restaurant, conveniently situated beside the A83 at Argyll Caravan Park, was taken over by Colin Mitchell and Anne McGeedy in the spring, and they were delighted to open their doors to customers on May 21.

Colin and Anne have wide and varied experience in the hospitality industry, from major football stadia to hotels, restaurants and bars - most recently the Goil Inn in Lochgoilhead.

Colin said: 'At Skippers, we have pulled together all our experience to offer a welcoming, relaxed and friendly restaurant.'

'We offer a full menu and enhance this at the weekends with our specials board which can see anything from langoustine to vegetarian pasta offerings. All our produce is locally sourced where possible.'

'We have some entertainment planned for later this year and will be looking at more for next year. We are also exploring the party and wedding side of the business.'

He added: 'Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the atmosphere we have here at Skippers, enjoy our large beer garden overlooking Loch Fyne and sample the delicious food we have on offer.'

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Aray Fish (www.arayfish.com) is a family-run business based in Inveraray delivering fresh local food across Argyll weekly.

The company has recently diversified and expanded, now featuring a super-convenient online food shop with almost 400 quality products to choose from

Aray Fish offers free refrigerated delivery to areas including Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Cowal and now into Lochaber.

This year, 2021, marks 20 years since the company was established by Paul and Laura Blyth, so to celebrate this milestone and to thank loyal customers the company has introduced a new loyalty reward scheme.

Join the scheme, build up your points and you'll get cash back on your purchases, no catch, no hassle. And, if you refer a friend you'll both get £5 off your next order when they first buy quality produce from Aray Fish.

New customers can also get 10 per cent off their first order by using code ARAYFIRST at checkout.

Or you can refer a friend and both of you will get £5 off your next order. Points accumulate in your account so you get cash back for your loyalty or save your points for your Christmas food shop.

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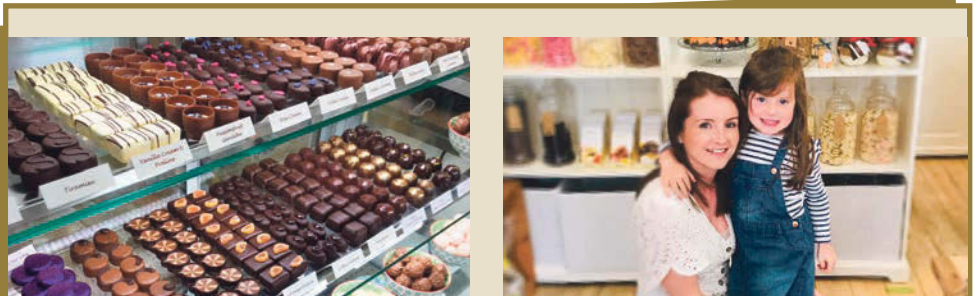
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Alan (Production Manager & Driver)	Chris (Production Supervisor & Driver)	Kane (Production Assistant)

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WWW.ARAYFISH.COM





The Chocolate Box

The Chocolate Box is, quite simply, filled with all the chocolates you could ever want.

The shop was established in 2019 by Denise Brolly, who set up The Sweetie Jar in the neighbouring town of Lochgilphead three years earlier.

Denise said: 'Owning my own confectionery business was something I had always dreamed of since working in a sweet shop as a teenager. I've been on a very steep learning curve ever since but wouldn't change it for the world.'

It is only fair to warn the visitor that a visit to The Chocolate Box will involve wall-to-wall tempting treats and a fantastic selection of sweets and confectionery gifts.

The Chocolate Box features a wonderful selection of old-school retro sweets, delicious hand-made chocolates beautifully displayed, fudges, Scottish tablet, children's favourites and lots more.

If you can't get to the shop, there is always the website - www.thesweetiejarargyll.co.uk - to help find that special wee treat, all from the comfort of your armchair.

Courteous staff will give you a warm welcome and will be happy to help with all your confectionery needs.

And look out for a name change soon as The Chocolate Box becomes The Sweetie Jar to match the Lochgilphead shop.

Stepping into The Chocolate Box will take you a walk down memory lane. From rows of colourful, sweetie filled jars to handmade chocolates, there's something for everyone.



The
Chocolate Box
of Inveraray

You will find us on the Main Street, Inveraray.
We are open 7 days a week from 10:00am - 4:00pm and if you can't visit us at the shop then you will find us online at
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Around the markets

Oban, United Auctions, Tuesday August 17: sold 4452 sheep of all classes. 4218 Lambs averaged £71.93 (+£11.57). An excellent show of well-bred lambs of all breeds was presented to a good ringside of buyers with longer keeping sorts particularly sought after.

Principal lots & prices
Lambs - SuffX - £96.00, Dalvuie; £89.50, 56 Tangasdale; £89.00, Balnagown Croft; £89.00, 17 St Brendan Road; £86.50, Mid Farm; £84.50, Strongorm; £83.00, 56 Tangasdale; £80.00, 3 Killean. BeltX - £120, £95.00, Tyree; £94.00, £89.00, Blackcroft Farming. TexX - £98.00, Tyree; £94.00, Fanmore; £90.50, Balnagown; £90.00, 17 St Brendan Road; £89.00, 3 Baligrundle; £89.00, Tyree; £87.50, Strongorm; £85.00, Tyree; £84.00, Barguillan; £84.00, Barbreck Farm; £83.00, Saulmore; £82.50, Poltalloch; £81.00, Keilbeg; £80.00, Balligarve; £80.00, Kengharair; £80.00, Strongorm. Chev - £96.00, 122 Craigston; £90.00, 78 Borve; £88.50, Lagganulva; £86.00, 103 Borve; £84.50, Dalvuie; £84.50, 56 Tangasdale; £84.00, 123 Craigston. Cross - £87.50, 122 Craigston; £75.00, Strongorm; £70.00, Tyree. Mule - £75.00, Tyree; £74.50, Fiart; £72.50, Frackersaig; £71.50, Poltalloch. Chev Mule - £85.50, £72.00, Caddleton Farms; £69.00, Tyree. Hamp - £71.00, Pennygown. BF - £47.00, Kinlocheil.
Ewes - TexX - £91.00, Fanmore. Chev - £77.00, Dalvuie; £75.00, Caddleton Farms. Cross - £56.00, Dalvuie. Mule - £75.00, £61.00, Poltalloch. BF - £48.00, Glebe.

Mid Argyll Blackface breeders' welcome return

The Mid Argyll Branch, District 6 of The Blackface Sheep Breeders Association, is up and running again.

On Saturday August 14, they held their first successful sheep show in Kilmartin, with competitors from as far afield as Islay. Due to restrictions, it was by invitation only but the event was well supported. The classes were judged by Mr John Macgregor, Allanfauld.

The day finished with a prizegiving and raffle. The weather held up and a good day was had by everyone.

Confined results

- Tup 2 shear and over: Maclean, Largie
- Shearling: R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Senior ewe: R & I Shaw, Acharonich



The Confined Champion was the Junior Ewe, from R&I Shaw of Acharonich, while the Open Champion was R Mackay of Millpark.

- Tup lamb: Maclean, Largie
- Junior ewe: R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Gimmer: Maclean, Largie
- Ewe lamb: D Shaw
- Group: R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Confined champion: junior ewe R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Reserve champion: Maclean, Largie
- Male champion: Maclean, Largie
- Macpherson, Balliemeanoch
- Tup lamb: Maclean, Largie
- Senior ewe: Macpherson, Balliemeanoch
- Junior ewe: R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Gimmer: A Currie, Ballachlaven
- Reserve champion: gimmer
- A Currie Ballachlaven
- Ewe lamb: R Mackay, Millpark
- Group: R & I Shaw, Acharonich
- Open champion: R Mackay, Millpark
- Opposite sex to champion: tup lamb Maclean, Largie

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- Includes all joining pins/stakes

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MAIN FEATURES:

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-feet holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

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Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association celebrates 120 years

This month sees the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association celebrate its 120th anniversary. It formed in August 1901.

This week we look back at its remarkable history.

The second half of the 19th century saw an enormous increase in the reputation and numbers of the Blackface Breed. After 1860, the number of Cheviot hill flocks in Scotland steadily declined, displaced by the hardier Blackfaces, which also became increasingly popular for crossing with lowground breeds such as the Border Leicester.

By the late 1880s, a writer could state that the breed was the most numerous and widely distributed in Britain and gave the opinion that it 'may ultimately become the most extensively farmed breed in the world'.

Much of this was the result of the work of a small number of Blackface breeders whose work improving the size and quality of the breed laid the basis for its growing popularity. It was these breeders who favoured the establishment of the Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association, partly to display their pride and confidence in the breed, but equally to promote the further development of the breed.

It was against this background that a group of prominent Blackface sheep breeders met on Tuesday August 20 1901 in the Clydesdale Hotel in Lanark to discuss the formation of an association to protect the general interest of Blackface breeders 'since theirs was the only important breed having no association to protect its interest'.

Presiding over this meeting, and a driving force behind the move to establish an association, was one of the most prominent figures in Scottish agriculture, Charles Howatson, 'The Laird of Glenbuck'.

Howatson was a leading expert of the need to adopt the best techniques and practices and this had already led to his involvement in the establishment of the Scottish Farmer. He was also a breeder of Blackface sheep who had attained an almost legendary status in his own lifetime – in the year that the Blackface Sheep



A photograph from 1930 of Woolfords Rams and, inset, Charles Howatson, 'The Laird of Glenbuck'.

Breeders

Association was established, he won the prize for best Shearling at the Highland Show for an unprecedented tenth year – and he was to continue to do so for another two years.

The committee formed to frame a constitution for the new association was a 'who's who' of leading Blackface breeders at the start of the 20th century. Apart from Howatson, it included John Archibald of Overshiels, whose family has played a role in the development of the breed since the 1850s, which rivalled that of Howatson, together with James Hamilton of Nether Wellwood and James Cadzow of Stonehill, members

of families which were to play a dominant role in the development of the breed in the first decades of the 20th century.

Some of the earliest supporters of the establishment of the Blackface Breeders' Association had argued that the association should maintain and publish a flock or stud book common to the breed. However, the general consensus at the meeting seemed to be that it would be impractical to keep a flock book – a view supported by Howatson, even though he was reputed to be able to tell potential buyers the pedigree of any particular ram stretching back for six generations, and the decision not to compile a flock book has, of course remained unchanged to this day.

The other major topic of

discussion concerned the ideal characteristic of the breed – the principal argument revolved around the merits of long wool with 'feeders' such as William Anderson of Cramalt clearly opposed to '18 inches of wool trailing on the ground' and arguing that the carcass not the wool was the thing to work for.

Predictably, no clear consensus could be reached and similar arguments continue to excite breeders to this day – although wool in those days would have paid a shepherd's wage, and nowadays the wool cheque doesn't cover the shearing costs.

The new association properly came into existence the following month.

Howatson was to become the first president of the association, a position he held until 1912 when ill health forced him to stand down. He was replaced by James Moffat, who had been vice president since the establishment of the association.

Thereafter the association adopted the current practice of biennial presidencies, with the vice president succeeding to the presidency, subject to the approval of membership at the annual general meeting.

The new association immediately turned its attention to the issue of showing and judging sheep, since it was felt that greater consistency needed to be achieved in the interests of breed development. Howatson was therefore asked to represent their views on the matter to the Highland Agriculture Society.

The Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association was up and running and 120 years later has just over 1,300 paid up members.

The popularity of the Blackface ewe on the hill has never waned; they are still the most numerous pure breeds in Britain, with the vast majority found in Scotland.

They are one of the hardiest sheep breeds in the country and are the backbone of the

Scottish sheep industry, being the pinnacle of our stratified sheep industry.

As a maternal hill breed, the females have a strong mothering ability to rear lambs in extreme terrain. The breed is easily hefted, making it ideal for large areas of hill country and can produce sheep for every climatic condition, thanks to the different distinct types within the breed, which have evolved over the years influenced by climate, environment and grazing quality.

Alec Telfer, current president said: 'It is with great pride that I join the list of illustrious names who have headed the Blackface Sheep Breeders Association since its inception in 1901.'

'Fashions change to suit the markets of the Blackies, which is the most numerous of all hill breeds.'

'However, the enthusiasm and ability of current and future generations of breeders will carry the association forward into a positive place.'

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Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Established in 1994, Colin Brolly Forestry Ltd is a family owned and run timber harvesting business based in Achnabreac, Lochgilphead operating mainly throughout Argyll and the Islands.



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Or you can email your CV and covering letter to recruitment@westcoastmotors.co.uk Alternatively, please call **01586 552319** for further information.

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or Email info@northargyllhouse.org



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For all of the above positions a full driving license is essential.
Accommodation for rent may be available if required by successful candidate.

For informal enquiries and terms and conditions please contact Stuart Crawford at the number or e mail

Stuart Crawford
S & C Crawford Building Contractors Ltd
Tel: 07557123804
sccrawford1@hotmail.com
www.sccrawford.com

Etive House CARE HOME

Etive House Care Home is looking to recruit for the following positions on a permanent basis. Located in the beautiful village of Benderloch by Oban, we offer small group living

accommodation for up to 62 residents. This home offers exemplary standards of residential, dementia and respite care.

We are an incredibly friendly and welcoming care team, with a relaxed atmosphere created within the home.

SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT

• £11.00 per hour. • Pension. • Free parking. • Uniform provided. • 'WELCOME BONUS' OF £250 • Travel expenses covered for anyone out with Benderloch Qualifications/Experience • SVQ Level 3 (Health & Social Care) • Vast experience working as a Care Assistant / Currently working as a Senior Care Assistant • Previous experience working with the elderly or a genuine interest in working in this area.

CARE ASSISTANT

• £10.00 per hour. • Pension. • Free parking. • Uniform provided. • 'WELCOME BONUS' OF £250 • Travel expenses covered for anyone out with Benderloch Previous experience working in care is not required, as full training and support shall be given to any successful candidate looking for a career in care.

HOUSEKEEPING/LAUNDRY ASSISTANTS

22.5 hour & 30 hour contracts available

Please call or email your CV to admin@etivehousecare.com.
We aim to reply to all applications within 48 hours.

Medical Receptionist required.

Part Time - Permanent Contract.

Taynuilt Medical Practice requires a part time receptionist to work Wednesday-Friday. As the practice has three surgery sites - Connel, Taynuilt and Dalmally - transport is necessary. You will ideally have medical reception experience, although training will be given. You will work as part of a team, should have good communication skills and be able to work unsupervised. A knowledge of IT would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing with CV to Janice McGhee, Practice Manager, Connel Surgery, Connel, PA37 1PH or by email to janice.mcgee@nhs.scot.nhs.uk or phone 01631 710229 for further information.
Closing date - Friday 10th September 2021.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)

**THE PROPOSED CLYDEPORT (COP 26 etc.) HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2021
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A HARBOUR REVISION ORDER**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Clydeport Operations Limited ("the Applicant") has applied to the Scottish Ministers for a Harbour Revision Order under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act").
2. The Order will:
 - (α) permanently extend the port limits to expressly include the docks and works;
 - (β) temporarily extend the port limits to include the part of the River Kelvin and another area (shown on the 'Temporary Port Limits Plan') during the COP 26 period (27th October 2021 to 11.59 p.m. on the 15 November 2021), and permit the Applicant to exercise its statutory harbour powers over that area during that period;
 - (γ) set out general functions of the Applicant as statutory harbour authority;
 - (δ) confer powers of general direction and special direction on the Applicant and provisions relating to the enforcement of such directions;
 - (ε) amend the Clydeport Authority Order 1965 to modernise the definition of vessel contained within it and to update the charging power contained in article 67.
3. No works are proposed and no land is proposed for compulsory acquisition and there are no proposals to extinguish or divert any public right of way over a footpath or bridleway.
4. The application does not relate to a project which falls within Annex I or II to Council Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment ("the Directive") not being a construction of a port installation. Accordingly, no environmental statement has been supplied.
5. Paragraph 16 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act (which requires information to be supplied concerning a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Great Britain and in another European Economic Area State) does not apply to the application.
6. A copy of the draft Order, the deposited plans which accompanied the application, the Statement of Support dated 18 May 2021 (updated 4 August 2021), the Clydeport Authority Order 1965 and the Clydeport Authority Order 1969 may be downloaded free of charge from the following website: <https://www.peelports.com/marine/our-ports/clydeport>
Or inspected free of charge by prior appointment only (due to Covid-19) until the expiry of the forty-two day period referred to below at the offices of the Applicant at:

Location	Opening Times
Clydeport Operations Limited, 16 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DS.	Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 5.00pm

7. Any person requiring further information concerning the proposed harbour revision order, or wishes for a hard copy of the proposed Order and accompanying documentation to be sent to them, should apply in writing for that information, or the application documentation, to Ashfords LLP, Ashford House, Grenadier Road, Exeter, EX1 3LH offices quoting reference 'Clydeport (COP 26 etc.) Harbour Revision Order.'
8. Any person wishing to make an objection or representation to the Scottish Ministers concerning the application should write to Karl Zaczek, Ports Policy Co-ordinator, Ports and Harbours Branch, Transport Scotland, Area 2F North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ or email harbourorders@transport.gov.scot within forty-two days from the date at the foot of this notice quoting 'Clydeport (COP 26 etc.) Harbour Revision Order' stating the grounds of their objection or representation and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection or representation may be sent.
9. All objections or representations made, including personal information provided to Scottish Ministers, will be shared with the applicant who may contact you to discuss your concerns. Names and the text of any representation may also be published on Transport Scotland's website due to Freedom of Information requirements. If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the use of your personal data please contact the person specified in paragraph 8 of this notice.
10. If an objection is duly made to the application and not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers may, before making their decision (i) cause an inquiry to be held, or (ii) give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by them.

Ashfords LLP
Solicitors acting on behalf of Clydeport Operations Limited
19th August 2021

Proposed Let of a Croft

William & Janet Love are applying to let the tenancy of the croft at The Dell, Kilmore & Kilbride to Garry Todd of The Dell, Glencruitten, Oban PA34 4QA. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Kevin Donald trading as Kevin Donald Plant of Omar, Stronmilchan, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AS is applying for a licence to use Omar, Stronmilchan, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AS as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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
21/03755/FUL	Guest Accommodation, Onich Hotel, Onich, Fort William, PH33 6RY	Siting of 5Nr Accommodation Pods in grounds on Onich Hotel
21/03771/LBC	Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge	Refurbishment works to statue, plinth and paving
21/03785/PIP	Land 1500M SE of Woodend, Arisaig	Demolish and replace existing ruined farmhouse
21/03838/PIP	Land 570M NE of Sandaig Bay, Inverie, Knoydart	Erection of House

Time period for comments from the date of this notice is 14 days, apart from 21/03771/LBC it is 21 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
SCOUR PROTECTION WORKS, CRAIG BURN,
HIGHLAND**

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

Cost	£200,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Craig,	57° 20.252 N	005° 37.237 W
Highland	57° 20.245 N	005° 37.209 W
	57° 20.265 N	005° 37.228 W
	57° 20.260 N	005° 37.194 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2UxOiD6>.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 00009179 and Amcogiffen.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-and-fisheries-licensing/marine-licensing-operations-team-privacy-notice/>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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
21/01355/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Tigh Na Traigh, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/01320/PP	Erection of telegraph pole for mobile communications with associated enclosure and equipment	Land South West Of Ardnacross Farm, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01433/PP	Erection of dwelling house, detached garage and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2, Ardbrecknish, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute
21/01281/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent To Baile lochdrach, Lower Kilchattan, Isle Of Colonsay, 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



driving **FORCE**

The image features a central car with a glowing blue wireframe overlay, suggesting a digital or augmented reality interface. The car is surrounded by several data panels and graphs, including a speedometer, a fuel gauge, and a battery level indicator. A hand is visible in the foreground, interacting with the interface. The background is dark with a network of glowing blue lines and dots, creating a sense of connectivity and data flow.

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Bear in mind there is a global chip shortage, slowing down production of new cars so delivery times are longer than usual. With the new increase coming in January, log your interest in a new car today with one of our featured local dealers and secure this year's prices!

Our guide will help you get the right car, with the right features for the right price, so read on and get inspired.

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Relax with Helensburgh Toyota



Toyota Relax, a ground-breaking new Toyota warranty launched on 1 June 2021, gives Toyota owners 12 months/10,000 miles' cover for their vehicle each time they have it serviced at an official Toyota centre. The warranty is automatically applied and there is no extra cost to the customer.

It can continue until the vehicle reaches 10 years or has covered 100,000 miles. All Toyota models qualify as long as the age and mileage criteria are met, including passenger cars and light commercial vans and pick-ups.

The Toyota Relax warranty covers the same parts and labour as the three-year manufacturer's warranty provided on new Toyota vehicles and the one-year manufacturer warranty that's standard with approved used vehicles.

Why not relax with Helensburgh Toyota? At Helensburgh Toyota, we offer a full suite of Aftersales care. We have been trading for over 40 years, in that time, we have sold and serviced cars to many customers in Oban and the Highlands. We understand that logistics may not be ideal for some, that is why we will come

to you where possible, whether to collect/deliver a car for servicing or to arrange a viewing/test-drive in one of our vehicles. We will work with you, from the pick-up and delivery of your vehicle, as well as providing a courtesy car if needed (bookable). Our staff are our key asset, all of them well trained, experienced, and here to help you. We are consistently ranked as one of the top centres for Customer Care in the UK Toyota Network. Helensburgh Toyota has also recently won a BRIT (Best Retailer In Town) Awards for Aftersales.

Call the team on **01436 672779**, or for more information visit www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk



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Model shown is MY21 RAV4 Hybrid Design 2.5 VVT-i Auto FWD £33,265 including optional Metallic paint at £615. Prices correct at time of being published. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 47.9 (5.9) - 48.7 (5.8). Combined CO₂ 134-131g/km. Hybrid electric vehicle. Figures obtained using a combination of battery power and fuel. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption, CO₂ and/or equivalent all-electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption, CO₂ produced and equivalent all-electric range can vary significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of RAV4 between 1st August 2021 and 30th September 2021 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st December 2021 on a 24 month Toyota AccessFlex (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. By taking a Toyota AccessFlex monthly payment break, you defer that monthly payment until the end of your agreement. You can defer up to 3 monthly payments (but not the final repayment), either consecutively or on 3 separate occasions during your agreement. The term of your agreement will be extended by one month in respect of each monthly payment deferred, up to a total possible extension of 3 months. Payment breaks cannot be taken to assist with financial difficulties, in respect of the first 3 monthly payments due under the agreement, within the 5 working days before the payment due date, or if any sums due under the agreement are unpaid. Toyota AccessFlex is not available for used vehicles or for any finance offers other than 0% APR. The vehicle may be used during any deferred monthly break period. No associated fees charged and monthly payment remains the same. *Payment shown is based on a 24-month Toyota AccessFlex (PCP) contract with £8,578.00 customer deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 12p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Participating Toyota Centres. Affordable finance through Toyota AccessFlex (PCP). Terms and conditions apply. Toyota Financial Services may pay the Toyota Centre a commission for introducing you to them. Commission may be calculated based on either a fixed amount relating to the vehicle you are financing, a percentage of the amount you borrow, or a combination of both. Toyota Financial Services may also make other types of payment to the Toyota Centres for introducing you to them. Any such amounts will not affect the amounts you pay to Toyota Financial Services under your finance agreement. Helensburgh Toyota trading as Helensburgh Toyota is acting as a credit broker and not a lender.

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Renault Clio Lutecia Limited Edition adds even more flair to iconic supermini range



The award-winning Renault Clio range is now even more attractive with the addition of the eye-catching Lutecia Limited Edition.

Boasting Diamond Black metallic paint as standard, which is set off by contrasting brass detailing, the Lutecia Limited Edition has a stylish, elegant appearance that perfectly lives up to its naming that is derived from the ancient name for Paris.

The special edition, of which only 300 will be available in the UK, adds even more sophistication via a high level of standard equipment that is designed to enhance connectivity, convenience, comfort, and safety. Its rarity and extensive specification ensure the Lutecia Limited Edition is certain to be a hit with Clio buyers who are looking for a highly desirable version of the iconic supermini.

Sitting above the S Edition in the Clio range, but also with additional features to the flagship R.S. Line version, the Lutecia combines its bold, standout styling with an efficient drivetrain. Customers enjoy the simplicity of the latest Clio variant being available solely with the turbocharged petrol TCe 90 engine, which fuses nimble performance with frugal fuel economy of up to 53.3mpg and CO₂ emissions of 119g/km.

The Lutecia Limited Edition will be priced from £20,200 on-the-road. It is available to order now with first deliveries starting in September.

Standard features exclusive to the Lutecia include a heated leather steering wheel, heated seats, Blind Spot Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control with Detector, 17-inch Viva Stella alloy wheels with brass detailing, modal fabric upholstery made of Tencel™ fibre with brass piping and a brass-coloured front grille. In addition to the equipment of the S Edition, it adds extra tinted windows, 9.3-inch EASY LINK touchscreen with satellite navigation and shark fin antenna.

The generous equipment of the Lutecia Limited Edition also encompasses climate con-



trol, MULTI-SENSE including ambient lighting and selectable driving modes, front parking sensors and rear-view camera, electronic parking brake with autohold, electric windows and 7-inch TFT driver infotainment display.

In addition, it also benefits from the safety features that are found in all Clio variants, such as Hill Start Assist, Active Emergency Braking with pedestrian and cyclist detection, Emergency Brake Assist, Lane Keeping Assist and Lane Departure Warning, Traffic Sign Recognition (TSR) and Renault Automatic Emergency Assist.

The arrival of the Lutecia Limited Edition further strengthens the latest generation Clio range. It reaffirms how the most recent Clio combines features that are usually reserved for larger and more expensive cars, with competitive running costs and advanced technology that works to protect drivers and other road users.

The Clio is also available in Play, Iconic, S Edition and R.S. Line trim levels.

For further details on the Clio range, call **01499 302150**

Shockingly affordable New Dacia Duster opens for orders



Orders are now open for the New Dacia Duster, as pricing, technical details and launch offers are confirmed. The latest version of the robust SUV offers a great deal more in every sense.

Having been comprehensively updated with refreshed design elements, advanced features and technology, the New Dacia Duster remains true to its roots by continuing to offer the same versatility and value-for-money it is acclaimed for.

The New Duster is available to order now with the first customers due to take delivery in September. The TCe 130 engine will be available to order later in the year.

Launched in the UK in 2013, and available across Europe since 2010, the Duster quickly earned a reputation for delivering all the benefits of an SUV at city car price. With shockingly affordable value, the Duster has shaken-up

the SUV segment, having broken the rules to become a unique offering for consumers. With more than 1.9 million vehicles sold, the Duster has been the number one car for retail sales in its class in Europe's SUV market since 2019.

Following on from earlier generations, the New Duster is aimed both at customers who are looking for a comfortable, attractive SUV and those who want a robust, versatile 4x4.

True to its heritage, the New Duster is still a family SUV that is ideal for everyday use and also for adventures in nature. Its distinctive design has evolved, especially in respect of its new lights and grille, which give it an even stronger character, and improved CO₂ efficiency.

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PEUGEOT e-208 and 2008 collect double honours at DieselCar & EcoCar Top 50 New Car Awards 2021

The PEUGEOT e-208 and 2008 have both won awards at the 2021 DieselCar & EcoCar Top 50 New Car Awards. Winning the Best Electric Supermini and Best Compact SUV respectively, the models have been praised for their range, handling, efficient powertrains and design.

Not only was the PEUGEOT e-208 the recipient of the Best Electric Supermini at this year's awards, it also placed fourth overall in the

DieselCar & EcoCar Top 50 models on sale for 2021. Praised for its innovative interior design as well as generous suite of driver aids, including its infotainment system and large boot, the full electric e-208's impressive 217-mile range (WLTP) was also a key factor in its award win. Featuring a 50kWh battery connected to a 100kW (136hp) electric motor, the PEUGEOT e-208 also supports up to 100kW rapid charging with a 0 - 80% charge taking just 30 minutes.

Similarly, the PEUGEOT 2008's modern look was an appealing factor in its category win, this time for the Best Compact SUV. The model's strong design with upright grille and distinctive 'tooth' design LED day time running lights is just one of elements that received a string of positive comments from DieselCar & EcoCar, alongside highlighting the 2008's neat handling, efficient petrol, diesel or electric powertrain options and PEUGEOT i-Cockpit® featuring a 3D Digital Instrument Panel as key selling points.

Ian Robertson, Editor of DieselCar & EcoCar said: "The PEUGEOT e-208 stunned us on the road and feels poised and agile, and with a 217-mile range, it's our favourite electric supermini this year. The 2008's strong design, which when backed up with its efficient powertrain options, made it the obvious choice for our Best Compact SUV award this year. PEUGEOT has come in strong at this year's awards, with two further models, the 3008 and 5008, also being placed in our Top 50 New Car listings."



DieselCar & Eco Car recognised both the new PEUGEOT 3008 and 5008 as being vehicles of note, placing the 3008 in 12th place and the 5008 in 31st place in its 'Top 50' models on sale this year.

Julie David, Managing Director of PEUGEOT UK, said: "I am delighted to hear the news from DieselCar & EcoCar that the PEUGEOT e-208 and 2008 have been named winners in the 2021 awards. We are thrilled to see our work being held in such high-regard, and are grateful for the recognition in the Best Electric Supermini and Best Compact SUV categories."

For more information on the PEUGEOT e-208 and 2008, visit www.campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk



Reservations open for new PEUGEOT 308 SW

PEUGEOT has opened reservations for the new 308 SW, an even more practical and versatile variant of the new 308. Featuring a bold new design and class-leading safety features, the new 308 SW is available for the

first time with efficient plug-in hybrid technology alongside advanced petrol and diesel engines. With reservations now open, the new 308 SW will arrive in showrooms in early 2022.

The new 308 SW adds a new dimension of practicality and style to the compact estate segment. For the first time ever, the new 308 SW is available with plug-in hybrid technology alongside efficient petrol and diesel engines, allowing

buyers to choose the powertrain that best suits their needs.

From launch, customers have a choice between two plug-in hybrid powertrains – a HYBRID 180 e-EAT8 or the more powerful, HYBRID 225 e-EAT8, with both vehicles powered by a 12.4kWh electric battery and a 1.6-litre petrol engine. Both models are capable of up to 39 miles in electric mode under WLTP testing. With CO2 emissions from 25g/km, the 308 SW HYBRID models are also eligible for a Benefit-in-Kind rate of just 11%, making them ideal for fleet and business users.

Both plug-in hybrid variants come standard with a 3.7kW on-board charger, with buyers able to add a faster 7.4kW as an option. A full charge with the standard 3.7kW cable takes 3 hours and 55 minutes, decreasing to 1 hour and 55 minutes when using the faster 7.4kW charger.

From launch, the new 308 SW will also be available with PEUGEOT's advanced petrol and diesel engines. Buyers have a choice

between a 1.2-litre PureTech 130 petrol engine and a 1.5-litre BlueHDi diesel engine. All models come standard with PEUGEOT's smooth shifting eight-speed EAT8 automatic transmission with Stop & Start technology.

Julie David, Managing Director, PEUGEOT UK, said: "The new 308 SW is the latest PEUGEOT model to give buyers the ability to choose the powertrain that best suits them. By 2025, our entire model line-up will feature an electrified variant. With a practical and bold design, as well as a class-leading levels of technology, the new 308 SW offers buyers a unique and standout proposition in the compact estate segment."

From launch, the new 308 SW will be available in Active Premium, Allure, Allure Premium, GT and GT Premium trim levels. From Allure trim onwards, buyers can opt for plug-in hybrid variants of the new 308 SW.

Contact your local dealer to find out more. Campbeltown Motor Company on 01586 552030



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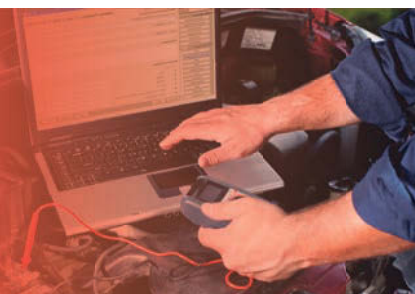
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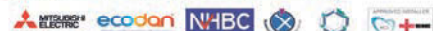
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DEATHS

BALLANTYNE - Professor William Morris (Bill), Balure Cottage, Isle of Lismore and Yacht Naseem III, formerly Bahrain, London and Somerset, passed away peacefully at home, after living a full and happy life, in Edinburgh on August 11, 2021, aged 99. Dearly loved by all his family and adored by Caroline. Private funeral in Edinburgh. Memorial service in London to be arranged.

CAMPBELL - Peacefully, in the care of Etive House Care Home, Benderloch on Sunday, August 22, 2021 in her 87th year, Sheila Anne née Cameron, beloved wife of Ian, much loved mum of Gordon, Brian and the late Michael, dear sister of Margie Stewart and the late Jack

Cameron. Sorely missed by all who knew her.

LAURIE - Duncan. Peacefully, after a short illness, at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee on August 16, 2021, Duncan, aged 89 years, of Domnaheiche, Foss and latterly of Sunnyside, Aberfeldy beloved husband of the late Margaret, loving father of Iain, Gordon and Robert, dear father-in-law to Angela and Lynette and a loving and proud grandpa and great grandpa. Duncan will be sadly missed by the whole family and all who knew him.

REFFIN - Peacefully on August 23, 2021, after a short illness fought with great dignity and courage, Dorothy (Dot) Reffin née MacCallum, in her 69th year of 6c Colonsay Terrace, Oban. Formerly of Lilybank, Rockfield

Road, Oban and Mingarry, Kilchoan. Adored and loving Wife of Teddy Reffin. Cherished and proud Mum of Edward, Fiona and Stevie. Dearly loved Granny of Matthew. A much loved mother-in-law of Gail and Bert and very dear friend of Jolene. A dear sister-in-law, aunt and cousin to the extended family. A good neighbour and dear and loyal friend to many. She will be missed greatly by all who knew her. A private funeral service will be held in Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road on Tuesday, August 31. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers to Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland. For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral cortege will leave from the Church at approximately 12.30/12.45pm

en-route to Pennyfuir Cemetery, where you are welcome to join with the family.

WINK - (Banavie, Fort William). Peacefully at Mains House Care Home, Newtonmore on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Nellie (Bunty) Wink née Beattie of 12 Muirshearlich, Banavie, Fort William, beloved wife of the late Gordon, dear mother to Duncan, Gordon, Alan and Ronald and a much loved grandmother and great grandmother who will be very sadly missed. Funeral service to take place at Kilmonivaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge, on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 1.00pm and thereafter interment in the churchyard. All friends respectfully invited, flowers welcome, donations, if desired, are to benefit Dementia UK and may be sent via Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors, Unit 17/9 Spey Valley Business Park, Aviemore, PH22 1ST. email: info@jrrfunerals.co.uk, tel: Aviemore 07376 11 00 20.

Cameron, Manson & MacBeath for their support and guidance and Alistair and Sandra Fraser, Caol Community Centre. The sum of £413 was raised at the funeral for St Mary's Church Fund.

McKINNEY - The family of the late Ileene McKinney would like to thank Carers Direct, community nurses, Lorn Medical Centre, Vicky from Social Work, neighbours, friends and all who have been involved in caring for Ileene over the years, as it made it possible for her to stay in her own home. We would also like to thank Catriona and staff at Hoey's Funeral Directors for their professionalism and Father Crombie for Requiem Mass.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - Precious memories of Susan, a devoted wife, mother and Nan, who tragically lost her life on September 1, 2014.

Although your smile is gone forever

And your hand we cannot touch

We have so many memories

Of the one we loved so much

It is sad to walk the road alone

Instead of side by side

But to all there comes a moment

When the ways of life divide

You gave us years of happiness

Then came sorrow and tears

But you left us beautiful

memories

We will treasure throughout the

years

Of all life's simple pleasures

Gifts both great and small

To have you as my wife, our

Mum and Nan

Was the greatest gift of all.

Sorely missed.

- Kenny and family.

CLARK - In loving memory of dear Mary, who passed away on August 29, 2018.

A smile for all, a heart of gold

One of the best this world could

hold

Always welcoming, always kind

These are the memories she left

behind.

Quietly remembered and so

greatly missed.

- Margaret, Torloisk.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

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GOURLAY - In loving memory of Allison who died on August 27, 2017.

Always in our thoughts.

Very sorely missed.

- By all her family.

MACLACHLAN - In memory of my dear mother, Morag (née McLeod) of Glen Feochan, Kilmore, Oban, who died August 31, 1983 and her beloved brother Ian MacLachlan of Lynn Court, Oban, who passed February 2, 2005.

Both lovingly remembered always.

- Gordon, Joe, Sheena and family.

MACLEOD - Treasured memories of our much loved Dad Hugh, who died August 28, 2013, also Mum Lottie, who died March 9, 1993.

The smile and the welcome that showed his deep love

Will remain in our hearts as long as we live

- Rita, Johann, Morag, Ian and families.

McGRATH - Precious memories of our dear mum

and shen, Margaret, Achaleven

Farm, who died August 23, 2006

The midnight stars are shining

On a grave not far away

Where our loving mother was

laid

Fifteen years ago today

It's where we often wander

It's where we keep in touch

With our dear mum we loved

With all our hearts and miss her

very much

Losing you brought heartache

That we don't always show

Only those who love you really

know.

You are always in our hearts

- Your loving children,

grandchildren and all the family

xxx

MUNRO - Craig, passed away

August 25, 2019.

Always in our thoughts

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- Dad and Jane.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HOWIESON - Peter, Charlie and families wish to give heartfelt thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the many flowers, cards and phone calls received in memory of their very dear sister Sandra. Sincere thanks to all who paid their respects in and outside church and at Glen Nevis Cemetery. Special thanks to Fr. David Connor and Deacon Thomas Wynne for their support throughout. Thanks also to Manson and MacBeath Funeral Directors for their professional caring support. Thanks to Fort William police and fire brigade for all their help and The Moorings Hotel for excellent service and refreshments. Finally huge thanks to all those who generously donated to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland in Sandra's memory.

MACALLISTER - Billy, Kenneth and Eileen would like to thank most sincerely family, friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers, gifts and messages of sympathy and support at the sad and sudden loss of Jean. Thanks to all medical staff, McDonald Brothers, special thanks to Fr David Connor and Deacon Wynne for the comforting service, Kevin

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

While working in a city centre church in Glasgow, I was a chaplain to a primary school.

Teachers taught respect for all and expected everyone to be polite to each other.

One day, after the calm and supportive atmosphere of the class, a child was met by an older sibling who yelled from a distance something like, 'Come on, hurry up, we'll be late!' The language was more descriptive and it was obvious the child was living between two cultures, two communities, that had very little in common.

Around the world today,

there are many conflicting cultures and communities - for example, Afghanistan today, oh dear God!

In the school were expectations that each individual would make time for the other, to help each other understand academics and how to live together for the fulfilment of everyone.

Most parents and communities want this for their children and adults. This ancient desire is shared across all humanity.

Where does it come from? Many believe it rooted in a being or force described as 'God' - the constraints of language

and minds go no further. Early in the Bible, through Moses, God says: 'Love the Eternal One your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.' Jesus added: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

We each have a responsibility, a part to play. It is through respect and love for others and the realisation we are all teachers, parent, neighbours, part of something bigger than ourselves, that communities and nations will thrive. God knows this and will never stop trying to get us to realise that.

This is my final reflection. In your lives, may you all know, in some way or another, the blessings and love of God.

Reverend Fiona Ogg.



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Dudley group renews links with Fort William

Members of the Bert Bissell Memorial Society from Dudley in the West Midlands have been coming to Fort William for many years and have many friends in the town.

Each year they climb Ben Nevis and renew their connection with the town.

This year's visit took place last weekend. As well as climbing the Ben and visiting the peace memorial on the Parade, they visited Duncansburgh Church which houses windows taken from Vicar Street Church in Dudley when that building closed.

Society president Steve Waltho, centre, a

former mayor of Dudley, and vice president Councillor Shaz Saleem, second left, are seen here at a service in Duncansburgh Church with parish minister the Reverend Richard Baxter, right, and other Dudley councillors.

Covid restrictions limited this year's gathering and the usual meal in the hall had to be postponed, but the group still enjoyed their visit.

Bert Bissell was a mountain climber and peace campaigner.

Born in Dudley, he founded the Young Men Bible Class at Vicar Street Methodist Church.

GRADUATIONS



ROSS CAMERON

Ross Cameron of Stirling graduated BSc. (Hons) in Sport & Exercise Science from University of West of Scotland. Ross is the son of Stuart & Carole Cameron, Stirling and grandson of Douglas & Moira Lang, Oban and the late Duncan & Mary Cameron, Benderloch.



LAURA CAMERON

Laura Cameron of Stirling graduated from Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University with BA (First Class Honours) in Communication Design. Laura is the daughter of Stuart & Carole Cameron, Stirling and the granddaughter of Douglas & Moira Lang, Oban and the late Duncan & Mary Cameron, Benderloch.

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OT

Shinty round up

Kingussie lifted the Artemis Macaulay Cup and Lovat secured the final Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final spot following the shinty action on Saturday August 21.

Artemis Macaulay Cup Final

Kyles Athletic 1 Kingussie 4
Holders Kingussie took the Artemis Macaulay Cup back to the Dell following their 4-1 victory over Kyles Athletic in their 4.10pm throw-up at Mossfield, Oban.

The rain had eased ahead of throw-up but become heavier again as the final progressed, but groundsman Iain Hay and his team had the pitch in great condition.

Kingussie's Calum Grant recovered sufficiently from an ankle injury to take a place on the bench so Ryan Borthwick continued at wing back.

Kyles Athletic defender Scott MacDonald was expected to miss out with a broken thumb but he declared himself fit to play.

A broken bone in his lower leg ruled out George Thomson so former Skye player Neil MacVicar started. Donald Irvine and Rupert Williamson were substitutes.

Kyles Athletic's plans to contain the Kingussie attack suffered an early blow when James Falconer turned home a rebound from the left of the 'D' on six minutes after Ruaridh Anderson's shot from distance was saved by Kyles keeper John Whyte.

Kingussie went back on the attack and Whyte stretched to make a brilliant save with his stick, keeping out James Hutchison's shot which was heading for the top corner of



Lovat's Fraser Heath keeps with Oban Camanachd's Scott MacKillop at bay. Photo Neil Paterson



Kingussie celebrate winning the Artemis Macaulay Cup after beating Kyles 4-1 at Oban's Mossfield park. Photo Stephen Lawson

the net.

John Whyte stood firm as Kingussie tried to add to their tally.

First, he raced off his line to deny Ruaridh Anderson before turning away Roddy Young's low shot.

Colin MacDonald had a half-chance from the edge of the 'D' but wasn't able to make the most of it.

Neil MacVicar was troubled by a thigh injury and limped off just after the half-hour to be replaced by Donald Irvine who made his first appearance of the season.

There was still time for John Whyte to save from Savio Genini and for all Kingussie's pressure, they only had 1-0 advantage at the turnaround.

John Whyte saved with his feet from Roddy Young as the second half began in a similar fashion to the first 45 minutes.



James Falconer celebrates scoring the opening goal against Kyles in the Artemis Macaulay Cup final in Oban. Photo Kevin McGlynn

Ryan Borthwick put in a great challenge on Colin MacDonald at the edge of the 'D' at the expense of a corner as Kyles reminded their opponents of their threat.

Innes MacDonald was yellow-carded by referee Calum Girvan for a late hack at Ruaridh Anderson.

John Whyte saved when Savio Genini found Fraser Munro on the left from a free-hit but a second and decisive Kingussie goal was only minutes away.

It came on 69 minutes when Roddy Young was bundled over to the right of the 'D'.

Savio Genini scooped the free-hit into the middle and Kyles failed to clear allowing James Falconer to shoot. John Whyte saved, but Kieran MacPherson had pushed forward from midfield and he turned the rebound home.

James Falconer got his second goal on 75 minutes. Savio Genini prevented Donald Irvine from clearing a ball out of the goal area and it broke to James Falconer on the right. Falconer took a touch forward before sending a shot through the keeper's legs from the tightest of angles.



Dougie Livingstone, Engineering Maintenance Manager at the Alvalance smelter in Fort William, made the Alvalance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-final draw. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Balliemore Cup semi-final draw

The draw for the quarter final of the Alvalance BA Balliemore Cup took place on Tuesday August 17 at Alvalance's Lochaber Smelter.

The draw was conducted by Dougie Livingstone, Engineering Maintenance Manager, Alvalance. The semi-finals, due to be played on Saturday August 28, will take place at a neutral venue to be decided by the Camanachd Association's Competition Committee.

The draw is:

Bute v Beaulay
Skye v Inveraray

This is the fourth year of the partnership with Alvalance Aluminium (formerly Liberty). Tom Uppington, Alvalance Aluminium managing director, said: 'Shinty is a vital part of community life in this part of Scotland and

Alvalance is proud to support the historic tournament.

'Following another exciting cup draw, I look forward to seeing these talented teams compete for a place in the final in September. Best of luck to everyone involved.'

Derek Keir, Camanachd Association chief executive officer, said: 'The excitement is palpable throughout the shinty world as we move deeper in the cup competitions and the Alvalance Balliemore Cup draw has added to the excitement.'

'Our thanks, as ever, go to Alvalance for their support over the past four years to enable us to deliver this national competition as well as employing many people in the shinty heartland, including last year's winning captain Arran MacPhee.'

finals after beating Oban Camanachd 3-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Taynuilt Sports Field

This tie was rescheduled from the previous weekend following a covid outbreak in Oban and with Mossfield hosting the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final, the game was switched to Taynuilt.

The constant rain made for difficult conditions and Fraser Heath put Lovat ahead on 21 minutes.

The Oban Camanachd defence didn't deal with Drew Howie's hit-in from the right and when the ball came back to Howie, he sent it forward into the danger area. Oban failed to clear again and as Scott McKillop tried to send the ball up-field, he played it straight to Fraser Heath who fired low on his backhand past Cameron Sutherland.

Malcolm Clark equalised on 29 minutes when Evan

MacLellan's corner from the right dropped for him just inside the 'D' and he swept the ball home.

Ross Campbell shot over the bar as the Oban side tried to get in front.

Lovat regained the lead through Greg Matheson on 32 minutes when he ran onto a free-hit from Lewis Tawse and sent the ball low into the net on his backhand.

Marc MacLachlan made it 3-1 on 64 minutes, picking a great time to score his first goal of the season.

Fraser Heath, bandaged following a head knock which later required stitches, played the ball into the 'D' from wide on the right.

Cameron Sutherland came off his line to stop the ball with his legs but the ball came to MacLachlan at the edge of the 'D' and he rolled the ball low into the net to make it 3-1.

Oban Camanachd pushed

Daniel Cameron and Daniel Sloss up front for the closing stages, but Lovat were resolute.

A clearly disappointed Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss said: 'It wasn't a good day. Lovat punished mistakes we made at the back whilst we weren't creative enough in attack and we're clearly not scoring enough goals in the big games.'

'We need more from some players in these games but we will re-group and get ready for Ballachulish in the Celtic Society Cup quarter final on Saturday.'

The Tulloch Homes Camanachd semi-final line-up is now confirmed.

Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic meet at Taynuilt Sports Field on Saturday August 28 then Kingussie face Lovat at An Aird on Saturday September 4. Both semi-finals throw-up at 4.10pm and are live on BBC ALBA.

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - second round

Inveraray P Oban Celtic P

Inveraray's tie with Oban Celtic at the Winterton was postponed because of covid restrictions affecting the Oban side.

HIS Sutherland Cup - third round

Lochside Rovers P Kinlochshiel P

The 1pm throw-up between holders Lochside Rovers and the Kinlochshiel seconds at Ganavan was postponed because of covid restrictions.

The tie has been rescheduled for Ganavan a week on Saturday with Lochside hosting the Oban Celtic seconds in the Bullough Cup semi-finals this weekend.

Last week's HIS Sutherland Cup semi-final draw sees the winner from the tie between Lochside Rovers and the Kinlochshiel seconds paired with 2019 finalists Lovat seconds, whilst the Beauy seconds meet the Newtonmore seconds. The ties are scheduled for Saturday September 4 at neutral venues.

The HIS Sutherland Cup Final takes place at Blairbeg on

Saturday October 16.

Bullough Cup - second round

Kilmory 3 Aberdour 0

Kilmory were 3-0 victors against the Aberdour second team in their 1pm throw-up at MacRae Park.

With supporters making their return, they home guard had plenty to cheer as Bruce Johnston scored after 33 minutes to secure a 1-0 interval lead.

Bruce Johnston went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 60 and 71 minutes.

Mowi South League A

Ballachulish 7 Inveraray 1

Ballachulish beat the Inveraray second team 7-1 at the Jubilee Park.

Jack MacLean gave the hosts the lead on eight minutes but Robert Wood levelled a couple of minutes later.

Ballachulish built an interval lead with Jack MacLean on 31 minutes, David Grant on 33 minutes, Dan MacLean on 37 minutes and Kier Irbhinn on 39 minutes making it 5-1 at the break.

Donald Pearce on 70 minutes and Alan Clark on 78 minutes made the final score 7-1.

Bute P Col Glen P

Bute's meeting with Col Glen at the Meadows was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Mowi South League B

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Bute P

The game between the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts and the Bute colts at Peterson Park was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Mowi Central League

Glenorchy 5

Ardnamurchan 0

The match between Glenorchy and Ardnamurchan was switched from Mart Park to Ganavan.

Glenorchy took a grip of the game in the latter part of the first half and led through Stewart Twort on 27 minutes.

Kieran MacKay made it 2-0 on 31 minutes and Arik MacKechnie's brace on 35 and 45 minutes made it 4-0 at the interval.

A second from Kieran MacKay on 62 minutes was the only goal of the second half.

Three goals and three points for Saints GG

Oban Saints	3
Calderglen	0
President's league Cup	

Covid-19 restrictions forced the cancellation of Oban Saints scheduled Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash with reigning champions St Patrick's FP leaving Oban Saints GG to take centre stage at Oban High School last Saturday afternoon.

The Saints second string lost their opening Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League President's League Cup group section match against Division One side Rhu GGP the previous Saturday and were looking to bounce back against Lochwinnoch based Calderglen also of the top division.

Goals from Thomas McCrindle, Donald Campbell and Rory Dowd gave Saints their first Group Section One points but more importantly put valuable minutes in the tank for a number of players in need of game time.

Manager Donald Black had only seven of the previous week's squad available for selection and was forced to make significant changes hampering his preparations for when the serious business of the Division 3A league campaign gets underway in September.

It took Saints until the 10th minute to register the first serious attempt on goal generated principally by the endeavour of Craig Livingstone on the right.

The flying wing back made a strong run on the right and fizzed over a cross fractionally too high for Fraser MacFarlane in the middle.

Donald Campbell's excellent first touch brought the ball under control at the back post but his shot back across goal from a tight angle slipped wide of target.

Saints took the lead when Fraser MacFarlane was fouled



Cammy Clark congratulates Thomas McCrindle on his goal. Match report and photographs: Derek Black

after 34 minutes with the challenge from Nicky Parsons earning the Calderglen winger a yellow card from referee Martin Rae.

Further punishment followed for the visitors when Donald Campbell's glancing header helped Cammy Clark's free-kick across the face of goal where Thomas McCrindle was on hand to prod the ball home from close range.

Saints retained the upper hand going into the closing stages of the first half and Kenneth Black's driving run on the left forced a corner kick in the 45th minute.

Gavin Forgive, who saw a lot of the ball in central midfield, sent over an inviting delivery, however, Donald Campbell was denied the opportunity to get his head on it by the arms of Logan Macdonald whose indiscretion didn't escape the attention of referee Martin Rae, who immediately pointed to the penalty spot.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results:

League Cup - U13s 3, Campbeltown Pupils 3.

Scoring for Saints were Donald Campbell (2) and Corey Pypier. U15s 3 Campbeltown Pupils 6. On target for Saints were Rhys Miller (2) and James Muir. League: U16s no game; U17s

Donald Campbell duly dispatched the spot kick past Colin Robertson to give Saints a two-goal advantage going into the half-time interval.

The second half was only seven minutes old when the home side added a third thanks in the most part to the trickery of Fraser MacFarlane on the left.

MacFarlane got to the byeline and cut back for Rory Dowd who slotted home from close range for what would prove to be the final goal of the afternoon.

This Saturday the Oban Saints first team squad make the long trip to take on Lesmahagow in their first league outing of the season after Covid restrictions put paid to games against Drumchapel Ams, Drumchapel PYM and St Patrick's FP.

The game at Glebe Park kicks off at 2pm.

The Saints GG squad are also on their travels when they take on Erskine in a President's League Cup match.

7 Kilbowie Union 0. Kyle Cooper (4), Andrew Nicol (2) and Ross MacKay were the Saints' scorers.

This Sunday's fixtures:

League Cup - Victoria Park v U13s;

U15s v Dunoon. League - U16s v Hillwood; U17s v BSC Glasgow.



Rob Graham, Lorn Healthy Options

Lorn Healthy Options weekly health tip

Focus on repetition and not perfection

Many of us can get a little bogged down with the optimal way to increase our physical activity or lose weight through a new dietary approach.

Sometimes we become so focussed on 'the best approach' that we forget to actually take action. Therefore, the best can become the enemy of the good.

When it comes to adopting a new habit, we often fall into one of two categories, either in motion or taking action.

When in motion we are planning, strategising and learning which forms a very important phase in most behaviour change models but if we spend too long in this state, we never actually produce a result.

It's very easy to tell ourselves that we are making progress when in motion, but instead of getting things done we are just planning to get things done.

For example, we could spend a lot of time researching the perfect new diet, finding new recipes and listing new food types but if we never actually get around to cooking and consuming a healthy meal, we'll never see the results.

When developing a new habit the key is repetition and not perfection. Focus less on what you perceive to be the quality level of your efforts and just get the reps in.

The more we perform a new habit the stronger the neural connections become in the brain making it more automatic in nature.

So perhaps instead of asking the question 'how long does it take to form a habit?' we should be asking 'how many times does it take to form a habit?'

Whether you are trying to change your diet, start a new exercise programme, or taking up painting, stop procrastinating about perfection, start to get your reps in and just have a go.

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

Rob Graham, Lead Exercise Professional, Healthy Options.

Atlantic Nomads test west coast waters

Continued from page 56

the training camp and found they were surprisingly ok,' said Euan. 'We can, however, take limited snacks so I will be tucking away some Tunnocks Caramel Wafers too.'

The team have also mastered the onboard water maker which turns the sea water into something more drinkable.

'We have been friends for a long time so an adventure

like this should only bring us closer,' added Euan. 'I think.'

The team will also be raising funding and awareness for Alabare UK - Homes for Veterans in the process. To donate go to the Atlantic Nomads Virgin Money Giving page. To find out more about the team and the challenges they will face together, as well as the work of their charity partners, follow them on Instagram @atlanticnomads, or visit atlanticnomads.co.uk.

Atlantic Nomads test west coast waters

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A quartet of hardy seafarers paid a visit to the region last week to test the choppy West Coast waters ahead of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge.

In December the Atlantic Nomads, aka Euan Fraser (Saltcoats), Taylor Winyard (Peebles), James Wooley (London) and Tom Rose (Battersea) will be leaving the safety of La Gomera in the Canary Islands and rowing unsupported 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Known as 'The World's Toughest Row', the challenge will strip the team of all the comforts of modern life and

test every part of their mental and physical resilience.

Last week the team based themselves at Dunstaffnage Marina from where they tested their skills on this side of the Atlantic with 'Doris' their 28ft ocean rowing boat.

'We wanted to test ourselves in changing and challenging conditions and there is nowhere better to do that than on the West Coast,' said Euan.

The team left Dunstaffnage on Monday, August 16, and rowed around the Firth of Lorn and up through the Sound of Mull.

'We practised lots of different skills and drills in some fairly rough conditions,' added Euan.

'It has been a really successful training camp during which we covered everything we will



Taylor Winyard, James Wooley, Tom Rose and Euan Fraser.

20_T35Atlantic Nomads6

have to do for our row across the Atlantic.'

The Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge is a race and the Atlantic Nomads will be up against 18 other 'fours'

with singles, pairs, trios and fives also competing to make up 38 entries in total.

'It's not just about the race for us,' said Euan. 'It is about getting out there and doing

something that will test us as a team to the limit.

'Ultimately we will be trying to get to Antigua as quickly as we can and to do this we will be giving it absolutely the best shot we can.'

In the race itself the Nomads will be rowing on a rotational basis with two hours on and two hours off.

When they are not rowing they will be trying to catch up on some much-needed rest in two tiny cabins hardly big enough to swing a shark.

In order to maintain their energy levels they are required to take on 6,000 calories per day; mostly taken in through dry ration packs.

'We tested this out too during

Continued on Page 55

Bob suffers setback in bid for US tour card

Oban golfer Robert Macintyre's bid to secure a tour card for next season's USPGA tour suffered a setback last week when he failed to make the cut in the opening leg of the three-tournament Korn Ferry Tour finals in Boise Idaho.

Despite a superb 67 on Friday, he was unable to fully repair the damage done with his opening day 74 and finished two shots short of the cut mark.

With two tournaments left in the play-off finals, Bob moves to the second leg at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus Ohio today (Thursday, August 26) and a huge performance is required to get into contention for a top 25 place.

It's the taking part that counts at Rotary Am Am

Oban's amateur golfers will be teaming up and teeing off at Glencruitten Golf Course on Sunday, August 29, for Oban Rotary Club's annual Am-Am competition, writes Fiona Scott.

The competition, now in its 35th year, will feature players from around the country as well as many well-known local players.

Since 1985, the event has raised £200,000 for good causes as the main fundraiser for Oban Rotary Club - ac-

counting for around 60 to 70 per cent of the charity's annual funds.

Around 40 teams are expected to compete this year with each team consisting of four golfers, and the best two scores from each hole will be taken into account.

George Graham, Wyvex Media's director for Wyvex Media's newspaper and tourism products division, has played in the competition on and off for the last 20 years.

This year he will team up

with Sandy 'Frankie' Gow and Jim McGleish and at the time of writing was still looking for a replacement for John 'Blink' Tannahill.

George's biggest haul in the competition was six cans of Magners and 15 miniatures.

He told The Oban Times: 'It is a great day that the players very much look forward to. It's no great disaster if you don't return a good score; that's if you return a score at all.'

'It is a very well run and enjoyable day with the added bo-

nus of raising a huge amount of money for local charities.'

The competition supports many events, including the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and youth and sporting activities, and regularly contributes to the Laurinburg/Oban High School exchange as well as high school outdoor trips and events.

Rotary funding has also helped the West Highland Tennis Week, Glencruitten Junior Golf coaching, Oban High School and its pipe band,

and the Dove Centre.

On top of this, Rotary Club of Oban also funded the provision of a defibrillator at Ganavan Sands beach.

The competition is also dependent on the co-operation of the members of Glencruitten Golf Club, who make their facilities available, and the generous contributions offered by many local businesses which sponsor the event including The Oban Times.

George added: 'The Oban Times is very proud to be the

principal sponsor for Oban Rotary's Am Am competition.'

A raffle and auction, presided over by Donald Morrison, will also held on the day in aid of Mary's Meals, which supports children throughout the world.




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27	0240 1.1 0814 3.6 F 1450 1.1 2040 3.7	29	0353 1.5 0917 3.3 SU 1603 1.7 2148 3.2	31	0541 1.9 1055 2.8 TU 1758 2.1	2	0251 2.9 0812 1.9 TH 1505 3.0 2159 2.0

OBAN WEATHER

Thursday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 22°C.

Friday

Sunny intervals and light winds
Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.

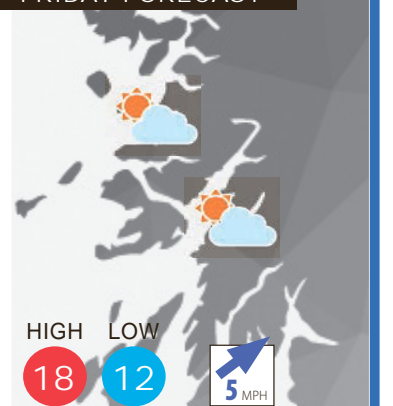
Saturday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 19°C.

Sunday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 12°C to 19°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 18 LOW 12 5 MPH

LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

No 8578

Thursday 26 August, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p

E-bikes named after Kinlochleven's Eoin

INSIDE : Driving Force feature - 71 plates are here

Charity back with a smile

Kirsty's Kids returns with special open day

A late summer down-pour did nothing to dampen the high spirits at Saturday's open day for the Kirsty's Kids charity at Lochailort. After the devastation caused by last year's severe floods, dozens of volunteers have since come together to help Kirsty Bryden Memorial Trust founders John and Jan Bryden, pictured, repair the damage - including the model rail bridge seen here - and start welcoming back children and their families who are in need of special respite care.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Full story page 6.



Plea to keep weekly school ferry sailings

The Highland Council has been urged to maintain the weekly special ferry sailings for pupils from the Small Isles who board at Mallaig High School and not return to fortnightly crossings.

In October the local authority opted to switch from fortnightly to weekly sailings for the youngsters from Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna following pressure from the parent council and MSP Kate Forbes.

At the time, Highland Council told the Lochaber Times that the weekly schedule would only be temporary arrangement while Covid restrictions at the hostel remained in force.

But it is believed that earlier this summer the local authority notified parents it intended resuming the fortnightly sailings which meant boarding pupils would only get to return home every two weeks.

Kate Forbes and Fort William and Ardnachan SNP councillor Niall McLean both want to see the weekly crossings retained. Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'Understandably island parents are concerned about the

Continued on page 2.



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Yacht club steps in to host races for disabled sailors



The series of races for disabled sailors always proves popular. Photographs: Lochaber Yacht Club.

The weekend saw Lochaber Yacht Club stepping in at short notice to host a round of the Challenger racing series for disabled sailors.

The Challenger is a trimaran specially designed for disabled people, the three-hulled configuration making a capsize almost impossible. Once afloat the disabled person is independent, requiring help only for launching and the recovery to shore.

Although there was a reduced fleet compared to previous years, there were five keen travellers looking forward to spending the weekend sailing on Loch Linnhe.

After a delayed start waiting for the wind on Saturday, three good races took place. Disappointingly on Sunday the wind failed to return so after a long wait the boats were unrigged with the help of our volunteers. A club spokesperson said: 'Our galley team and shore-based volunteers did a fabulous job as always, keeping the hungry crews fed and launching and recovering their boats. Thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to planning the next event.'



Lochaber Yacht Club hosted a round of the Challenger racing series at short notice.



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Plea to keep weekly school ferry sailings

Continued from page one. impact on their children's mental health of being away from home for longer periods of time with no parental oversight or support, especially as the virus is still impacting our lives.

'I have previously written to the Highland Council asking if the weekly service could be maintained, at the very least until the consultation period has been completed, and it is imperative the views of pupils and parents in the affected communities are considered before any final decisions are made.'

Councillor McLean added: 'I strongly question the decision from Highland Council to not allow pupils from the Small Isles who board at Mallaig High School



Councillor McLean.

to return home weekly. Only being permitted to go home once a fortnight will impact the children who have to board and their families. We

don't want these families under further stress. A weekly trip home is essential for family life.

'Keeping children from their families, especially at this stage in the pandemic, doesn't make sense.'

However, Caol and Mallaig councillor Denis Rixson, Liberal Democrats, favoured an option that would satisfy both viewpoints.

'I would like to see weekly sailings retained and the hostel remaining open at weekends for those parents and children who prefer to return fortnightly,' he explained.

'The council would have to recognise there would be a cost implication for this but it would satisfy both sides of the equation.'

Two divers treated for decompression sickness after Lochaline dives

Two divers have been treated for decompression sickness after getting into difficulties off Lochaline on Friday.

On Friday night at 7pm, a diver was flown to Aberdeen for treatment in the hyperbaric chamber at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after suffering decompression sickness at Lochaline.

Normally divers suffering from decompression sickness on the west coast of Scotland are treated at Tritonia Scientific's Oban recompression chamber.

However, on this occasion, the Oban chamber had just started treating another diver, who had also been diving at Lochaline. That treatment had just started when the second emergency call was received.

Recompression therapy can take between five and eight hours to complete so there would have been a considerable delay before the next diver could have been treated. Because of this, the decision was taken

to transfer the second diver to Aberdeen by helicopter.

Dr Martin Sayer, managing director of the Oban centre, explained: 'Scotland is unique in operating a national co-ordinated service for the emergency recompression of divers.'

'There are three NHS-registered hyperbaric chambers in Scotland - Oban, Orkney and Aberdeen - and they work together, managing where divers are taken to and how they are best treated.'

In this case, because the Oban chamber was already occupied, it made sense to transfer the second diver to Aberdeen.

'It has been busy for diver emergencies on the west coast this year and this is the second time a diver has been transferred to Aberdeen because the Oban chamber was full.'

'Transfers do also occur in the opposite direction and divers have been diverted to Oban previously because the Aberdeen unit was busy.'

Delivery surcharge total angers MSP

The constituency of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch pays the highest delivery surcharges in Scotland according to new annual figures from the Scottish Parliament's research unit.

MSP Kate Forbes has continually called on the UK Government to act and end what she has slammed as 'rip-off charges' for the Highlands and the latest report shows her constituency is thought to pay more than £9 million-a-year.

For the whole Highlands and Islands region, the figure is £40 million and nationally almost £45 million.

Ms Forbes said: 'The scandal of retailers charging more than £9 million to customers in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch has never looked like such a rip-off. That means customers who purchase goods online, especially with the surge in sales during the pandemic,



Kate Forbes says parcel delivery surcharges for Highland residents are an 'absolute disgrace'.

have paid over the odds and lined the pockets of retailers and delivery firms who think nothing of over-charging Highland consumers. It is, and always has been, an absolute disgrace and it is long overdue for the UK Government to act.

'More than £9 million across Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch could have been spent in the local economy and made an enormous difference.'

Advice Direct Scotland, which runs Scotland's national consumer advice service consumeradvice.scot, has an online form for people to report unfair delivery charges, with information passed on to the relevant authorities for further investigation.

Marjorie Gibson, head of operations with Advice Direct Scotland, said this latest report highlights the 'unfair treatment' faced by many Scots living in remote and rural areas.

She added: 'We encourage Scots to report instances to us where they believe they have been unfairly treated. Too many people living in remote and rural areas find online bargains have hidden charges or small-print delivery infor-

mation that can be missed when making a purchase. When shopping online, always check for delivery charges first. We have been working closely with the Scottish Government and Highland Council in particular to deliver fairer deals for all online shoppers.'

Frazer Coupland, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the new report telling the Lochaber Times: 'It confirms we are unfairly penalised in the Highlands. But I was shocked at just how much more the folk of Lochaber, Skye and Badenoch have to pay for deliveries. It is vital delivery charges are reduced for our area. It's unbelievable we're paying an extra £9million in delivery surcharges every year. That is £9m lost to our community and economy. We urge the UK Government to take action on this.'

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LT

Jacobite banknote auctioned for £6,250 in aid of museum



A Jacobite banknote print made £6,250 when it was sold at auction last week, with the proceeds going to the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

The print was created by Edinburgh Printmakers in April on behalf of the museum, from an original 1746 copper plate etched by Robert Strange.

This contemporary print continues the Jacobite tradition of fundraising for their 'Cause', yet this time all proceeds raised will help fund West Highland Museum, which is raising money to help

The framed print which made more than £6,000 at auction last week. Photograph:

Lyon and Turnbull.

it expand its premises. The museum is aiming to expand into 40 High Street, a building it bought in 2018 with the help of the Scottish Land Fund.

This print is the first of 22 in total, produced by Edinburgh Printmakers, to mark the 100th anniversary of the museum in 2022.

Museum curator Vanessa Martin told the Lochaber Times: 'We are absolutely delighted with the outcome of the auction and the funds raised far exceeded the final total we had anticipated.'

'This has been exciting project to work on over the last 18 months and I am grateful for all the expert support we have received that enabled us to produce these beautiful prints.' Dating back to the days preceding the Battle of Culloden in 1746, this particular plate has an interesting and eventful history.

Commissioned directly by Prince Charles Edward Stuart at the height of his campaign, and indeed only a few days prior to the fateful Battle of Culloden, it was necessitated by the shortage of funds owing from an expensive crusade through 1745-6 and the loss or theft of various shipments of gold from France and Spain.

The notes were intended to pay Jacobite troops and continue to fund the campaign. Over the course of two personal meetings in April 1746, Robert Strange, an engraver and a member of Prince Charles' Lifeguards regiment, was commissioned by the prince to create the engraving plates for the banknotes.

However, the commission was not without issue as Strange could not find paper of

■ The print sold at auction, the first from the run, has been framed using wood from the famous 'Beech Avenue' at Achnacarry, planted at the time of the uprising in 1745 and now reaching the end of its natural life.

The wooded avenue, alongside the River Arkaig, was planted by Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 19th Chief of Clan Cameron, without whose eventual support the '45 campaign would never have taken place.

Lochiel had been in the process of planting the tree-lined avenue to Achnacarry House when

the call to muster at Glenfinnan came in. In his haste to join the prince, the seedling trees were swiftly planted in groups rather than in a planned avenue along the drive, where they grew to full maturity.

The recently harvested wood has been turned into a fitting frame for such an iconic print, with tradition at the very heart of the work. The frame was crafted by cabinet maker Peter Davis and glazed by Gillian Sloan of Fort William. A second frame was created for print 22/22 and will remain in the West Highland Museum collection.

significant quality or a working printing press in Inverness.

After sourcing copper to make the plate, he discovered its quality was not up to standard and he had to convince a carpenter with a mechanical understanding to work on the sabbath and build him a printing press.

Ultimately though, this press would not be used. With the disastrous outcome of Culloden, Prince Charles and his supporters fled, together with the plate and other valuables, towards exile.

Colin Fraser, consultant specialist at auctioneers Lyon and Turnbull, said it had been a delight to see such spirited bidding for an amazing object.

'The buyers found the history and research not only enigmatic but fascinating and the added bonus of supporting such an important museum, its collections and ambitious

plans for its second century proved a perfect recipe for a wonderful result,' added Mr Fraser. 'This is a real testament to everyone involved in the creation of a unique piece of what now must be considered part of Scotland's Jacobite and paper money history.'

Great care has been taken to ensure the preservation of the plate while working with it and specialist advice has been taken at all turns.

Further prints will now be sold by the museum with the sale price to be announced shortly.

To register an interest, contact the museum, email: info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk or call 01397 702169.

One print will be raffled on September 7. Tickets are £10 each and can be bought in the museum shop or on the museum's website using the 'donate' button.

Warning over algal scum at Laggan Locks

The public are being advised that algal scum at Laggan Locks on Loch Lochy in Lochaber should be avoided by people and pets.

The presence of blue-green algae blooms at Laggan Locks on Loch Lochy was confirmed by Highland Council Environmental Health Officers this week.

During the current period of prolonged warm weather, the chance of blue green algae - cyanobacteria - affecting water courses, particularly

ponds, lochs, canals and rivers increases significantly. Sometimes the blue green algae can form blooms, which can release toxins into the water. Contact with blue-green algae can have adverse health effects for humans and animals.

The situation is being investigated by Highland Council Environmental Health in partnership with NHS Highland Public Health and wider colleagues.

Notices have been posted next to the loch warning that

contact with the algal scum should be avoided.



Blue-green algae exist in fresh waters in Great Britain and throughout the world. They are noticed when their concentrations increase to form 'blooms' and when they form scums - like blue-green paint - or when they collect on shorelines. Some blue-green algae may give rise to adverse medical effects, but not always. Toxic algae have caused deaths of livestock and dogs, water-birds and fish.



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Climber dies after falling while on Skye's Cuillin Ridge

A young climber died after falling in the Cuillins, Skye, on Sunday August 15.

A Police Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'The male climber was located and pronounced dead at the scene. The death is not being treated as suspicious and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'

Posting on Skye Mountain Rescue Team's Facebook page, team leader Neil Urquhart said: 'We arrived at Bealach na Glac Mhor just before dark in thick mist and drizzle. On hearing shouts from three lads who had been with the casualty, three team members carried on up the ridge to bring them back to safety. Another four team members set off down the screes on the Coruisk side of the ridge to see if there was any sign of the casualty. An hour later the hill party returned and armed with new information, the guys below decided to investigate a gully that seemed likely to be close to the casualty's fall-line. After climbing 90m they found the casualty.'

One man and his dog going to Aberystwyth

A young man from Erracht has won a place in the Scottish team heading to compete at the International Sheep Dog Trial in Wales next month.

Eighteen-year-old Freddy Fulford will be the youngest member of the 15-strong squad while his faithful companion Gripping Valley Nelly will be the youngest dog, aged two years and eight months.

A former Spean Bridge primary and Lochaber High School pupil, Freddy earned his place at last weekend's Scottish championships, held at Lythmore Farm, Westfield, Thurso, by gaining points at local trials.

A good round on day two of the competition saw Freddy and Nelly into fourth place

overall but the duo had a tense wait to the end of the competition on day three for all competitors and dogs to run.

At the end of day two, they were in eighth place and it was not until the penultimate dog had run the following afternoon that Freddy knew he had a place in the team.

They will now compete as part of Team Scotland at the International Sheep Dog Trial in Aberystwyth, Wales, on the weekend of September 10-12.

Freddy's achievement is all the more outstanding considering he only got his first dog Pip, who he also ran at Thurso, three years ago. Freddy has been supported and mentored by Mike MacNally from Invergarry who he thanks for

his support and encouragement along with Ed Hawkins from Gripping Valley Sheep Dogs who sold him Pip and Nelly and has also helped with his training. He was also supported by Lochaber High School which allowed him to spend time training his dogs during study sessions.

'I had an absolutely amazing three days trialling,' said Freddy. 'I somehow managed to have finished runs with both my dogs and very unexpectedly get into the Scottish team with Nelly. Thank you very much to everyone who has helped me.'

This September, Freddy will be attending Edinburgh University where he will start studying for a degree in agriculture.



Freddy Fulford and Gripping Valley Nelly are heading to Wales as part of Team Scotland next month.

Partnership improves Fort Augustus parking

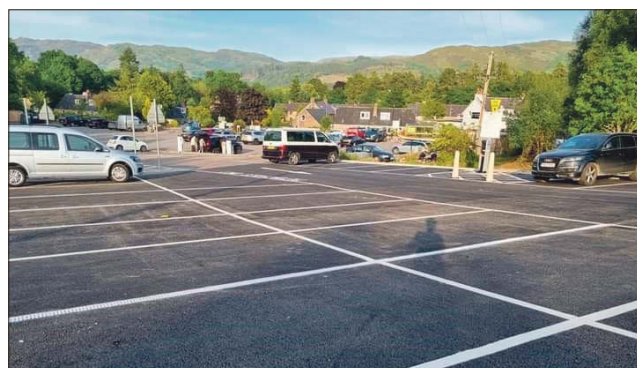
A partnership between Lovat Estates and The Highland Council has seen the creation of 75 new parking spaces at the existing Riggs Car Park in Fort Augustus.

Leader of The Highland Council and local ward member Councillor Margaret Davidson welcomed the completion of the parking project and said: 'This has been a great joint business and council effort, which I hope we can do elsewhere in Fort Augustus and in other communities to create new parking that benefits visitors and locals.'

'The car park extension is open and busy proving the demand for the spaces is extremely high. I commend Lovat Estates on the speed and quality with which they carried out the new surfacing works on their land.'

The partnership between the local authority and Lovat Estates has involved the business releasing land bordering an existing council car park.

The estate has levelled, surfaced and lined a new parking area. The council has



The new car parking spaces in Fort Augustus.

installed car parking machines which will be maintained and enforced by its parking enforcement team with the income from the meters shared between the council and Lovat Estates.

Iain Shepherd, director of Lovat Estates, added: 'We were very pleased to extend the existing Highland Council car park on to our land and to have it open before the peak tourist season this year. This extension is a win-win situation for everyone concerned and by providing much-needed additional parking for visitors to

the village it will increase the footfall for local businesses. It will also alleviate the traffic congestion which previously arose at the car park in peak periods and enable more visitors to have a safe and enjoyable experience in Fort Augustus.'

'We are very pleased with the finished result and were impressed with the dedication of our contractors Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd which completed the project on budget and to a tight timescale despite the current pandemic and material shortages.'

An advertisement for holidaycottages.co.uk. The top part features the text 'Properties handpicked by us, memories made by you' in white and cursive fonts against a blue sky background. Below this is a photograph of a stone cottage with a thatched roof, surrounded by trees and a lawn. Several people are seen walking and playing in the foreground. At the bottom, there is a logo for holidaycottages.co.uk and the text 'Quality self-catering holiday homes across the UK'. A blue banner at the very bottom contains the text 'Interested in letting your property? Call us on 0800 304 7199'.

LT

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Could your business benefit from a digital boost?

Did you know there is more free help available from the Scottish Government to help businesses become more competitive, productive, resilient and drive forward Scotland's economic recovery?

The DigitalBoost Development Grant Fund offers small to medium-sized businesses grants, on a 50/50 investment basis, worth between £2,500 and £20,000.

The fund has already helped more than 2,200 businesses, from all sectors across Scotland, invest in hardware, business management software, e-commerce and data analytics. This additional investment will allow businesses to access expert advice on how to adopt the technology and skills needed to increase their competitiveness, productivity and resilience.

A further £25 million has been added to the DigitalBoost Development Grant funding,



with applications assessed on a chronological basis so if you think your business would benefit, get your applications in as soon as possible.

The grant can be used for a wide variety of purposes including moving your business online, reducing non-staff costs, safeguarding employment, increasing profit or revenues or improving cyber security.

Economy Secretary Kate Forbes said: 'The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how important digital technologies are for businesses. I am delighted so many businesses have adapted to working with new technology and innovated how they work at great pace.'

'This additional £25 million investment in the DigitalBoost Development Grant fund will support even more businesses to invest in their digital capacity.'

Find out more and apply at www.digitalboostdevelopmentgrant.co.uk



Saturday's downpours did not dampen the smiles on faces of those at the open day at Lochailort-based charity Kirsty's Kids.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Children's charity open day smiles

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Just over a year ago, a powerful flash flood devastated the Lochailort home of Jan and John Bryden, also sweeping away most of the activities built in its grounds for their charity Kirsty's Kids, writes Iain Ferguson.

The charity was founded in the name of their 19-year-old daughter Kirsty who lost her life in a car accident minutes from home.

She loved children and had already spent time caring for sick young people in Mozambique and at home while working with her dad in their business of drying and repairing flood-damaged properties.

Following Kirsty's death, John, a former policeman, set off around the world on his daughter's motorcycle, raising £100,000 to get the charity started, assisted by police forces in the various countries he visited. From there, Kirsty's Kids grew into an organisation offering respite care to children and their families with no effort spared in creating a safe, entertaining and active family environment designed to help those in need of 'time out' from everyday life.

Jan and John even moved into their converted garage so their house could be given over to visiting families.

Now, after a year of hard work, Kirsty's Kids is back with almost complete restoration of the buildings and unique features which were destroyed



The Hexhog tackles a steep and slippery grass slope without any problems.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

some form of care as soon as basic repairs could be completed, however, Covid restrictions prevented this happening.

John told the Lochaber Times: 'The flooding washed away almost everything and we really didn't know how long it would take to get everything restored, but we never gave up. We never stopped working and a team of volunteers played a big role in getting things back to normal. Even during Covid, a couple from Manchester made us their 'bubble' and spent weeks here clearing up and building. There are some really nice people out there.'

As always with Kirsty's Kids, work is ongoing to improve and extend their services, but to mark the re-opening, an open day was held to show what has been achieved.

Despite heavy rain on the day, a popular activity was driving the 'HexHog' around the grounds and over rough terrain. This six-wheeled vehicle is designed to allow wheelchair-bound people independent travel in outdoor environments which would otherwise be inaccessible.

Jan added: 'This is all about the children. It is fantastic to see them enjoying their time here, learning new things and relaxing away from the pressures of everyday life.'

by the flood. John and a small team of volunteers did all of the work, cleaning out and drying the house which was flooded to a depth of two feet, reconstructing the greenhouse, repairing other outbuildings housing workshops and comfy retreats as well as restoring all of the wheelchair-friendly pathways which were washed away by the water and rocks.

The model village and radio-controlled railway which could be followed and operated by someone in a wheelchair have also been reinstated.

Until the flood, the charity had welcomed more than 200 children and their families to Lochailort, also organising days out and activities for them.

Despite the destruction which also closed the West Highland railway line which runs behind their property, Jan and John had hoped to provide



Hillwalking club

Sunday August 29: Loch Cluanie. Carn Ghluasaid (957m, Munro) — peak of movement. Creag a' Chao-rainn (998, Munro Top) - crag of the rowan tree. Sgurr nan Conbhairan (1109m, Munro) — peak of the hound keepers. Sail Chaorainn (1002m, Munro) — hill of the rowan tree. Drochaid an Tuill Easaich (1001m, Munro Top)

Part of the North Glen Shiel Ridge the walk is a high-level circuit above eight spectacular rocky corries and bags three Munros and two Tops. 18km, 1415m ascent For more detail of the route please visit our website www.nevishillwalking.club or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/NevisHillwalkingClub/ Please note walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and covid restrictions. If you want to know more about our club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Couple's wedding walk snaps with a difference

They are not your usual style of holiday snaps, but for Silke Muys and fiancé Kieran Shannon, a series of images in which they appear semi-clothed or naked during a long distance walk from Girvan to get married on Skye have a more serious aim.

The couple recently got engaged on Skye and are using their 220-mile 'wedding pilgrimage' to promote body positivity.

Silke, 30, and Kieran, 28, who worked as models and dancers before giving it all up to travel the world, now enjoy stripping off and posting images of themselves for their 40,000 Instagram followers at [instagram.com/silkyrontheroad](https://www.instagram.com/silkyrontheroad)

Last week, they reached Glenfinnan as they made their way along the Road to the Isles on their way to the ferry from Mallaig to Skye.

The couple decided to embark on long trek for Silke, who originally hails from Belgium, to become more acquainted with some of Scotland's most

'Some of the papers kind of exaggerated that we were walking naked all the way to Skye. That's not correct - we get naked every Friday to post a tasteful shot to promote body positivity.'

spectacular scenery. 'Fifteen days in and feeling it but staying happy and loving the journey,' Kieran told the Lochaber Times.

Silke added: 'We got engaged three months ago on Skye and the day after thought 'why don't we get married on Skye', then why don't walk to Skye.'

Kieran continued: 'Some of the papers kind of exaggerated that we were walking naked all the way to Skye. That's not



correct - we get naked every Friday to post a tasteful shot to promote body positivity.

'We have had amazing feedback from people thanking us for helping them feel more comfortable in their own skins. Let's face it, you've got to love your own body because that's the one you've been given.'

Above left: Silke and Kieran camped at Kinlochleven during their trek to Skye. Above: The couple stopped off in Glenfinnan to see the Jacobite steam train and set up one of their body positivity photo shoots.

Lochalsh committee approves £100k of community funding

Residential and rural paths and other community-led projects are to be boosted by Highland Council cash.

The council's Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area Committee has approved how £100,000 from the Place Based Investment Fund will be allocated to benefit community initiatives across the ward.

As part of the Health and Prosperity Strategy agreed by the Highland Council in March 2021, £100,000 was allocated to each of the 21 Highland wards for the 2021/22 financial year.

It is hoped the money will help groups address the four harms of Covid-19 which have been identified as direct health harms; health impacts not directly related to Covid-19; societal impacts and economic impacts.

At the meeting last week, councillors agreed the following proposals for investment:

£40,000 to improve residential and rural paths with the scope for projects to be car-

ried out internally or through community-led projects.

£60,000 to be invested in community-led projects being delivered by local constituted groups.

Projects which bring an element of match-funding will be prioritised. There will be two funding rounds – the end of September and the end of December – and all projects will need to be completed by December 2022.

Committee chairman Councillor Ian Cockburn said: 'Covid-19 has brought our economic and demographic challenges into even sharper focus. Now we need to focus on recovery, building resilience in our businesses and communities so they can be sustainable and grow, retaining and creating employment and attracting new population and investment.

'The community spirit throughout our ward has been incredible during the Covid-19 pandemic and I strongly believe those living at the heart of

our community are best placed to gauge the most suitable projects to support recovery. I am sure some very worthwhile projects will come forward from the community groups who have been supporting people and working so hard.

'As for the money set aside for improving our paths, we look forward to further discussions with our access officer and the local groups who are already delivering path improvements.

'At a time when we are encouraging people to become more active and walking is proven to have benefits on our physical and mental health, the more we can do to improve access to footpaths for locals and visitors the better.'

The first funding round will open at the end of next month and applications will be made via the established process for ward discretionary grants. Any eligible grant requests for £10,000 or over will be presented to a future Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area Committee for approval.

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A82 roadworks at Inverloch Castle

Overnight resurfacing of a section of the A82 at Inverloch Castle near Torlundy will take place later this month.

The £170,000 overnight improvements are scheduled to begin on Sunday August 29 and are expected to take six nights to complete.

The work will take place between 8pm and 6am each night with all work due to be completed by 6am on Monday September 6, subject to weather conditions. No work is planned for Friday and Saturday nights.

A 10mph convoy system will be in place while the work is carried out. Traffic management will be removed during the day, however, a temporary 30mph speed limit will remain in place as traffic will be travelling over a temporary surface.

Commenting on the improvements, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative, said: 'This £170,000 surfacing project on the A82 near Torlundy will address any defects on this section of the route, improving safety for road users.'

Appeal as Covid case numbers keep rising

Members of the public across Highland and Argyll and Bute are being urged to remain cautious and continue to be vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19 as new confirmed cases for last week came close to hitting 600; 193 of these confirmed on Thursday August 19.

The cases are widespread across the NHS Highland area with Fort William, Oban and the Isle of Bute seeing particularly high rates.

Health chiefs say there is no single situation driving the numbers up with sustained community transmission explaining the increase in cases.

As well as being vigilant for symptoms, members of the public are also being asked to remain cautious and minimise contacts during this period of high levels.

Dr Tim Allison, Director

Public urged to remain cautious

of Public Health for NHS Highland, said: 'Whilst the number of people being admitted to hospital is lower than previous waves, the impact of Covid-19 on those affected, their families, schools and businesses remains significant.

'Everyone has played their part so well in keeping the



'There are still lots of things we can all do to help limit the spread, even though many of the previous restrictions have eased.'

Left: Dr Tim Allison.

numbers down which is why we are able to enjoy the new freedoms that we have.

'There are still lots of things we can all do to help limit the spread, even though many of the previous restrictions have eased.

'Wearing face masks when inside or in crowded areas,

regular hand washing, regular testing using LFD tests when you have no symptoms and, when invited, please come forward to get vaccinated. All of these will help keep Covid numbers down.'

Dr Allison also asked that communities remain vigilant for symptoms.

Typical symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or fever and a loss of, or change in, normal taste or smell.

However, people with Covid-19 can present with a wide range of symptoms including headache, sore muscles and joints, tiredness, sore throat, cold-like symptoms and diarrhoea and vomiting. Anyone that becomes unwell should isolate immediately and seek a PCR test.

'This is a significant situation and we are expecting the case numbers to rise further with the recent relaxation of measures. Communities should remain vigilant. We do have a higher number of people in the area at the moment which is to be expected but I would urge caution for everyone,' added Dr Allison.

UK baby bank charity puts Fort William on the map

A Fort William baby bank has been recognised for its immense support to the community.

The work of Misty Glen was acknowledged by Little Village, a British baby bank charity.

Whilst Little Village predominantly works to support families in London, it has an interactive map on its website which lists all official baby banks across Britain, to which Misty Glen has recently been added.

A founder of Misty Glen said: 'Being on the UK baby bank map is a great step for us. It means we are recognised and welcoming new families who need our support.'

Whilst Misty Glen was only established in May 2020, it has already helped support many local families by providing necessary items including clothing and toys.

During the pandemic, the founders of Misty Glen noticed many families across Lochaber were finding themselves in financial difficulty which meant they could not afford essential items.

Being on the Little Village



Misty Glen, Fort William's baby bank, has been recognised by a national charity.

map means even more families and supporters will be able to learn about Misty Glen. As well as being an extremely important support network within the West Highlands, the baby bank means more clothes and toys are being recycled.

The baby bank service is free

and anonymous and mostly carried out through their Facebook page. Families can also message the team with direct requests.

To find out more information or to get in touch, visit www.facebook.com/misty-glenbabybankfortwilliam.

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Glenfinnan musician Ingrid's first solo album in 16 years inspired by the sea

A new album by Glenfinnan's Ingrid Henderson, celebrating Scotland's spectacular coastline and marine life, is to be released on September 17.

Message in a Bottle also carries a stirring message examining the environmental impact humans have on the world's coasts and waters.

The catalyst for the album was an audio visual project commissioned by NatureScot for the Year of Coast and Waters and is Ingrid's first solo release in 16 years. She is a long-time member of Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band.

The new album features music from live shows and opens a door to incredible seascapes, artwork and subaquatic animation.

Message in a Bottle features stand-out performances from several stalwart musicians on the Scottish traditional music scene. Ingrid's shimmering harp and piano playing shine throughout, alongside Anna Massie on guitar and fiddle, Megan Henderson on fiddle, vocals and piano and Conal McDonagh on Irish pipes and whistle.

Ingrid said the majority of the material on Message in a Bottle is self-penned in reaction to the Scottish coastline - the story of the bottle weaving through currents, learning



Message in a Bottle, the new album from Glenfinnan's Ingrid Henderson, will be released on September 17.

about coastal communities and exploring our relationship with the sea.

'Although I have been involved in many group recordings over recent years, this is the first solo project I've undertaken since Little Beauty in 2005,' she added. 'Being a busy working mum, tutor, musical director and presenter leaves little time for personal projects such as this so I'm

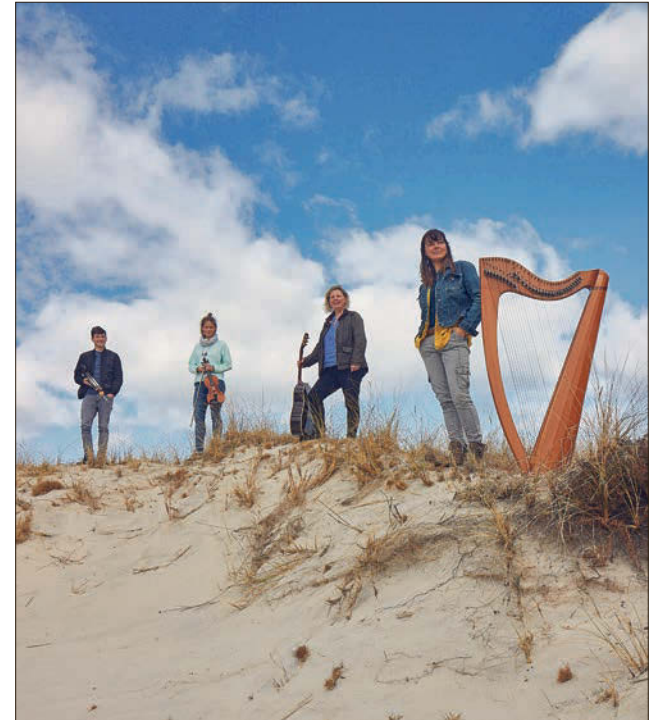
grateful to NatureScot for the opportunity to focus on such an engaging venture. It's wonderful to see the project come to fruition and I hope people connect with the material.'

Katie Gillham, Head of Marine Ecosystems for NatureScot, explained: 'We're delighted to have collaborated with Ingrid on this unique commission to mark Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters.

'Woven through Ingrid's music and the animation and film that accompany it, is a deep connection to the sea and the coast that many people will understand. We hope Message in a Bottle helps to bring our seas and their wildlife to life for a wide audience.'

The album was recorded predominantly in the Old Laundry Studios in Glenfinnan, with mixing and mastering by Henderson's husband Iain McFarlane of Old Laundry Studios and Barry Reid of

Rose Croft Studio. Ingrid will be performing the album live at Eden Court, as part of its Under Canvas events, on Wednesday September 15. Further Scottish tour dates for 2022 are to be announced. Message in a Bottle will be available to buy on CD and stream and download on all digital platforms on Friday September 17.



Right: Glenfinnan's Ingrid Henderson, far right, and her fellow musicians have created a sparkling album inspired by the sea.



This is the first solo album by Ingrid Henderson for 16 years. Photograph: Ingrid Henderson.

New primary one pupils welcomed at Strontian and Ardgour

Primary schools across Lochaber and the Hebrides welcome a new intake of primary one pupils last week. We have been sent photographs of the new youngsters at Strontian and Ardgour primary schools, no names supplied.



The new primary one pupil at Strontian Primary School all set for his first day.

Right: The new primary one pupils at Ardgour Primary School looking very smart in their uniforms on the first day of term last week.



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Cash appeal for new Canna homes

The tiny community of 15 people on the Isle of Canna is appealing for donations to help build three community-owned houses.

The aim is to gradually increase the population of Canna to around 30 but currently there are no empty homes on the island to enable the population to grow.

Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (IoCCDT) has launched a crowd funding appeal to help reach the £750,000 needed to build the houses. The community has to contribute £200,000.

The houses will be managed and owned by the community. They will be warm, energy

efficient and let at affordable rents. The island's owner, the National Trust for Scotland, has released the land needed for the development.

It is planned to start building the houses in spring 2022.

Contributions can be made at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/isle-of-canna-housing-project

Geraldine Mackinnon, chairperson of Isle of Canna Community Development Trust, said: 'The Isle of Canna community may be small, but we are always up for any challenge that will help us create a sustainable future for our island.'

'We have a positive track record with previous projects

and hope everyone will come on board and help us make our community housing a reality.'

Clea Warner, National Trust for Scotland general manager for the Highlands and Islands, added: 'We fully support this community initiative and congratulate IoCCDT for the positive steps it has taken.'

'It is in our mutual interest to see a thriving community on Canna. We are certain the approach taken here will lead to sustainable development that enables the island population to live in harmony with the precious natural beauty that surrounds them and to benefit from it through the resulting opportunities.'



Skye-based college lecturer Lara Hinde won the 'Above and Beyond' category in the Highland and Islands Students' Association awards.

Award-winning Skye lecturer Lara goes above and beyond

Skye-based college lecturer Lara Hinde believes in going above and beyond for her students and now she has an award to prove it.

The Highland and Islands Students' Association (HISA) recently published its awards for staff and students.

The HISA Awards allow students to nominate staff and students in various different categories, with entries judged by a panel consisting of staff, students and student officers from across the university partnership.

West Highland College UHI had 24 category nominations for a total of 13 staff and one student award. Of these, one member of staff was overall winner of her individual category and four staff and one student representative were highly commended in their categories.

The winner of the 'Above and Beyond' category across the whole university partnership was Lara - a lecturer in the School of Adventure Studies based near Broadford, who delivers the NQ Outdoor Adventure course.

She was also nominated in the 'Most Inspiring Lecturer' category.

One student said: 'Lara has gone out of her way on numerous occasions to help us

feel settled on Skye. She's a super inspiring person and has supported all of us through the course and throughout Covid.'

Another added: 'Lara has gone out of her way to give us opportunities and is such a delight to be taught by. She treats us all with respect and is one of the nicest people I've had the pleasure of meeting.'

Speaking about her award, Lara said she was absolutely delighted and very grateful to receive the award.

She added: 'The award is also a testament to the hard work of many other staff at West Highland College UHI who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the course could be delivered in full in spite of the disruption caused by the pandemic and to the students themselves who demonstrated fantastic teamwork and supported each other to complete the course.'

Lydia Rohmer, Principal and Chief Executive of West Highland College UHI, said: 'The HISA awards come at a time when many of our staff and students have experienced the most difficult of years.'

'I am therefore extremely delighted our students recognised the excellent support provided by our colleagues and engaged in large numbers to support the nominations.'

Police investigate deaths of five eagles

Police are investigating the death of five eagles in the Outer Hebrides in a week.

Two dead golden eagles were discovered two miles south of Bragar on the Isle of Lewis on August 14, while another two golden eagles and a white-tailed eagle were found dead near Bowglass on the Isle of Harris on August 7.

Inspector Jane MacKenzie told the Lochaber Times: 'Around 1.25pm on Saturday August 14, officers received a

report that two golden eagles had been found dead two miles south of Bragar on the Isle of Lewis. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances.

'Enquiries are also ongoing after two golden eagles and a white tailed sea eagle were found dead near Bowglass on the Isle of Harris on Saturday August 7. They were significantly decomposed but forensic work is being undertaken to try to establish how they died.

'Eagles are protected birds of prey and Police Scotland will always investigate reports of these birds being found dead. It can be highly complex, requiring detailed scientific work, but we will always strive to bring anyone responsible for this type of wildlife crime to justice. Anyone with information about these birds, or any wildlife crime, should contact Police Scotland on 101 or call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.'

SCOTTISH FIELD

September



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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
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Scandalous rip-off

One of the thankfully few negative aspects of living in the Highlands are the extra surcharges for deliveries, something MSP Kate Forbes has been highlighting for some time.

A new report shows residents in Ms Forbes' constituency of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch pay the highest delivery surcharges in Scotland - more than £9m a year. For the whole Highlands and Islands region, the figure is £40 million. We agree with Ms Forbes' view that this is a scandalous rip-off and it is long overdue for the UK Government to act.

Smiling young faces

This week we highlight the work of the Kirsty's Kids charity, run by John and Jan Bryden from their Lochailort home.

The charity held a special open day at the weekend, following months of work by the Brydens and volunteers to repair damage caused by devastating floods last year.

Kirsty's Kids does amazing work helping to improve the lives of children suffering from serious life-limiting illnesses and children with special needs and their siblings and we are delighted they are able to continue putting smiles on young faces and those of their families.

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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A pleasant return

Accompanied by my nephew Douglas, a nostalgic trip to Oban after several years away was a pleasant return.

We were in time to attend the Old Parish Church morning service, where we were welcomed at the door by old friend Helen Jackson.

We were also given a kind welcome from the lectern by the minister, the Reverend Dugald Cameron.

Over the next day or two we met up with old friends from the Hunter, Lang, Preston and Tolmie families. Especially gratifying was meeting up with the King of Pulpit Hill, Ian Campbell.

It was remarkable to see Oban as busy as I remember it. It is clear the town is bouncing and that its future is secure.

Kind greetings to many friends and colleagues thriving in the lovely town. It was a great pleasure to return.

W Raymond Shaw, Glasgow.

Protect your right to protest

Not many people are talking about the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. But if it passes parliament, it will have an impact on all our lives.

The bill gives unprecedented powers to the police to ban peaceful demonstrations outright and to ban 'noisy' protests. The definition of a noisy protest includes a protest involving noise made by just one person.

It's been revealed the Police Federation was not consulted on this huge extension of police powers. Furthermore, a respected group of former police officers has expressed concerns.

In a letter to the Home Secretary they said: 'Echoing the concerns voiced by the National Police Chiefs Council and other professional bodies, we believe this Bill has dangerous and harmful implications for the ability of police officers to enforce the law and for the health of our democracy as a whole.'

If the next time a group of residents, or even a single resident, wants to protest against a housing development or a council decision, the police could just say 'no'. If any other readers are worried at the prospect of their right to protest being curtailed, I would encourage them to write to their MP and ask them to oppose this repressive legislation. Or they could support organisations like Unlock Democracy which are campaigning against the Bill.

Anni McArthur, by email.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Tha cuid gam breith ann am beartas, agus tha cuid eile air an tèid mòrachd a bhuileachadh.

Ach tha daoine ann cuideachd air an tèid uallaichean a bharrachd a chur nach eil iad ag iarraidh, agus ris nach eil iad fìu 's air chomas dèiligeadh.

Thig leithid sin de dh'uallach glè thrì ri linn briseadh slàinte ann an dachaigh, agus dleastanas cùraim a' tuiteam air ball eile den teaghlach ann am prìobadh na sùla. Chan eil faclan agam a nì moladh gu leòr air feadhainn as aithne dhomh a ghabh leithid sin de dh'uallach agus a choilean e gu dìleas, dicheallach, agus gun ghearain. Bha mi a' beachdachadh air an uallach a bharrachd a thathas ag iarraidh a chur air dotairean-teaghlach gus barail a thoirt air freagarrachd dhaoine cead a bhith aca gunna a chumail.

Gun teagamh sam bith dhearbhadh murt brònach chòignear ann am Plymouth am feum air smachd nas teinne air ceadan bhall-airm, oir 's e sin a th' anna, a bhith aig daoine.

'S neònach mur eil iomadh dotair a bhios a' faireachadh mì-thoilichte mun uallach a bharrachd seo a dh'fhaodadh tuiteam orra. Bidh iad mothachail gum bheil dleastanas siobhalta oirnn uile a thaobh ar modh-giùlain agus theagamh gum bi cuid de na lighichean a' faicinn na h-uallaich seo mar phàirt den dleastanas phearsanta sin aig euslaintich ga sparradh orrasan.

Cuin is càite an còir uallach phearsanta tighinn fo smachd chuideigin eile, leithid dotair-teaghlach? Tha fios gum bheil cuid a' dràibheadh

nuair 's dòcha nach eil an cuid fradhairc neo buadhan eile tuilleadh freagarrach, ach chan eil beachd dotair ga iarraidh, fhathast co-dhiù, nuair a tha cead-dràibhidh ga ùrachadh.

'S e firinn na cùise gum bheil dotairean cho dripeil san àbhaist 's nach eil iad a' faicinn dhaoine ach nuair a thèid iad thuca le trioblaid àraid, agus ged a thèid dèiligeadh ri sin, chan eil ùine gu bhith aig an dotair beachd a ghabhail air am bheil an neach sin comasach a bhith a' dràibheadh, gun ghuth air am bheil a shlàinte-inntinn freagarrach airson smachd a bhith aige air gunna!

Bha mi uair nam mhanaidsear aig companaidh a bha a' toirt seirbheis chruinn-togail ann an gnìomhachas na h-ola agus tuigidh sibh an t-uallach a bh' oirnn a thaobh an dà chuid sàbhailteachd nan uidheaman a bha sinn a' cleachdadh, agus comasan nan daoine a bh' againn gan obrachadh.

Thill fear a dh'obair an dèidh a bhith dheth le trom-inntinn agus cha robh adhbhar againn gun a leigeil air ais a' dràibheadh crann. Ach an ceann seachdain neo dhà thoisich gearain a' tighinn bhon chompanaidh dha robh sinn ag obair agus dh'iarraidh an duine seo a thoirt far an làraich sa bhad.

Mhol stiùiriche an roinn sgiobachd againn an dràibhear a chur às obair air sgàth 's gun robh trioblaid inntinn air, ach mar a chuir mise na shealladh bha pàipear aig an duine seo le beachd dithis de phrìomh lighichean-inntinn na dùthcha a' dearbhadh a chuid cèille! Cha robh leithid sin de phàipear aig a h-aon seach aon againne!

Concern over ragwort

I have been getting many messages about the amount of ragwort growing in the area, especially on roadside verges.

Our hard-working and at times hard-pressed farmers and crofters are particularly worried about its recent spread in many areas of Kintyre and the islands. Ragwort is a toxic plant and has gained significant media coverage in the past about its hazardous capabilities to livestock.

Ragwort poses a risk to animal health, with potentially fatal consequences if it is ingested by horses or livestock, either in its green or dried

state. All sensible measures must be taken to ensure ragwort does not spread, particularly to grazing areas or land which is used to produce conserved forage.

The National Farmers Union has been highlighting the problems with ragwort on a national level. Food security is an essential part of our economy and reducing the presence of harmful plants is a key part of that.

I have been in touch with the Argyll and Bute Council roads department and will continue to press for more action on dealing with ragwort.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands ward.

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DISTRICT NEWS

KINLOCHLEVEN



Lucy Cooke, left, of Kinlochleven Development Trust, with Maureen Fyfe, wife of the late Eoin Fyfe. The trust's new e-bikes have been named 'Fyfes' after Eoin.

New e-bikes named 'Fyfes' after Kinlochleven's Eoin

Kinlochleven Community Trust's e-bikes are to be named 'Fyfes' in memory of former trust director Eoin Fyfe, a keen cyclist and community man, who died last year.

Earlier this month, the trust held a community cycle day to launch its pool of e-bikes funded through Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Community-Led Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

More than 100 adults and children enjoyed guided e-bike rides organised by Lochaber Environment Group and Jahama Highland Estates; crafts with Kinlochlovin' and On The Trail Again; cycle safety sessions with West Highland Wheelers and discussions on bicycle memories with the Highland Senior Citizens Network and Highland Cycle Ability Centre which brought a range of adapted cycles.

The Green Health event was made possible with funding from Highland and Cairngorms

Arisaig ladies catch up at rural reunion

Members of the former branch of the Arisaig Scottish Women's Institute, which disbanded recently after many decades, got together again for an afternoon tea at An Clachan, home of Lochaber Rural Education Trust, at Torlundy. The ladies shared memories, enjoyed the home-baking and were entertained by Sheena Fraser on her accordion.



LEADER local action groups, The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and The Highland Green Health Partnership aims to encourage more use of green and blue spaces. The People's Postcode Lottery provided funding for the bike shed. A trust spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'We are thrilled to launch the 'Fyfes' - our own pool of e-bikes. They are a fabulous asset for the trust to encourage outdoor activity, exercise and time spent in nature.'

'The first stage of the project will be to lease them out to residents for a suggested donation which will be available soon.'

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Dr Michael Foxley praised after 25 years' UHI service

Three senior governors of the University of the Highlands and Islands' (UHI) governing body, who are standing down this month after almost 50 years' service, have been praised.

Alastair MacColl, the new chairman of the UHI court, has praised the trio for their work with the tertiary partnership, which covers the largest geographical area of any campus-based university or college in the UK.

Alastair took over the role of chairman on August 1 from Garry Coutts, also the current chairman of Children's Hearings Scotland, who lives in Beaulieu, and has held the post for seven

Right: Dr Michael Foxley.



years following a six-year stint as rector. The same date also saw the departure of the university's first regional lead for further education, Dr Michael Foxley, a retired Lochaber-based GP and former Highland councillor, who stood down from the university court after 25 years' service to both the court and as chairman of the board at university partner West Highland College UHI and one of its predecessors Lochaber College.

Anton Edwards, from Caputh in Perthshire, was elected as the fifth rector of the university in 2014, taking over from Garry Coutts.

Paying tribute to them, Mr MacColl, said: 'Each of these governors has made a major con-

tribution to developing the strength and vitality of our university during a critically important period. They have been selfless, wise and committed in their service.

'They have helped us to lay the foundations we'll require to turn the ambitions of our staff, students and partners into results and build an institution that transforms lives, communities and economies across our region, giving every one of our students the opportunities they deserve.'

Dr Foxley said: 'It has been hard work being the further education regional lead for the past eight years but there is now an increasingly effective working partnership across our colleges for further education.'

'Externally, working with the vice principal [further education], we have made sure the particular issues across our region have been understood by Colleges Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government.'

'We have ensured our full needs for national bargaining and rural funding have been provided - £16m per annum.'

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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Live music has well and truly returned to Glasgow with Atlantic Reel playing in the Islay Inn last weekend and the Park Bar music programme re-starting very soon also, I believe.

I didn't make it along to hear Atlantic Reel but have been greatly enjoying their lockdown contributions over the last year - Johnny Gillespie of Crooked Reel fame leading the live songs from the family living room with his son, young Jonathan from Trail West on the keys, and daughter, Emma, on vocals and guitar.

They are definitely a band to try and catch if anyone is having a staycation in Glasgow any time soon!

That same weekend, I was travelling down to Campbeltown with Tide Lines for our first non-socially distanced Scottish festival since prior to lockdown - Mull of Kintyre Festival.

Having played MOK Fest before, I have always been amazed at the sheer number of artists and bands who take part each year and this year, despite some limits on audience numbers due to restrictions, was no different.

In the hotel restaurant before the show, we bumped into Shetland's Ross Couper and Skye's Peter Morrison from the Peatbog Faeries, Scots singer Claire Hastings, and guitarist Jen Butterworth.

It was great to catch up with so many musicians.



Filming for a wee telly gig at Roshven House.

Fantastic local band Rhuvaal started off the show in the Victoria Hall that night, followed by our good pals Beinn Lee.

All were in great form and the always-brilliant Campbeltown crowd reacted wildly!

Congratulations to the whole committee of MOK Fest for pulling off a successful weekend in challenging circumstances given everything that has gone on in the last few months.

We took the long but beautiful journey back to Glasgow on Sunday and then, first thing on Monday, Ross and I headed back up the road to Roshven House for a filming project with Beezr Media for BBC Alba - no rest for the wicked.

When we left Glasgow, the city was thick with cloud. It began to clear slightly but the top of Rannoch Moor was covered entirely in mist.

As soon as we reached Onich,

however, the cloud began to lift and left us with the absolute perfect conditions.

Except for some people who were sunburnt and looking like lobsters by the time the cameras turned on.

I am not sure how much I am at liberty to tell you about said programme but let's just say: it contains beautiful Lochaber scenery, scorching sun, a white beach, the shimmering Atlantic, and Fergie MacDonald... so what's not to like?!

Like Campbeltown, it was great to be out and about and meeting other musicians back doing what we love doing.

What's on in Glasgow

September 3-5: The Riverside Festival

September 9: Biffy Clyro at Glasgow Green

September 10-12: TRNSMT Festival

September 18: 10 years of Trail West in the Barrowland Ballroom

October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands

October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand

October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands



Artist brews up artistic storm from Uist

Eilidh Stewart grew up on the Hebridean island of North Uist. She studied fine art at the University of The Highlands and Islands where she obtained a BA (HONS) in Fine Art during 2013.



She often travels to North Uist and the West Highlands in search of inspiration. Each piece begins as a small locational sketch which often aims to capture the ever-changing light as well

as raw aspects of the sea. Studies are later used as starting points to develop oil paintings. Eilidh's strong passion for subject matter invites the viewer to feel a sense of place and memory within her work. To view or buy Eilidh's work, visit www.eilidh-stewart.com

HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 27TH AUG - THUR 2ND SEPT



<p>FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST Lochaber Gathering Solo Piping Competition 8:30am - 6:30pm. The Courier (12) 7:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 8pm.</p>	<p>SUN 29TH AUGUST NO MAN IS AN ISLAND PRINCE OF MUCK A FILM BY CINDY JANSEN</p>
<p>SATURDAY 28TH AUGUST Paw Patrol (U) 11am + 2:30pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 11:30am. Free Guy (12a) 1:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 4:30pm + 7:45pm. The Courier (12) 5pm. André Rieu's 2021 Summer Concert (U) 7:15pm.</p>	<p>THE SPARKS BROTHERS</p>
<p>SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. Free Guy (12a) 11:30am. Paw Patrol (U) 12:15pm + 2:45pm. André Rieu's 2021 Summer Concert (U) 2:30pm. EIFF Presents: Prince Of Muck (PG) 5pm. Our Ladies (15) 5:30pm + 8pm. The Courier (12) 7:30pm.</p>	<p>LIMBO</p>
<p>MONDAY 30TH AUGUST The Sparks Brothers (15) 10:45am. Paw Patrol (U) <i>Bairns at the Box Office</i>: 11am. Free Guy (12a) 1:45pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 2:15pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:45pm. Our Ladies (15) 5:15pm + 8pm. The Courier (12) 7:45pm.</p>	<p>FREE GUY</p>
<p>TUESDAY 31ST AUGUST Highlands From The Air (U) 1pm. The Forever Purge (15) 1:45pm. Limbo (12) 2:15pm. The Courier (12) 4:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 5pm + 7:45pm. Free Guy (12a) 7:15pm.</p>	<p>THE SUICIDE SQUAD</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER Free Guy (12a) 11:45am + 4:45pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 12:30pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 1:45pm. The Courier (12) 2:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 5:15pm + 8pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 7:30pm.</p>	<p>THE FOREVER PURGE</p>
<p>THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER Free Guy (12a) 10:45am + 2pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 11am. The Sparks Brothers (15) 1:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 4:45pm + 7:15pm. Limbo (12) 5pm. The Courier (12) 7:45pm.</p>	<p>JUNGLE CRUISE</p>

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WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK



FOCUS



Staying safe beyond Level 0

During the different stages of the pandemic, Lochaber Chamber has fought hard for the business community, regularly engaging with politicians and decision-makers to make sure that the needs of Lochaber are on the agenda and to help them access support. We've also supported business practically with Covid safety measures and the 'Protect.OutdoorCapital' app. We continue to do all we can to help.

On the 9th August Scotland moved beyond Level 0 which saw the lifting of most of the remaining legally imposed restrictions – most notably, on physical distancing and limits to the size of social gatherings. It also means that from 9th August, no venues will be legally required to close. Pubs and restaurants can now operate at greater capacities and return to normal licensing hours.

From the 9th August, businesses were able to begin a 'phased' return to the office, but the Scottish Government continues to advise 'working from home where possible.' Employers are therefore being urged to consider a hybrid model – a mix of home and office working.

The Scottish Government advises that employers should continue to maintain measures such as ensuring there is good ventilation, maintaining good hand and respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

In Scotland it is still mandatory to wear face coverings inside some public spaces and workplaces, unless you have an exemption. From 9 August, if you are fully vaccinated you will no longer be required to self-isolate if you're identified as a close contact of a positive COVID case. This is provided that it's been two weeks since you received your second dose, you don't have any symptoms and you take a PCR test as soon as possible, which comes back negative (you must self-isolate until you receive your negative result).

Visit the NHS inform site to book your PCR test and get guidance on the steps to keep you, your family and community safe. You'll find the COVID testing information at: <https://bit.ly/3BiLn11>

Businesses can find up-to-date COVID guidance, support and links to useful information at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Develop your leadership skills right here in Lochaber!



'Skills for Work' is a key focus of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's work to support local business. As well as Developing the Young Workforce West Highland, we also run seminars and training events for members throughout the year.

When it comes to business success, we know it's all about leadership. The ability to lead individuals and teams to success is arguably the most important skill a manager can possess.

But when you live and work in a rural Highland location, what is the most effective way to develop your staff's leadership potential and skills?

Following the popularity of our business skills seminars, we surveyed local businesses and developed the 'One Lochaber' Leadership Programme' to provide a bespoke one-year accredited

course to help develop the next generation of business leaders within organisations - right here in Lochaber. Successful delegates receive a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management.

This high-quality leadership programme is fully accredited through the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and delivered by experienced trainers Bruce Milroy and Clare Moore of Ethos Consulting. Along with additional training and 1-2-1 coaching, delegates work towards a CMI Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management qualification over the course of a year. There are many benefits of the One Lochaber Leadership Programme - the flexible style makes it easy to fit in with work, the small group style creates a friendly, informal learning environment with personal attention from tutors; plus there's no

expensive and time-consuming travel and accommodation costs.

Marina Marin (pictured), Supply Chain Controller at BSW Timber, is a recent graduate of the One Lochaber Leadership Programme. Marina has worked in BSW's logistics team for five years. She jumped at the chance to develop her understanding of managing and leading teams, saying: 'The One Lochaber Leadership Programme has been a great opportunity to learn in depth what leadership entails. The content was wide, structured, and applicable to all sorts of working environments. I would certainly recommend this program to others and I would encourage businesses to enrol their employees as the benefits from it are countless.'

This leadership programme is locally developed and locally delivered. Led by expert leadership trainers, it gives Lochaber businesses the capability to lead through uncertain times, create the capacity to set and achieve challenging strategic goals, take decisive action at pace, out-perform the competition and create an environment that inspires all of your company's people to perform at the highest level.

The Chamber has also recently launched the One Lochaber Mentorship Programme, to complement the One Lochaber Leadership Programme. This new programme taps into the wealth of experience that local business people can share with others in the business community.

If you or a member of your team would like to join the next One Lochaber Leadership Programme, please visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or contact Wendy Reid, Skills for Work Manager, on wendy.reid@lochaberchamber.co.uk for more information.



Spread your business wings with Lochaber Chamber

Are you looking for a chance to spread your business wings and fly a little further? Why not find out about taking your business international by joining Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's virtual trade mission to British Columbia, Canada.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is working in partnership with the Scottish North American Business Council to lead a virtual business delegation to British Columbia in February 2022.

This is the fourth virtual trade mission that the Chamber has run since last year - having previously taken delegates from around Scotland to meet specially selected business contacts in Nova Scotia, Canada and North Carolina, USA all by the wonder of Zoom.

Scottish Chambers' trade missions are open to all small and medium-sized Scottish businesses interested in exploring their opportunities in international trade and are free to take part in.

Taking part in a virtual trade mission allows you to find out more about international trade without having to take valuable time away from your business. You'll benefit from expert help in setting up high-quality meetings and insightful briefings into business opportunities and culture.

As part of the trade mission delegates will receive market briefings on key opportunities in British Columbia, a virtual



Victoria harbour, British Columbia by Jondalar Schnurr from Pixabay

networking event; and a minimum of two virtual one-to-one business meetings with potential clients or trade partners, based on your individual company requirements.

If you'd like to find out more about joining the virtual trade mission to British Columbia, please email trademission@lochaberchamber.co.uk.

Sign Up to Support Young People

The Scottish Government's new 'Young Person's Guarantee' aims to give all young people in Scotland the chance to succeed. Talking about why the Guarantee was introduced, Fiona Hyslop, Economy Secretary, said:

Young Person's Guarantee

"The pandemic is having a disproportionate economic effect on our young people, reducing job opportunities just as they are starting out on their careers. I want Scotland's young people to know we are right behind you; we want you to be successful and we will do everything we can to give you the opportunities you need."

Organisations backing the Guarantee make five pledges to help young people:

- Prepare young people for the world of work through work experience, volunteering and work-based learning opportunities.
- Engage with and provide opportunities to young people who face barriers to work.
- Create work-based learning, training, and upskilling opportunities for young people.
- Create jobs and opportunities for young people through apprenticeships, paid internships, and work experience.
- Create an inclusive workplace to support learning and enable young people to meet their potential.

Will you sign up to support young people? It's simple and quick to register. Contact the team at [DYW West Highland on info@dywwesthighland.org](mailto:info@dywwesthighland.org) to find out more.

DYW West Highland presents...

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LT

Shinty round up

Kingussie lifted the Artemis Macaulay Cup and Lovat secured the final Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final spot following the shinty action on Saturday 21 August 2021.

Artemis Macaulay Cup Final
Kyles Athletic 1 Kingussie 4
Holders Kingussie took the Artemis Macaulay Cup back to the Dell following their 4-1 victory over Kyles Athletic in their 4.10pm throw-up at Mossfield, Oban.

The rain had eased ahead of throw-up but become heavier again as the final progressed, but groundsman Iain Hay and his team had the pitch in great condition.

Kingussie's Calum Grant recovered sufficiently from an ankle injury to take a place on the bench so Ryan Borthwick continued at wing back.

Kyles Athletic defender Scott MacDonald was expected to miss out with a broken thumb but he declared himself fit to play. A broken bone in his lower leg ruled out George Thomson so former Skye player Neil MacVicar started. Donald Irvine and Rupert Williamson were substitutes.

Kyles Athletic's plans to contain the Kingussie attack suffered an early blow when James Falconer turned home a rebound from the left of the 'D' on six minutes after Ruaridh Anderson's shot from distance was saved by Kyles keeper John Whyte.

Kingussie went back on the attack and Whyte stretched to make a brilliant save with his stick, keeping out James Hutchison's shot which was heading for the top corner of the net.

John Whyte stood firm as Kingussie tried to add to their tally. First, he raced off his line to deny Ruaridh Anderson before turning away Roddy Young's low shot.

Colin MacDonald had a half-chance from the edge of the 'D' but wasn't able to make the most of it.

Neil MacVicar was troubled by a thigh injury and limped off just after the half-hour to be replaced by Donald Irvine who made his first appearance of the season.

There was still time for John Whyte to save from Savio Genini and for all Kingussie's pressure, they only had 1-0 advantage at the turnaround.

John Whyte saved with his feet from Roddy Young as the second half began in a similar fashion to the first 45 minutes.

Ryan Borthwick put in a great challenge on Colin MacDonald at the edge of the



The victorious Kingussie team with the Macaulay Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Kingussie captain Rory MacKeachan with the Macaulay Cup. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

'D' at the expense of a corner as Kyles reminded their opponents of their threat.

Innes MacDonald was yellow-carded by referee Calum Girvan for a late hack at Ruaridh Anderson.

John Whyte saved when Savio Genini found Fraser Munro on the left from a free-hit but a second and decisive Kingussie goal was only minutes away.

It came on 69 minutes when Roddy Young was bundled over to the right of the 'D'. Savio Genini scooped the free-hit into the middle and Kyles failed to clear allowing James Falconer to shoot. John Whyte saved, but Kieran MacPherson had pushed forward from midfield and he turned the rebound home.

James Falconer got his second goal on 75 minutes. Savio Genini prevented Donald Irvine from clearing a ball out of the goal area and it broke to James Falconer on the right. Falconer took a touch forward before sending a shot through the keeper's legs from the tightest of angles.

Kyles pulled a goal back on 78 minutes when Innes MacDonald's lofted ball from wide on the left was misjudged by Kingussie keeper Rory MacGregor and the ball dropped under the bar to make it 3-1.

Kyles took a lift from the goal and Ross MacRae and Roddy MacDonald had efforts but it was Kingussie's Lee Bain,

just on for Savio Genini, who sealed the victory a couple of minutes from time. Roddy Young slipped as he was about to shoot and the ball fell to Lee Bain who shot low into the net from just right of the penalty spot.

Kingussie's Ryan Borthwick was deservedly named Artemis man of the match and Kingussie captain Rory MacKeachan accepted the trophy from Artemis Investment Manager Graeme Mitchell.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – quarter final

Oban Camanachd 1 Lovat 3
Lovat reached the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals after beating Oban Camanachd 3-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Taynuilt Sports Field

This tie was rescheduled from the previous weekend following a covid outbreak in Oban and with Mossfield hosting the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final, the game was switched to Taynuilt.

The constant rain made for difficult conditions and Fraser Heath put Lovat ahead on 21 minutes. The Oban Camanachd defence didn't deal with Drew Howie's hit-in from the right and when the ball came back to Howie, he sent it forward into the danger area. Oban failed to clear again and as Scott McKillop tried to send the ball up-field, he played it straight to Fraser Heath who fired low on his backhand past

Cameron Sutherland. Malcolm Clark equalised on 29 minutes when Evan MacLellan's corner from the right dropped for him just inside the 'D' and he swept the ball home.

Ross Campbell shot over the bar as the Oban side tried to get in front.

Lovat regained the lead through Greg Matheson on 32 minutes when he ran onto a free-hit from Lewis Tawse and sent the ball low into the net on his backhand.

Marc MacLachlan made it 3-1 on 64 minutes, picking a great time to score his first goal of the season. Fraser Heath, bandaged following a head knock which later required stitches, played the ball into the 'D' from wide on the right. Cameron Sutherland came off his line to stop the ball with his legs but the ball came to MacLachlan at the edge of the 'D' and he rolled the ball low into the net to make it 3-1.

Oban Camanachd pushed Daniel Cameron and Daniel Sloss up front for the closing stages, but Lovat were resolute.

A clearly disappointed Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss said: 'It wasn't a good day. Lovat punished mistakes we made at the back whilst we weren't creative enough in attack and we're clearly not scoring enough goals in the big games.'

'We need more from some players in these games but we will re-group and get ready for Ballachulish in the Celtic Society Cup quarter final on Saturday.'

The Tulloch Homes Camanachd semi-final line-up is now confirmed. Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic meet at Taynuilt Sports Field on Saturday August 28 then Kingussie face Lovat at An Aird on Saturday September 4. Both semi-finals throw-up at 4.10pm and are live on BBC ALBA.



Dougie Livingstone, Engineering Maintenance Manager at the Alvalance smelter in Fort William, made the Alvalance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-final draw. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Balliemore Cup semi-final draw

The draw for the quarter final of the Alvalance BA Balliemore Cup took place on Tuesday August 17 at Alvalance's Lochaber Smelter.

The draw was conducted by Dougie Livingstone, Engineering Maintenance Manager, Alvalance. The semi-finals, due to be played on Saturday August 28, will take place at a neutral venue to be decided by the Camanachd Association's Competition Committee.

The draw is:

Bute v Beaully
Skye v Inveraray

This is the fourth year of the partnership with Alvalance Aluminium (formerly Liberty). Tom Uppington, Alvalance Aluminium managing director, said: 'Shinty is a vital part of community life in this part of Scotland and

Alvalance is proud to support the historic tournament.

'Following another exciting cup draw, I look forward to seeing these talented teams compete for a place in the final in September. Best of luck to everyone involved.'

Derek Keir, Camanachd Association chief executive officer, said: 'The excitement is palpable throughout the shinty world as we move deeper in the cup competitions and the Alvalance Balliemore Cup draw has added to the excitement.'

'Our thanks, as ever, go to Alvalance for their support over the past four years to enable us to deliver this national competition as well as employing many people in the shinty heartland, including last year's winning captain Arran MacPhee.'

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – second round

Beaully 2 Caberfeidh 5
Caberfeidh beat Beaully for the first time this season, coming from two goals down to win 5-2 at Braeview Park.

It looked good for Beaully when Jack MacDonald on seven minutes and Ross Forbes on 24 minutes gave them a two-goal advantage.

But Craig Morrison scored on 33 and 45 minutes, either side of Kevin Bartlett's effort on 37 minutes, to see Caberfeidh 3-2 ahead at the break.

Craig Morrison completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes after the re-start and he claimed his fourth goal of the afternoon with eight minutes remaining.

Strathglass P Kinlochshiel P
The match between Strathglass and Kinlochshiel at Cannich was called off earlier in the week due to Covid restrictions affecting the home club.

Mowi Senior League A Kilmallie 3

Skye Camanachd 1
Kilmallie turned in their best performance of the season to beat Skye Camanachd 3-1 at Canal Parks.

It was an understrength Kilmallie side which took the field as suspension continued to rule out Innes Blackhall, whilst Callum MacDougall has a long-term injury. Shane Gillies, Steven Stewart, Michael Rodger, Lewis Birrell, Dylan Monk and Liam Cameron were also missing. Kevin Toye answered the call to play in goals and he made a couple of good saves.

James Pringle returned for Skye, but Jordan Murchison and Ross Gordon remained on the injury list along with Will Cowie.

Daniel Stewart gave the hosts the lead on 15 minutes when he battled to win possession far out on the left and his cross-



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*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.

Under-12s sport new strips for new league

Fort William Football Club's under-12 team is sporting new strips as it prepares to enter a new league.

The keen youngsters will be taking part in the Moray Firth Under-12 Youth Development League which will feature festivals with six to 10 teams taking part, depending on the size of the host venue.

And G Welding of Fort William has kitted them out in style.

Team coach Michael Gillespie of G Welding presented the new strips to the team with long-term youth team organiser Lisa MacGillivray.

Michael has a long association with Fort

William Football Club having played for each of the youth teams before taking the field as a member of the first team for several years.

He re-joined the youth squads when his son decided to join Fort FC, aged five.

Lisa said: 'Many thanks to Michael for the new tops which are really smart. The team loves them. We are all excited to be involved in the new league and work on developing football skills in the season ahead.'

Right: The young players proudly show off their new strips with Michael Gillespie and Lisa MacGillivray.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Saturday to forget for Fort as Brora net eight

Brora	8
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Fort William travelled to Dudgeon Park on Saturday to face Brora Rangers in a tough encounter, writes Ally Rowantree.

Manger Ashley Hollyer made two changes to the side that lost to Lossie midweek in the cup. Fort fell behind after

six minutes when Tom Kelly was played through for Brora and he calmly finished past keeper Kulbacki. The lead was almost squandered by Brora as Connor Moore broke through to be one on one with the keeper only to see his shot miss narrowly wide.

Into the 20th minute and Brora rattled the post with the Fort keeper parrying out the re-bound before the ball was put over the bar, a warning

sign of what was to come. And on the 24th minute Brora had their second - 2-0.

Brora were awarded a free kick on the edge of the box in the 38th minute and Dale Gillespie stepped up to hit a rocket of a free hit past Kulbacki making it 3-0. Fort William just couldn't find their way into the game and on the stroke of half-time, Josh Meekings scored Brora's fourth, making it 4-0 at the

interval. The second half was a mirror of the first half as Brora scored four more goals, the first a neat half volley on the 49th minute before an incredible 30-yard effort made it six in the 52nd minute. The hosts' seventh goal came from another free kick, well-taken in the 53rd minute, before Dale Gillespie put the eighth goal in from outside the box to make Saturday a day to forget for Fort William.

Following the game, the Claggan Park club's Peter Murphy urged Fort FC supporters to keep contributing and helping in any way possible to help with the club and pitch. Murphy said all the hard work so far has not gone unrecognised and will be key in bringing football back to Claggan Park which will be huge for a team currently having to travel such large distances every Saturday.

Boxing Day comes early for Lochaber fighters

'Boxing Day' is early this year, with the gift of an invite to visit Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club in Corpach.

Friday August 27 has been declared International Boxing Day to mark the first World Boxing Championships organised by umbrella body AIBA (International Boxing Association) in Cuba in

Continued on page 55.





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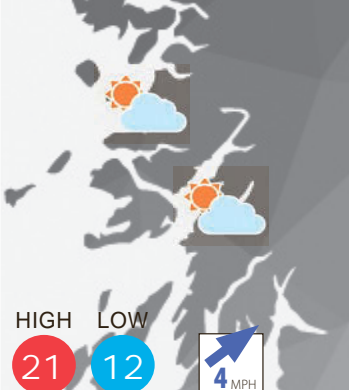
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 26 August, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

26	0207 0.9 0747 3.7 TH 1418 0.9 2009 3.9	28	0314 1.3 0843 3.4 SA 1524 1.4 2112 3.4	30	0441 1.7 0957 3.1 M 1653 1.9 C 2234 2.9	1	0033 2.8 0653 2.0 W 1332 2.8 1923 2.2	Ardriashaig -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
27	0240 1.1 0814 3.6 F 1450 1.1 2040 3.7	29	0353 1.5 0917 3.3 SU 1603 1.7 2148 3.2	31	0541 1.9 1055 2.8 TU 1758 2.1	2	0251 2.9 0812 1.9 TH 1505 3.0 2159 2.0	

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals and light winds Temperatures 11°C to 22°C.	Friday Sunny intervals and light winds Temperatures 12°C to 21°C.	Saturday Light cloud and light winds Temperatures 12°C to 20°C.	Sunday Sunny intervals and light winds Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.
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FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH 21 **LOW 12** **4 MPH**