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## Taynuilt rallies round • FULL STORY, PAGE 2.

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OT

# Long-serving train driver Ian on track for long, happy retirement

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Memories of working almost 45 years on the railways will be kept on track for retired train driver Ian 'Ivor' Campbell.

Work friends from as far away as Aberdeen and Derby gathered at the Corran Halls in Oban earlier this month to wish him a long and happy retirement.

As a keepsake of his time with British Rail and then ScotRail, colleagues presented Ian from Dalmally with a painting of the first engine he drove. The specially-commissioned painting of a Class 27 diesel engine by railway artist Vincent Sweeney now takes pride of place in his front room.

Ian, nicknamed Ivor after the engine, was working in a garage at Loch Awe after leaving school when a customer who worked on the the railway at Crianlarich mentioned they were needing more men.

He applied and got the job, starting out on the tracks. 'My first Sunday was at the Horseshoe Viaduct and it was blowing a blizzard. We couldn't see each other. I had misgivings that day but stuck it out and a year or so later started as a co-driver. I'd run the steam boiler to heat the carriages,' he said.

There have been many changes over the past decades of his long-haul – Ian was sad to see Oban's old railway station demolished, the newer trains are too plastic for his liking and not as comfortable



Ian 'Ivor' Campbell, right, receives his retirement gift from ScotRail driver team manager Mark Ball.

on the move again one foot of snow had fallen. I've seen that route in all conditions. When you pass Cruachan station about 600 to 700 yards, the sight of Loch Awe spreading out before you is one I never tired seeing, but there's too many to mention along that route – it was like going on a mini tour of Scotland every day,' added Ian, who drove the train bringing Princess Anne to open Oban's new auction mart. He also had the young princes William and Harry as passengers when they travelled to see their grandmother Frances Shand Kydd who lived on Seil.

When Covid allows, Ian hopes to get a ticket to journey on the Irish version of the Royal Scotsman tour train.

'I'll be an awful backseat driver no matter who's driving, saying brake now, take power now. I'll be doing the trip for them,' he said.

as the previous engines, he says.

The first engine he drove was the Class 27 diesel loco. 'I'm yet to see anything better for up here,' he said.

Early shifts for Ian, who drove the Glasgow-Oban route, started at 3.15am to be ready for the first train out at

5am. Despite going up and down the same tracks every day, he never got fed up of the view - watching daybreak arrive and enjoying the sunsets.

'When the snow came it was a whole new ball game. We were stopped at Crianlarich once when the points got stuck. By the time we were

## Taynuilt rallies round after fire devastates hotel

A crowdfunder raised more than £2,000 in its first hour to help a couple whose home and business was ravaged by fire as flames tore through the Taynuilt Inn.

Jordan and Lesley Foster were left with nothing but the clothes on their back after the blaze broke out in the early hours of Tuesday September 21.

The Gofundme page was set up by Christine Fox who said: 'After a fire ravaged Lesley and Jordan's business and home in the early hours of September 21, they've been left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They and their team worked tirelessly to re-open the Taynuilt Inn and it's been a fantastic asset and hub of the community. They're left this morning with nothing and if anyone could donate to

help them get clothes, food and things for the dog until they get sorted.'

One hour after setting up the online page for donations, £2,100 had been raised by 44 well-wishers. Taynuilt Post Office is also taking donations.

At the time of going to press, emergency services were still at the scene. Structural damage is believed to be so severe that firefighters were not able to enter the building. There is a possibility the building's gable-end might have to be pulled down.

Taynuilt Primary School and early learning centre shut for the day because of no water as fire crews from Oban and Inveraray tackled the blaze first reported to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at 5.07am. Elsewhere in the village, people had been left with low-pressure

or no water. It is understood all staff and guests were evacuated safely.

The village hall was opened for anyone needing shelter, the nearby Brander Lodge opened to offer teas and coffees to anyone stuck in traffic or from the hotel. A guesthouse in Dalmally also went online to offer two rooms free-of-charge for a night for anyone directly affected by the blaze.

Taynuilt community council convener David Sloss said: 'The hotel is a very important part of the village's social and economic life and we were looking forward to it being an even bigger part of it as covid restrictions ended. The worry is what will happen to it next.'

'What has been heartening is seeing how many people spontaneously came forward to offer any help they could.'



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# High school's litter brush-off frustrates Oban neighbours

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Fed-up residents are calling on Oban High School to clean up its act and stop giving them the brush-off over litter.

Wrappers, crisp bags, chip containers and discarded drink bottles and cans are just some of the regular rubbish left littering streets around the school, taking a toll on people living there.

One of them who has had enough is Alan MacDonald who lives in Glenfoot Terrace and desperately wants to start up talks between the high school and its neighbours to try and come up with a litter-busting solution.

But Mr MacDonald said his efforts so far, both in person and by phone, to get a dialogue going with head teacher Peter Bain and other senior staff have been 'fobbed off'. He told The Oban Times that one staff member curtailed one phone call and on another occasion office staff told him they had been instructed to hang up if he called again.

Mr MacDonald also said he had been told to call police on 101 instead because once off school premises, its students are not its responsibility.

'The school's response to all this has been very poor so far. It's as if they just want to



Glenfoot Terrace resident Alan MacDonald, right, and friend Billy Thompson are among people living near Oban High School wanting a clean-up campaign.

wipe their hands off it and give us the brush-off. It's turned into a vicious circle. Have I had to call them more times than I want? Yes, because they haven't got back to me. It's not me who is the nuisance here or the pest - it's those responsible for chucking rubbish about. I haven't even had the chance to discuss the issue properly with the school because my calls have been curtailed or hung up on,' he said.

'The litter problem has been going on so long now that the community living near the school are just at the point where we have had enough. We need to be able to communicate with them - have a

proper conversation. If that doesn't happen then we can't make a plan on how to work things out for the better,' added Mr MacDonald, who is blind and repeatedly experiences hazards, slipping on left-over food, wrappers and drinks on steps leading into his block and unknowingly treading chewing gum into his carpet.

His friends and his parents try to keep the way in clear for him as best they can but are frustrated having to continually clean up any mess on the ground - especially as there is a bin just yards away.

Other hot spots are near the supermarkets and Birchwood garage, Lynn Court, Nelson

rubbish only ended in back-chat. Some said they had felt 'intimidated'.

During school holidays the problem disappears but comes back when classes return, they said.

'It's not as if there aren't enough bins, they're just not using them,' said one man who suggested class monitors looking out for litter-bug peers might be one idea.

Councillor Jim Lynch said he was aware of residents' concerns and had started a dialogue with Mr Bain. He added litter was a growing problem across the town and was an issue that needed tackling, encouraging people of all ages to behave responsibly.

'Perhaps putting signs on bins to make them more visible would be one idea,' he said.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Oban High School is committed to encour-

aging responsible citizenship and educating pupils about the importance of disposing of litter appropriately.

'The school has been working in close partnership with Police Scotland and the council wardens as part of this.

'Pupils at Oban High are proud of their town and the school's eco-group, learning centre and many other civic-minded pupils and staff regularly carry out litter picks in the area.

'It is important to stress that it is the responsibility of everyone in the community to play their part to help keep Argyll and Bute beautiful. If you catch anyone in the act of littering, please call Police Scotland on 101.'

To report littering in general, you can report it at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/looking-after-your-streets](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/looking-after-your-streets)

## POLICE FILES

### Drink driving

Police were alerted to a suspected drink driver attempting to board a ferry at Oban Pier about 7am on Sunday September 19.

Officers located the driver and carried out a roadside breath test, which was allegedly failed. A woman, aged 64, was arrested and, after allegedly failing a further evidential test, was charged with the offence. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### George Street disturbance

About 1pm on Sunday September 19, at George Street, Oban, police were called to a group of males allegedly causing a disturbance.

Subsequently two men, aged 21 and 29, were arrested for a

breach of the peace. Whilst officers were dealing with this matter, two other males, both aged 20, allegedly tried to intervene, being verbally aggressive and physically obstructing officers, which led to their arrest. One of these males is also alleged to have been found in possession of a controlled substance. All four men have been charged. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Assault, abusive behaviour and vandalism

Police were called to a report of a man allegedly assaulting a woman about 9.15pm on Wednesday September 15, at Colonsay Terrace, Oban.

A man, aged 36, was arrested for assault, abusive behaviour and vandalism. The man was charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Drink driving

About 2.20am on Monday September 13, at Soroba Road, Oban, police were called to a road traffic accident following which a woman was taken to hospital. A female, aged 31, was breathalised at the hospital. As a consequence of this, an evidential blood sample has been taken and results are being awaited.

### Theft from motor vehicle

Between 9pm on Friday September 10 and 10am on Saturday September 11, at The Oyster Inn car park, Connel, someone allegedly entered a yellow Vauxhall Corsa parked overnight and stole a purse.

Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact police on telephone number 101 or, anonymously, through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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OT

# Best wee fest in the west

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Big shout for tiny Colonsay after the island successfully staged its 13th 'best wee fest in the west'.

Number 13 might be unlucky for some but this year's Colonsay Music Festival was a big hit.

Despite the Covid cloud still looming, organisers pulled out all the stops to keep the 2021 festival on the calendar.

Although there were no mandatory restrictions, ticket sales were downsized to make sure festival-goers and islanders felt as safe as possible as many headed to Scalasaig village hall to see their first live gigs in 18 months.

Organisers said they were 'grateful' to deliver the weekend that marked the end of '18 months of nothing' for so many people.

Some of the happiest faces over the weekend belonged to the musicians and artists who made the journey from as far as Donegal and Shetland to finally be in front of an audience



Enjoying the sunshine and The Pantry's pies between Sunday afternoon's concerts. Photograph: Anna Northover.

again. Normally, the festival's limit is 250. This year it was about 180 with a full house for Saturday headliners Lau.

Also billed were Radio 2 Folk Award winner Kris Drever, The Friels, Siobhan Miller, Eabhal, The Paul McKenna Band, Brìghde Chaimbeul, Robbie Grieg with Conor Markey and Colonsay singer songwriter Donald MacNeill.

Everyone was asked to wear masks during concerts and when moving around the village hall - unless they were drinking or eating.

'The number 13 might be unlucky for some but it turned out good for us,' said Keir Johnston who leads the Ceòl Cholasa committee and runs the island's only general store.

'It was a huge success with a nice vibe.

'It was so good to see many familiar festival faces and expats coming back to meet up with friends and family and to welcome some newcomers too,' added Keir.

Sponsors included CalMac, Colonsay Estate, The Pantry, Jen and Matt who loaned out

their entire bike fleet and the island brewery.

When the gigs ended and the hall doors shut, Colonsay Hotel carried on the entertainment hosting the free-for-all Festival Club sessions for the hardest rolling into the early hours.

With almost another 12 months to go until next year's weekend - September 15 to 18 - Keir and his band of organisers have already started working on the line-up and if this year's was anything to go by, it is bound to be another belter.



Lau were Saturday night's headliners at Ceòl Cholasa 2021. Photograph: Ceòl Cholasa.



Ceòl Cholasa proudly presented The Paul McKenna Band. Photograph: Ceòl Cholasa.



Left: Conor Markey takes the mic at Colonsay Music Festival 2021. Photograph: Ceòl Cholasa.



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## New Islay vessels will not be built in Scotland

Two new ferries to serve Islay and Jura will not be built in Scotland - despite the Scottish Government owning a shipyard.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has invited bids for the contract to build two new ferries for Islay from two shipyards in Turkey, one in Romania and one in Poland.

The decision to look outwith Scotland and not to Ferguson Marine in Glasgow, which the Scottish Government brought into public ownership in 2019, is controversial, with Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron saying the failure of a Scottish shipyard to secure the contract to build the two new CalMac ferries for Islay and Jura represents 'a devastating indictment' of the SNP Government's role in procuring new ferries for west coast communities.

He said: 'As this saga has gone on and on, it's impossible to think of a more comprehensive failure to serve our island communities or, indeed, the wider public interest, than this latest development. This news represents a devastating indictment of the SNP Government which has now betrayed practically

everyone interested in securing a reliable and resilient ferry service in Scotland, including those employed in the commercial shipbuilding industry.

'The priority now, of course, must be on getting the new ferries built and in service as quickly as possible - island communities deserve nothing less.'

Thirty-five organisations expressed interest at the first stage of the procurement exercise and responses were received from 11 organisations.

Each submission was assessed rigorously against technical and financial criteria. The shortlisted shipyards will now submit their technical and commercial proposals for the design and construction of the two vessels. The contract will be awarded to the winning shipyard no later than the end of March 2022.

Jim Anderson, director of vessels at CMAL, said: 'We received interest from many shipyards across the world and carried out robust assessment of their technical and financial suitability to take on this project.'

'Four shipyards scored the highest across both criteria

and have now been issued an ITT for the contract.

'This stage of the procurement process will take around six months and we hope to award the contract to the winning shipyard at the end of March 2022.'

'The ITT stage marks an important step forward in bringing a new vessel to Islay and Jura. It is one of several new vessel and harbour upgrade projects we are currently progressing to improve the resilience of ferry services for island communities.'

The new vessels will have greater vehicle capacity than the current vessels on the route and will have significantly lower energy requirement. They will be designed with a clear focus on freight, including the capability to operate a possible overnight freight service.

The Islay route is already one of the busiest services for freight on the Clyde and Hebrides network and the incoming ferries will support the island's vital economic activity.

Sufficient passenger accommodation will be designed to meet an anticipated increase in passenger demand.

# Increase in Oban ambulance staff

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban now has the highest level of ambulance staff it has ever had.

Two new members of staff were introduced recently says the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS).

The news came soon after a social media post by the service reporting that it was 'facing an unprecedented period of significant and sustained pressure' on its services as the pandemic continues.

Argyll and Bute is also to get a share of an extra 140 frontline staff - paramedics, newly qualified paramedics and technicians - due to be in place in the West of Scotland by April next year as part of SAS's Demand and Capacity programme.

The programme, supported by £20million from the Scottish Government, aims to 'better align resources to meet current and projected patient demand'.



Scottish Ambulance Service west regional director David Robertson said: 'These new resources will ensure we continue to deliver the very best patient care by boosting capacity and increasing our resilience in communities across Scotland. 'They will also complement

our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly over the last 18 months in extremely demanding circumstances.'

Mr Robertson added: 'In Oban we've recently introduced two new staff members to provide the highest level of staffing the area has ever had.' Last week The Oban Times

took a call from a frustrated member of the public complaining it had taken him two calls to persuade 999 handlers to dispatch help for an elderly woman who had fallen in Combie Street.

'The first call handler refused to send out an ambulance because I said the woman was

**Calls for help to the Scottish Ambulance Service are increasing**

still breathing and talking. I explained she had fallen, her leg was sore and we were worried to move her in case we made things worse. The handler said "sorry, we don't turn out to something like that." I was shocked. I'm a retired firefighter and I know that people can quite easily take a turn for the worse after a fall.

'I rang 999 again and the handler started with another barrage of questions, including wanting me to recite a nursery rhyme to see if she could repeat it. Eventually they did send an ambulance. I can't fault the Oban crew they were with us in minutes. I do worry that the decision whether or not to send out an ambulance is made by someone far-off just following a tick-sheet. I feel heart-sorry for the Ambulance Service, I know they are hard-pressed, but we are out in the sticks here in Oban. We need to know we can get an ambulance if we call for one.'

A spokesperson for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'Whilst we are limited in

what we can say due to patient confidentiality, we received a call at 13:09 which was subsequently upgraded and a crew arrived on scene at 13:24. The Scottish Ambulance Service is a national organisation and we have call centres in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Our call handler asked the patient to recite a line of a nursery rhyme as this is one of the key indicators of a stroke. We would like to send our best wishes to the patient and hope she is recovering well.'

Last week First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced she would be requesting the Army is drafted in to provide targeted assistance to deal with pressure points in the service - an action already taken in parts of England.

On average in Scotland, an ambulance response to a 999 call can take between 55 minutes and one hour and 10 minutes from call to completion. However, ambulances are now missing three 999 calls while located at a hospital waiting for patient handovers.

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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



I attended my first Camanachd Cup Final on Saturday and what a great afternoon it was.

From babes in arms to grannies and grandads and everyone in between, the sun shone on the crowd and the atmosphere at Mossfield was amazing.

It definitely won't be the last game I attend, although I think I may be a fair weather supporter. With two nephews playing, I'm sure next summer will provide plenty of opportunities to further my knowledge of the game.

Monday was a busy day too with the Silver Spirit cruise ship coming to Oban. I had an early start to be down and ready to greet the first tender from the ship at 8am.

It was a quiet ship with only 111 passengers aboard but the ones who came ashore were delightful and really happy to be here, especially as the weather improved and the mist lifted allowing them to see where they were.

This was our last scheduled

## WHERE IS THIS?



ship for this year but I've heard bookings for the next two years are very good which is definitely something to look forward to.

This weekend we have Oban Pride brightening up the town. Have a look at their Facebook page to find out what's happening.

I've already got my free tickets for events in the Phoenix Cinema and I'm planning to drop in for tea and cake at Argyll Wellbeing Hub. It's going to be great fun as well as a great organisation to support. I really hope some of the shops will be decorating their windows in support. Our wee office window will certainly be flying the flag for Oban Pride.

Last week's photograph was of one of the lovely flower tubs at Cuan Mor. This week's photograph is much more difficult. I'll give you a clue, it's near the water.

# Pfizer complexity challenges Oban medical practice

by Kathie Griffiths

kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Lorn Medical practice was one of five GP surgeries across Argyll and Bute that had to withdraw from vaccinating the 18-39 age group against Covid-19.

The main reason was due to the complexity of managing the Pfizer vaccine and the space required for the 15-minute wait for patients after receiving it, a Covid update report has revealed.

The document went before members of the integrated joint board (IJB) of Argyll and Bute's health and social care partnership (HSCP) at its



A young person gets their Covid vaccination.

virtual meeting on Wednesday September 15.

HSCP's associate director of public health Dr Nicola Schinaia said the delivery of Argyll and Bute's extensive vaccination programme should not be underrated and had not been without its challenges.

Dr Schinaia's report said: 'Vaccinations continue to progress well, mainly led by GPs for the public. All of our practices delivered the vaccination programme to the adult population over 50. One practice withdrew from the programme before the start

of priority 10 group for ages 40-49.

'Another five practices have withdrawn from delivering the programme to priority groups 11 and 12 for ages 18-39.'

A Highland NHS spokesperson later confirmed to The Oban Times one of those practices was Lorn Medical Practice.

The spokesperson said: 'The HSCP and Lorn Medical Practice are continuing to work in partnership. The practice has only withdrawn from the 18-39 year Pfizer vaccination group on May 7 due to the complexity of

managing the space required for the 15-minute wait post vaccination.'

The report to IJB members said: 'Significant contingency planning was already in place to enable HSCP vaccination teams to step in and run HSCP clinics in Oban and Dunoon, and assisting in Mull. Contingency plans remain in place for any other areas in case any further practices withdraw.

'The main reason for withdrawal is due to the complexity of managing the Pfizer vaccine and the space required for the 15-minute wait post vaccination.'

IJB members also heard more than nine out of 10 adults in Argyll and Bute are now fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

The percentage of 16- to 17-year-olds receiving their first Covid vaccine dose in the area is also already above 60 per cent, with more than 10 per cent already fully vaccinated, according to a new report.

As of September 7, the report said 69,987 people in Argyll and Bute have had a first dose, a total of 64,166 people have had a second dose.

Also an estimated 61.7 per cent of those aged 16 and 17 have had a first dose, and 11.5 per cent a second dose in our region.

## Motorcyclist dies in crash on A816 near Kilmartin

A motorcyclist has died following a crash on the A816 Lochgilphead to Oban road.

The 46-year-old man, riding a white BMW motorcycle, came off his bike north of Kilmartin shortly after 9.55am on Monday September 20.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

His next of kin have been made aware.

Sergeant Paul Macpherson of Police Scotland Road Policing Unit said: 'Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time.

'We are working to establish

the full circumstances which led to this crash and would urge anyone who can help to come forward.

'The man was riding north on the A816 as part of a group of motorcycles before the crash and we would urge anyone who witnessed the incident or who may have dashcam footage to get in touch.'

Anyone who can help is asked to call 101, quoting incident 0837 of September 20.

On Saturday September 18 a 28-year-old man was airlifted to Ninewells Hospital

in Dundee after a one-vehicle crash on the A82 at Tyndrum at around 9.30am.

The road was shut for about five hours before it re-opened.

The man, who was the driver of the car, was described by medical staff as being in a stable condition. A woman, aged 27, also needed hospital treatment and was taken by road ambulance to Paisley's Royal Alexandra.

There was more traffic delays in the Taynuilt area on Saturday after a two-vehicle collision in the village about 3pm. No-one was injured.



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# Can we afford to miss the boat?

by Sandy Neil  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Before global leaders decide the fate of the planet at COP26, a 'Biblical scale' sculpture of Noah's Ark has been built overlooking the Kyles of Bute, to provoke thought about the climate crisis projected to put Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray and Fort William under water within 30 years.

The structure in Tighnabruaich, designed by local environmentalist David Blair ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow's SECC, stands more than 20 metres long, six metres high and over five metres wide, with a bench seat all the way around the base where people to sit and think about what is in front of them.

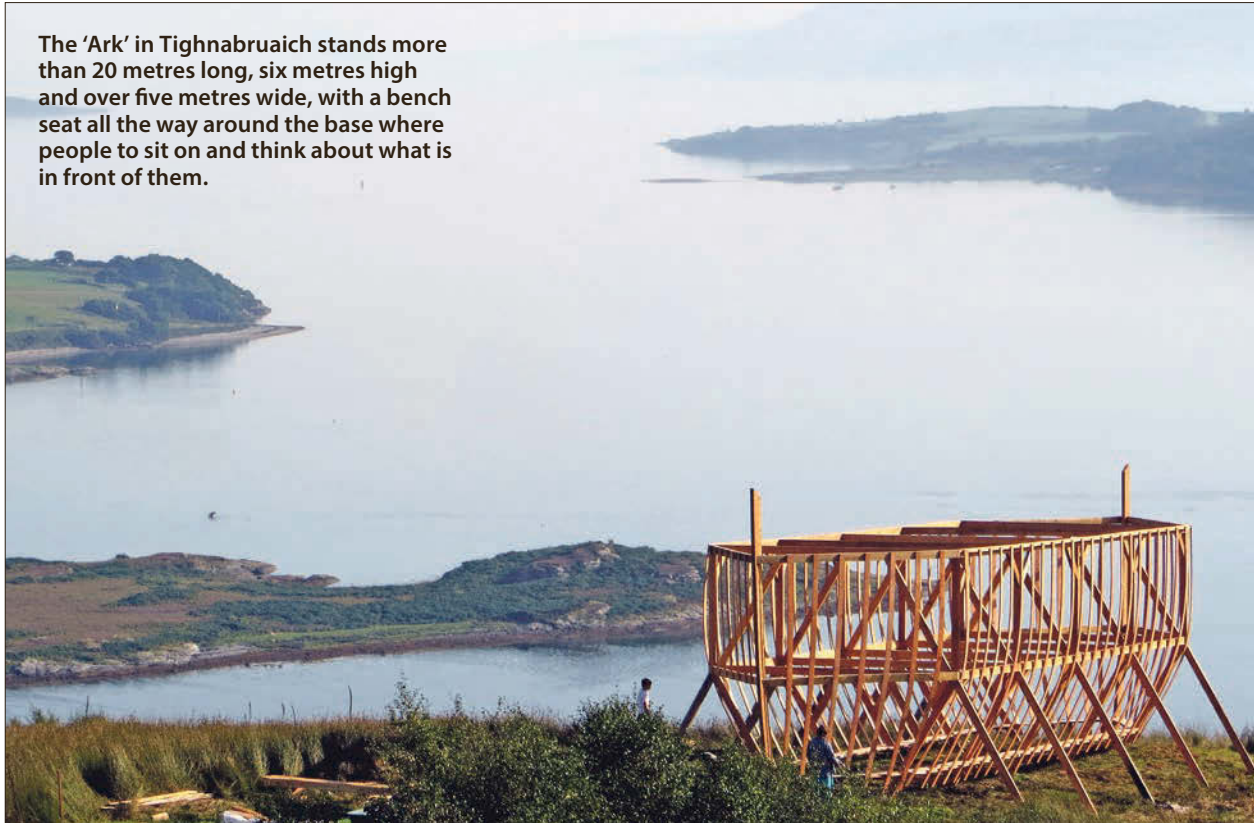
'With COP26 coming to Glasgow in November, the Ark was an idea whose time had come,' said David, who first conceived of the artwork 20 years ago.

'Its massive scale reflects the great challenge we face, to galvanize the world's governments to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

'Argyll and Bute Council has not declared a climate emergency, even though much of the road network will be threatened by sea-level rise by 2050,' he added, pointing to a website, coastal.climatecentral.org, showing how projected sea level rises will affect coastal communities in the next 30 years.

The projection shows large parts of Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Crinan, Campbeltown and Fort William inundated with water, as well as much of Paisley, Dumbarton, Stirling, Falkirk, Alloa, and Leith, making many residential areas uninhabitable.

**The 'Ark' in Tighnabruaich stands more than 20 metres long, six metres high and over five metres wide, with a bench seat all the way around the base where people to sit on and think about what is in front of them.**



'The Ark is a form that most people will connect with,' he explained: 'Its synchronicity with Noah and the great flood resonates with sea level rises due to climate change, with many species and habitats threatened with extinction.'

'My hope is that it is a story that went to the heart rather than the brain. I think people get numb to all the disasters.'

David, a woodsman who has lived in Tighnabruaich for more than 25 years, saw the climate crisis coming a long time ago, and decided to help as much as he could by living sustainably.

He owns and runs the Dunbeag Hydro Scheme, and is involved with the charitable Kilfinan Community Forest Company.

'I have lived with this as the background for the last 20

years,' he said. 'It has steered my life. You cannot ignore it now. It's out there every day.'

'I do not want to scare people, but is it kinder to not let them know? I should have been building a shed; I need a new shed. It is easy to ignore it and think it will be alright. But I cannot – it is far too serious. It is going to change everything about how we live.'

'It is in the governments' hands now. The governments of the world are not taking it seriously enough. They need to make sweeping changes.'

'It does feel like this is the last best chance we have got. If it fails, I do not think we are going to pull this around. We are on the edge.'

'We might be passed the turning point where, whatever we do, it will make no difference. I am concerned humanity will miss the boat.'

'We need to do all we can to encourage governments to act. Governments respond to people. They need to take action, and take it now.'

'The art is all I can do to raise the debate where I live. It's what I can do. I had access to the wood and knowledge how to put it together.'

Designed by David, the 'Ark' was built with brother Rob and friend Scott Smith during the two weeks of the XR Impossible Rebellion in London.

The structure is made

from a European Larch tree felled locally to avoid the spread of the fungal disease *Phytophthora ramorum*.

'There is a lot of the disease around here,' he said. 'The fear is that it gets into the sitka spruce, and that is the forestry industry gone. It is just being felled to waste.'

'There are huge holes in the hillside. I feel we are going to lose larch from Scotland probably in the next decade or two. Climate change is exacerbating this disease.'

'Without thinking big and taking bold enough action, a million species are threatened with extinction, including a third of all tree species,' he added.

'The Ark is a call to action – we cannot afford to miss this boat. Climate change is by far the greatest threat that humanity, and most of life on Earth, has ever faced, and it is only us that can do anything about it.'

'Think big, be bold, act now.'

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OT

# First Class: youngsters all s



These new classmates from Sgoil Bhagh a'Chaisteil on Barra, look a little camera shy.



These fab four started at Keills Primary School, in Port Askaig, Islay

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# Smiles as they start primary



Double delight at Crianlarich Primary School.



These three from Ulva Primary School, Mull, happily pose for their P1 photograph.



Sitting pretty are these six from Port Charlotte Primary School, Islay.

**MOREPHOTOS**  
in The Oban Times in coming weeks

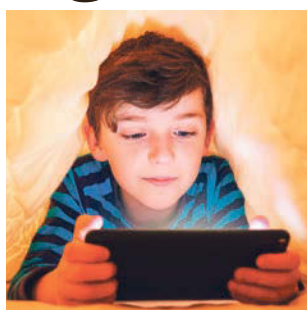


Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### A Short Sighted View

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is the organisation which declared COVID-19 a world-wide pandemic. You probably don't know WHO declared a world-wide epidemic of myopia several years ago. Just like COVID-19 this epidemic will affect future generations for decades to come. When your child becomes myopic the only obvious effect is a loss of clarity of vision which is normally corrected by wearing glasses. While the short term loss of clarity can be inconvenient it is the long term effects which can be truly devastating ... cataract, glaucoma, retinal detachment and myopic macular degeneration. All of which can potentially cause blindness. Previously I mentioned standard glasses and contact lenses make your child's myopia



worse. For several years it has been possible to reduce the rate of development of myopia in youngsters uses specially designed contact lenses. These are effective in controlling low levels of myopia. For higher levels of myopia orthokeratology is the preferred option. Recently, specialised myopia control spectacle lenses have been developed. The fourth option is not yet licensed for use in the UK. It involves using

long term low dose Atropine eye drops in combination with either glasses or contact lenses to control the myopia present. As with everything medical there are advantages and disadvantages with each of the four options. If your optometrist specialises in myopia control they will do a highly detailed examination of your child's eyesight. Not only will they look at the level of myopia present, they will also undertake an in-depth evaluation of how your child's eyes work together. Only once they have this necessary information your optometrist will be able to advise which is the most effective treatment option to control your child's myopia. The time to act to prevent your child's myopia increasing to potentially vision threatening levels is now.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

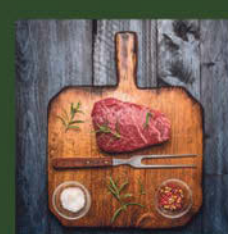
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**MARKET FRESH FOOD**

OT

# Helping to seed woodland future

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Woodland Trust Scotland volunteers have been collecting birch, hazel and rowan seeds from Oban's Dunollie Woods.

The seeds will go to a professional seed company before being grown on at local nurseries in the west of Scotland and then planted throughout the country's rainforest.

The trust recruited volunteers to join in the special collection countrywide and a dozen of them were out at Dunollie last week.

Woodland Trust Scotland volunteer development manager Matilda Scharsach said: 'Trees adapt to local conditions, so it is best to create woods with saplings grown from seeds of local



provenance. 'Demand to create more native woodland has put a strain on supply from some areas. Our seed collection volunteer drive aims to counter that shortage.'

Woodland Trust Scotland hopes the scheme will also support and encourage development of local tree nurseries around the country. To find out why Scotland's Rainforest is so important, have a look at the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest's website: [savingscotlandsrainforest.org.uk](http://savingscotlandsrainforest.org.uk)

**Heather Smart, Janet Thom, June Bleazard and Alison Stewart harvesting rowan seeds in Dunollie Woods, Oban; and inset, Laura Corbe was one of the volunteer helpers.**

Photographs: Matilda Scharsach/WTML

# Oban prepare

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban will light up purple to carry on an awareness legacy left by pancreatic cancer fighter Adrian Beard MBE.

November will see McCaig's Tower turn the colour of Pancreatic Cancer UK's ribbon, fulfilling one of the Connel dad-of-two's last wishes. The charity described the 50-year-old as an 'incredible ambassador' helping it to raise thousands of pounds of vital funds for research into the devastating disease just weeks before his death on September 10.

When PCUK launched the Big Step Forward 2021's 24-hour walkathon, Adrian was its first choice to be the face of Team Scotland raising £43,413. Team Oban, with virtual entrants joining from as far away as Australia and Norway, brought in a whopping £14,664.

PCUK's Head of Scotland and Northern Ireland Dawn Crosby said Adrian had become 'a well-kent face' to everyone at the charity, becoming an important part of its work in Scotland over the last year. 'Adrian's passion for the cause was inspirational. He was so positive and did everything he could to raise awareness and funds for this devastating cancer,' she said, taking on his Team Scotland role with 'gusto', tirelessly encouraging people to join the event. Dawn added: 'I felt privileged to be invited to help kick off the 24-hour relay and could see first hand how special the community of Oban was. Adrian was instrumental in the success of Team Oban. His support, enthusiasm and his honesty about his own situation gave even more meaning to its Big Step Forward walk this year. 'We caught up regularly and it was always great



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# es to light up purple for fighter Adrian



Adrian Beard.

to hear from him and just recently he asked me to make sure McCaig's Tower in Oban is lit purple in pancreatic cancer awareness month in November, which I will gladly do. Adrian made such a positive impact on everyone around him and what a legacy he leaves.'

In total, this year's Big Step Forward raised £256,083.71.

On Friday, the former cub leader and Group Scout leader with the 37th Argyll Scout Group's wife Angela and sons Fergus, 14, and Finlay, 12, were joined by family and friends at Connel's St Oran's Church for his funeral.

About 30 others stood outside to pay their respects.

Angela has thanked the community for helping her family get through. 'We're so, so proud of our amazing, brave, courageous and resilient husband and dad who never ever gave up his fight. We wish to extend a

**'We're so, so proud of our amazing, brave, courageous and resilient husband and dad who never gave up his fight. We wish to extend a huge thanks for the support, friendship and endless encouraging messages you have showered Adrian with over the past 18 months.'**

huge thanks for the support, friendship and endless encouraging messages you have showered Adrian with over the past 18 months. It has really helped us as a family get through this,' she said.

Adrian's eulogy reflected his younger life, time in the army and since moving to Oban in 2011. It was read by Stephen Bullock on behalf of his cousin Tim Beard in Australia, military pal Ian Summerville and friend Andy Newiss who, because Adrian was a gifted cartographer, concluded his part with a mapping analogy

based on an online system called What3words, where the world is split into a grid system and each grid identified by three randomly generated words.

If asked to choose three words to describe Ady, they would be 'positivity, inspiration and fun', he said.

Speaking after the funeral, Adrian's good friend Finlo Cottier paid this tribute: 'Adrian was such a presence in the community, always positive, full of energy and vitality. Even during his illness there appeared to be

no stopping him. Alongside the sadness, I personally feel grateful for having shared those years of friendship with Adrian.

'I suspect many others around Oban and further afield feel similarly. The positive contribution that Adrian made will be with us for many years.'

And Assistant Scout leader Susannah Hughes said: 'Pack, pack, pack!' - Ady's booming voice almost instantly brought order to a cacophony of cubs each week.

'Elements of his varied military career popped up in many ways over the few years I worked with him in his role as Cub leader (Akela).

'He managed to achieve the delicate balance of never being 'shouty' but always bringing out people's best, not just in the children but also the adults helping.

'I can truly say it was a privilege to work and learn

from Ady as we nurtured the children along their scouting journey.

'And I can only hope Adrian's eternal positivity, warmth and kindness are values I can remember to uphold as generously as he did.'

In the Queen's 2000 birthday honours, Adrian received an MBE in the military awards. He was a sergeant in the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Despite pancreatic cancer's low survival statistics, which have not changed for half a century, it only gets three per cent of the annual UK cancer research budget.

Pancreatic Cancer UK supports people affected by pancreatic cancer, funds research breakthroughs and campaigns for change.

Go online to [pancreatic-cancer.org.uk](http://pancreatic-cancer.org.uk). You can also get support by calling its freephone on 0808 801 0707.

## WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS

### 2021

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1

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SAT OCT  
16

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SAT OCT  
9

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FRI NOV  
5

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For over 30 years, holidaycottages.co.uk has been offering quality, UK accommodation, but the last 12 months have seen unprecedented demand. Furthermore, this staycation trend has also highlighted Scotland as an ideal destination with the diversity and drama of landscapes

that so many guests are looking for. A country of great contrasts, Scotland is a place of stark beauty, adventure and pure escapism, so it is no wonder that as more people are choosing to holiday in Britain, Scotland is welcoming tourists in their droves.

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# Reach the next million, urges Hollywood star

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Hollywood actor Gerard Butler is calling on Mary's Meals' supporters to help the charity reach its next million milestone.

The Scottish-born actor sent a special video message to Mary's Meals after the global school feeding charity founded in Dalmally announced it was now providing meals to 2,058,099 children in some of the world's poorest countries every school day.

Gerard, 51, a long-term supporter of the charity's work, also thanked volunteers and supporters in the message urging them not to stop now.

In his video he said: 'Congratulations Mary's Meals on reaching this landmark milestone of feeding two million children every school day.



Actor Gerard Butler visiting a Mary's Meals project in Liberia

given, for all those unique things each person brings to this enormous Mary's Meals' table. Thank you, and please let's keep going forward,' said Magnus.

The work of Mary's Meals began in 2002, with feeding 200 children at a Malawian primary school.

The charity's latest milestone has prompted changes to another story – the founder's bestselling book *The Shed That Fed A Million Children*, which has been fully updated and will be re-published at the end of this month.

Watch Gerard's video message here: [content.library.marysmeals.org/?r=12963&k=06a144d475](https://content.library.marysmeals.org/?r=12963&k=06a144d475)

To find out more about the work of Mary's Meals and how to get involved, or to order a copy of the updated book, visit [marysmeals.org.uk](https://marysmeals.org.uk)

'It's a huge achievement and I'm personally so proud to be a supporter of Mary's Meals because I've seen first-hand the joy and hope that it brings to children's lives, and it really does show that food in a child's place of education does

change the story. Now, we're at two million. But we can still do better – so upwards and onwards now to three million.'

With more than 58 million children still out of school around the world, Gerard's call for the charity to continue

its work has been echoed by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals.

'I thank you with all my heart on behalf of each of those children, for every bit of hard work, for every gift

## Funding for new teachers welcomed

Funding agreed for recruiting teachers should result in 55 new posts for Argyll and Bute.

Ariane Burgess, the Scottish Green MSP for Highlands and Islands, has welcomed the announcement 3,500 additional teachers will be recruited in Scotland.

The new posts are being created as a result of the co-operation agreement between the Scottish Greens and the Scottish Government.

By population share, this should result in 55 new teachers in Argyll and Bute.

The funding will be delivered over the course of this term of Parliament.

The agreement also includes a £10 million initiative to support low income families, plans to limit the cost of school uniforms and to give young people the right to access mental health support in school.

Ariane said: 'The additional 55 teachers locally will be critical to delivering the post-covid recovery plan for our young people.'

  
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Monte Carlo Suite, The Blytheswood Hotel, Glasgow



OT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBTributes to cancer charity  
ambassador Adrian Beard

Touching tributes have been paid this week to Adrian Beard from Connel whose life was cut short by pancreatic cancer.

Although the dad-of-four was just 50 when he died this month, he had achieved much and through his legacy raising funds and awareness for charity Pancreatic Cancer UK (PCUK) those achievements will carry on.

In November, Oban's McCaig's Tower will light up purple, the colour of PCUK's ribbon. It will be a fitting tribute to Adrian who despite his own cancer fight was described as an incredible ambassador for the PCUK charity, tirelessly encouraging people to support its work raising awareness about the symptoms of the disease and the urgent need for earlier detection. He helped raise thousands of pounds for research too. He was there with his beard dyed PCUK's purple this summer to cheer on the wonderful walkers of Team Oban who took part in the charity's Big Step Forward 24-hour walkathon.

Despite pancreatic cancer's low survival statistics, it only gets three per cent of the annual UK cancer research budget. Adrian also supported a campaign for that to change.

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.

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

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## Art or despoliation?

Is bath-tub man, The Oban Times, September 16, a welcome artefact adorning the seascape, which otherwise, in its natural form, attracts such admiration from locals and tourists, or is it another example of environmental despoliation, akin to any of the abandoned waste materials that, unfortunately, adorn our coastline?

I'm inclined to the latter and wonder why an old bath is thought to improve on what nature already provides?

In this world of copycats, how can we be sure that other similar artefacts won't be added to the litter on our shores, encouraged by this example?

And, apart from the rock-bolts fixing this object to the skerry, what is the difference between it and a fly-tipped bath?

Ian Reid, Kilnwick.

## Rest and Be Thankful

Now the Holyrood election is over and the SNP have been re-elected, they've obviously lost interest in solving the problems at the Rest & Be Thankful.

Before the election we had a Cabinet Minister at the A83 Task Force meetings promising action and launching a consultation on the preferred route.

At the latest meeting we didn't even get a junior minister – only civil servants.

The meeting was very disappointing. The consultation ended four months ago. Progress towards a permanent solution to the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful is moving at a snail's pace. We were told it could be 2023 before the SNP even announce their preferred route.

The SNP don't realise the urgency of finding a solution.

It's high time our MSPs actually did something to make a solution happen.

Alan Reid, Councillor for Cowal ward.

## Thank you

A big thank you for helping Mary's Meals to feed two million children every school day.

More than two million children will eat Mary's Meals in some of the world's poorest countries every school day.

Providing a daily meal in a place of education is helping even the most vulnerable children to attend school and concentrate in lessons, giving them the freedom to learn and fulfil their potential.

Mary's Meals began in 2002, by feeding 200 children in Malawi.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Nuair a mhol Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd dhan Chomunn Ghàidhealach nach biodh e sàbhailte a dhol air adhart le caismeachd lòchrain aig àm fosglaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail ann an Inbhir Nis Dihaoine an 8mh latha den Dàmhair, ghabh sinn ris a' chomhairle le tuigse gum bheil dìon slàinte a' mhòr-shluaigh na dhleastanas oirnn uile.

Thuig sinn cuideachd gun robh ceistean cosgais stiùiridh is rian tachartais den t-seòrsa na phàirt den mheasadh a rinn oifigearan na Comhairle mun tug iad am beachd dhuinn, agus bha sinn glè mhothachail air an teannachadh a th' air sporain phoblach aig an àm seo. Mar sin cha bhi foillseachadh poblach air sràidean Inbhir Nis ro chuir fhosglaidh a' Mhòid aig Taigh-cluiche Cùirt an Aodainn, ach bidh fìor dheagh cheòl ri chluinntinn aig a' chonsairt sin. Gu dearbh, agus mar a bhiodh dùil, tha mi a' moladh a h-uile dad a bhios ri fhaicinn agus ri chluinntinn, agus tha mi 'n dòchas gun gabh sibh an cothrom tighinn a-mach a dh'èisteachd ann an tallaichean Chùirt an Aodainn, neo gun dèan sibh farchluis air-loidhne, ris na bhios againn dhuibh! 'S fhiach a dhearbhadh gum bi a h-uile càil anns na tallaichean air a chur air adhart a rèir nan riaghailtean Covid a bhios stèidhichte aig an àm.

Bha mi a' smaoineachadh air na gnothaichean seo madainn Dhiahaoine seo chaidh is mi ag èisteachd ri Àrd-Mhaighstir Loidse Orains Alba a' bruidhinn mu ghrunn chaismeachdan aig a' bhuidheann, a bha gu bhith a' tachairt Disathairne seo chaidh ann an Glaschu. 'S

e tachartasan mòra a bha seo agus bha dùil ri mu ochd ceud oifigear poileas a bhith an sàs a' cumail smachd air cùisean, agus gun ghuth idir air carson a tha leithid seo de chaismeachdan buaireasach gan cumail, saoil nach robh fìu 's barrachd cunnart sgaoilidh Covid an lùib seo na bha riamh gu bhith an cois caismeachd fosglaidh a' Mhòid. Co-dhùnaidhean Chomhairlean eadar-dhealaichte gun teagamh, ach tha e a' sealltainn carson a tha cuid a dhaoine fhathast mi-thuigseach air dè tha na riaghailtean agus dè tha dìreach na mholadh modhail a thaobh cunnart sgaoilidh Covid. Chaidh labhraiche na Loidse Orains às àicheadh gun robh a' bhuidheann an aghaidh Chaitligich, 's ann a tha iad a' cur taic ris a' chreideamh Phròstanach thuir e. Saoilidh mi gur e sliseadh dà-sheaghach a tha sin air faclan, oir tha trioblaidean dreamail a' nochdadh an cois chaismeachdan ro thrì, agus bu mhath amas gum b' urrainn dha dìlsich gach creideamh co-ionannachd spèis a dhearbhadh dha creideamhan eile.

Feumar a ràdh nach do thog poileas Alba dragh sam bith mu na caismeachdan seo, ach aig an aon àm bha Iar-Àrd-Chonstabal Phoileas Alba, fear a thug seachd bliadhna fichead na oifigear poileas ann am Beul Feirste, a' moladh ceannsachadh a dhèanamh air a' ghràin-chreid-eimh a tha a' sgaoileadh ann an Alba. Rachainn fhìn gu toileach a chaismeachd a chur taic ri leithid sin de dh'iomairt leigheis air an 'tinneas' ghràineil agus mhaslach sin a tha nochdte cho bitheanta nar dùthaich!

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

## Kind donation appreciated

I would like to thank staff and spectators who were at Mossfield for the Camanachd cup final on Saturday. My dog Blodyn chewed through her lead and ran off to the nearby golf club. She is now safely at home in Dundee. A kind lady wearing a blue vest gave me a spare leash and wouldn't accept anything for it. If she or someone who knows her sees this, please email me at [ccgusthis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ccgusthis@yahoo.co.uk) and I will return it. Thanks everyone. If I had lost her it would have destroyed what was a fantastic day in Oban.

Colin Lancaster.

Our growth since then has been driven by so many acts of kindness from people from all walks of life, helping us reach children in the greatest need.

We are deeply grateful to all our supporters and volunteers, including in Argyll – we simply could not have reached this incredible milestone without you.

We hope your readers will join us in celebrating this amazing moment for Mary's Meals and continue to support us to reach the next hungry child.

Daniel Adams, Executive Director,  
Mary's Meals.



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# DISTRICT NEWS



Oban lifeboat's Leonie Mead, coxswain Ally Cerexhe along with Ben Sunderland of Adventure Oban.

## Water meet-ups keep safety afloat

Places are being snapped up for the first in a series of water safety events run by Oban RNLI and Adventure Oban.

Oban Sailing Club and Scottish Sea Farms have also partnered up for the September 30 session with a focus on paddleboarding (SUP) and open water swimming.

The autumn meeting at the sailing club in Dungallon Road at 6pm will involve talks and Q&As from Oban lifeboat's coxswain Ally Cerexhe, crew member Leonie Mead and Cara Redpath from the RNLI's Water Safety team. Swimmers Max and Stacey Holloway and paddle boarders Andy and Laura Corbe will also be there, and there will be a short guided swim/paddle suitable for all levels afterwards.

Places are free but limited so need to be booked; go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adventure-oban-rnli-water-safety-autumn-meet-tickets-169185288753>

If it gets booked up, organisers will look at running another session.

'Oban revolves around the water. We want to make sure our community knows how to enjoy the opportunities it can offer safely and responsibly - whilst having fun. So, come along, join us and get involved,' said Oban lifeboat's Leonie.

If also interested in finding out more about Adventure Oban - a not-for-profit, community-led outdoor activity charity supporting access for all to Oban's natural playground - go to [adventureoban.org](http://adventureoban.org)

## SEIL

### Mighty hikers' fundraising boosts charity

Fundraising friends who followed the footsteps of one of Scotland's most famous folklore figures have raised more than £1,600 so far for a cancer charity.

Willie Munro and Tracy White from Seil took part in the 2021 Rob Roy Mighty Hike in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on August 28.

The route took them from Callander to Killin with a goal of raising £750 which they have now more than doubled with the help of Alison Young from Luining.

And a swim across the Cuan Sound from Seil over to Luining by open water swimmers The Bluetits of Dunearn and friends in aid of Seed For Life has raised more than £500 to help with a project supporting farmers and education in Malawi, also providing school meals.

The events are just a couple of charity-supporting efforts that are candidates for an exhibition being put together by curator Alice Clayton at the Heritage Centre in Ellenabeich to showcase how islanders have been helping others and good causes during the pandemic.



Willie Munro and Tracy White with their medals from completing this year's Rob Roy Mighty Hike.

## KILLIN

### Masons donate to Killin play park after charity walk

A Scottish Free Masons charity walk from Oban to St Andrews has raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

In May and June 2021, the Free Masons from the Provincial Lodge of Perthshire West took on the challenge with Right Worshipful Master Gary Thompson walking from Taynuilt to Tyndrum and Past Master Alex Stewart walking from Tyndrum to Balquhider on behalf of Lodge Breadalbane St Fillans No 815 in Killin.

Each lodge in the province was allocated £500 from the £7,500 raised.

The masons in Killin were delighted to donate their £500 allocation to the Friends of Breadalbane Park in their village to help with the replacement of old and broken equipment in the children's play area. The presentation was made by Gary Thompson and Martin Cockburn and was received by Fiona Boath on behalf of The Friends of Breadalbane Park.

## OBAN



### Superyacht spotted in Oban

This superyacht reported to belong to the UK's second richest man Jim Ratcliffe was spotted apparently calling in for fuel at Oban's North Pier last week.

The MV Sherpa is reported to have cost £100m and had been sighted earlier in Torridon.

It was snapped at the pier by Phil Hamerton of Oban Aerial Photography.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Taking it in her stride

I bumped into Debbie Sheppard the other day, as she was striding purposefully along George Street heading north with her boyfriend David Nicol.

For those of you who don't know her, Debbie is the charming joint host of the Lorne Whisky Pub and Kitchen in Stevenson Street. She also has MS, something I didn't know until last week.

I mention this because Debbie's march which I witnessed was part of a mission she is on to raise awareness of the condition and money for Oban's MS Centre on Glencruitten Road by walking from the pub to Ganavan beach and back every day for 19 weeks.

That is, Debbie tells me, 7.5km (4.66 miles) a day, or 619 miles over the 19 weeks. If, like me, you wondered why 19 weeks, it is one week for every year since Debbie was diagnosed, and she will be doing this until November.

I should add here that I had to cajole Debbie into telling me all this as she is reticent about seeking the limelight. In fact, she has not sought sponsorship but is accepting donations.

As well as support from her partner David, the marathon effort has been backed by her dad Jim, who has joined her on some walks, and mum Eleanor, known for volunteering at Mary's Meals in Oban.

It is, indeed, a splendid effort by one of my favourite people, and Debbie deserves all the backing the town can give her in this excellent charity effort. To make a donation, watch out for her walking to Ganavan and back every day, or drop into the pub and leave some coins. She's worth it!

### Pride and proud

This weekend sees the colourful Oban Pride, a series of free events that can be booked online, and which has been championed by Debbie Sheppard and the Lorne. It is, for me, a wee celebration well worth supporting.

It has its opponents, which I find disappointing, but we live in a welcoming, wonderful and diverse community, so let's cheer it to the rafters.

### What do you think?

Send your comments to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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## The Rum old seabird that freaked out the Vikings

Over a million Manx shearwaters, 95 per cent of the world's population, nest along Europe's Atlantic coast. Half of these, around 250,000 breeding pairs, can be spotted on just three UK islands: Skomer and Skokholm off Pembrokeshire, and the Isle of Rum, writes Sandy Neil.

In March every year, 100,000 pairs descend on the Rum Cuillins, the world's second largest single colony, to breed, reuniting with life-long mates to find and spring clean their nesting burrows.

Manx Shearwaters breed exclusively on islands, where, once, they were safe from predators such as rats, cats, stoats, and mink. Hedgehogs are also known to join in the feast of eggs and chicks, cracking open the top of the skull and sucking out the brains. Even vegetarians such as red deer are estimated to eat four per cent of chicks on Rum. Another even more surprising murder suspect is sheep, which eat up to eight per cent of tern and skua chicks on Foula, biting off their legs, wings or head. Scientists believe this carnivorous behaviour is caused by a need for extra calcium.

There's a question that crops up in quizzes designed to trap the unwary: which bird has the scientific name *Puffinus puffinus*? Answer: the Manx shearwater. Manx shearwaters were known as Manks Puffins in the 17th century.

The word 'puffin' goes back to Middle English, when it meant 'the cured carcasses of nestling shearwaters'. Its puffed-up look resulted from its dense cover of down feathers – an adaptation for retaining body heat while the parent is off fishing. Like pufflings, they resemble little puff balls with beaks and feet. Fat and rich in oil from their fish diet, and easily plucked from their burrows, the chicks made a convenient food source since prehistoric times.

The Atlantic Puffin acquired its name much later, possibly because of its similar habit of ground nesting in burrows. Although puffins look more like 'clowns of the ocean' or 'sea parrots' with their brightly coloured bills and orange feet, their scientific name, *Fratercula arctica*, means 'little brother of the north' in Latin, referring to its black and white plumage reminiscent of a friar's robes.

Manx shearwaters, or 'Manxies', take their



name from the Isle of Man, where they were first recognised on its southernmost island, the Calf of Man. 'Shearwater' describes the birds' mode of flight which shears the water, dipping from side to side on stiff wings with few beats, the tips seeming to cut the surf. It looks like a flying cross, with its slender wings at right angles to the body, allowing them to soar with maximum efficiency for vast distances and many months at sea. In flight its colour changes from black to white as the dark, glossy brown upperparts and greyish-white undersides are alternately exposed.

While the Manx Shearwater is a master of the sea, it is awkward and cumbersome walking on land. They nest in burrows in soft grassy earth, and come ashore only under darkness to evade predators such as great skuas and great black-backed gulls. The female lays one white egg, which is only visited at night. The parents are off at sea for most of the day, travelling as far as 600 miles offshore to seek food.

Shearwaters are monogamous: they pair for life. Females can recognise the voice of their mates. Shearwaters are silent at sea, but when parents return to their nests for the night, the huge breeding colonies come alive with raucous, cackling croons. The naturalist Ronald Lockley described the sound as 'a bedlam of wild screaming, a wind howling, or the crying of insane spirits'.

During the winter, Manx Shearwaters migrate over 10,000km across the Atlantic Ocean to feeding grounds off Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, returning to breed again in British waters in February.

Manx shearwaters are among the world's oldest living birds. Ornithologist Chris Mead estimated that a bird ringed in 1957 when aged about five years and still breeding on Bardsey Island, off Wales, in April 2002 had flown over 8,000,000km during its 50-year life. This bird was still alive in 2008. However, it has been overtaken by Wisdom the albatross in the Midway Atoll wildlife refuge in the North Pacific Ocean, who this year became a mother again aged 70. Wisdom must hang on for a decade to beat Cocky, an Australian sulphur-crested cockatoo, who joined the choir invisible in his eighties.

## Help save the o crash landing i

by Sandy Neil  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Beside the splashy puffin, the drab, middling Manx shearwater will never be the star of the British seabird show – until you know the remarkable story it has to tell.

For this master of the skies, and clumsy clown on land, is the original 'puffin', *Puffinus puffinus*. Most of the world's Manx shearwaters begin life on Britain's west coast islands, notably on the world's second largest breeding colony on the Isle of Rum.

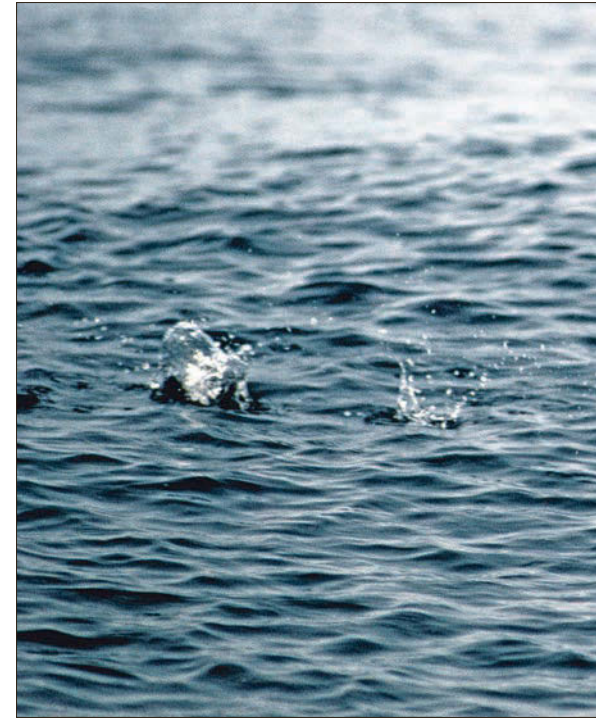
In spring and summer every year, Rum's national nature reserve becomes home to 100,000 breeding pairs, who mate for life and fly hundreds of miles out to sea each day to feed a single fat, fluffy chick nesting underground. Their eery, night-time screech freaked out the Vikings, who believed Rum's Cuillins to be infested with hairy, ugly trolls, naming one peak Trollaval – Hill of the Trolls.

If the chick survives attacks from rats, cats, hedgehogs, and even killer sheep and red deer, it takes to the air on its maiden flight, battling storms and tempests on an epic 10,000km migration across the Atlantic Ocean to the fish-rich waters of South America. One fledgling was found on the coast of Brazil 16 days after being ringed as a chick in a Welsh burrow.

Until recently, a Manx shearwater off Northern Island was also the world's oldest wild bird, reaching the same great age as Mike Tyson, Cindy Crawford, and Paul Hollywood (55). By then, this 'Manxie' had over a million air miles under its wing (not counting day-to-day fishing trips), the equivalent of a return trip to the Moon – twice.

But not all of them make it. On the way, lured by the bright lights, many are crash landing into Tobermory, Mallaig, and cruise ships. Unable to take to the sea and air again, the seabirds blunder about until they are eaten by cats or gulls, or starve.

Now Conor Ryan, a guide for Nature Scotland who lives in Tobermory, is appealing to Mull residents to help the lost and bumbling seabirds resume their marathon journey. He said: 'Manx Shearwaters live up to 50 years. They



fledge in September and head to Argentina. But not all make it, as they are attracted to lights.

'Each year some crash into Tobermory and risk starvation or predation by cats. They cannot easily take-off from the ground and need to be released away from gulls. Communities in Mallaig, Arisaig, and the Small Isles make efforts to reduce light pollution to help shearwaters survive, and hopefully we can do the same in Tobermory.'

What can you do to help? Reduce outdoor lighting and draw curtains during September. If you find one, please contact Conor, who will assess and release it, on 07850 250156.

'If people need help, call the mobile,' added David Sexton, RSPB Scotland's Mull Officer in Salen. 'We find the bird. They are quite easy to catch. I've rescued a few shearwaters from under cars and back gardens in previous years. They're normally not badly injured, just a bit

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# Original puffin in Tobermory



stunned and disorientated, and can't take off. After a quick check, we allow them to paddle off back out to sea. They take off from there. It is just helping them get up in the air.

'They are attracted to lights. If you can reduce light levels: pull the curtains, if the lights in the garden are not being used, perhaps turn them off, just for a few weeks in September. It is not going to solve it. It is just going to reduce it. Every bird that does not crash land is on its way to Argentina. It is nice to give them a helping hand.'

One of the newest and highest hurdles shearwaters now face is the cruise ship.

'We've had three calls in one week, all from cruise vessels, and all involving multiple birds on deck,' Conor said. 'I was able to advise on how to release, but haven't needed to take any birds home yet. I work on expedition ships in South Georgia where the government there has strict 'black out' regulations for ships to alleviate this very problem.'



Manx shearwaters can only take off from water and are attracted to light, which causes problems when they start their migration to Argentina in September each year.

## Mullman

DANIEL BROOKS  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



In his new outdoors column, Mullman Daniel Brooks shares a close encounter with orcas John Coe and Aquarius. Daniel is a wildlife guide, adventure seeker, conservation campaigner, forager, bushcrafter, rewilder and father of four. His website [mullman.co.uk](http://mullman.co.uk) is coming soon.

I had just dropped my wife Deborah and our niece off at the ferry in Craignure when I got a surprise call from my friend James Marshall who skips the Sea Life Surveys whale and dolphin boat trips.

'The Boys', he said - living legends John Coe and Aquarius thought by many to be the last remaining killer whales of the resident west coast community, and indeed their own unique eco type, were a few miles off Ardnamurchan just milling around, 'NOW!'

I drove up to Calliach Point in the North-West of Mull via our house at Ulva Ferry to pick up my scope and stopped to tell the exciting news to anyone and everyone who even remotely looked like they might be into wildlife.

I love to share my passion of nature...especially a sighting so close of The Boys. I am glad I did, because some of those folk did turn up at Calliach and their dreams, too, were fulfilled, as were mine, this wonderful day.

I arrived at Calliach to find Rachel from NatureScotland already there scanning the foggy seas. Coll and Ardnamurchan were largely obscured by the misty conditions making spotting them difficult to near impossible. After a quick, fruitless search, I called my mate in Tobermory to tell him to get out in his newly-acquired sail boat to see them. He said he would wait for me, so I shot off again, fastening my kids back into the car and headed to him.

We were soon tootling out of the bay, past the lighthouse and Ardmore, and out towards the area where they had last been seen, swinging by a local fishing boat to ask if they had heard

of their last whereabouts. They pointed and said, 'right out there,' so that's where we went, eyes to the binoculars scanning the mirror calm seas the whole time. We were looking for boats, because we knew there had been a couple of other boats watching them. At first we could only see fishing boats, and then we spotted two smaller boats out towards the Cairns of Coll. They were still, as if watching something, although as we crept closer we could not see any six foot dorsal fins rising near them.

My mate Derick suddenly said: 'there, got them, Orca.' They were off to the left but I quickly picked them up - they were surprisingly close, perhaps 1km away. It amazed us that we had not seen them sooner. They were heading right for us!

We slowed down and waited for them to come to us. After several minutes, they surfaced again, just a hundred meters or so ahead of us, splashing around, tail lobbing, rolling in the water waving their pectorals in the air, Aquarius even spy hopped, popping his head vertically right out of the water so we could see his eye!

This was my 30-odd-year dream come true. I was up close and personal with these living legends.

They came even closer, passing within 30m of the boat. In these glassy conditions I could even see John Coe swimming underwater as he passed by. Hazel and Oak were both shrieking with excitement every time the Orcas surfaced, making that loud puffing noise as they blew.

We had the most magical encounter with these awesome animals. One we will all treasure for the rest of our lives.

If you go watching for whales and dolphins, please make sure you follow the guidelines. Be respectful and aware of their plight, then hopefully they will continue to fulfil our dreams for many generations to come.

For top tips to wildlife watching visit [www.hwtdt.org/news/2020/8/top-tips](http://www.hwtdt.org/news/2020/8/top-tips)



John Coe and Aquarius, seen off the West Coast, towards the Cairns of Coll.

Photograph: Steve Truluck



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Plans for renewable green hydrogen facility in Oban

Plans are afoot to build a renewable energy plant in Oban making hydrogen, a zero-carbon fuel that can be used to heat homes and power transport.

GreenPower, the independent renewable energy company which developed and operates the 46MW Carraig Gheal wind farm near Oban, has announced plans to create the Argyll Hydrogen Hub for production and distribution of green hydrogen.

The company is buying an industrial site in Oban where the Argyll Hydrogen Hub will be based and is hosting a webinar for potential future users across the Argyll region on September 23.

A spokesperson for GreenPower said: 'There is significant potential in the region to decarbonise the transport sector including buses and coaches, HGVs serving distilleries, fish farms, forestry operations, refuse collection vehicles, and with a longer-term opportunity to fuel ferries and trains. Green hydrogen can also replace carbon-intensive fuels such as heating oil and LNG used in hospitals, leisure centres, care homes and industrial operations.'

Rob Forrest, GreenPower CEO, said: 'As a company rooted in Scotland and with local operations in Argyll, we are delighted to announce our intention to further decarbonise the region and create clean, green jobs and economic development. We can see a future where all heavy road transport and shipping is powered by green hydrogen, and where any industry using heating oils or gas e.g. whisky distilleries, can switch fuels to run on environmentally friendly green hydrogen.'

'Argyll has all the ingredients for the creation of a healthy, environmentally responsible green hydrogen sector. We think that is something worth aiming for.'

Companies interested in exploring the potential of green hydrogen and would like to attend the online seminar on Thursday September 23 (10-11am), should email: [enquiries@greenpowerinternational.com](mailto:enquiries@greenpowerinternational.com) to register.



Fresh lobster, landed at Croig was to be on the menu at this fabulous festival of seafood.

## Mull steps up to the plate to promote local seafood

A community initiative in the north of Mull has been encouraging people to buy and use more local seafood through a week of promotional activities and events.

Seafood Mull & Iona is being led by some volunteer community members from Dervaig Village Hall in collaboration with some local fishermen. The project has been supported by the Regional Food Fund which is delivered by the Scotland Food & Drink Partnership with funding from Scottish Government.

Mull is home to a number of inshore fishermen and farmers, who catch lobster, langoustines, crab, and scallops along with farmed mussels, oysters and salmon.

The impact of coronavirus and the disruption and uncertainty at the end of the Brexit transition period has taken its toll, with significant loss to international markets. The purpose of this project is to stimulate awareness and



increase sales of seafood, and other food products, locally thereby contributing to the islands' economy.

The week-long celebration will showcase the

excellent quality and variety of Mull seafood and other locally-produced food, providing an opportunity for the promotion of island produce and real and memorable food tourism experiences.

The week of events, which kicked off on Monday (September 20) have included an Oyster Farm Tour and Tasting, and a Perfect Seafood Picnic at a secret location. A Seafood Extravaganza dinner is due to take place at Dervaig Village Hall on Saturday (September 25), showcasing the wonderful seafood landed on Mull.

In addition, the social media coverage has a 'feed' of seafood recipes from local restaurants, information on the health benefits of seafood and some film clips with local fishermen giving an insight into handling seafood.

More information can be found on the Seafood Mull & Iona Facebook and Instagram pages.

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# Welcome aboard!

A fleet of young people from across the West Coast are celebrating after graduating from the CalMac Modern Apprenticeship programme.

All 19 graduates, who are from islands across the network as well as the mainland, have gained full-time permanent positions with the ferry operator after completing the sought-after scheme. The programme is designed to help young people who are passionate about the maritime sector gain essential qualifications and the experience necessary for a career within the sector, and most importantly with CalMac.

CalMac is a recognised leader of seagoing apprenticeships and the Merchant Navy Training Board has named it as one of the top five UK companies for maritime apprentice schemes. A total of 120 young people have been trained through the scheme since its inception in 2013.

This year, the Deck Rating Trainees have all moved into permanent roles as Seaman 1b's, the Engine Rating Trainees into permanent roles as Motormen, and the Retail Rating Trainees into permanent roles as Senior Catering Ratings.

They are based on vessels across the network and come from the Isle of Lewis, Eriskay, Campbeltown, Greenock, Mull, Taynuilt, Coll and Benbecula, among other places.

Angus Campbell, a Deck Rating Trainee on MV Lord of the Isles who is from Harris, said: 'What I enjoyed most about the scheme



Pictured is graduate apprentice Angus Campbell, from Harris, on board MV Finlaggan with Master Guy Robertson.

was meeting crew whenever I joined a new vessel and listening to their stories. They have taught me so much and I am grateful to them all. Most challenging is definitely starting off the apprenticeship and joining the first vessel. It's a daunting experience if you're not used to being away from home for periods of time but everyone makes you feel at home so quickly.'

Robbie Drummond, managing director of

CalMac, said: 'Our Modern Apprenticeship scheme has gone ahead thanks to the commitment and dedication of the apprentices, CalMac managers, crew, mentors, RMT Union partners, apprentice alumni, the City of Glasgow College, and the CalMac senior management team.'

'The maritime sector can be extremely challenging to break into especially at an early career stage. Our programme provides an opportunity for young people to develop their careers within their communities, gain qualifications and valuable work experience and build a rewarding career. We look forward to seeing our new Modern Apprentices develop in to excellent seafarers. They worked hard to achieve a high standard in their training, and we look forward to developing you further as full crew members in the future.'

Minister for Transport Graeme Dey said: 'I'd like to pass on my congratulations to all the modern apprentices who are graduating from the programme. Training the next generation of seafarers is crucial to ensuring our maritime sector maintains its world-class status. It's particularly pleasing to see young people from islands across the network join the ranks at CalMac to help serve their communities.'

'I wish all 19 graduates the best in their careers and look forward to seeing more young people pass through the programme in the future.'

## Business Gateway catapults consultancy to success

A business consultancy that specialises in helping organisations deliver efficiencies and become more sustainable, has been able to expand its team with the appointment of a new graduate, following a package of support from Business Gateway.



DWS Associates, who help organisations solve problems and win opportunities, were able to take on a graduate placement through HR advice and signposting to funding through the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme. The Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund 2014-20 Structural Funds Programme.

Alice Masson was taken on at the start of the year and increased capacity in the team. She also helped the business secure vital ISO accreditations, as well as the Scottish Business Pledge and Cyber Essentials Plus.

Through Business Gateway, owner David Smart was also able to access support through DigitalBoost, Scotland's national digital upskilling programme, delivered by Business Gateway. This included a Digital Health Check and webinars on video production for social media and LinkedIn for business.

David, owner of DWS Associates, said: 'Our network of experienced directors' were at capacity, and we knew we needed support if we were to achieve our wider business goals and growth ambitions.'

'Through Business Gateway, we were able to access the help and funding we needed to expand our team and take on Alice who has helped up-skill the whole team with her creativity, research and communications skills. She also increased our capacity and resources, letting us achieve vital ISO accreditations that will help us facilitate further business growth.'

Alice said: 'It's been an incredibly rewarding experience working at DWS, and knowing that I've brought value to the organisation through my work in securing accreditations and developing our communications strategy. I look forward to building on this further in the coming months.'

Donald Melville, Business Gateway adviser, said: 'By acknowledging their need for a new member of staff to help lighten the load, DWS has been able to achieve key certifications, ensuring their directors can focus on doing what they do best. Taking on a new employee can be a complex process. We can help businesses with each step, as they start their recruitment process through to hiring their new team member.'

# Support at hand as you build for the future

As restrictions ease, businesses are now turning their attention to moving on from the pandemic and to plans for the future. For businesses across Argyll and Bute, Business Gateway is available to help, providing support for every business at any stage.

Experienced local business advisers can help business owners, via virtual meetings online or by phone, as they transition back to normality, providing support on issues such as flexible working, recruiting, sourcing finance, finding new customers or strategic planning.

For many businesses, the challenges faced over the last 18 months have required a review of how the business operates. It will be some time before businesses across all sectors have recovered and ensuring efficiencies across all operations will continue to be key. Business Gateway has a range of online guides and webinars that can help, on topics such as reducing costs and increasing productivity.

For business owners looking for new ways to reduce overheads, while also doing what is right for the planet, now may also be the time

to explore ways to embed sustainability into the business.

There are a variety of easy ways to do this, whether that's switching to more energy efficient lightbulbs, reducing printing requirements, or by limiting the number of waste pick-ups the business receives. Not only will this help meet wider environmental goals, but it can also reduce costs.

While restrictions have reduced, the importance of digital solutions hasn't. DigitalBoost, Scotland's national digital training programme delivered by Business Gateway, has served as a vital resource for businesses during the last 18 months period and can also help businesses to recover.

Now in its fifth year, DigitalBoost provides businesses with free support to help them take advantage of technologies, improve productivity, and increase resilience, through webinars, one to one advice from digital experts and a wide range of online guides.

Expert advice is available on areas such as social media, cyber resilience, data analytics,

digital marketing strategy and e-commerce. Businesses can schedule a session with a digital expert through the Argyll and Bute office, or visit the website to take a Digital Healthcheck, access articles and guides on a variety of digital topics or to book a webinar.

For those considering starting their own business - through choice or necessity - Business Gateway's Planning to Start tool is a useful starting point. The tool asks a series of simple questions, taking around 10 minutes to complete, which then gives access to an instant start-up toolkit. The Argyll and Bute Business Gateway office will then follow up to help create a tailored action plan specific to the business needs.

Ultimately, throughout the last 18 months, businesses have dealt with ongoing uncertainty with resilience and an innovative mindset has helped many survive. Business Gateway remains available as a first point of contact, providing relevant information and resources to help.

For more information and to connect with Business Gateway please visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com) or contact the local office on 01546 604 555.



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 about what's next  
 for your business or  
 new idea?

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DIGITAL  
 BOOST

business  
 gateway



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

Not only does Oban have a plethora of retail and food outlets but it also has everything from essential DIY merchants and supplies to garages and more. Ever wonder where all these businesses are? Come and take a look!

## Glengallan Industrial Estate



**Oban Business Improvement District**  
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



**1. ARGYLL COLLEGE**

Oban Centre is the largest of the Argyll College Learning Centres, and offers a range of full & part time courses.  
**Web: [www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk)**

**2. WEST HIGHLAND SPECIALIST CLEANING SERVICES**

Extreme Cleaning Service based in Oban covering a wide area, including the Inner & Outer Hebrides. Professionally trained and comprehensively insured.  
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**3. KMASS MARINE LTD**

Professional accredited diving services with a huge mass of experience within their crew, in both the inshore and offshore commercial diving sectors.  
**Tel: 07824 504774**

**4. MACQUEEN BROS LTD**



Founded in 1983 offering a quality service with an emphasis on moves to and from the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland. also offering steel container hire - 24 hour access covered by CCTV  
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**5. MKM BUILDING SUPPLIES**



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**Tel: 01631 694500**



**6. MENZIES DISTRIBUTION**

Menzies Parcels provides great value, easy-to-use courier services which connect the Scottish Highlands & Islands, Grampians and Argyll with the rest of the UK.  
**Web: [www.menziesdistribution.com](http://www.menziesdistribution.com)**

**7. BIDFOOD**

For more than 20 years as a leading foodservice wholesaler, they have supplied fresh, frozen, ambient food, beers, wines, spirits, catering essentials and catering equipment to customers in a wide range of sectors.  
**Web: [www.bidfood.co.uk](http://www.bidfood.co.uk)**

**8. CERTAS ENERGY**

One of the UK's largest off grid energy provider, supplying retail and commercial, heating oil, kerosene, red diesel and more.  
**Web: [www.certasenergy.co.uk](http://www.certasenergy.co.uk)**

**9. CITY PLUMBING**



Your trusted plumbing and heating suppliers. Come and visit the bathrooms experts in their showroom. They can guide you through the journey to design and purchase your new bathroom with confidence.  
**Tel: 01631 567640**

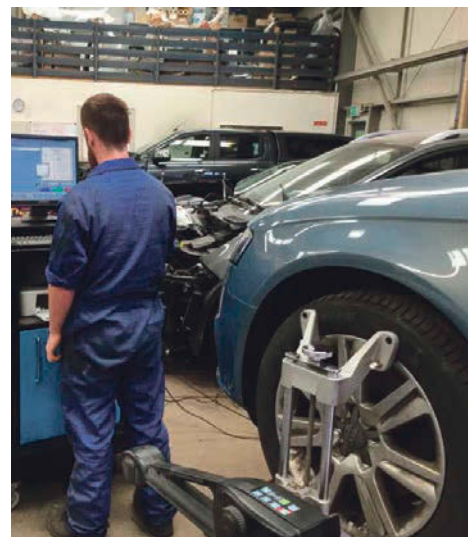
**10. REMBRAND TIMBER**

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**Tel: 01631 566265**

**11. BOOKER WHOLESALE CASH & CARRY**

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**Web: [www.booker.co.uk](http://www.booker.co.uk)**

**12. C J AUTO REPAIRS**



A family run car bodyshop, specialising in all vehicle bodywork repairs and mechanicals, and are equipped with the latest equipment, enabling them to repair most vehicles.  
**Tel: 01631 566009**

**13. VNC AUTOMOTIVE DETAILING**



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**15. JM BRECKENRIDGE**

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**Tel: 01631 563711**

**16. TRAVIS PERKINS**

One of the largest suppliers of building materials to the UK's building and construction industry  
**Tel: 01631 564224**

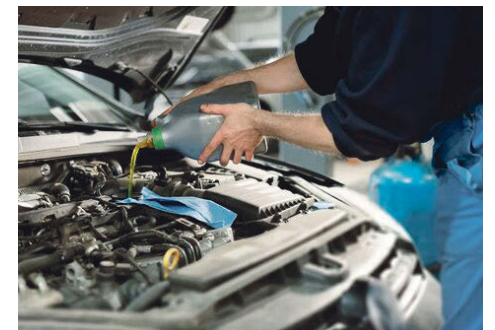
**17. CEF**

City Electrical Factors are the UK's leading electrical wholesale company for everything electrical from Cable and accessories to tools & equipment.  
**Tel: 01631 562362**

**18. RECENTRE - HOLISTIC HEALTH CENTRE**

A peaceful, healing space for the community to Rest Restore Rebalance. Amongst ReCentres family are highly experienced, passionate teachers and therapists all working with the same ethos - to help rebalance the whole self.  
**Web: [www.recentreoban.com](http://www.recentreoban.com)**

**19. FIN'S PLACE**



Well established garage offering services that include tyres, exhausts, brakes, servicing, batteries, repairs and diagnostics  
**Tel: 01631 566220**



**DON'T FORGET TO BUY & USE YOUR LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS**



# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

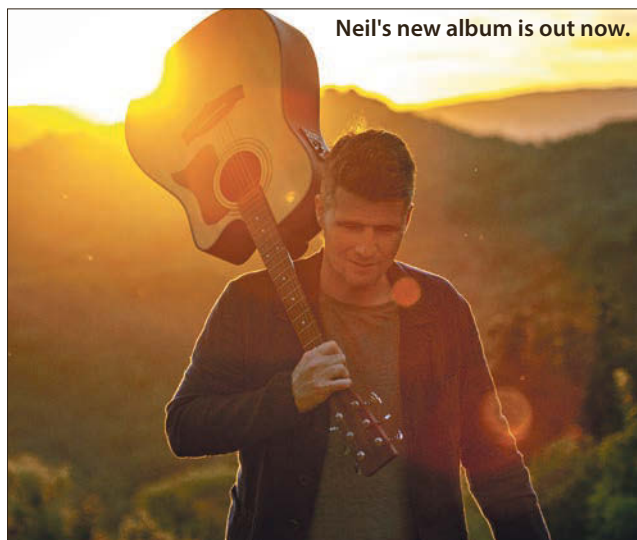
## One small step allows Oban musician to find a way home

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Oban's own Neil Armstrong has launched Finding A Way Home, his second album of original Indie Rock music and sister-album to his 2020 lockdown release Nearly Life.

The new album is filled with eight tenderly expressive and original, 'back-to-reality' tracks exploring themes of darkness and light and the journey homewards.

Due to the pandemic Neil, who currently lives in Andalucía, has not travelled home to Scotland since November 2019. Filled with longing to return to the Highlands, Neil penned the opening song of the album Going Home with the West Coast in mind.



Two singles from Finding A Way Home were released this summer to critical acclaim from industry blogs. Rock

anthem One Small Step was hailed as 'Better than ever - incredibly powerful', while the piano ballad Moon is

described as 'A hit with fans of Elton John, Bowie and ELO'.

The music, which Neil has composed, arranged and performed, is set to the lyrics of co-producer David Will Mitchell. Neil met David for the first time in Spain in late 2019 and the duo started a creative partnership which saw them produce and release their first album within nine months.

'The second album really just burst out of us,' said Neil, 'The writing process with David has always been fruitful.'

This even though the creative pair have only met twice face-to-face.

Neil has teamed up once again with the legendary Andalusian rock guitarist and producer Jose Maria Sagrista and is proud to have worked

with local musicians on this album, including the likes of guitarist Marcus Myers (Hard Rain London/Alicia's Attic) and Misty Oldland (Supernatural/Forest Soul).

Neil's music is listed online in amongst his namesake's famous moon landing speech.

'When I first realised that I was sharing an artist profile with Neil Armstrong the astronaut, my heart sank,' he told us.

'However, I soon realised that it is a blessing as thousands of people around the world find my music every month because of this.'

The pandemic has made it difficult to play live music, but Andalucía has increasingly opened up since spring of 2021. This summer Neil has enjoyed playing his music at

festivals and local venues once again.

He added: 'My music has been generously received by both ex-pat fans and the local Spanish who appreciate my work with Jose Maria whom they all recognise.'

'It's a joy to get out and play live. I hope that this freedom will endure.'

Neil is joined in Spain this week by his parents Mac and Katie, both retired GPs from Connel, for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

'It is going to be a very emotional reunion,' he said.

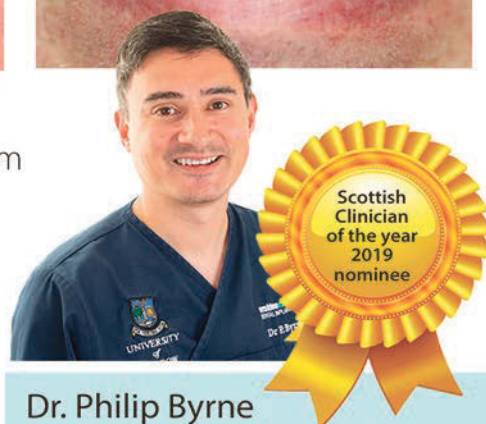
'To be able to hug my parents and see them with the grandchildren once again will be really special.'

Finding a Way Home can be found on all major streaming platforms.

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Source: YouGov 2018



# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The sprung dance floor of the Barrowland Ballroom bounced again under the feet of 1,900 traditional music lovers last Saturday night for the first time since falling silent at the beginning of the pandemic.

The event was a delayed celebration of Trail West's 10th anniversary but the celebratory mood had been heightened by the fact so many people from different parts of the Highlands and Islands were re-united after so long.

A real sense of excitement built up all day as everyone met for pre-show food and drinks - and that was just the boys in the band!

A 2pm throw-up in the camanachd cup final, a hundred miles away in Oban, provided a good starting point for a lot of people's days - especially for those of a Kinlochshiel persuasion who were really going for it by the time the gig started and who got a special, congratulatory mention from the stage. I dare say there was a cracking night happening up in Dornie at the same time.

I always think it must be funny for local regulars of the pubs around the Barras when a Highland band comes to town.

Whether it be the Vatersay Boys in their annual Christmas carry on, or the famous old Runrig gigs, there is always an influx of noisy teuchters!

I had a cracking meal in Metropolitan in the Merchant



Trail West play the Barrowlands for their 10th anniversary gig.

City with a couple of pals before wandering up to the famous lights outside the venue.

There we were met by our good pal John Robertson, who was claiming to have been 'on the road' with Trail West for the last eight years.

The reality of John's touring credentials is that he now and again organises guest lists and backstage bars for the boys' bigger gigs and he was, as you can imagine, in his element on Saturday evening.

John ushered us up the stairs and away into the excellent green room at the Barras - scene of many a good night before, during, and after gigs from the West Coast's finest bands.

It is easy to forget that many of the most famous musicians in the world have made themselves at home in that same room.

Tom Joyce, who runs the venue, once told me a great story about Robbie Williams asking for a place to do yoga backstage and Tom thinking: 'I've never had this request from the Vatersay Boys!'

Needless to say there wasn't any yoga going on before Trail West played but, with the bar John had provided for the guests, there were plenty people who felt at one with their environment.

The Trail West boys put on a great show, as did the Cast Ewes, who opened for them, and it was an evening worthy of the 10-year celebration.

A few curers were in order the next day in the Snaffle Bit and then the Park Bar and I'm sure, at that point, the boys could reflect on a tremendous night.

Congratulations to them on a wonderful decade of music.

# Stars of Irish Country to play Oban

Join four of Ireland's leading country music stars for a night of toe-tapping magic direct from the Emerald Isle at the Corran Halls, Oban on Friday October 1.

The stellar line-up, which wouldn't look out of place in Nashville, will feature the gentle giant of country music Mick Flavin from Longford, the energetic Shawn Cuddy from County Laois, the multi-talented fiddling maestro Stephen Smyth from County Down, and one of Ireland's favourite entertainers, Curtis Magee from County Tyrone.

Each of the stars will perform a host of their trademark country and Irish hit songs in the company of the fabulous Keltic Storm band, making this a show you won't want to miss.

Show promoter James McGarrity said: 'We are delighted to be finally getting back to doing what we all love - performing to a live audience.



One of Ireland's favourite entertainers, Curtis Magee is part of the line up of country stars set to come to Oban.

This is a great opportunity to see four of Ireland's top stars all in one show and we guarantee a super night of entertainment.

Tickets for the show at the

Corran Halls are now on sale from the box office on 01631 567333 or online at [www.liveargyll.co.uk/facility/the-corran-hall](http://www.liveargyll.co.uk/facility/the-corran-hall)

## What's on at Oban Cinema



### Friday 24 September

Free Guy | 12A 16:15  
 French Cinema: Arab Blues (Un Divan à Tunis) | 12A 16:30  
 Aquarela at McCaig's Tower **SOLD OUT**  
 Doors open from 6pm, film at 8pm. Ticket holders only!

### Saturday 25 September

Pride events hosted by Oban Pride all day from 11am!  
 More information at [obanpride.com](http://obanpride.com)  
 Pride Film: Beautiful Thing | 15 20:00

### Sunday 26 September

Free Guy | 12A 13:30/16:30  
 The Last Bus | 12A 14:30  
 Limbo | 12A 16:45  
 French Cinema: Arab Blues (Un Divan à Tunis) | 12A 19:15  
 Short film: Seeking Glass | 15 19:30  
 Short film: Baile | UN 20:10  
 Short film selection | 15 20:25

### Wednesday 29 September

Free Guy | 12A 16:30  
 French Cinema: Arab Blues (Un Divan à Tunis) | 12A 16:45  
 Short film: Seeking Glass | 15 18:45  
 Short film: Baile | UN 19:25  
 Short film selection | 15 19:40  
 National Theatre: Romeo & Juliet | 12A 19:30

### Thursday 30 September

No Time To Die | 12A Midnight Show 00:01/16:15/20:00  
 Free Guy | 12A 16:00  
 French Cinema: Arab Blues (Un Divan à Tunis) | 12A 18:30  
 Short film: Seeking Glass | 15 20:30  
 Short film: Baile | UN 21:10  
 Short film selection | 15 21:25

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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For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

**FRIDAY:** 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil  
10am-1pm The Brunch Show With The One  
4pm-6:45pm Teeney & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet  
6:45pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team  
7pm-8pm Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig  
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Peter Rainnie

**SATURDAY:** 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen  
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda  
2pm-4pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc  
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team  
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling  
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs  
9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege  
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen  
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch  
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.

# Trinity of celtic artists celebrate St Columba

by Sandy Neil  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Iona and the life of St Columba, in his 1,500th anniversary year, are the subjects of a unique artistic collaboration between a painter, a poet and a fiddler.

A sensational series of new paintings by John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo), compositions by Aberdeenshire fiddler Paul Anderson, and verse by the Irish lyricist Francie Devine, have all been inspired by the holy Hebridean island and the saint that made it famous.

In the Footsteps of Colm Cille (St Columba) is a colourful, inspiring book which also features a CD of tunes written and performed by Paul Anderson.

The whole project has been pulled together by the Reverend Kenneth MacKenzie, the Chaplain to the Queen at Braemar and Crathie, and supported by the St Margaret's Trust in Braemar. It was in his parish that Ken first developed the idea of a 'spirituality of place'. Iona developed as a focus after discussions with the three artists involved.

The resultant book and CD was launched in a very special performance in Braemar featuring all three artists on Sunday September 19.

The Rev MacKenzie said: 'What a privilege it has been



Fiddler Paul Anderson has provided the music for the project, while Jolomo, provide beautiful pieces of artwork, such as the above painting of Iona Abbey.

to walk a little while alongside some unlikely companions In the footsteps of Colm Cille, and what delight awaits those who will yet take time to immerse themselves in this book and in this music.'

Dr John Lowrie Morrison OBE (Jolomo), one of Scotland's leading expressionist painters best-known for his Scottish landscapes, was once the head of art and design at Lochgilphead High School.

Paul Anderson MBE from Tarland in Aberdeenshire, is one of the finest Scots fiddlers of his generation and composer of more than 300 pieces in the Scots style. He has just been conferred as a Doctor of Music at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

The Irish poet Francis Devine was a Trade Union Tutor with the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union/SIPTU in Dublin. His three collections of poetry are Red Star, Blue Moon, May Dancer, and Outside Left.

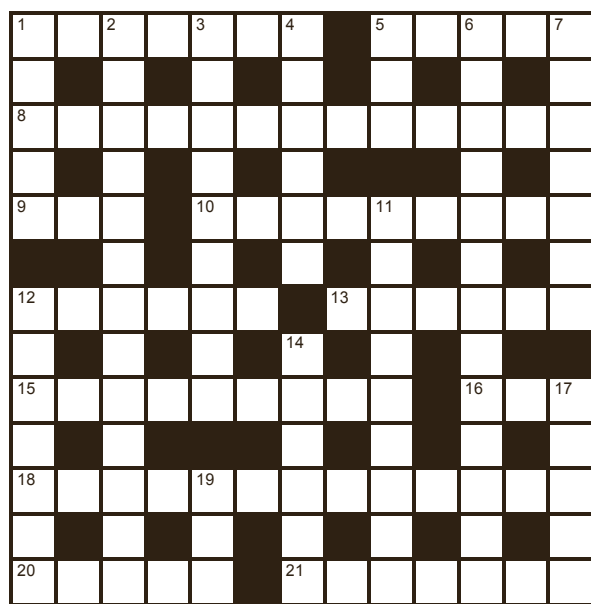
The book and CD costs £25 and is available from [kmackenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kmackenzie@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Iona Abbey**  
By Francis Devine  
For Kenneth MacKenzie

*It would originally have been timber, wattle and thatch, a surround of ditch and clod, vulnerable to weather, raiding Vikings, peculiarly impermanent for such a solid intention.*

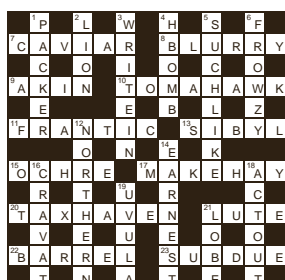
*It then became stone, a house not so easily blown down yet one still subjected to neglect, a purposeful, dissolving decay until the day skilled masons came to begin raising ashlar, slipform and veneer, grey and roseate, a rising permanence, imposing and impressive, inspiring respect, a devotional paean that would transmit its essential message, a spiritual light across ocean, moor and mount, captured here in this painting against Mull's smudge-blue hills, tempestuous sky above, curtains of wind-blown sedge's welcoming revelation.*

## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Occupied (7)
  - 5 Umbrella of a jellyfish (5)
  - 8 Bargains to be had (9,4)
  - 9 Wolf (3)
  - 10 Landlord (9)
  - 12 Arrogance (6)
  - 13 Copier (6)
  - 15 Private compartment on a ship (9)
  - 16 Sphere (3)
  - 18 Medicine for hayfever sufferers (13)
  - 20 White heron (5)
  - 21 Awareness (7)
- Down**
- 1 Formal host (5)
  - 2 Music player (6,7)
  - 3 Killer of microorganisms (9)
  - 4 The act of eating (6)
  - 5 Pastry container (3)
  - 6 Plumbism (4,9)
  - 7 Not frozen (3-4)
  - 11 Surround (9)
  - 12 One taken against their will (7)
  - 14 Small shrub (6)
  - 17 Sound from the fold (5)
  - 19 Shed (3)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# Argyll pipers set for the Glenfiddich

Inveraray's Stuart Liddell is among 10 of the world's greatest solo pipers invited to compete in this year's Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

The renowned competition returns to Blair Castle on Saturday October 30.

Defending champion Stuart will be joined by Dollar's Callum Beaumont, British Columbia piper Jack Lee, five-time champion Roderick Macleod MBE, William McCallum of Bearsden, 2019 title holder Finlay Johnston, The Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl, Edinburgh's Iain Speirs, Glasgow-based Canadian piper Glenn Brown, and Connor Sinclair of Crieff.

The participants were

selected from the two qualifying events that took place, with Stuart Liddell as the 2020 champion and Callum Beaumont as the overall winner of the Piping Live! Masters Competition.

The other competitors were chosen based on previous achievements at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship and will travel to Perthshire this October for the annual meet.

Musicians will play in both the Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel disciplines, with prizes awarded for each discipline, as well as an overall championship winner.

The prestigious 48th annual event will welcome live audi-

ences to the Perthshire venue's Victorian ballroom whilst also being livestreamed, allowing piping fans at home and around the world to experience the impressive sights and sounds of The Glenfiddich.

The competition will be followed by the celebratory Pipers' Ceilidh at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, renowned for topping off the Glenfiddich experience for competitors and fans alike.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music).

Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for

excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant Foundation, the event is held annually at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire.

The National Piping Centre's director of piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: 'It's wonderful to be able to bring The Glenfiddich Piping Championship back to a live audience this year. Blair Castle always makes for a magnificent venue for this prestigious event and the 48th edition will mark a welcome return to live competition, whilst also giving people at home and abroad the chance to tune in online.'

'In-person tickets are limited so we would encourage all



# Singing in the shower? Time to hit the road

You're young, you've got a voice, you can play an instrument or two, and you want to be a star. What do you do now to be the next Lewis Capaldi?, writes Sandy Neil

Well, the Scottish Music Centre and Creative Scotland have an idea: join Hit The Road, a training scheme which 'equips young musicians with the knowledge, contacts and tools necessary to work and tour'.

The initiative has acted as an early stepping stone in the careers of Scotland's emerging musicians and songwriters, including Lewis Capaldi, Be Charlotte, Parlamo, RILEY, Deni Smith, Zoë Bestel, Velvet, Angry Man Car Park, Fort William artist Keir Gibson, and JR Green - brother Jacob and Rory Green from Strontian.

The national youth music project, run by the Scottish Music Centre and funded by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative, is now open, and seeking applications from young artists age 14-19 to tour Scotland in 2021/2022.

Ahead of each tour, musicians attend expert masterclasses, sessions and workshops covering everything from production to performance, royalties and marketing.

Gill Maxwell, executive director of the Scottish Music Centre, said: 'At last, after 18 months of music industry shutdown, Hit The Road is



**Fort William musician Kier Gibson, who learned the art of live touring via a national scheme called Hit The Road.**

back and looking for new young talent to tour Scotland later this year.

'We want to hear from emerging artists aged 14-19 working in any music genre, either as a solo artist or with a band. All our venues have 14+ licences so that new young audiences can see and support their local bands.

'Our nationwide team of music industry mentors is on standby to guide the selected artists through stagecraft, song choice, press and PR, while our professional photographers will provide a set of individually tailored promo

pics. We can't wait to see and hear all the new talent coming out of Scotland this year!'

The Scottish Music Centre is a membership organisation of over 100 composers and creative businesses. Creative Scotland is the national agency for the arts, screen and creative industries, investing money from the Scottish Government and the National Lottery towards the development of Scotland's creative future. Its Youth Music Initiative creates access to high quality music making opportunities, enables young people to achieve their potential in or through music.

# Ch Piping Championship

those keen to be at Blair Castle to get their tickets as soon as possible.'

The judges for the day are John Wilson, Dr Jack Taylor, Cpt Stuart Samson (Retd) for the Piobaireachd section and Iain MacFadyen, William Morrison and Ian Duncan will judge the March, Strathspey and Reel. Bob Worrall is Fear an Tighe for the day.

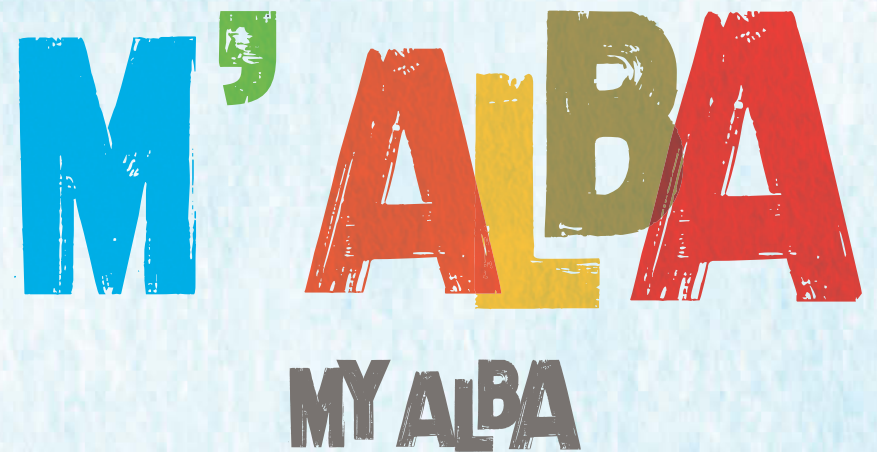
Tickets for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2021 are on sale now at [www.thepiping-centre.co.uk/glenfiddich](http://www.thepiping-centre.co.uk/glenfiddich)

**Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl is among those invited to take part in the championships.** Photograph:

Derek Maxwell



© Derek Maxwell



<b>DIARDAIN 23 An t-Sultain THURSDAY 23 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	An Lot/The Croft
19.00	Trusadh-Sgeulachdan a' Ghlasaidh/Life in Lockdown	An Là – NEWS
20.00	Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba	Julie Fowlis/Ceol aig Baile
21.00	Seoid a' Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep1	Na Deachdairan/Dictators-Kim 11 Sung
22.00	Dhan Uisge/Loich Loyne	Dana/Scotland's Wild Side/Glen Nevis
23.00		
<b>DIHAOINE 24 An t-Sultain FRIDAY 24 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	An Là – NEWS
19.00	Dan	Machair
19.25	Celtic Connections Shorts	Prosbaig
20.00	An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery	Na Boireannaich a Thog Glasgow City
21.00	The Valhalla Murders	Dealbh is Slighe
22.00	Orain nan Gaidheal	
<b>DISATHAIRNE 25 An t-Sultain SATURDAY 25 An t-Sultain</b>		
16.00	Wallace and Gromit/The Wrong Trousers/A' Bhriogais Cairr	Celtic Connections Shorts
16.30	An Là	Live Rugby/Women's RWC 2021 Europe Qualifier/Ireland v Scotland
16.55	Vets: Gach Creutair Beo	Celtic Connections Shorts
19.00	Breabach aig Blas	Prosbaig
19.30		
19.35		
20.00		
20.30	Lugh Mi/Book Show	TRNSMT 2021 Highlights Ep2
21.00	Na Deachdairan/Dictators-Kim 11 Sung	Na Boireannaich a Thog Glasgow City
22.30	Seoid a' Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep1	
<b>DIDÒMHAICH 26 An t-Sultain SUNDAY 26 An t-Sultain</b>		
16.00	Siubhlachan/Time Traveller	Celtic Connections Shorts
16.35	An Là	Seachd Là
16.45	Scottish Premiership-Hibernian v St Johnstone	Mischa@Blas
17.00	Alleluia	Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
18.00	Tatù Rìoghail Dhùn Eideann aig 70	Bannan S2 Ep3
19.45	Bannan S2 Ep 4	The Valhalla Murders
<b>DILUAIN 27 An t-Sultain MONDAY 27 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	Fuine-Baking
19.00	Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path	An Là – NEWS
19.30	An Tigh-Fuine/The Bakery	Trusadh – Feadaireachd/Whistling
20.00	Bannan /S2 Ep5	Eadair Chluich
20.30	Binneas-Bard Mhealboist	Sar-Sgeoil: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
21.00		
22.00		
22.40		
22.45		
23.00		
<b>DIMÀIRT 28 An t-Sultain TUESDAY 28 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	An Lot/The Croft
19.00		
19.30		
19.35		
20.00		
20.30	Trusadh:Sgeulachdan an Glasaidh / Life in Lockdown	An Là – NEWS
21.00	Vets-Gach Creutair Beo	Lipoedema-Sgeulachd Lorna/Lipoedema:Lorna's Story
22.00	Trusadh-Feadaireachd/Whistling	Eadair Chluich-Bàs an Eich
22.30	Machair	Alleluia
23.00		
<b>DICIADAIN 29 An t-Sultain WEDNESDAY 29 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	Fuine-Baking
19.00	Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path	An Là – NEWS
19.30	Lugh Mi/Book Show	Sar-Sgeoil/The Cone-Gatherers
20.00	Bannan S3 Ep1	Dana/Scotland's Wild Side
21.00	Julie Fowlis-Ceol aig Baile	
21.55		
22.00		
22.30		
23.00		
<b>DIARDAIN 30 An t-Sultain THURSDAY 30 An t-Sultain</b>		
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	An Lot/The Croft
19.00	Trusadh-Sgeulachdan a Ghlasaidh/Life in Lockdown	An Là – NEWS
19.30	Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba	Julie Fowlis-Ceol aig Baile
20.00	Seoid a' Chidsin-The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep2	Na Deachdairan/Dictators – Saddam Hussein
20.30	Dhan Uisge/Loch Lomond	Dana-Scotland's Wild Side
21.00		
22.00		
22.30		
23.00		



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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The next meeting for the widows group is  
**Tuesday 5th October**  
**at 2pm**  
**in the Corran halls**

We meet for friendship and support and will also have Mr Colin MacLean-Fleming to tell us about fire regulations.

This group is particularly intended for widows without children.

If interested please phone  
**Joyce on 07818 244572**



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## Around the markets

**United Auctions, Lochboisdale, Wednesday September 15:** sold 1985 sheep of all classes. 1612 Lambs averaged £57.82 (+£5.26). A good show of mainly long keeping lambs were on offer and sold at levels comparing favourably to current rates being obtained at mainland centres.

**LAMBS – SUFFx – £100.00, 325 North Boisdale; £91.00, 7 Middlequarter; £81.50, 9 Baile; £81.00, 426 North Lochboisdale; £78.00, 12 Locheport; £76.50, 426 North Boisdale. TEXx – £83.00, 20 West Gerinish; £82.00, 6 Dunganichy; £80.00, 20 West Gerinish; £80.00, 8 Nunton; £80.00, 31 Aird; £79.00, Failte; £79.00, 28 Balivanich; £77.50, 44 Linique; £77.50, 8 Nunton; £77.00, 44 Linique; £77.00, 31 Aird; £76.50, 5 Peninerine. CHEV – £89.00, Baymore; £75.00, 3 South Lochey-nort; £73.50, 203 Stonybridge.**

**CROSS – £86.00, 32 Linique; £78.00, 32 Linique; £78.00, 356 South Boisdale; £74.00, 302 Kilphedar; £71.00, 356 South Boisdale. BF – £75.00, 11a East Gerinish; £69.00, 4 South Glendale; £67.00, 4 South Glendale; £64.50, 6 Dunganichy; £61.00, 11a East Gerinish; £58.50, 3 Howbeg; £57.50, Craigstrome.**

**RAMS – SUFF – £190, 426 North Lochboisdale. CHEV – £180, Aird Illery; £150, 8 Milton. BF – £160, Aird Illery.**

**WEDDERS – TEXx – £65.50, 3 Bornish. CHEV – £67.50, 31 Aird. CROSS – £50.50, 409/410 Smerclate. BF – £50.00, 83 Borge, Barra. EWES – SUFFx – £69.50, Failte. TEXx – £72.00, 426 North Lochboisdale; £71.00, 122 Craigston, Barra. CHEV – £80.00, 6 Kildonan; £66.00, Failte; £65.00, 49 Balgarva; £63.00, 9 Milton; £60.00, 6 Newton Ferry. CROSS – £61.00, 25 Ardivachair; £55.00, Failte; £55.00, 475 South Lochboisdale. MULE – £40.00, 409/410 Smerclate. BF – £45.00, St Mary's Bornish; £42.00, Failte.**

**Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, Fort William, Wednesday September 15:** sold 348 weaned calves and store cattle, 19 OTM cattle and 12 adult head of breeding cattle. A spokesperson for the auction mart said: 'Fort William calf sale started the season off with an explosive trade. Credit to the vendors who showed off their wares to full advantage with large lots of cattle being sold to a ringside of buyers many of whom attracted by the new mid-week slot left without purchasing. Portree calf sale on Monday offers an opportunity to acquire well bred, naturally reared calves similar to those sold today.' Bullocks (213) averaged 304.9p

(+35.5p) and sold 355.9p per kg for 170kg Limousin cross from Crossfield, Anaheilt, and £1,040 gross for a 455kg Limousin cross from Lurignish Farm, Appin.

Heifers (135) averaged 295.2p (+37.3p) and sold to 358.6p per kg for a 145kg Simmental cross from Ardtornish Farms, Morven, and £1,060 gross for a 400kg Limousin cross from Lurignish Farm.

Breeding cattle (12) sold to £2,000 gross for a Charolais cross cow with Charolais cross heifer calf at foot. OTM cattle (19) averaged 132.3p and sold to 154.1p per kg for a 610kg Whitebred Shorthorn cross from Moy Farm, Banavie and £1,030 gross for a Whitebred Shorthorn cross also from Moy Farm.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks 200-250kg – Ardtornish Farms, £840,355.6p;251-300kg – Ardtornish Farms, £930,344.4p;301-350kg – Balmaglaister £950, Moy Farm 306.6p;351-400kg – Lurignish £980,245p;401kg and over – Balmaglaister £1,000, 246.9p.

Heifers

Up to 200kg - Mytle Moss Croft £590, Dalilea, Acharade,342.5p;201-250kg – Dalilea, £740,328.6p;251-300kg – Moy Farm, £850,309.1p;301-350kg – Lurignish Farm, £855,247.8p;351-

400kg – Balmaglaister, £850,223.7p;401-450kg - Lurignish Farm, £1060,265p.

United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday September 14: sold 2340 sheep of all classes. 1601 lambs averaged £55.15 (+ £3.95). A good selection of long keeping lambs was on offer and sold at satisfactory levels.

**LAMBS – SUFFx – £76.00, Kilbride Farm Balvicar; £75.00, Balnagown; £73.00, Mid Farm. LLEYx – £74.00, Kilpatrick Croft. TEXx – £88.00, £83.00, £78.50, Lochview. CHEV – £73.00, Inverlair; £72.00, Kingairloch; £70.50, Inverlair; £70.00, Strongorm. CROSS – £76.50, Kingairloch; £75.00, 1 Keil Crofts; £70.00, Rhugarbh; £70.00, Ockle. MULE – £69.50, Dalrannoch; £60.00, Achuaran. CHEV MULE – £81.00, £72.00, Kingairloch. BF – £71.00, Gallanach Farms; £63.50, Ockle; £62.00, Garraron & Melfort; £59.00, Creagan; £58.50, Gallanach Farms. £57.00, Achuaran; £57.00, Rhugarbh.**

**EWES – SUFFx – £66.00, 3 Killeen. CHEV – £71.00, Penmore; £70.00, Torloisk; £70.00, Kingairloch; £64.00, Treshnish; £64.00, Strongorm; £62.00, Barndromin. MULE – £64.00, Baligrundle; £62.00, Balnagown. BF – £56.00, Strongorm; £49.50, Achuaran; £48.00, Loch View.**

## Welcome boost to women in agriculture

NFU Scotland has welcomed the news that the personal development programme for women in agriculture has been launched and applications for 2022 are now live.

The Scottish Government-funded 'Be Your Best Self' programme is an integral part of its vision to make Scottish agriculture a fairer, more inclusive industry, where farm succession is not determined by gender, training is accessible to everyone, and more women take on senior roles in agricultural organisations.

The programme follows a successful pilot run in 2019-20 and will support up to 200 women over the next two years. The 2021 course is already full but applications for 2022 are now open.

More details and the application form can be found at [www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/women-in-agriculture](http://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/women-in-agriculture).



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# Finding 'sweet spot' between farm production and biodiversity is key

We live in a diverse, spectacular and productive countryside. This was the resounding conclusion, emphatically demonstrated by the passionate and inspirational talks from speakers taking part in the latest National Sheep Association (NSA) Breakfast Club webinar.



With just a couple of months until the UN's Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) arrives in Glasgow for its annual summit, NSA's September webinar acted as a starting point for the asso-

ciation's work to promote the positive role that UK sheep farming has to play in the climate change crisis.

Chaired by NSA chief executive Phil Stocker, the meeting welcomed experienced sheep

farmers John Pawsey from Suffolk, Hywel Morgan from Powys and Davy MacCracken, Head of Scotland's Rural University's (SRUC) Integrated Land Management Department to the session,

who all portrayed their views and experience of enhancing diverse habitats, providing food, shelter and conditions on farm that have enabled wildlife populations to thrive, alongside their productive, efficient and high quality farming systems.

Mr Stocker comments: 'For several generations there has been an expectation to keep farms looking "tidy". On the surface this may have looked more appealing, depicting an image of a well kept and managed environment - but

views are changing. What we may have previously perceived as "shabby" should now be considered a haven for a rich diversity of species and these habitats are now increasingly found across the many different landscapes in which sheep are farmed in the UK.'

The clear message highlighted by all speakers during the webinar was that the right balance between biodiversity and productivity on farm is essential, in order to sustain thriving habitats and support

and protect nature. Production of high-quality red meat is not compromised by this, but rather enhanced by the nature-farming synergy that consumers increasingly value. The passion shown for being able to daily observe wildlife being nurtured was hugely evident in the short presentations given by the farmers speaking.

A recording from the September webinar can also be found on the NSA website at [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/webinars](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/webinars).



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You should enjoy working with numbers and be an enthusiastic team player. Ideally, you'll have an eye for detail and an interest in using IT to provide a great finance administration service. If you like the sound of working in a resilient sector with opportunities for learning, career development and flexible working whilst making a real difference to the wider community then this opportunity could be ideal for you.

West Highland Housing Association is offering an excellent remuneration package which includes 25 days paid leave per year plus 15 public holidays and a contributory pension scheme. The organisation is a gold accredited Investor in People.

If you want to find out more, please contact us on 01631 566451 and we will be delighted to talk further about our work and our expectations.

**Job packs can be downloaded from our website at [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk)**

**We will only consider completed job applications – no CVs. please Applications should be received by noon on 6th October 2021. Interviews are planned for week beginning 18th October 2021.**



**01631 566 451 | Freephone 0300 323 1170**

**[mail@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:mail@westhighlandha.co.uk) | [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk)**

SCOTTISH CHARITY IN SCOTLAND NO. SC017357. REGISTERED SOCIETY UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY ACT 2014, NO.1691R(S) AND SECTION 4 OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1988 REGISTERED NO. HEP163. PROPERTY FACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER PF000101



Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position based at Highland Lime Quarry, Fort William: -

### HGV DRIVER – POWDER TANKER (CLASS ONE)

This post requires to be filled by someone who is versatile, flexible and has a clean driving licence. You will require a sound understanding of the EU rules on drivers hours and be fully conversant with digital tachograph use. Previous experience with powder tank driving would be advantageous however full training will be given.

The successful candidate will be required to start at the earliest opportunity.

To apply please visit our website [www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers) to download an application form.

Completed application forms should be returned to

Nichola Greig, Payroll & HR Co-ordinator,  
Rigifa, Cove, AB12 3LR

or by email to [recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

*Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer*



Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position based at Highland Lime, Fort William: -

### TRAINEE QUARRY OPERATIVE

You will be trained and developed in all aspects of quarry operations, routine maintenance works, product quality assurance and record keeping whilst working towards a firm knowledge of industry specific Health, Safety and Environment Legislation.

The ideal candidate would be hardworking, reliable, a good team player and available to commence employment at the earliest opportunity. A current driving licence is desirable however not essential.

To apply please visit our website [www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers) to download an application form.

Completed applications forms should be returned to

Nichola Greig, Payroll & HR Co-ordinator,  
Rigifa, Cove, AB12 3LR

or by email to [recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

*Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer*

### Career opportunities



The Construction Industry's an exciting place to be right now. Come and be a part of an amazing award winning team.

### CALLING ALL TRADES FOR DUNBEG, OBAN & MID ARGYLL

Due to expansion, we are currently looking to recruit all trades people, in particular skilled workers.

**Labourers**

**Joiners**

**Bricklayers**

### What can we offer you?

A competitive salary. Access to training and development to further your career with us. A workplace where no day is the same and you will get to see and work on projects that are helping develop communities across Argyll.

**Call us on 01546 602989**

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



### D & J CAMPBELL LTD HGV Driver

We are currently looking to recruit night shift Class 1 HGV Drivers for refrigerated transport. The job will be a 4 on 4 off shift pattern and based in Oban/Fort William.

We are seeking committed and hard-working candidates and for the right person, all necessary training and funding for Class 1 licence can be provided. Training can be provided if necessary. We offer excellent rates of pay and a monthly bonus scheme.

For more information or to apply, please contact Ian on 07917792607 or by email to [traffic@d-jcampbell.co.uk](mailto:traffic@d-jcampbell.co.uk)



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### WANTED MOBILE PLANT DUMP TRUCK OPERATORS With or without an operator license

Not many people in this area have a license to operate 100 tonnes Dump Trucks but don't worry about that... we'll help you get it!

The Oban Earth Works company is the main primary production contractor for Aggregate Industries at Glensanda quarry, fulfilling the Load and Haul operations producing over 7 million tonnes per year.

We now have an exciting opportunity to recruit new operators. You will receive extensive training to operate 100t rigid Dump Trucks and become part of our highly experienced team, consistently delivering demanding production targets.

We are looking for enthusiastic people who relish a challenge in a constantly changing environment and gain satisfaction from achieving their daily targets.

And all this while working in Europe's largest Granite producing quarry.

The ideal candidates will have a can do attitude but do not require any previous experience in the quarry industry as full training in quarry load and haul and heavy mobile plant operations will be given.

So if you want to start or change your career to a varied and challenging industry contact Jorge now!

Email: [jorgeff@obaneearthworks.co.uk](mailto:jorgeff@obaneearthworks.co.uk)

Phone: **01631 568 138** (Between 8.00 - 18.00)



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## SCOTTISH FIELD October



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**VACANCY**

**Assistant Freshwater Manager – Smolt Unit**

**LOCATION**

**Furnace Smolt Unit, near Inveraray**

**CLOSING DATE**

**30 September 2021**

**THE COMPANY**

Cooke is a global seafood company with operations in North America, Europe, and South America. Our company's success is driven by our dynamic, highly skilled, and innovative management team, supported by dedicated employees who live in coastal communities and contribute to the local area's economy and sense of community.

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is committed to responsible and sustainable production and the delivery of high-quality

**THE ROLE**

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years' experience working within a RAS Unit and knowledge of all aspects of Freshwater Smolt Production. Candidates, in conjunction with the Freshwater Manager, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent management, team working and communication skills.

**THE TERMS**

In return for your commitment, hard work and dedication we offer excellent terms and conditions, including competitive salary, company pension, life insurance, salary sacrifice schemes and a generous holiday entitlement.

**APPLY**

If you want to be part of a team, open to fresh ideas, with the opportunity to help energise the corporate brand and profile of one of the leading global Seafood Companies, we'd love to hear from you.

If you wish to apply for this vacancy, please visit our website at [www.cookeaquaculturescotland.com/careers](http://www.cookeaquaculturescotland.com/careers) by 30 September 2021.

Interviews will be held in line with Government's social distancing guidelines.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

**Maintenance Manager**

Aggregate Industries is a member of the Lafarge Group and a leading supplier of traditional and sustainable construction materials to major building and construction customers. With nearly 4,000 employees and operations across the UK and Northern Europe, we are committed to helping create a better built environment. You will lead the site's Fixed Plant Maintenance department as part of the site engineering support team. Facilitate the development and deployment of site maintenance policies to ensure compliance with all legislative and corporate requirements. These activities should support the site's reliability based culture and the promotion of Glensanda as a world leader in the development of best practice. This will incorporate the management of all activities undertaken by the department members and contractors in the execution of their duties



**Responsibilities:**

- Manage all short, medium and long term activities of the Fixed Plant Maintenance department at Glensanda.
- Performance manage a small/medium sized team of craftsmen and Team leaders to provide suitable levels of support to the site ensuring high standards of demonstrable professional competence
- Manage the development of new reliability driven practices within the Fixed Plant Maintenance department
- Promote and lead safety within the Fixed Plant Maintenance department at Glensanda.
- Develop and implement AI and Glensanda specific Maintenance procedures to fulfil Statutory, Insurance and Corporate requirements, incorporating industry best practices.
- Keep abreast of new legislation and Aggregate Industries Codes of Practice governing the design, maintenance and operation of equipment used on the Glensanda site and ensure the specified Maintenance systems to satisfy these requirements are being conducted on schedule and adequate records maintained.
- Troubleshoot major and recurring fixed plant problems on the site to improve equipment operation and reduce maintenance costs, working closely with the Production and Electrical department to eliminate problem area "root causes".
- Provide early input to and approve the design of projects conducted by the site Project group and Contractors; and act as an interface between two groups.
- Implement a balanced maintenance strategy to move emphasis from breakdown maintenance further toward Reliability Centred Maintenance using "planned and predictive" techniques.
- Manage Contractors used on site for maintenance work, ensuring they are appropriately qualified, and work safely within the site rules and permit to work system.
- Liaise closely with Production, Engineering and Management Teams to set maintenance priorities to align with Business requirements.
- Liaise with Production and Engineering Planning to prepare and schedule major maintenance shutdown activities (e.g. maintenance shutdowns).
- Schedule and maintain plant and systems through the CMMS system.
- Participate in (and lead where appropriate) Management of change activities concerning Fixed Plant equipment.
- Assist with the formulation of training requirements for the Fixed Plant Maintenance department and Team leaders, including specific training programs for new equipment.
- Work in conjunction with the Engineering Manager to set allocated budgets.
- Manage projects and maintenance activities within your area of responsibility to the agreed level

To apply for the above position please send a copy of your CV along with a covering letter to [paul.kersley@aggregate.com](mailto:paul.kersley@aggregate.com)

**Closing date:** 30th September 2021



**WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

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

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

In this role you will have a pivotal part to play in the provision of high levels of customer service through the delivery of the tenant engagement strategy and effective supervision of key front-line staff. This role requires excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to manage conflicting priorities and achieve a high level of customer satisfaction through identifying and implementing service improvements.

**Housing Assistant, EVH Grade 5 Salary £25,044 - £27,832**

You will be part of a team of seven and we would expect our ideal candidate to have customer service experience and experience of using IT. We would want you to demonstrate that you have excellent interpersonal skills and can communicate effectively with people on the phone, face to face and via email. We are looking for someone who understands high quality customer service and wants to improve services for our tenants and owners.

**Repairs Assistant (2 posts), EVH Grade 4 Salary £21,323 – £24,112**

Be an advocate for the customer through the delivery of a professional, friendly reactive repairs service as the primary customer contact. You will undertake repairs diagnostics, log repairs, schedule repairs appointments, complete customer surveys and issue work to the Association's contractors. The post requires you to work collaboratively and be supportive of colleagues across the organisation.

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

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

**A job pack can be downloaded from our website at [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk)**

**We will only consider completed job applications – no CVs. please**

**Applications should be received by noon on 6th October 2021.**

**Interviews are planned for week beginning 18th October 2021.**



**01631 566 451 | Freephone 0300 323 1170**

**[mail@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:mail@westhighlandha.co.uk) | [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk)**

SCOTTISH CHARITY IN SCOTLAND NO. SCO17357. REGISTERED SOCIETY UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY ACT 2014, NO.1691R(S) AND SECTION 4 OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1988 REGISTERED NO. HEP163. PROPERTY FACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER PF000101

Are you looking for permanent employment and like working outdoors? Maybe this is the job for you?



Dawnfresh Farming Ltd is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK and we are looking to recruit:

**Husbandry Technician – Taynuilt**

**Husbandry Technician – near Lochgilphead**

**Husbandry Technician – Lochearnhead**

These roles focus upon all aspects of successful trout production. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

This is a full time position, working a 40 hour week along with weekend cover on a rota basis. You can expect to earn between £23,923 - £28,109 per annum. Other benefits include an occupational pension scheme, life insurance and cycle to work scheme. There is also the opportunity to undertake a modern apprenticeship in Aquaculture.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

**Closing date:** 30 September 2021

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## MOLADH SGÌRE-SGOILE FOGHLAM TRON GHÀIDHLIG A STÈIDHEACHADH AIRSON BUN- SGOIL ÀTH THARRACAIL BRATH COINNEIMH POBLAICH



Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air pàipear co-chomhairleach fhoillseachadh a thaobh a' mholaidh gus sgìre-sgoile Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a stèidheachadh airson Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail.

Chaidh am pàipear a chur a-mach fo theirmean modh-obrach na Comhairle fo Achd nan Sgoiltean (Co-chomhairle) (Alba) 2010, mar a chaidh a h-atharrachadh.

Thòisich ùine na co-chomhairle air 23 Lùnastal 2021 agus crìochnaichidh i air 8 Dàmhair 2021. San ùine seo, tha cuireadh aig buill dhen phoball beachd a thoirt seachad mun mholadh mun bheilear a' co-chomhairleachadh.

Thathar air ullachaidhean a dhèanamh gus an coinnich riochdairean Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd ri pàrantan, clann agus buill eile dhen phoball gus bruidhinn mun mholadh aig coinneimh phoblaich a chumar **air-loidhne air 29 Sultain 2021, aig 6.30f**. Ma tha neach sam bith airson tighinn chun na coinneimh agus mura h-eil an ceangal riatanach aca mar-thà, faodaidh iad an ceangal iarraidh le post-d gu [Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk)

Thèid beachdan sam bith a gheibhear ann an sgrìobhadh no aig a' choinneimh phoblaich a thoirt seachad rè ùine do Chomataidh Foghlaim Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson beachdachadh orra. Seach gur e co-chomhairle phoblach a tha seo, bidh tagraidhean sgrìobhte, agus nòta dhen choinneimh, rim faotainn dhan phoball agus math dh'fhaodte gum foillsichear beachdan sam bith a gheibhear air làrach-lìn na Comhairle – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk).

Gheibhear leth-bhreacan dhen aithisg aig:

Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail; Bun-Sgoil Àird Ghobhar; Bun-Sgoil Chille Chòmhain; Bun-Sgoil Loch Àlainn; Bun-Sgoil Shròn an t-Sithein, agus Leabharlann Poblach Àird nam Murchan.

Chithear na molaidhean cuideachd air-loidhne aig:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>

## PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GAELIC MEDIUM CATCHMENT AREA FOR ACHARACLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING



The Highland Council has published a consultative paper on a proposal to establish a Gaelic Medium catchment area for Acharacle Primary School.

The paper has been issued under the terms of the Council's procedure under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

The consultation period began on 23 August 2021 and will finish on 8 October 2021. During this period members of the public are invited to comment on the consultative proposal.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Highland Council to meet with parents, children and other members of the public to discuss the proposal at a public meeting to be held **online on 29 September 2021, at 6.30pm**. Anyone wishing to join the meeting and who does not already have the necessary link, can request the link by emailing [Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk)

All comments made in writing or at the public meeting will be presented in due course to the Highland Council's Education Committee for consideration. As this is a public consultation, written submissions, and a note of the meeting, will be made available to the public and any comments submitted may be published on the Council's website – [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk).

Hard copies of the report have been made available at:

Acharacle Primary School; Ardour Primary School; Kilchoan Primary School; Lochaline Primary School, Strontian Primary School; and the Ardnamurchan Public Library.

Alternatively the proposals can be viewed online at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>

### First Registration of a Croft

Donald Kennedy has registered their croft 8 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 6th June 2022. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7909.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

1. A Gray, 7 Blaich, 0.14 ha, Site for a dwelling-house, Fencing conditions (110224).

2. I C MacDonald & J MacDonald, 1 Cornaigmore, 0.05 ha, Site for a dwelling-house, Fencing conditions (110877).

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

### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Duncan MacGregor has registered the croft known as Lochanbrec, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th June 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7923.

### First Registration of a Croft

Mr Duncan MacGregor has registered the croft known as Newfield, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th June 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7917.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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



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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/03675/FUL	Land 60M South East of Achindarroch Farm, Duror	Erection of house, renewal of planning permission 15/01099/FUL
21/03878/FUL	Station House, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JH	Erection of holiday cabin
21/03910/FUL	Land 795M NE of Bealach Ruadh, Kilchoan	Erection of 20.0m high lattice tower and associated ancillary works
21/04064/FUL	Shilo, Morar, Mallaig, PH40 4PB	Change of use from garage to micro-distillery
21/04134/PIP	Land 20M West of Alveston, Lochside, Fort William	Demolition and re-erection of House
21/04163/FUL	Land 830M SW of Glas-dhoire South, Laggan Forest, South Laggan, Spean Bridge	Diversion of existing path and construction of 1400m path. Formation of three viewpoint and rest areas
21/04246/FUL	Land 40M SE of Achnabobane Farmhouse, Spean Bridge	Erect 2no. Holiday Pods
21/04285/FUL	Braemar, Lundy Gardens, Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6PD	Siting of pod and associated parking
21/04335/FUL	2 Perth Place, Upper Achintore, Fort William, PH33 6UL	Erect wooden pod for holiday letting

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

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# CLASSIFIED

**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulation 7(2) (b)), as amended by the Town And Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2020**

**PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION : Prospective Major Application**

Proposed distillery and visitor centre and associated and ancillary development including: distillery; warehouse building; service and hardstanding areas; parking, access roads and footpaths; all associated plant and infrastructure including renewable energy infrastructure – hydrogen plant, solar panels and a single, three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbine measuring up to 76.5m tip height; drainage; electrical-substation and network of buried cables; and associated hard and soft landscaping including woodland area.

Gearach Farm, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, PA48 7UB

An online public consultation, where members of the project team representing the applicant, Gearach Ltd, will be available for a question and answer session via interactive text, will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (3pm-7pm) via the project website: [www.ilivhisky-consultation.co.uk](http://www.ilivhisky-consultation.co.uk).

If you wish to make comments on the proposals you may do so at the above event, on the project website or using the feedback forms or via email to [enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk) no later than 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

If members of the public are unable to view the material online, they should contact the development team at:

Email: [enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk)

Post: ili Consultation, c/o Liberty One, 80 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3BU

Tel: 0131 376 0893 - office hours only (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm).

Please note that all comments must be sent to the above and are NOT representations to Argyll and Bute Council. There will be an opportunity to make formal representations to the Council when an application is made.

## 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
21/01502/PP	Demolition of ruin and erection of four self catering units	Land South East Of Pine View Lodge, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1SE
21/01485/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent To Talla Lan, Arinagour, Isle Of Coll, Argyll And Bute
21/01646/PP	Demolition of warehouse and store and erection of replacement steel portal frame building to accommodate storage and shop	Site 1, Baliscate Industrial Estate, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6AE
21/01805/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage and installation of septic tank	Land Approx 490M North West Of Ardnacross Farm, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01621/PP	Erection of dwelling house, installation of biodisc treatment system and formation of access	Land West Of Keepers House, Glenforsa, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA72 6JN
21/01368/PP	Erection of detached building to accommodate pottery studio and first floor living accommodation ancillary to dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of 5 Victoria Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6PH
21/01667/PP	Erection of 5 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Morvern Drive, (Shillinghill Phase 3), Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01573/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and passing places, improvements to existing vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Croft 25, Achnahard, Bunessan, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01664/PP	Alterations and upgrading of existing garage and infilling of existing drainage ditch	Monaveen Annexe, Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
21/01441/MFF	Modification of shellfish farm from 6no x 230m mussel lines to 7no x 200m longlines	Land North West Of Eilean Amalaig, Loch Spelve, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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

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

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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## DEATHS

**DARROCH** - Suddenly at home on September 8, 2021, in her 97th year, Carol née McArthur beloved wife of the late Charlie, dear Mum of Caroline, Nana to Kenneth and Rebecca and mother-in-law of George.

**FRASER** - Margaret. Passed away at age 97 on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at and in the care of North Argyll House, Oban. Mother of Graham in Oban and Shelagh in Switzerland. Loving Grandmother to Neil, Louise, Marc and Danny and Great-Grandmother to Innes, Evie, Innes and Orla in Scotland; Melvin, Lavinia and Louisa abroad and cherished member of the wider family. Cremation will take place at Cardross Crematorium

on Friday, September 24, 11.15am. All welcome but due to Covid requirements please inform the family in advance of your intention to attend.

**MOODY** - Peacefully at home on September 14, 2021, in her 94th year, Margaret Moody (Mag), beloved wife of the late Robert, a dear mother, mother-in-law and sister. Loved as a grandmother by Marianne and Danny and as a great grandma by Oliver, Rebecca, Hazel, Heather Blue and Oak. Very sadly missed.

**IRVINE** - After a long and bravely fought battle with illness, Valeria Anne Ellen Irvine née Robertson, aged 77. Passed away peacefully in Oban Hospital on Friday, September 17, 2021 with her loving husband Steve by her

side. Cherished and proud mother to Heather and Rose. Dearly loved and wonderful Granny to Struan, Aila and Eliana. A much loved and respected big sister to Barclay and Jay. A dear sister-in-law to Marjorie and Lorraine. A kind and loyal loving friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all lucky enough to know her. Donations if desired are to benefit Macmillan Cancer Support. Funeral to be held on Friday, September 24 at 11.30am in the Church of Scotland in Tobermory and thereafter at Beadoun Cemetery.

## MEMORIALS

**CRAVEN** - In memory of our brother Billy, who passed away on September 3, 2007.

Loving memories, never forgotten.

- Allan and Marleen.

**CRAVEN** - In memory of our mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971.

I held your hand, you slipped away

Our memories of you will always stay.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Marleen, Allan and family.

**MACCUISH** - In loving memory of Bobby, who passed away September 17, 2006, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

Missed every day. Our world is a lonelier place without you.

- Love from David, Tia, Claire and Daniel.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Neil. In memory of a much loved husband and dad, who died

September 26, 2019.

Still the shock of losing you is really hard to bear

But we can feel your presence all around us everywhere

You were so very special and your love is still our guide

And although we cannot see you, you are always by our side.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Gillian, Craig, Katie, Abi and Ben xxxxx

**MACCORQUODALE** - In loving memory of Neil, a dear son and brother who died September 26, 2019.

Never far from our thoughts,

Forever loved and greatly missed

- Dad, Alison, Kirstene and Sandy.

**MACCORQUODALE** - In loving memory of Neil, a much

loved uncle and brother-in-law to Grant, Gordon and families.

You will be forever in our hearts.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Treasured memories of Neil, who died suddenly on September 26, 2019, much loved son-in-law, sadly missed but never forgotten. Memories last forever.

- Sandra and Wylie.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of Betty, my dear wife who died September 25, 2012.

- Much love Jim xx

**MILLIN** - In loving memory of my mother and father, mother who died September 27, 1980, also my father, who died May 10, 1986.

- Inserted by their son, Creagan, Strontian.

**RAMSAY** - In loving memory of our mum, mother-in-law and nana Janette, who died September 24, 2015 and also our dad, father-in-law and papa Jimmy, who passed away June 12, 1990.

Loved and remembered always

- Family in Denny, Oban, Lochgilphead and Midlothian.

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## GRADUATION

### ERIN CAMERON MACGREGOR



Master of Arts (Hons) Education, University of Aberdeen. Daughter of John and Catherine Anne MacGregor and granddaughter of the late Alexander and Rhoda MacGregor (Taynuilt) and the late Duncan and Anne Cameron (Oban).

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# Tributes paid to Ardnamurchan councillor Ian Ramon

The Highland Council has paid tribute to Councillor Ian Ramon who died last Thursday.

Councillor Ramon was elected in the 2017 local government election for Ward 21 - Fort William and Ardnamurchan - and served on the Lochaber Committee and Communities and Place Committee.

Council convenor Councillor Bill Lobban paid tribute to Councillor Ramon, calling him a well-respected member of the council who would be sorely missed by fellow members.

'His keen input into our debates was much appreciated. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I had not seen him personally for quite some time but in better times our joint

interest in lighthouses was always extremely interesting. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends at this sad time,' added Councillor Lobban. Councillor Andrew Jarvie, Leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Group on the council, commented: 'This news comes as such a shock to all of us. He was an incredible man who always seemed to bounce back and was eager to get back to council meetings.

'As an immensely popular local man, Ian will be missed not just by all of us in the Scottish Conservative Group, but a great many on the peninsula and across the Highlands.

'I can only express my deepest sorrow with his family at this sudden and difficult news.'

Councillor Ramon's fellow Ward 21 member, Councillor Andrew Baxter, who chairs the Lochaber Committee, also paid tribute: 'Although Ian was



Councillor Ian Ramon, second right, with fellow Ward 21 councillors, from right, Niall Mclean, Blair Allan and Andrew Baxter pictured in May, 2017.

a quiet individual, he always represented his home area of Ardnamurchan and the peninsula with great dedication

and tenacity. His contribution on their behalf was always insightful and made his fellow councillors pause and think.

We've lost a great community champion for some of the most remote and rural areas of Lochaber.'

**READMORE**  
www.obantimes.co.uk

## GOLDEN WEDDING



*Golden Wedding*  
18th September 1971  
Lawrence & Ann Scott  
Wishing Dad and Mum a very happy 50th anniversary, with lots of love and celebration.  
Love from Craig, Stuart, Lindsay  
and all the family xxx

I've been finding the concept of 'joy' a difficult one as we've been emerging from restrictions over the past few weeks and months.

Back during the depths of the lockdowns the idea of letting go of such restrictions felt like it would be a joyous occasion, but now we've reached that point I'm finding it challenging and stressful - especially amidst soaring cases in town and the surrounding areas, not to mention news bulletins

overflowing with war, terror and political point scoring.

And yet 'joy' is a word that keeps jumping up at me from the pages of my Bible. The word is mentioned 242 times. It's got to be important, right? So why am I finding it so hard to find? Recently, I joined the wonderful Oban Wild Swimming group that meets at Ganavan at 6pm each evening for a bracing half-hour dip. I have no doubt that the exercise, the friendships and the fresh air have all

been a huge boost to me. Bobbing around in the water - sometimes so clear you can see the fish beneath your feet, sometimes so choppy it feels like a roller-coaster and you're guaranteed to be slapped round the face by at least one wave - the cares of the world are stripped away and, suddenly, something clicked for me. I was reminded that 'joy' doesn't have to be bouncing with happiness. It can be a deep and quiet centre where I have the space and

permission to know that each and every one of us is loved unconditionally. Out of that space can bubble happiness, giddiness and love overflowing, but it starts with a still small voice. As we continue to move forward into whatever our new normal will look like, I challenge you to search for your deep set place of joy, find out what nourishes it and prioritise that.

**Emily D'Silva, Parish Assistant, Kilmore and Oban.**

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OT

## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Tulloch Homes  
Camanachd  
Cup Final

Kinlochshiel 3 Lovat 1  
Oban attracted the largest Camanachd Cup Final crowd for years with a big Kinlochshiel support making the five-hour round trip in the hope of a history-making afternoon.

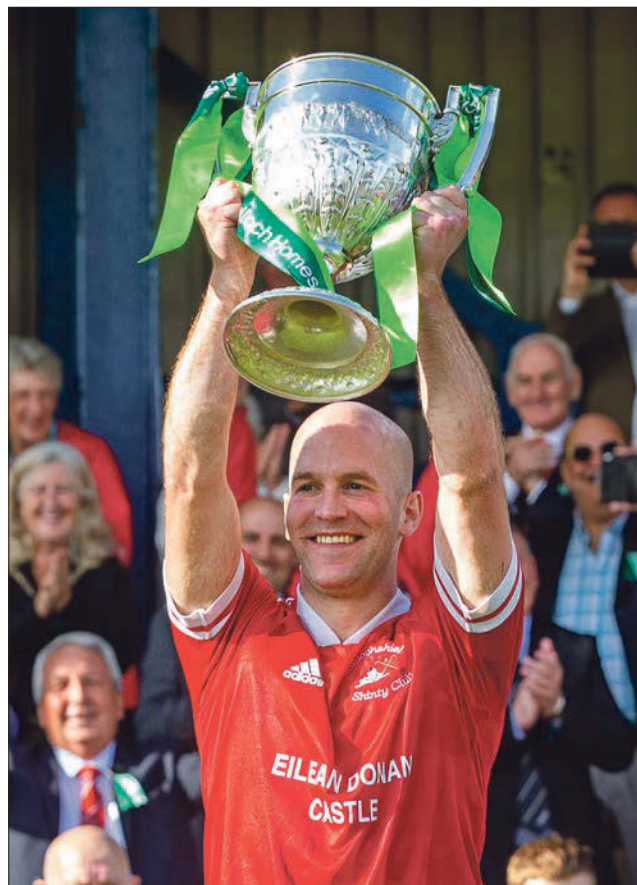
Despite the pre-match rain, Mossfield groundsman Iain Hay and his team had the pitch in perfect condition as Oban High School Pipe Band wowed the crowd with the pre-match entertainment.

Both sides had selection concerns going into the final.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill trusted his injured players to assess their fitness and his biggest boost came when talisman Finlay MacRae declared himself fit despite suffering a heavy blow to the knee in the semi-final win over Kyles Athletic. Mark MacDonald started his first match since mid-July, whilst John MacRae and Duncan 'WD' MacRae returned after missing their side's last outing, a league win at Strathglass a fortnight earlier.

Ali Nixon's hamstring problem, however, limited him to a place on the bench. Veteran Paul MacRae earned a place at wing centre, a richly deserved reward for his 25 years' service to the club.

Matters were more straightforward for Lovat boss Jamie Matheson. He already knew Lorne MacKay's booking in the semi-final win over Kingussie had taken him through the disciplinary points threshold whilst Scott MacKenzie was ruled out after sustaining a hand injury in the same game. Graeme MacMillan came into the defence and former



Kinlochshiel captain Keith Macrae lifts the Camanachd Cup.  
Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Skye Camanachd player Iain Nicolson started at wing centre. There were also call-ups for Ryan Ferguson and Cammy MacMillan who took places on the bench.

Club presidents Biz Campbell, Kinlochshiel, and John MacRitchie, Lovat, led their respective squads into battle and referee John Angus Gillies gathered captains Keith MacRae and Stuart MacDonald into the centre circle where Lovat won the toss of the coin, opting to start against a slight wind and with the sun in their eyes.

The tension was palpable during the opening exchanges and Kinlochshiel's John

MacRae was first to threaten. The Lovat defence didn't clear Jordan Fraser's low ball from the left and MacRae made space to shoot by taking the ball to the left but his effort went by the far post.

Finlay MacRae showed no ill-effects from his injury when he intercepted then cleared a ball which could have put Fraser Heath clean through on goal.

A nice Kinlochshiel passing move started on the right of midfield with Paul MacRae's clever reverse pass to Conor Cormack who sent the ball high to Jordan Fraser. Fraser chested the ball down and whilst his first effort was

blocked, he shot wide from the rebound.

Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant, man of the match in the semi-final win over Kyles Athletic, made a great save with his stick at the left post from Fraser Heath following Callum Cruden's free-hit on the right.

Play was now flowing from end-to-end and Greg Matheson and Duncan 'DA' MacRae traded shots wide of target as the final reached the 15 minute mark.

Josh Grant saved with his feet from Marc MacLachlan's strike from wide on the right and a good block from Craig Mainland deflected Keith MacRae's drive away for a corner.

Lovat came closest in the early exchanges when Lewis Tawse found Fraser Heath and his shot from the left went across keeper Josh Grant but came back off the base of the far post.

Fraser Heath required treatment soon after but was able to continue.

Lovat made the first change of the final as Bailey MacKay came on for Graeme MacMillan midway through the first half.

It was Kinlochshiel who broke the deadlock on 25 minutes. Drew Howie's hit-in from deep inside their own half sliced towards John MacRae whose first time pass bounced through to an unmarked Keith MacRae in space in front of goal and he hammered the ball into the roof of the net to make it 1-0.

Straight from the restart, Conor Cormack sent John MacRae sprinting through on goal but Stuart MacDonald was quickly off his line to clear.

Paul MacRae pushed forward from midfield but shot over as Kinlochshiel laid siege on the Lovat goal.



Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill, left, celebrates the win with his bench. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Lovat responded and a great ball from Craig Mainland dropped into the 'D' but Josh Grant was calm as he shielded the ball out of play with Fraser Heath in attendance.

Kinlochshiel went on to dominate the remainder of the half. Donald Nixon's lofted ball was gathered by John MacRae who got the ball out from under his feet and his backhand strike forced a brilliant flying save from Stuart MacDonald.

Keith MacRae tried to implement a training ground free-hit routine but Duncan 'WD' MacRae's shot was blocked.

Kinlochshiel made their first change on 41 minutes as Archie MacRae took over from Duncan 'WD' MacRae.

Kinlochshiel pressed but just couldn't add the second goal they deserved and they suffered the consequences in first half stoppage time when Fraser Heath won possession and found Greg Matheson wide on the left and the Scotland forward sent a blistering shot into the net.

It was the first goal Kinlochshiel had conceded on their cup run and it made it 1-1 at the interval.

Lovat looked brighter from the restart and Fraser Heath crossed low from the right to find Greg Matheson but he couldn't steer his shot on target.

Iain Nicolson required muscle treatment before being later replaced by Bailey MacKay and Ryan Ferguson came on for Marc MacLachlan on 54 minutes.

The final took a significant twist just seconds past the hour. Jordan Fraser came deep to the halfway line to gather a stray ball. Fraser drove a wonderful high ball down the middle where Keith MacRae won the race for possession with Daniel Grieve and he

showed great composure as he lifted ball over Stuart MacDonald and into the net to put Kinlochshiel back in front.

Three minutes later, an incredible Greg Matheson flick and volley from the right of the centre line dropped in on the Kinlochshiel goal and Josh Grant, with the sun in his eyes, just managed to scramble the ball away, crashing into his left post in the process, under pressure from Fraser Heath.

Kinlochshiel refreshed their line-up as Jonnie MacAskill replaced Duncan 'DA' MacRae with 20 minutes to go and Kinlochshiel were now deploying John MacRae in a deeper role.

Referee John Angus Gillies showed the only yellow card of the final to Lovat's Callum Cruden for backchat as Kinlochshiel won a couple of free-hits.

David Falconer took over from 40-year-old Paul MacRae before Greg Matheson's strike from distance whistled wide as the final moved into the final 10 minutes.

Jonnie MacAskill spurned a chance on his backhand as tension engulfed the touchline at Mossfield.

Josh Grant came off his line to get his feet to a dangerous Ryan Ferguson ball into the 'D' and when the rebound came to Graeme MacMillan, he steered his shot agonisingly wide of the far post and the chance was gone.

Josh Grant saved with his feet from Fraser Heath who injured himself in the process and Marc MacLachlan was reintroduced in his place.

This thoroughly entertaining final still had more to offer and if there was drama at the end of the first half, then it was eclipsed during second half stoppage time. Donald Nixon's long free-hit from in front of

## Skye Under 14s lift MacMaster Cup at Mossfield

Skye Camanachd U14 won the MacMaster Cup, beating Fort William U14 2-1 in their 11am throw-up at Mossfield.

It was a busy week for the Skye youngsters who were 2-1 MacMaster Cup semi-final winners against Kilmallie U14 at Craigard, Invergarry, the previous Wednesday.

Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod and Ali Stewart had Skye 2-0 ahead before Archie MacNiven countered for Kilmallie.

Jack Stephen gave Fort William the lead on 33 minutes in the final, but Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod equalised almost immediately. Ali Stewart got what proved to be the winner on 55 minutes.

Skye skipper Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod was presented with the trophy by David MacMaster on behalf of the MacMaster family.



The victorious Skye team. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

the stand dropped into the Lovat goal area and was chested down by Danny Kelly but John MacRae was quickly in to nick the ball to Keith MacRae at the left of the 'D' and he beat the keeper at his right post to complete his hat-trick and seal a famous and deserved victory.

Referee John Angus Gillies, who was excellent throughout, blew for time from the restart.

There were emotional scenes all around the ground as the Kinlochshiel support – from stalwarts of Kinlochshiel sides in days gone by to youngsters inspired to be the team of tomorrow – tried to take in the enormity of what had just happened.

Mossfield was a sea of red and white as the supporters gathered on the pitch and in the stand for the trophy presentation. Kinlochshiel buckshee back Conor Cormack was the selection panel's choice as man of the match and he received the Albert Smith medal from the always immaculate Rene Smith on the 50th anniversary of the inaugural presentation of this coveted award to Newtonmore's Johnny Campbell. Then, 125 years after the inaugural Camanachd Cup Final, all that was left was for Kinlochshiel captain Keith MacRae, who has bounced back from a troublesome knee injury, to raise the Camanachd Cup on a day that will forever be remembered in the club's proud history.

Speaking after the final whistle, Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill said: 'I'm overwhelmed. This is just fantastic for the whole community and I think they were probably all here today to watch us.'

'It was one of the best cup finals ever and when you add the three or four younger players we have coming through to the current squad, I believe we can do it again.'

'It has been a great occasion and every single man performed so well out there. At half-time we said we weren't here to lose the trophy but to win the cup. The players are all experienced but we pointed out some small things and they finished the job in the second half.'

'We still have the MacTavish Cup to play for this season. We've never won that before either so there's something else to aim for.'

Winning skipper Keith MacRae added: 'The boys worked so hard today and this is reward for the all the commitment over the years. We've stuck together as a squad and worked so hard and it has really clicked for us this year.'

'I don't score many hat-tricks so I'll certainly take one in the Camanachd Cup Final.'

More photographs online at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Bowlers pay colourful tribute to Donna

Known as 'the life and soul' of Oban Bowling Club Donna MacLean spread cheer and laughter at her home club throughout her lifetime.

And on Saturday, clubmates celebrated her life by renaming their traditional Ladies Day 'Donna's Day' and adorning themselves, and their surroundings, in her favourite colour – purple. There were purple flowers, purple balloons, purple raffle prizes, purple bowls, purple shirts and hats and even purple hair as members paid tribute to the colourful girl who lost her life suddenly earlier this year.

Club secretary Anne Stewart said: 'Donna was such a big character at the club and we all



Donna's mum Helen MacLean, foreground, joined the Oban Bowling Club ladies for their purple tribute.

miss her greatly. She will never be forgotten.'

With male members of the

club on hand to officiate, the ladies launched into a day of fun games ending with a

'carry in carry out' meal in the clubhouse. More photographs at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



Oban, in green, and Kintyre girls took part in the first Dalriada tournament of the season.

## Dalriada gets under way in Lochgilphead

Oban Lorne Rugby Minis made the journey to Lochgilphead at the weekend for the first Dalriada tournament of the year.

P4/5 and P6/7 age groups faced strong opposition against teams from Mid

Argyll, Kintyre and Etive Vikings. All players played exceptionally and for many this was their first games of competitive rugby. Oban is now looking forward to hosting its own Dalriada tournament at Glencruitten this Saturday.

## Hard fought first win of season for Saints

Oban Saints	2
St Patrick's FP	1
West of Scotland Amateur Cup	

Just two weeks after their Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash at Glencruitten, Oban Saints and Harestanes met again at the same venue last Saturday, this time on West of Scotland Amateur Cup duty.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Steven MacLeod, Dene Cassells, Willie Gemmell and Cammy Hill. Donald Campbell and Matty Kelly anchored the midfield with James Ford, Gavin Forgive and captain Craig MacEwan behind central striker Kyle Cooper. On the bench were Cammy Clark, Alex Craik, Myles McAuley and Fraser MacFarlane.

The hosts made a bright start attacking the railway line end. Kyle Cooper's driving run at the heart of the Harestanes defence in just the second minute was halted unceremoniously by Kevin Cawley with Gavin Forgive sending the

resulting free-kick to the far post. Cammy Hill's header back into the danger area was thumped up to the halfway line where it was retrieved by Willie Gemmell. The gaffer found Craig MacEwan who sent Matty Kelly into the Harestanes box on the left whose cutback was curled just wide of the postage stamp corner by Gavin Forgive.

Saints number one Graham Douglas made the first of a number of good saves in the seventh minute when he got down well to his right to hold a Jonathan Black shot after the Harestanes centre-forward latched onto a James Mulvey ball over the top.

The visitors opened the scoring after 16 minutes of an entertaining and fiercely competitive encounter crueing punishing a misplaced Saints pass just inside their own half. Aidan Quinn broke away on the Harestanes left and fired over a low cross which Jamie McPhee knocked home from close range.

Saints restored parity nine minutes before the interval after good work on the left from Kyle Cooper forced a corner kick. Gavin Forgive's pin-

point delivery from the corner flag picked out a well-timed back post run from Cammy Hill who nodded the ball past Harestanes keeper Matthew Stewart.

Saints kicked off the second half attacking the carpark end but it was the visitors who created the early chances.

A head knock for teenage striker Kyle Cooper forced the home side into a change in the 64th minute which paid dividends within two minutes. Myles McAuley came on to partner Matty Kelly in midfield with Donald Campbell going up top to replace Cooper. McAuley was quickly involved winning possession in the centre circle and feeding Gavin Forgive who strode forward for a one-two with Donald Campbell. Forgive took the return pass from Campbell and played in Craig MacEwan to tuck under young Harestanes keeper Stewart and give Saints the lead.

The visitors threw everything at it in the closing stages but were unable to find a way past a resolute home defence who dug in for a hard fought first win of the season.

Saints return to league busi-

ness this Saturday with a trip to Greenock to face old friends and rivals Greenock High School Former Pupils. Match report: Derek Black.

### Youth results and fixtures

Scottish Cup first round results from last weekend:

Under 13s won 15-1 v Victoria Park. Scorers - Scott Campbell, 5; Kuba Ryska, 4; Sean Thomson, 2; Alfie MacIntyre, Corey Pyper, Tristan Jeffrey and Donald Campbell. The Under 15s won 12-2 v Bishopton. Scorers - Rhys Miller, 4; James Muir, 3; Kai MacKechnie, 3, and Lewis McCuish, 2. The Under 16s won 4-3 v Knightswood. Scorers - Michael Campbell, 2; Louis Paterson and Aidan MacDonald.

The Under 17s lost 2-3 v Cumbernauld Colts. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper and Andrew Barclay.

There are no games this weekend for the Under 15s, Under 16s and Under 17s as it is the September holiday weekend. The Under 13s are at home to Dumbarton United in a league cup game.



Dee Bradbury.

## Dee inducted into rugby hall of fame

Continued from page 40.

players Vicky Galbraith, Keri Holdsworth, Kim Littlejohn and coach Ally Ratcliffe.

The Hall of Fame was established in 2010 to celebrate the towering contribution made by Scots to the oval ball game for what is now more than 150 years.

The panel comprises Scottish Rugby Board chairman John Jeffrey who was capped 40 times for his country; Scotland's all-time points' record-holder Chris Paterson MBE; Scotland's 1990 Grand Slam head coach and multi-British and Irish Lions head coach Sir Ian McGeechan; and renowned former BBC Radio Scotland rugby commentator and broadcaster Bill Johnstone.

'This induction underlines the importance Scottish Rugby places in its strategy through to 2023 – winning, women and wellbeing – in encouraging more women and girls to become involved in rugby,' said Jeffrey.

'The latest inductees are truly inspirational role models.'

Scottish Rugby plans to conduct the new inductions during November's international matches.

The full list of inductees to the Hall of Fame is:

2010 - David Bedell-Sivright; Phil Macpherson; Ned Haig; Ken Scotland; Sandy Carmichael MBE; Andy Irvine MBE; Finlay Calder OBE; Bill McLaren CBE; Gavin Hastings OBE; Sir Ian McGeechan; Jim Telfer MBE; Gordon Brown.

2013 - Mark Morrison; Ian Smith; Hugh McLeod OBE; Ian McLauchlan OBE; Jim Renwick; David Leslie; Gary Armstrong OBE; Chris Paterson MBE; Norman Mair; John Rutherford

2017 - Douglas Elliot; Donna Kennedy; Mark Robertson; James Robson MBE

2020 - Doddie Weir OBE

2021 - Scotland team of 1871; Dee Bradbury OBE; Vicky Galbraith; Keri Holdsworth; Kim Littlejohn; Ally Ratcliffe.



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

## KINLOCHSHIEL CELEBRATE FIRST CAMANACHD CUP WIN



Kinlochshiel made history on Saturday when they lifted the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup for the first time in their 63-year history. They beat Lovat 3-1 in the final at Mossfield, Oban. Full report: page 38. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

## McPhee picks up points in tough San Marino GP

John McPhee ended the Gran Premio di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini inside the points in 13th on Sunday September 19.

The Petronas Sprinta Racing rider, who started the race 19th, found himself in 23rd on the second lap but moved into the points – 12th – by the mid-point and set his sights on closing the gap to the top 10.

Despite encountering an issue with the rear brake in the final ten laps, he crossed the line 13th. Increasing his world championship points to 56, John is 16th in the riders' standings.

Speaking after the race John said: 'It was a tough race and the pace at the front was really fast. When I got to the front of my group, I was closing the gap on those ahead. Lap-by-lap I was getting there, but then 10 laps before the end the rear brake broke.'

'It wasn't enough to make me retire, but it made it a tricky finish to the race. It was good to still score points and we've learned a lot from this.'

'I'm looking forward to getting to Texas, but I'm also looking forward to being back here in a few weeks.'

Next up is the first 'overseas' round of the year since the Doha GP: the Grand Prix of the Americas from October 1 to October 3.

## Dee in rugby hall of fame

Oban's doyenne of rugby Dee Bradbury OBE is one of five new inductees to Scottish Rugby's Hall of Fame.

In its determination to recognise the growing diversity of the game and celebrate the huge role women play in enhancing the sport, this year's intake includes a quintet of women who have made pioneering and ground-breaking contributions to rugby and

the wider society. The famous five will join Scottish Rugby's most capped player of all time, Donna Kennedy, who played in a then world-record 115 international matches and who was inducted in 2017.

Dee became the first female president of a tier one rugby union in the world when she began her two-season term as Scottish Rugby's president in 2018.

A former police officer, Dee took up rugby after she had represented Great Britain at athletics and played representative netball. She helped to establish the women's section at the Oban Lorne club, where she eventually became club president.

She was first elected to the Scottish Rugby Council as women's representative and served as Scottish Rugby's

first female vice president from 2016 for two years before her elevation to president. She also represented Scottish Rugby on Rugby Europe. Her sons, Magnus and Fergus, are both rugby players, Magnus having represented Scotland and Edinburgh Rugby in the back-row and Fergus, Scotland under-20 as a prop.

Dee told The Oban Times: 'I was incredibly honoured to be

inducted into Scottish Rugby's Hall of Fame.

'To have my name included with international players and people for whom I have so much respect is amazing.'

'I'm told it is hoped there can be a formal induction in person when conditions allow, so I am very much looking forward to that.'

Inducted alongside Dee were  
**Continued on page 39.**



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 23 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>23</b>	0101 0.8 0647 3.9 TH 1317 0.8 1905 4.1	<b>25</b>	0203 1.1 0739 3.8 SA 1416 1.2 2003 3.7	<b>27</b>	0311 1.5 0840 3.4 M 1522 1.8 2103 3.2	<b>29</b>	0459 2.0 1009 3.0 W 1728 2.3 C 2300 2.7
<b>24</b>	0132 0.9 0713 3.9 F 1347 1.0 1934 4.0	<b>26</b>	0235 1.3 0808 3.6 SU 1447 1.5 2032 3.5	<b>28</b>	0357 1.8 0918 3.2 TU 1610 2.1 2141 3.0	<b>30</b>	0614 2.1 1309 2.8 TH 1911 2.3

### OBAN WEATHER

#### Thursday

Light rain and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

#### Friday

Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

#### Saturday

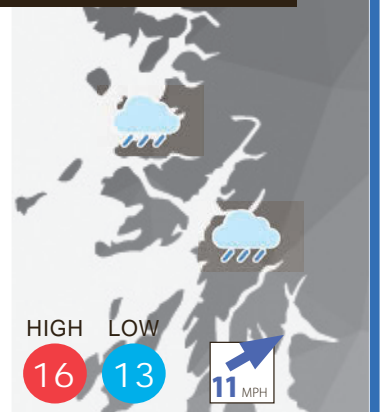
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 14°C to 18°C.

#### Sunday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 18°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





# LOCHABER TIMES

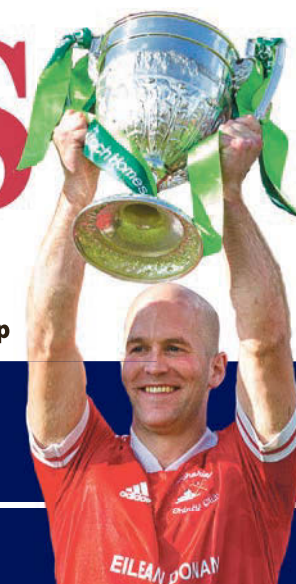
## & OBAN TIMES

No 8582

Thursday 23 September, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



### Kinlochshiel's first Camanachd Cup win

**Inside: Highland Cinema celebrates one year anniversary**

### Royals on Skye



**Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visit Portree**

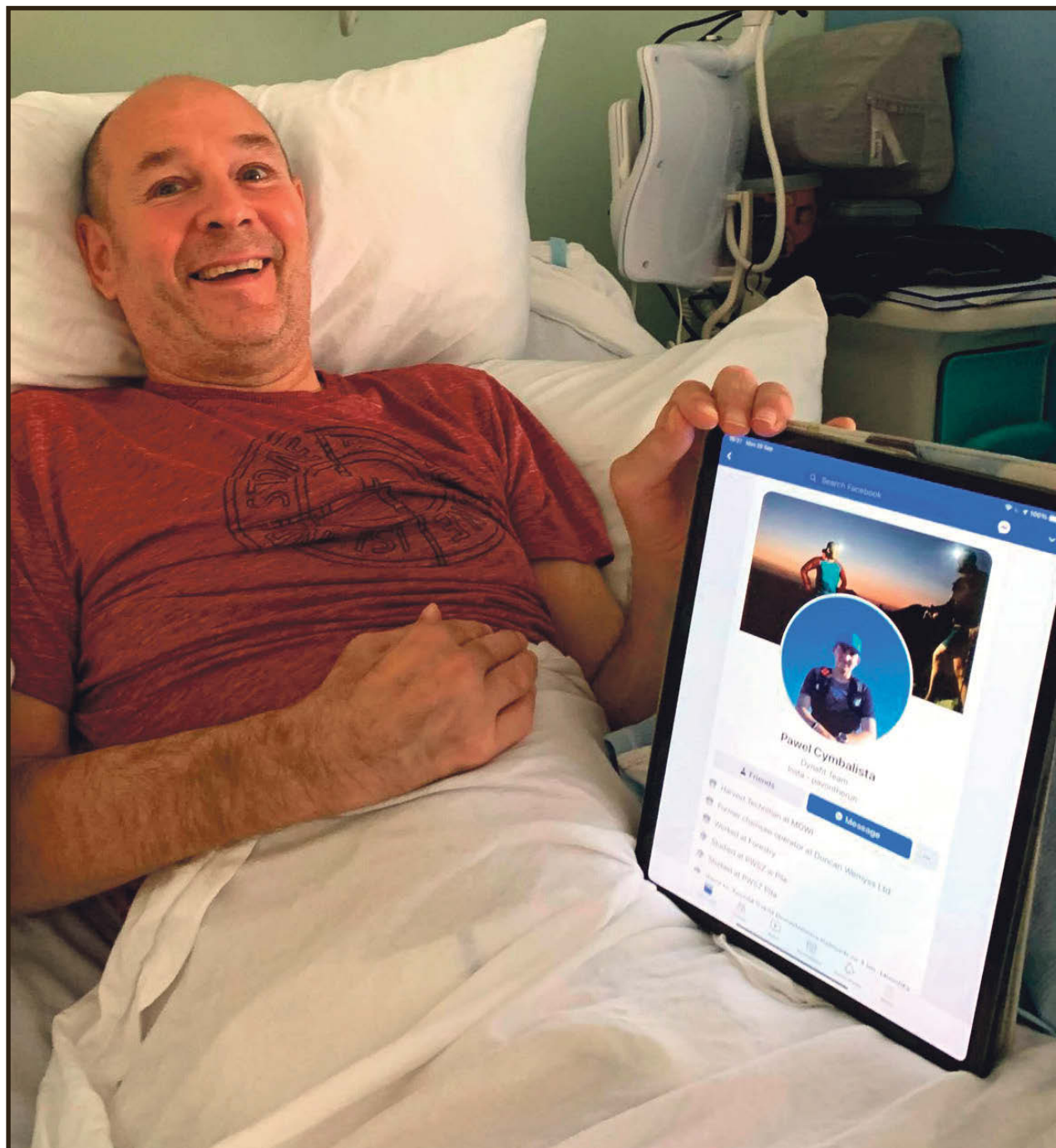
• See page 6 for more.

### Canine capers



**Annual open dog show held at new venue**

• See page 15.



### Davy looks to the future

Fort William's Davy Duncan, pictured in Raigmore Hospital in Inverness this week, has faced many tough situations around the world during his career as a deep sea saturation diver. But the last seven months battling the effects of a Covid-19 infection have proved one of the hardest. However, his partner Helen Smith, family and friends are now looking forward to him hopefully coming home from hospital before the end of this year.

### Friend aims high to help family adapt Fort home

To help with that, this weekend sees a marathon effort by one local athlete to raise funds to help extend and adapt Davy's house to aid that recovery. Full story: page 7.

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# Shinty Memories boosted by charity golf championship

Shinty Memories Scotland received a major boost on Saturday at the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final.

The national group was presented with a cheque for £7,500 as part of the proceeds raised at a special charity day organised at Craigie Hill Golf Club in August.

Other charities receiving support from the day are Kidney Research, Pancreatic Cancer UK and Alzheimer's Scotland.

The Shinty Memories Scotland cheque was presented by former Kilmallie and Fort William shinty player Hugh MacMaster, who is involved with the organisation of the annual fundraiser at Craigie Hill.

Twelve shinty playing teams took part in the golf tournament in an overall entry of 27 teams and £11,255

was raised. The winning team was Kilmallie, made up of former footballer and shinty player Donald Park, Kenny Gillespie from Fort William, Andy Armstrong and David MacKay, captain.

Mr MacMaster said: 'We are very proud of the work we do raising money for charities at Craigie Hill and we are grateful to all the businesses and individuals who regularly make it such a success.'

'We decided to make the biggest contribution to Shinty Memories Scotland which is doing some outstanding work in a very challenging area.'

The new support for Shinty Memories Scotland will be accepted by chairman David MacMaster of Caberfeidh and John Mackenzie MBE, the Camanachd Association chief-tain who is also shinty memories ambassador. Speaking

ahead of the presentation, David MacMaster said: 'In common with all other areas of shinty and its communities far and wide, the last 18 months have been challenging for Shinty Memories Scotland.'

'Our activities have been curtailed and realigned significantly to meet the new challenges we have faced and this has placed a great strain on the groups and our national resources.'

'However, as we emerge from the bewildering restrictions we have all faced, it remains our intention to grow and expand the network of groups currently in place under the umbrella of Shinty Memories Scotland.'

'We are extremely grateful to Hughie MacMaster for the work he did in organising the event, to all the players who joined in and the businesses and others who helped provide

prizes and support. We will now take time to deliberate on how to use this financial support as we emerge from Covid-19.'

Shinty Memories Scotland is also considering how to make the golf championship an annual event using the specially-commissioned new championship trophy, which was made by Roddie MacLennan of Aird Artisans, Inverness.

Shinty Memories Scotland supports a network of local groups using the sport's archives and other resources to help people with dementia and living with other issues such as depression and loneliness.

Tulloch Homes, current sponsors of the Camanachd Cup, was hugely supportive of the setting up of shinty memories groups initially and has enabled the organisation to establish solid foundations to move forward.

Mr Mackenzie added: 'There can be few clubs or families who are not aware of people who are living with the chal-



A cheque for £7,500 has been presented to Shinty Memories Scotland. It was raised at a special golf championship at Craigie Hill Golf Club, Perth.

lenges of mental health issues such as dementia.

'Shinty memories groups are now building sets of resources to be used to help people improve their recall, communication skills, self-esteem and confidence.'

'If anyone would like to know more about setting up, joining or helping with shinty memory groups, make a donation to help with costs or can help supply materials for the memory boxes, we would be delighted to hear about it.'



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## Glenfinnan Viaduct in top 10 of UK's most Instagrammed man-made attractions

With World Tourism Day on September 27 looming, fresh social media insights by the digital marketing experts at Extreme have revealed Glenfinnan Viaduct is the only Scottish landmark to make it into the top 10 most Instagrammed 'man-made wonders' of the UK.

Topping the list is Stonehenge, having secured more than 790,000 tags from

Instagrammers, making it the most popular man-made wonder in the country for snap-happy social media users.

Despite its secluded location, Glenfinnan Viaduct and the surroundings of Loch Shiel, makes it into 10th spot with 54,560 hashtags on Instagram, no doubt in part propelled by their immortalisation as a route of the Hogwarts Express

in the Harry Potter movie franchise. The other sites in the top 10, starting with second spot, are the Tower of London, Brighton Pier, Eden Project, York Minster, Roman Baths in Bath, Hadrian's Wall, Angel of the North at Gateshead and Salisbury Cathedral.

Another famous Scottish site – Loch Ness – emerged as the top most Instagrammed natural wonder in the UK.

## Nevis Hill Walking Club, Sunday September 26, Kinloch Hourn

Buidhe Bheinn (885m, joint Corbett) – yellow hill;

Sgurr a' Bhac Chaolais (885m, joint Corbett) – peak of the hollow of the narrows.

Two would-be Corbetts of exactly the same height connected by an interesting high-level ridge that dips only 122m between them.

One of them only therefore can be a Corbett but no-one knows which one.



To claim the tick, baggers must do both of them.

The best views are from Buidhe Bheinn. 15km, 1160m ascent.

A shorter day omits the traverse to the summit of Sgurr a' Bhac Chaolais. 10km 999m ascent.

A possible extension to the day with an interesting excursion around these wild and remote glens. 16km, 1260m ascent.

For more detail of the routes please visit the website [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or the Facebook page.

Please note that 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 the club via email at [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).



Valerie MacKinnon, from Sleat on Skye, who has died three weeks after being injured in a car accident.

## Skye woman dies three weeks after crash near Kyle of Lochalsh

A Skye woman has died in hospital more than three weeks after she was seriously injured in a crash between Balmacara and Kyle of Lochalsh.

Road policing officers in the Highlands are again appealing for information following the now fatal road crash on the A87.

The incident happened around 1pm on Sunday August 22 when a Honda Jazz car and a Skoda Rapid car collided on the stretch of the A87 between Balmacara and Kyle of Lochalsh.

Valerie MacKinnon, aged 73, from Sleat on Skye, who was a passenger in the Skoda Rapid, was seriously injured in the accident.

She was taken to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow where she died on Wednesday September 15. Her family are aware.

The two other people injured in the crash, the 58-year-old male driver of the Honda and his 55-year-old female passenger, were both released from hospital after treatment.

Sergeant Ewan Calder, Highland and Islands Road Policing Unit, said: 'Our thoughts are with the family of Mrs MacKinnon at this time.'

'Officers are continuing to carry out enquiries in relation to this collision and would appeal to anyone who has not yet spoken to police to get in touch.'

'Information can be passed to officers via 101. Please quote reference number 1969 of Sunday August 22 2021 when calling.'

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# West coast hosts part of largest military exercise in Europe

The rest of this month sees the west and north coasts of Scotland hosting elements of the UK-led multi-national Exercise Joint Warrior.

One of the largest military exercises of its kind in Europe, Joint Warrior 212, which incorporates Dynamic Mariner 21, started on Saturday and runs until September 30, with many of the participating vessels operating off the west coast.

Eleven NATO nations are taking part, bringing 25 warships, three submarines, more than 30 aircraft and around 6,750 military personnel including 500 ground troops to military ranges across the country and to maritime exercise areas off the west and north coasts of Scotland.

The participating NATO nations will be the UK, Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, France, Norway, Latvia, Germany and USA.

Exercise activity includes 25 naval units from UK, Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, France, Norway, Latvia, Germany and USA participating around the Scottish coastline.

Mine Countermeasure vessels will conduct mine hunting

exercises in areas around Campbeltown, Loch Ewe, Gruinard Bay, Loch Broom, Little Loch Broom, Enard Bay and Shiant Bank.

Amphibious operations will take place in the vicinity of Loch Ewe – on private land – Loch Goil and Kyle of Lochalsh.

Around 30 aircraft will take part in the exercise with some of them operating from RAF Lossiemouth and Prestwick Airport, previously HMS Gannet.

Joint Firing Activity will take place at Cape Wrath Weapons Range, Garvie Island and the QinetiQ Hebrides range in the North of Scotland.

Exercise activity in the North Minch to the west of Ullapool will involve fast small boats, both civilian and military.

Over the fortnight, participants will be faced with a period of increasing political and military tensions, along with a range of realistic military tasks including intelligence gathering and reconnaissance; anti-smuggling and counter-terrorism operations; humanitarian assistance and evacuation operations.

All units involved in the exercise will observe Scottish Government Covid-19 control measures.

## 5G mast developer urged to re-think proposed Caol site

A developer has been asked to reconsider its planned site for a towering new 5G mobile phone mast on the corner of two streets in Caol.

The 67-foot high mast is earmarked for the corner of Moss Road and Broom Drive and a planning application is expected to be lodged soon with Highland Council by CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd which would erect the mast on behalf of operator Three.

Highland Council member Ben Thompson this week said he had contacted the developer to ask it to consider alternative sites which would not impact so significantly on grassed park areas and the amenity of residents including those living nearby in Kennedy Court.

'The industrial estate, which is only a few hundred yards away, could be a better location, for example,' added Councillor Thompson.

'I can think of several better locations for this mast. It just feels like they have dropped a pin on a map without considering the alternatives.'

One person commented on Facebook: 'They cannot seriously be thinking of putting something that large and such an eyesore in the middle of a community housing estate?'

'Put it in the industrial estate out of sight if possible. Happy that broadband in the area may become cheaper and faster but not to the detriment of the landscape and green space having a blooming big eyesore mast stuck on it.'



An Astute class nuclear submarine with the Type 23 frigate HMS Kent being over flown by a German Navy P3 maritime patrol aircraft during a previous Joint Warrior exercise.

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# No fuss as ESO gears up for bike series

The Enduro Sports Organisation (ESO), owners and operators of the Enduro World Series, has acquired the Scottish Enduro Series from the Lochaber-based No Fuss Events.

The Scottish Enduro Series has been at the forefront of the sport since it started in 2014, and now enters a new era with its co-founder Frazer Coupland joining ESO to help deliver a 'reimagined' series.

The series will kick off next spring, with a new annual flagship event that will take place at Nevis Range outside Fort William on the last weekend of April.

The events will benefit from the expanding staff team behind the Enduro World Series which brings with it a wealth of experience from its eight years of international race organisation at the highest level.

Full details will be released



in November, but racers are assured of a big day out to kick start the season.

Chris Ball, managing director of the Enduro World Series, said: 'Scottish Enduro Series founders Frazer and Spook have built something truly special and we're incredibly proud to be building on that legacy.'

'We're delighted to develop a

new era for enduro in the UK and deliver the exceptional racing experience we're known for.

'We can't wait to share the details of what we have planned with riders and look forward to welcoming them to our events next year.'

Mr Coupland added: 'When Spook and I started to think about organising a mountain

**New enduro series will start next spring** Photo: Enduro Sports Organisation

bike race in 2004 that would bring people to Fort William, it was about getting like-minded people together to have a good time.

'We hope people agree that we have exceeded those ambitions and helped to foster a genuine race community.'

'I'm delighted to be joining ESO to help forge a new era in enduro racing and drive the sport forward, all while maintaining the fun and relaxed events we're known for.'

ESO said it will honour all 2020 Scottish Enduro Series entries.

## From kitchen to kirk, Bruce makes a return

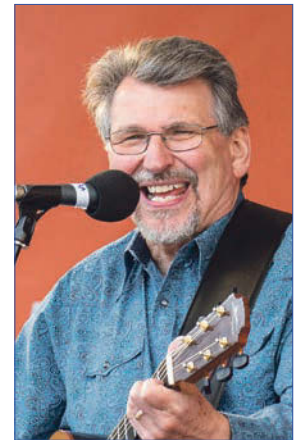
Fife-based singer-songwriter Bruce Davies will be making a welcome return to Lochaber for a concert at Fort William Kilmallie Church of Scotland in Corpach (formerly Kilmallie Church) on Saturday, September 25 at 7.30p.m.

Richard Baxter, the parish minister said: 'I've enjoyed many great musical nights with Bruce over the years.'

'Many people have been enjoying Bruce's Songs from the Kitchen shows during lockdown and it will be great to hear some live music again.'

'It is also a chance to invite the local community to come to a different sort of event in the setting of Kilmallie Church.'

Bruce is a musician with an easy-on-the-ear singing style, a gift for telling a story



**Bruce Davies will make a welcome return to Lochaber this weekend.**

and he is a fine guitarist. He plays a mixture of familiar popular songs and his own music. Tickets will be available at the door.

## Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh take part in Highland archaeology festival

Sites of interest in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh are among those featuring in this month's Highland Archaeology Festival.

The three-week festival starts on Saturday with walks, talks, workshops, exhibitions, and activities for all ages.

It is organised by The Highland Council's Development and Infrastructure Service.

There are more than a hundred events, including special exhibitions at museums, as well as geocaches and trails exploring the area's rich heritage from prehistoric times through to the 20th century.

West Highland Museum in Fort William has organised a range of walks in the town and surrounding areas, as well as a session focussing on metal detecting in Lochaber.

Glenfinnan Station Museum has also organised a special exhibition about the building of the Mallaig railway.

Skye and Lochalsh have walks at the marble quarries at Broadford, Pictish and Medieval remains at St Columba's Isle and Tote, and multi-period sites around Camus Cross and Isle Ornsay.

A special family Viking activity day is also taking place at



**Chairperson of The Highland Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Trish Robertson, right, joins council archaeologist Kirsty Cameron to launch the 2021 Highland Archaeology Festival.** Photograph: Ewen Weatherspoon.

Kyle of Lochalsh. Chairperson of The Highland Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Trish Robertson said: 'We live in an area where the heritage is so accessible, with many local societies and museums promoting their area and undertaking important projects.'

'Scotland's Archaeology Strategy notes that archaeology is for everyone, contributing to our wellbeing and knowledge, and to our economic growth and quality of life.'

'What better way to showcase this than by a festival stretching across the Highlands and celebrating the range and diversity of our heritage.'

Council Archaeologist Kirsty Cameron added: 'We're delighted to be able to run the

events programme again this year and it's fantastic that so many organisations and museums have offered activities which celebrate archaeology, history and heritage.'

'Last year due to Covid we organised a series of online talks, attracting people from all over the world. This year we have organised an expanded programme of lunchtime and evening talks.'

Other sessions include a focus on the potential of archaeology to promote Highland tourism, reports on recent excavations, the ever-popular topic of whisky heritage and a focus on some architectural gems. Details, with links to online events, can be found on the website [www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org](http://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org)



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## Aluminium recycling plant plan approval recommended

Plans for an aluminium recycling plant next to the Lochaber Smelter are being recommended for approval at a meeting of Highland Council's planning committee this week.

Alvance Aluminium would use the recycled metal in a new casting factory to produce up to 100,000 tonnes annually of long round shapes called billets for use in the construction industry.

Metal from the smelter would also be used in the process.

Highland Council planning officers have recommended councillors give the plans the green light.

In its conclusion the report states: 'The council is in agreement with the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that the construction of an aluminium recycling and billet

casting facility, associated hardstanding, infrastructure and landscaping is unlikely to give rise to any new or other significant adverse impact on the environment.

'The council is satisfied that all environmental effects of this development can be addressed by way of mitigation.'

The recycling and casting plants have been proposed for a site previously to be used for building an alloy wheel factory.

The factory was to be capable of supplying at least one fifth of all wheels required by UK vehicle makers.

But GFG Alliance, owners of the Lochaber Smelter, said there had been a 'significant decline' in car manufacturing and shelved the plan last year.

Development of the site must commence within three years.

# Forge buy-out's first fund target smashed

by Fiona Scott  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

The group set up to take forward a community ownership bid of The Old Forge, has smashed its first fundraising appeal target in record time.

The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Ltd set out to raise a minimum of £204,500 through a community share offer, as part of a larger fundraising plan to secure enough capital to put an offer in on mainland Britain's remotest pub, which went on the market in January.

The target was met and exceeded in only seven days of the month-long campaign, and continues to secure more investors eager to be a part of this project.

Stephanie Harris, secretary of the society, said: 'The support over the last seven days has been incredible. We raised



over £90,000 in the first 24 hours and applications continued to come in consistently - so much so that we met our minimum target in one week.'

With three weeks still to go, the share offer will remain open and the society is now aiming to reach its maximum target of £240,000.

The community shares appeal offers residents, and supporters outwith the peninsula, the opportunity to invest

in shares in the society.

Shares start at £25 for local residents, with non-resident applications having a higher minimum investment amount of £10,000.

Stephanie added: 'The speed at which this has taken off, and the generosity of our new member shareholders, just goes to show how much people want this to happen.'

'Our supporters want to see the pub under community

ownership and we have now reached a huge milestone in making that happen.

'We really hope to continue edging closer to our maximum target of £240,000.'

'The more we raise, the more security we have in our overall fundraising plan, and the more we can achieve once the pub is secured for the community.'

The society has submitted an application to the Scottish Land Fund, with a decision expected this week, and if successful the share funds will be combined with the land fund grant for acquisition.

It also plans to launch a crowdfunding campaign in the near future to allow more people to get involved.

The share offer will run until October 8, and the documents associated with the offer are available to view on the society's website: [www.theoldforgebs.org/invest](http://www.theoldforgebs.org/invest)

## Scottish Legislation for Fire and Smoke Alarms has changed and time is running out... - Are you compliant?



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- Heat alarms installed in every kitchen
- All smoke and heat alarms should be interlinked
- Carbon monoxide alarms to be fitted where there is a fuel burning appliance or a flue



For more information please visit  
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LT

# Duke and Duchess of Rothesay enjoy chippy tea in Portree



The royal couple, whose formal titles in Scotland are the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay visited various local businesses in Portree.

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall paid a visit to Skye last Thursday, September 16, where they enjoyed some Gaelic entertainment, a stroll around Dunvegan Castle and Gardens and some fish and chips washed down with a wee dram.

The royal couple, whose formal titles in Scotland are the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, were visiting various businesses in Portree as part of a larger tour with Lord-Lieutenant Joanie Whiteford.

The Duke and Duchess were introduced to Organic Sea Harvest staff and three other business owners outside the Rosedale Hotel in Portree.

After the Duke had been given a dram of whisky and the royals had been treated to a Gaelic song from Mòd Gold Medallist Robert Robertson, they met with Organic Sea Harvest's co-founders

## Dunvegan Castle and Gardens and organic salmon also featured

Alister Mackinnon and Alex MacInnes, and Chief Operating Officer Robert Wyvill.

The Duke has long been an advocate of organic farming, previously owning a 1,000-acre plot of farmland for 35 years, a farm he transformed to become completely organic in 1985.

Alex said: 'The Duke asked about our salmon farming methods, including our stocking density and how we handle sea lice.

'It was a pleasure to talk to someone so knowledgeable and interested in our mission to create top-quality, organic salmon. He was very positive and commented on our sustainability.'

This was the royal couple's first trip to the island since 2009. During their time on the island, they also tucked into fish and chips provided by Portree fisherman Dan Corrgiall's shop.

Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod, 30th Chief of Clan MacLeod, hosted a tour of his ancestral home of Dunvegan Castle where the royal couple went to view the results of 13 years of major investment in numerous restoration projects and improvements to the castle and gardens.

The royal party began their tour in the walled garden, where they were greeted by Mr MacLeod, who presented his partner Lucy Howard-Taylor, and members of the castle gardening team.

Ingrid Galbraith, head gardener, and former retired head gardener David MacLean accompanied the couple around the three formal areas of the castle gardens before Their Royal Highnesses viewed the extensive interior restoration programme that has been undertaken in all the public areas of the castle since 2008.

The tour ended on the castle's gun court, the party spent some time discussing the challenging conservation issues facing historic buildings.

HRH The Duke of Rothesay also presented an MBE to Mrs Pat Walsh, who was accompanied by her family and friends.

For more photos see [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)



HRH The Duke of Rothesay presented an MBE to Mrs Pat Walsh. Photograph: Rosie Woodhouse.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### A sophisticated scam

Do you know what a business email compromise (BEC) scam is?

It's a form of phishing attack where a criminal attempts to trick a senior executive or budget holder in a business into transferring funds or revealing sensitive information.

The criminals behind BECs send convincing-looking emails that might request unusual payments or contain links to 'dodgy' websites. Some emails may contain viruses disguised as harmless attachments, which are activated when opened.

You might think you could spot a fake email, but unlike standard phishing emails that are sent out indiscriminately to millions of people, BEC attacks are crafted to appeal to specific individuals and can be even harder to detect.

BEC is a threat to all organisations of all sizes and across all sectors, including non-profit organisations and government.

What are the signs of BEC?

- Unsolicited email/ phone call
- Pressure and urgency to take action
- Direct contact from a senior official you are normally not in contact with
- Unusual request in contradiction with internal procedures
- Request for confidentiality
- Threats or unusual flattery/promises of reward.

Please be extra careful with emails coming from your business contacts and double-check details with the real person by phone or through alternative communication channels before changing any payment details requested. Lochaber Chamber of Commerce works to help support our members across all aspects of their business.

See [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for details of upcoming online events on cybersecurity and links to further information and advice.



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# Friendship motivates Pawel to step out on epic mountain challenge

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

An adventure runner from Mallaig will attempt to repay the kindness of friends this weekend by running up Ben Nevis a record breaking eight times in 24 hours.

Starting at the Ben Nevis Inn on Saturday September 25, Pawel Cymbalista will be going up and down Ben Nevis throughout the day and night with the aim of breaking a 15-year-old record.

The incentive will be to raise as much money as he can to help his good friend Davy Duncan on the road to recovery after contracting a severe case of Covid earlier this year.

'Davy is a long term friend of myself and my wife Ashley and he has helped me a lot in my previous adventures,' said Pawel who completed the UK Big 3 mountain rounds in August this year.

'We are connected to Davy and his partner Helen Smith by the outdoors which makes it

really special. Helen and Davy got me obsessed with the long distance challenges.

'They are very kind people, always helping everyone, always giving and working incredibly hard. I decided it's time they should get something back for all they do for the community.'

The Ben Nevis 24h challenge was created by Charlie Anderson from Fort William in 2006.

He set the impressive record of six repetitions of the mountain, nearly reaching the height of mount Everest.

A successful repetition will take Pawel up to the summit and down to the Inn, 10 miles and 4,413ft each time.

'I hope to complete eight successful up and downs of Ben Nevis which will give me 3,5485ft of total climb and around 80 miles total distance,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'I really like a challenge and after completing the three big UK 24h Mountain challenges I was looking for something else to try. I kept looking up on my

old friend Ben Nevis thinking how many times I could go up and down in 24 hours. The idea grew in my head and I started researching.

'The mountain rounds are all around Everest height in total. My personal goal is to go past that height gaining 10,000m of elevation.'

Pawel has a good support team behind him and has already drafted a rota so they know where he should be at certain times.

He will have someone with him at all times for safety, to carry some of his kit, food and water and for general chat.

'You need someone that can talk, entertain to stay awake and alert at all times,' he said.

'Charlie will be helping me at the top of Ben Nevis during the night.

'He will make sure I am safe and sound, along with Donna MacDonald.'

Ashley will be in charge of the base camp at the Ben Nevis Inn while Pawel also has support from the Polish com-



This weekend Pawel Cymbalista will attempt to run up and down Ben Nevis eight times to raise funds for his good friend Davy Duncan.

munity, his work colleagues at MOWI and the Blar. Pawel will also be giving a small donation

to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. Anyone wishing to donate should visit Pawel's

Go Fund Me page at: [www.gofundme.com/f/ben-nevis-24-lets-do-it-for-davy?](http://www.gofundme.com/f/ben-nevis-24-lets-do-it-for-davy?)

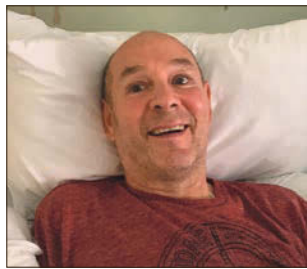
## Davy sends his thanks from his hospital bed

What will undoubtedly be one of the most popular fundraisers ever to take place on Ben Nevis happens this Saturday when Mallaig endurance athlete Pawel Cymbalista attempts to run up and down Britain's highest mountain as many times as possible in 24 hours to raise funds to help his friend Davy Duncan.

As many people in Lochaber will already be aware, Davy has spent the last five months in Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, with two months prior to that in another hospital in Mexico, after contracting Covid-19 while working offshore as a saturation diver in the Central American country.

Saturday's fundraiser is to help generate cash to assist with making Davy's home in Fort William more accessible to aid his recovery.

Speaking from his hospital bed in Inverness this week,



**Davy Duncan sent best wishes from his hospital bed in Inverness to Pawel ahead of the latter's record-breaking run attempt on Ben Nevis this Saturday.**

Davy gave his reaction to Pawel's planned mammoth record-breaking endurance effort on his behalf: 'All the best Pawel - go get 'em pal! We wish you all the best. It's been a real privilege having you running with us and I'm sure you will break all the records. We wish you God speed.'

Davy's partner, Helen Smith,

added: 'We just wanted to say a massive thank you to Pawel for thinking about us, thinking about Davy for the crowd-funder to raise money.'

'We are with him in spirit. Wish him all the very best and have no doubt he will do very well and feel very grateful to him for thinking about us.'

The Ben Nevis 24-hour Challenge was created by Charlie Anderson from Fort William in 2006, when he set the impressive record of six repetitions of the mountain, nearly reaching the height of Mount Everest in terms of total height covered.

Starting at the Ben Nevis Inn in Glen Nevis, Pawel will be going up and down Ben Nevis throughout the day and night with the aim to break the 15-year old record.

A successful repetition will take him up to the summit and back down to the inn, 10 miles and 4,413ft each time.

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# Can we afford to miss the boat?



by Sandy Neil  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Before global leaders decide the fate of the planet at COP26, a 'Biblical scale' sculpture of Noah's Ark has been built overlooking the Kyles of Bute, to provoke thought about the climate crisis projected to put Oban, Lochgilhead, Inveraray and Fort William under water within 30 years.

The structure in Tighnabruaich, designed by local environmentalist David Blair ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow's SECC, stands more than 20 metres long, six metres high and over five metres wide, with a bench seat all the way around the base for people to sit and think about what is in front of them.

'With COP26 coming to Glasgow in November, the Ark was an idea whose time had come,' said David, who first conceived of the artwork 20 years ago.

'Its massive scale reflects the great challenge we face, to galvanize the world's governments to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

'Argyll and Bute Council has not declared a climate emergency, even though much of the road network will be threatened by sea-level rise by 2050,'

he added, pointing to a website, coastal.climatecentral.org, showing how projected sea level rises will affect coastal communities in the next 30 years.

The projection shows large parts of Oban, Lochgilhead, Inveraray, Crinan, Campbeltown and Fort William inundated with water, as well as much of Paisley, Dumbarton, Stirling, Falkirk, Alloa, and Leith, making many residential areas uninhabitable.

'The Ark is a form that most people will connect with,' he explained: 'Its synchronicity with Noah and the great flood resonates with sea level rises due to climate change, with many species and habitats threatened with extinction.

'My hope is that it is a story that went to the heart rather than the brain. I think people get numb to all the disasters.'

David, a woodsman who has lived in Tighnabruaich for more than 25 years, saw the climate crisis coming a long time ago, and decided to help as much as he could by living sustainably.

He owns and runs the Dunbeag Hydro Scheme, and is involved with the charitable Kilfinan Community Forest Company. 'I have lived with this as the background for the last 20 years,' he said. 'It has steered my life. You cannot

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# No, says one environmentalist

ignore it now. It's out there every day. 'I do not want to scare people, but is it kinder to not let them know? I should have been building a shed; I need a new shed. It is easy to ignore it and think it will be alright. But I cannot - it is far too serious. It is going to change everything about how we live.

'It is in the governments' hands now. The governments of the world are not taking it seriously enough. They need to make sweeping changes.

'It does feel like this is the last best chance we have got. If it fails, I do not think we are going to pull this around. We are on the edge.

'We might be passed the turning point where, whatever we do, it will make no difference. I am concerned humanity will miss the boat.

'We need to do all we can to encourage governments to act. Governments respond to people. They need to take action, and take it now. The art is all I can do to raise the debate where I live. It's what I can do. I had access to the wood and knowledge how to put it together.'

Designed by David, the Ark was built with brother Rob and friend Scott Smith during the two weeks of the XR Impossible Rebellion in London.

The Ark is made from a European Larch tree felled locally to avoid the spread of the fungal disease *Phytophthora ramorum*.

'There is a lot of the disease around here,' he said. 'The fear is that it gets into the sitka spruce, and that is the forestry industry gone. It is just being felled to waste.

'There are huge holes in the hillside. I feel we are going to lose larch from Scotland probably in the next decade or two. Climate change is exacerbating this disease.

'Without thinking big and taking bold enough action, a million species are threatened with extinction, including a third of all tree species,' he added.

'The Ark is a call to action - we cannot afford to miss this boat. Climate change is by far the greatest threat that humanity, and most of life on Earth, has ever faced, and it is only us that can do anything about it.

'Think big, be bold, act now.'

**The Ark, far left and right, was built overlooking the Kyles of Bute to illustrate how sea levels will rise there and up the west coast, including Lochaber.**

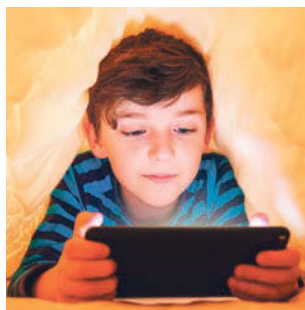


Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### A Short Sighted View

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is the organisation which declared COVID-19 a world-wide pandemic. You probably don't know WHO declared a world-wide epidemic of myopia several years ago. Just like COVID-19 this epidemic will affect future generations for decades to come. When your child becomes myopic the only obvious effect is a loss of clarity of vision which is normally corrected by wearing glasses. While the short term loss of clarity can be inconvenient it is the long term effects which can be truly devastating ... cataract, glaucoma, retinal detachment and myopic macular degeneration. All of which can potentially cause blindness. Previously I mentioned standard glasses and contact lenses make your child's myopia



worse. For several years it has been possible to reduce the rate of development of myopia in youngsters uses specially designed contact lenses. These are effective in controlling low levels of myopia. For higher levels of myopia orthokeratology is the preferred option. Recently, specialised myopia control spectacle lenses have been developed. The fourth option is not yet licensed for use in the UK. It involves using

long term low dose Atropine eye drops in combination with either glasses or contact lenses to control the myopia present. As with everything medical there are advantages and disadvantages with each of the four options. If your optometrist specialises in myopia control they will do a highly detailed examination of your child's eyesight. Not only will they look at the level of myopia present, they will also undertake an in-depth evaluation of how your child's eyes work together. Only once they have this necessary information your optometrist will be able to advise which is the most effective treatment option to control your child's myopia. The time to act to prevent your child's myopia increasing to potentially vision threatening levels is now.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

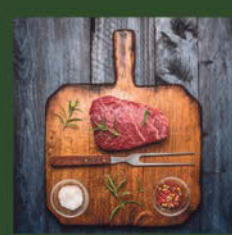
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# Hamish and crew bring Soli



The winning boat crewed by Hamish Loudon, Victoria Kimber and Vince Dean.

Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) hosted the national championship for the Soling sailboat class on the weekend of September 11-12.

The usual entry was decimated by Covid travel restrictions, with crews usually coming from as far afield as Australia and France, but thankfully the club was still able to go ahead, with visiting boats

from Rutland and Fleetwood making it to the start line.

Racing on Saturday was a bit tricky with the strong westerly wind gusting from the Stroncreggan shore.

Local boat Solaris mastered the conditions and won all five races, although the chasing boats were tightly bunched.

Sunday's conditions were a complete change with light

winds and three boats poised to secure the runner-up position.

The two visiting boats, So Long and Gerda, secured a win apiece in the first two races leaving Solaris last in both.

This gave Gerda an outside chance of victory, but the local crew in Solaris recovered to win the last race along with the overall title.

It was a special moment for Commodore Hamish Loudon to bring the title to LYC for the first time.

Saturday evening saw the sailors enjoy a wonderful socially-distanced BBQ outside the clubhouse, followed by another great day of racing on Sunday.

The weekend finished with a splendid lunch before the prizegiving.

The departing boats were brought ashore ready to start their long journey home.

Both visiting teams commented on what a fantastic weekend they'd had and how much they always enjoy Lochaber hospitality; they are

already planning a return in 2023.

**Results:**

Winners - Solaris crew - Hamish Loudon, Victoria Kimber, Vince Dean;

Maverix crew - Stephanie James, Robbie Thurlow, Andy and Stephanie Mckenna;

Flying Fish - Tim Sims, Keith Falconer, Euan Fundingsland, Ellis Davren;

Visiting boat crews - Paul Tully, Andrew Riches, Philip and John Dinnie, Phil Ironside, Joe Ironside.

The club would like to send a special note of thanks to all of the volunteers who worked so hard over the weekend.

'Without them giving up their time to help, the event wouldn't have been able to take place and certainly wouldn't have been such a great success,' added LYC secretary Karen Dean.

Anyone interested in trying sailing should take a look at the LYC website at [www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk) or social media pages and get in touch.



Sailors enjoyed a socially-distanced BBQ outside the clubhouse on the Saturday night.



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# ng title home for Lochaber



Solaris crew - Hamish Loudon, Victoria Kimber, Vince Dean took the overall title.



One of the Soling vessels coming up to the mark.

Visitors Paul Tully and Philip and John Dinnie.



Maverix crew Robbie Thurlow and Stephanie James.



## WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS 2021

FRI OCT  
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SAT OCT  
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SAT OCT  
9

**LIVEWIRE - AC/DC TRIBUTE**

Doors open 7pm  
Tickets: £17.50 + booking fee  
Available from [seetickets.com](http://seetickets.com)

FRI NOV  
5

**SIMON & GARFUNKEL - THROUGH THE YEARS**

Doors open 7pm  
Tickets: £22 + booking fee  
Available from [ents24.com](http://ents24.com)



# NHS Western Isles' new physio service

A new first contact physiotherapy service has been launched in Barra by NHS Western Isles.

Patients presenting to a GP practice with a musculoskeletal (MSK) condition, like soft tissue, muscle and joint pain, can now be assessed by a highly-skilled physiotherapist without seeing a GP first. It is hoped the new service will accelerate patient MSK assessment, treatment plan and, if appropriate, referrals for further investigation.

The service, initially by telephone, is run by physiotherapist Alana MacPhee, pictured, who is based in Uist.

The first contact physiotherapist will:

- assess the patient and diagnose what's happening
- give expert advice on how best to manage the condition
- recommend exercises and other approaches to deal with



the issue

■ refer patients on to a specialist service, if necessary

The first contact physiotherapy service is not the same as the self-referral/direct access to the physiotherapy service.

The current arrangements for self-referral to physiotherapy and standard NHS Physiotherapy service provision will remain the same.

Anyone living on Barra who thinks they may benefit from this service should contact Barra Medical Practice to request an appointment in the first instance. Practice staff may ask for further information to ensure that the service is right for the patient.

Patients who have already been referred and are awaiting an appointment, or who are being seen by a physiotherapist, should not request a first contact appointment.

# Comhairle ready to work with CalMac

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the announcement that two vessels will be ordered, not one as previously announced, as part of the Islay ferry project being taken forward by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL).

Following the news by CMAL that it has invited four shipyards to bid for the contract to build two new ferries for Islay, chairman of transportation Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'It is welcome that two additional ferries will be joining the CalMac fleet meaning there will be an opportunity to cascade MV Finlaggan to another route.'

'Comhairle nan Eilean Siar would welcome the opportunity to work with CMAL, CalMac and Transport Scotland on finding the best route for any vessel cascade and note that operating Finlaggan as a second ferry

MV Finlaggan, at Port Askaig on Islay, could be used as a second ferry.



on Lochmaddy and Tarbert routes in summer would be welcome.

'A second ferry on this route had been requested by the Harris Transport Forum in its recent meeting with the transport minister. At the same time the vessel could be used as a relief ferry throughout the winter. It is now imperative that CalMac engages with the comhairle and other community interests in the Outer Hebrides and the west coast

around the best deployment of the additional vessels.

'Many of the challenges we have seen with ferries over the past period has arisen from a failure to engage with and listen to local authorities and other local interests in the communities served by the ferries,' he said adding CalMac needed to listen to local intelligence and knowledge.

CMAL hopes to award the contract at the end of March 2022.

## Outer Hebrides' schools design competition

Western Isles Libraries is running a design competition for primary and secondary school pupils in the Outer Hebrides in partnership with Architecture and Design Scotland.

The competition is part of the Climate Beacons project encouraging discussion about climate challenge through a variety of creative activities.

There are competitions, for P4 to P7 pupils to design a home for the future, and for S1 to S4 pupils, to design a community for the future.

Any medium can be used to create the designs; an artwork, drawing, sculpture, Minecraft design, Lego or Tinkercad.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, October 30 2021. Visit [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/library/climatebeacon](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/library/climatebeacon)

  
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## LETTERS

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

For many people in Lochaber and on our islands, life will never be the same again due to the death of a loved one from Covid-19 or because of the life-changing long-term impacts of either having suffered from the virus, or from the possible mental health issues triggered by such long-term isolation.

One thing is clear - when we pull together as communities, we can achieve great things. This weekend Mallaig long distance runner Pawel Cymbalista will try to break the record for the number of times a person can run up and down Ben Nevis in 24 hours. He will put himself through this brutal physical test to raise funds to help with the recovery of Fort William deep sea diver Davy Duncan who took ill with Covid while working in Mexico seven months ago.

In our edition this week, we report on the encouragement a smiling Davy has sent from his Raigmore Hospital bed to Pawel for his possible record-setting attempt, which has already seen donations start to flow in towards the costs of adapting Davy's home to help in his recovery. Whether Pawel succeeds in breaking the record or not is irrelevant - what matters is the willingness of both men to always think of others and hopefully inspire the rest of us.

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.

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

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## Art or despoliation?

Is bath-tub man, The Oban Times, September 16, a welcome artefact adorning the seascape, which otherwise, in its natural form, attracts such admiration from locals and tourists, or is it another example of environmental despoliation, akin to any of the abandoned waste materials that, unfortunately, adorn our coastline?

I'm inclined to the latter and wonder why an old bath is thought to improve on what nature already provides?

In this world of copycats, how can we be sure that other similar artefacts won't be added to the litter on our shores, encouraged by this example?

And, apart from the rock-bolts fixing this object to the skerry, what is the difference between it and a fly-tipped bath?

Ian Reid, Kilnwick.

## Rest and Be Thankful

Now the Holyrood election is over and the SNP have been re-elected, they've obviously lost interest in solving the problems at the Rest & Be Thankful.

Before the election we had a Cabinet Minister at the A83 Task Force meetings promising action and launching a consultation on the preferred route.

At the latest meeting we didn't even get a junior minister - only civil servants.

The meeting was very disappointing. The consultation ended four months ago. Progress towards a permanent solution to the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful is moving at a snail's pace. We were told it could be 2023 before the SNP even announce their preferred route.

The SNP don't realise the urgency of finding a solution.

It's high time our MSPs actually did something to make a solution happen.

Alan Reid, Councillor for Cowal ward.

## Thank you

A big thank you for helping Mary's Meals to feed two million children every school day.

More than two million children will eat Mary's Meals in some of the world's poorest countries every school day.

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Mary's Meals began in 2002, by feeding

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Nuair a mhol Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd dhan Chomunn Ghàidhealach nach biodh e sàbhailte a dh'air adhart le caismeachd lòchrain aig àm fosglaidh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail ann an Inbhir Nis Dihaoine an 8mh latha den Dàmhair, ghabh sinn ris a' chomhairle le tuigse gum bheil dìon slàinte a' mhòr-shluaigh na dhleastanas oirnn uile.

Thuig sinn cuideachd gun robh ceistean cosgais stiùiridh is rian tachartais den t-seòrsa na phàirt den mheasadh a rinn oifigearan na Comhairle mun tug iad am beachd dhuinn, agus bha sinn glè mhothachail air an teannachadh a th' air sporain phoblach aig an àm seo. Mar sin cha bhì foillseachadh poblach air sràidean Inbhir Nis ro chuir fhosglaidh a' Mhòid aig Taigh-cluiche Cùirt an Aodainn, ach bidh fìor dheagh cheòl ri chluinntinn aig a' chonsairt sin. Gu dearbh, agus mar a bhiodh dùil, tha mi a' moladh a h-uile dad a bhios ri fhaicinn agus ri chluinntinn, agus tha mi 'n dòchas gun gabh sibh an cothrom tighinn a-mach a dh'èisteachd ann an tallaichean Chùirt an Aodainn, neo gun dèan sibh farchluais air-loidhne, ris na bhios againn dhuibh! 'S fhiach a dhearbhadh gum bi a h-uile càil anns na tallaichean air a chur air adhart a rèir nan riaghailtean Covid a bhios stèidhichte aig an àm.

Bha mi a' smaoineachadh air na gnothaichean seo madainn Dhihaoine seo chaidh is mi ag èisteachd ri Àrd-Mhaighstir Loidse Orains Alba a' bruidhinn mu ghrunn chaismeachdan aig a' bhuidheann, a bha gu bhith a' tachairt Disathairne seo chaidh ann an Glaschu. 'S

200 children in Malawi. Our growth since then has been driven by so many acts of kindness from people from all walks of life, helping us reach children in the greatest need.

We are deeply grateful to all our supporters and volunteers, including in Argyll - we simply could not have reached this incredible milestone without you.

We hope your readers will join us in celebrating this amazing moment for Mary's Meals and continue to support us to reach the next hungry child.

Daniel Adams, Executive Director,  
Mary's Meals.

e tachartasan mòra a bha seo agus bha dùil ri mu ochd ceud oifigear poileas a bhith an sàs a' cumail smachd air cùisean, agus gun ghuth idir air carson a tha leithid seo de chaismeachdan buaireasach gan cumail, saoil nach robh fìu 's barrachd cunnart sgaoilidh Covid an lùib seo na bha riamh gu bhith an cois caismeachd fosglaidh a' Mhòid. Co-dhùnaidhean Chomhairlean eadar-dhealaichte gun teagamh, ach tha e a' sealltainn carson a tha cuid a dhaoine fhathast mi-thuigseach air dè tha na riaghailtean agus dè tha dìreach na mholadh modhail a thaobh cunnart sgaoilidh Covid. Chaidh labhraiche na Loidse Orains às àicheadh gun robh a' bhuidheann an aghaidh Chaitligich, 's ann a tha iad a' cur taic ris a' chreideamh Phròstanach thuir e. Saoilidh mi gur e sliseadh dà-sheaghach a tha sin air faclan, oir tha trioblaidean dreamail a' nochdadh an cois chaismeachdan ro thrì, agus bu mhath amas gum b' urrainn dha dìlsich gach creideamh co-ionannachd spèis a dhearbhadh dha creideamhan eile.

Feumar a ràdh nach do thog poileas Alba dragh sam bith mu na caismeachdan seo, ach aig an aon àm bha Iar-Àrd-Chonstabal Phoileas Alba, fear a thug seachd bliadhna fichead na oifigear poileas ann am Beul Feirste, a' moladh ceannsachadh a dhèanamh air a' ghràin-chreid-eimh a tha a' sgaoileadh ann an Alba. Rachainn fhìn gu toileach a chaismeachd a chur taic ri leithid sin de dh'iomairt leigheis air an 'tinneas' ghràineil agus mhaslach sin a tha nochdte cho bitheanta nar dùthaich!

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

## Kind donation appreciated

I would like to thank staff and spectators who were at Mossfield for the Camanachd cup final on Saturday. My dog Blodyn chewed through her lead and ran off to the nearby golf club. She is now safely at home in Dundee. A kind lady wearing a blue vest gave me a spare leash and wouldn't accept anything for it. If she or someone who knows her sees this, please email me at [ccgusthis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ccgusthis@yahoo.co.uk) and I will return it. Thanks everyone. If I had lost her it would have destroyed what was a fantastic day in Oban.

Colin Lancaster.



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Kinlochleven residents on the ball at community event

### KINLOCHLEVEN



Mixed teams took to the astroturf at Kinlochleven. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Men and women of all ages and abilities took to the Astroturf in Kinlochleven last week in a community seven-a-side football mini tournament.

The fun evening to bring people together came from a discussion between Matthew Prosser, who organises a regular Monday evening 'kick-about', and Highlife Highland staff at the Leven Centre.

In looking for something which could involve the whole community, they came up with the idea of a football game with mixed teams.

Lots of people expressed an interest in taking part, although plans had to be put on hold due to Covid.

With the recent relaxation of restrictions, four teams took the field in a series of good-natured games, helped along by refreshments donated by the community.

Matthew Prosser said at the event: 'I came



The enthusiastic players who took part in Kinlochleven Community seven-a-side match.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

up with the idea of a seven-a-side village tournament and on discussing it with Maria and Emma from the Leven Centre decided to extend it to make a mixed team event.

'We got loads of interest and we've got ap-

proximately 25 folk playing tonight of all ages and abilities.

'It's a fantastic community initiative which we hope to repeat again and perhaps make it a fundraiser for local charities.'

### LOCHABER

## Canine capers at the camanachd club

Lochaber and District Canine Society held its annual Open Dog Show, held under Kennel Club rules, on Sunday September 12.

This year's show was held at a new venue, Spean Bridge shinty pitch, by kind permission of Lochaber Camanachd Club.

More than 150 exhibitors arriving from all over Scotland were delighted with the spectacular views from the new venue.

'We were blessed with dry, almost midge-free weather and had a most enjoyable day with a friendly relaxed atmosphere,' said show secretary Lorna Ungoed-Thomas.

Out of the 265 dogs entered, Best in Show was awarded to a young Border Collie, Lochiel Walk On The Wild Side, owned by breeder Heather Turner from just up the road in Roybridge.

Reserve Best in Show went to the miniature Schnauzer Risepark All The Rage at Rynuan, all the way from Forfar in Angus with owner Mrs Kathleen Flynn.



The Best in Show judge Mr Simon Luxmoore, who had travelled all the way from Norfolk, enjoyed his trip to Scotland and commented in a letter after the show: 'Dear Lorna, you have no idea how much judging for your show meant to me on Sunday - better than Crufts given my

history as a child in the area. 'I even fell in the canal and had to be rescued very close to where you live in the late '50s!' 'The show was a great success and well done to you and your team for laying on such an enjoyable day. Best wishes, Simon.'

From left: Heather Turner with Lochiel Walk On The Wild Side, Best in Show judge Mr Simon Luxmoore, Show Secretary Lorna Ungoed-Thomas, Mrs Kathleen Flynn with Risepark All The Rage at Rynuan.

## Love of mountains writing competition open

People with a love for the mountains and Scotland's great outdoors are being challenged to put their passion into words.

Mountaineering Scotland's annual literary competition - the Mountain Writing Competition - is now open. Entries may be prose (maximum of 2,000 words) or poetry (200 word max), fact or fiction.

They may be about a fondly remembered walk or an imagined vertical adventure and can be about the mountains themselves or those who climb among them.

Whatever is written about, as long as it has mountains and mountaineers at heart, competition 2021 is seeking contributions.

First prize in both prose and poetry sections is £200. Second and third prize winners in each section will receive £100 and £50 respectively.

As well as the cash prizes, winners will see their entries published in Scottish Mountaineer magazine and website. Deadline for entries is 5pm on Friday, November 5 2021. See [www.mountaineering.scot/mountainwriting](http://www.mountaineering.scot/mountainwriting)



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# Highland Cinema invites you to join its one year anniversary celebration this Saturday

After a tumultuous first twelve months of operations, with Covid-19, a shortage of new films in its early days, and reduced staff at times, Highland Cinema is delighted to be celebrating its one year anniversary this Saturday, with a special event and films for everyone to enjoy.

"We may not have been open the full twelve months, but at times its certainly felt it!" says Angus MacDonald, owner. "When I set out to build an exciting new cinema and café bar in Fort William, I didn't expect the pandemic to come along. It's been quite a challenge, but I'm immensely proud of what we've achieved, our fantastic staff and all the great support we've had from the local community in Fort William, Lochaber and further afield."

In the short time it's been open, the venue has caught the eye of many an impressed guest, gaining recognition by *Time Out* as one of the 50 best cinemas in the UK and Ireland (and one of only six in Scotland mentioned). With its striking design and Highland themed architecture and interior, two state-of-the-art screens and a vibrant café bar, it's easy to see why. The Management team have also put great emphasis on finding, recruiting and retaining excellent staff, which is reflected in the many positive reviews noting its warm, welcoming atmosphere.

"Managing staff in these times has been a difficult task" says Caroline Knox, General Manager. "Like many hospitality businesses, we've faced issues, but our core team have stuck with us and been flexible and fantastic throughout, and we've taken on some great new additions, which has allowed us to stay open when many others have had to close. We have a staff event very soon to reflect our thanks for all the effort they've put in."

**Anniversary films include some great classics, including *Trainspotting*, with an exclusive and personal recorded introduction from Ewan McGregor.**

With film release dates finally returning to some normality, the crew are looking forward to some big blockbusters coming soon, starting with the new 007 adventure *No Time To Die*, out September 30th. From October 1st, local Lochaber residents will also be able to take advantage of a great new discount card, courtesy of Alvanice Aluminium, providing a discount on films for residents during the Winter months.

"With the nights getting darker, we're thrilled to be able to make a visit to the cinema even more affordable, with the help of Alvanice Aluminium" says Elaine Brayshaw, the cinema's Finance Manager. "The card will be valid for some amazing films out soon, including Bond; *Dune*; *The French Dispatch*; *Belfast*; *West Side Story*; *Spider-Man 4*; *The Matrix 4*; and many more."

But before all that, it's time to celebrate being one!

This Saturday (25th), the cinema is showing some great classics of cinema, many of which are also celebrating an anniversary this year. There's something for all age ranges, from the magical *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, to *Singin' In The Rain* and *Trainspotting*, which features an exclusive recorded introduction from Ewan McGregor himself. The café bar will be decorated and special birthday cake and cocktails available, with everyone welcome to come and join in the celebration.

"It's hard to believe we've only been open a year, and actually not even that" says Hamish McIntyre, Marketing Manager. "We've been able to put on so many great films and events in that time, and we have so much more to come. We want to thank the local community for helping to make us a success so far – watch this space for more!"



Angus MacDonald, Highland Cinema owner.



New James Bond film *No Time To Die*, booking now.



A free local residents card is now available, providing a discount for films over the Winter months.

**OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY!**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH - ALL DAY!**

**BALLOONS & BIRTHDAY CAKE!**

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY COCKTAILS!**

**ALL FILMS ALL DAY, JUST**

**£5**

**ANY SEAT, ANY AGE!**



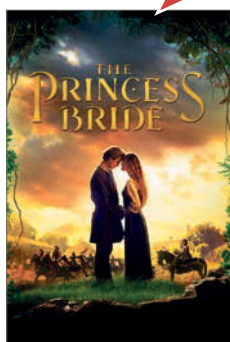
**10:30AM**



**11:40AM**



**12:55PM**



**2:45PM**



**3:25PM + 5:50PM**



**5:05PM**



**7:50PM**



**8:15PM**

**A FANTASTIC LINE-UP OF CULTURAL AND ARTS SHOWINGS COMING SOON**

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**FOLLIES**  
NATIONAL THEATRE SCOTLAND

Stephen Sondheim's legendary musical is staged for the first time at the National Theatre, with a cast of 37 and an orchestra of 21.

**TUE 28 SEPT, 7PM**

**IORRAM**  
GAELIC DOCUMENTARY, ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A second showing of the beautiful Gaelic Hebridean fishing documentary Iorram, mixing archive recordings with modern footage.

**SAT 10 OCT, 8PM**

**TOM PETTY**  
SOMEWHERE YOU FEEL FREE

A new documentary showing how Tom Petty overcame a potential 90s 'mid-life crisis' to produce one of his best albums, 'Wildflowers.'

**WED 20 OCT, 8PM**

**THE NUTCRACKER**

Get in the Christmas spirit, with this delightful festive treat for the whole family, with a gorgeous production of the classic Russian fairtale.

**THUR 9 DEC, 7:15PM**

**TOSCA**

Puccini's great opera of passion and politics, set in Rome in 1800 – a romance, a tragedy and a thriller, with a famous shock ending.

**WED 15 DEC, 7:15PM**

**ROMEO & JULIET**

Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers encounter passion and tragedy in Kenneth MacMillan's 20th-century ballet masterpiece.

**MON 14 FEB 2022, 7:15PM**

**ALICE: CURIOUSER & CURIOUSER**  
THE V&A PRESENTS

The V&A presents a special guided tour of their Alice in Wonderland exhibition, masterfully capturing exhibits from stage, fashion and film.

**THUR 14 / SUN 17 OCT**

**GARDENING IN SCOTLAND**  
TALKS BY ALAN BENNELL

A series of entertaining and educational talks / visual presentations on gardens and gardening in the West Coast, by an RBGE expert.

**SUN 7 NOV / SUN 5 DEC, 2:30PM**

**GREENLAND AND BAFFIN**  
AN ADVENTURE WITH BOB SHEPTON

Local sailing and climbing legend Bob Shepton tells of his adventures to Greenland and Baffin in his famous sailing boat, Dodo's Delight.

**SUN 14 NOV, 4:30PM**

**RIGOLETTO**

A new production of Verdi's devastating masterpiece, pitting power against innocence in a world of luxury, corruption and decay.

**THUR 10 MAR 2022, 7:15PM**

**LA TRAVIATA**

Richard Eyre's beautiful production provides the perfect setting for Verdi's opera about a courtesan who sacrifices all for love.

**WED 13 APR 2022, 6:45PM**

**SWAN LAKE**

The Royal Ballet's sumptuous reimagining of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's towering masterpiece returns to the Royal Opera House stage.

**THUR 19 MAY 2022, 7:15PM**

**MOST OF THESE EVENTS ARE ON SALE NOW! FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK, VISIT [WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK](http://WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK)**



# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The sprung dance floor of the Barrowland Ballroom bounced again under the feet of 1,900 traditional music lovers last Saturday night for the first time since falling silent at the beginning of the pandemic.

The event was a delayed celebration of Trail West's 10th anniversary but the celebratory mood had been heightened by the fact so many people from different parts of the Highlands and Islands were re-united after so long.

A real sense of excitement built up all day as everyone met for pre-show food and drinks - and that was just the boys in the band!

A 2pm throw-up in the camanachd cup final, a hundred miles away in Oban, provided a good starting point for a lot of people's days - especially for those of a Kinlochshiel persuasion who were really going for it by the time the gig started and who got a special, congratulatory mention from the stage. I dare say there was a cracking night happening up in Dornie at the same time.

I always think it must be funny for local regulars of the pubs around the Barras when a Highland band comes to town.

Whether it be the Vatersay Boys in their annual Christmas carry on, or the famous old Runrig gigs, there is always an influx of noisy teuchters!

I had a cracking meal in Metropolitan in the Merchant



Trail West play the Barrowlands for their 10th anniversary gig.

City with a couple of pals before wandering up to the famous lights outside the venue.

There we were met by our good pal John Robertson, who was claiming to have been 'on the road' with Trail West for the last eight years.

The reality of John's touring credentials is that he now and again organises guest lists and backstage bars for the boys' bigger gigs and he was, as you can imagine, in his element on Saturday evening.

John ushered us up the stairs and away into the excellent green room at the Barras - scene of many a good night before, during, and after gigs from the West Coast's finest bands.

It is easy to forget that many of the most famous musicians in the world have made themselves at home in that same room.

Tom Joyce, who runs the venue, once told me a great story about Robbie Williams asking for a place to do yoga backstage and Tom thinking: 'I've never had this request from the Vatersay Boys!'

Needless to say there wasn't any yoga going on before Trail West played but, with the bar John had provided for the guests, there were plenty people who felt at one with their environment.

The Trail West boys put on a great show, as did the Cast Ewes, who opened for them, and it was an evening worthy of the 10-year celebration.

A few curers were in order the next day in the Snaffle Bit and then the Park Bar and I'm sure, at that point, the boys could reflect on a tremendous night.

Congratulations to them on a wonderful decade of music.

# Stars of Irish Country to play Oban

Join four of Ireland's leading country music stars for a night of toe-tapping magic direct from the Emerald Isle at the Corran Halls, Oban on Friday October 1.

The stellar line-up, which wouldn't look out of place in Nashville, will feature the gentle giant of country music Mick Flavin from Longford, the energetic Shawn Cuddy from County Laois, the multi-talented fiddling maestro Stephen Smyth from County Down, and one of Ireland's favourite entertainers, Curtis Magee from County Tyrone.

Each of the stars will perform a host of their trademark country and Irish hit songs in the company of the fabulous Keltic Storm band, making this a show you won't want to miss.

Show promoter James McGarrity said: 'We are delighted to be finally getting back to doing what we all love - performing to a live audience.



One of Ireland's favourite entertainers, Curtis Magee is part of the line up of country stars set to come to Oban.

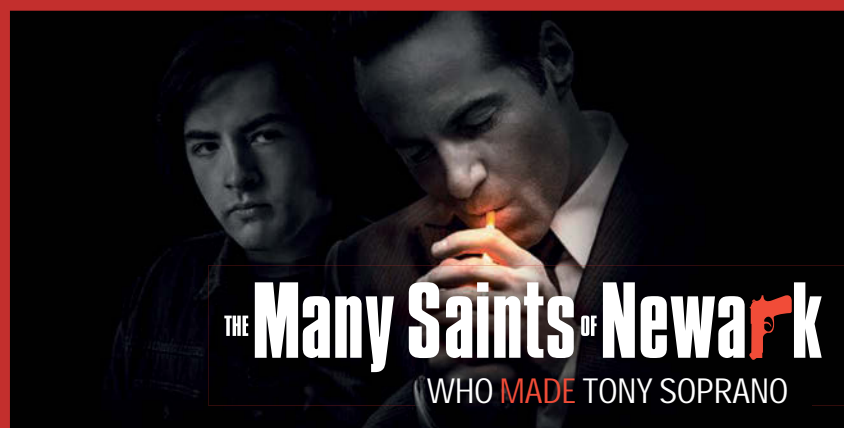
This is a great opportunity to see four of Ireland's top stars all in one show and we guarantee a super night of entertainment.

Tickets for the show at the

Corran Halls are now on sale from the box office on 01631 567333 or online at [www.liveargyll.co.uk/facility/the-corran-hall](http://www.liveargyll.co.uk/facility/the-corran-hall)

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 24TH - THUR 30TH SEPT



**FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Respect (12a) 11:15am. Our Ladies (15) 11:30am. The Alpinist (12a) 2pm + 8pm. The Last Bus (12a) 2:30pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 4:30pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 5pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 7:30pm.

**SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory (U) 10:30am. Harry Potter and the Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 11:40am. Singin' In The Rain (U) 12:55pm. The Princess Bride (PG) 2:45pm. The Alpinist (12a) 3:25pm + 5:50pm. Romeo + Juliet (12a) 5:05pm. Mad Max: Fury Road Black & Chrome (15) 7:50pm. Trainspotting (18) 8:15pm.

**SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 10:45am. Paw Patrol (U) 11:30am. Our Ladies (15) 12pm. The Alpinist (12a) 2pm + 8pm. The Last Bus (12a) 2:30pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 4:30pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 5pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 7:30pm.

**MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER**  
 CLOSED ALL DAY FOR STAFF EVENT.

**TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER**  
 The Alpinist (12a) 1:45pm + 7:45pm. The Last Bus (12a) 2:45pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 4pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 5pm. NT Live: Follies (12a) 7pm.

**WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 11:15am + 5pm. Our Ladies (15) 11:30am. The Alpinist (12a) 2pm + 8pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 4:30pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (18) 7:30pm.

**THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**  
 The Alpinist (12a) 10:15am + 8:40pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 10:45am. No Time To Die (12a) 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 4pm, 5:15pm + 7:30pm.

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LT

## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Tulloch Homes  
Camanachd  
Cup Final

Kinlochshiel 3 Lovat 1  
Oban attracted the largest Camanachd Cup Final crowd for years with a big Kinlochshiel support making the five-hour round trip in the hope of a history-making afternoon.

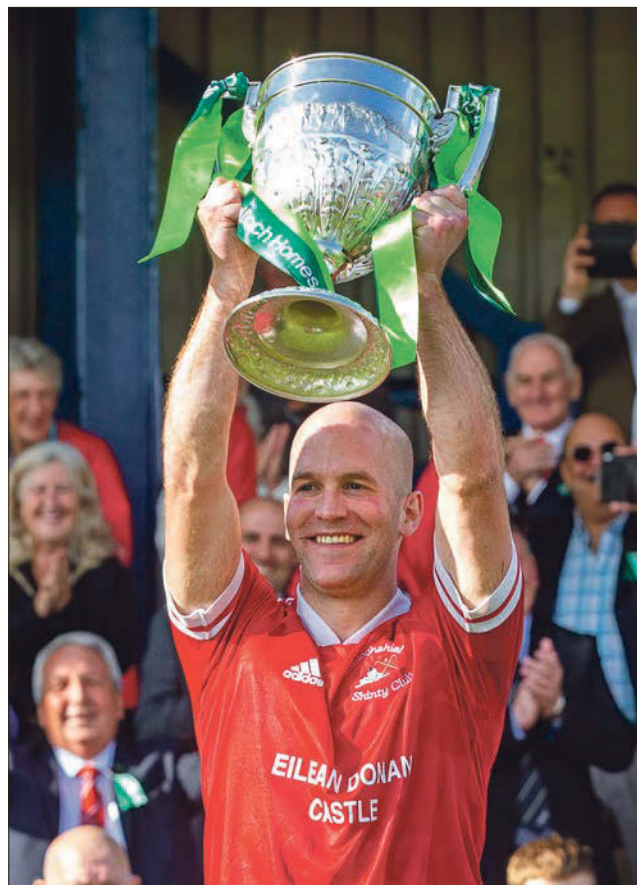
Despite the pre-match rain, Mossfield groundsman Iain Hay and his team had the pitch in perfect condition as Oban High School Pipe Band wowed the crowd with the pre-match entertainment.

Both sides had selection concerns going into the final.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill trusted his injured players to assess their fitness and his biggest boost came when talisman Finlay MacRae declared himself fit despite suffering a heavy blow to the knee in the semi-final win over Kyles Athletic. Mark MacDonald started his first match since mid-July, whilst John MacRae and Duncan 'WD' MacRae returned after missing their side's last outing, a league win at Strathglass a fortnight earlier.

Ali Nixon's hamstring problem, however, limited him to a place on the bench. Veteran Paul MacRae earned a place at wing centre, a richly deserved reward for his 25 years' service to the club.

Matters were more straightforward for Lovat boss Jamie Matheson. He already knew Lorne MacKay's booking in the semi-final win over Kingussie had taken him through the disciplinary points threshold whilst Scott MacKenzie was ruled out after sustaining a hand injury in the same game. Graeme MacMillan came into the defence and former



Kinlochshiel captain Keith Macrae lifts the Camanachd Cup.  
Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Skye Camanachd player Iain Nicolson started at wing centre. There were also call-ups for Ryan Ferguson and Cammy MacMillan who took places on the bench.

Club presidents Biz Campbell, Kinlochshiel, and John MacRitchie, Lovat, led their respective squads into battle and referee John Angus Gillies gathered captains Keith MacRae and Stuart MacDonald into the centre circle where Lovat won the toss of the coin, opting to start against a slight wind and with the sun in their eyes.

The tension was palpable during the opening exchanges and Kinlochshiel's John

MacRae was first to threaten. The Lovat defence didn't clear Jordan Fraser's low ball from the left and MacRae made space to shoot by taking the ball to the left but his effort went by the far post.

Finlay MacRae showed no ill-effects from his injury when he intercepted then cleared a ball which could have put Fraser Heath clean through on goal.

A nice Kinlochshiel passing move started on the right of midfield with Paul MacRae's clever reverse pass to Conor Cormack who sent the ball high to Jordan Fraser. Fraser chested the ball down and whilst his first effort was

blocked, he shot wide from the rebound.

Kinlochshiel keeper Josh Grant, man of the match in the semi-final win over Kyles Athletic, made a great save with his stick at the left post from Fraser Heath following Callum Cruden's free-hit on the right.

Play was now flowing from end-to-end and Greg Matheson and Duncan 'DA' MacRae traded shots wide of target as the final reached the 15 minute mark.

Josh Grant saved with his feet from Marc MacLachlan's strike from wide on the right and a good block from Craig Mainland deflected Keith MacRae's drive away for a corner.

Lovat came closest in the early exchanges when Lewis Tawse found Fraser Heath and his shot from the left went across keeper Josh Grant but came back off the base of the far post.

Fraser Heath required treatment soon after but was able to continue.

Lovat made the first change of the final as Bailey MacKay came on for Graeme MacMillan midway through the first half.

It was Kinlochshiel who broke the deadlock on 25 minutes. Drew Howie's hit-in from deep inside their own half sliced towards John MacRae whose first time pass bounced through to an unmarked Keith MacRae in space in front of goal and he hammered the ball into the roof of the net to make it 1-0.

Straight from the restart, Conor Cormack sent John MacRae sprinting through on goal but Stuart MacDonald was quickly off his line to clear.

Paul MacRae pushed forward from midfield but shot over as Kinlochshiel laid siege on the Lovat goal.



Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill, left, celebrates the win with his bench. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Lovat responded and a great ball from Craig Mainland dropped into the 'D' but Josh Grant was calm as he shielded the ball out of play with Fraser Heath in attendance.

Kinlochshiel went on to dominate the remainder of the half. Donald Nixon's lofted ball was gathered by John MacRae who got the ball out from under his feet and his backhand strike forced a brilliant flying save from Stuart MacDonald.

Keith MacRae tried to implement a training ground free-hit routine but Duncan 'WD' MacRae's shot was blocked.

Kinlochshiel made their first change on 41 minutes as Archie MacRae took over from Duncan 'WD' MacRae.

Kinlochshiel pressed but just couldn't add the second goal they deserved and they suffered the consequences in first half stoppage time when Fraser Heath won possession and found Greg Matheson wide on the left and the Scotland forward sent a blistering shot into the net.

It was the first goal Kinlochshiel had conceded on their cup run and it made it 1-1 at the interval.

Lovat looked brighter from the restart and Fraser Heath crossed low from the right to find Greg Matheson but he couldn't steer his shot on target.

Iain Nicolson required muscle treatment before being later replaced by Bailey MacKay and Ryan Ferguson came on for Marc MacLachlan on 54 minutes.

The final took a significant twist just seconds past the hour. Jordan Fraser came deep to the halfway line to gather a stray ball. Fraser drove a wonderful high ball down the middle where Keith MacRae won the race for possession with Daniel Grieve and he

showed great composure as he lifted ball over Stuart MacDonald and into the net to put Kinlochshiel back in front.

Three minutes later, an incredible Greg Matheson flick and volley from the right of the centre line dropped in on the Kinlochshiel goal and Josh Grant, with the sun in his eyes, just managed to scramble the ball away, crashing into his left post in the process, under pressure from Fraser Heath.

Kinlochshiel refreshed their line-up as Jonnie MacAskill replaced Duncan 'DA' MacRae with 20 minutes to go and Kinlochshiel were now deploying John MacRae in a deeper role.

Referee John Angus Gillies showed the only yellow card of the final to Lovat's Callum Cruden for backchat as Kinlochshiel won a couple of free-hits.

David Falconer took over from 40-year-old Paul MacRae before Greg Matheson's strike from distance whistled wide as the final moved into the final 10 minutes.

Jonnie MacAskill spurned a chance on his backhand as tension engulfed the touchline at Mossfield.

Josh Grant came off his line to get his feet to a dangerous Ryan Ferguson ball into the 'D' and when the rebound came to Graeme MacMillan, he steered his shot agonisingly wide of the far post and the chance was gone.

Josh Grant saved with his feet from Fraser Heath who injured himself in the process and Marc MacLachlan was reintroduced in his place.

This thoroughly entertaining final still had more to offer and if there was drama at the end of the first half, then it was eclipsed during second half stoppage time. Donald Nixon's long free-hit from in front of

## Skye Under 14s lift MacMaster Cup at Mossfield

Skye Camanachd U14 won the MacMaster Cup, beating Fort William U14 2-1 in their 11am throw-up at Mossfield.

It was a busy week for the Skye youngsters who were 2-1 MacMaster Cup semi-final winners against Kilmallie U14 at Craigard, Invergarry, the previous Wednesday.

Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod and Ali Stewart had Skye 2-0 ahead before Archie MacNiven countered for Kilmallie.

Jack Stephen gave Fort William the lead on 33 minutes in the final, but Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod equalised almost immediately. Ali Stewart got what proved to be the winner on 55 minutes.

Skye skipper Seonaidh-Alex MacLeod was presented with the trophy by David MacMaster on behalf of the MacMaster family.



The victorious Skye team. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

the stand dropped into the Lovat goal area and was chested down by Danny Kelly but John MacRae was quickly in to nick the ball to Keith MacRae at the left of the 'D' and he beat the keeper at his right post to complete his hat-trick and seal a famous and deserved victory.

Referee John Angus Gillies, who was excellent throughout, blew for time from the restart.

There were emotional scenes all around the ground as the Kinlochshiel support – from stalwarts of Kinlochshiel sides in days gone by to youngsters inspired to be the team of tomorrow – tried to take in the enormity of what had just happened.

Mossfield was a sea of red and white as the supporters gathered on the pitch and in the stand for the trophy presentation. Kinlochshiel buckshee back Conor Cormack was the selection panel's choice as man of the match and he received the Albert Smith medal from the always immaculate Rene Smith on the 50th anniversary of the inaugural presentation of this coveted award to Newtonmore's Johnny Campbell. Then, 125 years after the inaugural Camanachd Cup Final, all that was left was for Kinlochshiel captain Keith MacRae, who has bounced back from a troublesome knee injury, to raise the Camanachd Cup on a day that will forever be remembered in the club's proud history.

Speaking after the final whistle, Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill said: 'I'm overwhelmed. This is just fantastic for the whole community and I think they were probably all here today to watch us.'

'It was one of the best cup finals ever and when you add the three or four younger players we have coming through to the current squad, I believe we can do it again.'

'It has been a great occasion and every single man performed so well out there. At half-time we said we weren't here to lose the trophy but to win the cup. The players are all experienced but we pointed out some small things and they finished the job in the second half.'

'We still have the MacTavish Cup to play for this season. We've never won that before either so there's something else to aim for.'

Winning skipper Keith MacRae added: 'The boys worked so hard today and this is reward for the all the commitment over the years. We've stuck together as a squad and worked so hard and it has really clicked for us this year.'

'I don't score many hat-tricks so I'll certainly take one in the Camanachd Cup Final.'

More photographs online at [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)



Under 18s coach Adrian Collins was delighted with the team's strong performance.



Action from the game between Lochaber's Under 18s and Strathaven.

## Home support spurs rugby youths on to well-earned win

The first home game for Lochaber Under 18s was welcomed by many rugby supporters of all ages including a good contingency from the Lochaber 1stXV, who turned up to cheer their club mates on.

The early stages of the game saw Lochaber soak up a lot of pressure from the visitors which led to Strathaven putting the first points on the board from a penalty kick.

Lochaber responded with a well executed try and conversion and Strathaven replied with their first try cutting the deficit 10 - 7. Lochaber scored a second try just before half time to take a 14-10 lead at the break.

In the second half, Lochaber worked hard and kept up the pressure, scoring a deserved further three tries, one of which was converted.

The final score was 31-10 to Lochaber which didn't quite reflect Stathaven's ever present danger and presence throughout the game.

After the game, the team commented on how great the support was and added they were glad they put on a good show.

Under 18 coach Adrian Collins said it was a strong performance by the team and a well-earned win. He added he was grateful for the continued support from parents and carers who enable the players to attend training every week and participate in matches.

Lochaber try scorers were Fergus MacIntyre, 3; Dylan Monk and Hamish Kelly with MacIntyre slotting three conversions.

This Saturday the Under 18s travel to Annan.

## Lochaber take it to the wire in season opener

Continued from page 40.

ed they'd had enough and put the ball out from the resulting penalty to end the game.

Lochaber had a last minute chance to get up the pitch but gave away a penalty after winning a line out inside the Medics half. The Medics decid-

ed they'd had enough and put the ball out from the resulting penalty to end the game.

Lochaber now travel to Clydesdale on Saturday. This will be the first meeting between the clubs after Clydesdale's relegation. Kick off is at 3pm at Alexander Hamilton Memorial Park, Stonehouse.

## Fort William falter in first round of Scottish Cup



David Nyembwe tackles East Stirlingshire's Jamie Hamilton.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Continued from page 40.

different had a few decisions to be marginally offside. Two minutes later Avraam was brought down in the box, but the referee waved away the penalty appeals.

From then on, the home team took over and put the game to bed in the 74th minute when Kevin Turner made up for his miss in the first half to net the third and final goal of the game.

Fort went close again near the end when Connor Moore's strike was just over the bar and Kulbacki pulled off a great save in the final moment to keep it at 3-0.

This marks the end of the cup run but Fort William can take much away from this game knowing it could have been

different had a few decisions gone their way and chances had been taken.

Speaking after the game, Fort William manager Ashley Holyer said: 'I felt we started the game well and became more expansive as the first half developed against a decent East Stirlingshire side. Following the last couple of results, it was important to get off to a positive start and I felt we did that. However, it was a blow to concede in added time at the end of the first half but the second goal early in the second half was just as big a blow. We made a couple of changes to be more direct after the second goal but unfortunately we got caught and 3-0 was how it ended.'

'I was super proud of all the players on Friday evening. They responded to two heavy defeats in the right manner and on another day would have found themselves in the second round draw.'

'Take nothing away from East Stirlingshire, they are a decent team with a never say die attitude and we thank them for their hospitality along with wishing them all the best in the second round.'

What will also encourage the manager was the impact of Blessings Tshibikubula off the bench with his good play almost creating a few goal scoring opportunities. Next up for Fort William is a league tie against Huntly this Saturday, September 25.



29 October 2021 · 7pm arrival · Dress code: Smart casual

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

## KINLOCHSHIEL CELEBRATE FIRST CAMANACHD CUP WIN



Kinlochshiel made history on Saturday when they lifted the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup for the first time in their 63-year history. They beat Lovat 3-1 in the final at Mossfield, Oban. Full report: page 38. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

## Fort falter in first round of Scottish Cup

Friday marked the start of this year's Scottish Cup competition with Fort William facing a tough task away to Lowland league team East Stirlingshire in the first round.

It was the home team which started the brightest going close twice in the opening 13 minutes.

In the 17th minute, the ball broke to Owusu-Barnieh for Fort William who could only send his shot over the bar. Turner had the best chance so far to make it 1-0 to the home side but he spoiled his attempt and the ball ran wide.

In the moments before half time, the Fort keeper was busy again making a good save from a volley on the edge of the box then quickly getting down to a shot at the near post keeping the scores level.

Unfortunately though it didn't stay that way going into the break as in the fourth added minute of injury time Jamie Hamilton got on the scoresheet for East Stirlingshire to make it 1-0 at half time.

Into the second period and looking to build on their lead the home team were rewarded on the 53rd minute when Kay put them 2-0 ahead.

A few moments later Fort William thought they had scored but Robbie Foster's goal was cancelled out as Marios Avraam was judged

**Continued on page 39.**

# Lochaber take it to the wire in season opener

Lochaber finally got their season under way with their first competitive rugby fixture since Covid struck when they hosted Glasgow University Medics on Saturday.

The last time the two sides met was in the bowl final of the 2019/2020 season with Lochaber claiming their first win over the Medics in horrendous weather conditions. Luckily the weather cleared for

### RUGBY

Saturday's clash. This was the Medics' third game of the season after wins over Clydesdale 0-91 and Moffat 40-27. Their match sharpness from those first two games showed as they raced to a 0-19 lead after just 23 minutes in the first half.

Lochaber up until this point had displayed some promising attacks but the Medics de-

fence had stayed strong. That changed after another scrum, an area where Lochaber were dominant throughout the game.

Number eight Edward Murray John broke down the blind side from the back of the scrum before the attack switched to the open side where Ryan Davies fed Conor Taylor who handed off two tacklers to score by the posts

with Davies converting. Lochaber got their second try just before the break when Davies fed Jonathan McCook 10m out. Cook's momentum carried him towards the line where he twisted through a tackle to ground the ball. Davies converted to make it 14-19.

The Medics stretched their lead to eight points with a penalty 20 minutes into the second

half. Lochaber continued to pile the pressure on and, with a penalty advantage, Callum Boyd threw a wide pass out to full back Hamish White who drew the tackle and offloaded to Ally Weir on the wing. The Medics got a tackle in but Weir stretched out to score in the corner in his first game back at the club.

An injury to a Medics player

**Continued on page 39.**



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 23 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>23</b>	0101 0.8 0647 3.9 TH 1317 0.8 1905 4.1	<b>25</b>	0203 1.1 0739 3.8 SA 1416 1.2 2003 3.7	<b>27</b>	0311 1.5 0840 3.4 M 1522 1.8 2103 3.2	<b>29</b>	0459 2.0 1009 3.0 W 1728 2.3 C 2300 2.7	
<b>24</b>	0132 0.9 0713 3.9 F 1347 1.0 1934 4.0	<b>26</b>	0235 1.3 0808 3.6 SU 1447 1.5 2032 3.5	<b>28</b>	0357 1.8 0918 3.2 TU 1610 2.1 2141 3.0	<b>30</b>	0614 2.1 1309 2.8 TH 1911 2.3	

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Light rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 12°C to 15°C.	<b>Friday</b> Light rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 13°C to 17°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.	<b>Sunday</b> v Temperatures 12°C to 19°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** 17 **LOW** 13

11 MPH