

## Pink Ladies bring light to the darkness

Inside: Inspiration for choosing an Independent School



# WHAT A GATHERING!



The 150th Argyllshire Gathering was special in so many ways...

● FULL STORY, PAGES 10-13

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

## More delays keep harbour authority proposal adrift

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Campaigners wanting a new community-led harbour authority for Oban have slammed Argyll and Bute Council for being 'determined to stop it'.

Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA) has spent the last three years proving that a single trust port run by an independent board would be the best option but says after all that time the council still cannot make its mind up whether or not to support it.

Today, Thursday September 2, members of Argyll and Bute Harbour Board, will meet online to hear officers advise that more time is needed to look over what options are available - including doing nothing - before a decision can finally be made on the preferred way forward.

There is no sole control over the bay at the moment, with various organisations having responsibilities for different parts of it.

OCHDA claims after years of delays and decisions over setting up a new harbour authority, council officers have 'kicked' the issue 'down the road' again.

● Turn to page 3 for more.



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## Water rescue man dies

Police enquiries are continuing into the death of a 61-year-old man rescued from water in the Lochgilphead area.

Police officers were made aware of the man's death around 1am on Sunday August 29.

Although enquiries are ongoing, there are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances, said a Police Scotland spokesman.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

## Hit and run

About 7pm on Friday August 27, on the A819, approximately two miles south of the A85, a dark Volvo struck another vehicle causing damage to the driver and car before leaving the scene. Police are appealing for anyone on the A819 or A85 who may have seen the incident, noted a dark vehicle with damage to it or who might have dash cam footage to come forward. Please call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting incident number 3462 of August 27.

# Fun in the sun on Seil

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Seil raised more than £2,000 for charities when the island community got together for a celebration in the sun.

A children's fun day organised on Saturday by parents at Seil Island Hall brought in just over £500 and involved all ages from the community getting hands-on with the first big event since Covid lockdown.

Rachel Tierney, who was one of the organisers along with Annie Anderson and Rhoda Thomson, said about 100 people turned out - and so did the sun.

The focus was on activities for the children with mini Highland games, a Taiko drumming workshop, plant-pot painting, a treasure trail, guess the weight of the Rowan Bakery cake, cookie decorating, face painting, egg and spoon challenges and a Messy Church climate-themed chocolate session among other fun and games. There was a bouncy slide for everyone



to have a go. Seil's fire truck, a tractor, a military tank and a quad bike were also there for youngsters to climb on.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) gave a generous donation to fund the slide and activities so it could all be free.

And there was hard-work in the hall kitchen from volunteers busy serving up refreshments.

'We had a super day. Thanks to everyone who joined in, baking and making for us, having fun and helping out, setting up and putting away. It was good to get together again, from the littlest in our community to the older stalwarts, families and friends

and visitors too. Seil has a strong community sense and looked after each other really well during lockdown. This was a wonderful way to celebrate what we have and being able to head back to a bit of normality now.

'The money made is going to the hall and we hope it will be used to put on other activities and events. We're already thinking up ideas. We'd like to

Fun in the sun activities at a community day on Seil were hugely popular with families; and bottom centre, Donny Reynolds and piper DJ MacDougall raising funds for the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland's charity work.



put something on during the winter,' said Rachel.

Also on Saturday, Seil crofter DJ MacDougall picked up his pipes to raise £1,700 for the Easdale branch of Royal British Legion Scotland's charity work supporting service people and veterans.

He took on the challenge of marching, while playing the pipes, four miles from the Oban side of the Bridge Over The Atlantic to the community hall and Ellenabeich.

DJ, who is the branch's official piper, was joined by standard bearer Donny Reynolds.

With help of a Justgiving page online and collecting donations on the day, DJ's total more than filled a gap left by the branch's usual annual sale cancelled by Covid.

Donations can still be made by visiting [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/djpipesovertheatlantic](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/djpipesovertheatlantic)



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# Check for stowaways to help save our seabirds

Boat owners on Mull are being urged to check for stowaways daily to help save the area's sea birds, writes Kathie Griffiths.

And day trippers visiting the Treshnish Isles and Staffa are being encouraged to keep an eye on their bags and seal away food in another bid to stop invasive predators such as rats and mink getting across.

Special chew cards have also been given out to boat owners by a biosecurity project that visited Mull recently on a mission to try and keep precious seabird colonies rodent free.

The idea of the chew cards is to help boat owners pick up on signs that predators may have sneaked on board.

Biosecurity for LIFE project, a partnership between the RSPB, the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland, is promoting ways people can avoid accidentally putting the likes of Puffins, Manx shearwater and European storm-petrel at risk. Over the last few centuries,



Sarah Lawrence, biosecurity officer for West and Central Scotland, with some of the information packs.

know from studies in Finland that they pluck mink out of the water as they're swimming and can help stop them dispersing to off-shore islands,' he added.

All boat owners in the area can help – even if they never land on the islands.

Mink and rats can swim at least two kilometres, so boat owners are encouraged not to push any rodents or sleeping mink they discover overboard.

To be able to act quickly against any invasions, a number of rodent surveillance stations are also being set up and will be checked regularly.

Visit [www.biosecurityforlife.org.uk](http://www.biosecurityforlife.org.uk) to find out more about the project and downloadable resources.

many seabird colonies in the UK have suffered from falls in population or been lost completely because of non-native invasive predators.

Sarah Lawrence, biosecurity officer for West and Central Scotland, said it was great to meet boat operators on Mull.

'It's clear everyone's keen to prevent mink and rats from reaching seabird colonies on the Treshnish Isles and Staffa,' she said.

But RSPB Mull Officer Dave Sexton said although it is very encouraging the boat trips are so keen to be part of this effort, private boat owners who land on Lunga also need to be involved.

'Seabird colonies are so vulnerable and we know mink will happily stow away on boats. Thankfully Mull's white-tailed eagles are also doing their bit as we find mink in nests as prey items and we

## Police issue appeal after A82 fatal collision

Police are appealing for information following a fatal crash on the A82 south of Luss.

It happened around 8.20am on Sunday August 29 when a 31-year-old male pedestrian was struck by a lorry.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The road was closed for around nine hours for a full investigation.

Sergeant Kevin Craig, of Dumbarton Road Policing Unit, said: 'Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the deceased at this time.

'We are conducting extensive enquiries into the circumstances of this incident and are appealing for anyone with information to come forward.'

The incident was one of two crashes near Luss over the weekend.

Police Scotland received reports of a two-vehicle crash on the A82 junction for Luss around 3.20pm on Saturday August 28.

A 51-year-old man and a 76-year-old man were taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, with the 76-year-old's injuries described as serious.

A 77-year-old woman was taken to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow with what are described as life threatening injuries.

The road remained closed for around five hours while officers carried out enquiries.

## Assault allegation

About 3.45pm on Wednesday August 25, on Quarry Road, Oban, a child was allegedly assaulted. Subsequently a teenager has been charged and referred to the Youth Intervention Process.

## Charged

A 19-year-old male has been charged with assaulting another man on George Street, Oban, about 11.45pm on Saturday August 28. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

# More delays keep harbour authority proposal adrift

Continued from page 1.

The group insists an independently-run harbour authority would be the safest option for all water-users in the bay, save council money and would offer significant long-term benefits to the town.

And it regards council officers' advice being given to Argyll and Bute Harbour Board to be 'inconsistent, incomplete and inaccurate and therefore potentially misleading'.

OCHDA chairman John MacAlister said: 'It's incredible – after all this time they still can't make a decision!

'OCHDA has clearly shown the advantages of a trust port.

'It's the safest option, it is financially do-able and in everyone's interests and that's what the community of Oban wants, but the council seems determined to stop it.'

The risk of a serious incident occurring in the harbour is increasing as traffic in the bay grows and it is increasingly urgent to establish an effective,

simple-to-understand management system to keep water users safe and make them welcome in Oban, says OCHDA, which is worried that near misses in the harbour continue to happen on a regular basis and any one of them could

**'Despite clear support from the public for the establishment of a trust port...Argyll and Bute Council is continuing to slow down the process'**

become a serious incident. 'Despite clear support from the public for the establishment of a trust port, operated by its own independent board and based on existing council facilities on the North Pier, Argyll and Bute Council is continuing to slow down the process.

'Developing a trust port to

run the new harbour authority is a win-win for the council and for the community of Oban. We have shown this clearly and we now need the council to work with us to complete the process and help us submit these proposals to the Scottish Government rather than trying to slow the process down,' added Mr MacAlister.

A council spokesperson said: 'We are taking the steps needed to reach the right option for the future of Oban Bay.

'We welcome OCHDA's involvement in the process and note their enthusiasm for their preferred option.

'There are, however, a number of possible options and as a council we must consider fully the interests of Oban as a whole in order to reach the right decision for the town, its communities and businesses in the longer term.'

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# Charity walkers in the pink after successful fundraiser

The annual Pink Ladies Day twilight sponsored walk was held on Friday, August 27.

Thirty nine women got together to take part and between them raised more than £2,400 with more trickling through.

Organiser Nicky Murphy said: 'Everyone that came did brilliantly, but the big stars of the evening were Catherine Cain and Karen Cook, daughter and sister (respectively) of Margaret Cain.

'Margaret was the deputy head teacher at Rockfield Primary School and attended the Pink Ladies Day a few years ago.

'She had a lovely day with Karen so they did the walk in Margaret's memory, who sadly passed away last year.

'I asked my supporters to sponsor Catherine and Karen instead of me and their total



The Pink Ladies Day founder and organiser Nicky Murphy, far right. The sponsored walk is organised by Gillian Stewart, in the blue jacket, behind Bailey the dog; and right, Karen Cook, left, and Catherine Cain, walking in memory of Margaret Cain. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

was over £1,700. They did over £1,000 of this without any of my help!

Nicky continued: 'The Pink Ladies Day is being held this year in November at Drimsynie Estate, Lochgoilhead – a new venue for us set in amongst

beautiful scenery. Our guests are ladies who have experienced breast cancer first hand and are treated to a day of fun, food, friendship, pampering and relaxation with a friend.

'The event is free for our guests, covered by fundraising

activities, and all of our health and beauty volunteers do an incredible job out of the goodness of their hearts.

'We have lots more fundraising planned before the event in November, so if anyone wants to help out with any



of these, please get in touch. And if anyone living with breast cancer – now or in the past – wishes to attend the Pink Ladies Day with a friend they can get in touch with me on 07786 861266 or email pinkladiesday@outlook.com.

'And finally, if there are any beauticians, therapists, make-up artists or hairdressers who would like to join the volunteering team, please also get in touch.'

For more photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



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From left, Ewen MacKerchar, NLB marine operations manager, Mike Bullock, chief executive NLB, Transport Minister Graeme Dey and Elaine Wilkinson, NLB vice chairperson in Oban last Tuesday, August 24.

## NLB sheds light on ministerial visit

Scottish Minister for Transport Graeme Dey MSP visited the Oban base of the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) last Tuesday, August 24.

In addition to a briefing on the work of the board to protect lives, property and the environment through the provision of maritime

aids to navigation, the Minister toured the depot and met some of the NLB team.

The Minister also toured the NLB's vessel Pharos where he met members of the crew.

Mr Dey also visited Oban Airport in North Connel and met with Argyll and Bute Council officers.

# Connel mum praised at Argyll College student awards

by Sandy Neil  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Two students from Connel and Oban have been acknowledged in the 2021 Argyll College UHI Student of the Year Awards.

'This year, more than ever, the judges of the annual awards have been delighted to read about the rich and diverse range of students who make up the Argyll College UHI student community,' the university said.

'We are extremely proud of all students who have persevered with their studies through challenging circumstances, and these awards are a way of celebrating their efforts.'

With judging criteria deliberately left loose, the awards allow scope for a variety of entries for numerous reasons which could include: an academic or personal achievement, overcoming exceptional hardships, or exceptional contribution to the student community.

Maxine Cotton from Connel has been named as the joint runner-up in the Further Education category. Maxine recently completed the NC Early Education

and Childcare and has been praised for her commitment to go above and beyond and help her fellow classmates.

'Working from home can be a difficult situation for some students but Maxine has played an integral part in keeping her classmates engaged, encouraging participation and helping everyone to feel comfortable to contribute,' said lecturer Gill McNally, who nominated Maxine for the award.

As a mum of three, Maxine has had to juggle the responsibilities of her own learning with that of her children's when having to home school them during lockdown.

Despite this, the impressively high standard of her work has never faltered. She's also been known to give up her own time to check in with fellow students and assist them when in need of help.

It's clear that Maxine's enthusiasm to learn is not only for her own benefit but for those around her, too, as she actively shares her skills and knowledge with her classmates.

Maxine's goal is to continue studying with Argyll College UHI right up to post graduate level to enable her to become

a primary teacher. The college look forward to having Maxine with them, wish her well with her studies, and believe she will inspire the next generation of children's education.

The awards also recognise they Schools Link students – senior phase students undertaking a college course as part of their school timetable. The overall award is contested by all local Schools Links student winners in each of the college's 10 learning centres throughout Argyll, and this year Oban student Alice Jackson has been named as the overall winner.

Having recently undertaken the Legal Studies Schools Link course with Argyll College UHI, sixth-year student Alice has been praised for her willingness to consistently contribute to discussions in class. Her participation has had a positive impact on her fellow classmates, encouraging them to actively engage with the lessons, resulting in a more valuable learning experience for all. Asked to sum up Alice in three words, course lecturer Naveed Kayani says she's 'conscientious, keen and helpful'.



Maxine Cotton from Connel was named as the joint runner-up in the Further Education category in Argyll College UHI's Student of the Year Awards.

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## Further footpath works revealed

A £201,000 programme of footway repairs is earmarked for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, a report has revealed.

Argyll and Bute Council invested £0.5million in enhancing footpaths across the region as part of its budget in February 2021, to add to a further £0.4million for green transport and travel. Taynuilt Village Main Street earmarked for £31,000 of the £0.9million cash pot.

Councillors will be asked to endorse the programme of works at a virtual meeting of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee today, Thursday September

2. The next biggest proposed allocation is £29,000 for removal of block paving at Combie Street in Oban, while £20,000 allocations are also planned for Oban High Street, Lochnell Road in North Connel, and Bunessan, on Mull. Albany Street in Oban is proposed to receive a £19,000 share of the pot, with other planned allocations varying from £5,000 to £11,000.

Meanwhile, the same report also reveals that the council is starting to see some disruption to material supplies for its roads capital reconstruction programme, including cement and bitumen, which have also doubled in cost.



[www.macleodconstruction.co.uk](http://www.macleodconstruction.co.uk)



OT

# Off-duty couple go to the rescue

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Off-duty RNLI couple Leonie and Andrew Meade were all hands on deck when they spotted a yacht in need of help.

The drifting yacht on Saturday evening had run into engine difficulty between Maiden Island and the Dunollie shore.

A call had gone out to Oban's RNLI station but when the crew arrived, Leonie and Andrew were already onboard the yacht that was carrying four people.

The couple were returning home from a sail onboard their own boat 'Snowgoose', when they spotted the yacht and saw one of its occupants in a dinghy trying to tow it to safety.

Andrew, who is also a deputy mechanic for Oban's lifeboat,



said: 'The yacht was very close to running aground on submerged rocks and the Isle of Mull ferry was fast approaching the bay. We dropped our own sails and went over to

offer assistance.'

The couple towed the yacht to the safety of Oban bay, where they were met by fellow crew members onboard Oban lifeboat who took over the

**RNLI crew members Leonie and Andrew Meade were off-duty when they spotted a drifting yacht needing their help.**

tow and safely berthed the yacht alongside the North Pier pontoons with the assistance of Oban's Coastguard Rescue Team.

Andrew added: 'We just happened to be in the right place at the right time and were happy to be able to help. Luckily the weather was favourable but any stronger winds could have made this a very different situation.'

**VISITUS**  
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## First cruise ship for 18 months

Around Oban

**KAY MCDONALD**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Exciting news this week! Oban is getting ready to welcome its first cruise ship in 18 months when Silver Spirit visits the town.

Joe and I both really enjoy welcoming visitors arriving by ship. Everyone is always so delighted to be here and the fact they arrive in the centre of the town is a massive bonus.

Silver Spirit is a luxury cruise ship carrying up to 608 passengers with more than 400 crew which means we may have a lot of people visiting the town that day. Everyone has have been Covid tested and double jabbed before they boarded the ship. This means with the measures the ship has in place for people coming ashore and everything our businesses are doing to keep us safe, the thought of all those extra people is not too daunting.

I'm really looking forward to having them in Oban, tak-

### WHERE IS THIS?



ing advantage of everything the town has to offer. It's been a hard time for businesses and I'm sure they'll appreciate the swell in customer numbers.

Apart from the business the ship will bring, it will also be lovely to see her either in the bay or just outside. It always creates a stir when a beautiful ship visits us and adds a certain 'je ne sais quoi' to the view.

Silver Spirit is not the only ship which will be visiting us this month but more on that later.

Last week's photograph was of the beautiful bike outside Roxy's Coffee and Tea House. This week's image was taken a short walk away from Roxy's.

## Listen up! Argyll Talking Newspapers is back in action

Argyll Talking Newspapers volunteers are back recording again after a hiatus of 15 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, writes Fiona Scott.

Chairman Robin Finlay recorded a welcome back message to listeners as part of the first recordings sent out. Precautions have been put in place to ensure peace of mind for listeners and volunteers.

'I am very happy to welcome back our listeners and our volunteers, some of whom have been working behind the scenes making arrangements for a return to providing the audio service,' he said.

'It's been a long 15 months and we're raring to go. Most of all we would love to hear from new listeners.'

Registering with Argyll Talking Newspapers is easy. Provide your name and address and which local newspapers you would like to listen to. A USB stick - a portable memory device - will be posted to you each week in a special wallet and, after you have listened to your local news, simply post the wallet and USB stick back to the group.

If you need an audio box to play the USB stick, one will be



Argyll Talking Newspapers volunteer Fiona Wallace scrutinises the Oban Times.

provided. The service is free and you don't have to be living in Argyll and Bute to register for the service.

Argyll and Bute newspapers recorded are The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser, Campbeltown Courier, Dunoon

Observer, Isle of Bute News and Islay newspaper, the Ileach.

Contact Argyll Talking Newspapers by phoning 07710 242915 or email argyllpapers@yahoo.com or message www.facebook.com/argylltalkingpapers



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# Kilbride Kirk welcome rings out for the return of its bell

Friends and visitors of Kilbride Kirk turned out to see a replica made of the bronze bell that once rang out across Lerags Glen near Oban, writes Kathie Griffiths.

On Saturday a specialist team travelled from Wales to create an outdoor forge at the historic site and make a copy of the kirk's 18th-century bell currently on loan from Dunollie's MacDougall Clan.

Before a crowd of about 50 onlookers, the original bell from which the cast was taken was piped down the old drove road from Cologin to the Kirk site to receive a ceremonial welcome.

Donations to Friends of Kilbride were collected and there was the chance to tour the ruined Kirk, churchyard and MacDougall Memorial Burial Aisle to see renovation work so far carried out by stonemason Michael Hogg,



with the supervision of architect Shauna Cameron and archaeologist Clare Ellis.

Friends of Kilbride trustee Seymour Adams said the charity was grateful to Clan MacDougall for their loan of the bell, and to Tesco and Historic Environment Scotland for their financial support which made this

unique event possible. The people of Lerags Glen and visitors from further afield turned out in strength for the recasting. We are delighted with how it went,' said Mr Adams.

The Church of Kilbride has played an important part of the area's history since at least the 13th century linked to many stories and traditions.

**The ancient craft of recasting an 18th century bronze bell was carried out in front of an audience at historic Kilbride.**

The cemetery contains enclosures where clan Chiefs have been buried since before the 18th century.

Dunollie has had possession of the old kirk bell since the chapel was disestablished in 1860. The Clan's Chief kindly loaned the bell to the Friends of Kilbride and it is in the custody of Myra and Liam Griffin.

According to reports, the bell appeared to have been cast in Glasgow in 1786 and was being transported to Maryland when the ship carrying it was wrecked in the Sound of Kerrera. The bell was rescued and eventually given to the church at Kilbride where it was first hung on a tree near the chapel, then moved to the

chapel itself. The Friends of Kilbride hope the replica bell will eventually go on show at the site as a symbol of work being carried out to renovate and preserve the chapel, session house, and memorial burial aisle.

Saturday's pour needed three people to lift and support the crucible full of molten bronze. They were metalsmith Rossy Adams, daughter of trustee Mr Adams, artist Irene Gunston whose Welsh studio made the mold and other artist Bryn Richards who also worked on the project and is a foundry technician.

A video of the molding process and pour was made on the day to go up on social media for more people to see.

The bell is now back on its way to Wales where it will be finished off and polished before returning to Kilbride.

Mr Adams said: 'When it

comes back we will be working out how and where to put it on display somewhere in the churchyard for people to see.'

The historic site is enjoying a steady stream of visitors after opening up after Covid.

'We are getting a steady stream of visitors and everyone is happy to see the restoration work we have carried out so far at the site. We are mobilising now to raise more funds for the final stage of the restoration work on the site. We hope that will happen this year,' Mr Adams added.

On Saturday September 4 at 7pm, pianist Clare Hammond will be performing at Kilbride as part of Oban Music Society's Summer programme of concerts.

Go to [www.obanmusic.society.com/concerts](http://www.obanmusic.society.com/concerts) to find out more.

For more photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Staff say the award is testament to the person-centred care that the home prides itself on providing, despite the challenging year.

## Award for Benderloch care home

A Benderloch care home has been named as one of the top 20 facilities off its kind in Scotland, writes Fiona Scott.

Etive Care Home received the award from review website [carehome.co.uk](http://carehome.co.uk) based on independent reviews that it has received over the course of the year.

Staff say it is testament to the person-centred care that the home prides itself on providing to all its residents and their relatives over what has been a really challenging year for the sector.

Georgie Taylor, home manager said: 'I am over the moon for my team to have received this award and it is great recognition for all of the support,

dedication and personalised care they provide to each and everyone of our residents on a daily basis.

'Despite it having been a challenging year, the team continue to go over and above to ensure that they offer a fun, caring and homely setting for our residents and their families.'

Carehomes.co.uk annual Care Home Awards 2021 recognises 20 of the top-rated Care Homes in each region of the UK and the Top 20 Care Home Groups in the UK, based on reviews from residents/service users and their family/friends.

'The awards are based on the individual and group review

score, as of June 30, 2021. Georgie added: 'It is such a privilege for us to be looking after someone's loved one and receiving this award is so special in that our residents and their friends and families have taken the time to score and provide feedback on the care we provide.'

'This award recognises every member of my team - the carers, catering team, housekeeping, maintenance and admin - all of whom make such a valuable contribution to the care we pride ourselves on offering.'

'Working in this sector is so rewarding and this recognition is fantastic for the home and the local community that we work so closely with.'

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OT

## Salen Show Champion of Champions

Two years of hard work and commitment paid off for Keira Munro when her horse Killernan 'Juno' won Champion of Champions at the recent Salen Show on Mull.

The 15-year-old works tirelessly with Juno, and on show day was up at 5am to get ready as great effort is needed to prepare Juno, being a coloured horse with a lot of white which need to be sparkling clean for the judges. Threading her mane in plaits takes over an hour.

But it was all to prove worthwhile as Keira and Juno won her ridden class, ridden champion and in-hand class. In the champion of champions ring, Keira and Juno were up against the show's best cow, sheep, dog and chicken.

After deliberation, the judges awarded Keira and Juno the top prize.

Keira's delighted mum Eilidh said: 'Keira has worked so hard with her horse Killernan 'Juno' over the last two years since we bought her. It takes a lot of commitment and time to produce a horse looking its best. The effort she's put in with her horse makes me so proud to be her mother.'



Salen Show Champion of Champions: Keira Munro and her horse Juno.

# Oban Sea Kayak to Oban with n

The Oban Sea Kayak Race restarted its annual race around the island of Kerrera on Sunday with 47 entries, writes Gus Brydon, race organiser.

The organisers had had to cancel the 2020 event due to the Covid virus restrictions.

Due to the demolition of Kilbowie Outdoor Centre earlier this year, it was decided to relocate the start and finish line at the Oban Sailing Club, using the facilities of the clubhouse, which had been generously donated for the day by Oban Sailing Club, with the adjoining Gallanach park being used for registration, post-race presentations and barbecue.

With the forecast of fine weather again in Oban, there was an excited anticipation amongst all of the entrants and organisers after the long lockdown.

Competitors had travelled from England and south Wales as well as from Inverness and the Borders to take part in this popular event in the UK sea kayaking calendar.

With light winds forecast and neap tides, the organisers were hoping for good finishing times, but didn't expect that the record time, set by Mark Ressel of Devon back in 2016 of 1:36:16, was about to be smashed - twice.

A triple Surf Ski, paddled by Lizzy Polgreen, Lizelle Kemp and Lena Kraus from East Lothian, finished first in a course record time of 1:34:22, with second place Duncan Capps from Surrey racing a single Surf Ski just behind the Ladies, in another record time



Louise Brown and Trevor Laffin, senior double ski winners, 1hr 52m 35s; and Philip De long, winner male tour class, 2hr 2m 54s.

Photographs: Stephen Lawson.



of 1:35:28. The Ladies Championship Cup was presented to Lizzy, Lizelle and Lena, together with a bottle of Isle of Colonsay Gin very kindly donated by Oban Whisky and Fine Wines.

The Men's Championship Cup was presented to Duncan Capps with a bottle of Oban Whisky.

The organisers of this event would like to thank everyone who took part in the race and who gave up their Sunday, helping to make this event the success it has become.

Particular thanks goes to the support boats, without whom

this event could never take place. Also thanks goes to Jackson's the Butchers, who every year supplies its burgers free of charge for the after-race barbecue.

The Oban Sea Kayak Race is a non-profit organised event, with all money and race fees taken on the day being donated to The Oban Lifeboat. Sunday's event managed to collect £1,500 for the Oban Lifeboat.



Men's team champions Andy Trafford, Mark Peters, and Adam Richards, 2hr 31m 33s.

# SCOTTISH FIELD

## September



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# k Race returns ew start venue



Lena Kraus, Lizzy Polgreen and Lizelle Kemp, ladies senior winners, 1hr 34m 22s.



Les Kirkpatrick, men's senior winner 1hr 50m 45s; and Annette Boerlage, winner female tour class, 2hr 14m 22s.



Duncan Capps winner, men's senior ski, 1hr 35m 28s; and Iain Diak, men's senior winner tour class, 1hr 55m 10s.



Tina Misselbrook, first female senior ski category, 2hr 2m 55s, and Tom Dawson, first male, ski category 1hr 37m 50s.

## Covid-safe enforcement action taken against Argyll and Bute businesses

Council officials had to take enforcement action against 23 businesses in Argyll and Bute as part of Covid-19 measures, a report has revealed, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The authority has investigated nearly 900 complaints from the public about businesses since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

But there has also been high levels of compliance across the area in controlling the spread of Covid-19, members of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee will hear today, Thursday September 2.

The information is in a document for a virtual meeting of the committee, but there is no information included in the details to identify any of the businesses in question, or where in Argyll and Bute they are located.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Over the period from March 2020, the council has aimed to support business to ensure that they have appropriate guidance and advise

to be Covid safe and to ensure that businesses that were not permitted to open remained closed.

'This approach has achieved high levels of compliance, protecting public health in controlling any potential spread of Covid infection. This work continues to promote

**'This approach has achieved high levels of compliance...'**

and secure compliance, and re-emphasising the FACTS messages.

'This work has been demanding and challenging and over this period, and environmental health and trading standards officers have been in direct contact with 2,780 businesses to assess their Covid measures.'

Officers have investigated 896 complaints from the public about businesses, provided advice via website, through businesses groups, Business

Gateway and through specific business enquiries.

Revisits were carried out to 456 businesses and there were 23 instances where formal enforcement or prohibition notices were required to cease business activities.

The spokesperson added: 'The Covid pandemic and the public health control measures, including lockdown, significantly impacted on all aspects of everyday life.

'New statutory powers were placed on local authorities and Police Scotland to regulate the public health restrictions across businesses, domestic dwellings, and public areas.

'In response, the council developed a memorandum of understanding with Police Scotland to coordinate enforcement activity and agree priorities, an enforcement strategy - engage, educate, encourage and enforce - and authorised officers from regulatory services, including environmental health, and trading standards officers to carry out this work.'

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OT

# Ossian crowned winners at school games



Elise Hamilton's apron wasn't going to stop this home economics teacher from tossing the caber. All photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Pupils and staff of Oban High School enjoyed a fantastic, sunny day at Mossfield for their annual Highland Games last Friday.

Not only did pupils compete in a variety of athletics events, but they enjoyed a range of fun activities such as dancing at the silent disco, battling it out on the inflatables and some even donned their aprons in an attempt to be crowned Oban High School's Bake Off winner.

Pupils competed in the long jump, shot put, and 100m, 200m, 600m, 1,200m and relay races in order to score points for their clans.

Some even took part in the extremely

competitive 'heavies' section, attempting the hammer throw and caber toss.

In the end, it was S6 pupil Hugo Hoevelmann who claimed the heavies trophy, which is sponsored by the Argyllshire Gathering, which kindly leaves the games field set up from the previous day's Oban Highland Games.

## Ossian

All four clans fought it out in these events, but it was Ossian who won first place with 810 points scored throughout the course of the day.

Alongside being the Highland Games winners, Ossian also took home other trophies with Cameron McAllister (S2),

Anna MacFarlane-Barrow (S2) and Zander Craik (S4) being the champions for their year groups.

Despite not winning overall, Somerled's Rachel Carré (S4) and Kyle Cooper (S5), Diarmid's Esme Tosh (S1), Jacques Coates (S3) and Iain MacCallum (S6), and Fingal's Marco MacGregor (S1), Rachael Steward (S3), Mairi Inglis (S5) and Ellie MacInnes (S5) were also awarded trophies for winning overall for their year.

In the afternoon, the day came to an end after all year groups competed in clan relays – with some staff even taking part in the teacher relay.



Rachel Carré, Somerled, gives it her best shot.



Heavies champions Charlie Johnston – the first woman to take part in the heavy event – and Hugo Hoevelmann, S6.



Jordan MacIntyre throwing to gain points for Fingal.

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# Princess Royal receives the warmest possible welcome

As the morning of the 2021 Argyllshire Gathering dawned, all over Oban gazes turned to the skies. The past few days had been particularly wet, grey and dreary, and on Thursday, of all days, the sun needed to make an appearance.

For it was a very special day; the Argyllshire Gathering was returning to Oban and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was coming to the town – and Oban wanted to ensure she received a warm Highland welcome.

And that is exactly what she received. The sun shone as locals and visitors turned out for the 150th anniversary of the Argyllshire Gathering.

As well as visiting the Games, Princess Anne spent time at Oban High School and met with local voluntary groups at Atlantis Leisure.

The first stop for The Princess Royal was Mossfield Park for the Gathering's morning activities. Escorted by the Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Mrs Jane MacLeod, the Princess was introduced to a number of Gathering members and supporters, including Mrs Dee Bradbury OBE, the first female President of Scottish Rugby Union. Mrs Bradbury has played a key part in developing youth rugby in the area, with girls' and boys' matches featuring on the Gathering programme. The captains of the winning youth teams were surprised and delighted to be presented with their trophies by Her Royal Highness.

Alongside the traditional cultural elements of piping and Highland dancing, celebrating Argyll's heritage is a significant part of the Gathering each year. The annual Heritage Exhibition is always well attended and Her Royal Highness heard from a number of local organisations, including Dunollie Castle Museum, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Kilmartin Museum and many others.

The Princess also presented medals to piper Stuart Liddell of Inveraray, who won the 150th Argyllshire Gathering invitational solo piping competition, and to Pipe Major Iain Lowther, the composer of Dr Whittow's Salute to the 150th Argyllshire Gathering in memory of the spouse of one of the Gathering Stewards, Helen Malcolm, and which was the



HRH the Princess Royal with her husband Sir Timothy Laurence is met at Oban High School by head boy Angus Files, head teacher Peter Bain and senior deputy Kevin Champion.



Head girl Hannah Crowe and head boy Angus Files showed the Princess around Oban High School campus.

winning composition in the Bagpipe Tune Competition.

After opportunities to meet with the Gathering's Senior Stewards and enjoy some of the traditional athletics, dancing and musical performances, Her Royal Highness travelled to Oban High School where she was met by head teacher Peter Bain, head boy Angus Files and head girl Hannah Crowe.

After outlining the school's history, Angus and Hannah accompanied the Princess to the art gallery for a show of pupils' works, with musicians from the School of Traditional Music playing in the background.

The party then toured a range of other departments including the hairdressing/beauty suite, horticulture and poly tunnels, school garage and dance marquee. Particular highlights were hearing from staff and pupils

about Oban High School's work with Riding for the Disabled, receiving a lesson on playing the chanter from world champion piping tutor Angus McColl, and receiving the first jar of honey from the school beehives.

Before leaving the school, Her Royal Highness was presented with gifts, including specially engraved crystal glasses, by Hannah and Angus on behalf of the school community.

The Princess told them she had thoroughly enjoyed her visit to the school and wished them every success for the year ahead.

Speaking after Her Royal Highness had departed, head girl Hannah said: 'It was an amazing opportunity to meet her today. She asked us lots of questions and really helped us to stay relaxed. It's been a really exciting day.'

Head boy Angus added: 'It was a real privilege to be able

to show the Princess around today. We have only been in our roles for two weeks, so it feels quite surreal! We really hope that she enjoyed her visit as much as we did.'

The next stop was Atlantis Leisure where a number of local voluntary groups were taking part in a community showcase.

Organisations in attendance included the Dove Centre, North Argyll Carers Centre, Hope Kitchen, Adventure Oban, and Lorn Healthy Options. The Princess spent time talking to organisers and volunteers with each of the groups present, hearing about the work they do to support people who are dealing with a wide range of issues, including mental health, recovery from addiction, young carers, mobility issues to improve overall wellbeing and live healthy, empowered lives.

Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

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Those Her Royal Highness spoke to paid tribute to her warmth and good sense of humour. One volunteer said: 'She showed such an interest in us and what we do, she was so friendly.'

Another added: 'We were so grateful and amazed at how much time she spent with each of us, chatting and asking us lots of questions. We really enjoyed meeting her!'

The session at Atlantis Leisure brought The Princess Royal's visit to Oban to a close.

After her departure, the Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Mrs Jane MacLeod, said: 'Everyone involved with the visit has remarked on the genuine warmth shown by Her Royal Highness during her time in Oban. Her presence at the 150th

Argyllshire Gathering, especially after the event could not take place last year, has been a real boost and made the day even more special.

'The school community are absolutely elated at her positive comments and interest in the pupils, their learning and their work.'

'And our local voluntary groups, who work so hard to support people in the community, are encouraged greatly by her taking the time to find out more about what they do, and by her kind words.'

'We are always very happy to give the warmest possible welcome to The Princess Royal when she visits Argyll and Bute, and we hope that she will be able to visit us again very soon.'

# A right royal occasion at the



Commentator Craig Dunbar kept everyone well informed throughout the day.



The Princess Royal showed great interest in the Highland dance section.

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Glorious sunshine provided the perfect backdrop for the 150th anniversary of the Argyllshire Gathering and Oban Games with visitors from near, far and the palace in attendance.

Having been forced to cancel the event for the past two years due to Covid-19, organisers were determined, restrictions allowing, that this year the 'show would go on', despite only having two months to bring it all together.

And a fine job they did too. From the piping competitions on Wednesday, Thursday's grand March and all the action at Mossfield, competitors and spectators entered into the spirit of the occasion with records broken, special commemorative medals won and much fun had by everyone in

attendance. Games Steward Paul Nicoll told The Oban Times: 'As the Argyllshire Gathering Trust is a charity which supports and funds the tutoring of piping to ensure the future of piping in the area, it was a difficult decision as to whether we should press ahead with the 150th anniversary Games this year.'

'However, the Scottish Government's Events Recovery fund underwrote some of the additional costs which gave the stewards the confidence to go forward.'

'I and the other stewards would like to particularly thank the committee who worked so hard to put the games on at such short notice and staff and pupils of Oban High School for their help and participation.'

Among those in attendance at the games was Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal,



Left: The Duke of Argyll chats to Princess Anne with her husband Timothy Laurence in attendance.



Daniel Armstrong gets to grips with the tug o' war.



Inveraray's Stuart Liddell won the Invitational Medley and the Piobaireachd coming overall winner in the piping competition on Wednesday. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Left: Warming up for the Clachd.



Above: Oban Sea Cadets James Bradfield, Ryan Tinnay, Rhys Neil and PO Tom Kennedy were on duty at the Gathering.



Greg Kelly, number 86, from East Kilbride took the 100m handicap title.



# 150th Argyllshire Gathering



Lochearnhead heavy Stuart Anderson contemplates the hammer arena.

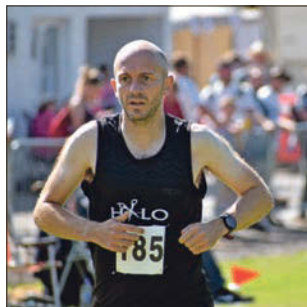
who took time to talk to many of the organisers, participants and competitors as well as visit the Heritage Tent and many of the stalls around the ground.

'The games this year were a resounding success, helped by not only superb weather, but the presence of the Princess Royal, who was genuinely interested in the five tenets, of the games and spent a long time with each of the committee members who were pivotal in the organisation,' added Mr Nicoll.

As always, competition took centre stage over the two days with the lack of international categories only serving to make the 150th anniversary event truly 'local'.

With Covid stopping pipers from overseas, the usual Gold Medal competition was replaced by an Argyll Invitational competition which was won by Stuart Liddell, pipe major of Inveraray and District World Champion pipe band.

This year saw the playing for the first time of Dr Whittow's Salute to the 150th Argyllshire Gathering on the march to Mossfield with the Oban High School Pipe Band excellent as



Andrew Gibson from Hawick took the 1,600m title.

usual and a credit to the area.

Heavy and running events, along with the highly popular tug o' war, dominated the action at Mossfield, with Czech-born Vlad (The Impaler) Tulacek breaking Games records in the light (16lbs) and heavy (22lb) Clachd (stone) events. First time visitor to the games Natasha Armstrong brought her husband Michael and children Daniel, 8, and Mickayla, 6, from England to join in the fun. She told The Oban Times: 'We have had an absolute ball. The children have absolutely loved it and we even joined in the tug of war.

'Oban is a truly wonderful place; everyone smiles at you.'



Spectators enjoyed a glorious day on the hill.



Oban High School Pipe Band on the march.



Records were broken by competitors in the Clachd event.



Above: Some of the 7-11-year-old Highland dancers.

Left: Some of the 16-and-under age group Highland dancers.



Oban High School duo Emma MacGregor and Manahil Riaz set out their stall.

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OT

## LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Anniversary Gathering and Games a huge success

After organisers were forced to cancel the Argyllshire Gathering for the past two years due to Covid-19, it was fantastic to again be back reporting on the event and the fact it was celebrating its 150th anniversary was just the icing on the cake.

Glorious sunshine provided the perfect backdrop for the Gathering and Oban Games, with visitors from near and far making the most of the day. And it was particularly special to have Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in attendance.

Our congratulations go to the organisers who were determined, restrictions allowing, that this year the 'show would go on', despite only having two months to bring it all together. You did a brilliant job.

Praise, too, for all the competition winners, including Stuart Liddell, pipe major of Inveraray and District World Champion Pipe Band, who won the Argyll Invitational competition.

It was fantastic to see the event return and we look forward to other events making an appearance in 2022.

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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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## Mull ferry disgrace

The decision by CMAL not to proceed with the purchase of the vessel currently nearing completion identified by the Mull and Iona Ferry committee (MIFC) is not only unfortunate but disgraceful.

The so-called explanations given in the excellent coverage by the Oban Times were both facile and platitudinous and did not even have a ring of truth. The contempt for the efforts of MIFC and others was only exceeded by the extraordinary claim that they knew best and suggesting that their expertise exceeded that of Strathclyde Naval Architecture Department, whose report concluded that the vessel was eminently suitable, could be made to comply with MCA regulations with ease and for a modest sum, and was, indeed, a far more safe vessel than any in the CMAL fleet.

The arrogance is breathtaking. This from an organisation condemned by a parliamentary report last year as lacking competence and, indeed, relevance; that has presided over the FMEL contract fiasco; one that intends, apparently, to continue with a policy of ever larger mono hull ferries contrary to the requests of islanders, an organisation which, though it almost chartered Pentalina, ignores the success of Pentland Ferries with Pentalina and, more recently, Alfred, vessels, fully compliant with our regulations and almost identical to that sourced by MIFC.

Ironically, as Roy Pedersen has pointed out, CMAL does not suffer from underfunding, the problem is what they do with our money. They will intend to replace the Isle of Mull with an even larger vessel at a cost of some four or five times the cost of the MIFC-sourced vessel and the lead time will be of the order of five years.

The methods used by CMAL, as reported in the Oban Times, to make it impossible for the purchase to go ahead indicate that there was never a serious commitment to facilitate this purchase. That Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government continue to treat CMAL with any credibility beggars belief given their track record and it appears that they will continue to spend our money with profligacy.

The parliamentary enquiry, which ran to 129 pages has, sadly, been a waste of time and effort on the part of the 11 parliamentarians. What sort of government, whose record on procurement has been abysmal, is this where they commission an enquiry and kick it into the long grass as Mr Wheelhouse said he will do within days of the release. There are no grounds for optimism.

J Patrick Maclean, Oban.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

[ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

Gu cinnteach tha dreach an fhoghair air tighinn air an dùthaich, agus ged a bhios sinn an dòchas ri beagan aimsire mhath air a' bhliadhna fhathast tha sinn gu nàdarra dualach a bhith a' tòiseachadh ri smaoinachadh romhainn gu geamhradh. Ged nach eil e 's dòcha cho fìor èiginneach ann am beatha a' mhòr-shluagh an-diugh, beagan ghinealaichean air ais bha gleidheadh stòras beathachaidh a' gheamhradh, dha daoine agus ainmhidhean, deatamach da-riribh agus na phrìomh amas ro dheireadh an fhoghair. 'S cinnteach gur e sin a dh'fhàg seirbheisean taingeachd foghair cho cudromach ann am beatha choimhearsnachdan cuideachd, is daoine a' toirt buidheachas airson buannachd an cuid saothrach fhèin agus an toradh a bh' aca ma seach airson làithean dorcha a' gheamhradh. Ged nach robh am facal dealbhachadh ga chleachdadh aca mar a th' againn air leithid seo an-diugh bha plana-beatha aig daoine gun teagamh sam bith, plana a bh' air fàs à eòlas agus cruadal bith-beò far an robh sluagh ann am bochdainn bhòrb leantainneach. Cha robh aca ach mar a ghlacadh iad air muir a bha bitheanta cunnartach, agus mar a bhuaineadh iad air criomagan talmhainn corrach air tìr. Bha beatha làitheil na dleasan dhòrainneach, ach bha tuigse ann gun dèanadh lionmhorachd làmh an obair na b' fhasa agus bha co-obrachadh agus earbsa an càch a chèile mar chleachdadh stèidhichte.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, 's cinnteach, an-diugh tha gluasadan an t-saoghail mhalairteach sa bhithheantas air an dealbh bliadhnaichean ro-

làimh, le tuairmse air cosgaisean agus cuimse air na buannachdan ionmhais as treasa a ghabhas. Agus ged a tha e àbhaisteach a bhith a' faicinn beagan airgid dìon ga chumail ma seach air eagal 's nach tachair cùisean mar a bha dùil is dòchas, feumar aideachadh gum bheil feallsanachd dealbhachaidh air a stèidheachadh air amasan soirbheachaidh, seach call. Saoilidh mi gum bheil sin nas fhìora buileach a thaobh ionnsaighean cogaidh, far nach eil e coltach gun tèid armachd sam bith an sàs le dùil nach buannaich iad. Chan eil sin ge-tà na leisgeul iomchaidh sam bith dha mar a tha air tachairt aig port-adhair Chabul is miltean de luchd-taice nan dùthchannan siar a bha an sàs an Afganastan fad chòrr air fichead bliadhna gan trèigsinn 's an iomairt armaichte sin caillte. Ciamar as urrainn dhuinne dòrainn nan daoine sin a thuigsinn is iad fhèin 's an luchd-gaoil an cunnart am beatha fo amasan borb dìoghaltas an Taliban, agus ciamar as urrainn dha ceannardan poiliteigeach agus airm nan dùthchannan sin an co-dhùnaidhean agus ghnìomhan a dhìon? Bhiodh abairt aig mo sheann neach-teagaisg Calum MacLeòid, ann an Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, nach biodh seanailear math a' teicheadh bho bhàr uair sam bith, gur ann a bhiodh e a' tionndadh agus a' caismeachd air adhart!

Ach a' cur eirmseachd an dàrna taobh, tha fhios gum bheil còir aig teisteanas mhoralta a bhith na bhunait air poiliteigs agus obair-airm dhùthaich shìobhalta sam bith, agus far nach eil sin a' tachairt nach saoil sibh gum bheil fèin-spèis mhòr-shluagh na dùthcha sin air a shuarachadh!

## Money could be better spent

After reading Martin Laing's At Random in last week's edition I have to agree with him; why spend £250,000 on a street that's only a few hundred yards long when other parts of Argyll could do with a share of that money.

Take a look at Sandy Neil's article Mull Fiddle Week, the photographs of all of these fantastic musicians playing in Tobermory Main Street in front of the town clock - both the street and the clock could do with a bit of a refurbishment, also the clock is running about four hours fast all summer.

John Mackay, by email.

## MPAs need to be enforced

Following a report by the US-based, oceanic conservation group Oceana, which criticised government inaction on protecting Scotland's Marine Protected Areas, I have just read a report from Greenpeace and was shocked to see that an industrial fishing vessel was again spotted in a marine protected area.

These areas are specifically designated to let nature recover and thrive. How can this possibly be legal?

We are supposed to be world leaders in this area and our government needs to act.

Janet Fox, Kilbirnie.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## IONA

### Belated anniversary celebration for Clacksons

Drs Stephen and Ute Clackson recently returned to Iona Abbey to revisit the place where they married 26 years ago, this time with three of their children: Frideswide, 18, Dunstan, 20, and Wulfric, 24.

Their elder daughter, Aelfleda, 25, who lives in Germany, could not make it over owing to the uncertainties of the current Covid restrictions.

'We wanted to come last year to celebrate our silver wedding anniversary on April 28 2020, but the pandemic put paid to that,' explained Stephen.

Two months prior to their wedding on April 28 1995 Stephen worked at the Abbey as a volunteer for the Iona Community, and then in the week of the wedding the couple were both guests at the MacLeod Centre.

'We held the reception a couple of days later at the Oban Sea Life Centre which, sadly, has now closed,' he added.

'The speeches being made over the ray pool and I believe ours was the first wedding reception they had ever hosted.'

Stephen and Ute have for many years run a technical translation business in Sanday, Orkney, and Stephen is a councillor for Orkney Islands Council's North Isles ward.



Drs Stephen and Ute Clackson with three of their children, Frideswide, Dunstan and Wulfric. Photograph by Peter Clackson.

### Busy Beavers receive their Bronze awards

These three Beavers from 1st Argyll (Lorn) Scout Group have worked tremendously hard over the last two years, including a year via Zoom due to Covid.

On Tuesday August 24 they received their Chief Scout Bronze award badges and then made their Promise as they moved on up to Cub Scouts.

From left to right are Caiden Gatward, Úisdean Craig and Jamie MacKellar.

Beaver Leaders Fiona Wilson and Katy Pollock are extremely proud of their achievements and how hard they worked, and also thank the parents for all they help that was given in the background of the Zoom sessions.



From left to right are Caiden Gatward, Úisdean Craig and Jamie MacKellar.

## BARCALDINE

### Bookends gears up for Barcaldine Bookshed launch

Bookends will be heading out to The Racer Café near Barcaldine on Saturday, September 4, where visitors can peruse a superb stall of pre-loved books as well as delving into the new Bookshed.

With the Reading Room at the Victory Hall in Benderloch still out of bounds due to Covid restrictions, the Bookends Team has been updating its pop-up slots in as many places as it can.

As well as the Book Busstop in Bonawe, The Book Hutch at Barcaldine bus stop and the Connel Book Phone Stop, it now has a wonderful bookshed in Taynuilt stacked full of glorious reading material for all ages, as well as the brand new Bookshed at The Racer Café.

Bookends founder Joy Cameron said: 'Our good friends Wayne and Leanne Johnson, who run the café, have held three wonderful market days, the last of which was a mini Lorn Show where as well as local crafters and producers there were car booters, games, a candy floss stall, burger barbecue and some incredible animals on display.'

'Bookends would love to see you there on Saturday September 4 and hope in the near future to see you back at The Reading Room.... not long we hope.'

The market runs from 10am to 3pm and there will be lots of stalls as well as food from the café.

'I can recommend it all,' says Joy, 'especially the cakes (the scones are so tasty).'

Anyone looking to book a crafters/producers stall or space for a car boot should text Leanne on 07818 192124. Six foot frontage is only £10 and some tables are available. The weather is looking good too.

## ISLAY

### Wheels keep turning for Islay primary school pupils

School transport services for children living between Imeraval and Port Ellen Primary on Islay have been reinstated following a review.

News that Argyll and Bute Council has u-turned on the controversial decision to axe school transport for some island-based pupils has been welcomed by Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

The Scottish Conservative MSP wrote to the council on behalf of several residents who were deeply concerned at the initial decision.

Donald Cameron MSP said: 'I am delighted that Argyll and Bute Council has listened to parents' concerns and has reinstated the bus service ahead of the new term starting. This route was never safe for young children to walk to and from school, and I hope that this is the end of the matter.'

## At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Rubbish behaviour

Littering: I just don't get it.

In this day and age, we are all acutely aware of the impact of leaving rubbish behind, particularly as much of it is not biodegradable and will have lasting consequences, both on our environment and wildlife. And there are bins almost everywhere.

Yet concerns and complaints are growing about precisely this problem, with play parks and other public open spaces regularly being left looking like landfill sites after late and often noisy late-night gatherings.

As we reported last week, the police in Oban and the council are becoming much more proactive in addressing this problem, and I am very glad to hear they are doing so.

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie says patrols are being increased, and that, too, is welcome. However, I would like to urge people to report these offenders when they see them causing nuisance and litter.

Perhaps a few arrests would give the offenders pause for thought and cause them to rethink their behaviour. After all, it is hardly worth having a criminal record because the culprits are too lazy to put their detritus in a bin.

### Games on!

It was brilliant to see the 150th Argyllshire Gathering taking place last week, and graced by the presence of Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

I know that not all Oban residents are fans of the gathering but I am and I have thoroughly enjoyed attending them, though I was unable to be there this year.

The gathering is one of the high points in the calendar locally and draws excited visitors – as well as competitors – from all over the world. And to be blessed, as last week's games were, with bright sunshine simply iced the cake.

As usual, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers because such an event takes a huge amount of work to set up. Their efforts are very much appreciated and I hope to be able to be among the crowds next year.

### What do you think?

Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk



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One of the new colony of rare Lady's Tresses orchids found on Islay.

## New colony of rare orchids found on Islay

Conservation officer Angharad Ward has discovered a new colony of the rare and beautiful Lady's Tresses orchids at a secret location on Islay.

Angharad is working for the Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT), a partner of The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) project and is carrying out detailed surveys of the island's biodiversity. These health checks make sure habitats are in tip-top form.

The survey points are randomly selected and as well as identifying the plants, measurements of the depth of the peat are made.

The Lady's Tresses discovered at one of these random points are only the fifth site found on the island and, with 14 plants, is the largest colony surveyed.

Angharad was delighted by the find and said: 'The exact site will remain secret to keep them safe. I was pretty chuffed with the unexpected find, made even better by how pretty they are,' she said. 'This beautiful small wild orchid has small creamy-white flowers coiling in three spirals up the stem. Each flower is in a dense spike and the sepals and petals are joined to form a lip of a tube.'

# Milestone as planters rewild Loch Craignish with seagrass

Community snorkellers and volunteers marked a milestone in Scottish inshore marine habitat restoration recently by harvesting and planting seagrass in Loch Craignish.

More than 60 snorkellers and volunteers from the Craignish peninsula, students from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and volunteers from across Scotland took part in the project which aims to extend an existing meadow by a quarter of a hectare at Loch Craignish.

The Loch Craignish-based charity Seawilding has partnered with Project Seagrass and SAMS to deliver Scotland's first community-led seagrass restoration project.

Seawilding and members of the Craignish community are running it, while Project Seagrass provides technical oversight and SAMS, environmental monitoring and environmental DNA sampling.

Seagrass - *Zostera marina* - is a vital inshore marine habitat which sequesters carbon faster than a rainforest and turns bare sand habitat into a structurally complex, productive ecosystem full of marine life.

It's also a key nursery ground for commercially important fish species such as cod, pollack, whiting and plaice, as well as herring and sea bass.

Up to 92 per cent of seagrass meadows have disappeared around the UK coastline.

At Loch Craignish, there are 10 small degraded meadows and the project, funded by NatureScot's Biodiversity Challenge Fund, aims to enhance the existing meadows this autumn, while trialling different restoration methodologies.

If successful, the Seawilding team plan to roll out the methodology to other coastal community groups to help them restore seagrass in their sea areas.

During the weekend of August 21 and August 22, community volunteers learned about the incredible 'eco-services' of seagrass, snorkelled through the seagrass meadows, harvested the seed by hand, processed it at Seawilding's on-site centre and planted 10,000 seeds in small hessian bags which give the germinating plants purchase on the seabed.

'It's been an exciting weekend and a real eye-opener for so many to get in the water and



Snorkelling through the seagrass in Loch Craignish. Photographs: Philip Price/Seawilding.



Volunteers were enthusiastic about the seagrass project and helped in and out of the water.

see for themselves the wonders of the seagrass meadows,' said Danny Renton, Seawilding's chief executive officer.

'Community-led initiatives like these are a really important first step in our efforts to restore

the health of the inshore marine environment which has been hammered by over-fishing, scallop dredging and bottom trawling and pollution from aquaculture.

'It's empowering for community volunteers to get into the water and make an active difference to restore lost bio-diversity. It's onwards and upwards for us.'

Seawilding is working with communities to restore the keystone species, native oysters and seagrass to Scottish inshore waters to restore bio-diversity and sequester carbon.

The charity plans to restore one million native oysters to Loch Craignish over the next five years and has already introduced nearly 250,000.

Native oysters were once common in many sea lochs but as a result of human predation and pollution, they are now rare.

They filter and clean the water and form complex 3D reefs which become fish spawning and nursery grounds. By developing low-cost methodologies to help restore the degraded inshore marine environment, Seawilding hopes to roll-out its projects to other coastal communities.

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Agents describe the £550,000 Calgary plot as a 'spectacular coastal block of grazing land steeped in history, together with Calgary Pier and foreshore.'

recorded on Pont's late-16th-century map,' adds Mull Historical Society. 'In 1817, the property came into the hands of Captain Allan McAskill of Mornish and local tradition says he evicted the inhabitants of the township.'

Many families affected by the clearances left for Canada from the pier at Calgary Bay.

In a strange quirk of history, their descendants may be walking the streets of Calgary city today.

However, Jo Currie's book, *Mull, The Island and Its People*, notes that most of the six families removed from Inivea were accommodated within the parish: 'The names peculiar to the township of Inivea, Gillies, McIlphadrag and MacArthur did not immediately disappear from the parish.'

Further exploration along the coastal track, beyond the property boundary, leads to another abandoned community, the ruined sheilings of Arin on the lower slopes of Bruach na Sean-pheighinne.

The western most point of the Mornish peninsula is known by the name Caillich point (Rubha Chaillich). The rock formation once had the appearance of a female head before the nose part broke away.

On the east side of the bay is Calgary Castle, which was built in 1817 by Captain Alan MacAskill, who retired there.

He built the gothic, gentrified and castellated front part on to the rear quarter, which was an 18th century traditional Laird's residence, Calgary House, built in the 1780s.

Around 1870, the house was acquired by John Munro Mackenzie, Chamberlain of the Lews from 1848 until 1854.

As the chamberlain, or factor, to Sir James Matheson, the then owner of the Isle of Lewis, MacKenzie was the man in virtual control of the everyday lives of its people.

He presided over one of the key periods of emigration from Lewis when, between 1851 and 1855, 1,772 of the poorest sub-tenants, from a population of nearly 20,000, were assisted with their passage - not always willingly - to Canada.

In 1872 Mackenzie, retired in Calgary Castle, was visited by a relation of his by marriage, Colonel James Macleod of Drynoch, Commissioner of the Canadian North-West Mounted Police.

Colonel Macleod was so taken by Calgary Castle that he suggested it as a name for a fort along the Bow River, which had initially been named Fort Brisebois after its then-commander. Fort Calgary, in turn, gave its name to the city of Calgary, Alberta.

In late 2018, the 10-bedroom, turreted Calgary Castle with Gothic-style windows was sold for a healthy margin above the asking price of £695,000, with huge interest from across the world - including from Calgary.

Perhaps there will be more links between The Beach by the Meadow and The City by the Bow.

# Historic Mull land and deserted village for sale

Calgary, Canada's third largest city, is home to nearly 1,300,000 people, and the country's highest concentration of millionaires - around 1,800 overall.

Its downtown skyline, backdropped by the prairies and Rocky Mountains, stocks 60 storey skyscrapers, including Canada's highest twin towers, while below one of the continent's busiest rail systems carries 270,000 passengers per week day.

In almost every way, Calgary, Alberta, could not be further from the bare, isolated north-western tip of Mull that gave it its name: Calgary Bay.

Now a piece of that history - 382 acres of sheep grazing land plus a village of 20 houses abandoned during the Highland Clearances - is up for sale for £550,000.

The empty, barren property is a 'spectacular coastal block of grazing land steeped in history, together with Calgary Pier and foreshore,' explains a sales brochure by estate agents Strutt & Parker, with 'sweeping views to the Treshnish Isles, Coll and the Small Isles, as well as dramatic views back over Mull beyond the famous beach at Calgary'.

## Yours for £550,000 - 382 acres of sheep grazing and 20 abandoned homes

The name comes from the Gaelic, *Cala ghearraidh*, meaning beach of the meadow (pasture).

It is a far cry from the skyscrapers of Calgary, Alberta, for 'the land is currently grazed by sheep on a seasonal basis' and 'there is no electricity or mains water supply to the land at Calgary Bay'.

On the north side of Calgary Bay, where the property is located, there is a footpath to the old pier, C-listed by Historic Environment Scotland.

This small pier, constructed with stone from Iona, was originally built to allow puffers to deliver coal to the Mornish Estate and was also used to transport sheep to and from the Treshnish Isles for grazing.

Just behind the pier are the remains of the old boathouse, set into what looks like a wall but is actually a volcanic basalt dyke, as well as other former structures further up the hillside.

'Some of these former buildings/sites may have

potential or provide the basis for future development subject to obtaining appropriate planning consents,' the agent says.

'Just up the hill from the pier is the deserted village of Inivea, where roofless stone ruins remain as a relic of the Highland clearances.

'At Inivea, more than 20 buildings of the township can be seen, several of them still standing to wall head level.

'These include houses and barns, with enclosures thought to be areas once used as kitchen gardens.

'Above the houses, a relatively flat area to the north presents patterns suggesting ridge and furrow cultivation and the supposed site of a drying kiln.

'A rocky knoll above sites the remains of a medieval fort, though many of its stones were taken to build the houses.'

'The existence of a farm or township at 'Inue' is

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## New route to a heritage career

Young people are being offered a new route to gaining employment and skills in heritage, thanks to an Argyll and Bute scheme funded by the ScottishPower Foundation.

Heritage Horizons, run by the Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) and Argyll and Bute Heritage and Museums Forum, aims to address the issue of an ageing workforce in the heritage and museums sectors by offering skill-building opportunities for young people.

The project will work with heritage venues in Argyll which are located in areas of high unemployment and is currently developing 14 accredited placements for young people. Participants will discover traditional building skills, learn how to guide visitors, or 'takeover' the social media accounts for a museum, all with the aim of improving their future employability.

Opportunities to learn job skills, especially for young people, have been worsened by the pandemic. The Heritage Horizons project, which runs until May 2022, has three main strands of work: providing work experience placements for young people aged 18-30 who will study for a Trinity College Arts Award; accredited workshops and events and school visits.

Seymour Adams, a member of the CHARTS board, said: 'Heritage Horizons will provide attractive and exciting opportunities for young people in rural areas of high social deprivation to engage with museums and other heritage venues.

'Creative placements contributing to educational, archive and visitor services will enable young people to achieve recognised accreditation, reduce inequalities and address current challenges presented by an ageing workforce, through building employability and enabling young people to participate in the wide range of opportunities which the heritage sector in the West Highlands offers in the post-Covid world.'

# Graduation day for Argyll's new hospitality diploma

A new training scheme run by Argyll College and a Loch Fyne spa resort schooling the next generation of hospitality professionals has produced its first graduates.

Members of staff at Portavadie, Loch Fyne, received their Continual Personal Development Awards at Higher National Diploma level from Argyll College's principal Martin Jones.

The award is a culmination of a two-year programme which included being immersed in workshops delivered by exemplars of industry, developed by Jackie Cannon of the WayAhead People and Portavadie's managing director Iain Jurgensen.

The cohort completed a series of workshops focussed on critical areas of the business including financial management; sales and marketing; talent and retention; emotional intelligence; and

developing networks and partnerships. They then split into two teams to research and deliver on business critical projects.

A delighted Iain Jurgensen said: 'Today is the culmination of a lot of effort from all those involved.

'It's truly great to see the smiles and sense of pride and achievement from all those involved from all sides today but in particular the 'graduates', our first cohort of what we hope will become an integral part of achievement and opportunity for our partnership and collaboration with education.

'Continual career development and recognition across the industry is critical to attracting and retaining new talent in tourism and hospitality.

'We have such an array of talent within our in-

dustry with diverse skills already on rewarding career pathways; it's great to see that recognised by our academic partners.'

Argyll College said it was 'proud to have worked hand-in-hand with the team at Portavadie in developing this CPD award for the hospitality sector.

'Employer partnerships, and investment in industry-led curriculum development in key sectors such as tourism, is critical to our mission to remain Argyll's foremost higher education provider.

'We are grateful to the management of Portavadie for their unwavering commitment to the professional development of their staff.

'These young professionals, who are the first cohort to have gained this leadership award, should be rightfully proud of their achievement.'



Graduation day at Portavadie.

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Homebase Oban staff, left to right, Donald Hay, Owen Walker, Kerry-Anne Warne, Andy MacDonald and Curtis Hewitt are the pick of the crop.

Homebase Oban has been punching above its weight this summer - regularly coming out in the top three of the company's Scottish sales charts - even beating the Edinburgh store to the top spot on one occasion.

And the Lochavullin store puts the success down to its green-fingered customers.

Store manager Stephen McLaughlin told The Oban Times: 'Our gardening range has proved particularly popular, which shows just how keen our customers are on refreshing their green outside spaces. We know how much our customers love our garden offering, so we made sure we had team members with expert knowledge, inspirational displays and a great range of products.'

While gardening seems to have been top of peoples' minds during, and as we come out of the Covid-19 situation, it's not just getting their hands dirty that has appealed, they have also been keen to make the most of their outside spaces to enjoy time with friends and family.

'We've seen a huge demand for our outdoor living range - everything from outdoor sofas, to chairs, tables, firepits and more as people entertain and socialise with friends and family again,' confirmed Stephen. 'Travel has been challenging over the last year, so our customers are really embracing the joy of staycations and making the most of their own homes to enjoy the beautiful scenery on their doorsteps.'

'While the community has been rallying

# Oban store tops the charts in sales and community spirit

round its local store, the store been helping out in the community.'

Stephen added: 'Being involved in the community is so important and I truly believe we can make a positive impact on those around us in Oban and across the country.'

'From our store, we've donated plants and supported local primary schools with children's gardening tools for their Grow Your Own Project which sees young people get more involved with nature.'

'We also gave plants to Oban hospital to keep their garden blooming. It is something we are

passionate about continuing and we'll be looking in ways in which we can get more involved in the community in the months and years to come.'

In the two years that Stephen has been manager, the Oban store has gone from strength to strength. Thirteen new jobs have been created taking the staff tally to 23.

'Being based in a small town, we really get to know our customers - some travel a long way from islands including Mull, Barra and Tiree - so it's important we get it right for them,' he concluded.

## Navalue has designs on ferry replacement

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has appointed ferry design consultancy Navalue to lead the concept design of its Small Vessel Replacement Programme (SVRP), which will see several small vehicle and passenger vessels replaced on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network.

The seven small vessels potentially to be replaced are MV Loch Striven (Oban-Lismore), MV Loch Tarbert (Tobermory-Kilchoan), MV Loch Fyne (Mallaig-Armadale), MV Loch Ranza (Tayinloan-Gigha), MV Loch Riddon (Largs-Cumbrae), MV Loch Dunvegan (Colintraive-Rhubodach) and relief vessel MV Loch Linnhe.

CMAL and Navalue will investigate and evaluate the feasibility of designing low emission ferries in line with the Scottish Government climate change commitments.

Studies and design experience will be drawn on to explore the latest offshore charging technologies and identify onboard electrical energy storage systems, capable of being recharged from shore side electrical power supplies.

Jim Anderson, Director of Vessels of CMAL said: 'CMAL led the way in low emission small ferries when we designed the world's first hybrid sea-going ferries, with three hybrid vessels currently in operation on the network. Our aim is to ensure the next generation of small vessels is as environmentally friendly as possible.'

Thomas Ritte, partner at Navalue said: 'We are pleased to bring our experience in developing zero-emission transportation solutions to the CMAL small vessel replacement programme and look forward to working with CMAL.'

A future phase two of the SVRP will replace vessels to serve the Sound of Barra, Sound of Harris and Sound of Iona routes; however, during phase one CMAL will investigate a vessel design that complies with changed regulatory requirements for the Sound of Iona.



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Weave your stories into a quilt for Bute art show



Sheelagh Boyce, left, and Annabelle Harty.

Quilters on Bute are invited to weave their stories into blankets made from cherished old garments for an exhibition in the island's historic house Mount Stuart, writes Sandy Neil.

The project, called Gather and Arrange, is run by artists Sheelagh Boyce and Annabelle Harty, who create 'architectural quilts' under the name Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way. A display of their work begins on September 7 at Mount Stuart, followed by the participatory project leading to a second exhibition in 2022.

Next year's exhibition will present the islanders' quilts beside Boyce and Harty's works of art, including a huge tablecloth to cover Mount Stuart's dining-room table made entirely from waiters' jackets and aprons from London's Rochelle Canteen

and St John Restaurant, which was established by Harty's brother, the chef Fergus Henderson.

'Communities and individuals across Bute are invited to make quilts from their old and cherished garments,' explained the artists' publicist Amandine Buttica. 'Participating makers will gather used clothes, made special by the person who wore them, the occasion for which they were worn. Sheelagh Boyce and Annabelle Harty envisage the history and nature of quilt making as core to the sense of community-led work and will share their skills with community members. Elements of memories, people, places and experiences will be encouraged into the quilts. Each new quilt will be worked on, in workshop format, across the winter months, in Mount Stuart's

An architectural quilt by artists Sheelagh Boyce and Annabelle Harty.



conservatory, an area filled with light and originally conceived to look at the stars. Makers will be encouraged to choose, as a starting point, a place, a landscape, a building – it could be the corner shop, an architectural detail, the telephone cables sitting within the landscape. These quilts will then be exhibited in 2022 at Mount

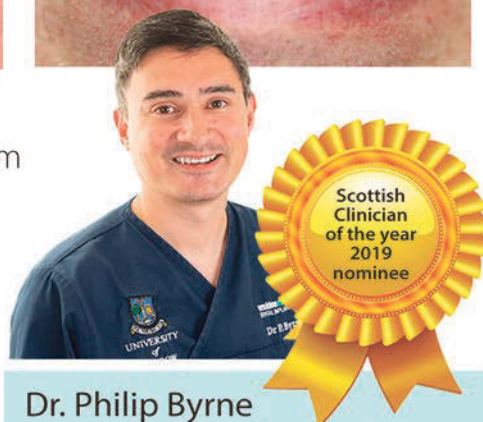
Stuart.'

Mount Stuart is an extraordinary Neo-Gothic mansion on the Island of Bute, sitting between Glasgow, Argyll and Ayrshire on the Firth of Clyde. Since 2001, this unorthodox building has provided both the inspiration and location for an acclaimed contemporary visual arts programme.

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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



I would like to begin this week's column by wishing a slightly belated happy 80th birthday to the one and only Donald Macrae!

Donald, pictured right, is a humble guy but there is no doubt he is a legend of the Gaelic music scene in Glasgow and further afield. Brought up on a croft in Habost, Lewis, Donald moved to Glasgow in 1961 and became absolutely central to the legacy of places such as The Highlanders Institute and The Park Bar.

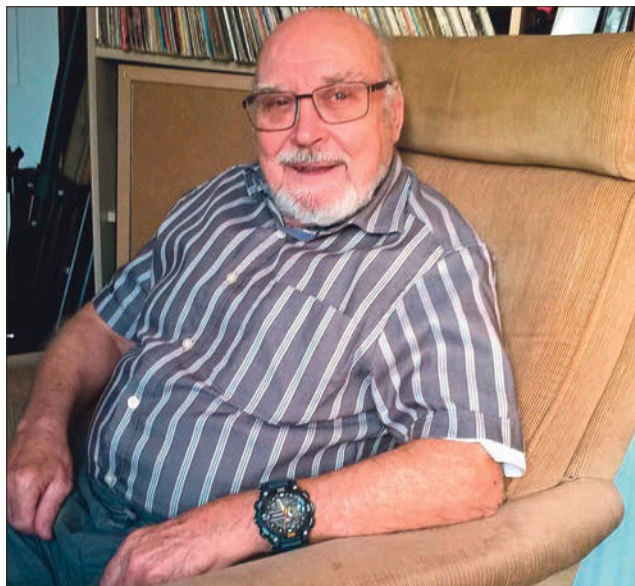
Perhaps predictably, it was in the Park Bar where I first met and heard him and I am always struck by how strong his voice still is and how similar it sounds to his records recorded all those years ago. His prominence on the special album released in 2017 to celebrate 50 years of music in the Park Bar was entirely justified considering his unquantifiable influence on the place over half a century.

I was pleased to hear he was doing fine over lockdown when he kindly helped me source lyrics for one of his songs I was singing for a Take The Floor broadcast.

If you're reading this Donald, I look forward to catching up for a dram, and perhaps a song, next time we both happen to be in the Park. Slàinte!

Talking about live singing, what a thrill it was to get out on the road with Tide Lines last week for a tour that has been postponed three times since its original date back in May 2020.

I know what people say about Highland time keeping but an album tour beginning 15



months after the album release has to be a new record!

Our opening gig was in Glasgow, at the famous King Tut's Wah Wah Hut on St Vincent Street. This was not originally intended as part of the tour (it was a standalone gig for people who had pre-ordered the album), so it is actually our first of two Glasgow gigs in the coming weeks, the second being Kelvingrove Bandstand on October 8.

While an autumn evening in Kelvingrove has the potential to be chilly, King Tut's was quite the opposite. It was one of the hottest days of the year and Covid regulations prohibit an air-conditioner that recycles air around the venue!

Despite the heat, it was a joy to be back and to play on such an iconic stage that has been graced by names such as Coldplay, the Killers,

and Radiohead. It was also the venue where Oasis were 'discovered'. These bands obviously all went on to become legendary and, if they all stick in, they might even make it to Donald Macrae's level one of these days!

## 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 Barrowlands
- October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands
- October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand
- October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands

# Oban hosts world premiere of the Neanderthal Ballad

Oban Music Society welcomes back pianist Clare Hammond to St John's Cathedral on Saturday September 4 at 7pm.

She will be performing work by unjustly neglected woman composers and the world premiere of the 'Neanderthal Ballad' inspired by ancient cave paintings.

Clare's programme begins with works by Helene de Montgeroult (1764-1836), the first woman professor at the new Paris Conservatoire in 1795, followed by pieces by Astor Piazzola (1921-1992), an Argentine composer and bandoneon. Brahms' Six Piano pieces end the first half.

After the interval comes a completely new work called The Neanderthal Ballads, which Clare commissioned from Richard Barnard for spring 2020. The music is inspired by early cave paintings and exposes newly-discovered connections between early humans and their human-like relatives.

The second half also features The Bells Suite by American composer William Grant Still Junior



Clare Hammond.

(1895-1978) and Variations on a Polish Theme by the most celebrated Polish composer of the early 20th century, Karol Maciej Szymanowski (1882-1937).

Unfortunately continuing pandemic restrictions prevent the serving of refreshments during the interval. Socially distanced seating will be available for those who require it.

## What's on at Oban Cinema



### THIS WEEK

#### Friday 3 September

Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings   12A	12:30/16:30/19:45
Paw Patrol: The Movie   U	12:45/16:15
Our Ladies   15	18:15
The Reason I Jump   12A	20:45

#### Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 September

Paw Patrol: The Movie   U	12:45/14:00/15:00
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings   12A	16:30/19:45
The Reason I Jump   12A	17:15
Our Ladies   15	19:30

#### Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 September

Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings   12A	12:30/16:30/19:45
Paw Patrol: The Movie   U	12:45/16:15/18:15
Our Ladies   15	20:15

#### Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The Ten Rings (12A)

**Action**  
Martial-arts master Shang-Chi confronts the past he thought he left behind when he's drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organisation.

#### The Reason I Jump (12A)

**Documentary**  
Based on the bestselling book by Naoki Higashida, THE REASON I JUMP is an immersive cinematic exploration of neurodiversity through the experiences of nonspeaking autistic people from around the world.

#### Our Ladies (15)

**Comedy**  
Our Ladies follows a group of Scottish schoolgirls on a day trip to Edinburgh to perform in a choir competition. For these teens from a small town in the Scottish Highlands, it becomes a chance to escape their daily lives and run riot in the big city. With few expectations for their futures, Oria (Tallulah Greive), Finnoula (Abigail Lawrie), Manda (Sally Messham), Kay (Eve Austin), Chell (Rona Morison) and Kyla (Marli Siu) are determined to live for every moment in this raucous tale of love, life and true friendship.

Based on the book by Oban author Alan Warner.

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](http://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](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk)

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

# Lismore fiddle player reaches A High Place

Scottish folk duo Joseph Peach and Charlie Grey from Lismore are releasing their new album *Sporachas - A High Place* on October 1.

**Charlie Grey on fiddle and Joseph Peach on piano.**



Fiddle player Charlie lives on the Isle of Lismore where in his free time he restores small boats, occasionally works on a creel fishing boat and spends his time walking his border collie Hector.

Charlie is also an outstanding musician, having spent time studying the fiddle, Gypsy Jazz, Bluegrass, Blues-fiddle music and mastering his own aesthetic of improvisation.

Developed through improvisation, Charlie and Joseph reinterpret the traditional Scottish Gaelic melodies of times past, continuing their multi-generational story, as well as introducing new pieces of their own.

The album's first single, *Gathan-grèin*, was composed by Joseph as he took in the inspiring crepuscular sunbeams off the coast of Scotland.

This single provides a vivid

and life-affirming introduction to *Sporachas - A High Place*. Throughout *Sporachas*, Charlie can be heard playing on a Hardanger D'Amore, an incredibly rare, ten-string Norwegian bowed instrument designed and built by Salve Håkedal.

Only the 33rd Hardanger D'Amore ever made, Charlie's instrument is likely one of a kind in Scotland.

'The landscape surrounding Lismore is a constant source of inspiration to me,' Charlie told

The Oban Times. 'It is a truly unique place. I always think of the island being trapped between worlds: you have the dramatic hills of Ben Nevis, Ben Cruachan, Glen Creran and the back of Glencoe on one side; the barren highland landscape of Morven to your north; the rolling lush green to your south that is so unique to Argyll and, finally, to the west you have the Western Isles, the gateway to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. My grandmother Ishbel Macaskill was a great

Gaelic singer and known throughout the world for her music.

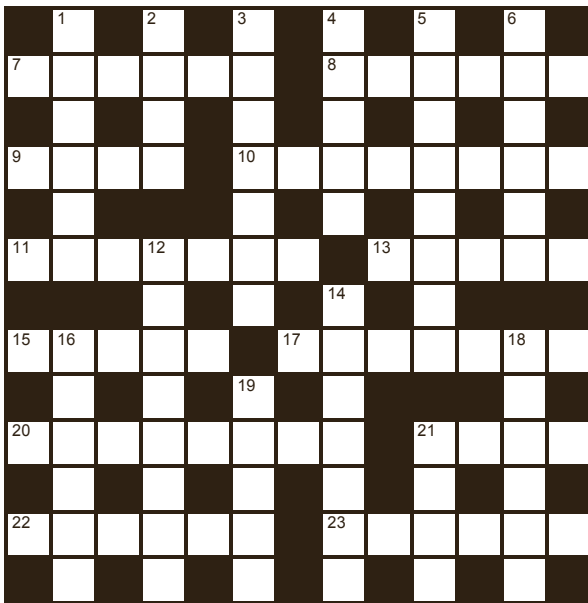
'Although me and my siblings were aware she toured the world singing, it wasn't something we ever thought much about when we were with her, as she was just granny to us.

'Unfortunately she passed away when I was in my young teens, just as I was starting to take my music more seriously.

'I'd love to say I had played lots of music with her and we had collaborated on projects together, but time didn't allow us that pleasure. Her presence lives on, however, and it's one of the great joys in my life to meet new people all over the world who knew and loved her as I did.'

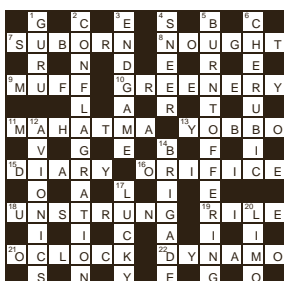
After the release of *Sporachas - A High Place*, Charlie and Joe will be sitting down with musicians for a series of intimate and personal conversations discussing creation, collaboration and inspiration on their new podcast show, launching in November.

## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 They have pull (6)
  - 8 From what place (6)
  - 9 Go wild when you run this way (4)
  - 10 One who eats it all! (8)
  - 11 Substitute (5-2)
  - 13 It's above your floor (5)
  - 15 Play the part of (5)
  - 17 Apportion (7)
  - 20 Not good (8)
  - 21 Ridicule (4)
  - 22 Pupil's cover (6)
  - 23 Unmask (6)
- Down**
- 1 Lot (6)
  - 2 Liven up (4)
  - 3 Diffusion of fluids (7)
  - 4 Turned (5)
  - 5 Attendant (8)
  - 6 Old French tax (6)
  - 12 Collar (8)
  - 14 Swiss cheese (7)
  - 16 Synapse neighbour (6)
  - 18 Work boot feature (6)
  - 19 Unremarkable (5)
  - 21 Dance (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



# Hotel group's charity calendar competition

Scenic photographs taken by guests of The Ballachulish and Isles of Glencoe Hotel could feature in a fundraising calendar.

Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels is calling on guests to share images taken during their visits over the past few years. Twelve photographs will be shortlisted and featured in a limited-edition 2022 calendar to be produced and sold in aid of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS).

The search began on National Photography Day, Thursday August 19, with guests who have photographs showcasing the stunning scenery at any of the eight hotels in the Crieff Hydro Family invited to submit them to be part of the calendar, which will be available to buy in all the hotels later this year.

The group's eight hotels are all set in picturesque Scottish

locations with rich histories, making them the perfect backdrop to capture memories for a lifetime. To kick start the search owners, the Leckie family, shared an image of their own featuring Stephen, his wife and four children against the backdrop of the beautiful scenery at Kingshouse Hotel in Glencoe. Nic Oldham, Head of Customer and Commercial at Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels, said: 'A picture really can speak a thousand words and with many families visiting our hotels for generations, we love to see the memories they capture during their stays.'

'The calendar will celebrate the best of Scottish scenery and we know our guests have captured some stunning landscape shots over the years which we can't wait to see.'

'We're proud to be partnering with CHAS and all proceeds of the calendar will be donated

to supporting children and families using its hospices and services across the country.'

Angharad Low, Corporate Partnerships Manager at CHAS said: 'We're so grateful to Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels for choosing to support CHAS with this exciting project. Every penny raised will support families caring for a child with a life-shortening condition across Scotland, keeping joy alive, even in the hardest times.'

Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels is welcoming digital photograph submissions until Friday September 3. They should be submitted online at [www.crieffhydrofamily.com/world-photography-day](http://www.crieffhydrofamily.com/world-photography-day), with details of where and when the photo was taken, which hotel the photographer visited, their name and any special memories attached to the photograph.



Stephen Leckie, his wife and four children at the Kingshouse Hotel in Glencoe.

# What if Scots had won at Culloden?

What if Bonnie Prince Charlie had won the Battle of Culloden?

What would the clan system look like in the 21st century?

That's the subject of a trilogy of adventure novels set on the west coast, with the final book published this month. And here's a clue: there's blood involved.

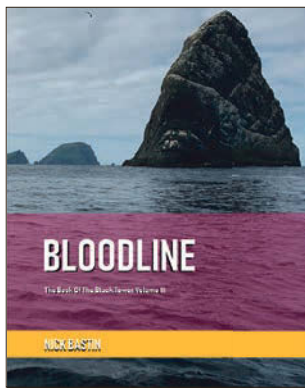
BloodLine is the third fast-paced thriller in Nick Bastin's trilogy, following BloodBond and BloodFeud, set in an alternate contemporary Britain where Bonnie Prince Charlie won the Battle of Culloden.

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland have become the independent Free Republic of the Gaels and Oban its capital.

'Following his unexpected victory at the Battle of Culloden in 1746,' the publisher Chiselbury explains, 'Prince Charles Edward Stuart became King of the Gaels and split the Highlands and Islands of Scotland from the rest of Britain.'

'Upon his death, Am Poblachd Shaor nan Gàidheal, The Free Republic of the Gaels, was declared. Since then, the Gaelic Republic has maintained its culture and

## Author Nick Bastin lets his imagination decide



Above Left: Nick Bastin, who has written a trilogy based on a different outcome to the battle of Culloden. Above right: The cover of Bloodline.

language, ploughing its own idiosyncratic furrow to the present day, a constant irritant to its larger and more powerful neighbour.'

In this extract titled Brighid's Choice, we find clan feuds alive and well.

'The stair disgorged her into a wide entrance hall,' Nick writes: 'One corner was filled with a concert grand piano and pictures lined the walls. In front of the piano, in a wing backed chair, sat a sleeping figure.'

'From the tartan panel on his forearm, she could immediately see he was a MacLean, and from his face that he was about seventeen.'

'Too young for late night shifts on watch, too young for fighting too. The ambition of others had dragged him from his teenage years too soon.'

'She wondered what she should do with him. She didn't doubt that Shonique or Kirstie would have probably cut his throat, after all, he was the enemy, wasn't he?'

'For a second she paused and looked at the sleeping youth, his face carefree and untroubled by the years. He should be at school, chasing love, drinking and carousing, unthinking of tomorrow.'

'Instead he was here, part of an occupying force, killing and burning strangers from their homes. For why? A victim of the ambition of others.'

'Could she like Judith bring the sword of justice to sleeping Holofernes's throat? She tipped toed past him; it was his lucky night; she was no murderer.'

Nick Bastin, a PR adviser, lives in London with his wife, three children and two cats,

but his mother's family comes from the West Highlands and Islay. It was an Islay relative of his, the 19th century Celtic folklorist John Francis Campbell, that triggered his interest in Gaelic.

He met his wife, who is from the Isle of Skye, studying Gaelic at an evening class in London - she was always much better at it than he was, he says.

In 2007 he co-authored a Very Canny Scot - Great Daniel Campbell of Shawfield and Islay, a biography of one of Scotland's leading figures of the early 18th century.

Explaining the inspiration behind his trilogy of thrillers, Nick told The Oban Times: 'I have a deep respect for what the people of the Gàidhealtachd were doing. It was a different country to the rest of Britain. It had no roads, nowhere to stay and an unknown people speaking another language, but there was a strong culture.'

'All that changed after the Battle of Culloden.'

He wondered what the Gàidhealtachd would look like today if the clan system was updated to the 21st century.

What would they be doing now? 'I started writing the first one in 2018,' he said: 'When you have the arc, the characters, what they are going to say, it comes very quickly. The Gaelic Republic was a play on the Lords of the Isles,' he said. 'Oban has a great location at the centre of the country and a harbour. What I enjoy most is people with no connection to Gaelic getting an exposure.'

'It is really rewarding to have complete strangers getting in touch saying 'That was great! When's the next one?'



# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

<p><b>DIARDAOIN 2 An t-Sultain THURSDAY 2 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 18.00 An La 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</p>	<p><b>DISATHAIRNE 4 An t-Sultain SATURDAY 4 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>16.00 Live Shinty.Cananachd Cup Semi Final 18.00 An La 18.15 Oran na Mara/Song of the Sea 19.50 Mischa aig Blas 20.00 Prosaig 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show 21.00 Under Canvas 2021/22 22.00 Peat &amp; Diesel-From the Barrow to Barrowlands 23.00 Peat &amp; Diesel-That's the Way We Do It! 00.30 FUNC</p>	<p>20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits 21.00 Trusadh – Moine/Peats 22.00 Bannan /S1 Ep4 22.30 Steelmen/Motherwell FC 23.30 Colin Macleod-An Ceol/Colin Macleod-The Music</p>
<p><b>DIHAOINE 3 An t-Sultain FRIDAY 3 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>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 Robert Black-Coigreach Gun Chogais/Without Conscience 22.00 The Valhalla Murders 22.45 Dealbh is Slighe 23.00 Under Canvas 2021/22 Ep 1</p>	<p><b>DIDÒMHAICH 5 An t-Sultain SUNDAY 5 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne 18.15 An Là 18.30 Seachd Là/News Review 19.30 Alleluia! 20.00 Garraidhean Mora na h-Alba 20.30 Vets:Gach Creutair Beo 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach 22.00 Bannan S1 Ep2 22.30 Bannan S1 Ep3 23.00 The Valhalla Murders 23.45 Dealbh is Slighe</p>	<p><b>DIMÀIRT 7 An t-Sultain TUESDAY 7 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>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 – Moine/Peats 23.00 Eadar Chluich 23.05 Machair 23.30 Alleluia</p>
<p><b>DILUAIN 6 An t-Sultain MONDAY 6 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>DICIADAIN 8 An t-Sultain WEDNESDAY 8 An t-Sultain</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Druthag na Hearach/A Little Drop of Harris 19.30 Beul Chainnt 20.00 An Là – NEWS 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show 21.00 Jim Baxter 22.00 Bannan S1 Ep5 22.30 An Gobha-The Last Blacksmith 22.55 Eadar Chluich 23.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers</p>	

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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](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)



Cùrsa MSc Cultar Dùthchasach agus Eachdraidh na Gàidhealtachd aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Sàr chothrom ionnsachadh mu dhualchas nan Gàidheal – bho shealladh eadar-dhealaichte.

Ri linn a' ghalair Covid bha tòrr againn, sean agus òg, a' tighinn beò air-loidhne, a' zoomadh ar càirdean 's ar caraidean, ag obair 'taobh a-muigh na h-oifise'. Ach b' e seo àm cuideachd nuair a thàinig e a-steach oirnn, 's dòcha na bu mhotha na riamh roimhe, gun do bhuin sinn dhan t-saoghal fhisigeach a tha ceithir-thimcheall oirnn.

Tha an cùrsa MSc ùr-ghnàthaichte seo aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, le cliù eadar-nàiseanta, a' toirt dhut cothrom sònraichte mion-eòlas a chur air dualchas agus eachdraidh nan Gàidheal, ann an Alba agus air feadh an t-saoghail – le sùil gu h-àraid air cultar dùthchasach. Le cultar dùthchasach, tha sinn a' ciallachadh an taobh fhisigich de bheatha nan Gàidheal: na nithean aca, na h-innealan, na toglaichean, agus an àrainneachd fhèin.

Bidh sinn a' coimhead air mar a tha an cultar dùthchasach seo a' tighinn troimhe anns a' chànan agus anns a' chultar. Anns a' chùrsa, gheibh thu cothroman sònraichte, nach fhaighear ann an àite sam bith eile, seallaidhean ùra agus eòlas nas doimhne a chur air dualchas na Gàidhlig agus air eachdraidh na Gàidhealtachd: mar a bha saoghal nan Gàidheal ag atharrachadh thairis air na trì linntean a chaidh seachad, suas chun an latha an-diugh.

'S ann uile gu lèir tron Ghàidhlig, agus tro shùilean nan Gàidheal, a thèid an cùrsa pàirt-tìde seo, a mhaireas trì bliadhna, a theagasg. Thèid a libhrigeadh air-loidhne, ach am freagair an cùrsa air na dleasdanasan pearsanta agus air na h-uallaichean-obrach agad. Ma tha thu airson modalan fa leth a ghabhail bhon chùrsa, airson leasachadh proifeiseanta air neo dìreach airson do thoil fhèin, bhiodh fàilte bhlàth romhad cuideachd.

## Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's MSc in Material Culture and Gàidhealtachd History. A chance to study the world of Scottish Gaels – from a different angle.

For many of us, old and young, the Covid pandemic was a time of living virtually, Zooming with friends and family, and 'out of office' working. But it was also a time in which we were confronted, maybe as never before, with the fact that we are inextricably part of the material world around us.

The ground-breaking, internationally acclaimed Master's MSc programme at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig offers a unique opportunity to investigate Gaelic culture and history with a focus on material culture. Material culture deals with the material, physical side of life. It tells a people's story through their possessions, their tools, their buildings, and their environment.

The course investigates how material culture appears in Gaelic language and tradition. It offers students unique and exciting opportunities to gain new perspectives and a deeper understanding of Gaelic tradition and Highland history: the changing world of the Gael over the past three centuries, up to the present day.

This three-year part-time course is taught in Gaelic, from a Gaelic perspective. It is available to study online, so you can fit your studies around your personal and work commitments. We would also very much welcome applications from people wishing to study individual course modules for personal or professional development.



Airson am barrachd fios mun a chùrsa seo agus mar a chuireas tu a-steach iartas, rach chun an làrach-lìn againn aig [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk) no cuir post-d gu [iartas@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:iartas@smo.uhi.ac.uk)

For further information about the course and how to apply, visit our website at [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk) or e-mail [iartas@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:iartas@smo.uhi.ac.uk)



# Could your ideal school be independent?

## Most parents spend a great deal of time seeking out opportunities for their children.

Finding the right educational environment for your child has a big part to play in how they develop interests and make life decisions, and Scotland's wide selection of independent schools can give you that freedom of choice.

Each SCIS school has a distinct ethos and values, but whether co-ed or single-sex, day school or boarding, each one will encourage your child to be the very best they can be. The question is which one is right for your child?

## A healthy and diverse mix of backgrounds

Almost 30,000 children in Scotland attend an independent school – around 4 per cent of pupils in Scotland. This healthy mix of backgrounds, abilities and nationalities makes for a vibrant, modern student body that mirrors the real world and will serve your child well for the future.

## Fee assistance

You may be surprised to learn how affordable an independent education can be. In 2020-21, almost 26% of children at an independent school received financial help, with 3.5 per cent of senior school pupils benefiting from a free place.

## The independent school advantage

The schools' reputation for academic excellence is an obvious



attraction for many parents. Staff have ready strategies to help every child excel, whether it's extra stimulation for someone showing clear ability, or a different approach to turn the light on when the topic is tricky.

## Continuity of care

Independent schools offer an exciting array of on-site clubs and experiences to help children grow both physically, socially and in confidence. Your child will have the opportunity to try all sorts of endeavours, from coding to musical theatre, in a safe environment at school.

## See for yourself

All schools welcome visits from prospective families throughout the year where staff can show you round, give you a feel for life at the school and answer any questions you may have. Look for details of open days on school websites, although this year things might look a bit different with schools creating virtual open days.

**For more information, advice and guidance on choosing an independent school in Scotland visit the Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) website at [www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk)**

## WHY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS?

**'My time at school helped to give me the skills to start and grow my own business. Ultimately I was given the belief that I could achieve.'**

*Kirsty Mackenzie, CEO i multiply*

Pupils from a wide range of different backgrounds go to independent schools. The schools themselves believe that having a broad social mix which reflects our society is equally important as the exciting range of experiences on offer. This is just one of the reasons why so many independent schools have funding available for pupils whose families are on lower incomes.

The total value of means-tested bursaries provided by schools has increased by over £16m since 2011, and currently stands at over £33m per year. Across all SCIS schools, over a quarter of pupils receive some form of fee assistance, with 3.5% of senior school pupils receiving a 100% bursary.

### WHAT IS A BURSARY?

Often called fee assistance, a bursary is awarded on proven financial need and gives children from lower income families the opportunity to receive an independent education. A bursary is generally awarded from P7 through Senior School and up to 100% of the fees can be met by the school.

### APPLYING FOR A BURSARY

Your child will have to meet the school's normal entry requirements, but they do not have to be of the academic standard required to win a scholarship. Schools will want to know about all your financial circumstances, so be prepared to fill in detailed forms providing evidence of need.

Each case will be looked at individually, and schools will consider pensions, investments, the value of your property, rent or mortgage paid as well as assets and liabilities.

### WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

A scholarship is awarded as a result of a competitive selection process and can be awarded for academic ability, sport, arts or general excellence. Scholarships vary widely between schools. Some offer fee remissions, whilst others hold dedicated funds in trust for pupils.

### APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Each school will have their own application procedures, so visit the school's website for more detailed information or speak to their bursar.

### HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT ABOUT A BURSARY OR SCHOLARSHIP?

A school's website and admissions materials will offer a comprehensive guide to their financial assistance process.

### SCIS TOP TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR A BURSARY OR SCHOLARSHIP

- Enquire about fee assistance at least a year before you hope to enrol in the school
  - Let the schools know as soon as possible that you are interested in financial assistance
  - Most schools will have a deadline for applying for fee assistance so make sure you don't miss it
  - Make sure you leave plenty of time to complete the application and sort out any accompanying documents you may need to prove your income.
- Unfortunately, schools only have a finite amount of funding available and therefore not all applicants will be successful. The Educational Trusts' Forum offers information and advice on finding fee assistance. If you are considering sending your child to a Scottish Independent School, SCIS can help you with your search – use our find a school tool or get in touch with us today.

# Pupils achieving potential

Belief and confidence in each of Kilgraston's Sixth Formers' own abilities is key to success, says the Head of the school's Sixth Form Deirdre McCormick.

Encouraging independence and a 'can do' approach will pave the way for a bright future wherever each girl wants to be, studying at a top university or making their mark on the world of work with a graduate apprenticeship.

Mrs McCormick said: "Sixth Form at Kilgraston focuses on fostering a belief and genuine confidence in each individual's abilities and vision for their future.

"Our aim is that each pupil will leave school with independence and a 'can do' approach."

The Kilgraston Sixth Form staff have 30 years shared UCAS experience, helping pupils reach their potential - bespoke guidance to each pupil starts early to shape their future choices.

"Our University and College Application Programme starts early, offering individualised support and guidance to help our pupils make important decisions that will shape their future and get each girl where she wants to be, whether it's a top university in the UK, an institution overseas or a move into the world of work with a graduate apprenticeship," added Mrs McCormick.

The exam results say it all. In 2021, pupils celebrated an impressive new record with 100 per cent of girls achieving Grades A to B at Advanced Higher level and 95 per cent achieving Grade A to B at Higher level.

A phenomenal 96 per cent of Kilgraston's UCAS university applicants also received their firm choice of university with 52 per cent going to a prestigious Russell Group university.



Kilgraston's Sixth Form experience in both learning and friendship will last for life, preparing pupils for the wider world.

"The school has done a fantastic job in preparing me for the wider world and I feel ready to move onto the next stage of my life. I will always keep in touch with the very strong network of friends that I have made here," said one Sixth-Former.

  
**KILGRASTON**  
 SCHOOL  
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## Preparing you for

**Get free advice on:**

- Choosing your subjects.
- How to get the most from your UCAS applications.
- Picking the right university.

# your future

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - 4.30-7.30pm  
 Register: [sixthformevent@kilgraston.com](mailto:sixthformevent@kilgraston.com)  
 Monte Carlo Suite, The Blythewood Hotel, Glasgow

# Delivering an engaging and fun learning experience



**The west of Scotland's only boarding school, offering a unique location and a forward-thinking approach to education.**

At Lomond School we believe that balance is what drives happiness and success and we aim to deliver a learning experience which is engaging and fun, giving every child the tools they need to pursue a successful life beyond school. Our young people enjoy an enhanced curriculum which provides enrichment and experiences beyond the classroom. From extra-curricular activities to life changing trips, coming to Lomond School opens the door to a range of opportunities which help to develop confidence, respect and an outward

looking approach which will serve our young people well in their futures.

As a non-selective school, our academic results are exceptionally high, and we believe that this is because we help our pupils to find a pathway which suits their individual needs allowing them to get the very best from their education. In S5 and S6 pupils have the option of three pathways: either SQA Highers and Advanced Highers, the IB Diploma Programme or the IB Career-related Programme with specialisation through an HNC in Business. This choice is unrivalled in Scotland and ensures that we have the right pathway for all.

Our boarding house, Burnbrae, is a purpose built, modern

facility separate to the main school campus. With up to 60 boarders, the house is small enough to truly provide a family feel and being home to boys and girls provides a unique opportunity for siblings to live together in the same boarding house. All our pupils are respected and treated as individuals and our staff actively support their personal, social and educational development. Supporting our house parents in this are resident tutors, the school nurse, matrons and pupil peer group. Boarding at Lomond is an enriching experience that we truly believe provides a 'home away from home'.

**Contact our Registrar to find out more. T: 01436 672 476**

**E: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com) W: [lomondschool.com](http://lomondschool.com)**



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[www.lomondschool.com](http://www.lomondschool.com)



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

*Oban*  
**Gift Trail**  
PART 5

*Oban*  
**Gift Trail**  
PART 5

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](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)

**45. BEST WISHES**



A large selection of ladies handbags, jewellery, Willow Tree figurines, quality cards from only 49p, as well as many other gifts at great prices!  
**118 George St, Oban PA34 5NT**  
[www.facebook.com/bestwishesoban](http://www.facebook.com/bestwishesoban)

**46. OBAN PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTRE**



Professional photo centre & digital camera repair. Stocking a wide range of cameras, scopes, binoculars, accessories as well as photo printing, framing and canvas prints.  
**122-124 George St, Oban PA34 5NT**  
[www.facebook.com/Obanphotographiccentre](http://www.facebook.com/Obanphotographiccentre)

**47. OBAN MOBILE SHOP**



For all of your phone device needs. Repairs & unlocks on all models of mobile phones, i pads and tablets. Stocking a large selection of phone accessories for most models.  
**125 George St, Oban PA34 5NT**  
[www.facebook.com/Oban-Mobile-Shop](http://www.facebook.com/Oban-Mobile-Shop)

**48. FANCY THAT**



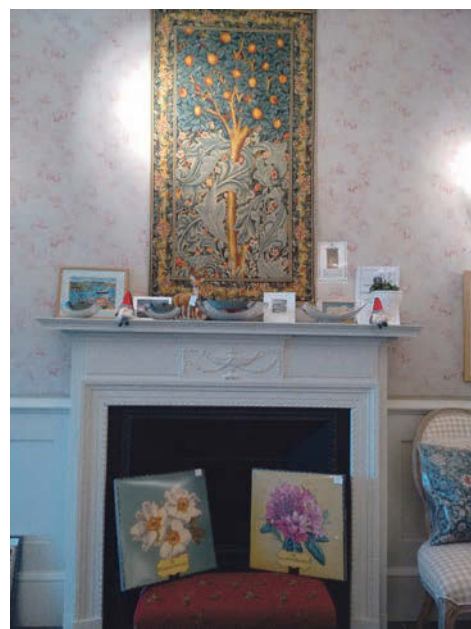
A family run business specializing in gaming merchandise, Scottish gifts as well as other bespoke products.  
**126 George St, Oban PA34 5NT**  
 Web: [www.scifiplanet.co.uk](http://www.scifiplanet.co.uk)

**49. THE GEM BOX**



Jewellery shop selling exquisite pieces with fine sourced gems and materials. Their ethos - to create spectacular jewellery with precious diamonds and rare gemstones gathered from the world's most remote locations.  
**1 Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PS**  
[www.shiptonandco.com](http://www.shiptonandco.com)

**50. ARGYLL TAPESTRY**



Review- "A lovely shop full of interesting tapestries made by the owner which decorate the walls. Also kits to buy. Nice to browse and to kick-start my enthusiasm to start a tapestry again."  
**28 Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PS**

**51. THE ANGLERS CORNER**



A well established and newly refurbished outdoor and sporting goods store, from walking canes, fishing rods and equipment to clothing, footwear and hats, everything you need to enjoy the great outdoors.  
**132 George St, Oban PA34 5NU**  
 find on facebook, The Anglers Corner.

**52. PETALS OF OBAN**



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**2, Albany Terrace, George St, Oban PA34 5NY**  
[www.petalsofoban.co.uk](http://www.petalsofoban.co.uk)

**53. KATYA EMBROIDERY**



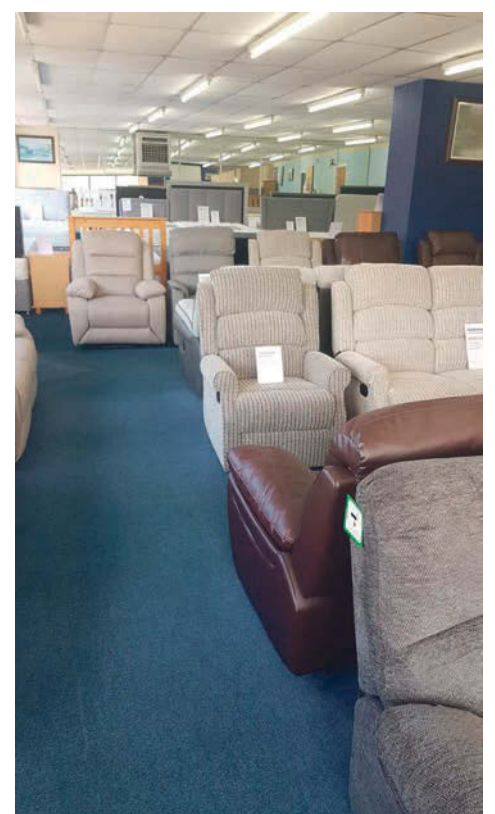
Their main discipline is embroidery but they can also supply heat seal transfers on clothing, bags, towels, tableware, banners, flags and patches.  
**6 Albany Terrace, Oban PA34 5NY**  
[www.katyaembroidery.co.uk](http://www.katyaembroidery.co.uk)

**54. MATRIX COMPUTERS.**



IT service & support company offering laptop & desktop computer repairs and sales, peripherals & components, indoor & outdoor Wi-Fi networks, CCTV systems, iPhone repairs.  
**Dunollie Road, Oban, PA34 5PH**  
[www.matrixcomputers.co.uk](http://www.matrixcomputers.co.uk)

**55. THE ARGYLL FURNITURE STORE**



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Around the markets

**Oban, United Auctions, Tuesday August 24:** sold 5452 sheep of all classes. 4557 lambs averaged £63.48 per head (+£5.71). This being the third sale of the season and with 1300 more lambs sold on the corresponding sale last year, lambs in general were smaller. Nevertheless, a sound trade was obtained for all classes of stock.  
Leading Lots & Prices  
Lambs – SuffX - £88.00, Mid Farm; £77.00, Achnacree Beag. TexX - £98.00, £90.00, Auchnasaul; £89.50, Caolis Coll; £87.00, Oban Seil Croft; £86.00, Kilbride Croft; £84.00, Fiaraidh Grazings; £83.50, Caolis; £83.00, Auchnasaul; £83.00, 15 Keil Croft; £82.50, Balnagown; £82.00, Feringa Farming. BeltX - £79.00, 15 Keil Croft; £77.50, Achnacree Beag; £73.50, Achuaran. Chev - £78.00, Rhulios; £78.00, 2 Allasdale; £73.50, Ballard; £73.00, Achnacarron; £72.50, Tyree; £70.50, Garraron; £70.50, Ardnacross; £70.00, Cuan Croft; £70.00, Torloisk. Cross - £76.50, Saulmore; £74.00, Kilbride Croft; £70.00, 15 Keil Croft. Mule

- £74.50, Achalic; £73.00, Saulmore. Chev Mule - £87.00, Ardnacross. BF - £47.00, Plocaig; £46.00, Gorteneoran; £45.00, Pennygown.  
Ewes – TexX - £69.00, Ardtornish; £69.00, Pennygown. Chev - £95.00, Caolis Coll; £89.00, Feringa Farming; £78.00, Cailaich; £74.00, Barndromin; £70.00, Auchnasul Drimmin. Cross - £71.00, Dunmor. Mule - £65.50, Ardachy; £64.00, Ricruin. Chev Mule - £67.00, Ardachy; £63.00, Achnacree Beag. BF - £61.00, Ardtornish.

**Lochboisdale, United Auctions, Saturday August 28:** sold 2686 sheep of all classes. 2527 lambs averaged £67.97 per head. Lambs in general were lacking bloom due to the inclement spring weather. All classes nevertheless sold well and to a good following of mainland buyers.  
Leading Lots & Prices  
Lambs – SuffX - £103.00, Truimgarry; £98.00, 6 Middlequarter; £93.00, 409B Smerclate; £91.00, 6 Rhughasinish;

£90.50, 325 North Boisdale; £90.00, 3 Middlequarter; £88.00, 409/410 Smerclate; £87.50, 6 Rhughasinish; £86.00, Dunskeilar; £85.50, Truimgarry; £85.00, 6 Rhughasinish; £85.00, 6 Frobost; £85.00, 9 Milton; £83.50, 269 Daliburgh; £83.50, 1 Sollas; £83.50, 287 Kilphedar; £83.00, 217B Stoneybridge; £83.00, 6 Ormiclate; £82.00, Truimgarry. BeltX - £97.00, 18 West Gerinish; £85.00, 1 Malaglate; £82.50, 18 West Gerinish. TexX - £105.00, 1 Malaglate; £100.50, Dunskeilar; £100.00, 340 North Boisdale; £95.00, 6 Rhughasinish; £92.00, 383 Garrynamonie; £91.00, 35 Eoligarry; £87.00, 409B Smerclate; £87.00, 383 Garrynamonie; £86.00, 325 North Boisdale; £85.00, 356 South Boisdale; £85.00, 391 Garrynamonie; £83.50, 183 Snishval; £83.50, 6 Milton; £83.50, 5 Dunganachy; £82.50, 471 Lochboisdale; £82.00, 472B South Lochboisdale; £82.00, 4 West Gerinish. Chev - £97.00, 49 Balgarva; £88.50, 6 Ormiclate; £83.00, 8 Gearradubh; £82.00, 6 West Gerinish; £80.50, 12 Ardveinish, Barra; £80.00, 1 Lincilate.

Cross - £79.50, 5 Howmore; £77.50, 91 Bualadubh; £77.00, 6 Middlequarter; £76.00, 6 Ormiclate. Mule - £84.00, 90/110 Borve, Barra; £81.50, 325 North Boisdale. BF - £76.50, £65.00, 5 Howmore; £65.00, 90/110 Borve, Barra; £62.50, 369 South Boisdale; £61.00, 319 Kilphedar; £61.00, 468 South Lochboisdale.  
Ewes – SuffX - £80.50, 57 Clachan. Lley - £57.00, 3 Knockintorran. TexX - £71.00, 383 Garrynamonie; £68.00, 391 Garrynamonie. Chev - £85.00, 12 Aird; £65.50, 471 Lochboisdale; £62.00, 392 Garrynamonie; £60.00, 217B Stoneybridge. Mule - £62.00, 269 Daliburgh.

**Dalmally, United Auctions, Friday August 27:** sold 2360 sheep of all classes. 2071 lambs averaged £64.80 (+£7.27). In keeping with recent trends trade for all classes was firm though not as fiery as previous sales. A good ringside of buyers was in attendance and all stock was cleared as satisfactory levels.

Principal lots and prices per head;  
Lambs – BeltX - £81.00, Blarghour. TexX - £113.00, Craigmorie; £94.00, Clachan Farms (Kilniver); £86.00, Silvercraigs; £85.50, Innischeroch; £84.50, Home Farm; £83.00, Stonefield; £82.50, Ardchatten; £80.50, Silvercraigs; £80.50, Stonefield.  
Chev - £74.00, Achnacree; £74.00, Keppochan; £73.00, High Balantyre; £71.50, Maam; £70.00, Kilchoan. Cross - £87.00, Castles Farms; £69.50, Auchnasul; £67.00, Ederline Estate. Mule - £80.50, Ormsary Estate; £79.00, Home Farm; £78.00, Stonefield Farm. Chev Mule - £73.00, Keppochan. BF - £64.00, Innischeroch; £61.00, Tullochcan; £60.50, Carse Estate; £58.00, Blarmafoldach.  
Ewes – TexX - £84.50, Boorach Beg; £70.00, Lephinkill. Chev - £68.00, Kilchoan. BF - £36.00, Boorach Beg.  
Leading Prices per Kilo  
Lambs – BeltX - £57p, Blarghour; 225p,

Brenchoille. TexX - 252p, Silvercraigs; 251p, Craigmorie; 250p, Ormsary Estate; 248p, Craigmorie; 248p, Tullochcan; 248p, Clachan Farms; 247p, Ardchatten; 247p, Home Farm; 245p, Ardconnel; 244p, Stonefield; 242p, Innischeroch; 239p, Clachan Farms; 235p, Ederline Estate; 234p, Carse Estate; 233p, Drimmin Estate; 233p, Castle Farms; 232p, Drimmin Estate; 231p, Colquhalzie Farms; 230p, Lephinkill Farm. Chev - 240p, Blackmount; 238p, Maam; 236p, Blackmount; 232p, 229p, High Balantyre; 228p, Keppochan; 227p, Kilchoan; 224p, Maam; 224p, Achnacree; 222p, Ardconnel; 222p, Kilchoan; 220p, Maam. Cross - 233p, Braegleebeg; 232p, Auchnasul; 230p, Maam; 224p, Drimmin; 221p, 14 Lochiel Road; 220p, Ederline Estate. Mule - 227p, Ormsary Farmers; 221p, Stonefield. Chev Mule - 243p, Keppochan. BF - 215p, Blarmafoldach; 214p, Tullochcan; 212p, Carse Estate.

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- 20-foot race
- 60-feet holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

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- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

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SOLTERRA is Subaru's all-new, all-electric C-segment-class SUV and it will be the first Subaru vehicle to be built on the battery electric vehicle (BEV) dedicated e-Subaru Global Platform.

The e-Subaru Global platform, which has been jointly-developed by Subaru and Toyota, enables the roll-out of various types of EVs efficiently by combining multiple modules and components, such as the front, centre and rear of a vehicle. While the two companies have brought together their knowledge to create a completely new platform, Subaru has aimed to realise superior passive safety and vehicle stability, which Subaru has always been pursuing, also in this BEV dedicated platform.

Not only the platform, the SUV SOLTERRA has also been jointly-developed by Subaru and Toyota, and wide range of collaboration



includes product planning, design and performance evaluation. In this development, the two companies combine their respective strengths, such as Subaru's long-accumulated all-wheel-drive technology and Toyota's outstanding vehicle electrification technology, to create a new SUV with attributes that only an all-

electric vehicle can offer. The name SOLTERRA was created by joining the word SOL and TERRA, the Latin words for the Sun and the Earth respectively. Subaru gave this name to the EV to appreciate mother nature and further advance the form of coexistence with it, together with our customers, and to represent its commitment to deliver

traditional Subaru SUV's go-anywhere capabilities in an all-electric vehicle.

SOLTERRA will be joining the line of SUBARU SUVs, ASCENT, OUTBACK, FORESTER and SUBARU XV and go on sale by the middle of 2022 in markets including Japan, the United States, Canada, Europe and China.



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- The chance to sample 2021's winning whiskies at tasting stations (winning whiskies ranging in price from £40 to £700).

**29 OCTOBER 2021**

7pm arrival

Dress code: Smart casual

### — Ticket prices —

**INDIVIDUAL TICKET £96**

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\*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.

For more information contact [jboyle@scottishfield.co.uk](mailto:jboyle@scottishfield.co.uk)

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### Career opportunities



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Send C.V to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)



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.

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• £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.

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22.5 hour & 30 hour contracts available

Please call or email your CV to [admin@etivehousecare.com](mailto:admin@etivehousecare.com).

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Or you can email your CV and covering letter to [recruitment@westcoastmotors.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@westcoastmotors.co.uk)  
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If you have a valid PCV licence and up-to-date Driver CPC Qualification we would love to receive your application to join our team where we will arrange an interview and driving assessment.

If you are thinking of starting your career as a bus driver or possibly looking for a career change, West Coast Motors can help you by offering free training up to the value of £2,000\*. To become a bus driver, we would support you through the following process:

1. Obtain the provisional Category D on your Driving Licence (to do this you will need to undertake a medical)
2. Once provisional returned we will book and pay for your theory test (includes theory, hazard perception and module 2 Driver CPC)
3. Once theory test is passed, we will book and pay for your practical training (includes module 4 Driver CPC) which is five days of practical training with a driving test on the final day
4. Once practical test is passed, we will support you through further training and route learning at your local depot with one of our experienced professional drivers



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contact 01631 562168  
or Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)



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Oifigeir Leasachaidh – Òigridh is Coimhearsnachd –  
**An t-Òban (pàirt-ùine/0.5)**

Tha Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) airson dreuchd chudromach san sgioba leasachaidh aca a lionadh. Tha an dreuchd sa mar phàirt de sgioba eòlach, cliùiteach is comasach a tha ag obair gu maith na Gàidhlig le luchd-labhairt òga. Tha an obair a' leantainn gach cuid ann an compàirt le sgoiltean is buidhnean eile, agus taobh a-muigh na sgoiltean sa choimhearsnachd fhèin. Bithidh cothrom aig an neach a tha seo leantainn ris an obair a tha mu thràth stèidhichte san sgìre, a thuilleadh air na beachdan aca fhèin a chuir an sàs.

Tha an dreuchd seo aig tuarastal tòiseachaidh £24,500 (obair làn ùine); £12,250 (obair pàirt ùine/0.5) (Tha peinsean de 9% peinsean ann, air muin an tuarastal a thèid aontachadh).

'S ann airson bliadhna a-mhàin a tha an dreuchd seo aig an ìre-sa, ged a bhitheadh sinn toilichte a shìneadh a-mach seachad sin, a' crochadh air maoin a bhith ann, agus soirbheachas dearbhte.

Tha an dreuchd stèidhichte anns a' choimhearsnachd.

Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus foirm tagraidh bho:

Màiri T NicDhòmhnaill, CnaG, An Tosgan, Rathad Shìophort, Steòrnabhagh HS1 2DG

Fòn: 01851 701802 Post-dealain: [mairit@cna.org](mailto:mairit@cna.org)

**Feumaidh foirm tagraidh a bhith a-staigh ro 5.00f air 17mh Sultain 2021.**

Tha Poileasaidh Co-ionannachd Chothroman aig CnaG agus tha sinn a' cur fàilte air iarrtas bho gach roinn den choimhearsnachd.

Tha an dreuchd seo ga stèidheachadh le taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.



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Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**Repair of Clachan Bridge- Over the Seal of Sound**

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of new shellfish farm at:

Cost	> £5,000 - ≤ £50,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Clachan Bridge,	56° 19.067'N	005° 34.982'W
Over the Seal of Sound	56° 19.066'N	005° 34.978'W
	56° 19.063'N	005° 34.979'W
	56° 19.064'N	005° 34.983'W
	56° 19.063'N	005° 34.957'W
	56° 19.063'N	005° 34.953'W
	56° 19.059'N	005° 34.955'W
	56° 19.060'N	005° 34.958'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at: <https://bit.ly/3zhNSje>  
Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot) within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00009331 and Argyll and Bute Council.

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

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**  
**TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING – BUTE & COWAL) (VARIATION) (NO.3) ORDER 202\_**

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new disabled bays within Oban. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in the marked disabled persons' parking places unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets in **DUNOON** – Ardenslate Road; Argyll Terrace; Clyde Street; Kirk Street; Marine Parade; Miller Avenue (INELLEAN); Shore Road (INNELLAN); Shore Road; Victoria Road; Royal Crescent; **ARDBEG** – Ardbeg Road (A844); **ROTHESAY** – Columnshill Terrace; Mount Stuart Road.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking – Bute & Cowal) (Variation) (No.3) Order 202\_" together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders) or viewed during normal office hours at the following locations:

- Post Office: 1-1A Watergate, Rothesay, Isle of Bute. PA20 9AB
- Post Office: Queen Street, Dunoon. PA23 8AX
- Post Office: 43 Shore Road, Innellan, Dunoon. PA23 7TJ

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing providing their full name and address, to Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT or by emailing [TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk) by 27th September 2021. Letters of objection will be replied to after the closing date of the period for objections.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
**Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**



**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**  
**DECROFTING APPLICATION**

1. Mansefield J G Limited, 4 Port Ellen

Whole croft, site for a housing development (111095)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 29/09/21 at [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

**DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**

1. S A Campbell, 12 Anahelt

0.087 ha, Existing house site, Fencing conditions (105543)

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**First Registration of a Croft**

G Borthwick has registered the croft, 'Tigh Liza', Ardnamurchan and Sunart, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by April 2022. Details of registration of Croft C7796 can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home).

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[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

**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](http://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](mailto: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
21/01212/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and outbuilding, installation of sewage treatment plant and upgrading of existing vehicular access	Former Pine Cottage, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1HE
21/01525/LIB	Internal and external alterations including replacement of door with window to rear elevation, formation of w.c. facilities, remove and replace stud-partitions	108 George Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5NT
21/01503/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground Of 1 Salum, Ruaig, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6TR

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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
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[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**The Highland Council**  
**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>. Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/03436/FUL	Land 15M NE of Glenuig Community Shop, Glenuig	Siting of temporary structure for use as a visitor centre (Renewal of 16/03570/FUL)
21/03659/FUL	Saltbarns, Glenuig, Lochailort, PH38 4NB	Erection of house with annex unit for family use
21/03810/FUL	East Park Lodge, Roy Bridge, PH31 4AG	Conversion of former office/store building to provide accommodation annexe to East Park Lodge
21/03842/FUL	11 Clovullin, Ardgour, Fort William, PH33 7AB	Siting of 2 pods for holiday letting purposes and erection of polycrubb
21/03899/FUL	Lundy Cottage, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SW	Proposed change of use and extension to form staff accommodation
21/03902/LBC	Mallaig Railway Station, Station Road, Mallaig	Works include the installation of new IoT equipment (antenna, gateway box and associated cables etc) and new building penetration to allow for waiting room WIFI
21/03975/FUL	Land 45M North of Island View, Glenfinnan	Erection of house
21/04016/FUL	Alt-Mhor, 9 Bracara, Morar, Mallaig, PH40 4PE	Erection of house

**Time period for comments from the date of this notice is 14 days, apart from 21/03902/LBC which is 21 days.**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**(VARIOUS ROADS, MULL) (MULL RALLY) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2021**

On Tuesday the 17th of August 2021, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other powers enabling them to do so, being satisfied that traffic on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule hereto should be prohibited or restricted for the purpose of facilitating the holding of a race or trials of speed between motor vehicles on public roads within the Mull area, and that it is not reasonably practical for the event to be held otherwise than on a road, and having had regard to the safety and convenience of alternative routes suitable for traffic which will be affected by this Order and following the making of a Motor Sport Order under the Motor Sport on Public Roads (Scotland) Regulations 2019, made the above named Order.

The restrictions imposed by this Order, which will come into force at the times detailed in the Schedule below will be effective on the 8th, 9th and 10th October 2021. When the Order comes into effect no person shall be able to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle; or permit any vehicle to wait or to be parked; or ride, or cause or permit to be ridden any cycle, or ride, lead or drive any animal; or walk, along those lengths of road (including the footways and verges) as detailed in the Schedule. Exceptions shall apply (under strict control) to any vehicle which is a) being driven upon the direction or with the permission of a police officer in uniform or the event organisers; and b) an emergency services vehicle whilst attending an emergency.

**SCHEDULE – ROAD CLOSURES/PROHIBITION OF WAITING**  
**Section of road to be closed** **Times and dates of closures in Mull**

**Unclassified Road No.12 – Kilpatrick Road**  
The entire length. From 07:30 hours until 13:30 hours on the 8th

**B8073 Tobermory – Calgary – Gruline Road**

a. From its junction with the A848 at Rockfield Terrace, Tobermory to the junction with Kilmore Terrace (No.U056) at Dervaig. From 18:08 hours until 23:38 hours on the 8th From 12:11 hours until 17:41 hours on the 9th From 23:52 hours on the 9th until 05:22 hours on the 10th

b. From its junction at Dervaig with the Dervaig – Torloisk Road (C45) via Calgary to its junction with the C45 at Torloisk. From 22:08 hours on the 8th until 03:38 hours on the 9th From 12:28 hours until 17:58 hours on the 9th From 20:38 hours on the 9th until 02:08 hours on the 10th

c. From its junction with the Dervaig – Torloisk Road (C45) at Torloisk to its junction with the B8035 at Gruline cross-roads. From 18:29 hours until 23:59 hours on the 8th From 20:38 hours on the 9th until 02:08 hours on the 10th

d. From its junction with the C46 Dervaig – Aros Bridge Road to its junction with the C45 Dervaig – Torloisk Road. From 22:08 hours on the 8th until 03:38 hours on the 9th

e. From its junction with the C46 Dervaig – Aros Bridge Road to its junction with Kilmore Terrace (U056) at Dervaig. From 23:52 hours on the 9th until 05:22 hours on the 10th

**B8035 Salen – Gruline – Kinloch Road**

a. From a point 200 yards north west of Knock Farm near the head of Loch Na Keal to its junction with U076 Balmeanach Road. From 21:39 hours on the 8th until 03:09 hours on the 9th From 11:09 hours until 16:39 hours on the 9th From 21:14 hours on the 9th until 02:44 hours on the 10th


b. From a point 0.5 miles northwest of Balevulin to its junction with the A849 at Kinloch. From 21:15 on the 8th until 02:45 hours on the 9th From 10:46 hours until 16:16 hours on the 9th From 21:38 on the 9th until 03:08 hours on the 10th

**C45 Dervaig – Torloisk Road**  
The entire length. From 18:29 hours until 23:59 hours on the 8th From 12:42 hours until 18:12 hours on the 9th

**C46 Dervaig – Aros Bridge**  
The entire length. From 22:08 hours on the 8th until 03:38 hours on the 9th From 23:52 hours on the 9th until 05:22 hours on the 10th

The Order is available for viewing on the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders)  
Roads and Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Duncan MacSporrnan MacLean is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 210 Acharacle, Hillfoot, Ardnamurchan & Sunart to Peter Grace, Hillfoot, Acharacle, PH36 4JL

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) by 30th September 2021

# CLASSIFIED

## Argyll and Bute Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING – MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND ISLAY) (VARIATION) (NO.3) ORDER 2021

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new disabled bays within Oban. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in the marked disabled persons' parking places unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets in **ARDRISHAIG** – Brae Road; **BOWMORE** – High Street; **CAMPBELTOWN** – Dalaruan Street; Davaar Avenue; Fisher Row; Ralston Road; Smith Drive **CARRADALE** – Glenfyne Terrace **DRUMLEMBLE** – Rhudal Cottages **LOCHGILPHEAD** – Brodie Crescent; Coronation Terrace (on Oban Road) **STEWARTON** – Burnside Cottage; **TARBERT** – Kintyre Street;

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking – Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay) (Variation) (No.3) Order 2021," together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders).

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing providing their full name and address, to Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT or by emailing [TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk) by 27th September 2021. Letters of objection will be replied to after the closing date of the period for objections.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services,  
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



## Argyll and Bute Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING – OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES) (VARIATION) (NO.4) ORDER 2021

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new disabled bays within Oban. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in the marked disabled persons' parking places unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets in **DUNBEG** – Lorn Road; **OBAN** – Breadalbane Street; Colonsay Terrace; Croft Avenue; Miller Street; Lonsdale Crescent; Sinclair Drive; and **MULL** – Portmore Place (Main Street).

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking – Oban, Lorn & the Isles) (Variation) (No.4) Order 2021," together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders).

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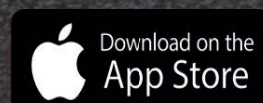
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TRAILS

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## DEATHS

**DUFFY** - Suddenly and doing what he loved, on August 15, 2021, aged 82 years, John Duffy, a dear brother, devoted uncle and passionate angler!

**HORNE** - Peacefully, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on August 21, 2021, aged 76 years, Sandra Margaret Horne, a dear sister-in-law and aunt. Sandra will be sorely missed by all who know her. A funeral service will take place at St. John the Episcopal Cathedral, Oban on Monday, September 6, at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers, can be sent directly to The Oban Hospice, in memory of Sandra.

**KENNEDY** - John, loving husband of Rita, father of Stuart and John, and grandfather of Robyn, Elona and Angus, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 26, 2021, surrounded by family. The funeral service will take place at Our Lady and St Mun's Church, Dunoon (today) Thursday, September 2, at 11am. Donations can be made in memory of John to Alzheimer's Scotland.

**MACINTOSH** - At home in Katikati, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand on August 23, 2021, Neil, a dear uncle, brother-in-law and cousin. Last surviving son of the late John and Sarah MacIntosh formerly of 7 Croft Avenue, Oban.

**MACKINNON** - Philip. Suddenly, with friends, on Sunday August 29, 2021. Much loved husband of Caroline (Johnston) and father of Cara and Michael. Sorely missed by many.

**REFFIN** - Margaret (Maggie), peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on August 28, 2021, beloved wife of Joseph, much loved Mum of Donna and Allan and mother-in-law of George, a dear sister, aunt and friend. Will be sadly missed.

**SINCLAIR** - Peacefully at home on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 aged 77 years, Peter Alexander Sinclair. Beloved husband of Rosie, much loved dad, father-in-law, grampa and great-grampa, brother, uncle and friend to many. Will be sorely missed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**GRAHAM** - Elaine and Fay would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls and messages on the loss of our beloved Mum, Mary. Thank you to family for spending time with Mum in her last days, thanks to Dawn and Aileen for just being you and for being there for us. Thanks to Catriona Banks (social work) for checking in on us and for everything you did for Mum. A big thank you to my lovely neighbours, especially Ann and Peter. Ian MacInnes your kindness and compassion knows no bounds. Thanks to Fr James for always being there and to Lynette from Petals for the beautiful flowers. The people that hold a very special place in our hearts are Oban and Taynuilt district nurses, Gaynor, Frances, Maree, Catherine and Pam for looking after Mum with such care as if she was their own. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Rest in Peace Mum, you are back with Dad again xxx

**MACDONALD** - Maureen would like to thank most sincerely relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers, home baking and support in the sudden loss of her fiancé Colin. Thank you to the medical staff at the Belford Hospital, Father David Connor, Deacon Wynne, Kevin for the music, McDonald Brothers and Alastair and Sandra for the catering. To McLellan Funeral

Directors whose support and guidance was a great help to Maureen. Also all who attended the service at St. Mary's Church and cremation in Inverness.

## MEMORIALS

**CLARK** - Mary. Precious memories of my aunt Mary, who died on August 19, 2018, beloved sister of the late Alasdair, Effie and Tommy and loving aunt of Mary.

"We cannot bring the old days back,

When we were all together,  
But memories keep you close to us,

And memories last forever."

- From Mary and Bobby.

**FORRESTER** - Cherished memories of Jim, dearly beloved husband of Joan, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who died on September 2, 2002.

Forever in our thoughts.

- Joan and family, Uddingston and High Wycombe.

**GROUNDWATER** - Precious memories of John, a loving son and brother, died September 5, 2020.

Gone too soon.

- Dad and Fiona.

**MACCOLL** - Angus, September 3, 2017, always in our thoughts, deeply loved and so sorely missed, and Donnie, August 1, 2017, forever in our hearts.

- The MacColl family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Lena, who passed away September 1, 2001.

Always remembered by her family.

- Husband Ian, her three sons John, Donald and Kenneth, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Loved and cherished forever xxxxx

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Linda, December 19, 1955 - September 1, 2019.

The love we shared I can not hide,

Your trust and strength right by my side,

You shared with me your gracious soul,

Fulfilling me to make me whole,

My precious love I miss you so,  
Though my heart still feels your loving glow.

- Dochie.

**MACINNES** - Treasured memories of my dearest husband Joe, our much loved Da, Grandad and Great-Grandad, who passed away on September 3, 2019.

Close to our hearts you'll always stay,

Loved and remembered every day.

Our Lady of Fatima pray for him.

- Katie and family, Fort William and Durham.

**Oban Times**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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# Oban wins PoppyScotland learning competition

Poppyscotland has announced that Oban High School is one of four winners of its popular annual Learning Competition.

The passing of Remembrance legacy from generation to generation is as important now as it even has been.

With the Covid-19 pandemic putting a halt to traditional fundraising efforts last year, Poppyscotland reached out to young people across the country for help.

The competition, entitled Fundraising Heroes! was open to P4-S3 (ages nine to 14) pupils, and asked students to devise new ways to support the Scottish Poppy Appeal by submitting their most innovative or most sustainable fundraising ideas, as well their best fundraising-in-action photographs. The entries were whittled down to a shortlist of 14 schools and, after six weeks of online voting and with 3,200 votes cast, the winners have now been announced.

Two groups of S1 and S2 pupils from Oban High School have been crowned the winners for Most Innovative Fundraising Idea and Most Sustainable Fundraising Idea having created Poppy masks and tapestries with matching stationery.

Ruby, Victoria, Jessica and Mirren were over the moon



Back, Peter Bain, Alison McFarlane, teacher of history and modern studies; Kerry Crichton, deputy head of learning, Poppyscotland. Front left, Ruby S3; Jessica S2; Mirren S2; Victoria S3.

when they found out their idea had won, saying: 'We couldn't believe it, it's such a great feeling to have won but also to have supported such a worthy cause. The competition taught us so much about the importance of Remembrance and how young people like us can help keep the legacy of the men and women that served alive.'

Head teacher Peter Bain added: 'A big congratulations to our competition winners who all produced wonderfully creative, usable and eco-friendly product designs which demonstrate the innovative and sustainable ways young people can show their support for Poppyscotland.'

The Oban High School pupils were presented with their awards at a prize-giving event on Wednesday August 25. As the school won in two categories, they received a £1,000 Amazon gift card that will be used towards purchasing items to enhance the pupils future learning around Remembrance and fundraising experiences. On top of this, the Poppyscotland travelling classroom, Bud, was pitched for two days at the school where pupils visited the micro-museum and interactive learning experience.

Gordon Michie, head of fundraising and learning at Poppyscotland said: 'As with previous Poppyscotland

Learning competitions the standard of entries was exceptionally high this year. The other judges and I were both moved and enlightened by the quality of the submissions, and we were particularly impressed to see how innovative the young people had been in the face of very difficult circumstances last year.'

'We'd like to thank all those that submitted entries, and a huge congratulations to Oban High School for developing inspiring and thought-provoking fundraising initiatives that will allow us to continue providing life-changing support to the Armed Forces community and their families.'

## HEALTHY OPTIONS

### The law of least effort

Different continents are different shapes...stay with me.

Europe, The Middle East and Asia form a more east to west block of land than the very much north to south block of the Americas.

This led to a very distinct difference in the spread of agriculture across these land masses. Farmers in Europe, Middle East and Asia domesticated various crops and then found it relatively easy to grow the same crops in similar climates with similar rainfall and sunshine by moving sideways around the globe.

Obviously this spread was more difficult when you are trying to spread crops in a more northerly direction within the Americas as you encounter much colder and harsher conditions. Basically it takes more effort to find alternative crops or develop new growing strategies and so the spread of agriculture was much more stunted in this continent.

We refer to this as the law of least effort.

We often think that it takes a huge level of motivation to start new healthy lifestyle habits but actually our real motivation is to be lazy and follow the path of most convenience.

Just look at any activity which takes up large periods of your time and you'll see that it has been engineered to be as easy as possible. Scrolling through social media on your

phone, browsing the internet or watching TV are perfect examples of activities which require very little effort. Unfortunately they also burn very few calories and play a huge role in our current obesity epidemic.

So why not use the very same law of least effort to our advantage when starting a new lifestyle habit?

From a standing start with no experience it takes a huge effort to start running 5K a day. When motivation is high over the first few days we may complete this goal but as energy wanes the effort required to maintain such a high expectation can be overwhelming.

Starting with a 1km brisk walk each day is much easier to complete and a more realistic goal. This gives us a better chance of first developing the habit and then gradually increasing the distance and speed until we can manage a 5K run both physically and mentally.

Increase your chances of success even further by priming your environment with time saving acts such as having your walking/running kit ready to go, trainers at the door and iPod loaded with your favourite songs. Remove obstacles, remove friction and benefit from the law of least effort. Make it possible, make it easy.

For the full message go to the free resource section on the [lornhealthyoptions.co.uk](http://lornhealthyoptions.co.uk) website.

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OT

# Shinty round up

Kinlochshiel reached the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final for the first time following the shinty action on Saturday August 28.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final Kinlochshiel 2 Kyles Athletic 0

Kinlochshiel are through to the Camanachd Cup Final for the first time in their 63-year history after beating Kyles Athletic 2-0 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Kinlochshiel had been missing defenders Conor Cormack, David Falconer and Mark MacDonald in recent weeks but Cormack and Falconer were able to start with MacDonald taking a place on the bench.

Kyles Athletic defender George Thomson was still out through injury but Neil MacVicar and Conor Kennedy, who both sustained injuries in the previous weekend's Artemis Macaulay Final defeat to Kingussie, were fit to start.

After two Saturdays without a match, Kinlochshiel made a sluggish start and their keeper Josh Grant twice saved well from low Colin MacDonald efforts.

Kinlochshiel settled though and Jordan Fraser dropped a teasing ball in on goal but keeper John Whyte dealt well with the bouncing ball, slapping it away for a corner. Whyte then saved with his feet to thwart Keith MacRae before sweeping the ball away for another corner and the opening 15 minutes remained goal-less.

Kyles defender Andrew King was spoken to by referee Ross Brown as the contest got feisty.

Roddy MacDonald was pulled back from the forward line to take over from his brother Innes MacDonald at centre in an attempt to turn the tie the Tighnabraich men's way.

But Kinlochshiel were beginning to dominate. Kyles finished the half on the front foot and threatened when Colin Macdonald took the ball to the right of the 'D' before crashing a great shot off the crossbar.

Josh Grant then had to spread himself to keep out Conor Kennedy's low shot from the left, the keeper saving with his stick. Ross Macrae just couldn't find the net from the rebound and the first half finished goal-less.

Kinlochshiel replaced an injured Duncan 'WD' MacRae with Jonny Macaskill at half-time.

Kinlochshiel created the first chance of the second half when



Rupert Williamson, Kyles, tries to stop the run from Keith Macrae, Kinlochshiel, during the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-final at Taynuilt Sports Field on Saturday.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Jordan Fraser took down a cross-field ball from Duncan Matheson and forced a John Whyte save with feet before the goalie cleared the ball wide. Meantime, an already stretched Kyles were troubled when defender Callum Millar went down with cramp whilst Scott MacDonald started to feel the effects of his hand injury. Innes MacDonald needed treatment soon after.

Kyles attacks were becoming more rare although Josh Grant had to save low from Ross Macrae's shot. Kinlochshiel forced a couple of corners and took the lead on 58 minutes. Jonny MacAskill's corner from the right dropped for John MacRae whose shot was blocked by Callum Millar but when the rebound came back to MacRae in a central position, he pushed a short pass to his brother Keith MacRae and the Kinlochshiel skipper fired a low shot into the net to break the deadlock.

Kyles were always a threat and with Colin MacDonald occupying two Kinlochshiel defenders, Innes MacDonald spurned a great chance when he nipped in to take the ball to his left but sent a drive over the bar with David Falconer challenging.

Scott MacDonald went down again and had to succumb to his hand injury with Rupert Williamson coming on and Roddy MacDonald dropping back into defence where he shadowed Keith MacRae.

Andrew King was spoken to again, this time after catching Keith MacRae on the back of the legs.

John MacRae held off Neil MacVicar to win possession but shot wide of goal, whilst at the other end, Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae needed treatment after being caught by Colin MacDonald's swing but he limped back into action.

Andrew King and Ali Nixon

were next to require treatment.

As the tie moved into the final 10 minutes, Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant twice saved his side as he showed great reflexes to keep out Colin MacDonald's shot which deflected off Conor Cormack but Grant, who was moving to his right, managed to change direction as he stretched left to keep the ball out with his stick. Then Grant dived along the ground to palm away a ball from Conor Kennedy.

Kinlochshiel's Ali Nixon shot wide and with his calf injury worsening, under 17 player Archie MacRae came on in his place. Kyles pushed Roddy MacDonald forward again in an attempt to take the tie to extra time.

Cairn Limbert came on for a limping Thomas Whyte as 90 minutes approached.

Referee Ross Brown signalled eight minutes of stoppage time and Kyles now pushed almost everyone forward but they couldn't breach the Kinlochshiel back line.

This meant the Tighnabraich men were vulnerable to a counter-attack and following a stray ball in midfield, Jordan Fraser found Archie MacRae whose back-hand shot was saved but John Whyte couldn't clear the ball and Jordan Fraser nipped in and kept his balance, taking the ball by the keeper as he cut in from the right before knocking it over the line to make it 2-0. Archie MacRae could have added a third after a great John MacRae run but two goals were enough as Kinlochshiel enjoyed the late pressure and Kyles looked spent.

Scotland head coach Garry Reid's choice as man of the match was Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant. His team mate Jordan Fraser must have run him close.

Kinlochshiel await the outcome of this Saturday's Tulloch

Homes Camanachd Cup semi final between Kingussie and Lovat at an Aird.

## Advance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-final Skye Camanachd P Inveraray P

The semi-final between Skye Camanachd and Inveraray at Spean Bridge was postponed because of Covid restrictions as Skye suspended all shinty for a week.

## Beaulie P Bute P

The tie between Beaulie and Bute was also postponed because of Covid restrictions which affected the islanders.

The tie has been re-arranged for this Saturday at the Jubilee Park at 3pm. Skye Camanachd and Inveraray meet in the other semi-final at the same venue with a noon throw-up.

## Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter final

### Ballachulish 0 Oban Camanachd 10

Oban Camanachd sealed a Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-fi-

nal spot after thumping Ballachulish 10-0 at Jubilee Park.

Oban Camanachd were missing Daniel Sloss with a shoulder injury, Daniel Madej, Blair MacFarlane and Keith MacMillan so boosted their squad with Lochside youngsters.

Daniel MacVicar gave Oban Camanachd the lead on four minutes and quickly took his tally to four goals when he found the net three more times midway through the first half.

Oban Camanachd switched things around with Daniel MacVicar going to half back.

When referee Iain Kennedy awarded the Oban side a penalty on 34 minutes, Garry Lord converted to make it 5-0 and Connor Howe on 41 minutes and Daniel Cameron a minute later made it 7-0 at half-time.

16-year-old Innes Jackson came off the bench to score his first goal at senior level a minute after the re-start.

Another youngster, Ross Campbell, added an eighth on 84 minutes with Daniel Cameron getting his second on the stroke of full-time to make the final score 10-0.

Stephen Sloss said: 'Ballachulish fought hard but, like many clubs, it's not easy for them to get a team out every Saturday. We have eight or nine players out, many due to covid, so the Lochside match didn't go ahead as we had to take players from them. We have quite a big squad so it must be hard for other teams who don't have the same pool of players.'

'We've underachieved this season. We're in a strange league where we don't always get tested. Then when we play big games, some of the younger guys are like rabbits in headlights and that's been detrimental and frustrating.'

Oban Camanachd welcome Glasgow Mid Argyll in Mowi League C this Saturday and

with Mossfield unavailable, the venue is to be confirmed.

## Mowi Senior League C Glasgow Mid Argyll 6 Aberdour 2

Ewan Fraser scored five times as Glasgow Mid Argyll beat Aberdour 6-2 at Peterson Park.

Both teams were short of players with Aberdour travelling without seven regulars. Logan Adam was given a first start and brothers Calum Murray and Davie Murray made their debuts.

Aberdour started well against their higher league opponents with David MacDougall leading by example at full centre and two goals late in the first half saw the sides go into the interval level.

GMA were creating more chances as the half went on and Brian Slattery found space to give his side the lead on 43 minutes but David MacKenzie levelled 60 seconds later, taking a David MacDougall pass before hitting a blistering shot past the keeper.

GMA's Ewan Fraser then ran riot as he completed a quick-fire hat-trick with goals on 46, 48 and 55 minutes.

Aberdour were awarded a penalty for a 'kick' inside the 'D' but David MacKenzie saw his spot-hit saved.

Ruaraidh Reid pulled a goal back on 61 minutes but Ewan Fraser took his tally to five goals with efforts on 82 and 87 minutes.

## Bullough Cup semi final Lochside Rovers P Oban Celtic P

Lochside Rovers and the Oban Celtic second team face a wait as their semi-final at Mossfield was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Lochside await the visit of the Kinlochshiel second team in the HIS Sutherland Cup quarter-finals this Saturday.

## Mowi South League B Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Tayforth 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds beat Tayforth 2-1 at Peterson Park.

Jamie MacLeod gave GMA the lead on 26 minutes but Sean Taylor levelled on the stroke of half-time.

Cailean MacInnes scored what proved to be the winner with 12 minutes remaining.

## Mowi Central League Kilmory 0 Lochaber 3

The Lochaber second team made their first visit to MacRae Park and returned with both points after beating Kilmory 3-0.

David Langan scored on 37 minutes to give Lochaber an interval lead and added a second a couple of minutes after the re-start. Darris Riddle made it 3-0 on 66 minutes.

## Glenorchy P Kilmallie P

Glenorchy's game against the Kilmallie colts at Mart Park was called off because of Covid restrictions.



Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd, left, and Ross McLean, Ballachulish, in action on Saturday in the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter final on Saturday.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

## Saints humbled by league's early pace setters

Lesmahagow	9
Oban Saints	1
Central Scottish AFL Premier Division	

Following three covid-19 related fixture cancellations, Oban Saints finally made their Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division debut at Glebe Park, Lesmahagow, last Saturday.

Despite missing a number of key players, Saints made the 240-mile round trip with a squad they thought were capable of competing against fellow Premier Division new boys Lesmahagow.

Unfortunately for Saints, their lack of match sharpness and squad depth cost them dearly against a rampant Lesmahagow side which had already netted 25 times in their opening four league and cup fixtures.

After matching their hosts for 30 minutes, Saints fell behind to a penalty kick successfully converted by Graham Gracie following a controversial award by referee Dougie Gunning.

Saints spurned the chance to equalise when Nathan Wharton saved Donald Campbell's spot kick before Alex Craik put the ball past his own keeper to give the hosts a flattering two goal half-time lead. A succession of uncharacteristic second half errors from Saints were ruthlessly exploited by the free scoring hosts who were clinical in their finishing and relentless in their pursuit of goals to add to their already impressive tally finally running out 9 - 1 winners.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: League Cup Group Games - Under 13s 10, Victoria Park 2. Scoring for Saints were Kuba Ryszka, 3, Fraser MacMillan, 2, Scott Campbell, Iain Duffy, Duncan Hunt, Tristan Jefferey and Donald Campbell.

Under 15s 7, Dunoon 3. On target for Saints were Rhys Miller, 3, James Muir, Owen Lloyd, Lewis MacCuish and Kai MacKechnie. The Under 16s and Under 17s had no games.

This Sunday's fixtures: League Cup - Under 13s no game; Campbeltown Pupils v Under 15s; League - Shettleston Juniors v Under 16s; Rutherglen Glencairn v Under 17s.

# Loch Ness success for NACC fab 14

Fourteen members of North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) took part in the Etape Loch Ness recently with the local ladies especially making a big impression at the closed road Sportive.

The 66-mile event has been postponed three times since April 2020 due to the pandemic. But on Sunday August 22, 4,300 cyclists took on the traffic free route around some of the country's most scenic landscape.

Competing in the ladies event, North Argyll Cycle Club members Charlotte Forbes and Shona MacLachlan came sixth and seventh respectively out of the 440 female riders that took part.

Steven Groom of NACC told The Oban Times: 'We weren't surprised. The girls at the club have been fantastic over the past few years and are totally flying.'

Andre Paul Van came out top for the NACC riders in the men's event, crossing the finish line in 22nd position in a time of two hours, 49 minutes and 55 seconds.

The 360° route around the loch started and finished in the Highland capital of Inverness, offering 900m of ascent. As well as the road race, there was



From left: Shona MacLachlan, Andre Paul Van, Iain MacDonald, Steven Groom, Charlotte Forbes, Iain Milarvie, Kevin MacInnes, Bruce MacGregor.

a timed King of the Mountain stage, with a 4.8 mile climb gaining 380m in height with a gradient reaching 12 per cent at times.

New course records were set in the men's and women's races with Andy Cunningham, from Leeds, breaking the male course record, completing the course in 2:42:57.

Shona's training partner Catriona Lockie, from East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire,

broke the female course record, completing it in 2:54:59. NACC gender positions and times: Charlotte Forbes, 6th in 03:09:29; Shona MacLachlan, 7th in 03:10:12; Andre Paul Van, 22nd in 02:49:55; Steven Groom, 54th in 02:55:26; Iain McDonald, 81st in 03:01:25; Iain Milarvie, 170th in 03:08:39; Carol Collis, 178th in 04:24:45; Bruce MacGregor, 271st in 03:16:19; Leanne Barrow, 362nd in

05:19:43; Kevin MacInnes, 459th in 03:26:26; Graeme McLennan, 919th in 03:52:38; Ezster Domina, 964th in 03:55:50; James MacCallum, 987th in 03:57:30 and Martin Hadlington, 1,459th in 04:24:44.

Malcolm Sutherland, event director, congratulated everyone who took part in the event, which raised more than £50,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Bumper entry ready to make rally history

Full, complete, chockablock... three words to describe the entry for October's Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally.

Last time the Tobermory-based event ran, online entries sold out in under an hour.

In an effort to give everyone the best possible chance, Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally organisers elected to run a ballot system following a 48-hour entry window.

The result? More records, with the biggest entry in a decade as more than 200 crews put their names down for one of the 150 spaces available.

Clerk of the course Andy Jardine said: 'Once again, we're incredibly flattered to receive the kind of interest and com-

mitment we've had from crews. We received 209 entries and then, after selecting a few, drew the majority of the remaining names out of a hat. The crews that didn't make the first 150 will go down on the reserves' list. On behalf of the team, I would like to say a huge thank you to the rallying community.

'The Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally has been away for a year due to Covid-19 and, in the sort of uncertain times we've been through in the last 12 months, we could take nothing for granted. We hoped people would still want to come up here in October for what we believe is the best rally in the world. I'm very happy to say they're coming in droves.'

For the first time in its history, the Mull event will count as a round of the British Rally Championship (BRC) meaning the competition is going to be tighter than ever during the event from October 8 to October 10.

Local heroes and former winners Paul MacKinnon, John MacCrone and Calum Duffy will be flying the Mull flag against BRC stars including Rhys Yates, Matt Edwards, Osian Pryce and Sam Moffett.

'We're delighted to welcome the British Rally Championship crews up here,' said Andy Jardine.

'It's fantastic to see the Mull Rally running as a scoring round in a series which once

rivalled the World Rally Championship itself in terms of popularity and competitiveness. We're making history on Mull in October.

'It's going to be fascinating to see how the competition plays out. Victory on this event means so much to so many people - and throwing a maximum BRC points score into the mix is only going to spice things up further.

'In six weeks we'll all be on the island and getting ready for the start of the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally. It's been a long two years since we last filled the island with rally fever and I for one can't wait to see and hear the cars back in action.'

## John in points finish at British Grand Prix

Oban Moto3 rider John McPhee recovered from 27th to 12th place at the British Grand Prix held at Silverstone last Sunday following a lap one incident.

John had his work cut out after being forced wide on turn three of the opening lap and ended up at the back of the pack. Able to move inside the points-scoring positions on lap four, John had to reduce the deficit on those ahead on the track and entered a fierce battle for tenth place in the final stages.

Swapping positions with those around him several times, John ended his home grand prix 11th - but was demoted one position for exceeding track limits. He now sits 16th in the World Championship standings with 53 points.

After the race John said: 'I fought really hard and pushed to my maximum from the beginning. Unfortunately in turn three on the opening lap I had contact with another rider and had to go straight on. I was in last position and it made the job even harder.'

'I suffered a bit from my FP1 crash and had been trying to catch up, so it hasn't been the easiest of weekends. I felt strong in the race and able to attack, so I feel we did the best job possible. It would have been nice to be at the back of the front group, as I felt my pace was there to fight with them.'

'Coming from last to finish at the head of the second group was good though. Thanks to the team for working hard, like always. We now focus on the next race at Aragon on September 12.'



John McPhee in action during last Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

# Bob's US Tour bid suffers another blow at finals

Robert Macintyre's bid to earn his USPGA tour card looks to be over after he missed the cut for the second week running at the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

Playing in the second leg of the three tournament finals, the Oban star knew that gaining a place in the top 25 - which would earn him a coveted tour card - meant a high finish was required in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus, Ohio.

Things looked promising after an opening round 68 saw him well-placed to mount a challenge over the weekend. However, three bogeys in a row to close out his front nine on Friday meant his chances of making the cut were hanging by a thread.

Bob then showed all his battling qualities with two birdies on the back nine getting him back on track before a disappointing bogey on his 16th hole left him short of the cut line for the second week in a row.

With Bob's name conspicuous by its absence from the entry list for the Korn Ferry Tour Championship - the third and final leg of the qualifiers - it looks like Bob will be returning home to get prepared for the BMW Championship at Wentworth starting on September 9. With his form dipping at just the wrong time, a Ryder Cup Captain's pick looks increasingly unlikely and it may be only a spectacular performance at Wentworth will be enough to make the team.

# Oban Rotary's golf Am Am event gets back on course

The Rotary Club of Oban's popular Am Am event was back on course at the weekend - raising an incredible £10,000 for charities in the area.

The club had to cancel the event in 2020 and again in June this year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, but it was back to business last Sunday at Glencruitten Golf Club.

And although the number of teams was down on previous years, largely because of Covid, it was generally agreed by everyone involved it was yet another great day of enjoyment and fundraising.

The Am Am is Oban Rotary's principal fundraiser in support of local good causes. Funds are generated via 100 plus sponsors, the main one being The Oban Times.

Competing teams come from as far afield as Glasgow and Dunblane. There is also a raffle and auction on the day with all items on offer being donated. This year's auction included a top signed by Oban professional golfer Robert MacIntyre.

It is estimated this year's event will raise around £10,000 which is outstanding given the unusual and strange times currently being experienced.

The three principal prizes on offer, which are the two best scores on a stableford basis from a four man team, were won by '3 Lefts + 1', The Oban Times Cup; Oban Camanachd 'A', The PDK Shellfish Cup, with 'Neilly 3 + 3' coming in third, The George Millar Trophy. The



winner of the separate Yellow Ball competition, lowest score, was Oban Memorials and best visiting team was Dalmally 3. Other prizes included the longest drive and nearest the pin at four holes.

The various prizes were presented by Oban Rotary president Kees van Rein and in bringing the day to an end, acting Rotary convener Iain MacIntyre paid tribute to the generosity of the event's sponsors, the commitment of the players and the support the organising committee gets from the management and

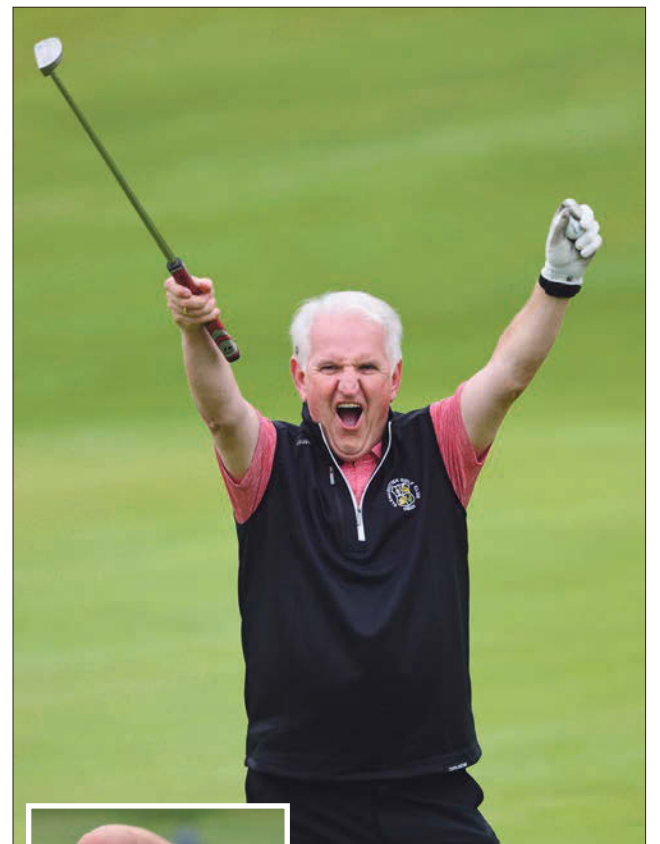


staff at Glencruitten Golf Club. A special thank you was given

Above: George Graham, The Oban Times' Divisional Director (Newspapers), centre, with the winning team Scott MacCallum, John Plunkett, Kenny Devine and Brian Blue. George made the trophy presentation as The Oban Times is the event's principal sponsor.

Left: Paul Kersley plays his shot to the fourth green during the Oban Rotary Club Am Am.

to the local Sea Cadets who acted as ball spotters.



Every player received a complimentary Oban Times golf ball.

Neil Armour celebrates his putt on the third green. All photographs: Kevin McGlynn.




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<b>2</b>	0251 2.9 0812 1.9 TH 1505 3.0 2159 2.0	<b>4</b>	0421 3.3 1013 1.4 SA 1628 3.5 2305 1.4	<b>6</b>	0532 3.7 1127 0.8 M 1737 4.0	<b>8</b>	0039 0.7 0634 3.9 W 1235 0.4 1842 4.2
<b>3</b>	0342 3.1 0923 1.7 F 1551 3.2 2235 1.7	<b>5</b>	0457 3.5 1052 1.1 SU 1703 3.7 2335 1.1	<b>7</b>	0007 0.9 0605 3.8 TU 1200 0.6 ● 1811 4.1	<b>9</b>	0111 0.7 0701 3.9 TH 1311 0.4 1913 4.1

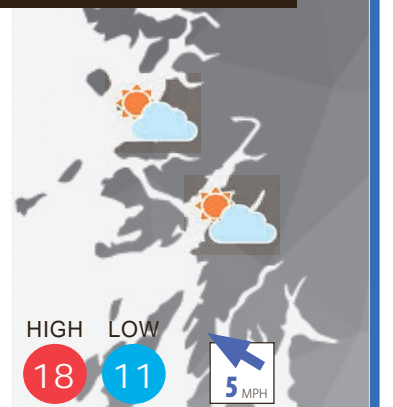
#### OBAN WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Sunny and light winds Temperatures 11°C to 19°C.	Sunny intervals and light winds Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunny intervals a gentle breeze Temperatures 12°C to 17°C.	Light rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.

#### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardrishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30



HIGH 18 LOW 11 5 MPH



# LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

No 8579

Thursday 2 September, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p

## Marc goes extra mile in memory of Katie

### Inside: Inspiration for choosing an Independent School

## Good to be back



### Gathering makes welcome return to Fort William

• See page 2 for more.

## Historic harpoon



### Rare artefact found in Arisaig gifted to museum

• See page 4 for more.



# HAVE YOUR SAY ON FORMER SAVILE HOME

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Young Scottish retail tycoon Harris Aslam wants to canvas the opinion of local residents on what the future should hold for the former Glencoe home of the late shamed DJ and TV presenter Jimmy Savile, after his family recently bought the property.

Mr Aslam is director of Fife-based Scottish convenience store operator Eros Retail, launched when he was 18 with his brother in 2014. It is part of the family's Glenshire group of companies with interests spanning multiple sectors including hospitality, property, cleaning hygiene and business supplies, online and frozen drinks (Skwishee).

Mr Aslam's family have been in the retail industry

## Retail boss seeks public's view on plans for former Glencoe home of shamed DJ and TV presenter

for about 40 years and Eros Retail now owns stores across Scotland.

A former Retailer of the Year, Mr Aslam, together with his cousin and business partner Raza Rehman, both pictured above, and other family members,

have bought the two-bedroom Allt-na-Reigh, which sits beside the A82, from an Edinburgh builder for a sum reported to be £335,000.

Mr Aslam, who is still in his early 20s, told the Lochaber Times this week he knows the area well, having enjoyed hillwalking nearby, and wants to turn the property into a family home.

However, recognising the property's dark past due to its link with sex abuser Savile, he says he would like to do something positive such as create a lasting memorial of some sort to another previous owner, the late great mountaineering pioneer Hamish MacInnes, who died last year.

'We acquired the property with a view to turning it into a family home – it's a very beautiful location.

Continued on page 2.



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# Pipers head for sunny Fort for first Lochaber Gathering since lockdown

by Iain Ferguson  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

The first Lochaber Gathering since lockdown began brought together many of the country's finest pipers to their new venue, using both screen auditoriums at the Highland Cinema, and in the open air sunshine of Cameron Square in Fort William.

Taking full advantage of the beautiful weather, many passers-by, visitors and locals stopped to listen as competitors played below the canopy under the intense scrutiny of judges.

The event was organised by Lochaber Piping Society, which took over from the late Allan MacColl who kept the event going for many years.

The day was a great success, with positive feedback from the public, judges and the

competitors who were extremely happy to have a 'live' competition after such a long lay-off due to the pandemic.

Ken Cameron of Lochaber Piping Society said: 'The society took a brave decision in planning the event from back in February, when everything was in the deep throes of Covid-19 restrictions, lockdowns and uncertainty over everything.'

'A big relief for us has been the reaction of our two big benefactors, The Moidart Trust and The P F Charitable Trust. Both Angus MacDonald and Philip Fleming have expressed great satisfaction at how the event went on the day.'

'Maintaining this part of our Highland cultural heritage forms the core of the society's aims and I believe we made the right decision in picking up where the late Allan MacColl



left off and running The Lochaber Gathering, which might otherwise have been lost. Moving the event to the centre of Fort William was also a bold move, but it looks to have paid off as everyone seemed to be very happy with the arrangements.'



Above, from left, winners Ben Duncan, P/A Grade Piobaireachd and Open 6-8 March competition, Calum Watson, P/A Grade March, Strathspey and Reel and the Open Hornpipe and Jig, and Ross Miller, B/C Grade Piobaireachd and the B/C Grade March, Strathspey and Reel. Above right: local piper Sandy Cameron, who was second in the P/A Grade Piobaireachd, is presented with his award by Councillor Alan Henderson. Right, organiser Ken Cameron, left, with Angus MacDonald.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson.



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## Retail boss seeks public's view on plans for former Savile house

Continued from page 1.

'I am aware of its history but think something positive can be done with it,' Mr Aslam told the Lochaber Times. We're looking at various options at the moment that could possibly involve some kind of permanent tribute to Hamish MacInnes, which would be fantastic.

'It is such an amazing location but we also want to know what local people think. Over the years it's been subjected to a lot of vandalism and people are always breaking in.'

'We'd like to do something the community could support so that everyone can be collectively proud of the end result.'

To find out what locals and others think, Mr Aslam is proposing to host an online public consultation on Tuesday September 7.

'I don't think you can always please everyone,' he added. 'But I think we can do something many people would



Vandals defaced the derelict house in 2019.

hopefully be on board with.'

On the links with MacInnes, Mr Aslam said it was believed the famous mountaineer had invented his revolutionary MacInnes stretcher and ice axe in the outbuilding at the property.

'It really appeals to me to provide some kind of tribute or memorial to Hamish MacInnes. We're not sure of what that might actually look like or what form it would

take, but it's something I'd love to do.

'Yes the property does have a dark history - but only for a certain period. I think we can do something really positive with it and I'd like to hear what people think.'

Tuesday's online public consultation starts at 6pm and any members of the community or organisations keen to attend should email [Kim@glenshire.co.uk](mailto:Kim@glenshire.co.uk) for an invite.

# Harbour operator calls for liaison group condition to be ditched

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Corpach-based haulage firm and local harbour operators Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd has appealed to the Scottish Government over a condition attached to its temporary planning consent allowing vessels to berth on Sundays that would see it required to join a community liaison group.

Boyd Brothers was granted a 12-month consent in May to allow the berthing and disembarking of vessels at Annat Pier on a Sunday but with the condition that no stevedoring was permitted. The firm has previously explained it is crucial for marine businesses to have the availability of port facilities on a Sunday, as this reduced costs and helped them to safely operate their vessels.

However, in its appeal, Boyd Brothers said another condition requiring the formation of an Annat Pier Liaison Group was 'disproportionate' and it was concerned about its structure and function.

Boyd Brothers is arguing that, as the Sunday berthing permission is only temporary, it is not a constructive use of resources or the proposed parties' time to form a liaison group for a 12-month trial period when the company now has no intention to pursue a further application for permanent permission



The entrance to Boyd Brothers at Corpach.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

under these conditions. Boyd Brothers also says any new complaints that may arise from Sunday berthing would be minimal and from ship engines or generators.

'It is not within our jurisdiction to regulate noise levels emitted from a ship's engine whilst under way to or from the quay,' said the company in its appeal statement. It adds: 'Any noise issues raised would be discussed between ship owners/operators and the authorities. As quay operators we would not be involved in this process and any issue would not be resolved in a liaison group setting.'

It has also said it feels it is being singled out as it would be the only commercial operator from the Annat Point Industrial Estate represented in the liaison group.

An earlier proposal to form a wider liaison group with all the

commercial operators on the industrial estate, local councillors and community councils did not meet with much enthusiasm from a number of the bigger companies.

The company goes on to question whether it would get a 'fair' hearing at liaison group meetings going by some of the complaints it gets from local community councils.

Boyd Brothers concludes: 'The added bureaucracy, lack of fair representation and conditions associated with the formation of a liaison group to deal with a small number of complaints from a small number of individuals seems excessive. Local industries, now more than ever, need support from authorities and communities to continue to develop and provide services without additional constraints.'

At the August meeting of Kilmallie Community Council,

chairman John Hutchison described news of the appeal as 'disappointing' and added: 'Clearly it is any applicant's prerogative to appeal conditions, so while disappointing, there's nothing improper and it just has to go through the process. It's just got to take its course.'

Council secretary Russell Leaper added: 'We don't really see another route other than dialogue and collaboration, so it is disappointing if this [the liaison group] doesn't happen because we expect to receive more complaints and continually have to deal with this.'

## Mallaig school ferry rota remains under review

Highland Council says the frequency of the ferry service for pupils living on the Small Isles and who attend Mallaig High School is currently under review. It hopes to have a final decision in the near future.

The fortnightly rotation has been the permanent arrangement for a number of years and was temporarily changed to a weekly rotation while in-school learning for pupils was restricted due to Covid-19.

Last October the council switched from fortnightly to weekly sailings for the youngsters from Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna following pressure from the parent council and MSP Kate Forbes.

A local authority spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'As the pupils have returned to full-time in-school learning the fortnightly rotation will resume. There are logistical and mitigating factors to consider surrounding the availability of a permanent weekly rotation, including poor winter weather, staffing and charter availability, however the welfare of pupils

and equity of education will remain a priority as we work in consultation with pupils, parents/carers and staff.'

The council was responding after being urged by local politicians to maintain the weekly special ferry sailings. Both MSP Kate Forbes and Fort William and Ardnamurchan SNP councillor Niall McLean both want to see the weekly crossings retained.

Councillor McLean told the Lochaber Times: 'Only being permitted to go home once a fortnight will impact the children who have to board and their families. A weekly trip home is essential for family life.'

Asked if recent outbreaks of Covid-19 in a third of schools across Highland region would impact the operation of the hostel at Mallaig High School, a council spokesperson said: 'Mallaig High School residence is operating in line with sector specific guidance. Scotland Covid-19 recovery is currently beyond level 0, which enables residents to enjoy the freedoms national guidance allows.'

## CAT green light for Raasay ferry terminal

The Highland Council's Skye and Raasay Area Committee this week approved a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) request from Raasay Development Trust to lease Raasay Ferry Terminal, writes Mark Entwistle.

Skye and Raasay Area Committee chairman Councillor John Gordon said the plans the trust has for the ferry terminal will lead to improved facilities for the community and the overall plans will boost tourism within the area.

'I therefore warmly welcome the decision to agree this community asset transfer request. Members of the committee are confident the Raasay Ferry Terminal will contribute greatly to the council's key strategic priorities which aims to encourage community led and run services involving more people in local decision making,' he added.

The agreed community asset transfer to the Raasay Development Trust, for a 99-year lease, will allow the group to continue to develop its plans

as part of a wider community venture to develop pontoon facilities to boost marine tourism, increase visitor numbers, employment and income to local businesses.

The transfer focuses on the transfer of the ferry terminal building including waiting rooms and toilets. The trust aims to redevelop the terminal building, providing disabled facilities, redevelop the toilets and shows a renewed waiting room with provision of a laundrette, electrical hook-ups and waste disposal.



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Fiona Bowie, right, holds the harpoon dating back to the Mesolithic age, while West Highland Museum curator Vanessa Martin looks on. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



It is hoped the Mesolithic harpoon, above, will go on display in the West Highland Museum in Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Mesolithic harpoon found on Arisaig beach 50 years ago comes home to Lochaber

Year after year, young Fiona Black, as she was then, and her family from Northumberland, returned to their favourite holiday campsite close to Arisaig, where she and her brother played on the shimmering sands, collecting shells and driftwood.

But while on holiday in the Back of Keppoch in August 1971, Fiona spotted something unusual sticking out of the sand.

Last week, that small prized object which had spent the past 50 years either in her mother's china cabinet or on display in her own home in Alnwick, was presented to the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

It was excited museum staff who, two years ago when Fiona - now with the surname Bowie - first got in touch and sent a photograph, realised what they were looking at was a rare Mesolithic harpoon dating from almost 5,000 years ago.

Fiona had decided the harpoon rightfully belonged in a museum nearest to where she discovered it on that August day half a century ago.

Although museum curator Vanessa Martin believed it to be a Mesolithic bone harpoon, due to the Covid pandemic, no further action could be taken until this summer. Ms Martin told the Lochaber Times:

'In July 2021, I consulted an archaeologist who happened to be visiting the museum on a research trip. It was Dr Alison Sheridan, formerly of National Museums Scotland, and she was really excited by the artefact.

'From images, she confirmed it was indeed a Mesolithic harpoon probably more than 5,000 years old. It is a really significant find.'

The harpoon will now go on display at the West Highland Museum while Treasure Trove procedures are instigated.

Ms Martin added: 'We would love to accept the harpoon into our collection immediately due to the importance of this marvellous local find, however, because the object was found on the shoreline it is subject to Treasure Trove procedures.

'This means that anything found in the ground must be reported to the Treasure Trove Unit in Edinburgh which will carry out an investigation, object assessment and, where appropriate, will investigate the find spot. I hope we will eventually be allocated the object in accordance with Fiona's wishes so that it will be on permanent display at the museum.'

The harpoon dates from the Mesolithic period, also called Middle Stone Age, the ancient cultural stage that existed

between the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), with its chipped stone tools, and the Neolithic (New Stone Age), with polished stone tools.

Fiona told the Lochaber Times handing over the harpoon to the museum last week had been a much more emotional experience than she was expecting.

'It was just because so many of my family memories are linked with it. Just handling it brings back such happy memories of family holidays at Arisaig,' she said.

'I had begun to worry that if anything happened to me, it might just end up in the bin somewhere and so felt it best that it be returned to somewhere as close as possible to where I found it that day so long ago. Back then no-one was very interested in it - my daughter even used to take it to school for history-related subjects. Mind you, while I might have felt emotional handing it over, I wonder how the person who lost it felt. A lot of effort clearly went into making it.

'Maybe someone had speared a fish and it got away - so the person lost not just their tea but their harpoon as well!

'At least now it has come back home and I'm pleased about that. My hope is the museum in Fort William is allowed to keep it as that would be fitting.'

## New faces at helm of Claggan Park club

Hopes are high Claggan Park will once again see Highland League football action after a huge amount of work has been done to improve the pitch.

That was the message from Fort William Football Club's recent annual general meeting, which saw a good turnout. The existing board stood down and new office-bearers were elected.

The new chairman is Oliver Stephen, with vice chairman John Trew, secretary Marie McMillan and treasurer Andy Elder, plus several other notable members joining the committee.

Mr Stephen told the Lochaber Times: 'It was brilliant to see so many willing people there who all have the same desire to see the only football club in the town succeed.'

Mr Stephen commented the club had one distinct hurdle in its way at the moment, the pitch, which had been highlighted as such a cause for concern that the Highland League management committee recently voted to have Fort William play all of their games in the 2021-22 season away from Claggan Park.

Mr Stephen added: 'Thankfully, after an outpour-

ing on social media and a call to arms, a massive amount of work has been carried out by members of the committee and the professional services of Gavin Irons - grass pitch specialist - were instructed.

'The park has never looked so good and we are really looking forward to working with all of the other clubs in the Highland League to help reverse the decision that was made.

'It means the world to Fort William and its locals to see games back at the foot of Ben Nevis, quite possibly one of the most iconic footballing locations in the world.'



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# Search on for group to take over wood school

The hunt is on to find a community group willing to take on Sgillean nan Coille, the popular wood school at Salen, close to the shores of Loch Sunart.

Acharacle Community Company (ACC) posted details on its Facebook page last week of a recent communication from Forestry Land Scotland (FLS), which manages the buildings. The wood school structures and composting toilets were originally funded with the vision these would be managed by the community through a lease agreement with the then Forestry Commission Scotland, now FLS.

The structures are currently managed by FLS as there is no lease agreement with any community group or body.

FLS area visitor services manager David John Robertson,

based at Strontian, recently informed ACC that, in the longer term, it is unlikely FLS will commit to the continued and sole maintenance of the school.

Mr Robertson explained: 'We will, with some regret, look to decommission the project and dismantle the buildings early next year. We also have plans for tree felling at Lochan Dunaich woodland adjacent to the buildings which is scheduled for later this year or early 2022.'

Mr Robertson added there was also a proposal to use the area that currently holds the wooden composting structures for wood-stacking, which would mean the demolition of those structures around early October leaving the toilets and Sgillean nan Coille woodland shelter intact for now.



The Sgillean nan Coille woodland shelter has been well used in the years since it opened.

He also confirmed FLS was therefore seeking to identify interest and discuss a lease for the area with any group in the position to take on the management of the buildings. 'This would mean the leasee/

group would need to insure, maintain the buildings and footprint of the lease,' said Mr Robertson.

ACC is unfortunately not in a position to take this on, but has agreed with FLS to share this

information with the wider community and encourage any interested community group to contact it directly to discuss the possibility of a lease.

FLS says it will give the search for any interested community groups until December 31 to respond to the offer of lease.

Responding to the news, one local person posted on the ACC Facebook page stating: 'The structures benefit the whole community, the whole peninsula, not to mention the tourist industry. Isn't it unfair to expect just Acharacle Community Company to take that on? Could the varying community companies discuss taking on the buildings together? It seems such an irresponsible waste to demolish them.'

Asked for its view, Acharacle Community Council told the Lochaber Times it had been

surprised to learn just recently that the community company had withdrawn from its lease with FLS, some time ago, and was no longer interested in managing Sgillean nan Coille in Salen, which it had 'undertaken admirably' for many years.

The community council added: 'The site has become well-used and much-appreciated within the wider peninsula communities, having been used for many activities and events and occasional weddings and parties. Acharacle Community Council will be doing everything it can over the coming months to start a conversation with the local and wider community in the hope an organisation willing and able to take over management of the site can be found. We would welcome any ideas or offers of help.'

## Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

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Rowan: caorann, or fuinnseag-coile in Gaelic, meaning 'wood enchantress', I am told.

Clusters of its vivid red berries are enchanting the summer woods now with the idea of autumn.

There has been a slight but definite shift in the air, a barely tangible turning of the season underneath the warm sun. A few birch and oak leaves are hinting at yellow. The bright colours of the rowan fruit are the first of many, as the crab apples and brambles also begin to ripen.

It was an August I found out I was expecting my first child; it was a good year for the rowans then too. I remember the branches hanging heavy and low with the weight of them – so much so that I almost called our son Rowan.

Though we didn't in the end, the sight of all those berries, shocking against the green of summer, still reminds me of that time. Sitting as it does on the threshold of the seasons, I like that the rowan marked my threshold into motherhood.

The tree was often planted near the thresholds of homes as protection. Tradition also has it that a rowan should not be felled unless for sacred or ceremonial purposes or, at the very least, you should plant a seed for every tree cut. When our pigs had exhausted the ground they were on and needed fresh vegetation to eat, I would walk the croft pulling any tiny stray saplings that had drifted from the woodland. But I only ever lifted the birch and oak. As a result, the slopes are scattered still with young



rowans that I couldn't bring myself to pull out. If I felt industrious, I could use this year's abundance by making rowan jelly or wine; another piece of lore is that you will receive the gift of future sight on drinking the distilled spirit. I don't need to be a seer to tell you that, in all likelihood, these trees will just provide more food for the birds.

The Latin name for the rowan tree is sorbus aucuparia: fruit for catching birds. The winter thrushes will soon come, flocks of redwing and fieldfare travelling through the trees in a chattering cloud of sound.

They strip the rowan berries as they go, leaving droppings that sow the seeds of future harvests. At least, I hope they will. The birds were notably absent last year. A late frost had killed the early rowan blooms, so there were no berries.

Standing watchfully on this year's threshold, underneath boughfuls of potential, I am hopeful.

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# Lewis aid worker killed in Afghanistan would be 'devastated', says her father

The father of Lewis aid worker Linda Norgrove, who perished during a rescue attempt after she was kidnapped by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2010, said his daughter would have been devastated by what is happening in the strife-torn country.

John Norgrove, who lives on Lewis, was speaking in support of a plea last week from SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan who has called for communities across the Western Isles and Scotland to prepare to welcome and support people fleeing the terrible situation in Afghanistan over the coming weeks and months.

Mr Allan said Scotland has a long and proud history of opening its doors to those seeking refuge from war, famine and persecution all over the world.

'The horror many of us



Alasdair Allan.

have felt at watching events in Afghanistan unfold over the past fortnight is nothing compared to that experienced by the people on the ground there and I know people here will want to do whatever they can to help,' he said.

'The Western Isles have been enriched by the families who have moved here from Syria in recent years, with local people rallying round to help the new arrivals make the Isles their home.

'It is my hope we can also soon give the same heartfelt welcome to families from Afghanistan who have had to leave their homes, jobs and communities behind under the very worst of circumstances.

'The strength of feeling and solidarity for the people of Afghanistan from those in the Western Isles is clear and I have had a huge number of constituents contact me to express their concern over this humanitarian crisis, as well as raising awareness about family members and charity workers who are still awaiting urgent evacuation.

'I have been working along



with my SNP colleagues in Holyrood and Westminster to urge the Foreign Secretary to prioritise those who are most vulnerable, particularly the female Afghan staff members of charities such as the Linda Norgrove Foundation.'

The Linda Norgrove Foundation was established following the tragic death of aid worker Ms Norgrove, 36, during a rescue mission after she was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2010.

The charity was founded by Linda's parents - Linda grew up on their croft on the island - and for more than 10 years has been helping women and children affected by the war in Afghanistan.

The foundation has so far raised more than £2 million to fund more than 175 grassroots

projects and currently provides scholarships to 170 women studying at colleges and universities in Afghanistan.

'Linda would have been devastated by this,' said Mr Norgrove.

'She always said that when she was in Afghanistan she could leave at any time but that isn't available to ordinary Afghans.

#### Commitment

'We made a commitment to the women who have scholarships with us that we'll support them until graduation. Whether it's possible they'll be able to continue studying, we don't know.'

The foundation hopes it can arrange for 20 of its medical students to come to the UK to continue with their studies and all five of Scotland's

medical schools have agreed to help make this happen. Several local authorities in Scotland have already begun accepting Afghan families, with others making preparations to do so in the coming weeks.

On Tuesday last week, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging the UK Government to agree to resettle far more than the current commitment of 5,000 Afghan refugees in the first year and 20,000 in the long term.

Ms Sturgeon also requested greater clarity about the UK's ongoing response to the crisis in Afghanistan, as well as further information on how many civilians, particularly women, girls and others in need of refuge, would be protected.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### The importance of kindness

We can all sense we're at yet another key moment in the Covid pandemic.

How do we balance the need to be vigilant and to test and self-isolate when required, with the move beyond Level 0 and the opening up of our lives and the economy?

Businesses are operating under enormous pressure to ensure staff and customer safety and often have to operate with reduced numbers of staff at very short notice.

#### Staff shortages

Some hospitality businesses have had no option but to shut their doors temporarily because of staff shortages,

while others have stayed open but temporarily without the level of staffing they would like.

The rules have now relaxed and even if someone in your household has Covid, you no longer need to self-isolate AFTER you get a negative PCR result, provided you are DOUBLE-vaccinated. But you do still need to self-isolate while you book a PCR test and wait for the result.

We may have to do this more than once and it can have a big impact on our working lives.

#### Pressures

It's incredibly hard to plan ahead at the moment - even for something as simple as a hair appointment or meeting a friend - so please remember

the pressures businesses are under right now. Businesses are doing their best in circumstances that are nigh-on impossible to plan for and very difficult to manage. Other popular visitor areas including the Lake District and Cornwall have launched 'Be Kind' campaigns to encourage visitors to be kind to under-pressure staff.

It's a delicate time and we're all feeling the pressure. It's at times like these we need to be kind to each other, have a bit of patience with the situation and do our best to support our businesses and community with kindness.

If you're unsure of what the current rules are, or what they mean for business, please visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) where you'll find up-to-date guidance on the latest rules, funding and assistance for business.



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## Plockton and District Community Council

Plockton and District Community Council met by Zoom on August 9 with a number of issues being discussed.

This included the subject of village skips which members heard will be arranged soon.

As far as roadworks are concerned, only capital projects are being carried out at the moment.

On the matter of 14 Harbour Street, work on renovating this house will start towards the end of September and it should be ready by January 2022.

Parking in Plockton was also mentioned and members heard that Highland Council was carrying out a survey of the parking problem.

On the septic tank at Rhu, the community council is seeking an update from the owner of the house.

Campervans in Harbour Street was also raised and it was agreed that signs are required saying the road is unsuitable for campervans.

The next meeting will be on October 11.

# Double marathon run for a special charity

## Kilchoan's Marc raises funds for SOFT UK

by Iain Ferguson  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Kilchoan to Fort William in under 12 hours is a journey easily made by car or even bike, but actually running the 55 miles in that time is quite an accomplishment, even more so in 20 degree-plus heat.

Marc Macmaster did just that last Friday, when he left his home in the village at 4am and arrived in the old Fort at 3.30pm to a welcoming committee of friends and family.

Running the distance of just over two marathon races in one go was certainly a labour of love for Marc as he raised funds in memory of his baby

daughter, Katie, who lost her life to an extremely rare genetic disorder.

All money raised is going to the SOFT UK charity which provides support for those who have experienced the loss of a child due to Trisomy 13 and Trisomy 18 (Patau's and Edwards' syndrome) and related disorders.

The charity's website has a page dedicated to fathers who have lost a child as a result of these genetic conditions.

Marc had originally aimed for £1,000 through social media funding, but by the end of the run had more than doubled this figure, with donations coming in as people followed his progress on the road.



Marc's wife Catherine-Mary helps him cool off after his 55-mile run. Photo Iain Ferguson.

He said: 'I can't thank everyone enough for their support which really kept me going as I was running.'

'I kept hearing, that's another donation, another donation,

another donation, which really gave me inspiration to carry on running when times were tough.'

'All of it will go to an amazing cause and really make

a difference to them so all I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart to all who donated and my whole family who supported me in doing this.'

## Society hosts well-attended stock judging competition

After the cancellation of the second Lochaber Agricultural Show to fall victim to the Covid pandemic, organisers held an informal stock judging competition on what would traditionally have been 'Show Day'.

Ewan Campbell of Inverloch Castle Farm provided the venue for four classes of sheep and cattle, which was well-attended in the sunshine.

Everyone who came along also had the chance to try their hand at judging by guessing in which order the actual judge,

Gordon Stewart, would place the animals. There was also a barbecue, tea and cakes to keep everyone fed and watered and a raffle raised £270 for the Macmillan Cancer Care Team.

Lochaber Agricultural Society chairman George Fulford said: 'We didn't expect a huge turnout, but we did have 55 people spread over the area, which was just about right for the current circumstances. Thank you to everyone who came along, donated raffle prizes and provided the food.'

Adapting to Covid regula-

tions, one young lady who was self-isolating and unable to attend took part in the junior section over her mobile phone.

The trophies were awarded virtually. Results: Open - 1 Ewen Campbell, 344; 2 Kenny MacCallum, 341; 3 Chloe Macdonald Cameron, 337.

Ladies: 1 Chloe Macdonald Cameron, 337; 2 Bianca Lyall, 328; 3 Anne MacCallum, 298.

Junior: 1 Innes Macdonald, 304; 2 Archie Macdonald, 300; 3 Livia Berardelli, 286; 4 Eva Macdonald, 285; 5 Leonard Baak, 271.



Judge Gordon Stewart runs an expert eye over some of the cattle.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

For more photographs see [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)

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## Ardnamurchan's star pupil Dugald

Dugald Macintyre, Head Boy of Ardnamurchan High School 2020/21, is this year's recipient of the Lochaber Housing award for academic excellence.

Dugald, during his career at Ardnamurchan High School, achieved two Advanced Highers at A, seven Highers, six at A and all As in his National 5 qualifications.

Two of his Highers and his Advanced Highers, in addition to achieving the Performance unit for Advanced Higher Music, were achieved in S6 which included the challenging circumstances of lockdown.

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig said: 'Congratulations to Dugald. We wish him every success in his chosen course at Edinburgh University in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science.'

Right: Dugald Macintyre with his award.



# Activists say Greens deal is welcome

Climate and environmental activists in Lochaber have welcomed the endorsement by the SNP's ruling body of a power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens, but it is tinged with disappointment.

The two parties published details of the co-operation agreement on Friday, including a commitment to hold a referendum on Scottish independence within five years.

Party members of the Scottish Greens agreed to accept the deal at the weekend.

A spokesperson for the local branch of XR (Extinction Rebellion) told the Lochaber Times this week: 'Collaboration between parties is very welcome in principle

and we in Scotland should be especially proud of this substantive role offered to the Scottish Green Party.

'There are, however, some very disappointing exclusions from the agreement – the role of Gross Domestic Product measurements and economic principles related to concepts of sustainable growth and inclusive growth; aviation, aerospace and defence; field sports.

'Also, other than a vague undertaking to introduce targets for restoring and protecting nature, there is no explicit mention of either land reform or rewilding. The proof of this particular pudding will be in the policies which are enacted

– and we don't have time to get it wrong.'

However, Sarah-Jane Laing, chief executive of Scottish Land and Estates, said: 'For some time there has been significant concern amongst rural communities and businesses that votes on policies of huge significance to rural Scotland were being traded in return for support on high-profile issues such as the annual budget. We wait to see how the coalition announcement will impact that perception.'

She said there would be 'unease' if the new coalition took an ideological approach rather than one that brought people together, adding they wanted to work with government.

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## Glenfinnan Community Council August meeting

Glenfinnan Community Council held its monthly meeting for August at the beginning of last month and as usual this was via Zoom.

Willina Colman's resigned as chairperson due to personal commitments and involvement with the local SCIO. However, she will remain a member of the community council. Current vice-chairperson Catriona Hunter was approved to take over.

A road sign denoting restricted turning/unsuitable for motorhomes is to be erected at the junction of the Slatach Road. A second sign, may go to the passing place at the bottom of the back track.

Mark Embling from Loch Shiel Jetties Trust has been in dialogue with the owners of the Sileas cruise boat and the boat is no longer being moored overnight at the pier.

Ally Entwistle has spoken with the landowners of the shore path and Loch Shiel Cruises. The villagers can restore and improve the path. Loch Shiel Cruises are keen to help.

Hege Hernaes thanked

Highland councillor Denis Rixson for his help with environmental health and the retention tanks on the steam train. West Coast Railways has agreed to close all but one of the toilets when the train is in Glenfinnan Station. Unfortunately, the toilet being left open deposits at the crossing. Members were told the emptying of the retention tanks is the responsibility of Network Rail.

New plans for the NTS Glenfinnan visitor centre – A virtual meeting between the NTS and the Glenfinnan community is to be arranged in the autumn to discover what the community needs from the NTS.

Police Report: There have been eight recorded incidents in the Glenfinnan area since the last meeting. The incidents of note are four road traffic collisions (no serious injury); two incidents involving loss of contact with hillwalkers (both traced safe and well).

Glenfinnan Community Facilities SCIO update from Ingrid Henderson:

The car park and bridge are

still working well to alleviate congestion. The SCIO has enlisted the help of volunteers for busier times so thanks to all who have offered.

The council AGM will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7pm. Venue to be decided.

National Trust for Scotland (NTS) – Emily Bryce has been in contact with Police Scotland and Highland Council requesting No Parking Cones to try to stop cars being parked outside the NTS Centre due to the heavy demand (school holidays) on both car parks.

Callop Bridge and boardwalk closure at short notice – an email from the community council was sent asking if a temporary fix could be carried out to enable everything to remain open during the height of the tourist season but the problems are too great for a temporary fix. It has been suggested the community, as users of the bridge and walk, may wish to contribute to the repairs.

For the full community council report see [www.lochaber-times.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-times.co.uk)

# Raasay ferry to be removed no more

## MSP secures CalMac assurance on emergency cover use

The MV Hallaig will no longer be used as emergency cover for the Lochaline to Fishnish ferry after the area's MSP Kate Forbes secured a fresh commitment from CalMac for Isle of Raasay residents.

The MV Hallaig had often been withdrawn from the Sconser route at short notice, leaving islanders with the much smaller MV Loch Linnhe struggling to keep up with demand – often creating lengthy queues and waiting times in the process due to insufficient capacity.

At Ms Forbes' request, CalMac will also no longer use the MV Loch Linnhe – which cannot carry more than 10 vehicles per crossing – as relief when the MV Hallaig is in for its annual refit, but instead will use the MV Loch Tarbert or MV Loch Bhrusda – both of which can carry at least 18 vehicles.

Welcoming the news, Anne Gillies from Raasay Community Council said: 'For many years Raasay's ferry Hallaig was taken to relieve the Lochaline – Fishnish ferry when it went for its annual overhaul.



MSP Kate Forbes.

'This caused real problems on Raasay because it was replaced by the Loch Linnhe – little more than a third of the size of the Hallaig – which meant you could not rely on getting on or off the island when you wanted. Island businesses also faced delays in getting supplies across.

'We thought on several occasions that meetings with CalMac staff had addressed this issue, but time and again the Hallaig

sailed off for Mull. At long last, we have a written assurance from CalMac's managing director that Hallaig will no longer be routinely required to cover the MV Lochinvar and also that Hallaig should be replaced by a ferry capable of taking 18 cars.

'We see this as a major step forward and are grateful to Kate for her efforts in securing this assurance.'

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'I am very pleased that CalMac agree the MV Hallaig should be serving Raasay rather than being designated as the 'relief vessel' for the Lochaline to Mull run. This has been a considerable cause of concern for residents and businesses on the island.

'I am also pleased that when the MV Hallaig goes in for its annual refit, either the Loch Tarbert or the Bhrusda will serve as the temporary replacement. There are a lot of exciting developments on Raasay, and I am pleased that CalMac has recognised the island's growing economic profile.'

## Parcel surcharge costs isles £2.5m

New research has revealed that the average cost in areas of Scotland commonly hit by parcel delivery surcharges is estimated to be a staggering £44.8m every year.

The Western Isles is the sixth most affected area, making up £2,406,000 of the total costs to consumers.

SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan said: 'The fact that some national couriers and retailers still administer surcharges for deliveries to certain areas of Scotland, including the Western Isles, absolutely cannot be justified.

'Why should someone in the Western Isles have to pay so much more for the same product than someone in the Central Belt, or in the south of England?

'The fact that this issue has yet to be resolved speaks volumes about the priorities of the Government in

Westminster and its lack of regard for people who live in rural areas. I would like to call on the UK Government to finally pass legislation to outlaw this financial discrimination and put an end to this postcode lottery.'

The Federation of Small Businesses' Highlands and Islands development manager David Richardson said: 'While it is unacceptable for firms to seek to profiteer from people in rural communities who have no option but to order goods online, we must recognise that greater distances and lower volumes mean that it is more expensive for carriers to deliver to these locations.

'Increased delivery costs must be borne by someone, and for many smaller businesses the only options are to pass them on to consumers or not to deliver to some parts of the country at all.'

## View from the Edge - Cath MacDonald

Last week I attended an 'in-person' meeting of a local committee, the first in a long time as previous meetings had been on Zoom.

The meeting was held in the Community Hall in Tarbert and we were pleased to get the use of a board room where we could sit around a large table and not too distant from each other.

Members arrived with their face masks but these were soon dispensed with.

This was after all past August 9, or Freedom Day as it came to be known in some parts of the country.

The need for housing to allow young people to remain on the islands is an important part of discussions at our meetings.

It is emphasised that a greater part of the money available for housing should be spent in rural areas and not all spent around Stornoway, or other smaller town centres.

Another problem discussed was finding staff for hospitality businesses for work over the summer season, and also finding accommodation for them.

In my student days it was usual for students to spend part of their summer holidays taking on a job in hotels.

My first holiday job as a student was in a hotel where I assisted as a waitress and



helped with other duties.

In those days the staff were usually mostly local. Nowadays many of the local women who would usually fill these vacancies are employed elsewhere, or may have set up businesses of their own in tourism, craftwork or other things.

With so many tourists now visiting the islands it was agreed at the meeting that there was a need for more infrastructure such as toilets and bins.

The idea that parking charges, with any proceeds from this going towards some funding for infrastructure, was discussed.

However, it was agreed locally that much consideration needed to be made around parking charges if it were to go ahead.

There has also been much discussion about transport and ferries. Instead of the

triangular route by which CalMac serves Harris and North Uist it was felt that there should be two ferries - one for Uist and one for Harris.

A letter was sent by the Harris Transport Forum to the transport minister Graeme Dey and he is coming to Stornoway to meet with the council.

This summer, as well as the increase in bookings, there have been cancellations due to the fact that ferries had to reduce the numbers they could bring due to Covid regulations.

Some who had booked accommodation were later disappointed to find they were unable to get a ferry booking at the time they had planned to come to the islands.

On our campsite I found that many who arrived had travelled from Oban to Lochboisdale or Barra and then travelled up through the Uists to Harris and Lewis.

The weather was good with sunny days to the end of August, and despite our local concerns re infrastructure, ferries, etc, our visitors were thoroughly enjoying their time on the isles.

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# Mapping climate change at Liniclate Library

An exciting public mapping project has been launched at Liniclate Library as part of a wider Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon initiative.

The mapping project aims to reach as many residents in Uist and Benbecula as possible to find out what climate change means to people in the area; what concerns they have and what areas, homes and other local places might be most at risk.

Climate change is an issue which affects everyone in the Outer Hebrides. However, there are steps all communities, organisations and individuals can take to mitigate carbon emissions and adapt to impacts in ways that strengthen the community.

Islanders have a strong history of working with and adjusting to environmental changes. This mapping project provides a space for people to share their knowledge and experience of environmental changes and build a database which communities can use to plan for climate change.

David Maclennan, chair-



Connie Dawson from the Climate Beacons partnership leading a mapping workshop at Carinish Hall, North Uist.

man of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership Climate Change Group, explained: 'The evidence that our climate is changing is strong - we can expect to see warmer, drier summers, heavier rainfall events, more storms and rising sea levels.'

'We have to make plans to adapt to our changing climate and this project gives people a great opportunity to influence our approach.'

The mapping project is one

of the first community engagement pieces to be launched for the newly-formed Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon.

The Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon is a partnership between multiple creative, cultural and public organisations across the Outer Hebrides, including the library service, An Lanntair, Taigh Chearsabhaigh, Ceòlas and the Community Planning Partnership's Climate Change Working Group.

The partnership is collabo-

rating on thought-provoking events and exhibitions to explore climate change and aim to inspire positive action in the lead up to and legacy from the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

Having hosted a series of online and in-person mapping workshops in North Uist in July and August, the Outer Hebrides Climate Beacon partnership is now offering communities the opportunity to map their histories and ex-

perience at in Liniclate Library.

The mapping project will then be extended to other libraries in the Outer Hebrides, including the mobile library service. People are also encouraged to email their contributions on environmental change if they are unable to reach a library.

Eilidh Maclean, library development officer for Liniclate Library, added: 'We are really excited to be the first library in the Outer Hebrides to host the mapping engagement project. 'People have such a deep

knowledge of the land and will be aware of the changes climate change has already brought to the area.

'Mapping these will have huge benefit for all of us going forward, and the project will also give people, young and old, the opportunity to share their concerns about potential impacts, which will help us prepare and adapt for the future.'

The mapping project is available for all at Liniclate Library until the end of this month, while the project was due to be launched via the mobile library service in Uist at the start of the month.

Mapping materials are available in Gaelic and English, along with written and video instructions. Liniclate Library is currently open to the public on Tuesdays from 4pm to 7pm, Fridays from 2.30pm to 6pm and Saturdays, from 10am to 1pm.

Opening hours are subject to change so please contact the library for details at 01870 603691 or lionacleitlibrary@cne-siar.gov.uk.

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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Aid worker's father joins call to welcome Afghan refugees

While the world watches in horror at the events unfolding in Afghanistan, we can only imagine what the Norgove family must be feeling.

Lewis aid worker Linda Norgove died during a rescue attempt more than 10 years ago after she was kidnapped by the Taliban while working in Afghanistan. Since then, the charity set up by her parents following her death has been helping women and children affected by the war in Afghanistan.

It has so far raised more than £2 million to fund more than 175 grassroots projects and currently provides scholarships to 170 women studying at colleges and universities in Afghanistan. The foundation hopes it can arrange for 20 of its medical students to come to the UK to continue their studies and all five of Scotland's medical schools have agreed to help make this happen.

Several local authorities in Scotland have started to welcome Afghan refugees and we hope that before too long Lochaber and the Western Isles can also help welcome families who have had to flee their homes.

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.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



## Mull ferry disgrace

The decision by CMAL not to proceed with the purchase of the vessel currently nearing completion identified by the Mull and Iona Ferry committee (MIFC) is not only unfortunate but disgraceful.

The so-called explanations given in the excellent coverage by the Oban Times were both facile and platitudinous and did not even have a ring of truth. The contempt for the efforts of MIFC and others was only exceeded by the extraordinary claim that they knew best and suggesting that their expertise exceeded that of Strathclyde Naval Architecture Department, whose report concluded that the vessel was eminently suitable, could be made to comply with MCA regulations with ease and for a modest sum, and was, indeed, a far more safe vessel than any in the CMAL fleet.

The arrogance is breathtaking. This from an organisation condemned by a parliamentary report last year as lacking competence and, indeed, relevance; that has presided over the FMEL contract fiasco; one that intends, apparently, to continue with a policy of ever larger mono hull ferries contrary to the requests of islanders, an organisation which, though it almost chartered Pentalina, ignores the success of Pentland Ferries with Pentalina and, more recently, Alfred, vessels, fully compliant with our regulations and almost identical to that sourced by MIFC.

Ironically, as Roy Pedersen has pointed out, CMAL does not suffer from underfunding, the problem is what they do with our money. They will intend to replace the Isle of Mull with an even larger vessel at a cost of some four or five times the cost of the MIFC-sourced vessel and the lead time will be of the order of five years.

The methods used by CMAL, as reported in the Oban Times, to make it impossible for the purchase to go ahead indicate that there was never a serious commitment to facilitate this purchase. That Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government continue to treat CMAL with any credibility beggars belief given their track record and it appears that they will continue to spend our money with profligacy.

The parliamentary enquiry, which ran to 129 pages has, sadly, been a waste of time and effort on the part of the 11 parliamentarians. What sort of government, whose record on procurement has been abysmal, is this where they commission an enquiry and kick it into the long grass as Mr Wheelhouse said he will do within days of the release. There are no grounds for optimism.

J Patrick Maclean, Oban.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



Gu cinnteach tha dreach an fhoghair air tighinn air an dùthaich, agus ged a bhios sinn an dòchas ri beagan aimsire mhath air a' bhliadhna fhathast tha sinn gu nàdarra dualach a bhith a' tòiseachadh ri smaoinichadh romhainn gu geamhradh. Ged nach eil e 's dòcha cho fìor èiginneach ann am beatha a' mhòr-shluagh an-diugh, beagan ghinealaichean air ais bha gleidheadh stòras beathachaidh a' gheamhradh, dha daoine agus ainmhidhean, deatamach da-riribh agus na phrìomh amas ro dheireadh an fhoghair. 'S cinnteach gur e sin a dh'fhàg seirbheisean taingeachd foghair cho cudromach ann am beatha choimhearsnachdan cuideachd, is daoine a' toirt buidheachas airson buannachd an cuid saothrach fhèin agus an toradh a bh' aca ma seach airson làithean dorcha a' gheamhradh. Ged nach robh am facal dealbhachadh ga chleachdadh aca mar a th' againn air lethid seo an-diugh bha plana-beatha aig daoine gun teagamh sam bith, plana a bh' air fàs à eòlas agus cruadal bith-beò far an robh sluagh ann am bochdainn bhorb leantainneach. Cha robh aca ach mar a ghlacadh iad air muir a bha bitheanta cunnartach, agus mar a bhuaicheadh iad air criomagan talmhainn corrach air tìr. Bha beatha làitheil na dleastanas dhòrainneach, ach bha tuigse ann gun dèanadh lionmhorachd agus earbsa an càch a chèile mar chleachdadh stèidhichte.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, 's cinnteach, an-diugh tha gluasadan an t-saoghail mhalairteach sa bhithheantas air an dealbh bliadhnaichean ro-

làimh, le tuairmse air cosgaisean agus cuimse air na buannachdan ionmhais as treasa a ghabhas. Agus ged a tha e àbhaisteach a bhith a' faicinn beagan airgid dìon ga chumail ma seach air eagal 's nach tachair cùisean mar a bha dùil is dòchas, feumar aideachadh gum bheil feallsanachd dealbhachaidh air a stèidheachadh air amasan soirbheachaidh, seach call. Saoilidh mi gum bheil sin nas fhìora buileach a thaobh ionnsaighean cogaidh, far nach eil e coltach gun tèid armachd sam bith an sàs le dùil nach buannaich iad. Chan eil sin ge-tà na leisgeul iomchaidh sam bith dha mar a tha air tachairt aig port-adhair Chabul is miltean de luchd-taice nan dùthchannan siar a bha an sàs an Afganastan fad chòrr air fichead bliadhna gan trèigsinn 's an iomairt armaichte sin caillte. Ciamar as urrainn dhuinne dòrainn nan daoine sin a thuigsinn is iad fhèin 's an luchd-gaoil an cunnart am beatha fo amasan borb dioghaltas an Taliban, agus ciamar as urrainn dha ceannardan poiliteigeach agus airm nan dùthchannan sin an co-dhùnaidhean agus ghnìomhan a dhìon? Bhiodh abairt aig mo sheann neach-teagaisg Calum MacLeòid, ann an Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, nach biodh seanailear math a' teicheadh bho bhàr uair sam bith, gur ann a bhiodh e a' tionndadh agus a' caismeachd air adhart!

Ach a' cur eirmseachd an dàrna taobh, tha fhios gum bheil còir aig teisteanas mhoralta a bhith na bhunait air poiliteigs agus obair-airm dhùthaich shìobhalta sam bith, agus far nach eil sin a' tachairt nach saoil sibh gum bheil fèin-spèis mhòr-shluagh na dùthcha sin air a shuarachadh!

## Money could be better spent

After reading Martin Laing's At Random in last week's edition I have to agree with him; why spend £250,000 on a street that's only a few hundred yards long when other parts of Argyll could do with a share of that money.

Take a look at Sandy Neil's article Mull Fiddle Week, the photographs of all of these fantastic musicians playing in Tobermory Main Street in front of the town clock - both the street and the clock could do with a bit of a refurbishment, also the clock is running about four hours fast all summer.

John Mackay, by email.

## MPAs need to be enforced

Following a report by the US-based, oceanic conservation group Oceana, which criticised government inaction on protecting Scotland's Marine Protected Areas, I have just read a report from Greenpeace and was shocked to see that an industrial fishing vessel was again spotted in a marine protected area.

These areas are specifically designated to let nature recover and thrive. How can this possibly be legal?

We are supposed to be world leaders in this area and our government needs to act.

Janet Fox, Kilbirnie.



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## LOCHABER

### Probus Club meetings moved to rural complex centre

Lochaber Probus Club has moved to a new location, with meetings now being held at the Lochaber Rural Complex Education Centre.



Members meet for tea and coffee - with the important home-made shortbread - followed by a guest speaker then lunch of soup and sandwiches.

Probus Clubs are associations of retired and semi-retired professional and business people which provide opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, make new friends and maintain and expand their interests. It is not a fund-raising organisation.

The next meeting of the club will be on Friday September 17 at 12.30pm at Lochaber Rural Education Centre in Torlundy. The guest speaker will be Clare Reynolds on the subject of 'Music Therapy'.

For more information visit the club's Facebook page - Lochaber Probus Club - or email the secretary David Anderson at david@mirlos.co.uk.

## HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

### Slight fall in crime in Highlands and Islands

Figures just published show a slight decrease in the number of recorded crimes across the Highland and Islands Division for the first quarter of 2021-22.

Continuing with the trend of being one of the safest areas to live in Scotland, the Highland and Islands Division has recorded a reduction across all crime groups compared to the same period last year.

Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett said: 'The pandemic has changed the policing needs of our communities and despite recording reductions in recorded crime, we are not complacent and acknowledge that domestic abuse and sexual crimes remain under-reported.'

'We acknowledge the home is not always a

### Lochaber MP visits Glasgow food bank

Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford joined SNP colleagues Alison Thewliss MP, David Linden MP and Neil Gray MSP at Glasgow food bank on Thursday to highlight the urgent need for the £20 Universal Credit uplift to be made permanent.

Part of a day of action aimed at stopping cuts to Universal Credit - set to take effect at the same time as furlough ends and energy prices rise - the visit highlighted the devastating impact this cut will have on families across Scotland who are already struggling.

The uplift was introduced by the UK Government to help alleviate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

Calling on Chancellor Rishi Sunak to overturn plans for the cut and extend it to legacy benefits, the SNP's Westminster Leader commented: 'The UK Government must do the right thing. People are struggling.'

'They need help, not another blow to their finances.'

**Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford, left, visited the food bank in Glasgow with fellow politicians on Thursday.**



safe place for everyone and we continue to work alongside our colleagues in national specialist units and our partners to detect cases of domestic abuse, violence, sexual crimes and provide support to victims and their families.

'Local policing continues to be supported by specialist and national teams which are delivering a service to our communities.'

'This can be seen in the work road policing officers are delivering to improve road safety by carrying out operational activity to tackle inappropriate speeds on our roads as well as drink and drug driving.'

'We are also seeing results thanks to the work conducted by teams including the National Child Abuse Unit, the Domestic Abuse Task Force and the Major Investigations Team.'

'We also continue to focus on tackling the harm of controlled drugs and have conducted

a number of operations to target the supply of drugs in our communities. Enforcement alone is not the answer and we are working closely with our partners to signpost vulnerable people towards support services.'

The performance report was due to be presented at the Scottish Police Authority Policing Performance Committee yesterday (Wednesday).

## NEVIS

### Nevis Hillwalking Club sets sights on Beinn Sgulaird

Members of Nevis Hill Walking Club plan to tackle the 937m-high munro Beinn Sgulaird - 'hat-shaped hill' on Saturday.

Beinn Sgulaird rises from the sea at the head of Loch Creran between Glen Creran and Glen Etive. The mountain takes the form of a high-level undulating ridge which runs southwest to northeast with splendid views of coast and hills intertwined in this fascinating landscape. There are several return routes affecting the total distance of the walk from 13km to 19km; 1,050m ascent.

For more detail of the routes, visit the website [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NevisHillwalkingClub/](https://www.facebook.com/NevisHillwalkingClub/)

Please note walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions.

If you are a keen hill walker, want to know more about the club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact it at [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club)



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# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



I would like to begin this week's column by wishing a slightly belated happy 80th birthday to the one and only Donald Macrae!

Donald, pictured right, is a humble guy but there is no doubt he is a legend of the Gaelic music scene in Glasgow and further afield. Brought up on a croft in Habost, Lewis, Donald moved to Glasgow in 1961 and became absolutely central to the legacy of places such as The Highlanders Institute and The Park Bar.

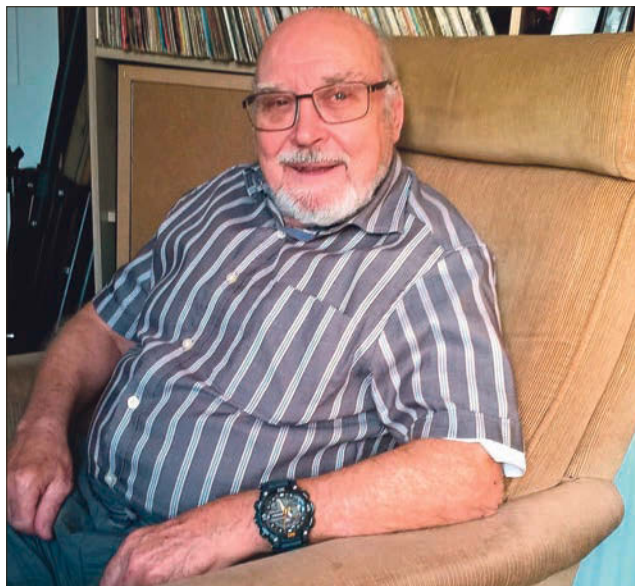
Perhaps predictably, it was in the Park Bar where I first met and heard him and I am always struck by how strong his voice still is and how similar it sounds to his records recorded all those years ago. His prominence on the special album released in 2017 to celebrate 50 years of music in the Park Bar was entirely justified considering his unquantifiable influence on the place over half a century.

I was pleased to hear he was doing fine over lockdown when he kindly helped me source lyrics for one of his songs I was singing for a Take The Floor broadcast.

If you're reading this Donald, I look forward to catching up for a dram, and perhaps a song, next time we both happen to be in the Park. Slàinte!

Talking about live singing, what a thrill it was to get out on the road with Tide Lines last week for a tour that has been postponed three times since its original date back in May 2020.

I know what people say about Highland time keeping but an album tour beginning 15



months after the album release has to be a new record!

Our opening gig was in Glasgow, at the famous King Tut's Wah Wah Hut on St Vincent Street. This was not originally intended as part of the tour (it was a standalone gig for people who had pre-ordered the album), so it is actually our first of two Glasgow gigs in the coming weeks, the second being Kelvingrove Bandstand on October 8.

While an autumn evening in Kelvingrove has the potential to be chilly, King Tut's was quite the opposite. It was one of the hottest days of the year and Covid regulations prohibit an air-conditioner that recycles air around the venue!

Despite the heat, it was a joy to be back and to play on such an iconic stage that has been graced by names such as Coldplay, the Killers,

and Radiohead. It was also the venue where Oasis were 'discovered'. These bands obviously all went on to become legendary and, if they all stick in, they might even make it to Donald Macrae's level one of these days!

## 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 Barrowlands
- October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands
- October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand
- October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands

# Oban hosts world premiere of the Neanderthal Ballad

Oban Music Society welcomes back pianist Clare Hammond to St John's Cathedral on Saturday September 4 at 7pm.

She will be performing work by unjustly neglected woman composers and the world premiere of the 'Neanderthal Ballad' inspired by ancient cave paintings.

Clare's programme begins with works by Helene de Montgeroult (1764-1836), the first woman professor at the new Paris Conservatoire in 1795, followed by pieces by Astor Piazzola (1921-1992), an Argentine composer and bandoneon. Brahms' Six Piano pieces end the first half.

After the interval comes a completely new work called The Neanderthal Ballads, which Clare commissioned from Richard Barnard for spring 2020. The music is inspired by early cave paintings and exposes newly-discovered connections between early humans and their human-like relatives.

The second half also features The Bells Suite by American composer William Grant Still Junior



Clare Hammond.

(1895-1978) and Variations on a Polish Theme by the most celebrated Polish composer of the early 20th century, Karol Maciej Szymanowski (1882-1937).

Unfortunately continuing pandemic restrictions prevent the serving of refreshments during the interval. Socially distanced seating will be available for those who require it.

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

**FRI 3TH - THUR 9TH SEPTEMBER**



**FRIDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol 10:30am. Highlands From The Air 11am.  
 Free Guy 12:15pm + 7:50pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm. The Courier 2:50pm. Our Ladies 5:25pm.

**SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol 10:30am + 3pm. Highlands From The Air 11am.  
 The Courier 12:15pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm. Our Ladies 5:25pm. Free Guy 7:50pm.

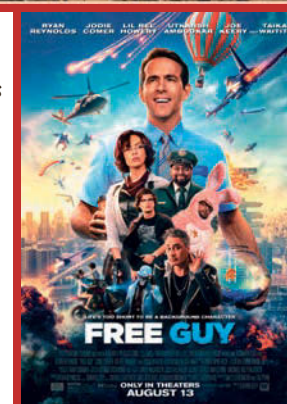
**SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol 10:30am + 3pm. Highlands From The Air 11am.  
 The Courier 12:15pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm. Our Ladies 5:25pm. Free Guy 7:50pm.

**MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Limbo 10:30am. The Courier *Bairns at the Box Office: 11am.*  
 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.  
 Our Ladies 1:40pm. Jungle Cruise 4:45pm. Free Guy 7:50pm.

**TUESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Highlands From The Air 12:30pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm. Free Guy 1:45pm. Our Ladies 4:30pm.  
 Mick Fleetwood & Friends 7pm.

**WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol 10:30am. Highlands From The Air 11am. The Courier 12:15pm.  
 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.  
 Free Guy 2:50pm + 7:30pm. Our Ladies 5:25pm.

**THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol 10:30am. Highlands From The Air 11am. Limbo 12:15pm.  
 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 1pm, 4:15pm + 7:30pm.  
 The Courier 2:50pm. Free Guy 5:25pm. Our Ladies 8pm.



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[WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK](http://WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK)



LT

# Shinty round up

Kinlochshiel reached the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final for the first time following the shinty action on Saturday August 28.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - Semi Final Kinlochshiel 2 Kyles Athletic 0

Kinlochshiel are through to the Camanachd Cup Final for the first time in their 63-year history after beating Kyles Athletic 2-0 in their 4.10pm throw-up at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Kinlochshiel had been missing defenders Conor Cormack, David Falconer and Mark MacDonald in recent weeks but Cormack and Falconer were able to start with MacDonald taking a place on the bench.

Kyles Athletic defender George Thomson was still out through injury but Neil MacVicar and Conor Kennedy, who both sustained injuries in the previous weekend's Artemis Macaulay Final defeat to Kingussie, were fit to start.

The pitch looked in great condition and it was a warm afternoon in complete contrast to the rain endured by Oban Camanachd and Lovat at the same venue the previous Saturday.

After two Saturdays without a match, Kinlochshiel made a sluggish start and their keeper Josh Grant twice saved well from low Colin MacDonald efforts.

Kinlochshiel settled though and Jordan Fraser dropped a teasing ball in on goal but keeper John Whyte dealt well with the bouncing ball, slapping it away for a corner. Whyte then saved with his feet to thwart Keith MacRae before sweeping the ball away for another corner and the opening 15 minutes remained goal-less.

Kyles defender Andrew King was spoken too by referee Ross Brown as the contest got feisty.

Roddy MacDonald was pulled back from the forward line to take over from his brother Innes MacDonald at centre in an attempt to turn the tie the Tighnabruaich

men's way.

But Kinlochshiel were beginning to dominate and John MacRae played a one-two with Jordan Fraser before pushing the ball into the side netting from the right of the 'D'.

Kinlochshiel continued to press and Jordan Fraser took a ball from Duncan 'DA' MacRae before running forward and firing just over the bar.

Kyles finished the half on the front foot and threatened when Colin Macdonald took the ball to the right of the 'D' before crashing a great shot off the crossbar with the keeper helpless.

Josh Grant then had to spread himself to keep out Conor Kennedy's low shot from the left, the keeper saving with his stick. Ross Macrae just couldn't find the net from the rebound and the first half finished goal-less.

Kinlochshiel replaced an injured Duncan 'WD' MacRae with Jonny Macaskill at half-time.

Kinlochshiel created the first chance of the second half when Jordan Fraser took down a cross-field ball from Duncan Matheson and forced a John Whyte save with feet before the goalie cleared the ball wide. Meantime, an already stretched Kyles were troubled when defender Callum Millar went down with cramp whilst Scott MacDonald started to feel the effects of his hand injury. Innes MacDonald needed treatment soon after.

Kyles attacks were becoming more rare although Josh Grant had to save low from Ross Macrae's shot. The keeper's clearance deflected off Colin MacDonald but, luckily for Kinlochshiel, the ball went wide to safety.

Kinlochshiel forced a couple of corners and took the lead on 58 minutes.

Jonny MacAskill's corner from the right dropped for John MacRae whose shot was blocked by Callum Millar but when the rebound came back to MacRae in a central position, he pushed a short pass to his brother Keith MacRae and

the Kinlochshiel skipper fired a low shot into the net to break the deadlock.

Kyles were always a threat and with Colin MacDonald occupying two Kinlochshiel defenders, Innes MacDonald spurned a great chance when he nipped in to take the ball to his left but sent a drive over the bar with David Falconer challenging.

Kinlochshiel went back on the attack and Ali Nixon's strike from wide on right went past the goal.

Scott MacDonald went down again and had to succumb to his hand injury with Rupert Williamson coming on and Roddy MacDonald dropping back into defence where he shadowed Keith MacRae.

Andrew King was spoken too again, this time after catching Keith MacRae on the back of the legs.

John MacRae held off Neil MacVicar to win possession but shot wide of goal, whilst at the other end, Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae needed treatment after being caught by Colin MacDonald's swing but he limped back into action.

Kinlochshiel claimed for a penalty when the ball came off John Whyte's foot as he missed a swing in an attempt to clear the ball but the referee waved away their claims.

Andrew King and Ali Nixon were next to require treatment.

As the tie moved into the final 10 minutes, Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant twice saved his side as he showed great reflexes to keep out Colin MacDonald's shot which deflected off Conor Cormack but Grant, who was moving to his right, managed to change direction as he stretched left to keep the ball out with his stick. Then Grant dived along the ground to palm away a spinning ball from Conor Kennedy.

Kinlochshiel's Ali Nixon shot wide and with his calf injury worsening, under 17 player Archie MacRae came on in his place.

Kyles pushed Roddy MacDonald forward again in an attempt to take the tie to extra time.

Cairn Limbert came on for a limping Thomas Whyte as 90 minutes approached.

Referee Ross Brown signalled eight minutes of stoppage time and Kyles now pushed almost everyone forward including full back Callum Millar, but they couldn't breach the Kinlochshiel back line.

This meant the Tighnabruaich men were vulnerable to a counter-attack

and following a stray ball in midfield, Jordan Fraser found Archie MacRae whose back-hand shot was saved but John Whyte couldn't clear the ball and Jordan Fraser nipped in and kept his balance, taking the ball by the keeper as he cut in from the right before knocking it over the line to make it 2-0.

Archie MacRae could have added a third after a great John MacRae run but two goals were enough as Kinlochshiel enjoyed the late pressure and Kyles looked spent.

Scotland head coach Garry Reid's choice as man of the match was Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant who made good stops at important times. His team mate Jordan Fraser must have run him close.

Kinlochshiel now await the outcome of this Saturday's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi final between Kingussie and Lovat at an Aird.

## Advance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-final Skye Camanachd P Inveraray P

The semi-final between Skye Camanachd and Inveraray at Spean Bridge was postponed because of Covid restrictions as Skye suspended all shinty for a week.

## Beaulieu P Bute P

The tie between Beaulieu and Bute was also postponed because of Covid restrictions which affected the islanders.

The tie has been re-arranged for this Saturday at the Jubilee Park with a 3pm throw-up. Skye Camanachd and Inveraray meet in the other semi-final at the same venue with a noon throw-up.

## cottages.com MacTavish Cup first round

### Lovat 2 Glenurquhart 3

Glenurquhart beat Lovat 3-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg to take their place in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup quarter-finals.

Glenurquhart got off to a great start with David MacLennan scoring in the opening minute. It remained that way until 20 minutes from time when Connor Golabek added a second.

Greg Matheson pulled a goal back from the penalty spot three minutes later but John Barr's effort on 76 minutes made it 3-1.

Greg Matheson's second on 87 minutes sent up a tense end to the tie, but Glenurquhart stayed in front and now play Fort William in the quarter-finals with the prize a meeting with Kingussie in the semi-finals of the competition.



Fort William v Lochaber: Astie Cameron in a tackle with Findlay MacDonald. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Mowi Senior League A Fort William 2 Lochaber 1

Fort William enjoyed a 2-1 derby win over Lochaber in a thrilling match at An Aird.

Fort William were 4-0 winners when the sides met at Spean earlier in the season but they were missing a number of players for this game. Jay MacLeod, Cameron Grant and Sean Cruickshank all played, with the latter making his first appearance in more than two years.

Referee Calum Girvan signalled a minute's silence ahead of throw-up as those present remembered much-respected Fort William Chieftain Bobby MacLeod who died the previous week.

There was early action at both ends before Grant Disher found space on the left and his low, hard shot from a tight angle went into the far corner of the net to give the hosts the lead on 10 minutes.

Lochaber showed their mettle, however, as Jack Dignan continued his scoring spree to level from in front of the goals a couple of minutes later.

Lewis Morrison, who suffered a knock moments earlier, put Fort William back in front on 20 minutes. The goal came out of nowhere as Morrison's 25-yard shot from out on the right went just inside the post.

Referee Calum Girvan awarded the visitors a penalty for a 'kick' with Fort William claiming there was an offside ahead of the infringement. Gregor Cameron stepped up and hit the ball well enough but Paul MacKay made a brilliant save with the ball cannoning back off his stick to the extent it almost went out for a hit-in.

If that save was top drawer, Lochaber keeper Callum MacDonald bettered it. MacDonald's initial save saw the ball go wide and Arran MacPhee unleashed a rocket-shot which MacDonald



Fort's Ruairidh Shaw and Patrick Toal reach for a high ball during Saturday's league encounter. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

palmed away to safety. Lochaber went all-out for a leveller although the final 20 minutes of the contest was more even.

Speaking after the match, Fort William co-manager Victor Smith said: 'It was a cracking derby match. The players loved it, the crowd loved it and there was plenty banter around the touchline.'

'We struggled to get a side together. I called Addie - Adam Robertson - on Friday morning to tell him we only had seven confirmed players at that point. We didn't want to disrupt the second team as they had a semi-final to play so Jay MacLeod, Cameron Grant - who was terrific at wing centre - and Sean Cruickshank dusted down their camans to play for the first time in a while. Grant Disher also came in and did well too, scoring a great goal.'

'Paul MacKay made a great save from their penalty but Callum MacDonald's stop with his hand from Arran MacPhee was even better.'



Kyles' Roddy Macdonald breaks through the Kinlochshiel lines. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

'We have another derby to look forward to this Saturday against Kilmallie.'

**Mowi Senior League B  
Newtonmore 5 Caberfeidh 1**  
After three Saturdays without a fixture, Newtonmore returned to the field to beat Caberfeidh 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up at the Eilan.

Newtonmore manager Orsten Gardner was unavailable so Michael Russell looked after the side.

Caberfeidh have been boosted by Blair Morrison's return to their defence after a nasty hand injury.

Drew MacDonald put Newtonmore ahead on 40 minutes with the only goal of the first half.

Iain Robinson made it 2-0 on 52 minutes with the goal of the game. Robinson and Drew MacDonald linked up really well in the build-up before Robinson finished.

Kevin Bartlett pulled a goal back on 67 minutes, only for substitute Max Campbell to make it 3-1 on 74 minutes.

Referee Willie MacDonald spotted an off-the-ball incident between Max Campbell and Connor MacGregor with 10 minutes remaining and sent both players off.

There were no complaints from either camp.

Late goals from Declan Brannan and Drew MacDonald put the gloss on the win.

The final scoreline was harsh on Caberfeidh who were foiled on several occasions by fine Kenny Ross saves.

**Beaully P Kingussie P**  
The clash between Beaully and Kingussie at Braeview Park was called off because of Covid restrictions.

**Strathdearn Cup semi-finals  
Newtonmore 4  
Fort William 3**

The Newtonmore colts edged out the Fort William colts 4-3 in their noon throw-up at the Eilan.

Mark Fraser got Fort William off to a great start with a fantastic strike from the left after two minutes.

Savio Vastano's deflected shot drew Newtonmore level on 20 minutes and Craig Macleod gave them the lead for the first time on 38 minutes.

Graham Campbell turned home Rhys Kennedy's corner from the right to make it 2-2 a couple of minutes later, only for Fraser MacKintosh to score on 44 minutes to give Newtonmore a 3-2 advantage at the interval.

Craig Macleod's second on 67 minutes made it 4-2 and Newtonmore looked set for the final.

However when referee Steven MacLachlan awarded the hosts a penalty with five minutes remaining, Mark Fraser held his nerve to score his second goal of the afternoon.

Fort keeper Stuart Disher

made some great saves during the 90 minutes. Newtonmore saw out the closing stages and their experienced forward line of Glen MacKintosh, Fraser MacKintosh and Craig Macleod made the difference.

Newtonmore will meet the winners of this Saturday's semi-final between the Lovat and Kingussie second teams in the final.

**Lovat P Kingussie P**  
The noon throw-up between the Lovat seconds and the Kingussie seconds at Balgate was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

**Mowi North League A  
Glenarry P Lochcarron P**  
Team raising difficulties forced the postponement of Glenarry's meeting with Lochcarron at Craighard.

**Skye Camanachd P  
Kinlochshiel P**

The game between Skye Camanachd's seconds and the Kinlochshiel seconds was brought forward to Thursday August 26 to allow both sets of players to attend their first team's important semi-finals on the Saturday.

However, the game was called off when Skye suspended shinty activity for a week as a Covid precaution.

**Mowi North League B  
Inverness 2 Glenurquhart 2**  
Inverness and the Glenurquhart second team drew 2-2 at the Bught Park.

After a scoreless first 45 minutes, Angus MacCallum gave Glenurquhart the lead on 50 minutes but Alan MacPherson levelled five minutes later.

Angus MacCallum's second and Ruairaidh Hughes strike, both around the hour mark, made the final score 2-2.

**Mowi North League C  
Aberdeen University P  
Beaully P**

Travel issues forced the postponement of the match between Aberdeen University and the Beaully's second team at Balgownie.

**Strathglass P  
Strathspey Camanachd P**

The meeting between the Strathglass second team and Strathspey Camanachd at Cannich was an early postponement due to Covid restrictions affecting the home club.

**Mowi Central League  
Kilmory 0 Lochaber 3**

The Lochaber second team made their first visit to MacRae Park and returned with both points after beating Kilmory 3-0.

David Langan scored on 37 minutes to give Lochaber an interval lead and added a second a couple of minutes after the re-start. Darris Riddle made it 3-0 on 66 minutes.

**Glenorchy P Kilmallie P**  
Glenorchy's game against the Kilmallie colts at Mart Park was called off because of Covid restrictions.

# Lochaber athletes race bonnie bens

It was the bonny banks and bens of Loch Lomond for Lochaber hill runners recently when they tackled the Luss Lollipop race.

Named after the shape of the race route, the event involved two steep climbs starting from Luss village car park.

The event doubled as the West District Hill Running championships with Sarah MacDonald of Lochaber Athletic Club finishing third in one hour, 31 minutes and 23 seconds (1:31:23), about four minutes behind the senior womens' winner Caroline

Marwick of Highland Hill runners. Sarah was supported by teammate Amy Disher, now regularly hill running at the highest level, who was 59th in 1:55:17, closely followed by Kathleen Cameron in 60th in 1:56:12.

In the mens' event, Simon Drysdale of Lochaber ran an outstanding race to take fourth place in 1:19:59.

Matt MacDonald is making consistent improvements and recorded 1:24:46 to take 12th place. The other Lochaber team runners were Angus Cameron in 20th (1:27:54) and Steve

MacDonald finished in 23rd place with a time of 1:30:07.

With limited events available this year, Lochaber runners continue to make the most of racing opportunities. More runners are needed in all age groups for the one-off Scottish Athletics Scottish Hill Running Championships in Dingwall at Cioch Mhor on October 9 and the popular Meall a' Bhuachaille North District Championship race near Glenmore on October 23.

There is still time to sharpen up and enter on the site SI Entries.



**The sell-out Mull Rally will run from October 7 to October 10 this year.**

winner Paul MacKinnon, John MacCrone and Calum Duffy will be flying the Mull flag against BRC stars including Rhys Yates, Matt Edwards, Osian Pryce and Sam Moffett.

'We're delighted to welcome the British Rally Championship crews up here,' said Andy Jardine. 'It's fantastic to see the Mull Rally running as a scoring round in a series which once rivalled the World Rally Championship itself in terms of popularity and competitiveness. We're making history on Mull in October. It's going to be fascinating to see how the competition plays out. Victory in this event means so much to so many people - and throwing a maximum BRC points score into the mix is only going to spice things up.'

'In six weeks we'll all be on the island and getting ready for the start of the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally. It's been two years since we last filled the island with rally fever and I can't wait to see and hear the cars back in action.'

This year's event includes 148 competitive miles across 17 stages split into three legs. Starting out of Tobermory at 7.30pm on Friday October 8, the crews go straight into the first of five stages before arriving into an overnight halt at Salen shortly after midnight.

An 11.20am re-start from Garmony is the precursor to eight more stages on Saturday afternoon, before a five-hour break and a final four-test loop ending with the classic run up Glen Aros and over the Lochs to a finish outside Tobermory just before 2am on Sunday.

Local heroes and former

## Bumper entry ready to make rally history in October

Full, complete, chockablock... three words to describe the entry for October's Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally.

Last time the Tobermory-based event ran, online entries sold out in under an hour.

In an effort to give everyone the best possible chance, Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally organisers elected to run a ballot system following a 48-hour entry window.

The result? More records, with the biggest entry in a decade as more than 200 crews put their names down for one of the 150 spaces available.

Clerk of the course Andy Jardine said: 'Once again, we're incredibly flattered to receive the kind of interest and commitment we've had from crews. We received 209 entries and then, after selecting a few, drew the majority of the remaining names out of a hat.'

The crews that didn't make the first 150 will go down on the reserves' list. On behalf of the team, I would like to say a huge thank you to the rallying community.

'The Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally has been away for a year due to Covid-19 and, in the sort of uncertain times we've been through in the last 12 months, we could take nothing for granted. We hoped people would still want to come up here for what we believe is the best rally in the world. I'm happy to say they're coming in droves.'

For the first time in its history, the Mull event will count as a round of the British Rally Championship (BRC) meaning the competition is going to be tighter than ever during the event from October 7 to October 10.

Local heroes and former

## Plockton Sailing Club brings season to a close

Plockton Sailing Club's 88th season came to an end on Saturday after good racing throughout August.

The season was brought to a close when the Visitors Cup for local boats was held on a cloudy, calm day, with five boats racing for honours.

Results: 1 Ian Hay, Seolta; 2 David Hay, Coruisk; 3 Neil Macrae, Rona.

The second race of the afternoon and the final one of the season was for the Islay Trophy/Jubilee Cup, presented by the late Dick Macrae for the club's 50th year in 1983.

Five boats entered. Results: 1 Michael Hay, Nan; 2 David Hay, Coruisk; 3 Ian Hay, Seolta.

Dick's wife Liz presented the trophy after the race. Other cups and prizes were also presented: St Kilda Cup, centreboards, David Hay; Line Honours, local boats, Ian Hay; Line Honours, centreboards, Michael Hay.

The previous weekend, five yachts battled it out for the annual Frithard Trophy. Conditions were poor - light winds and rain - with the last yachts crossing the finishing line after seven hours.

Results: 1 Brian Firth, Cracklin Rose; 2 Graham Sharp, Hatalinqua; 3 David Hay, Bragar.

## Fort William draw East Stirlingshire in Scottish Cup first round

Fort William Football Club had two fixtures postponed as a result of Covid.

A mid week tie with Nairn County and Saturday's tie with Brechin City FC were called off.

Despite no football on the pitch, manager Ashley Hollyer and his players kept an eye out for who they will be playing in the first round of the Scottish Cup.

Scotland rugby coach Gregor Townsend pulled out the names and handed Fort William a trip to face East Stirlingshire.

In the higher leagues for many a season before relegation a few years ago, East Stirlingshire will provide tough opposition and the Fort will have to give it their all to advance in the competition. But that's the magic of the cup where any team can beat another on the day.

Fort William will travel to play the lowland league team on Saturday September 18.



# Boxing Day celebrations but no Christmas trees in sight

There were Boxing Day celebrations in Lochaber last Friday - without a Christmas tree in sight.

The International Boxing Association declared August 27 as its Boxing Day to mark the anniversary of its first World Amateur Boxing Championships 47 years ago in Cuba.

Clubs across the world were invited to participate and Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club opened up its Corpach gym to everyone with an interest in finding out what it does at regular training sessions.

Junior and senior club members enjoyed demonstrating the many steps involved, from health and fitness to learning how to gradually build the experience to take them into the ring.

Coaches Aidan Donnelly and Emma Lauder guided the activities at all levels, with the members delighted to demonstrate the skills they have acquired.

For details on how to join the club, which is also a registered charity, and what sessions are available, check out their Facebook page.

## Lochaber club opens its doors to mark international anniversary



Above: First year pupil Keira Welch has been a regular at the club for many years.

Right: Members of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club had fun celebrating International Boxing Day. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



# Jags make it two from two with victory over Vale

Vale of Leven	2
SLT	6
President's League Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle (SLT) made it two from two in this season's President's League Cup with a comprehensive victory over Vale of Leven at the weekend.

After negotiating more than

45 minutes of traffic tailbacks the SLT squad, missing a few regulars with work commitments and one to Covid, took to Argyll Park on a sweltering Alexandria afternoon.

Vale had the best of the play for the first 10 minutes but soon succumbed to the fast and intricate play of the Jags in only their second game of the season. Vale scored from

a Ross Macfarlane header at a corner soon after Martin Munro had opened the scoring but by half-time SLT found themselves 4-1 to the good.

Early in the second half, the Vale had a chance to peg the Jags back after Kieran Lopez gave away what appeared to be a soft penalty, which Ross Davies converted.

From then, however, Vale

found it hard to break down a resolute Jags defence with Callum Boyd and Stevie Neil winning everything at centre half. SLT added a fifth before the referee gave Lopez a second yellow and a red after a challenge. The disappointment of losing Lopez spurred the team on to score the sixth and put the game to bed. Manager Alan Gray said: "That was an abso-

lutely fantastic performance. Some of the new players have given me a proper selection headache as we approach the Scottish Cup first round tie next week.'

The Jags travel to Springburn outfit Bengal Lancers for that fixture as the Kinlochleven outfit look to make it past the first round for the first time in their history.

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The Lochaber Times: 95p

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 2 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>2</b>	0251 2.9	<b>4</b>	0421 3.3	<b>6</b>	0532 3.7	<b>8</b>	0039 0.7
	0812 1.9		1013 1.4		1127 0.8		0634 3.9
TH	1505 3.0	SA	1628 3.5	M	1737 4.0	W	1235 0.4
	2159 2.0		2305 1.4				1842 4.2
<b>3</b>	0342 3.1	<b>5</b>	0457 3.5	<b>7</b>	0007 0.9	<b>9</b>	0111 0.7
	0923 1.7		1052 1.1		0605 3.8		0701 3.9
F	1551 3.2	SU	1703 3.7	TU	1200 0.6	TH	1311 0.4
	2235 1.7		2335 1.1	●	1811 4.1		1913 4.1

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Sunny and light winds Temperatures 12°C to 21°C.	<b>Friday</b> Sunny intervals and light winds Temperatures 12°C to 19°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 12°C to 18°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.
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### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardrishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

HIGH 19 LOW 12

4 MPH