



## Dalriada rugby tournament back in Oban

Inside this week: Hotel owners vow to rebuild after fire - page 4

### Game on as sports group ups the pace

by Fiona Scott  
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Ambitious plans to build Oban's own field of dreams are moving forward.

First muted in December 2019, the Mossfield Project aims to bring the town's sports and events communities together by upgrading facilities around the town with an end goal of redeveloping the current Mossfield site to bring it up to national standards.

Following a lot of hard work by stakeholders during lockdown, Mossfield - Oban's Sports and Events Stadium (MOSES) became a Community Interest Company (CIC) in November last year and short term goals are already being met by the clubs involved.

A steering group consisting of Murray Hamilton, Oban High School/Oban Lorne RFC; Les Kinvig, Regional Shinty Development Officer; Andy Spence, BID4Oban, and Neil MacKay, chairman of Oban Tourism Group, is driving the idea forward feeding into a wider user group.

Speaking at the group's first meeting since 2019 last  
Continued on page 2.

## BURSTING WITH PRIDE



● ORGANISERS OVERWHELMED BY SUPPORT - PAGES 8 AND 9



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OT

# Generous donation keeps ladies day on course

Organisers of the John MacEachen Memorial Trophy have once again donated a substantial amount to various local cancer charities and causes, following the tremendous golf tournament held at Glencruitten on September 4.

Founder and organiser of The Pink Ladies Day Nicky Murphy said: 'We are absolutely delighted to receive such a generous donation of £1,000 to help fund The Pink Ladies Day in November. This goes a huge way to covering a big chunk of the costs involved. This will cover all of our travel and transport costs for our 100 plus ladies that come along, from all over Argyll. We are so grateful for the continued support of John's family and friends over the past few years and thank everyone involved in the tournament for helping to raise these funds.'

The John MacEachen Memorial Trophy has grown to become one of Argyll's biggest golfing events and this year they raised more than £7,500 for local cancer causes. The Dove Centre, Oban Hospice, Marie Curie and Macmillan



**John MacEachen's family hand over cheques for local causes: Left to right: Mo MacCall, John's sister; Peter Darling, Co-ordinator Dove Centre; Lillian Kermodie, Marie Curie; Maggie Dougall, John's sister; Marianne MacEachen, John's wife; Nicky Murphy, Pink Ladies Day organiser, and Sandra Ironside, Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialists.** Photographs: Kevin McGlynn.

Clinical Nurse Specialists also benefitted from the fundraising event this year.

The Pink Ladies Day is a special event held once a year for women across Argyll who have experienced breast cancer. This event is now in its seventh year and ensures the

wonderful women that attend the day leave feeling uplifted, relaxed and glowing having been preened and pampered from top to toe.

Nicky said: 'We invite our Pink Ladies to come along with a special friend or family member. Our army of

amazing volunteers offer their professional services as hair stylists, beauty therapists, nail technicians, holistic therapists and make-up artists voluntarily. Our guests also enjoy a three-course lunch, morning and afternoon coffee and relax in the spa among other



**Left to right: Christine Cameron, Mary Plunkett, Maureen Devine and Louise MacLeod add a touch of pink glamour to the John MacEachen Memorial Trophy golf day.**

like-minded women meeting new friends and having fun.' The day is completely free, financed by the incredible fundraising efforts of local people, groups and organisations including the golf day, sponsored walks, bingo nights and afternoon teas. If you have had breast cancer, whether you are in remission or currently going through treatment and would like to come along, some spaces for guests are still available. Get in touch with Nicky on 07786 861266 or email pinkladiesday@outlook.

This year's event is in Lochgoilhead on November 19.

Nicky is looking for additional volunteers in addition to the 15 specialists already on board.

'In particular we need one more nail technician, one make-up artist and one beauty therapist that can offer facials and/or massage,' said Nicky. 'Expenses including food, drink, travel - and accommodation if needed - will be covered. Please get in touch with me if you are able to offer your fantastic services.'



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## Sports group ups the pace

**Continued from page one.**

Wednesday, chairman Murray Hamilton said: 'At our original meeting there was a general feeling of disgruntlement among all of the users that the potential of the current facilities was not being met.

'Mossfield will be the centre-piece but other sites were singled out as areas for concern such as the Glen, Ganavan and North Connel which have all been identified as not fit for purpose and are part of the community infrastructure plan.

'This whole project will bring benefits way beyond sport. We are asking everyone to be part of the solution not the problem and so far it has proved popular and well received. I look forward to the next stage.'

Donald McAllister, Lochnell Football Club, told The Oban Times: 'We are excited that the MOSES project extends beyond Oban and that the project's scope includes the prospect of facilities being provided at the pitch at North Connel, home of Lochnell Football Club.

'The pitch is the most used grass pitch in the Oban area for training and games. It is used for football, shinty and rugby but lacks any sort of changing and toilet accom-



**Mossfield Stadium.**

modation, which limits its use, particularly when hosting away teams for matches.

'By working together as a sporting community, we have a better chance of securing the infrastructure the area needs as youth participation in sport continues to increase across Oban and Lorn.'

Oban Saints secretary Davie Buchanan added: 'The project is vital if facilities are to improve at the main sporting and event venues of Mossfield Stadium, Glen 1, 2, 3, Ganavan and North Connel.

'There are 14 user groups on board at present and everyone seems to be singing from the same hymn sheet which is vital if the project is to succeed.'

While users agreed things wouldn't happen overnight, short, mid and long term aims have been laid out including security fencing, improved changing rooms and toilets, an easier booking system and

possibly another 4G playing surface.

BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence said: 'The pandemic has made us all realise the importance of having outdoor facilities that are fit for many purposes.

'There is a huge opportunity to upgrade the facilities at Mossfield and surrounding area to ensure future generations can make even better use of them.

'There is also the possibility that where infrastructure improvements are made that other events and sports will be attracted to use the area.'

A business plan and feasibility study are being worked on with the help of solicitor Liam McDermid, senior associate at DM Mackinnon Solicitors. Decisions on funding will be made once the areas for improvements are costed and the resource implications for the council are clear.



# Luing causeway alterations give rise to tide of protest

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Landowners who stirred up troubled waters after building up an ancient causeway linking Luing with Torsa have pledged to remove it if Marine Scotland rules it unacceptable.

The structure, now 1.4m high, has whipped up a storm of protest from boating and kayaking communities near home and UK-wide, who have described it as a barrier blocking a well-charted safe and sheltered navigable route.

Argyll Sea Kayak Trail features the popular passage along its 150kms, offering some of the best sea kayaking in Europe.

A notice has gone up on a post on the causeway urging people to 'proceed with caution' but one boat owner living on Luing told The Oban Times: 'If you were being swept through by the current, or driving through under power, you wouldn't have a chance to read it and/or you would hit the bottom before you could stop.'

Complaints have been fired off to agencies including Marine Scotland and the access officer at Argyll and Bute Council.

The foreshore is privately owned so Crown Estate Scotland said it did not need to be informed.

Archie Cadzow, whose family are Luing landowners and who rent neighbouring Torsa for sheep and cattle, said 'with hindsight' he had maybe been 'a bit naive' in building up the ford without going first to Marine Scotland and the council.

He wanted to be clear Torsa's owners and the island's holiday cottage had nothing to do with it.

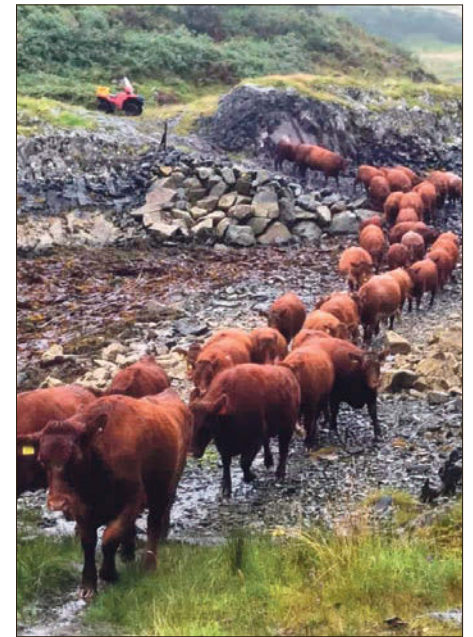
A Scottish Government spokesperson said Marine Scotland was aware of the issue and investigations were at an early stage.

'If Marine Scotland deem it unacceptable then we'll remove it,' said Mr Cadzow, adding the hundreds-of-years-old existing ford had been raised by 'only 90cms' using materials from nearby banking.

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Left: The raised causeway, still above the water level at half-tide. Inset: A sign warning water-users to 'proceed with caution'.



Luing cattle crossing the ford before recent work was carried out.

'There is still water over it about 75 per cent of the time; before the work it was maybe 90 per cent. It looks more substantial than it is.'

'It might be mildly inconvenient for boat users now, but the work was necessary for animal and employee wellbeing,' he said.

He added that before the ford was 'repaired' a quad bike could only cross once a fortnight to Torsa and employees had to race around 'at break-neck speed' to get jobs done which was 'quite frankly dangerous'.

'It's possibly a bit high, but it is in anticipation of further erosion,' added Mr Cadzow, estimating it had been more than 30 years since any repairs were last carried out on the crossing. He said at the highest tide there was still about one metre clearance for boats or kayaks to pass.

More substantial warning signs will be going up in the area, he said, a spot well known as a place to go when conditions are too challenging on the west coast.

'I believed we were allowed to repair existing infrastructure without planning permission. With hindsight it was maybe a bit naive of me. There has been a lot of angst and misinformation.'

'We want people to know the reasons why we carried out the work and that it was not done maliciously,' added Mr Cadzow.

The raised causeway has also been reported to access officials at Argyll and Bute Council who asked for it to be officially logged online so it could be looked into.

The council advised one complainer in an email that Marine Scotland should be contacted if any part of the causeway is below the high water mark. It is understood a licence was probably needed.

Another concern is the change in flow of water through the passage could now bring about thicker growth of seaweed that could eventually clog up the route making it impassable for kayaks and boats and moorings could silt up.

Wildlife and eco-systems could also be affected and tide times could also possibly change because of it, protesters say.

One kayaker, who has used the channel for more than 30 years, is worried paddlers who are not so active on social media or come from abroad might be 'unaware of the barrier' that he described as a 'significant hazard'. He also worried people could be forced into crossing the north end of Torsa to Seil instead - an area that can have 1.2-metre breaking waves.

'Fortunately, as we head towards winter, the groups most at risk will be fewer allowing remedial work to be carried out in a timely manner in consultation with the appropriate authority,' he said.

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OT

## Sound waves at outdoor concert

Oban Gaelic Choir is staging a free concert tonight, Thursday September 30, in George Street square.

The choir will be performing a number of songs from 7pm, all linked to the area's long relationship with the sea and coastal landscape. Sileas Sinclair will be the conductor.

This event has been organised by Oban curator Naoko Mabon as part of a research residency On Tidal Zones, hosted by Skye-based ATLAS Arts and CLIMAVORE.

'This is not exactly an On Tidal Zone location today, but it was historically. In prehistoric times, the shoreline of Oban Bay was much further inland, possibly around Tweeddale Street.

'This cultural occasion will invite the people of Oban to think about where we actually live today and how this place has been shaped since prehistoric times, while enjoying the views of our water and songs related to it in Gaelic language,' said Naoko.

The concert will last about one hour. Everyone is welcome.



The fire destroyed a large part of the Taynuilt Inn.

20\_T40\_TaynuiltInn5



The back wing of the Taynuilt Inn is virtually a shell following last week's fire.

20\_T40\_TaynuiltInn1

# 'We will rebuild' vow Taynuilt hotel owners

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Owners of a fire-ravaged hotel have vowed to rebuild it and give Taynuilt back its pub.

Entrepreneur Calum MacLachlann, who is in partnership with fellow businessman and restaurateur Paul Sloan, also a co-director of The Taynuilt Inn, says the hotel gutted by fire last week will not be gone for good.

Mr MacLachlann, who is involved in a number of different enterprises from Oban to Mull, Fort William and the central belt, told The Oban Times he knew how much the inn meant to the community.

'Obviously there are claims to deal with first but we will rebuild it,' he said.

Jordan and Lesley-Anne Foster, who are also business partners and were running the inn as well as living there, have been 'looked after' and been given a flat to stay in, Mr MacLachlann said.

News of the rebuild has been welcomed by villagers.

Taynuilt Post Office's Lorna MacLennan said: 'People will be overjoyed to hear the inn will be rebuilt, especially for Jordan and Lesley-Anne.'

'We are all behind them 100 per cent. It's been a heart-breaking time but we can't wait to have it back and running again even though it might be a long wait.'

And Taynuilt Community Council Convener David Sloss added: 'That's a bit of news that



The business partners of the Taynuilt Inn have said they will rebuild it following last week's devastating blaze.

20\_T40\_TaynuiltInn6

will be very much welcomed by the village. That's excellent.

'A lot of people in Taynuilt spent their formative years in there and it has seen the community come together there for many a birth, marriage and death.'

Villagers had already waited two years for the inn to reopen after previous owners called time and its new owners had only completed a refurbishment of the former 16th-century coaching inn the summer before Covid hit.

Its doors shut again when the pandemic struck with a number of staff having to be furloughed and had been mothballed over the winter months until it was viable to open again. A Gofundme page

has raised more than £17,000 so far to help the couple who were left with just the clothes they were wearing at the time of the blaze.

A Facebook post from Lesley-Anne and Jordan Foster said: 'To try and put in to words our love and gratitude for the village and the unbelievable support you have given is impossible. It has been overwhelming.'

'I know this wouldn't happen other places and we are just so overwhelmed by what this village has done for us.'

'It really is the BEST place to live.'

'Thank you doesn't come close to being enough but we will make it back to you some day.'

## Time to talk, says council chief

Argyll and Bute Council's Head of Development and Economic Growth Fergus Murray opened new dialogue on the town's future at Oban Community Council this week - because it was 'the right thing to do'.

Mr Murray told community councillors on Zoom the council had a number of proposals coming up for Oban and there would be a lot more discussions over the next year or two as new initiatives come forward.

'It's the right thing to do to have a chat with the community council as an opening dialogue,' he said.

Argyll and Bute Council is starting up a working group for developments at Dunbeg again involving a number of agencies and area representatives to include Oban Community Council. The first meeting will be next month.

Argyll and Bute is also due to put in two big bids to the UK Government for financial help as a precursor to what will replace lost European funding.

For Oban, the council will be focusing on transport connectivity including an integrated travel hub in the port, a new link road for Dunbeg and creating a drone

hub at the airport where there have been recent experiments for Royal Mail and the NHS.

A green hydrogen bus will be trialled in Oban in November, Mr Murray said, and told members Green Power is setting up a green hydrogen plant at its wind farm above Loch Awe and will be having a depot in Oban.

'That's quite a major development to take place,' he said.

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# Oban bid for city status on agenda

Oban could be set to apply for city status – then look to be the UK's City of Culture for 2029 – under plans revealed by Argyll and Bute Council.

The town has been nominated as a candidate to go for city status to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Council chiefs have also announced that if Oban was successful, an application would also be prepared to be considered for City of Culture in 2029.

The UK Government has launched a series of competitions to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which include a call for new cities.

A report detailing the plans is due to go before the full council at its virtual meeting today, Thursday September 30.

Oban North and Lorn Independent Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairperson of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, has already

given her support. She said: 'It's exciting times and I'm glad council officers have had the initiative to say yes, let's go for it. We fit the bill, especially with all our culture and heritage and have great hopes of being successful if the bid goes ahead.'

BID4Oban chief executive Andy Spence would also welcome it. 'Anything that could bring substantial investment and additional funding to the town is to be welcomed,' he said.

Executive director Kirsty Flanagan said in her report to today's meeting: 'Argyll and Bute has five main towns that could all be considered for being submitted for city status. Whilst all of our towns have their own individual merits, it is considered at this particular time that Oban offers the best opportunity for Argyll and Bute to achieve city status in this round, particularly given



Oban has been nominated as a candidate to go for city status.

the published criteria issued by the UK Government.

'The town occupies a strategically important position on the west coast of the Highlands and Islands region independent of other cities. [It has] a growing population with an expanding and diversifying economy. It has two cathedrals. It is a key transport hub as one of the busiest ferry ports in the UK with good road, rail, active travel and air links.

'It is an important tourist hub with its population boosted

from 8,500 to 25,000 during peak summer periods. It is an established gateway to a number of our island communities.

'It is recognised as the seafood capital of Scotland. It is a university town with in excess of 1,000 students including the world renowned Scottish

Association for Marine Science marine institute. It is a centre of Gaelic culture, including home of the National Mòd that has Royal status. It has played an important role in the history of the nation from the Bronze Age to the Second World War.

'Given all of the above factors it is considered the council look to work with our key partners, including the community of Oban, to submit an application in December for city status.'

Ms Flanagan added: 'Another major consideration was for the council to enter the UK City of Culture Competition.

'For the first time, groups of towns will be able to join

together and apply for the title to be awarded to their area – widening the scope of which areas of the country could benefit.

'Towns and cities are required to articulate a strong and unique vision for their future growth, celebrating local heritage and using culture to bring communities together, build a sense of place and inspire local pride.'

The deadline for the expression of interest for UK City of Culture 2025 is now closed so Ms Flanagan's report recommends the council explores the possibility of preparing for a possible bid in 2029 working with all relevant partners.



The screen set up ready for Aquarela's outdoor audience at McCaig's Tower, Oban. Photograph: Kevin McGarry Studio.

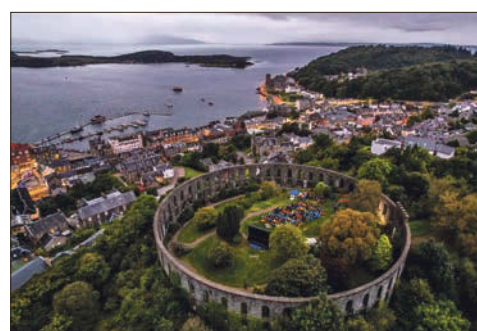
## 'Water' show at McCaig's Tower

Film fans got the red carpet treatment when McCaig's Tower was transformed into a pop up micro-cinema screening a documentary celebrating the power of water.

The event run in partnership by Oban Phoenix Cinema and national festival of Scottish film Cinescapes was a big hit with the outdoor audience on Friday night who turned out to watch Aquarela, directed by Viktor Kossakovsky.

The Oban drizzle added an extra sensory experience as dramatic footage of furious seas, cracking ice flows and terrifying storms raged across the screen getting the climate change message across loud and clear and a reminder of just how vulnerable human beings are.

McCaig's Tower was chosen as a fitting venue by Cinescapes Festival because of its location so close to water. Aquarela was the Phoenix Cinema's first outdoor screening event and could be the first of more to come. Jennie Larney, of the Phoenix Cinema in Oban said: 'All the tickets went, it was a



Drone footage of the Aquarela screening at McCaig's Tower. Photograph: Sean Rowan.

brilliant night and it's definitely got us thinking about doing more outdoor screenings and where else we could do it.

'Oban has lots of places that would fit the bill but McCaig's Tower was just fabulous. Thanks to Cinescapes and to the council for all its support and the cinema staff who always deserve a big-up.'

Photographer Kevin McGarry, who has a studio at the Bridge of Awe filling station, was at the pop-up snapping shots of arriving film-goers on the red carpet. His own images of sea and waterscapes were also shown on the screen before the start of the film. To see more of

his work go to [www.kevinmccgarrystudio.photoshelter.com](http://www.kevinmccgarrystudio.photoshelter.com)

Amanda Rogers, co-director of Cinescapes Festival said: 'It was a wonderful evening in a spectacular location.'

'When we started Cinescapes this was exactly the sort of event we had in mind - celebrating Scottish films in the places that inspired them.'

'The scenes in Aquarela were perfectly matched to the amazing views over the sea from McCaig's Tower.'

'This was also a true collaboration between Cinescapes and the Oban Phoenix Cinema and we would love to do more events here in the future.'

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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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It's been so busy lately I haven't had time to draw breath and although things are starting to quieten down slightly midweek, the weekends are still really busy with a great line up of events coming in in October.

The Corran Halls is the place to be with great bands on most weekends starting with Peat and Diesel this weekend, which lots of people are really looking forward to, then a tremendous AC/DC tribute band called Livewire and they're followed by Del Amitri who I'm really looking forward to seeing.

As well as the great bands in the Corran Halls we're also lucky enough to have our local music scene up and running again with music in Markie Dans, The Clarry and The Oban Inn, and if you fancy a mid-week night out then The Lorne quiz is up and running and a really good evening; not too late for those of us who have work the next morning or if you'd like to extend your weekend

## WHERE IS THIS?



then Markie Dans have their quiz on a Sunday night.

The Rockfield Centre and Oban Phoenix Cinema also have some great things coming up including the new James Bond film and I'm really excited about a fabulous singer called Horse, who will be at The Rockfield Centre on October 23. That's also the night before the visit to Oban by Storm, a 10-foot tall puppet which will walk through the town on October 24 at 10am. That's going to be a really special event for the town and I can't wait.

Last week's photo was of the entrance to the Pontoons and this week's is also close to the sea and not too far from everything.

# Coll school wishes Fay a long, happy retirement

Arinagour Primary School stalwart Fay Anderson has retired after 33 years' supporting Coll's teachers and pupils.

As well as being the clerical assistant, classroom assistant and first aider over the years, Mrs Anderson has taught the children to dance, to knit, to bake and how to plant and grow a wide variety of flowers and vegetables.

'Fay's dedication to her job, her colleagues and to the children of Coll has always been very evident,' said head teacher Aileen Cook.

The Highland dance outfits and kilts worn by the children during Burns' suppers and dance displays have been provided from Mrs Anderson's own collection, which she has gathered over many years, creating countless costumes for the many school shows at the two village halls and at the

church. Many of them were designed and made by her during evenings at home.

Mrs Anderson has also transported many Coll children in her days as a school car driver and on many occasions given use of her vehicles for trips.

The children have also received Christmas gifts, Easter gifts and Hallowe'en goody bags from her and she has donated the eggs for the annual egg decorating activity every Easter.

'Fay's knowledge of the processes involved as a primary school clerical assistant is huge and she has therefore been an invaluable support to the headteachers over all these years.

'A wonderful colleague, trustworthy, discreet and a hugely supportive and hard-working member of staff who has always worked above and beyond the call of duty,' said Mrs Cook. Mrs Anderson has also made contributions to many community events volunteering her help over many years as part of the Coll Show Committee, a Highland dance teacher, assisting at the annual Coll Half Marathon registration process and transporting competitors to starting points.

And she has been one of the main organisers of the annual fundraising plant sale, auction of promises and given clerical assistance to the Coll Sailing Club. A civic reception was held for her in Coll's Island



Fay Anderson is presented with flowers by Coll head teacher Aileen Cook.

Café on Wednesday August 4 supported by Argyll and Bute Council and Coll Community Council. The buffet lunch was attended by many friends,

colleagues, former colleagues and members of her family. There was also a video link presentation and speech by Provost David Kinniburgh.

## POLICE FILES

### Drunk driver

A woman, aged 42, crashed her car, blocking the carriage-way and damaging a fence and telephone pole at 11am on Sunday September 19 on the A828 at Benderloch.

Police attended and the woman provided a specimen of breath for a road side breath test, which she failed. She was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol whilst driving and taken to Oban Police Station where she was released from custody on a police undertaking to appear at Oban Sheriff Court at a later date.

### Kilmelford theft

Between 8.30 am on Saturday September 11 and 4.30pm on Saturday September 18 at

an address in Kilmelford, a copper hot smoker was stolen from a garden. Enquiries continue and police are appealing for any witnesses to contact them on 101.

### Drugs charge

At 3.35 pm on Monday September 20, at Station Square, Oban, a man was stopped and searched by police. He was allegedly found to be in possession of herbal cannabis and Diazepam tablets. He was charged with being in possession of controlled substances and a report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Slate stolen

At 9.54am on Friday September 17 at an address on the Isle of Seil, a man is

alleged to have stopped a white Vauxhall Combo van and stolen three slabs of slate from outside a property. Police enquiries continue

### Careless driving

Between 3.35pm and 3.40pm on Friday September 17 in Tesco car park, Lochside Street, Oban, the driver of a white panel van is alleged to have struck a woman and made off without stopping.

### No insurance

A motorist was stopped by police at 1.37am on Saturday September 18 in Connel. The driver, a man aged 18, was charged with having no insurance and the vehicle was seized. A report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



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# Masterplan for Dunbeg welcomed

Plans including a new primary school, hotel and pub at Dunbeg have been welcomed by councillors.

The proposals by the Link Group for land west of Dunstaffnage Farm also include a new roundabout to be built on the A85 trunk road.

The plans are currently at the pre-application notice stage, meaning no formal planning application has yet been made and no comments can currently be submitted by the public.

The proposals were discussed at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee on Wednesday September 22.

A total of more than 600 houses planned by the applicant feature in a masterplan for the village which has previously

been approved. Councillor Kieron Green, Independent, Oban North and Lorn, said: 'I really welcome these plans being put forward. It is something which has certainly been raised in previous work carried out in Dunbeg. There are plans in place to hopefully ensure any traffic would be located as far from properties as possible. I would hope a roundabout can be in place before any work to ensure the impact on the community is as low as possible.'

Councillor Donnie MacMillan BEM, Independent, Mid Argyll, added: 'I heartily agree with what Councillor Green has said. There are tremendous bonuses, with a new primary school and road remodelling, which is badly needed.'

A report by a council plan-

ning officer said: 'The site is a mixture of primarily south facing hillside and outcrops, undulating land and lower flat land nearer the A85 which is thought to have some peat deposits within it, particularly in respect of the area of land identified for the commercial uses and access road next to the proposed 'halfway' roundabout.

'The land associated with the overall site proposals generally forms a more open and visible feature in the landscape when viewed from the A85 than phase three and therefore landscape assimilation appears more challenging.

'As well as facing onto the A85 for extensive open stretches of the road, the proposed development sites are also closer to the road.'



Islay Airport firefighters - some will be running in full kit at the runway fundraiser.

## Firefighters' Runway Run ready for take-off

People of all ages and abilities are being given the unique opportunity to walk or run Islay Airport's runways in a fun-filled fundraiser for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

Organised by the airport's firefighting crew from Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, the event on Saturday October 2 will see the runways closed and the public take over for their 5km challenge.

Event organiser, firefighter Lorna MacInnes, said that around 200 people had already signed up.

'The air ambulances are literally a lifeline for our community and we thought it would be a great idea to com-

bine fundraising for them with a unique event.'

The challenge will be the first time people have had access to the island airport's runways and the firefighting crew is confident the whole island will get behind their efforts.

'You don't have to be super-fit to join in,' stressed Lorna. 'This is an event for everyone. It's all flat ground and the views are amazing. Even if they're not doing the walk/run, people will be very welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments and home baking.'

Funds will be raised through an entry fee - £5 for adults and £3 for children - and a raffle supported by organisations and businesses on the island.

Teas and coffees are being

supplied by Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd.

Nick Harvey, SCAA's director of fundraising and communications, praised the firefighters' imagination in creating a unique fundraiser.

'We're hugely indebted to them for their support and to the people of Islay for getting behind this event,' he said.

'SCAA relies entirely on public donations to fund our life-saving service.

'I'm sure the runway run will be an incredibly enjoyable event and good luck - and thank you - to everyone taking part.'

Anyone wanting to take part in this unique opportunity is invited to show up on the day with their entry fee.

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OT

# Equality and basic human rights

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Venues across Oban were awash with colour on Saturday as Oban Pride 2021 spread joy among the community.

Go Bananas (Happy Wee Health Club), The Bridge Cafe, Argyll Wellbeing Hub, Oban Youth Cafe and Oban Phoenix Cinema each hosted family friendly events for everyone to enjoy.

Fun and laughter were an essential part of the day as the Oban Pride committee and their supporters spread the message to gain recognition of the basic human rights for all LGBTQ+ people.

Oban Pride chairman Phill Dexter sent a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and made Oban Pride 2021 the success it was.

'Myself and the committee were overwhelmed with the support we received once again from the town,' he told The Oban Times.

'From businesses to individuals to all of our supporters, donators, venues, venue staff, stall holder, our fabulous acts, our amazing volunteers and



Crystal performs one of her big numbers.

Pride poster girl Crystal stepped into the spotlight as hostess of the Rainbow Stage at Oban Phoenix Cinema where Conway-MacLean Music, Sadie Godiva, Ellie Cooper and Rock and Reel entertained enthusiastic audiences across two performances.

In between the musical acts, Crystal delivered a powerful presentation highlighting the reasons the Pride movement was formed and why there is still a need for a change.

The pièce de résistance came at the end of the second show of the day. During a rendition of Cher's Pride anthem, the larger than life loveable diva shed her coiffured hair piece, sparkling dress and lengthy eyelashes and like a butterfly in reverse transformed back into the

equally loveable Phill. The first time the two had shared the same stage, the unrehearsed impromptu finale brought the audience to its feet.

'Oban Pride 2021 was an amazing and the atmosphere at the cinema for our Rainbow Stage was out of this world,' added Phill.

'Everyone who attended seem to have had a fantastic time. The same was true at all of our venues and we are so glad to hear it.

'We look forward to starting our preparations for and seeing everyone at Oban Pride 2022.'

Funded by the National Lottery with donations from local businesses and individuals, all events at Oban Pride 2021 were free and accessible to everyone.

committee who made the day possible and the success it was.

'Pride is such an amazing and important thing to have in every community. No matter where you are in the world LGBTQ+ people face some form of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. This is why we have Pride to stand up to this.'

On the day itself, Phill stayed in the background as his alter ego and Oban

Right: Sadie Godiva and her sidekick Mandy Walker.



Above: Joy and Campbell Cameron enjoyed their Pride afternoon at Oban Phoenix Cinema where they were welcomed by manager Jennie Larney, bottom left, Crystal and Anna Gregory.

Right: Crafty children enjoyed some family fun at Go Bananas with the Happy Wee Health Club.



The Argyll Wellbeing Hub showed its support by offering an afternoon tea.

Right: There was fun and games at Go Bananas with the Happy Wee Health Club.



Oban Pride committee members took their turn in the spotlight.



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

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# nts take Pride of place in Oban



Sadie Godiva entertained the audience on the Rainbow Stage.



Narisse from UNIFY Salons got to work jazzing everyone up for the big occasion.



Jackie Buchanan, Matthew Hall and Kevin Irvine were kept busy at the Oban Youth Cafe.



Karen and Katie from the Happy Wee Health Club oversaw a packed day of craft and play.



Members of the Scotia Medical Group were given a sparkling makeover by Narisse from UNIFY Salons.

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OT

# Hatchery welcomes first school visit



Staff at Scottish Sea Farms' Barcaldine Hatchery hosted their first school visit after the easing of Covid restrictions.

Pupils and teachers from nearby Barcaldine Primary School were given a guided tour of the facility, starting with a talk about salmon farming and the role of the freshwater hatchery in the salmon lifecycle.

Scottish Sea Farms Head of Freshwater Rory Conn, who led the school visit, said: "The children were really engaged from the word go, asking everything from 'What do farmed salmon eat?' and 'How do you vaccinate a fish?' to 'Why does the boat that carries the fish in water out to farm not sink?'.

'It was great to see such interest and curiosity.'

The questions kept coming during the tour itself, said Rory.

'We walked the children through each key stage of the hatchery process, explaining and discussing along the way our work to minimise any



Above and left: The pupils showed a keen interest in the work of the hatchery.



The Barcaldine Primary School pupils at Scottish Sea Farms' nearby hatchery.

impact from our farming activities on the environment. This includes recirculating aquaculture technology that reduces water consumption and recycles waste, a biomass energy system that saves 683 tonnes of carbon annually, as well as the smaller yet equally green initiatives such as wind and solar powered external lighting and electric vehicle charging points.'

The charging points are available to the school and wider community to use.

At the end of the tour, pupils and teachers were invited to taste salmon grown exclusively by Scottish Sea Farms for M&S.

To help them remember what they had learned during their visit, they were then set the challenge of drawing their favourite part of the hatchery.

'Just like the interest and engagement shown on the day, their drawings were every bit as impressive, making it particularly hard for the team to pick just two winners,' said Rory, who added: 'So in the end, we settled on three.'

Winning a £50 Amazon gift voucher among the primary one to four category was eight-year-old Lois for her drawing of the hatchery's motion-sensitive internal lighting, while joint winners of the primary

five to seven category were 10-year-olds Eva and Orion for their drawings of the water-saving and waste-recycling technology in the growing areas.

The school group was also presented with a framed photograph of their visit to mark the occasion.

The hatchery hopes that with Scotland having now moved to beyond level zero, more schools and community groups from the area will be able to visit.

The hatchery's building works had just been completed as Covid hit the UK in early 2020.

## LORN HEALTHY OPTIONS: WEEKLY HEALTH TIP

When it comes to habits, what is rewarded is repeated and what is punished is avoided.

Making a new habit obvious, attractive and easy will enable it to be performed once, but to complete the habit loop and make it repeatable it needs to be satisfying.

Not just any type of satisfaction, immediate satisfaction.

Our modern environment has developed in a way that many of our daily choices pay off at a later date.

Today's work is paid in wages at the end of the month and today's saving of money will result in a more comfortable retirement.

The problem is that our ancestors evolved much like any other animal where a higher value is placed on immediate outcomes like finding food, avoiding being food for something else, finding shelter and getting a good night's sleep.

We still value what we can gain in the present above what may be possible in the future.

This begins to be problematic with many of the habits we hope to develop to improve our health and wellbeing.

A smoker knows if they continue its highly likely they will develop lung cancer in the future, but right now the cigarette will relieve stress and answer the call for nicotine.

We know that eating junk food will lead to obesity and all the associated health risks but right now it tastes good and satisfies a craving.

Good habits cost us in the present, bad habits cost us in the future.

One way of making today's good habits more satisfying is to track our progress. This can be done as simply as placing a calendar on the wall and placing a large X on every day where you achieve your desired outcome.

Once you start to link a few days together, the aim then becomes to not break the chain. If the calendar can be seen easily by others in the house, it also helps to keep us honest and provides visual

proof of your progress which can be helpful on those days when you are struggling for motivation.

A blank square on the wall can be a surprisingly strong motivator and marking down your efforts can be incredibly satisfying.

This keeps us focussed on the process and prevents us getting bogged down by distant or unrealistic goals. It moves you closer to the person you hope to be.

Mark your progress immediately after completion of your habit and you may just find that by stacking those together it leads on to another positive action.

A morning walk may then start to become the catalyst for a healthy breakfast and as a result better food choices for the rest of the day.

For the full message go to the lornhealthyoptions.co.uk website.

**Rob Graham, Lead Exercise Professional, Healthy Options.**

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# Number of people visiting A&E departments doubles

Argyll and Bute health chiefs have pledged to work towards more people being able to see a GP in person after a report revealed accident and emergency visits were double their July target.

Numbers for the accident and emergency (A&E) unit at Lorn and the Islands Hospital in Oban during the month were 758 against a target of 408.

And in community hospitals across Argyll and Bute, the figure was 2,276 against a target of 1,244 – with a health board member attributing the numbers to lack of opportunities to see a GP. Betty Rhodick, a public member of the integration joint board (IJB) which oversees the work of the Argyll and Bute health and social care partnership (HSCP), also said residents were ‘despondent’ about being told there was no need to see their doctor.

## Claim sharp rise is down to lack of GP appointments

The discussion took place at this month’s virtual meeting of the IJB.

Ms Rhodick said: ‘I feel a lot of the increase in A&E is down to people phoning the doctor, who feels there is no need to see them. They feel very despondent about phoning again, to be told they don’t need to be seen. A five-minute consultation to refer someone is worth a month of freedom and peace. I personally have had a couple of problems, but have stuck to my guns. I now feel very despondent about phoning my GP to be told I don’t need to be seen. A person wonders why the GP doesn’t want to see them and feels as if they are being fobbed off.’ Rebecca

Helliwell, the HSCP’s associate medical director, said: ‘You are right in many ways. We probably undervalue the benefit of a face-to-face consultation.

‘We recognise the need to talk through any worries and the value of doing this with a real person rather than somebody on the end of a phone; we are now seeing the benefit of that. We need to work towards ways of seeing people. That is person-centred and it enables us to get through the workload in a safe way.’

Ms Rhodick added: ‘We can’t blame Covid for this. Two years ago we had problems getting somebody seen who had been seriously ill. They could have gone to the hospital, not had



Numbers for the accident and emergency unit at Lorn and the Islands Hospital in Oban in July were 758 against a target of 408.

new contract in primary care. There has been a real change in the workload we expect from GPs. We are asking them to manage more complex care.

‘That has not been a straightforward piece of work because Covid came in the middle of it and accelerated the need for change. I want to thank all the GPs in Argyll and Bute who have gone over and beyond what could be expected. Their role is changing and haven’t they all pulled it out of the bag?’

‘This is not just with the Covid-19 vaccines, so I wanted to go on record and thank all GPs. We really appreciate what they offer.’

much information and wanted a reference from their GP who was adamant they didn’t want to see them. It was not until a relative kicked up a stink that they got to see their GP.

‘I went back a couple of weeks later and explained what was

going on and that I thought a personal touch was all that was needed.’

Fiona Davies, the HSCP’s interim chief officer, said: ‘We know there has been a shortage of GPs before Covid and we have had to implement a

## Cycling club adds pedal power to charity ride

North Argyll Cycling Club (NACC) gave a boost to charity cyclist Josh Garman on his 5,000-mile bike voyage around Great Britain’s coast.

NACC member Steven Groom spotted Josh and his self-built trailer attached to his bike as he was passing through Benderloch.

‘I was pretty impressed and could see he was doing something for charity so I dashed home to get a NACC cap, energy bars and gels for him,’ said Steven.

‘He was happy to stop and have a bit of a chat before he set off again,’ Steven added.

Josh from Milford in Surrey hopes to raise £50,000 for The Hope for Hasti charity, after being inspired by a father’s 700-mile barefoot walk for his daughter who has a rare genetic condition called Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.

In some cases it can cause facial impairments, growth delays, intellectual disability and limb defects.

The 22-year-old, who set off from Northumberland and only took up cycling in 2020, started off sleeping in the



Josh Garman with his North Argyll Cycling Club cap.

back of his trailer but during his journey it has become too hefty so Josh has shortened it and now sleeps in a tent or depends on the kindness of

strangers for a bed. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and search for Josh Garman Cycling 5,000 miles around the coast of Britain.

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**CITY PLUMBING**



OT

# First class: youngsters all s



This year's new primary one pupils at Eoilgarry Primary School, Barra, smile for the camera.



Lots of happy new faces at St Columba's Primary School, Oban.

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# Smiles as they start primary



Glassary Primary School, Kilmichael, near Lochgilphead, was delighted to welcome these cheery youngsters into its primary one classroom this year.

Youngsters starting primary one at Port Ellen Primary School, Islay, look smart in their new uniforms.

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

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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 4HB

## Maybe, just maybe...

The idea of having an all-singing, all-dancing multi-purpose sports stadium with covered seating, a multitude of changing rooms, a function suite, an array of smart offices and a pristine surface may seem pie in the sky to some. But there are enough clubs, groups and organisations of high repute in this town that believe in the Mossfield - Oban Sports and Events Stadium project that maybe, just maybe, the dream can be achieved.

Already dubbed the MOSES project, to bring all the ideas on the table to fruition will indeed take an effort of biblical proportions. But the hope of building something that will be accessible to the whole community and beyond will be well worth it. 'If we build it, they will come'.

■ Talking of community working, well done to the Oban Pride team which following months of uncertainty due to Covid, staged its 2021 event last weekend.

Venues throughout the town were filled with joy and laughter as family friendly events took place and the group must be commended for brightening up our lives while at the same time sending out its important anti-bigotry message.

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

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



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## Parking problems in Oban

The biggest problem with parking in Oban is there is no enforcement - and residents know this.

People are telling visitors to park on the street as there is no-one checking parking.

Someone has been parking in the Blue Badge space on Breadalbane Street for weeks.

I do not drive or have a car but I am a Blue Badge holder. Why should I have to walk down the street or cross the road every time I need a lift for shopping or hospital appointments?

What Oban needs to solve parking problems is enforcement.

Only then will residents toe the line and stop breaking the law.

Stuart Graham, Burnbank Terrace, Oban.

## Concern over road markings

I'm sure I'm not the only one who would like to see the recently installed white road markings under Achnacloich railway bridge removed, before there is an accident there.

A sign at each side of the bridge telling high-sided vehicles to use the middle of the road is all that is needed.

Now there are lines directing high-sided vehicles into the middle of the road on each side of the bridge.

These lines confuse other drivers who do not need to use the middle of the road to pass under the bridge.

They draw them into the middle of the road, which does not leave room for an oncoming car to pass.

There is going to be an accident there due to the confusion caused by these new lines. They need to be removed.

Viola Stephenson, North Connel.

## Islay transport links vital

I was out and about visiting constituents in Port Ellen recently and I got the chance to check up on the progress of infrastructure improvements and the areas where work still needs to be done, including Mansfield Road.

Recent and ongoing disruptions with our ferry sailings have been mentioned a great deal and my constituents are justifiably angry.

With all of the challenges we face as our economy recovers from the damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the last thing we need is for our vital transport links to be heavily disrupted.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands ward.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha e àraid mar a thig rudan nad inntinn aig amannan 's gun chinnt sam bith dè dhùisg a' chuimhne.

Sin mar a dh'èirich dhòmhsa is mi a' teannadh air a' chòlhb seo a sgrìobhadh, is a' bhàrdachd aig John Donne, No man is an Island, agus an leabhar aig Ernest Hemingway For whom the Bell Tolls a' tighinn nam inntinn. 'S neònach mura robh caochladh rudan a thug mi chun an litreachais sin, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gur e fosgladh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail a bhith faisg (8 Dàmhair) fear dhiubh sin. Tha obair mhòr ann an deasachadh Mòd sam bith, ach bha fear na bliadhna seo sònraichte duilich ri linn buaidh Covid naodh-deug, agus 's iomadh lùb dom b' fheadar stiùireadh thuige.

Thuir sinn gum biodh am Mòd seo eadar-dhealaichte, ach dha na thig a dh'èisteachd aig farpaisean neo cuirmean-ciùil beò, neo a bhios ag èisteachd air-loidhne, tha toradh na h-obrach dhìcheallach aig sgioba A' Chomuinn, agus luchd-taice saor-thoileach, a' ciallachadh gun cluinnear sàr cheòl, agus gum faicear a' Ghàidhlig air a foillseachadh le spèis agus urram! 'S e subhachas nar dualchas, agus an càirdeas a tha cho nochdte anns a' chruinneachadh sluaigh aig a' Mhòd, tomhas mòr de phrìomh amas a' Chomuinn leis an tachartas gach bliadhna, agus tha làn-chreidsinn againn gun tachair lethid sin ann an Inbhir Nis am-bliadhna a-rithist, agus gum buannaich am baile a' bhith a' toirt aoi gheachd dhan Mhòd!

Ach carson Donne agus Hemingway? Mar eileanach chan eil am facal eilean, neo a shamhla

uair sam bith fada bhuam, agus tha mi mothachail air dùbhlain iomail na dùthcha agus an spàirn a tha dhith gus goireasan is cosnaidhean a chruthachadh a ghleidheas òigridh agus misneachd anns na sgìrean sin. Tha cuimhne agam nam oileanach a bhith a' breithneachadh na bàrdachd aig Donne agus a' faighneachd an robh a' bheachd aige a thaobh gach duine a bhith cho cudromach dha càch a chèile ag argamaid, os-ìosal, airson aon chànan is dualchas. Bha an leabhar cumhachdach aig Hemingway ag aithris sgeulachd bho thaobh a-staigh blàr sìobhalta na Spàinne, agus na prìomh caractaran a' stri an aghaidh nam faisistich.

'S dòcha gun robh mar a bhuannaich na faisistich san Spàinn na bhrosnachadh dha uimhir seasamh an aghaidh an fheallsanachd oillteil anns an dàrna cogadh, ach ged a chaidh am blàr sin leotha tha eachdraidh a' dearbhadh gum bheil faisisteachd làidir fhathast. Dhùin an cearcall smuaintean sin is mi a' leughadh sgrìobhadh an Àrd-Ollaimh Seumas Mac an t-Sealgair air mar is e an Gàidheil Iain A Dòmhnallach, ciad Phrìomhaire Chanada, a dh'òrdaich clann thùsanach a sgaradh bhon cuid choimhearsnachdan gu ruige sgoiltean far an d' rachadh an cànan agus dualchas "fhoghlam asta"! Daoine borba, thuir an Dòmhnallach, agus nan toirte foghlam dhaibh am meag an cuideachd cha bhiodh annta ach daoine borba le comas leughaidh is sgrìobhadh! Nach deach an aon seòrsa beachd a thoirt air na Gàidheil dam buineadh e fhèin!

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

## Energy crisis perfect storm

This autumn's equinox will see our self-inflicted energy crisis hit by a perfect storm.

Wind farms have stood idle, a fire in our key cable to France's nuclear power will interrupt supplies till next spring and post-Covid economic recovery and tightening Russian and Irish supplies mean gas prices are rocketing.

The cost of heating and lighting homes will ensure fuel poverty is the 'Scottish disease' for years to come. Yet it needn't have been such a shambles. Twenty years ago Holyrood's first scientific adviser, the distinguished St Andrews

physics professor Wilson Sibbett, warned climate hysteria was a fad, not a science; that energy's priorities were reliability and affordability; that for Scotland with its vast shale reserves, fracking ticked all the boxes. Mocking windmills, solar panels and tidal barrages, he observed the Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stone and the fossil fuel era would pass not because of political diktats but as a result of unexpected advances and human ingenuity. Scientifically-challenged politicians insist there will be no black-outs - I trust you have paraffin stoves and propane lanterns in your store-room.

Dr John Cameron, St Andrews.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## CalMac supports community groups through stormy times

Not-for-profit community organisations across ferry operator CalMac's network have been applying for grants of up to £2,000 to help people in need.

CalMac Community Fund invited applications to help vital services continue or restart after Covid and eligible organisations had until today, September 30, to apply.

Gordon McKillop, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager for CalMac Ferries, said the last 18 months had placed a huge strain on people's lives and grass roots community groups had stepped up magnificently to help those affected.

Last year, the fund supported 60 groups delivering projects tackling social isolation, mental health, loneliness and poverty. Recent research has forecasted that for every pound spent by CalMac, communities across the network benefit from a social return of £5.14.

Last year, Western Isles Community Care Forum got money to train carers. Argyll Wellbeing Hub received a grant to fund activities and trips for men and women living with mental health issues and there was a boost for South West Mull and Iona Development towards Ross of Mull Community Garden.

Islay Link Club got support for its Creative Recovery project to tackle mental health and Jura Care Centre Group received money to help beat loneliness through its Jura Seniors Wellness project.

More information can be found at [calmac.co.uk/community-fund](http://calmac.co.uk/community-fund).



## Shinty team's golf success boosts Dove Centre

Gareth Evans and Duncan MacMillan of Oban Camanachd shinty club present a £120 cheque to Peter Darling, manager of the town's Dove Centre. Oban Camanachd's A team, comprised of four players, came second at Oban Rotary's recent Golf Am-Am at Glencruitten, winning the PDK Shellfish Trophy plus £120 in vouchers. As with previous successes at the Rotary's Am-Am, the Camanachd players elected for their prize to be converted into cash for Oban's Hospice Movement which is based at The Dove Centre in Stevenson Street. Also pictured are Rotarian Ciorsti Baxter and past president of Oban Rotary Iain MacIntyre.



Lorraine King and Des MacMillan from Argyll Wellbeing Hub received funding from CalMac Community Fund last year.

## Eader Glinn's heartfelt thanks to Edna

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership has thanked employee Edna MacInnes for 33 years' service at an Oban care home and wishes her a happy, healthy and long retirement.

Eadar Glinn Care home manager Angela MacKay said: 'Edna was admired and respected by staff, families, carers and residents. She takes with her many years of happy memories of the people she has cared for.'

'We are really happy she can now enjoy a well-earned rest. She is going to be sorely missed at Eader Glinn.'



Edna MacInnes is presented with flowers and gifts to mark her retirement from Eader Glinn after 33 years' service.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



## Talking trash

I was drawn to the story last week about residents of streets around Oban high being fed up with littering in the area and urging the school to take action.

I was especially interested because I wrote here recently about the problem of rubbish in our communities generally and in support of the Keep Oban Beautiful Doorstep Challenge, under which people are encouraged to keep their own wee bits of territory tidy.

What disappointed me most about the school litter problem was that this, rather obviously, is principally a problem caused by our youngsters.

I had thought our savvy teenagers were all only too well aware of the need to avoid casually discarding their detritus.

As you might expect, Argyll and Bute Council said the school is proactive in urging responsible citizenship among its pupils and is working closely with the police and wardens to combat the problem.

That is welcome, naturally, but I fear the only lasting solution will be to have the perpetrators caught and punished.

Thus I would ask all readers to report littering when you see it happen and try to identify the culprits.

A visit from the police might just drive home the point for these young scoundrels.

## Generous villagers

Taynuilt residents have been quick to rally to help Jordan and Lesley Foster, proprietors of the Taynuilt Inn, which was ravaged by fire last week.

Jordan and Lesley were left with virtually nothing after the blaze, so the fundraising for them will be very welcome.

Hopefully in the long term, the couple will be back on their feet.

However, in the short term, they will be hugely grateful to their fellow villagers, who have, let's remember, also lost out with the demise of their village inn.

I hope the hostelry is rebuilt and open again as soon as possible.

## What do you think?

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

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John Cameron CBE, vice president of the National Transport Trust, left, with Doug Carmichael, chairman of Friend of The West Highland Lines at the unveiling of the plaque.

Photograph: Graham Atkins.

# Dig finds signs of Lismore's early life...and death

Buried secrets from Lismore's past were revealed to almost 100 visitors at an archaeological dig open day.

A fortnight into the three-week dig next to the island's St Moluag's Church and excavation organisers say the expert team with help of volunteers have already achieved the main aim of the dig and that was to secure bone samples for analysis.

Island archivist Robert Hay said it has always been assumed that the Sanctuary Stone had stood in its spot since around the time of the Early Church but digging near it has showed that whoever placed it there disturbed several human burials, scattering the remains, and showing little respect for the occupants of the old cemetery which suggests the stone was placed there in more recent times.

Careful digging has continued in the search of undisturbed Early Church burials and the diggers have uncovered relatively undisturbed in situ burials - including a surprising number of children.

'These will be excavated very carefully. A primary aim will be to secure the Petrous Bone in the inner ear from which a tiny bone sample will be removed for DNA analysis,' said Mr Hay. Any bones discovered are treated with the utmost respect.

Bone samples will be sent to the Crick Institute in London for DNA analysis as part of the 1000 Ancient British Genomes Project. The Crick Institute offered £10,000-worth of analyses free of charge which will help the dig find out more about Lismore and its people at the time of the early church.

Trowelling at the site is also revealing a medieval dwelling - a hearth and post hole for supporting the roof.

'It looks as if people lived in the area after it had ceased to be a place of burial,' Mr Hay added in an update.

From other finds and evidence of a series of cooking hearths, there are indications this area was a hive of various activities after the cemetery stopped being used for burials.

Although there is no obvious sign of past activity in the wet peaty area to the east of the



Volunteer 'diggers' on Lismore searching for signs of the island's early life.

manse yet, a long trench has confirmed the signs of buildings shown by geophysics.

'It is too early to be sure but it looks as if there is a Bronze Age roundhouse emerging from the peat.

'For a long time, we have been aware of the many Bronze Age monuments on the island and it will be gratifying to find out where some of the population actually lived.

'Houses like this are common elsewhere in Argyll but this is a first for Lismore,' said Mr Hay.

Other finds so far have ranged from flint, slag, pottery, silver coins, copper alloy strip and a stone carved with early Medieval keypattern decoration.

Diggers have also uncovered a medieval knife, a small musical instrument, nails and a quernstone.

After a run of good weather, heavy rain before Saturday's open day saw volunteers having to bail out one of the trenches before visitors arrived - including Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto - although the water continued to seep out of the peat all day.

In the final week of the dig, supported by a crowdfunding appeal and other grant givers, more visitors were expected on site including pupils for Lismore Primary School.

## Celebrating special rockfall signals

A Red Wheel plaque to celebrate the special 'stone signals' on the railway above Loch Awe and through the Pass of Brander has been unveiled by the National Transport Trust's vice president John Cameron CBE.

The plaque and plate below it, displayed at the entrance to Falls of Cruachan station, have been funded by Friends of The West Highland Lines.

Unique on the UK's railway network, the tripwire signalling has been in operation since 1882 to protect the railway against rockfalls down the steep slopes of Ben Cruachan.

It was the idea of John Anderson, mentor and secretary of the Callander and Oban Railway, which opened through to Oban in 1880. There are 17 signals guarding this stretch of line.

Mr Cameron explained that local railway workers nicknamed it 'Anderson's Piano' as

wind caused 'whistling-like sound' through the fence of wires above the railway.

He paid tribute to its continuing role over nearly 140 years in protecting trains.

He recalled: 'Many years ago, I remember travelling to Oban one dark, winter's night on the Night Mail train.

'A signal at red appeared in front of us and an immediate brake application brought us to a safe stand.

'We went out to inspect the line and sure enough a fairly substantial boulder was lying on the track between the rails.'

The Red Wheel is Britain's 136th and the eighth to be unveiled in Scotland by the National Transport Trust, whose aim is to promote and encourage the permanent preservation of transport items of historical or technical interest.

Their royal patron is Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Anne.

## Building the Mallaig Railway

Drop-in exhibition with tea, treats and a blether celebrating 120 years of the Mallaig Line

Glenfinnan Station Museum Dining Car, 3 – 5 October 12 noon – 5pm

- ◇ Historic photographs
- ◇ Book signing
- ◇ Preview the changes taking place in the Dining Car for 2022
- ◇ E-bike try-out opportunity
- ◇ COP26-inspired ideas exchange



Admission, tea & cake: £1

Covid precautions: Face masks & staggered entry

An event supported by the Highland Archaeology Festival, West Highland CRP, Lochaber Environmental Group and the #COP26Conversations fund developed in partnership by Museums Galleries Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Libraries Information Council.



# Oban's Cathedral of Trees leads the way to new adventures with path

In March this year, the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees near Oban received the good news it had been awarded a grant of £10,000 from FCC Communities Foundation towards the creation of a woodland path.

The work, expected to cost £16,000, started in May with completion due by the end of the year.

The route of the path - approximately 750m - will run along the south side of the cathedral, giving wonderful views towards Ben Cruachan and over the site itself, clearly showing its architectural layout.

The path will have a smooth surface making it especially suited for visitors with disabilities, including wheelchair users, and there will be plenty resting places along the way.

Over the last couple of years, pupils from the Support Department at Oban High

School have used the Cathedral of Trees as an area for outdoor learning, completing their RSPB Wild Challenge Award on site.

After visiting the area last week, support teacher Benita Hensman-Martin, said: 'We are very excited about the new path.'

'It will enable our wheelchair users to access a beautiful semi-natural space and work alongside their classmates.'

'We hope to continue to use the area to learn about nature, develop a sense of stewardship for our local natural spaces and contribute to their conservation.'

'Our next step will be working towards John Muir Awards.'

Plans are also under way for pupils to use the path for other projects.

Fiona Leadbeater, expressive arts teacher, spoke enthusiastically about the Art and Design

Department being involved in this community project: 'Our pupils are looking forward to working within these beautiful natural surroundings to create a visually interesting and creative art trail which will be enjoyed by all visitors.'

The path is being funded by a £10,000 grant from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects in Scotland using funds donated from the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

These grants are derived from the tax charged on waste sent to landfill and are part of a government scheme to encourage the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste and to promote more environmentally-friendly waste disposal methods.

This fits well with the values of the Cathedral of Trees charity, which has a strong commitment to sustainable working methods in all its restoration, maintenance and developmental work.

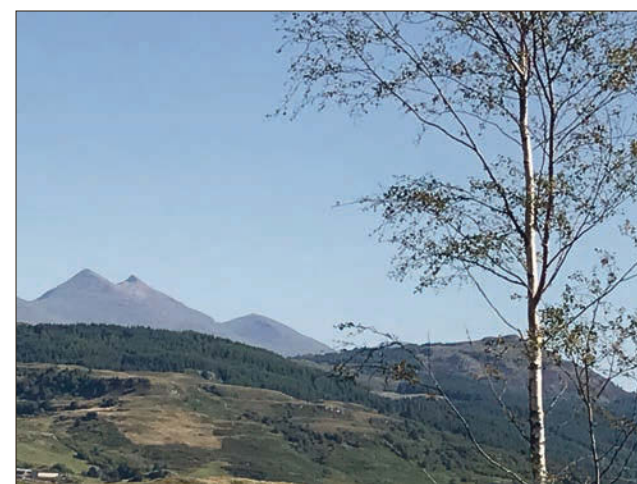
The path itself is being constructed with stone from an on-site quarry pit and other nearby sources and the two footbridges will be built from fallen timber.

Cheryl Raynor, FCC Communities Foundation Grant Manager said: 'We are delighted to support the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees with this project.'

'Our funding, partnered with local donations and the use of onsite materials, will allow increased opportunities for activities, learning and leisure.'



Above: Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees has used a £10,000 grant it received from FCC Communities Foundation to build a new woodland path for visitors.



The route of the path - approximately 750m - will run along the south side of the cathedral, giving wonderful views towards Ben Cruachan.



The new path is especially suited for visitors with disabilities.

We are excited to see work progressing on site.'

The Cathedral of Trees is situated in the Glencruitten Woods to the east of Oban. It is open to visitors every day during daylight hours and is available as a venue for weddings and other events and activities.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Days out boost for attractions

VisitScotland is encouraging businesses to apply to take part in a new Days Out incentive scheme that will provide a boost for visitor attractions during the winter.

Administered on behalf of the Scottish Government, the VisitScotland Days Out Incentive Fund will deliver £4million to support the recovery of the tourism industry in Scotland by subsidising the cost of a ticket to visitor attractions, day tour excursions and outdoor wildlife and adventure activities.

Successful applicants will be awarded funding to apply promotions of 'up to 50 per cent off' the cost of a ticket, up to the maximum discount value of £20 per transaction. Applications will be open from 12 noon on Tuesday October 5 until 5pm on October 12.

The project is part of the £25million tourism recovery programme announced by the First Minister in March 2021. The scheme is fully funded by the Scottish Government and discounts will be applied for bookings between November 4 2021 and February 18 2022. It has been developed with input from the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) and will help support the recovery of the tourism industry.

VisitScotland Director of Marketing Vicki Miller said: 'The loss of international visitors over the past year has had a major impact on visitor attractions, tours and activity providers. This fund will help generate income for this sector during the quieter winter months, as well as help rebuild consumer confidence. Tourism is a force for good – creating economic and social value in every corner of Scotland and enhancing the wellbeing of everyone who experiences it. Tourism makes Scotland richer, economically and socially, and without it, Scotland would be a much poorer place.' For details about how to apply for the fund, visit [www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/funding/days-out-incentive-fund](http://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/funding/days-out-incentive-fund)

## Island business captures the essence of Harris

Its natural beauty and white sandy beaches have long drawn tourists to the Outer Hebrides but it is the Isle of Harris in particular that seems to cast its spell with its elemental and rich natural heritage calling out like a siren.

For Jamie and Deenie McGowan, capturing the beauty of their island home and its spirit lay behind their decision six years to launch Essence of Harris, maker of luxurious, hand-poured candles and home fragrances along with reed-diffusers, bath and body products.

But they were also on a mission to create stable, year-round employment for the younger generation of islanders who were moving away for opportunities and employment.

Today, the independent family business is thriving and coming back stronger after the pandemic forced its flagship store in Tarbert and other outlet in Glasgow to temporarily close their doors.

Signalling that Essence of Harris means business, the firm's Classic Collection range has just been relaunched.

A new Christmas range is also on the way while more 'exciting developments' will be announced early next year.

Jamie explained: 'Like every business we were stopped in our tracks when the pandemic hit last year.

'We'd only opened our new store in Glasgow's Prince's Square a few months before so just when we were getting established and building relationships with customers we had to close.'

Essence of Harris, however, already operating a successful online business, continued to trade well despite the lack of physical retail and wisely used time to revisit the company's strategy and plan for the future.

'Our online business is really powerful,' said Jamie, 'and was instrumental in our growth during lockdown.

'We decided to go back to the start of our jour-

ney, look at our values around our products that are natural, local and sustainable, and strengthen our brand to make it more immersive and experiential.

'When you walk into one of our shops you can feel and sense that Harris is there with you – you can almost feel the elements of the island and what makes it so unique, you can close your eyes and imagine yourself walking along one of our stunning beaches.'

It was a walk along Huisinis beach that inspired Jamie and Deenie to create Essence of Harris as a way of celebrating what makes this remote and tranquil part of the Western Isles so special, at the same time investing in the young people whose skills will be so important to Harris in the future.

### Lifestyle brand

As well as its candles, fragrances, bath and beauty products, Essence of Harris offers its own tartan collection of throws, scarves, bags and more, and is fast becoming a lifestyle brand that plans to challenge brands like Molton Brown and Jo Loves by 2025.

'We're an aspirational brand with a focus on quality but with a point of difference that others just don't have – and that's the Isle of Harris,' said Jamie.

'We are redefining the Essence of Harris brand and repositioning it with the support of our customers who share our passion and follow us.'

Sustainability is even more important now and all of the brand's bottles now use 100 per cent recyclable plastic.

Its plastic sachet refills are also recyclable while both the Tarbert and Glasgow stores have refill stations so bottles can be reused.

While Scotland and the UK remains its core market, Essence of Harris also exports to the US, China, Thailand and across Europe.

Last year, it claimed two awards – Emerging Brand and Community Impact – at a leading



New York lifestyle trade show for its range of hand-poured candles and home fragrances. 'We have a huge – and growing – Chinese market too and are currently talking to a big distribution business in Japan as we pursue our long-term strategy to become a global brand,' added Jamie.

'But none of this can happen without our passionate and dedicated people and the business attributes its success to its diverse team, creating opportunities for islanders whenever possible.

'Everything we do is embedded in Harris, it's a special, magical place and we are proud to share it by enabling people to Bring Harris Home.'

To find out more visit <https://essenceofharris.co.uk/>

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Left: Jamie McGowan, co-founder of the company that has been capturing the natural beauty and heritage of the Outer Hebrides for the past six years.



One of the company's brands.



Essence of Harris uses frosted Italian glass bottles.



Natural beauty and white sandy beaches have long drawn tourists to Harris.

## BEHIND THE SCENE AT ATLANTIS

With the town still bustling with visitors and the weather continuing to treat us kindly, it's hard to believe it's the end of September.

August was another busy month at Atlantis Leisure as we carefully continued our return from the impact of the pandemic.

Read on to find out what's been happening at the centre over the past month:

### Welcome back Mika

We're looking forward to Mika Schröder's return to Atlantis.

Mika takes our climbing classes for young people and has been busy adding more qualifications and experience over lockdown.

Some of the training Mika undertook was part-funded by LiveArgyll's Oban Women Coaching and Officiating Grant in collaboration with Adventure Oban.

It'll be great to have Mika back with us later in the year, helping the next generation of climbers get to grips with the Climb Cube.

### Café re-opening

An important part of Atlantis' return after the pandemic has been the re-opening of the café.

Beth and the team work hard on offering a fantastic menu, with delicious home baking and cooking.

On top of this, the buzz around the café is a huge part of creating the 'Atlantis atmosphere', with Beth and company being core to that.

So it's really special to welcome back Vera to the café team.

Vera worked with Beth previously and lights up the café with an infectious smile and cheery spirit.

### Poolside

Our hypolyser broke down this month this month. The hypolyser is a piece of pool plant machinery that allows us to create our own chlorine from salt in a safe, manageable way. Despite the breakdown, our friends at AquaLeisure worked quickly to ensure there was no disruption to the safety or operation of the pool.

### Community instructors

Our community fitness programme continues to grow and evolve.

For us, one bonus of the community approach is getting to know the new faces joining Atlantis as instructors.

We're always keen to hear new ideas



Nick Wesley, general manager of Atlantis Leisure, right, congratulates Jonathan Brown on his appointment as the centre's new operations manager.

from those in our community that would benefit from partnering with us. So if you're a qualified instructor of any discipline and have an idea on how you could use Atlantis, get in touch.

### Staff

We are delighted Jonathan Brown accepted an offer to become the new Atlantis Leisure Operations Manager.

Jonny has been an integral part of the Atlantis team for the past 10 years, as well as growing up in the town and using Atlantis as a youngster.

There's continued development elsewhere on the staff team too. Mandy, Susie, Ruth and Emma all passed their RLSS pool rescue qualification for swimming teachers as part of our ongoing upskilling of swimming teachers' teaching and lifeguarding qualifications.

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**B**onny Oban Bay was referred to as “one of the finest spots we have seen” by Queen Victoria, when she visited by steamer in the 1800. Centuries on, the step-ashore pontoons at North Pier – one of three piers in town – ensure that Oban remains a top West Coast Waters destination for sailors.

The Argyll Kayak Trail begins at Oban’s Ganavan beach, and kayaking and scuba diving are popular sports here. CalMac ferries transport cars and foot passengers from Oban to the islands, adding to the constant movement of ships.

The Isle of Kerrera protects the town from the worse of the Atlantic storms and it’s a great island for walking, with a notable ruined MacDougall castle at Gylen.

On the mainland, there are independent shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs, and of course the famous seafood and shellfish which has earned Oban the title ‘Seafood Capital of Scotland’.

It is easy to explore on foot, but you need

a good pair of lungs to enjoy the spectacular views from McCaig’s Tower. This circular stone replica of Roman Colosseum is Oban’s crowning glory - but the tower was never finished. The planned roof would have been a welcome addition, as spring showers are frequent in the West.

Today’s rain is tomorrow’s whisky though, and Oban Malt Whisky distillery (the second smallest in Scotland) produces sublime spirit where the land meets the sea. Enjoy a post-tour dram or head for one of Oban’s many pubs. You can also pick up local craft beers in the Beer Seller shop just opposite the distillery.

There are trained local walking guides ready to share the stories, history and heritage of the town. You can enjoy a stroll along the graceful seaside esplanade, eat, drink and be merry in one of Oban’s fabulous restaurants, get active on the sea or explore beneath the waves and take a dive with a basking shark! There is plenty to do in town and inland, in the ancient lands of Lorn.

## Cycling and walking tips

### LOOK BEHIND YOU

Always look behind you before moving, particularly when turning right.

### DON'T USE MOBILES OR MUSIC DEVICES

You need to be able to hear what is happening around you.

### CYCLING IN NUMBERS

As a recommendation, try and cycle in single file and never more than two bikes side by side.

### NEVER CYCLE ON THE PAVEMENT

It is against the law to cycle on the pavement, unless it is a cycle lane or shared route.

Route maps can be downloaded at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/oban-walking-and-cycling-map](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/oban-walking-and-cycling-map)



# Oban Business Improvement District

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





# Top things to see, do and experience



## MCCAIGS TOWER

Dominating Oban's skyline, McCaig's tower was built in the late 19th century by local banker John Stuart McCaig, partly to provide work for local stone masons. It's striking to look up at and even better from inside.



## DUNOLLIE CASTLE, MUSEUM AND GROUNDS

For centuries this ivy-covered ruin was the base from which Clan MacDougall ruled the region. The house below is now a thriving museum, with lovely grounds and activities for visitors of all ages.  
[dunollie.org](http://dunollie.org)



## BOAT TRIPS

Oban is the gateway to the Isles, and some - such as Lismore, Easdale and Kerrera - are close enough for a day trip and can be reached by ferry in moments. A choice of wildlife-watching trips depart locally too - look out for seals, basking sharks, dolphins and much more.



## SCOTLAND'S SEAFOOD CAPITAL

Oban's title as Scotland's seafood capital is well-earned, with a host of restaurants offering fresh local fare. For an al fresco experience, stroll along the south pier and take your pick of the day's catch.



## BEACHES

You needn't go all the way to the islands for beaches - there are several close to Oban, from sandy Gananvan, near the town centre, to the crescent of Tralee, by Benderloch, and Taynuilt's mountain-framed Airds Bay.

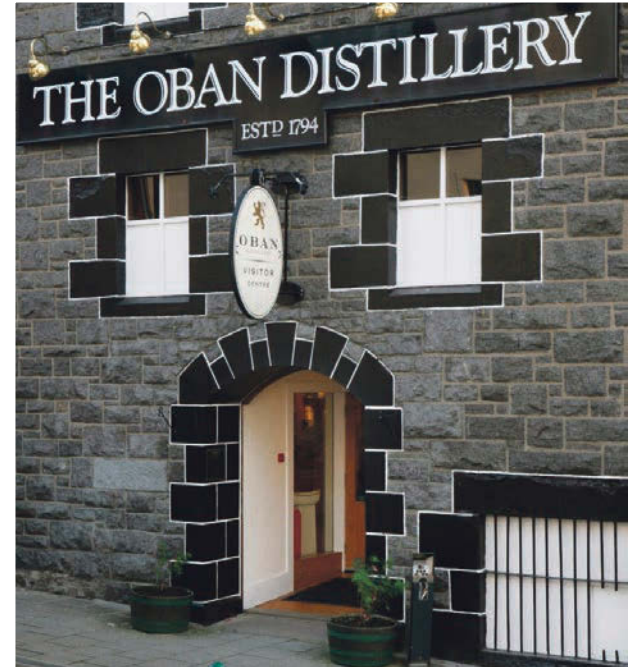


## OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

A small town on the beautiful West Coast of Scotland, Oban has always had a love of cinema. At the turn of the 21st Century it was known as The Highland Theatre, however sadly in 2010 it closed its doors until 2012 where Oban Phoenix Cinema opened its doors as a fully independent community-owned cinema, and a registered charity.  
[www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com)

## ATLANTIS LEISURE

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



## THE OBAN DISTILLERY

When brothers Hugh and John Stevenson arrived at the frontier of the Hebrides Islands in 1793, they found little more than a natural harbor and a windswept view. Here they opened the Oban Brewing Company, their 'Cowbell Ale' being the first production.  
[www.obanwhisky.com](http://www.obanwhisky.com)



## OBAN WAR AND PEACE MUSEUM

This tiny museum isn't just for those with a passion for military history, its artefacts and exhibitions offer broad insight into Oban's past. A good stop for visitors tracing local family connections too.  
[www.obanmuseum.org.uk](http://www.obanmuseum.org.uk)



## OBAN COMMUNITY TRUST - THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE

Oban Communities Trust, known as The Rockfield Centre is a registered Community Benefit Society. The Rockfield Centre is situated in Oban town centre and offers a year round programme of activity across the Arts/Culture, History/Heritage, Community wellbeing and Education/ Enterprise.  
[www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk)



# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Mànran flourish with new album

One of Scotland's most loved trad-rock bands Mànran release their eagerly anticipated new album ÛRAR (pronounced oo-rar) on Friday, October 22.

With 11 incredible years at the heart of the traditional music scene and three hugely successful studio albums under their belt, the unstoppable super-group show no signs of slowing down as they gear up for the release of their fourth record.

Showcasing intuitive instrumentation and song, this primarily self-penned body of work from the seven-piece outfit sees the soaring album live up to its Gaelic title, meaning 'fresh' or 'flourishing'.

The first Mànran record to feature Scottish songstress Kim Carnie and guitarist Aidan Moodie, ÛRAR sees Mànran's traditional sound pushed in a new reflective and exhilarating direction, marking an exciting new chapter for the multi-award-winning group.

The album features a mix of captivating new material in English and Gaelic and boasts a delicate yet uplifting sound, with Kim's inimitable vocals

Mànran are releasing their eagerly anticipated new album ÛRAR.

at its heart. Alongside Kim's stunning lead vocals, Aidan Moodie's backing vocals and intricate guitar playing can be heard throughout the album alongside Ewen Henderson on vocals, fiddle and pipes, Gary Innes on accordion, Ross Saunders on bass guitar,

Ryan Murphy on uilleann pipes, flute and whistles and Mark Scobbie on drums.

The first single Crow Flies, released last month, delighted old and new fans alike, while the second single Ailean, out on Friday, October 1, is an upbeat Gaelic song with a driving melody, which only builds on the album's momentum and stunning sound.

Gary, originally from Spean Bridge, said: 'As Scotland and the rest of the world open their doors once again to live music, we are excited to be able to share our new album with



everyone.

'We were delighted to welcome Kim and Aidan to the band back in 2019 and it's wonderful to finally be able to release our first body of work featuring them both.'

'We hope fans enjoy the energetic sound of ÛRAR, as well as the uplifting melodies and the self-penned Gaelic and English material.'

Hot on the heels of appear-

ances at Wickham Festival, Glasgow's Piping Live! and Capers in Cannich, the band are set to embark on a tour across Germany, Switzerland and Austria in October and November before returning for a number of Scottish dates in December.

ÛRAR will be available to buy on CD, download and stream from Friday, October 22.

## Chance for Oban musician to support Horse

The call has gone out to all solo Oban musicians who have the chance to support the first live act to make an appearance at The Rockfield Centre.

Horse McDonald, who sells out major city venues and plays at festivals all over the country, will be taking to the stage in the former primary school on October 23.

Fee Shaw, culture and creative officer at The Rockfield Centre, said: 'We are very excited that she will be our first music gig in the new building.'

She added that Horse had been in touch to say she would like to give a local musician the opportunity to open her show as her support act.

'All we are asking is that they must be a soloist,' said Fee.

'They must send a short video clip of themselves performing to me on arts@therockfieldcentre.org.uk by October 15 and then Horse herself will choose her favourite act to perform a week later on Saturday October 23 with approximately a 20-minute set.'

Horse will be doing a special 'trio' show inside the Rockfield Centre, focussing

on songs from 'The Same Sky' album as well as a back catalogue selection.

Performing alongside Horse will be Lorna Thomas on bass/vocals and Gemma Roberts on piano/vocals.

The Same Sky was released in 1990, featuring her iconic vocals, and launched her career which continues to this day.

The actual 30th anniversary of the album was, of course, 2020, but as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, all UK tour dates have now been rescheduled to spring 2022.

In the interim, Horse has prepared this special 'trio' show.

'The songs from 'The Same Sky' are a big part of people's lives and hopefully this set will go some way to bringing many memories back,' said Horse, who is currently working on her next studio album.

The event has been kindly supported by a Supported Programme Bursary from The Touring Network.

Tickets are available on The Rockfield Centre website [www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk) and cost £20 full price, £15 concessions.

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# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The pubs, clubs, and venues of Glasgow have been in full swing for a few weeks now and, subsequently, the type of funny stories that these kind of places foster have started doing the rounds for the first time since before lockdown.

It seems there have been a great many party animals using the last month to make up for lost time.

One such socialite was the gentleman from Lewis who came down a couple of weekends ago to stay with his Argyllshire pal (a mutual friend of mine) in a Partick tenement flat.

The pair attended the Barrowlands on Saturday night for the big Trail West soiree; but, the evening before, decided to pop out to the 'Teuchter Triangle' just to find out 'how much they could take' in preparation for the following night.

This, of course, is a rookie error to make in relation to the triangle - a place that rivals its namesake in Bermuda for numbers of people missing in mysterious circumstances.

They are not the first to

make this mistake; and they won't be the last.

As these brave lads walked along Dumbarton Road, over the Partick Bridge, past the Art Gallery, and onto Argyle Street, they had no idea the sheer number of fellow Highlanders and islanders who had also embarked on a similar journey that day - all of whom were ready for plenty more libations than the boys originally had in mind.

Fast forward to 8am the following morning. The Argyllshire lad awoke in his bed to the sound of the buzzer going for the main close door.

Worried that it would similarly awake his guest on the couch in the living room, he shouted through 'sorry about this - it must be the postman,' and proceeded to press the buzzer before heading back to bed.

No sooner had he settled back down than his own doorbell went.

Rising from bed again, he shouted through to the living room: 'I've got no idea who this can be at this time in the morning!'

He opened the door and was stunned to be met with his Lewis lodger - who he believed he had just been shouting to in the living room!

Neither lad appears to be quite sure how this happened but, after an internal enquiry that would put Scotland Yard to shame, their best guess is that they became separated at some point between The Park Bar, Islay Inn, and Snaffle Bit, and had returned home at separate times.

This was no problem, of course, for the lad who owned the flat and, naturally, had the keys; but it provided a bit of an issue for the Lewis lad who had no way of getting into the close - either because his companion was asleep; or had not yet returned home.

The saving grace for an islander visiting these parts of Glasgow is that there are always plenty of offers of alternative accommodation so he was not without a place to lay his head.

He did, however, have a great story to tell at the Barrowlands.

# A story for St Conan's

St Conan's Kirk on the shores of Loch Awe is making history again.

For the first time, the church is about to be an outreach venue in October's Scottish International Storytelling Festival (SISF).

The main festival is based in Edinburgh and is one of the most admired storytelling events in the world but as well as venues in the Scottish capital, SISF takes acts to communities all over Scotland, rippling out the stories - and this year Lochawe is one of them.

The festival celebrates the joy of storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity and the story coming to St Conan's will be told by Donald Smith, director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre and Heather Yule, who will also be playing the clarsach.

The story is called Leaving Iona.

This year is the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Columba who founded the much-loved abbey on the island.

The tale follows his wake and imagined final journey.

Where should this hugely influential man be buried?

Columba came from Donegal in Ireland but made a huge impact not only on Iona but all over Scotland.

And who should tell his story: the monks, the poets or the women?

This storytelling event weaves together music and narrative, landscape and legend, tradition and humour.

Kathleen Hannigan, co-ordinating the event for the Friends of St Conan's, said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming SISF and look forward to hearing what promises to be a fascinating story. Donald Smith is a highly accomplished



St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

storyteller and we feel very fortunate to have this opportunity.'

The story is aimed at an adult audience but is also suitable for children.

'We hope that adults and families will come along and support this initiative,' added Kathleen.

Leaving Iona is in the kirk on Sunday October 3 at 3pm. Entry is by donation.

The performance will last about an hour and will be followed tea cake and biscuits.

## What's on at Oban Cinema



**BOOK AHEAD FOR NO TIME TO DIE - IT WILL BE BUSY!**

**Friday 1 October**

No Time To Die | 12A 12:30/16:15/20:00  
Free Guy | 12A 16:45  
The Last Bus | 12A 19:30

**Saturday 2 October**

Shang-Chi | 12A 13:00/16:00  
Free Guy | 12A 13:15  
No Time To Die | 12A 16:15/20:00  
The Last Bus | 12A 19:00

**Sunday 3 October**

Shang-Chi | 12A 13:00/16:00  
Free Guy | 12A 13:15  
No Time To Die | 12A 16:15/20:00  
Limbo | 12A 19:00

**Wednesday 6 October**

No Time To Die | 12A 12:30/16:15/20:00  
Free Guy | 12A 16:45  
The Last Bus | 12A 19:30

**Thursday 7 October**

No Time To Die | 12A 12:30/16:15/20:00  
Free Guy | 12A 16:45  
Limbo | 12A 19:30

**The Last Bus (12A)**

**Drama**  
An old man whose wife has just passed away uses his free local bus pass to travel to the other end of the UK, to where they originally moved from, using only local buses, on a nostalgic trip but also carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, 'taking her back' and in doing so he meets local people. By the end of his trip he's a celebrity.

**Limbo (12A)**

**Drama / Comedy**  
Omar is a promising young musician. Separated from his Syrian family, he is stuck on a remote Scottish island awaiting the fate of his asylum request.

**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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<b>MONDAY:</b>	8am-12pm 12-3pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Lunch with Bob G Drive Times with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary Calum McLuckies Show David Cullen Show Breakfast Show with Stephen
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-12.30pm 1pm-3pm 3pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Ken Hunter Macky on FM Mediation with Heartfelt Change Drive Times with Archie Darling Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-2pm 2pm-3pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Steve Mediation with Heartfelt Change Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 4pm-6:45pm 6:45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil The Brunch Show With The One Teeney & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 2pm-4pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham.

# Watch Scotland come new film starring Iona

by Sandy Neil  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Audiences will see history light up like never before as an immersive new film narrated in English, Gaelic and Scots is screened for the first time as part of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020/21.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) will premiere Light Waves – a 10-minute film celebrating Gaelic and Scots culture, heritage and tradition and its association with coasts and waters - at 7pm on Sunday 17 October via live-stream.

This one-of-a-kind film is set against the backdrop of some of Scotland's most iconic locations including Historic Scotland properties

Blackness Castle, Iona Abbey and Urquhart Castle which are managed by HES.

The film also features dramatic projections including artwork of St Columba and animated archive imagery of herring girls, fishermen and historic maps to showcase the heritage and traditions of Scotland's coasts and waters.

Produced by Double Take Projections, Light Waves is accompanied by a specially commissioned soundtrack by the Scottish band Niteworks and multilingual poetic narration.

Three Scottish poets were asked to create poems in English, Gaelic and Scots in response to the provocation of the Gaelic word 'Aiseag'

which can mean 'sea vessel', 'crossing', 'journey' or act of deliverance and restitution in English.

The film begins with Colin Bramwell, who reflects on the importance of past connections with coasts and waters and how they have shaped communities with his poem Caledonian Canal, narrated in English.

Following this, Pàdraig Macaoidh explores Scotland's long-standing connection to the seas, coasts and lochs through myth and folklore with his Gaelic poem Miorbhailean (Wonders).

The film then reaches a crescendo with award-winning poet Roseanne Watt, who considers our past, present and future relationship with, and our responsibility in looking after, our coasts and waters with her poem narrated in Shetlandic Scots.

Aiseag is supported by EventScotland through Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21.

Gillian Urquhart, events manager at HES, said: 'With dramatic and immersive displays which have been projected onto historic sites located near Scotland's shores, and powerful soundscapes of the multilingual poetic narration and emotive music, viewers

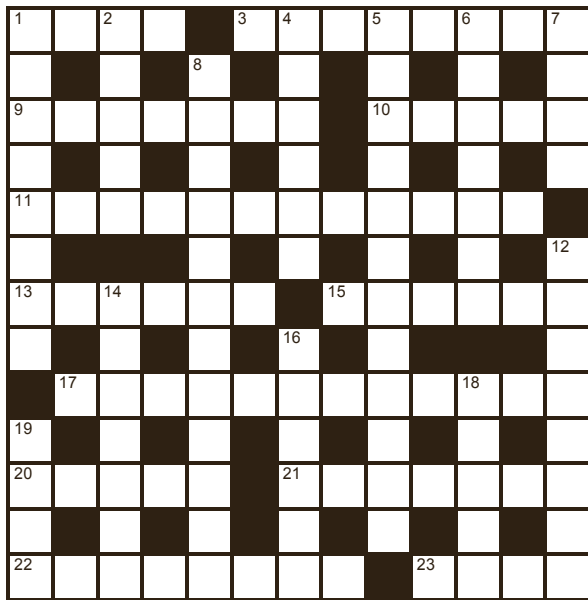


History comes to light and life on the walls of Iona Abbey.

will be taken on a journey to see Scotland's history light up like never before.

'Aiseag is a fascinating word that has many meanings that correlate to the narrative and themes explored in Light Waves which not only celebrates our love of Scotland's coasts and waters but showcases the important link with Gaelic and Scots culture and traditions, and the impact that Scotland's waterways have had on communities throughout

## CROSSWORD



**Across**

- 1 Skip it (4)
- 3 He wants you in America (5,3)
- 9 Astringent substance used in tanning (7)
- 10 Dark yellow (5)
- 11 Circular arena (12)
- 13 Annoying insect or person (6)
- 15 Trim (6)
- 17 Used to see you more clearly! (7,5)
- 20 Rapids transport (5)
- 21 Nonbeliever (7)
- 22 Spectacle (8)
- 23 Enclosed locked space (4)

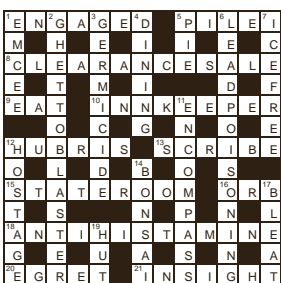
**Down**

- 1 Plug in again (8)
- 2 Planned in a crafty manner (3-2)
- 4 Zero (6)
- 5 A plant of the genus Doronicum (8-4)
- 6 A light playful musical passage (7)

7 Track event (4)

- 8 The one thing that lets you down! (8,4)
- 12 Protective covering for a chick (8)
- 14 Incarceration (7)
- 16 Scottish dish (6)
- 18 River through Tours (5)
- 19 Unpopular spots (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



Poetry meets history in a fascinating project that sees images projected on to Iona Abbey.

# Lismore's prehistoric discovery in stunning new photography

Excavations which have unearthed prehistoric artefacts at a rare medieval cemetery on the Isle of Lismore have been captured by a photographer as part of a national campaign.

The images were taken in early September when members of the public joined Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr (the Lismore Historical Society) to help uncover more of a 1,300-year-old cemetery linked to St Moluag – thought to be Scotland's first patron saint – which was first discovered on the island in 2018.

The photographs were commissioned as part of a series by the Dig It! project to mark the end of the Scotland Digs 2021 campaign which celebrated the hive of archaeological activity that took place across the country this summer.



A Prehistoric flint found during fieldwork on the Isle of Lismore.

Photograph: Demelza Kingston 2021.

The photographer captured the first week of excavation at the rare surviving Early Christian cemetery, where the team unearthed worked flint (waste material

produced in the making of stone implements), including a scraper which may have been used to work wood and clean hides around 4,500 years ago during the Neolithic or Bronze Age period.

According to the Ionad Naomh Moluag (Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre), flint does not occur in the area so it may be evidence of 'trading' – and the only other evidence for the Neolithic to date is a stone axe head which is now in their collection. Volunteers also later revealed the early church boundaries, what appears to be a Bronze Age roundhouse, a range of medieval artefacts, and a series of in situ burials.

The Lismore photographs were captured by Demelza Kingston, a Glasgow-based photography student who uses both



# Light Waves to light with MacKinnon's Cross at Iona Abbey



the country.'

Paul Bush OBE, director of events at VisitScotland, said: 'We are pleased to be supporting Light Waves as part of Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21.

'Scotland offers the perfect stage to explore our natural environment and built heritage, and this film provides a great opportunity to celebrate the best of our Gaelic and Scots culture, heritage and our beautiful coasts and waters.'

Light Waves will premiere at 7pm on Sunday 17 October on the HES Facebook and YouTube accounts and is free to watch.



Lit up for Light Waves is MacKinnon's Cross, carved in 1489 and dedicated to Lachlan MacKinnon and his son John, Abbot of Iona, whose effigy lies in the choir of the abbey church. The upper part has been lost but on the lower section is a depiction of a West Highland galley and a griffin.

# Digitally recorded series

digital and analogue methods to explore natural landscapes and their interactions with people of the past, present and future.

She said: 'I found the work fascinating and am grateful to the team who shared their knowledge and ideas with me. In my photographs, I hoped to convey the feeling of time overlapping as the layers of earth and peat were scraped away, revealing finds that had not been handled for centuries.'

Dig It!, which advertises archaeology events throughout the year, is coordinated by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and primarily funded by Historic Environment Scotland. For more information visit [DigItScotland.com](http://DigItScotland.com)



These two images show some of the fieldwork being carried out. Photograph: Demelza Kingston 2021.



# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 30 An t-Sultain

#### THURSDAY 30 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Trusadh-Sgeulachdan a' Ghlasaidh/ Life in Lockdown
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Julie Fowlis/Ceol aig Baile
- 22.00 Seòid a Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep2
- 22.30 Na Deachdairan/ Dictators-Saddam Hussein
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge/Loch Lomond
- 23.30 Dana/Scotland's Wild Side/Lewis

### DIHAOINE 1 An Dàmhair

#### FRIDAY 1 An Dàmhair

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 Dan
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 20.00 Prosbaig
- 20.30 An Taigh- Fuine/The Bakery
- 21.00 Boireannaich Iarainn/Iron Women
- 22.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Robert Mone-Saorsa Gu Siorraidh?

### DISATHAIRNE 2 An Dàbhair

#### SATURDAY 2 An Dàmhair

- 16.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22 Dundee Utd v Ross County
- 19.45 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 19.50 Celtic Connections Shorts

- 20.00 Prosbaig
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 TRNSMT 2021 Highlights Ep3
- 22.00 Slighean Trailleach/Slavery Routes
- 22.55 Dhan Uisge
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22 Dundee Utd v Ross County
- 00.45 Dealbh is Slighe

### DIDÒMHNAICH 3 An Dàmhair

#### SUNDAY 3 An Dàmhair

- 16.00 SWPL 2021/22 Hibernian v Rangers
- 18.05 An Là
- 18.20 Seachd Là
- 19.05 BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2022 Semi Final
- 21.00 Lipoedema-Sgeulachd Lorna Lipoedema-Lorna's Story
- 22.00 Bannan S2 Ep5
- 22.40 Bannan S3 Ep1
- 23.10 The Valhalla Murders

### DILUAIN 4 An Dàmhair

#### MONDAY 4 An Dàmhair

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine-Baking
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Tigh- Fuine/The Bakery
- 21.00 Trusadh – Afro Gaidheil
- 22.00 Bannan /S3 Ep2
- 22.30 Sar Sgeoil/The Cone Gatherers
- 23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin/ The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep2

### DIMÀIRT 5 An t-Dàmhair

#### TUESDAY 5 An Dàmhair

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Trusadh:Sgeulachdan an Glasaidh /Life in Lockdown
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Golf: Mun Cuairt Alba
- 21.00 Ceol is Cradh
- 22.00 Trusadh-Afro Gaidheil
- 23.00 Cuirm aig Celtic/Binneas- Bard Mhealboist
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Alleluia

### DICIADAIN 6 An Dàmhair

#### WEDNESDAY 6 An Dàmhair

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine-Baking
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Sar- Sgeoil/Macbeth
- 21.55 Bannan S3 Ep3
- 22.30 Dana/Scotland's Wild Side
- 23.00 Julie Fowlis :Ceol aig Baile

### DIARDAOIN 7 An Dàmhair

#### THURSDAY 7 An Dàmhair

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Trusadh-Sgeulachdan a Ghlasaidh/ Life in Lockdown
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Julie Fowlis-Ceol aig Baile
- 22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin-The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep3
- 22.30 Na Deachdairan/Dictators – Benito Mussolini
- 23.20 Binneas-Bard Mhealboist
- 23.30 Dana-Scotland's Wild Side



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Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

## 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



find us on facebook

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



## Around the markets

### Dingwall and Highland Marts Limited, Portree, Monday

**September 20:** sold 1,302 weaned calves and store cattle at their annual district ballot sale.

Judge Mr C MacIver, Easter Strath, awarded the champion to a five-month-old 310kg Limousin cross bullock from Mr G Campbell, 1 & 8 Drynoch, Carbost, realising £1,070. The reserve from Mr N Morrison, 12 Portnalong, Carbost, was an 8-month-old 330kg Limousin cross bullock, selling for £960.

Bullocks (736) averaged 301.8p and sold to 446.7p per kg for a 150kg Limousin cross from Ose Far, Struan, and £1,140 gross for a 430kg Limousin cross from Meadle Farm, Struan.

Heifers (566) averaged 290.1p and sold to 522.2p per kg for a 180kg Limousin cross from 8 Torvaig, Portree, and £980 gross for a 370kg Limousin cross from 4 & 5 Totescore, Portree.

A sale spokesperson said: 'It was great to see the place back in full swing with buyers galore and vendors out in force. A big credit must be given to the sellers for having the calves in tremendous form. Unprecedented centre averages were witnessed, where centre record levels were achieved, as the whole sale averaged just shy of £3 a kilo.'

Leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks up to 250kg - 2 Flodigarry, Portree, £900, 1 Eyre, Snizort, £880,

28 Stenscholl, Staffin, £870, Gesto Farm, Struan, £860, 2 & 4 North Duntulm, Snizort, 423.1p, 4 Balgowan, Struan, 422.2p, Trien Croft, 417.7p, Corriebheinn Farms, Portree, 407.6p; 251-300kg - Meadle Farm, £960, 6B Ardmore, Dunvegan & 3 Ardmore, Waternish, £910, Torvaig, £910, 4 Balgowan, £910, Monkstadt, Portree, 372.1p, 2 Flodigarry, 360.0p, 1 Eyre, 352.0p, 28 Stenscholl, 348.0p; 301-350kg - 1 & 8 Drynoch, £1,070, 21 Roag, Dunvegan, £1,040, Meadle Farm, £1,040 & £1,000, Gesto Farm, £1,010, 1 & 8 Drynoch, 345.2p; 351-400kg - 1 & 8 Drynoch, £1,090, Meadle Farm, £1,040, 3 Glengrasco, Portree, £980, 1 & 8 Drynoch 294.6p.

Heifers up to 250kg - 8 Torvaig, £940, 10 Achachork, £730, Ose Farm, £730, 5 Drynoch, Carbost, 413.8p, 4 Balgowan, 407.7p, 20 Borve, Skeabost, 394.1p, 1 & 8 Drynoch, 392.9p, 6B Ardmore, 392.3p, 7 Kingsburgh, Snizort, 374.2p; 251-300kg - Trien Croft, £830, 2 Torvaig, £800, Gesto Farm, £800, Tote House, £790, Torvaig, £790, 8, 14 & 15 Struanmore, 298.1p, Torvaig, 311.0p, 2 Torvaig, 304.2p, 4 Balgowan, 302.0p; 301-350kg - 12 Portnalong, £900, Corriebheinn Farms, £900, ½ of 7 Torrinn, Broadford, £880, 15 Glenconon, £870, Meadle Farm, 381.5p, 1 Eyre, 269.8p; 351-400kg - 8 Torvaig, £920, 15 Glenconon, Uig, £880 & £860, 4 & 5 Totescore, 264.9p.

**United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday**

**September 21:** sold 4,739 Breeding Sheep. Ewe Lambs sold to £142 for a pen of Mules from D MacDonald, Tyree. Gimmers sold to £250 for Texels from Drimsynie Estate and Ewes to £310 also for Texels from F Ronald, Saulmore. Despite an increased entry on the year by more than 1,500 sheep, all sections of the sale enjoyed a buoyant trade and in particular the Ewe Lamb sections. Stock was presented in good bloom and with a very busy ringside of buyers in attendance. All stock was easily cleared at satisfactory levels.

United Auctions are proud to support and donate lambs to the Lamb for St Andrew's Day campaign. Spearheaded by the Institute of Auctioneers, more than 10,000 pupils from 110 Scottish schools will be celebrating St Andrew's Day by cooking and enjoying Scotch Lamb. From the September 21 sale A McNair & Son, Stroneskar Farm, kindly donated a lamb to the campaign.

**EWES - LAMBS - SUFFx - £90.00, Mid Farm. LLEYx - £82.00, Kilpatrick Croft. TEX - £118.00, £108.00, Drimsynie Estate. CHEV - £100.00, Barndromin; £98.00, Slaterich; £98.00, Cailaich; £96.00, Slaterich; £95.00, £90.00, Caddleton Farms. CROSS - £92.00, Lochnell Home Farm; £91.00, Glenamachrie; £90.00, Ragged Edge; £90.00, Glenamachrie. MULE - £142.00, £137.00, £135.00, Tyree; £130.00, Stronacroibh; £126.00,**

**Ederline Estate; £125.00, South Achinduin; £123.00, Tyree; £122.00, Saulmore; £122.00, Scammadale. CHEV MULE - £126.00, Keppochan; £125.00, Ardnacross; £125.00, Tyree. BF - £95.00, £92.00, Soroba; £90.00, 3 Torr Na Faire; £84.00, Fidden; £82.00, Ensay; £80.00, Fidden.**

**GIMMERS - TEX - £250.00, £240.00, Drimsynie Estate; £155.00, Saulmore. CHEV - £162.00, £148.00, Balnagown; £142.00, Port Na Croish; £142.00, High Balernock; £140.00, Balnagown. MULE - £180.00, £178.00, £162.00, Achalic; £150.00, Torbhlaire; £148.00, Achalic; £145.00, 4 Balligrundle; £142.00, Achalic; £142.00, Saulmore; £140.00, Saulmore; £140.00, Achalic. CHEV MULE - £182.00, £158.00, Keppochan. BF - £150.00, 3 Torr Na Faire; £128.00, Ensay.**

**EWES - TEX - £310.00, £270.00, £180.00, £155.00, Saulmore; £92.00, Brackley; £92.00, Wood Cottage Croft; £90.00, Brackley. CHEV - £108.00, £98.00, Torloisk; £95.00, Ardnamurchan Estates; £95.00, Barndromin; £95.00, Auchnashul; £95.00, Maam; £95.00, Cailaich; £95.00, Cour Grazings; £95.00, Torloisk. CROSS - £102.00, £82.00, Lochnell Home Farm. MULE - £142.00, £138.00, Saulmore. CHEV MULE - £100.00, Lochnell Home Farm. BF - £115.00, £92.00, Ensay Farm; £90.00, Glengorm; £85.00, Soroba; £80.00, Ensay; £78.00, Lochnell H F; £75.00, Gometra; £75.00, Silvercraigs. SWALE -**

£80.00, Ardnamurchan Estates.

**United Auctions, Dalmally, Saturday September 18:** sold 1966 sheep of all classes. Lambs sold to £76.00 to average £54.95 (+£3.83). All classes of lambs & sheep maintained recent rates prevailing throughout the country.

**LEADING PRICES PER HEAD**  
LAMBS - SUFFx - £76.00, Lochnell Home Farm; £72.00, Blarachourin; £70.00, 10 Pulpit Rock. CHEV - £66.50, Blarachourin; £61.50, Ballimore Farm Estate. CROSS - £70.50, Ragged Edge; £69.00, Lephinkill Farm. MULE - £74.50, Lochnell Home Farm. CHEV MULE - £74.00, Lochnell Home Farm. BF - £71.00, Littleport; £70.00, Blarachourin; £67.00, Castles Estates; £66.50, Achnaba; £66.50, Largie; £65.50, Lephinkill Farm. EWES - TEXx - £58.00, Lephinkill Farm. CHEV - £42.00, Blarachourin. CROSS - £53.00, Blarachourin. BF - £65.00, Clachan Farms; £61.00, Barachander; £57.00, Stroneskar. **LEADING PRICES PER KILO**  
LAMBS - SUFFx - 252p, 228p, Colquhalzie; 227p, Lochnell Home Farm; 210p, Drumclach. CHEV - 233p, Lochdochart; 229p, Blarachourin; 220p, Ballimore Farm Estate. CROSS - 231p, Balnahard; 221p, Brackley; 218p, High Balantyre; 213p, Brackley. MULE - 240p, Lochnell Home Farm. CHEV MULE - 224p, Lochnell Home Farm. BF - 258p, 235p, Castles Estate; 225p, Littleport Farm; 224p, Butterbridge Farms; 219p, Castles Estate.



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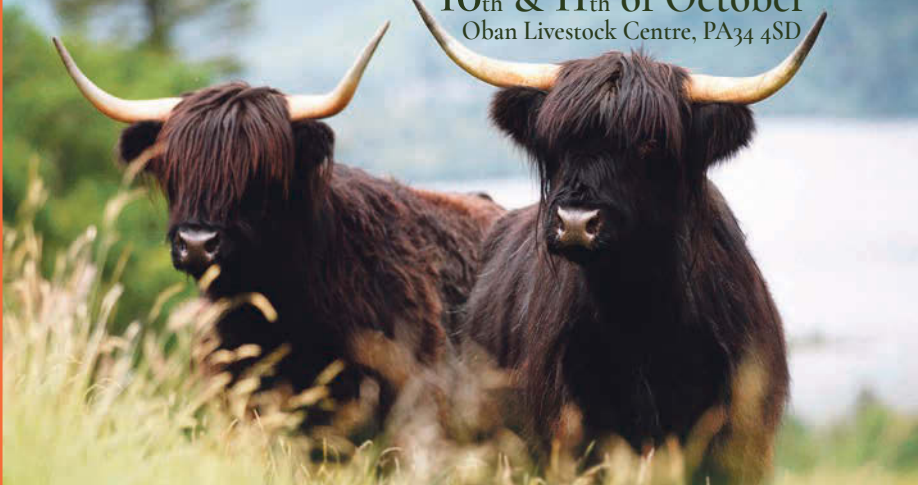
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## PEDIGREE HIGHLAND CATTLE SALE

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of October

Oban Livestock Centre, PA34 4SD





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# Sale record broken twice in two minutes

The first four-figure price was achieved at the annual Kintyre sheep sale, held at Anderston Park on Saturday September 18 by C & D Auction Marts of Longtown for Kintyre Agricultural Society (KAS).

An excellent entry of 100 tups of all breeds was forward and attracted a large audience who enjoyed favourable weather.

The honours were taken by a Suffolk shearling from Thomas Cameron, Gartvaigh, Southend, which sold at £1,100, a record for this sale, to R Millar, High Cattadale.

Mr Millar took another Suffolk shearling, the one directly prior, from Kevin MacIntyre, Glenahervie, at £1,000, a price which broke Mr MacIntyre's own record of £900 set last year.

Suffolk tups averaged £686 overall. A strong pen of Beltex and Beltex cross shearling rams from R & J Lines, Killoccrow, Bellochantuy, made to £950 for a shearling bought by Kirk and Calvert Smith, Oatfield, Campbeltown.

Messrs Lines also had a sale at £900 to A McLean, Killeonan, Campbeltown and another at £700, averaging £592 for their consignment.

A Beltex two-shear from I McKendrick, High Dalrioch, realised £780 and the Beltex entry averaged £510 overall.

J & M Turner, Kildalloig, led the Bluefaced Leicesters with a traditionally-bred shearling at £700 to R Currie, Low Dunashery, Tayinloan, followed at £650 for a shearling from P Grumoli, Millknowe,



Auctioneer John Walton in action at the annual Kintyre sheep sale on Saturday September 18. KC\_c39sheepsale02

with other Bluefaced Leicesters from Kildalloig at £600, Millknowe at £580 and Dalbhraddan and Millknowe each at £550.

Texels met a strong level trade, averaging £403 with A & J Pirie, Macrihanish, having

two at £520 and another at £480 and I McKendrick, High Dalrioch, with two at £480. Two from Braeside each made £450. J Parkhouse, Inverae, had three Charollais shearlings, each at £500 and hill tups made to £320 for a Blackface

View. Blackface ewe lambs: £78, Coulinlongart. Blackface ewes: £88, £78 and £68.

Cheviot Mule gimmers: £130, Tiretigan. Mule ewe lambs to £122, Low Ranachan. Texel cross ewe lambs: £100, Brackley Parks. Store lambs: £85, Crubasdale.

The directors of KAS thanked everyone who entered sheep for the sale on Saturday and those who came from near and far to buy the excellent stock on display.

The next Kintyre sale will be on Monday October 25 and will also include farm machinery. Contact KAS secretary John Armour with any entries by emailing tirfergus01@btconnect.com or telephoning 01586 810231 during the day or 01586 552404 in the evening.



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- 3000mm (3m) long
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- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
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- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
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**We are delighted to have been favoured with the following 3 farm dispenishing sales online**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 finishing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 11am.**  
**Machinery sold at home with no transport costs**

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JD 6130M Tractor with Loader 15 Reg; Claas Arion 610C Tractor 09 Reg; Manitou MLT 629 Telehandler 15 Reg; CAT 307B Tracked Excavator; Mitsubishi L200 Trojan 4 x 4 Pickup 62 Reg; 2 Honda Quads 500cc & 450cc; McHale C460 Chopper / Bedding machine, 2020; NC 314 Dump Trailer, 2017; Marshall 8t Grain Trailer; Twin Axle Bale Trailer 25ft; Ifor Williams Stock Trailer; Opico Grass Harrows; KV 3128 Mower/Conditioner; Spearhead Multicut 300 Topper, 2017; Various Cattle and Sheep Feeders & Handling Equipment. Usual range of workshop & small tools etc etc.

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NH T7.245 Tractor 68 Reg; NH T7050 Tractor 12 Reg; JD 6810 Tractor with Trima 365 Loader; KV TLX Geospreader 4T 2020; Horsch Pronto4DC 4mtr Drill 2009; Weston 12t Trailer; Twose 3mtr Offset Topper; Spearhead 460 Topper; Workshop Tools etc; etc

**Sunderland Hall per JH Turnbull, Sunderland Hall, Galashiels, TD1 3PH**  
 Typical modern livestock farm equipment, full details and images to follow shortly.

**Input Entries**

Kidd 45 Straw Chopper – 2020; 70' x 30' Polly Tunnel (12 Bays); 6 x Cattle Troughs; Gates; Cattle Feed Barriers; 5 x 200 Potato Boxes etc etc

**Online Machinery Auction**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
 An extensive sale including general farm machinery and equipment.  
 This sale will include two farm dispersals.

**Entries Invited**  
**borderlivestock.co.uk**  
**Logan 07971 185 657; Brian 07721 558 795;**  
**James 07976 634 669; Emma | Office 01289 306067**



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Hours of work are 40 hour per week, Monday to Friday; you will be required to work weekends on a rota basis. You can expect to earn in excess of £31,000 per annum.

**Should you wish to be considered for the above post please send your CV along with covering letter detailing your relevant experience and skills, and why you feel you should be considered for the position to:- [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)**

**Closing date for applications: 14 October 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.**



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The Laboratory Employee will work at our state-of-the-art Real Time PCR Laboratory in Malin House, Oban. You will be part of PatoGen's committed and competent Laboratory Department, with headquarters in Ålesund, Norway. The Laboratory Manager and Laboratory Director are based in Ålesund. The position is reporting to the operating manager in Oban.

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- Experience with Laboratory work is an advantage
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**Application can be sent to: [career@patogen.no](mailto:career@patogen.no) - subject "Laboratory Employee Oban". Deadline Friday 8. October.**

**For further information about the positions, please contact Laboratory Manager Trude Davik Otterlei on [trude.otterlei@patogen.no](mailto:trude.otterlei@patogen.no) or telephone +47 94 15 13 39**



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# RECRUITMENT



## WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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

The Housing sector is growing and in coming to work with us you'll get the opportunity to grow with us. Finance professionals are in high demand, and you'll have a bright future. As part of a team of four you will learn to carry out a range of finance functions using our modern paperless software system.

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**

**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 | 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*

## Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO

Are looking to appoint a

### Community Development Officer

This part time role will involve pro-active consultation with our residents and subsequent development and management of a community action plan, to be supported by community benefit funding. Remuneration is negotiable. Working hours are flexible with an expectation of up to 80 hours per month.

**For further information and to apply,**  
**please email [srascio@yahoo.com](mailto:srascio@yahoo.com)**  
**Closing date for applications**  
**21st October 2021**

North Argyll Eventide Home, Oban

## MANAGER

Due to retirement North Argyll Home is looking for a new Manager. The Home was established in 1955 by local people for the benefit of the elderly in the area.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years proven managerial experience in a social care setting for older people in particularly with Dementia and in a residential/nursing home for adults.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed individual to make a difference leading a small locally run, friendly, independent, charity in its important caring work.

Start date beginning December 2021.  
Applications closing mid October.

For an application and information pack please write or email, in confidence, to:

The Chair of Trustees  
North Argyll Eventide Home Association Ltd  
Dunollie Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5TG  
email: [naehltd@gmail.com](mailto:naehltd@gmail.com)

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**Call us on 01546 602989**

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



## Join the liveArgyll team!

Interested in working as part of a great team, while having fun and enjoying the gig atmosphere as you work? Then our Event/Bar Staff role is for you! We are hiring multiple candidates to work at our fantastic events held at The Corran Halls, Oban.

Applicants must be aged 18 or over and should be aware that the role will consist of mainly weekend and evening work. Previous experience preferred but not essential as training will be provided. A background in customer service would be advantageous.

**For further information or to apply**  
**please email**

**[sharon.mccuish@liveargyll.co.uk](mailto:sharon.mccuish@liveargyll.co.uk)**



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## WANTED MOBILE PLANT DUMP TRUCK OPERATORS

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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@obanearthworks.co.uk](mailto:jorgeff@obanearthworks.co.uk)

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



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. HC136, 2021 GLENCOE HOUSE HOTEL, GLENCOE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in terms of Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations, 2010 that The Highland Council confirmed The Highland Council Tree Preservation Order No. HC136, 2021 Glencoe House Hotel, Glencoe on 17 September 2021.

The reasons for confirming the Order are that, having considered the representation made by the owner, the Council remains of the view that the Order will allow the Council to maintain the treed grounds of the Glencoe House Hotel in conjunction with proposed Hotel extension development and will allow the Council to encourage appropriate longer-term management.

The Order was confirmed without modifications. The Order applies to: the trees (of whatever species) standing within the area marked W1 and shown within a continuous red line on the Map annexed to the Order.

As the Council Service Points are currently closed, a certified copy of the Order has been deposited for inspection on the Council's website: [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

Stewart D Fraser, Head of Corporate Governance, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

**Application for Lateral extension to, and further workings at existing Banavie Quarry to incorporate revised working and progressive restoration; Proposed extraction rate of up to 80,000 tonnes per annum and extension of operational lifespan to 2045 AT Banavie Quarry, Banavie, Fort William**

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 31(1)(b) of the above Regulations, The Highland Council hereby gives notice that it has GRANTED planning permission for the above development (application ref: 20/02154/FUL) submitted by Breedon Northern Ltd Limited in June 2020.

A copy of the decision notice and the report by the Head of Planning and Building Standards can be viewed via the Council's planning portal at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> by entering the reference number given.

**Malcolm MacLeod**

**ECO Infrastructure and Environment**

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 OUTFALL, CAOL, FORT WILLIAM

Notice is hereby given that Catchment Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of an outfall at:

Cost	£2,000,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Caol,	56° 50.068' N	05° 06.139' W
Fort William	56° 50.029' N	05° 06.095' W
	56° 49.898' N	05° 06.677' W
	56° 49.946' N	05° 06.704' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/39lwu1M>

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot) within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00009379 and Catchment Ltd.

#### Fair Processing Notice

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

A full privacy notice can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-and-fisheries-licensing/marine-licensing-operations-team-privacy-notice/>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot).

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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## 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
21/01559/PP	Sub-division of existing combined pharmacy/post office building to form separate pharmacy and shop units	Lochview Pharmacy, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute, PA33 1AX
21/01785/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of biodisc treatment plant	Land South West Of Ceo Mara Croft, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1JW
21/01774/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 17/00079/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Lettershuna Croft 1, Appin, Argyll And Bute, PA38 4BN
21/01730/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and installation of bio disc treatment system (Amended design relative to planning permission 18/01742/PP)	Plot 2 Deervue, Land East Of Heather Cottage, Ichrrachran, Taynuilt, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/01754/PP	Extension to shed	Unit 15B, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4HB
21/01495/LIB	Demolition of chimney	Shore Street Flats, Shore Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4LQ
21/01743/PP	Erection of chalet for use as a holiday letting unit and formation of decking (retrospective)	Garden Ground Of Salachan, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1QS
21/01782/PP	Erection of replacement garage and formation of vehicular access	Land Opposite Fasgadh, Longsdale Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5DZ
20/01507/PP	Erection of timber outbuilding (retrospective)	Lochview Cottage, Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7TL

#### Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015

#### Notice of application under regulation 6, 7 or 8

An application for hazardous substances consent/hazardous substances consent without a condition which was attached to relevant consent/continuation of hazardous substances consent where there has been a change in the person in control of part of the land, together with plans and other documents has been submitted by:

Reference: 21/01769/HSZCON

Applicant: Beam Sunutory UK Ltd

Agent:

Proposal: Hazardous Substances consent for application to cater for additional bonded warehousing and storage of alternative fuel

Address: Laphroaig Distillery Laphroaig Distillery Road Laphroaig Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DU

may be inspected at:

The application listed above together with the plans and other documents submitted 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.

Written representations (including comments or questions) may be submitted to by e-mail: [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT by 21.10.2021

The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

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

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

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

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003.**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

**APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION OF MARINE PEN FISH FARM, MACLEAN'S NOSE, LOCH SUNART, ARGYLL**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by MOWI Scotland Limited, to vary an existing water use licence authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with a Marine Pen Fish Farm at Maclean's Nose, Loch Sunart, Argyll as follows:

Description of change to Controlled Activities	Waters affected	National Grid Reference (NGR)
Change to the discharge to the water environment of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances resulting from the operation of an existing marine pen fish farm	Loch Sunart, Argyll	NM 5253 6180

SEPA considers that the proposals contained in the application may have an impact on the water environment and/or on the interests of other users of the water environment. The application may be viewed on SEPA's website at:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/permits/car-regulations-aquaculture-applications> (please note that you must use this address as written. Please do not use www. at the start)

If you are unable to access the website you can email SEPA at [registry@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registry@sepa.org.uk) to request a copy of the application.

Please note that due to the current Covid -19 restrictions it is not possible to view the application at a SEPA office.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registry@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registry@sepa.org.uk) quoting reference number CAR/L/1002965 or online at <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/permits/car-regulations-aquaculture-applications>

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure 'efficient and sustainable water use'; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/04097/FUL	Land 90M SE of Tigh Na Cheo, Garbhein Crescent, Kinlochleven	Change of Use from existing community hall (Class 10) to residential dwelling
21/04264/FUL	Land 50M NW of Moss Cottage, Bunree, Onich	Erection of house
21/04068/FUL	Lavinia Cottage, Inverie, Knoydart, Mallaig, PH41 4PL	The realignment of an existing forestry track
21/04442/FUL	Land 280M NE of Lochaber High School, Camaghael, Fort William	Erection of house
21/04325/S42	Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William	Section 42 application to modify Condition 4 (noise mitigation) of planning permission 18/03842/FUL. Removal of DMEV fans from bedrooms in favour of acoustic natural ventilation as per accompanying report on new proposal
21/04409/FUL	Land 100M West of Invernahyle, Duror	Erection of house and erection of 2 chalets for holiday letting purposes
21/04450/FUL	Land 110M NE of 4 Muirshearlich, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of house

**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)

**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Mrs M H Cameron is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 2 Pottie, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon to Mrs M Mackie of Kilinnan, Fionphort Isle Of Mull PA66 6BW.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 28/10/21.

**Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter**

Mr James Stewart Adam is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at Woodland Croft, Ardchattan & Muckairn into twelve new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of this advert.

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### GRADUATIONS

#### Catherine Elizabeth Cain



Catherine Elizabeth Cain LLB (Hons) Dip LP, daughter of Mark Cain and the late Margaret E Cain, graduated from The University of Aberdeen in July 2020 with an Upper Second Class Scots Law Degree and graduated from the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice with Distinction, also from The University of Aberdeen in July 2021. Catherine is the granddaughter of the late Helen and Eddy Cain (Glasgow) and the late Bunty and Jimmy Buchanan (Oban).

#### Iona Cameron



Iona Cameron graduated from Stirling University with Honours in Criminology and Law. She is the daughter of John Allan and Donalda Cameron, Inverness. Granddaughter of the late Iain and Rachel Cameron, Poolewe and Roddy and Alice Munro, Fort William.

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## DEATHS

**ANDERSON** - Peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on September 22, 2021, Catherine Anderson, "Kitty", née MacLachlan. Much loved and will be sadly missed by all. Memorial service at Clincarthill Parish, 10 am, Thursday, September 30. Funeral service, 11 am, Friday, October 1 at St. John's Church, Port Ellen, Islay: burial thereafter at Kilnaughton Cemetery. Requesting family flowers only. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

**DAVIDSON** - David Peter. The family of David Peter Davidson wish to announce with great sadness his sudden passing at home in Orgiva, Spain on September 7, 2021, aged 75. Beloved husband of Jackie, father to Jane, Nicola and Alison, and

stepfather to Derek and Jochem, brother to Ann, Michael and Peter. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Born in Millport, Isle of Cumbria, he spent a large part of his life on Seil and the West Coast before retiring to Spain. A marine engineer and forever a seaman at heart, he will be sorely missed. In time he will be laid to rest in his beloved Argyll. We would like to thank friends, relatives, and neighbours for the kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy.

**MACKENZIE** - Margaret, dearest wife to Iain, mum to Laura, sister to Fodie and dearly loved aunt and friend to many, passed away at home in Ballachulish September 22, 2021, aged 81. Margaret's funeral took place at St. John's Church on Monday, September 27. Donations were made to

Alzheimer's Research UK.

**McINTOSH** - (Inverness). Sadly at Castlehill Care Home, Inverness on September 25, 2021, Peggy McIntosh, aged 87 years, 16 Cradlehall Court, Inverness. Loving wife of the late Ian McIntosh, a much loved mum of Mairi, Margaret and Grace, dearly loved mother-in-law, gran and great gran. Funeral service on Friday, October 8 at 12.30pm in the Barn Church, Culloiden; thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All very welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations are invited for Alzheimer Scotland at the service, or forwarded to the Funeral Directors; John Fraser & Son, 17-29 Chapel Street, Inverness, IV1 1NA.

**SHARP** - On September 23, 2021, Grizelda (Elda), née Yeoman, at Lorn and Islands Hospital after a

short illness. Beloved wife of the late Hugh and much loved mother of Catherine and Laura. Very sadly missed.

**SUTTON** - (Annat). Suddenly but very peacefully at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish on Thursday, September 23, 2021, Sheila aged 100 years, beloved wife of the late Mick, a much loved mother to Carol and Chris, devoted grandma to Callum and Euan, beloved granny to Tim, Gill and Craig and a cherished great-grandmother to 'bump'. Funeral service at Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach on Monday, October 4 at 12 noon. Sincere thanks from all the family to the G.P. and carers who supported Mum at home and then the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish for their dedication and care over the last five months and for making such a stimulating and wonderful environment in such challenging times.

**WHITELAW** - Michael (Big Mick) died peacefully in Oban Hospital on Sunday, September 6, 2021, surrounded by his closest family. He will be missed by so many.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BEARD** - In loving memory of Adrian Beard, an amazing man. Husband, Dad and friend to so many. Angela, Fergus and Finlay wish to sincerely thank the friends, relatives and the amazing communities of Oban, Connel, Fort William and beyond for their endless kindness and support. Thanks to Reverend Willem Bezuidenhout for the most beautiful services at the funeral and the crematorium and for his spiritual comfort and support over the last eighteen months. Heartfelt gratitude to Ian MacInnes and the staff at D&A Munn for their utter professionalism, empathy and attention to detail. Thanks to Justine at The Thistle and the Rose for the beautiful flowers. Many thanks to the warm caring staff at The Falls of Lora Hotel for their kindness and wonderful catering.

A huge heartfelt thanks to the staff at Connel Surgery, Oban Hospital, the team in the Day Bed Unit, the District Nurses and the Dove Centre.

**CAMPBELL** - Ian and the family of the late Sheila would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and telephone calls after their sad loss. Grateful thanks to everyone at Etive House Care Home for their care and attention to Sheila. Thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service, to Hamish Hoey & Son and to Soroba House.

**IRVINE** - The family of Valerie Irvine, Tobermory, would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the many phone calls, flowers, cards, and words of condolence. Thanks to Mull Funeral Services for being highly professional and caring and the Rev. Liz Gibson on a wonderful job honouring Val's life. Special thanks to the outstanding care shown from all on Ward B and Macmillan Outpatients in Oban Hospital during Val's illness. Park Lodge for the fine catering provided. To everyone who attended the funeral which helped raise £855 for Macmillan nurses.

**LOWE** - The family of William Nicolson Lowe wish to warmly thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the beautiful cards, flowers, kind expressions of sympathy and uplifting anecdotes. Thank you to all who joined us at Greenock Crematorium, Tobermory Cemetery and in Connel to pay their last respects to Willie. Thanks also to our Civil Celebrant, Ceci Alderton, and Father James MacNeil for their consoling and inspiring services, and to Ann Barlow for her heartfelt musical tributes at the graveside. We would also like to extend our thanks to the wonderful staff at Ardnahein Care Home for their thorough, dignified and loving care of Willie during the last three years of his life. Thanks also go to Claire and Isla Grierson for their

kind hospitality and to Dawn McBay for her love and support as always. Thank you to Chloe and Lynda of Caladh Funeral Directors, Dunoon, for leading us so attentively through the funeral arrangements and The Woodland Forest, Dunoon, and Petals of Oban for the beautiful floral displays. Many thanks also to the Tontine Hotel, Greenock, and the Falls of Lora Hotel in Connel for the catering. Willie leaves us with many happy memories, a legacy of music and a true example of good citizenship. He will remain in our thoughts forever.

**MORRISON** - On behalf of the Morrison family, we wish to thank you for your many kindnesses and cards, for the condolences and support that we have received after the passing of Malcolm and Mary Morrison. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts. We also send our thanks to the home care team in Mallaig, Father Stan, Beth and Jamie MacBeath and everybody who supported us in this difficult time.

## MEMORIAMS

**BLACK** - Treasured memories of my dear husband Hughie, who passed away September 21, 2017.

Always in our thoughts.  
- Helen and all the family.x

**BLUE** - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary, who passed October 2, 2011.

Dearly loved and remembered every day.  
- Inserted by wee Mary, Donnie and Jim.

**CATTANACH** - In loving memory of our brother, brother-in-law and uncle Sandy Cattanach, who passed away September 30, 2019.

Two years have gone by and we miss you more than words can say Forever in our thoughts  
- Robin, Mary, Robert, Fiona and Chloe.

**ELDER** - In loving memory of Alasdair John, dearly beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle

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## WEDDING

### BRIAN - JAMES



Congratulations to Eilidh Brian and Paul James on the occasion of their wedding in Aberdeen on September 25, 2021. A wonderful day made all the more perfect with the choice of "Eilidh" as the first dance, sung by Eilidh's late grandfather, Donald M MacLeod of Islay. Slàinte agus Sonas gu bràth.

Oban Times  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Oban Times  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Oban Times



who died on September 30, 2018.  
Always remembered.  
Gu Brath Nar Cridheachan.  
- The Elder family, Inverness,  
Perth and Barra.

**GRANT** - Donald Robertson.  
Treasured memories of a much  
loved brother, father, grandfather  
and uncle, who passed away so  
sadly on October 3, 2017.  
Always in our thoughts.  
- Margaret, Neil and families xx.

**MACALLISTER** - In loving  
memory of Ann, who died  
October 1, 2020, aged 89.  
Love and miss you always.  
- Johnny.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving  
memory of my dear fiance Ian,  
who died October 1, 2014.  
Always in my thoughts.  
- Much love, Jessie xxx

**MACLEAN** - Fondest memories  
of our lovely mum Bella, who  
passed away October 3, 2007, also  
our dear loving dad Lachlan, who  
passed away June 14, 1992.  
Always in our thoughts. Loved  
and remembered every day.  
- Teen, Angela and Alexander.

**McGRATH** - In loving memory  
of our dear dad and grampa

Joseph, who died on October 2,  
1979.  
When days turn into weeks and  
weeks into years  
And people ask how long you're  
gone I have to hide the tears  
As I walk this life without you I  
don't count the years  
I only feel my loneliness and all  
my silent tears  
- Love always your loving children  
and grandchildren.

**ROSS** - In loving memory of our  
dear mum Annie (Boyle) Ross,  
who passed away ten years ago.  
Never a day goes by when you  
are not in our thoughts. Miss you  
mum.  
- Martin and Ross.

**SCOTT** - Loving and treasured  
memories of our mum and  
granny Jean, who died October 1,  
2000 and our dad and papa Eddie,  
who died September 27, 2013.  
Always remembered.  
- Pamela, Edmund, Gordon and  
families xxxx

**WALKER** - In loving memory of  
my mother, Marybell, who died  
October 4, 1990.  
Forever in our thoughts  
- Inserted by son Donald and  
Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

# Image sheds light on night dancers



Thanks go to Katie Graham  
for sharing this stunning  
image of the Aurora  
Borealis over Salen's most  
photographed abandoned  
boats on Mull.

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Psalm 24 v.1, 'The earth is the  
Lord's and everything in it, the  
world and all who live in it'.

Here we are in autumn, the  
'season of mists and mellow  
fruitfulness', as Keats de-  
scribes it. This year we know  
about abundant growth and  
'fruitfulness' in the bounty of  
brambles, apples, fruit, flowers,  
produce and early crops.

Harvest time is here again,  
bringing opportunity to re-  
flect, to be thankful for all that  
we have, including the things  
we take for granted, such as  
clean water and the vast choice

and availability of foods, as  
well as God's provision of care  
for us through support, kind-  
ness, help from friends, family  
and community groups.

In these pandemic days, peo-  
ple are valuing more than ever  
the unexpected kindnesses of  
others which in turn promote  
a feeling of well-being and  
thankfulness, which is at the  
heart of God's harvest of life.

Harvest is a gathering  
together of goodness and  
nourishment for body, mind  
and spirit, from God's cease-  
less care for each one of us.

The letters of 'harvest' can be  
re-arranged into 'starve', 'have'  
and 'share', which bring into  
focus the underlying attitudes  
and actions which are integral  
to the meaning of harvest.  
Worldwide situations of failed  
crops, drought, flooding,  
earthquake, disease, devastat-  
ed lives, hunger, poverty, in  
the face of global warming and  
environmental destruction  
cry out for change. The call to  
reduce, repair, re-use, re-cycle  
and restore comes to each one  
of us for action now, in our  
daily living, along with prayer

and support for local agencies.

The hymn-writer Fred Pratt-  
Green writes about our part in  
God's plan:

*God in his love for us lent us  
this planet,*

*Gave it a purpose in time and  
in space -*

*Thanks be to God for its boun-  
ty and beauty,*

*Life that sustains us in body  
and mind:*

*Plenty for all if we learn how  
to share it,*

*Riches undreamed of to fath-  
om and find.*

Reverend Carol Leech.

## PERSONAL NOTICE



**Happy 40th  
Wedding  
Anniversary**  
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Matty, Stephen,  
Gemma, Ellie &  
Katie xxx

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OT

## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic will meet in the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday September 25.

### Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Celtic Cup - semi finals

#### Oban Camanachd 4 Inveraray 0

Holder Oban Camanachd are through to the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final after their 4-0 victory over Inveraray in their 1pm throw-up at Mossfield.

Daniel Sloss recovered from a shoulder injury to start for Oban Camanachd, whilst there was a first appearance of the season for Ander MacCuish who started on the bench. Daniel MacCuish and Daniel Madej were missing, whilst 16-year-old Louis MacFarlane was given a starting debut in defence.

Inveraray were still missing the injured John Kennedy but Garry MacPherson came in at full forward.

Oban Camanachd keeper Cameron Sutherland saved with his feet from Garry MacPherson before the Oban side took the lead in the 39th minute. Malcolm Clark nicked possession away from a defender on the right side of pitch before juggling the ball across the park towards the penalty spot, riding two challenges in the process. Clark then struck the ball on his left side across the keeper from the back of the penalty spot and into the bottom left corner of the goal for what was a superb individual effort.

Referee Steven MacLachlan awarded the hosts a penalty five minutes into the second half. Daniel MacVicar went into 'D' and had an empty net to score but keeper Scott MacLachlan held him back and the referee pointed to the spot. Garry Lord drilled the penalty into the bottom left corner of the net, giving the keeper no chance with a great strike.

Andrew MacCuish came off the bench for Conor Howe and scored three minutes later. Malcolm Clark, who was moved back into the centre line early in the second half, sent a pass over for Daniel MacVicar to run onto into the corner. MacVicar crossed to Andrew MacCuish who turned his man as he took a touch at left side of 'D' before shooting high into roof of the net to make it 3-0 with 53 minutes played.

Conor Howe, who was now back on as Oban Camanachd made use of the rolling substitutes, beat a couple men and fired goalwards. Scott MacLachlan saved with his

feet but the ball rose into the air and Daniel Cameron went in 50-50 with the keeper and knocked the ball out of the air and into the net to round off the scoring with five minutes remaining.

Oban Camanachd created a lot of chances but were guilty of sending the majority wide of goal or straight at the keeper.

Oban Camanachd Stephen Sloss said: 'We took a bit of time to get going, but maybe that's understandable having not played for weeks and Inveraray are a good side. We had good possession in the first half without scoring but a great individual goal from Malcolm Clark settled us down.'

'We played very well in the second half and Papa [Andrew MacCuish] made a difference when he came on. Daniel Cameron also played up front and did very well. These two also seemed to bring the best out in Daniel MacVicar who played very well off them.'

'We're looking forward to the final. We're the holders and for a club of our side, we need to win these games to prove we are the best team in the south.'

Oban Camanachd face Oban Celtic in the league on Saturday.

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Kyles Athletic 5

Kyles Athletic were 5-0 victors over Glasgow Mid Argyll in their 3pm throw-up at Peterson Park.

The hosts were missing Oliver MacRae, whilst Kyles travelled without Thomas Whyte who has had an operation on an injured ankle. Kyles were also unable to call on Scott MacDonald who has a broken thumb and George Thomson who has an ankle injury. Colin MacDonald was also unavail-



**Daniel Cameron scores Oban Camanachd's fourth goal in the Celtic Society Cup semi-final at Mossfield.**

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

able but work commitments have eased to allow Murdo MacRae's return.

This was a very good team performance from Kyles against a GMA side who have already proved to be difficult opponents this season.

Luke Thornton put Kyles ahead following a tussle with marker Ryan Harrison on the edge of the 'D'. Thornton managed to get just enough on the ball to ensure it trundled into the bottom corner of the net.

Kyles added a second when Roddy MacDonald pounced after the keeper had saved his initial shot. MacDonald sprung across the 'D', stretching to tap the ball beyond the goalkeeper from three yards out.

GMA had the chance to half the deficit when referee Graham Fisher awarded them a first half penalty but John Whyte saved well to deny Craig Anderson.

When Roddy MacDonald took a high ball out the sky, he played it beyond his man before slipping it to his brother Innes MacDonald who was wide on the left. Innes MacDonald's half-swing sent the ball looping just under the crossbar into the top corner of

the goal to make it 3-0.

Kyles Athletic's fourth goal involved good hold up play from Rupert Williamson and Luke Thornton, with the latter again battling for possession before his half-hit at goal took a slight touch off Iain Luke who was in front of the goal keeper and the ball ended up in the net.

Robbie MacLeod rounded off the scoring. Innes MacDonald had a chance to shoot but didn't connect as he'd have liked.

However with a defender turning his back, MacDonald had time to slip the ball five yards across to Robbie MacLeod and he hit a hard, mid-height strike into the side of the goal.

The 116th Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Final between holders Oban Camanachd and Kyles Athletic, a repeat of the 2019 final, takes place at Taynuilt Sports Field on Saturday October 9.

#### HIS Sutherland Cup - semi final

##### Lovat 5

##### Lochside Rovers 0

The Lovat second team were 5-0 winners against HIS Sutherland Cup holders Lochside Rovers in their 1.30pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Lovat got off to a blistering start with Raymond Rennie on three minutes and Fraser Gallagher 60 seconds later making it 2-0.

Gary Marshall added a third on nine minutes with Lovat's final two goals coming late in the match through Ryan Ferguson on 83 and 87 minutes.

The Lovat seconds will now play the Newtonmore seconds in the HIS Sutherland Cup Final at Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit, on Saturday October 16.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans said: 'It was a difficult game for us as we were seven or eight players short. The young boys that came in - Matthew Sloss, Daniel Pearson, Alexander MacDonald and Innes Jackson - all did really

well but in reality, Lovat were too physical for us. They scored three times early on, but the boys stuck in and Lovat's last two goals were right at the end of the match.'

'I must also mention our keeper Dougie MacDonald who made some very good saves. Daniel Pearson suffered a nasty hand injury and had to come off. We wish him a speedy recovery.'

Lochside Rovers have another semi-final on Saturday as they meet the Oban Celtic second team in the Bullough Cup.

#### Mowi Senior League C

##### Aberdour 0

##### Oban Celtic 8

Oban Celtic were too strong for Aberdour, winning 8-0 in their 2pm throw-up at Silver Sands.

Keeper Allan Duncan was still unavailable through work commitments so David Hill played in goals for Celtic. Injury ruled out Neil Carmichael with Peter Currie also working. Michael MacKinnon made a welcome return.

The Oban side got off to the best possible start when Duncan MacDonald put them ahead in the opening minute.

He might not have been required for Europe's Ryder Cup cause at Whistling Straits but Robert MacIntyre made a big contribution to Oban Celtic when he added a second goal on 13 minutes.

Keegan Macphee made it 3-0 three minutes later and when Daniel MacMillan struck on 29 and 39 minutes, Celtic took a 5-0 cushion into the break.

Duncan MacDonald added a brace on 68 and 78 minutes to complete his hat-trick whilst Daniel MacMillan also clinched a treble, scoring with six minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig was unable to travel as he refereed the club's second team meeting with Ardnamurchan at Ganavan. He said: 'It was positive to field two teams on Saturday and that was with some players unavailable. It put our resources to the test. We've had a break

which has allowed some to recover from niggling injuries which helped. We are out of the cups so we had a meeting with the players to see how they felt about seeing out the season and the boys are up for it. We have five games to go, starting with Oban Camanachd at Mossfield on Saturday.'

#### Mowi South League A

##### Col Glen 4 Ballachulish 0

Col Glen scored twice in each half to beat Ballachulish 4-0 at Glendaruel.

James Hamilton on 15 minutes and Scott MacVicar on the half-hour made it 2-0 at the break.

Sandy Paterson added a third on 70 minutes with Jamie MacVicar completing the scoring five minutes later.

#### Taynuilt P Inveraray P

The Inveraray second team were unable to field a team for their meeting with Taynuilt at Taynuilt Sports Field.

#### Mowi South League B

##### Glasgow Mid Argyll 4

##### Aberdour 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves were 4-0 winners against the Aberdour reserves in their noon throw-up at Peterson Park.

Simon Kelly opened the scoring on three minutes before adding a second on 26 minutes.

Nick Lavin made it 3-0 on the stroke of half-time before Simon Kelly completed his hat-trick with 20 minutes remaining.

#### Tayforth P Bute P

Tayforth's meeting with the Bute colts at Peffermill will be rescheduled.

#### Mowi Central League

##### Oban Celtic 1

##### Ardnamurchan 1

The Oban Celtic colts and Ardnamurchan drew 1-1 in their clash at Ganavan.

The goals came in the second half with Kieran Gallagher putting the hosts ahead on 51 minutes, scoring directly from a hit-in which dropped into the net from around 30 yards.

Freddie Patterson equalised three minutes later when he ran across the 'D' following a corner to send a low volley into the roof of the net.

Rebecca Macphee was between the sticks for Oban Celtic in the first half, with Under 17 keeper Robbie MacKay taking over at the interval and he made two very good saves in the second half.

A draw was a fair result. Celtic missed Ewen Campbell and Keegan Macphee who were with the first team whilst Ardnamurchan had a bit more experience within their ranks.

It's Lochside Rovers next for Oban Celtic as the sides meet in the Bullough Cup semi-finals on Saturday.

#### Kilmallie P Kilmory P

The clash between the Kilmallie seconds and Kilmory at Canal Parks will be rescheduled.



**Oban Celtic's Joe MacVicar and Duncan Gorman, Ardnamurchan, in action in the Mowi Central League match at Ganavan, Oban, on Saturday.** Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.





Dalmally Ladies winners Rena Ritchie and Alicia MacKechnie at Dunblane New Golf Club with club captain Graeme MacKechnie.

## Dalmally golfers see out season in style

As the competition season draws to a close, Dalmally Golf Club members have been putting in some impressive scores.

It's been one of the best seasons weatherwise resulting in far fewer disrupted competitions than in recent years and a record numbers of visitors. On Friday, September 17, the Ralph Boon Trophy, traditionally played at an away club, was held at the Dunblane New Club.

For the first time in the competition's history, the Dalmally gents were joined by a number of the club's lady members. While the gents

played the annual Stableford competition set up in memory of Ralph Boon, one of the club's early stalwarts, the ladies enjoyed a fun Greensomes pairs competition. The gents' competition was won convincingly by Phil Hemmings on 43 Stableford points while the ladies' competition was won by Rena Ritchie and Alicia MacKechnie.

The outing proved a great success and is likely to set the pattern for future competitions.

Closer to home, the club's medal final, contested by winners and runners-up in

the monthly medal competitions, took place on Sunday September 19.

The silver medal was won by Owen Moran playing in his first year in the gents' competitions on nett 61, with Scott Gibson, certainly not playing in his first year, taking the gold medal on nett 64.

The club was also delighted to welcome players from Isle of Seil Golf Club last week.

'It was great to see many familiar faces which the club has been missing with the suspension of open competitions this year,' said a Dalmally Golf Club

spokesperson. The club was well represented at the recent Oban Rotary Am-Am with one of the club's three teams winning the 'Best Away Team', one of the club's best results in recent years.

While the competition season winds down, there will still be an active programme of fun games over the autumn and winter, weather permitting.

'The course continues to be in great condition thanks to the efforts of our new(ish) greenkeeper Garry Bidmead and greens convenor Jim Livingstone,' added the spokesperson.

# Oban Saints teach high school a scoring lesson

Greenock HSPF	0
Oban Saints	3
Central Scottish AFL Premier Division	

Oban Saints bagged their first Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division points of the season last Saturday at Battery Park, Greenock, home of old friends and rivals Greenock High School Former Pupils.

Goals from Cammy Hill, Craig MacEwan and James Ford earned the injury ravaged Saints the points in the first league meeting of the former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals since the 2010/2011 season.

The ever-deepening Saints injury crisis and unavailability of players saw gaffer Willie Gemmell joined on the substitutes bench by youngsters Preston MacIntyre and Aidan MacDonald from Saints' 2006's and the short of match fitness James Ford.

Donald Campbell's sixth minute ball up the right wing for Ross Maitland to run onto turned the home defence and skipper Craig MacEwan will feel he should at least have hit the target with his shot on the half volley which flew high and wide from Maitland's well measured cross.

Sixty seconds later, Greenock central defender Neil Rankin made an excellent sliding interception to prevent young Saints striker Kyle Cooper



Young Preston MacIntyre takes on Greenock defender Peter Dunn.

from getting on the end of a Cammy Hill cross.

Steven MacLeod, one of just three survivors from Saints' last visit to Battery Park in December 2017 to face Greenock in a Scottish Amateur Cup tie, joined the attack in the 13th minute for a dipping shot which was unfortunately closer to dipping in the Clyde than under the crossbar.

Despite Saints having the majority of the play, it was the home side that came closest to opening the scoring after 18 minutes. Craig Malloy pounced on a misplaced pass deep in the Saints half and fired in a fierce shot from 25 yards which Jamie Strachan acrobatically pushed onto his crossbar before gathering safely at the second attempt.

Saints doubled their advantage on the stroke of half-time when Donald Campbell was tripped in the Greenock box and captain Craig MacEwan dispatched the resulting penalty kick past Kyle Maclean.

Saints made a positive start to the second half with Gavin Forgivee curling a 48th

minute right foot shot wide of the postage stamp corner and Cammy Hill heading a Forgivee corner kick over the Greenock crossbar ten minutes later before Willie Gemmell made his first change. Cammy Clark, who did well on his starting debut, was replaced by James Ford in a switch which saw Ross Maitland take up an unfamiliar central midfield role alongside Donald Campbell.

Ford's introduction proved to be decisive when he netted Saints' third and final goal of the afternoon in the 68th minute. Gavin Forgivee and Craig MacEwan linked well on the Saints left with Forgivee laying off to Ford who carried the ball along the 18 yard line before finding the opening to slam the ball into the bottom corner.

Saints' three goal cushion gave Willie Gemmell the chance to blood Preston MacIntyre and Aidan MacDonald with both 15-year-olds, who have been training with the first team squad, repaying the gaffer's confidence with solid performances on

their first appearances in such experienced company. Referee O'Neil flashed a yellow card in the direction of second half substitute Colin McEachnie for a late swipe at James Ford as the tricky Saints winger threatened to burst through on the right before bringing the generally good natured encounter to an end with Saints running out comfortable winners.

It's Tail O' The Bank opposition again for Saints this Saturday when they welcome Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Port Glasgow Amateurs to Glencruitten in the Scottish Amateur Cup second round. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 1.30pm kick-off.

**Match report and photographs: Derek Black.**

### Youth results and fixtures

Due to the September holiday weekend, only one game took place with the Saints Under 13s losing 7-3 at home to Dumbarton Utd in the GADYFL League Cup.

Scoring for Saints were Iain Duffy, 2, and Kuba Ryszka.

Next Sunday's fixtures: Scottish Cup second round - Gleniffer Thistle v

Under 13s; Under 15s v Cambuslang and Under 16s v Hillwood. The Under 17s are in league action at home to Glasgow Athletic.



Macnab trophy winners from left, Anne Stewart, Colin Carmichael, Roddy MacLeod, Janet Campbell.

## Trophy brings the indoors out at Oban Bowling Club

Carpet bowlers from Connel and North Connel joined their outdoor contemporaries at the weekend for the playing of the annual Macnab Trophy.

This year's tournament had been scheduled to take place at one of the indoor venues but members of all clubs decided that, in light of the ongoing Covid situation, the Dalriach Road green would be more suitable.

Played in memory of the late Alasdair Macnab, who enjoyed both forms of the game, this year's competition enjoyed a good turnout with two pools battling it out in a Rinks (four

players) format. The winners of each group went head to head in a final while the group runners-up played off in the 'Wine Run'.

### Entertaining

Winning overall was the rink of Anne Stewart, Colin Carmichael, Janet Campbell and Roddy MacLeod who beat Semple Barrie, Peter MacKinnon, Jim Gunn and Kirsty Gargan in an entertaining final.

The team of Iain Boyd, Ian McCuish, Malcolm Scott and Marie Park collected a miniature bottle of wine each for their efforts in the play-off.

## Young Saint signs for Motherwell

Oban Saints Under 16 forward Zander Craik has signed a contract with Scottish Premier League side Motherwell after a successful trial period.

Zander was scouted during the Saints' successful divisional cup campaign at the end of last season and spent weeks training and playing friendly games before getting the news last week his hard work

would be rewarded with a contract.

Zander was top goalscorer for Oban Saints at both Under 14 and Under 15 level and will hope to continue that form in his debut season with Motherwell.

Everyone connected with Oban Saints and Oban Saints Youths wishes Zander well in the next stage of his football development.





## Drizzle fails to dampen spirits at Dalriada

Saturday saw the first Dalriada Junior Rugby tournament in Oban in almost two years with the last fixtures taking place in October 2019.

The early morning rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the teams representing Oban, Kintyre (Campbeltown), Mid Argyll (Lochgilphead), Eive Vikings (Taynuilt), Mull and Lochaber. There were healthy numbers at all age groups and some great rugby was played.

Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Andrew Johnston said: 'This was the second event in the series and

the high standard of rugby on show was great to see with some strong running and tackling and great tries being scored. Thank you to Walter Speirs and his team at Oban Lorne for running a great tournament.'

The day was rounded off with the Oban Minis running on to the pitch with the Oban senior team prior to their league match against Strathaven. The next Dalriada event is in Fort William on Saturday October 9 at Lochaber Rugby club.

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



Primary school children got stuck into their games at the Glencruitten pitches.

## All uphill for Ewan in Bute

North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) members enjoyed success at the Rothesay Cycling Weekend on the Isle of Bute on September 17 and 18.

Ewan Dowd kicked things off, winning the Juvenile Serpentine Hill climb in 59 seconds. The well-known short climb is steep and technical. Juveniles have to navigate up nine hairpin bends with seniors taking on 13 corners.

Ewan told The Oban Times: 'I am really happy with my performance in the hill climb. A lot of it was down to line choice and knowing when to put the power down due to the greasy conditions. There was a very good atmosphere with crowds clapping, ringing bells and cheering me on.'

Matiss Robertson and Andre Paul Van competed in the senior competition. Andre crashed half way up but battled on and managed to finish in the middle of the pack.

Saturday afternoon saw pairs of teammates work together against the clock in the two up time trial. Andre and Matiss paired up for NACC and were the first riders off. Despite Andre's injured knee, the duo finished in the top ten. Father and son Ewan and Chris Dowd also competed, finishing 23rd out of 47 pairs. On



Ewan Dowd powers his way round the Isle of Bute. Photograph: Paul Hornby.

the second day, Rachel and Alison Carre competed in the 10 mile time trial, each winning their age categories. Ewan won his category too meaning he and Rachel swept up the juvenile honours. Andre and Matiss displayed their cycling prowess once again, both coming home in quick times. On Sunday afternoon there was an Australian pursuit race and a novice road race. The pursuit saw five groups set off at different intervals on a two lap ride round the island seeded on speed. Matiss and Andre finished high up the field, despite there being three races in their legs. Alison and Ewan did the one lap road race. Ewan finished tenth overall and Alison once again came first in her category, ending the weekend in style.

# Rugby round-up

Oban Lorne 1st XV hosted visitors from Strathaven for a West Region Division Two clash that proved to be one of the hardest games of the season so far.

In a hard-fought game between two heavy packs and fast backs, Oban started strongly with a try from Calum Maclachlan, converted by Vasil Borisov, getting the first points on the board.

Deadlock ensued and it was well into the first half when the visitors equalised. Finding a gap in Oban's defence led to a converted try to end an entertaining first half.

Strathaven powered on going into the second half but Oban dug deep and kept the majority of the play in midfield. Gaps in the home defence began to appear, however, and the visitors took full advantage, scoring two more tries to one penalty from Oban for a 10-17 win.



Calum Maclachlan goes over for an early try during Oban Lorne RFC's home clash against Strathaven. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Next weekend the team travel to play Waysiders/Drumpellier.

The Under 14s travelled to face a strong Garnock side and soon found themselves 24-0 down, with four of the

opposition tries coming from Oban attacking positions.

The team dug deep and started making their tackles count and finished up losing 42-19.

The coaches were pleased with the positive attitudes

of all the players. They kept playing until the final whistle, scoring three unanswered tries in the last 10 minutes.

Next week Oban host Loch Lomond which should prove to be another stern test.

Oban Under 16s travelled to Dalziel in their second league game.

After an end to end first half ending 19-26, Oban pulled away in the second half playing wide, fast rugby to win the game 19-54. Try scorers: James Campbell, 3; Murray MacDonald, Thomas Jackson, Josh Lane, Reece Lawrie and Craig MacDougall. James Campbell slotted seven from eight conversions. Man of the match: Reece Lawrie.

Oban Women's game was called off due to Covid in the camp. Their next game will be on Sunday October 10 when they travel to play Glasgow University.

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SPORT SEE  
PAGES 38  
AND 39**



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<b>1</b>	0231 2.8 0735 2.0 F 1449 3.0 2141 2.0	<b>3</b>	0357 3.3 0940 1.4 SU 1602 3.6 2235 1.4	<b>5</b>	0504 3.8 1057 0.8 TU 1709 4.1 2338 0.8	<b>7</b>	0009 0.6 0602 4.0 TH 1210 0.4 1814 4.3

### OBAN WEATHER

#### Thursday

Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

#### Friday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

#### Saturday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

#### Sunday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardrishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

HIGH 11 LOW 8 16 MPH



# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8583

Thursday 30 September, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



### All change as Fort FC faces challenges head on

Inside: Former Lochaber High School pupils reunite to celebrate 50 years - see page 4

### On track to mark milestone



Museum hosts Mallaig railway exhibition

• See page 2 for more.

### Handler on form



© THE GATHER 2021

International trial debut for Erracht's Freddy.

• See page 2 for more.



Piper Finlay Cameron provides a musical send-off as more than 150 serving Commandos from across Britain head out from Spean Bridge railway station to run to the former wartime training camp at Achnacarry. Full story page 5. Photograph: alba.photos

# LORRY LOAD OF CONCERN

### Community council to seek clarity over traffic movement data used in report ahead of recycling plant decision

Kilmallie community councillors are to ask Highland Council for clarification on traffic movement data regarding plans for a large, new recycling plant, writes Mark Entwistle.

At the community council meeting on Monday night, chairman John Hutchison said one of the big concerns at the recent meeting of the Loch Linnhe Community Alliance, which he had attended, had been Alvanca British Aluminium's application, in particular what

he termed the 'poor' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Alvanca has lodged plans for a £94 million recycling plant on the Lochaber smelter site in Fort William.

'There was also the fact the applicant lodged 132 documents as part of the process,' said Mr Hutchison. 'We know it's a big application but that really makes it a tough job for community

Continued on page 2.



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LT

# Lorry load of concern

Continued from page one.

people to keep an eye on this sort of development,' he said.

Community councillor Maggie Mackenzie said she was left 'despondent' after watching last week's meeting of the local authority's South Planning Applications Committee which approved Alvan's application.

'I watched the meeting and became very despondent by it. They discussed the size of the factory, but until Allan [Caol and Mallaig ward councillor Allan Henderson] mentioned traffic, there had been no mention at all of the effect this would have on the community,' she said.

'The EIA was meant to go out for community consultation, but it was just dreadful. We couldn't really consult on it.'

Councillor Mackenzie said she was also concerned that the report presented to the meeting asserted that Transport Scotland had direct discussion with the A830 Corpach Group of which she is a member.

'Nobody's had direct discussions with us. I didn't expect there to be, but to hear it being

**'The EIA was meant to go out for community consultation, but it was just dreadful. We couldn't really consult on it.'**

said that there had been direct discussions was annoying,' she said.

'And the planning committee was told the uplift [in HGV numbers] would be negligible. That was the words that were used.

'The report last week said the worst case scenario was an extra 68 HGVs a day – but that's an uplift of 17 and half per cent. I don't see how that can be regarded as negligible and I don't see how the committee can be told that. I find that quite upsetting. It's almost as if the community has not been taken into account in this at all.'

Ward councillor Ben Thompson said the use of the 'word' negligible had a technical definition when an in-

crease was less than 10 per cent and that the data source in the report to councillors – which stated an increase of just over five per cent – was different from information quoted by Councillor Mackenzie.

Councillor Mackenzie added: 'Last year we did the survey and talked to the community and this was just such a big let down.'

'It feels we are just being ignored by Highland Council.'

Councillor Thompson commented: 'I think one question is why that information [in the report] is different to the information from Transport Scotland that Maggie is citing.'

Councillor Henderson added: 'Fortunately there will be further discussions on this aspect but it is important the community sticks with this because it will add a lot of pressure to the road and I don't see anything coming forward from Transport Scotland to mitigate that, he said.'

The community council agreed to write to the planning officer involved and to committee chairman, Councillor Jimmy Gray to ask for 'clarity' on the report.



Freddy Fulford and Nelly get set for the run at the International Sheep Dog Trials in Wales.

Photograph courtesy of The Gatherer Photography.

# Clean trial run for Freddy and Nelly

Sheepdog handler Freddy Fulford and his Border Collie, Gripping Valley Nelly, put in a solid performance at their first international trial earlier this month.

Having qualified for the 15-strong Scottish team in 15th place the 18-year-old from Erracht travelled to Aberystwyth in Wales on the weekend of September 10-12 to take part in the International Sheep Dog Society International Trials – the biggest trials in the UK and Ireland.

And, a clear run with over a minute to spare saw the pair finish in eighth place.

'I was a wee bit nervous beforehand but once I got out to the post and set my dog up I relaxed into it,' said Freddy.

'I was very pleased with how Nelly ran, she listened well and gave me everything she had. It was a great experience for my first international.'

Closed to spectators due to Covid, the event was filmed and broadcast live on the internet on the ISDS web site and was viewed world wide.

Freddy was awarded the Donaldson Cup as he was the youngest competing handler in the trials.

# TV spotlight on Afro-Gaels' relationship with Highland language and culture

Stornoway-based musician, singer and arts worker Alicia Matthews is among several Gaelic speakers of African and Caribbean descent featured in a new television documentary, speaking on how they connect to the language and culture.

In Trusadh: Afro-Gàidheil - Afro-Gaels, Alicia talks to Cass Ezeji, a Gaelic-speaking singer with Scottish and Nigerian roots as the latter explores her relationship with Gaelic culture and history in the documentary on BBC ALBA.

Alicia sings with Cass, 27, in the band LAPS and the programme centres on Cass as she gives a personal insight into her life as she explores her place in a culture where she has rarely seen herself represented. She also talks to experts to uncover the Gael's role in the slave trade.

Also featured is traditional musician Amina Davidson from Glasgow. At the end of the first lockdown, her neighbour, Tide Lines singer Robert Robertson from Lochaber, posted a video of himself and Amina singing Teann a-Nall to entertain Partick residents. It eventually got 1.5 million views.

Cass attended Scotland's



Cass Ezeji speaks to other Afro-Gaels about their experiences.

first Gaelic primary school in Glasgow where she, unfortunately, first experienced racism.

As a young mixed-race woman, she felt unsure of her place within the Gaelic community and, although she speaks the language fluently, she's often questioned that part of her identity.

Cass explained: 'The impression I had when I left school was that I didn't feel part of the Gaelic world. I didn't see myself represented in the culture so there was something of a disconnect.'

Cass's parents are both from Glasgow. Her paternal grandfather was from Nigeria and lived in the west end of Glasgow with her grandmother, who was from Newcastle.

In speaking with fellow

Gaelic speakers of Afro-Caribbean heritage, Cass examines what it means to be part of the Gaelic community and discovers she is not alone in feeling uncomfortable with the Gaelic word for black - dubh.

She considers alternative ways to self-identify and tries to reconnect to the language through her passion for music as she sings in Gaelic for the first time.

Cass also meets with historical expert Dr David Alston and Glasgow's first Afro-Caribbean councillor Graham Campbell to look at the evidence of slavery that can still be found in Glasgow and the Highlands today.

Cass added: 'When we consider Scotland and slavery, we rarely hear about the connection with the Gaels. It's vital that we speak about this in our community because we've always seen ourselves as the heroes and the victims but not the perpetrators. It's a painful history but we were part of it. We need to listen and not disbelieve it.'

Trusadh - Afro-Gàidheil - Afro-Gaels airs on BBC ALBA on Monday October 4 at 9pm and will be available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days.



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# Motorhome levy option leads to calls for more Lochaber action

Last week's decision by Western Isles Council to examine the possibility of charging motorhome users travelling to the islands a fee prompted calls for action to ensure such vehicles are contributing sufficiently to the Lochaber economy.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to start discussions with the Scottish Government, CalMac and the tourism industry on establishing an Outer Hebrides Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

The purpose of the fund would be to generate additional income which would be ring-fenced for investment in visitor infrastructure.

The comhairle said it was open to exploring with industry, government and CalMac the most effective way for motorhome users to contribute to the fund, including via some form of fee being levied.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of transportation and infrastructure,



**There are calls for any increases in car park charges for motorhomes – such as these pictured in Fort William last summer – to be ringfenced for spending in Lochaber.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

said the increase in visitor numbers, especially the rise in motorhome users, had put significant strain on local infrastructure and the comhairle needed to think how best to invest in that infrastructure for the future.

Councillor Robertson continued: 'In the first instance, we would like to explore a way in which motorhome users could

become pilot contributors to such a fund and we will open discussion with government, CalMac and the industry to explore these potentials.'

Asked if there were any lessons for Lochaber from the comhairle's initiative, Caol and Mallaig ward councillor Ben Thompson said he welcomed this sort of suggestion but that there already existed a

system to do this in Lochaber – namely parking charges for motorhomes.

He explained: 'There is a specific levy for motorhomes to park in council car parks and the money is used by the council for roads and transport infrastructure. I think the council needs to extend that system, as well as helping and encouraging other car park owners to do similar.'

'Kilmallie Community Centre and Nevis Range are now doing that and the council should be helping other landowners who want to do the same.'

'Unfortunately we have not yet seen Forest and Land Scotland [FLS] or Scottish Canals take up the baton. There's one large car park I pass daily that is always full of large motorhomes staying free. Meanwhile the playpark right next to it is in a dire state. A motorhome parking charge could be used to repair

it quickly.

'The council has committed to a 50 per cent share of the excess profit from new or increased parking charges being available for local projects so that car park users see the direct benefit of what they are paying.'

'That applies to all vehicle types, not just motorhomes.'

'I'd encourage FLS, Scottish Canals, the national trust and other similar organisations to make similar commitments about local spend of any increased car parking income they raise.'

'If the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar proposal is that these sorts of charges should be ring-fenced for local project spend, I'd definitely support that.'

His fellow ward councillor Denis Rixson told the Lochaber Times: 'I don't believe in targeting any group but I do believe visitors should pay charges in proportion to the strain they place on local

infrastructure.'

'So motorhomes should pay higher parking charges because they take up more space. Equally they should dump their waste in approved places and pay a proportionate charge.'

An FLS spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'All income generated from our campervan trial at selected car parks across Scotland contributes to on-going maintenance of visitor facilities and the local forest habitat.'

And a spokesperson for the National Trust for Scotland said: 'The National Trust for Scotland imposes parking charges on non-members at many of our properties, including Glencoe and Glenfinnan.'

'The income derived from this is ploughed back into the substantial costs of the upkeep and conservation of these places which in turn make a significant contribution to local economies.'

## Station museum to host Mallaig railway anniversary exhibition

For three days during this year's Highland Archaeology Festival, Glenfinnan Station Museum will be hosting a special exhibition in celebration of the 120th anniversary of the opening of the Mallaig Railway in 1901.

The drop-in exhibition with tea, treats and a blether will be in the Glenfinnan Station Museum Dining Car from October 3 to 5.

Based on the book Building the Mallaig Railway published by the museum last November, the exhibition draws attention to the railway contractor's 'unwittingly green' credentials.

The museum has been successful in attracting COP26 Conversations funding for this event, made available by Museums Galleries Scotland.

Having teamed up with Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) and West Highland Community Rail Partnership, they invite a closer, greener look at the Iron Road to the Isles by drawing lines from the past and into the future.

Museum's curator Hege Hernæs told the Lochaber Times: 'Although we are an accredited museum, space



**Hegae Hernæs and her son Paul Barnes from Glenfinnan Station Museum at the popular viewpoint.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

constraints have never allowed us to put on temporary exhibitions or organise educational events. We were creaking at the seams before Covid, spending all our resources on dealing with the wear and tear that came with far too many visitors for the capacity of our site. Emerging from the pandemic, we realised we needed to focus on our 'small and local' identity with greater vigour.' The 'new normal' for the wee museum will therefore see reduced seating capacity in the museum's tearoom, the Glenfinnan Dining Car, to

make way for temporary exhibitions and community-based events. The conversion work will continue through the winter, but this event offers a sneak preview of what's to come next year. The museum's curator will be on hand to talk about the past, while LEG looks forward to hearing and sharing thoughts about the future.

And while the Dining Car kitchen has not yet been re-commissioned after the long Covid break, there will be plenty of tea and cake, ebikes to try and conversations to be had.

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LT  
Former Lochaber high pupils celebrate 50 years



# Fort festive lights fund half way

## £8,000 goal to reach by end of November

Organisers of the appeal to raise enough funds to cover the costs of festive lighting along Fort William High Street this Christmas say they have raised almost half of the £8,000 target.

Committee member Sasha McKinlay, said, traditionally, the High Street area had been lit up by lights during the festive season to encourage a coming-together of the local community in the hub of Lochaber's shopping district.

'Many people in the community enjoy the atmosphere that lights create during this dark season in the Highlands. It also encourages footfall and a festive spirit, making it more likely that local people will 'shop local' and help to instil a sense of pride in the town,' she said.

This venture is just the start of what it is hoped will be an ongoing fund to ensure future festive installations and events will take place. So far, the FWFF has raised £3,800, which is a mix of individual, business, and charity donations through its Just Giving page and collection tins on the High Street.

Sasha added: 'Our goal is still to reach £8000, which is the cost to hire the lights and the installation fees from the council; if we don't raise this amount, we will still be able to hire a portion of the equipment. 'The lights will be switched on in the High Street on November 26, with Santa's Grotto situated at the Town Team Hub on the Parade. 'We are in the process of organising a raffle and are looking for volunteers to run activities up and down the High Street, as has been the case with previous gatherings. 'If you can organise an event on the night, the FWFF will publicise and support it in any way we can; there are only five of us on the committee, and we are unable to run everything ourselves, so we need help from the community.'

To make a contribution go to the Fort William Festive Fund page on social media which is linked to a donations page including a QR code which makes it even easier. For a more low-tech solution, collecting tins should soon be on display in shops, where every penny can add to the brightness and Christmas cheer of the town.

Ex-pupils of Lochaber High School's class of '83 recently held their school reunion, marking them all turning 50, in the Railway Club in Inverlochy. They came from all over the country and spent an enjoyable time together catching up on stories and tales from the past.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan

## New primary ones at Kinlochleven



There was excitement as the new intake of primary one pupils at Kinlochleven Primary School gathered for a photograph at the start of the new term.



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# Commandos follow in steps of wartime forebears

More than 150 serving Commandos from across Britain followed in the footsteps of their forebears when they set off from Spean Bridge railway station on Saturday to run to the former Second World War training camp at nearby Achnacarry.

When the wartime camp was set up in the grounds of Achnacarry House, one of the earliest challenges facing recruits was to get off the train at Spean Bridge and, without previous notice, run the seven miles to the base in full kit and without a stop.

Failure to manage this meant their time in the Commandos was over and they were transferred to other units.

The weekend's event is normally an annual event, but due to Covid restrictions it has not taken place for

a few years. Prior to the main group setting off, Commando veterans and those wounded in action were given a 30-minute start, being applauded by the later runners as they left.

As bagpipes have featured in military conflicts across the world for many years, Lochaber piper Finlay Cameron played some suitably stirring tunes at the start line and to welcome the runners on their arrival at Achnacarry.

**There was applause from Spean Bridge residents at the weekend for Commando veterans as they set off for the run to Achnacarry, 30 minutes before the main group comprising serving soldiers.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



# Ardnamurchan help wanted with feral cat neutering plan

Cats Protection's Ardnamurchan and Mull branch is on the prowl for volunteers who can help give feral cats a better life by taking part in its Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programme.

The charity runs the scheme to keep numbers of feral cats – those cats born in the wild – under control and to give them a healthier, happier life.

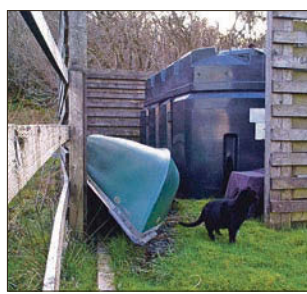
But in order to carry on this vital work, volunteers are needed to help with hands-on work.

Mauvis Gore, branch co-ordinator, said: 'Cats can begin breeding very young and can have as many as 20,000 kittens in five years.'

'Not only do feral cats tend to have a relatively short and hard life, but their effect on the wildlife is destructive.'

'TNR can be physically demanding and is in all weathers. However, the reward is helping both feral cats return to the wild healthy and controlling numbers to protect wildlife.'

Volunteers from the charity set up humane traps – similar to cages – to capture feral cats.



A photograph taken by the Ardnamurchan and Mull branch of Cats Protection showing a feral cat and one of the traps volunteers set up using remote cameras.

This is mainly done during the evening or night and the trapped cats are collected quickly to minimise possible stress for them.

The trapped cats are then taken to a veterinary surgery to be neutered, a straightforward procedure which will prevent the cat from breeding.

The vets are able to carry out the procedure along with a health check to allow the cats to be returned to the environment in which they feel safe.

This will be within 24-48 hours of neutering for females, and with males within 12-24 hours.

'Whilst the programme is incredibly successful in keeping feral numbers under control, the benefits of it do not stop

there,' added Kathryn Dyer, branch co-ordinator.

'Neutering actually makes cats – both domestic and feral – healthier and happier because neutered cats are much less likely to fight, which can spread serious illnesses such as FeLV and FIV. Cats who have been neutered are also much less likely to roam or spray.'

The branch officials say they are keen to welcome new volunteers and full training with lots of support are given and that the cat care experience and people skills gained will be invaluable in other walks of life.

If interested, contact them on 07583 103678 or enquiries@ardnamurchan.cats.org.uk for more information.

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LT

# Rewilding project takes root

## Ambitious plan will cover half a million acres of the Highlands

An ambitious 30-year rewilding initiative has been launched to link up a majestic sweep of the Scottish Highlands as one vast nature recovery area.

Set up by charity Trees for Life, it will connect Loch Ness to the West Coast and joins a select group of prestigious European rewilding areas.

The Affric Highlands initiative follows three years of consultation between Rewilding Europe, Trees for Life and other partners and stakeholders. It will restore nature across a network of landholdings potentially covering an area of more than 500,000 acres stretching from Loch Ness across the central Highlands to Kintail in the west, and encompassing Glens Cannich, Affric, Moriston and Shiel.

Trees for Life, which has a flagship rewilding centre opening at Dundreggan estate near Glenmoriston in two years, has brought together a broad coalition of landowners, communities and others to boost habitat connectivity, species diversity and social and economic opportunities in the region, while tackling climate breakdown.

With community involvement and partnership working central to the project, a diverse group of 20 landowners covering at least 25 per cent of the total area and six organisations are already on board, with hopes that more will join.

Work is also under way to further involve local people, with practical action to connect areas of rewilding land due to begin in 2023.



Glen Affric captured by photographer Grant Willoughby.

During a ceremony at Glenurquhart Public Hall in Drumadrochit last Thursday, Affric Highlands was officially welcomed by Rewilding Europe as the ninth member of its network of large pioneering rewilding areas – taking the organisation one step closer to its ultimate goal of 10 such areas in Europe. Rewilding Europe's eight other areas are Portugal's Greater Côa Valley; the Danube Delta

in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova; Romania's Southern Carpathians; Croatia's Velebit Mountains; Italy's Central Apennines; Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains; the Oder Delta in Germany and Poland and Swedish Lapland.

'With Scotland's rewilding movement growing rapidly – and the Scottish Rewilding Alliance calling for Scotland to become the world's first Rewilding Nation, with the rewilding of 30 per cent of the country's land and sea by 2030 – Affric Highlands will take large-scale nature recovery to a new level, providing a catalyst for the local economy,' said Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life. 'The Highlands have huge potential

to help nature to come back and make a leading contribution to tackling the global climate and nature emergencies.'

Because engaging and involving stakeholders is crucial to the success of any rewilding initiative, Rewilding Europe has been working with Trees for Life to lay the foundations for this over the past three years including through meetings with stakeholders, drawing on experience from other rewilding sites across Europe and a scoping study.

Forest rewilding has been at the root of Trees for Life's work for three decades. The charity has so far established nearly two million native trees to restore the unique and globally important Caledonian Forest

at its own 10,000-acre estate at Dundreggan and at dozens of other sites in the Highlands, including Glen Affric.

In 2023, Dundreggan will become home to the world's first Rewilding Centre – showcasing how large-scale nature recovery can give people amazing experiences, create jobs and local communities.

Rewilding Europe says this work in the Highlands has been a 'beacon of hope' for reversing declines in habitat and wildlife that have left vast swathes of Scotland overgrazed, treeless, denuded, drained and over-managed, to the point little remains unmodified by humans.

'Affric Highlands is a bold and inspiring venture for nature's recovery as Scotland moves up the biodiversity league table. Our decision to accept the project as our ninth rewilding area reflects the hard work and achievements of Trees for Life, its volunteers and its partners,' said Frans Schepers, managing director of Rewilding Europe. 'Including Affric Highlands in our portfolio of major European rewilding areas will help magnify rewilding's impact in the Highlands and put it firmly on the global map.'



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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### Scottish businesses welcome easing of international travel restrictions



It's good news for Scottish businesses that fully vaccinated people travelling to Scotland from overseas will no longer have to take pre-departure Covid tests.

Testing for inbound international travel is to be eased and will align on a four-nation basis. For practical purposes, Scotland will also align with the UK post-arrival testing regime.

Last week, the Scottish Government announced how restrictions put in place to protect public health have been substantially revised to make travel simpler, with green and amber classifications merged, while the red list is retained for those countries deemed to have high Covid-19 case rates or variants of concern.

Commenting on the confirmation that the Scottish Government is to ease testing for inbound international travel and will align with the UK, Dr Liz Cameron, Chief Executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce said: 'This will come as a huge relief for Scotland's aviation sector and the wider Scottish economy.'

For weeks, businesses have been in negotiations with the Scottish Government, highlighting the importance of maintaining a four nations approach to ensure the sector remains competitive and well placed to recover sustainably. 'This sends a clear signal

to the world that Scotland is open for business. This decision was always more than just about international travel and tourism.

'It's about securing business investment, international trade and exports and supporting the many thousands of jobs that are supported by Scotland's connectivity with the world.'

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Climate action protests have been staged regularly outside Lochaber High School. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photo

# Council says it cannot sanction climate strike absences from Lochaber schools

Education bosses will not sanction pupils skipping school in Lochaber to attend climate protests in the run up to November's UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

Highland Council's statement comes despite a plea to every council education director in Scotland from Children and Young People's Commissioner Bruce Adamson to support youngsters taking part in last Friday's global climate strike events and those planned ahead of COP26.

'It is important that when children and young people in the Highlands - as well as all over Scotland - take these peaceful and powerful actions, they are not silenced, discouraged or punished,' he wrote.

Asked for its reaction, a Highland Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'Highland schools and The Highland Council as education authority cannot sanction unauthorised absence from school, no matter how well-meaning the intention.'

Local politicians were sympathetic but said it was a matter for schools and education authorities.

Councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, commented: 'While I have every sympathy with everyone's views on

climate change and am supportive of Highland Council's efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, I cannot agree with children taking more time off school.

'Covid has caused so much disruption to learning that all available school time is vital to allow our teachers to deliver the curriculum. We cannot be sure that more time will not be lost so the point they are making can be done on a Saturday morning.'

His fellow ward councillor Denis Rixson added: 'This a decision for children and their parents.'

'HC [Highland Council] has a statutory duty to provide an education.'

## Individual schools

And constituency MSP Kate Forbes commented: 'I am pleased a number of young people across my constituency are actively engaging on the issue of climate change, but student absence is a matter for individual schools to consider.'

However, some climate action campaign groups, parents and their children, took a dim view of the local authority's stance.

Well-known teenage climate action campaigner and Lochaber High School pupil Holly Gillibrand, who was in Glasgow for Friday's global

climate strike event, told the Lochaber Times: 'School is meant to be about our future and the Highland Council's refusal to support the attendance of young people to the strikes demonstrates its disregard for this future we are studying for.'

'We wouldn't have to be striking in the first place if adults in the Highland Council and elsewhere were doing their absolute best to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.'

Her mother, Kate Willis, added: 'Holly had my full support to "skip" school on Friday to attend the Global Climate Strike in Glasgow.'

'I constantly hope the Scottish Government and councils will start listening to the school strikers and will act soon so that my daughter and her generation have a future to look forward to.'

A spokesperson for the local branch of the Extinction Rebellion environmental pressure group said: 'To deny them their right to protest by striking is fundamentally immoral, myopic and misses the point which is clear to anyone who bothers to listen to them - that, through their engagement, these young people are learning a huge amount about how the world operates.'

'Can the same be said for the school curriculum?'

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# Lochaber projects' ideas gain funds

## New grants target areas of mental wellbeing previously overlooked and under-researched

Two Lochaber-based projects are among 13 across the Highland and Islands set to share out £505,000 from the Ideas Fund.

The Ideas Fund last week announced the 42 projects it will be funding following the first round of 46 grant applications received earlier this year.

The Ideas Fund is a new grants scheme, run by the British Science Association and funded by the Wellcome Trust, that enables the UK public to develop and try out ideas that address problems related to mental wellbeing through collaborating with professional researchers.

The two Lochaber projects are Ewen's Room and the Great Glen Cattle Ranch.



**Ewen's Room is one of two Lochaber projects to qualify for a grant under the Ideas Fund scheme.**

are so excited about the sheer breadth of projects funded in this first Ideas Fund round which is testament to the brilliant work led by communities already around wellbeing and research happening across the Highlands and Islands.

'From Shetland to the Isle of Gigha, we have projects ranging from young people co-researching who get to benefit from the nature on their doorsteps to groups exploring

the links between wellbeing and culture – including people living with Multiple Sclerosis running an action research project on dance and their own mental wellbeing and the value of sports for LGBTQ communities living rurally.

'This is such an opportunity for new ways of working between communities and researchers which values the voice of both fully and I can't wait to see how it all develops.'

The Ideas Fund has made an exciting start in enabling communities in the UK that have been overlooked by health research in the past, to take the lead in developing and trying out ideas that address problems related to mental wellbeing.

The Fund has been extended until 2023, with a further £1.9m being made available by Wellcome for additional grants.

## High school pupils speak out for mental health at conference

Members of the Highland Youth Parliament from Lochaber, Plockton, Kinlochleven, Mallaig and Ardnamurchan High Schools are working on plans to improve mental health support.

Held virtually, over 100 youngsters from across the Highlands took part in the recent discussions at the annual conference to ensure their voices are heard by those in power.

Highland Youth Convener Anja Johnston said the two-day conference last week was a huge success despite having to go from the usual face-to-face event to online.

'We had people taking part from classrooms and homes across the Highlands and there was a positive buzz with everyone keen to give their voice to improving the current mental health situation,' she added.

'The information we received from Highland young people is amazing and we have lots of jamboards with ideas and comments which are so useful for making improvements and

will feed into our Mind Us campaign. I would encourage those who attended to add to the jamboards with any other thoughts over the next few days before we take the next steps.'

Hosted by Highland Youth Parliament chairman Innes Morgan and vice-chairman Isaac Beckley, there were presentations from convener Ms Johnston and sessions on developing mental health support through apps, schools, friends, NHS Highland and mental health charity Mikeysline's youth ambassadors.

There were also area groups planning local action, an education Q and A session, campaign training, and some international examples of mental health support from Esme Leitch, youth advisor for the North Sea Commission.

All information from the presentations and sessions will be shared on a Google Classroom for youth groups and schools to use post-conference and HYP will be developing its Mind Us campaign over the coming weeks.

## Covid-hit creatives to tutor island children

Freelance creative artists and musicians who have lost work due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit will tutor primary school children across Scotland's island communities as part of a new scheme.

Up to 50 tutors will work with primary schools, including those in the Outer Hebrides, Skye, Raasay and the Small Isles, to lead cultural workshops on Scotland's indigenous languages and dialects, music, drama, dance and visual art.

Through a shadowing scheme, tutors will work with and support the development of assistant tutors to deliver the workshops as part of the primary school curriculum.

Gaelic arts body Fèisean nan Gàidheal will deliver the programme in Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney, Shetland, Argyll and Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire.

The University of the Highlands and Islands will offer support to the tutors, leading to accreditation for their work.

Minister for Higher and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training Jamie Hepburn, said many freelancers had experienced considerable financial hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On top of this, he said, many touring musicians also faced challenges, due to the UK's exit from the EU, for some time to come.

'This new programme will offer valuable

re-training and employment opportunities for creative freelancers to work across all of our 93 inhabited Scottish islands,' added Mr Hepburn.

'Not only will school children get to learn more of the rich cultural diversity across our island communities, this project will also help to promote Gaelic, Shetlandic and Scots languages and local dialects distinctive to islands such as Orkney.'

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal's CEO, said: 'Fèisean nan Gàidheal is grateful for support from the Scottish Government in delivering this new programme which will help freelance creative practitioners recover from the economic effects of the pandemic.'

'Training will be an important part of the programme with the aim of increasing the resilience of freelancers and better equipping them to work in school settings in the future.'

'All primary schools across our islands have been presented with an exciting opportunity to enable local artists to work with one year group, delving into local culture integral to our island communities.'

The programme is named Treòir (Gaelic) | Voar (Shetlandic dialect) | Virr (used in Scots and Norse) and is funded by the National Transition Training Fund and the Islands Programme funding from the Scottish Government to support delivery of the National Islands Plan.

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# Doors open on ground-breaking housing project

A pilot scheme by The Highland Council to develop housing that serves as a 'stepping stone' between living independently in the community and living as a resident in the Telford Centre Care Home in Fort Augustus has been completed.

The Telford Centre housing development pilots a new type of house – a flexible, adapted property designed to support residents with an increasing need to stay at home and live independently for longer.

The six houses are self-contained, with kitchens to cater for wheelchair users, and fully adapted bathrooms accessible from the hallway and directly from the main bedroom via a sliding door if required.

There is an additional room to the rear which can be used

as required, for example, as a small dining area, or space for an overnight carer or guests.

Patio doors onto the garden from the lounge allow residents to sit out and a large covered porch can act as a dry entranceway, a place to park a mobility scooter or other such transport, or a place for table and chairs.

Residents receiving care will continue to do so via their visiting Care at Home packages. By grouping the homes in a 'cluster', care delivery will be more efficient as carers won't have to travel long distances between clients, maximising the time they can spend with them.

As part of the project, the existing gardens have been improved with the Care Home's original patio re-laid, their gazebo refurbished and

new benches and planters installed with better paths that can accommodate mobility scooters right up to the front door.

The gardens will be shared between the new residents and the care home.

The architect was Bracewell Stirling, the engineer was HGA and the contractor was Compass Building and Construction Services. The project was delivered under budget.

Leader of The Highland Council and Ward 12 Member Councillor Margaret Davidson said development of adapted houses was not new to the council, but that this pilot took the fresh step of building the units in the grounds of the Telford Centre Care Home.

'We've worked closely



From left, Gavin Brown, Contracts Manager for Compass Building and Construction Services; Shirley MacDonald, Housing Development Assistant; Anna Wasko, Housing Management Officer; Julie Vivers, Housing Manager; Harry Whiteside, Chair of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company; Claire Cameron NHS Highland Programme Manager; Kerry Watson, Telford Centre Care Home Manager; Emma Micklethwaite, Housing Development Officer; Karen-Anne Wilson, NHS District Manager for Lochaber and Councillor Margaret Davidson. Photograph: Michael Jack, architect with Bracewell Stirling.

with the NHS and with the community company, which kindly provided some of the land needed to enlarge the care home garden sufficiently for the six units we have built and I think the project is a splendid example of how partnership working can bring tangible benefits to communities. I am sure the new residents will be very happy in their new homes,' said Councillor Davidson.

Harry Whiteside, chair-

person of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC), added: 'Access to affordable housing is crucial for sustaining rural communities and we were pleased to be able to support Highland Council with this project through the sale of a piece of community owned land.'

'The new bungalows will be a great asset to the community. Affordable housing is an issue close to FAGCC's heart and

having just completed building 12 new homes for affordable rent ourselves we know the new Abertarff bungalows will be much appreciated.'

Karen-Anne Wilson, NHS District Manager for Lochaber, joined Councillor Davidson and Mr Whiteside for a tour of the new homes.

She commented: 'This is a really exciting development for the area so I am delighted to see the homes completed and ready for people to move into.'

# Lochaber leads the way in drive towards net zero

Lochaber is surging towards a greener future with Highland Council already installing 20 electric car charging points in the area.

From 2030, no new petrol or diesel cars can be sold, except through the second-hand market with hybrid cars remaining in showrooms until 2035.

The Local Authority Programme (LAIP) is a fully funded external programme which has been used to develop the council's public charging network in recent years but there has been a significant reduction in grant funding this year and Rachel Anderson from the Climate Change and Energy Team at the Highland Council said they are therefore 'unable to commit to any further electric vehicle charging sites'.

However, Ms Anderson added 'The Highland Council do wish to explore alternative funding avenues'.

'It must be acknowledged funding should be prioritised and used to fill gaps across the Highlands where electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is sparse' as this will allow electric car owners more

freedom and the same level of spontaneity as fossil fuel driven car owners.'

Scotland claims five per cent of all UK electric vehicles, including hybrids and as a popular holiday destination, Lochaber's preparations for electric vehicles has been a vital and exemplary move.

However, local and global environmental groups disagree, behind the smokescreen image of this 'green technology' is a dirty secret. EV batteries are only designed to last 12 years and the materials used in these batteries are finite.

Government groups contest they are trying to build low cobalt or cobalt free batteries and already seven per cent exist and by 2030 they hope that 57 per cent of EV batteries will contain little to no cobalt.

'EVs are just part of the mix required to achieve a low carbon future', said Kate Willis from Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG), 'but more importantly, significant Government investment is needed to improve Scotland's public transport network and active travel infrastructure.'

'We need to transition away

from the mass production of private cars and use share schemes such as HIBIKE, the Fort William ebike share scheme which LEG will launch in spring 2022, for local journeys. Not only will shared use of transport reduce carbon emissions, but we will also benefit from reduced traffic on our roads and active travel improves our health and wellbeing. Most locals agree Fort William is overrun in the tourist season and perhaps a solution to that is more readily available and affordable public transport which will consequently help our environment.'

Environmentalists conclude that whilst we all want a greener future this isn't the way forward and whilst electric charging infrastructure being built in Lochaber may be beneficial locally, globally the building of EVs is essentially detrimental to both our environment and global society.

Those who do own an electric vehicle in the area are advised to join the public charging network membership and to see all charging points in your area check the ChargePlace Scotland or Zap Map sites.

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# Galston Estate Trust bids farewell to Lisa

After 11 years with Galston Estate Trust (Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn) on Lewis, Lisa Maclean is leaving her post as chief executive officer to return home to Northern Ireland.

Lisa first joined Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG) in 2010 as commercial development manager.

Over the years, she oversaw many major projects for the trust, including the construction of the original office in South Galston, as well as its replacement after fire destroyed this building in 2019.

Elsewhere on the estate, Lisa was key to the removal of the old bird hide, and the relocation and building of the new nature observatory at Loch Stiapabhat.

She also held a critical role in the formation of Community Land Outer Hebrides, a formally-established body

of community trusts located throughout the Western Isles.

Lisa said: "The move of all estate business to in-house management was a key highlight for me, as previously this was carried out by a solicitor in Stornoway.

"The support received from Anderson Macarthur to move to in-house estate management was excellent and vital to support a smooth transition.

"Another highlight was the establishment of the Community Investment Fund, which financially supports projects that would benefit the aspirations, needs and issues of Galston Estate residents, contributing to the overall wellbeing of the area.

"The biggest thing for me, though, has been the growth of the team over the years – I am so pleased that we retain core staff so well.



Lisa, fourth from right, with UOG staff in 2019.

"We have grown from a team of 2.5 core staff in 2010 to a team of 12 in 2021 in a variety of roles and contracts."

Lisa moves with her husband and two sons to take up her new employment with Belfast Central Mission.

She added: "I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to work at UOG. I've learned so much and feel privileged to have worked alongside the committed board, staff team and volunteers over the years.

"I had an excellent send-off, and would like to thank the UOG staff team and board for the wonderful gift I received [a commissioned piece by north Lewis artist Alice Macmillan].

"I wish every success to the community as a whole and look forward to seeing what the future holds for Galston Estate."

Neil Mackinnon, development manager at UOG, and Christine Amos, operations manager, will take over Lisa's responsibilities for an interim period.

Christine will work alongside the estate business sub-group, overseeing estate and land management, whilst Neil will take responsibility for finance and investment, working alongside the finance committee.

Lisa's other responsibilities will be divided between the remainder of the UOG team, making best use of the strong skills and experience that UOG has in-house.

Agnes Rennie, UOG chairperson, said: "We did advertise for a new CEO, but have decided that during the current changeable situation we will pause, take stock and use the time to decide what best suits the Urras as we approach our 15-year buy-out milestone.

"I am confident that the UOG team currently in place, working alongside the board, will have the ability and enthusiasm to continue operations, especially when they move back to the new business centre next month."

## Appeal to help health and social care services

NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are appealing to island communities to help protect and preserve health and social care services during the autumn and winter months ahead.

Health and social care services across the country are already experiencing extreme pressure on services for a variety of reasons.

Both the health board and local authority are appealing to those who demonstrated such fantastic resilience and goodwill at the same time last year to do what they can to support their local services.

That could include a range of measures – from avoiding unnecessary attendance at already stretched emergency departments; to helping to provide additional support to friends and relatives who require care or assistance at home.

### Pressure

Western Isles Health and Social Care Partnership Chief Officer Nick Fayers explained: "Already this year we are seeing unprecedented pressure on community health and social care systems nationally – and this is reflected in the Western Isles too.

"We need our services to be preserved and protected to ensure that those in greatest need receive the necessary care and support as quickly as possible.

"In the community and in social care, we have seen a higher number of people requiring more nursing and social care input at home than usual.

"Staff absence and a number of vacant posts that are proving challenging to fill, together with recruitment difficulties, means that these services are very stretched.

"We want to be upfront with our communities about not only the current pressures, but also the real challenge facing us over coming months as additional winter pressures approach.

"The good news is that there are ways everyone can help, and our assurance to you is that services will be there for those who need them."

## Ferry discount for school minibuses welcomed

A decision by Transport Scotland to reduce ferry fares for school minibuses across CalMac's network has been welcomed.

The new scheme will make it cheaper for pupils to travel for extra-curricular activities by bringing in a 50 per cent discount for mini-buses from both island and mainland schools.

SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan was one of those who had been calling for a school minibus discount to be introduced.

He said: "This discount will make a big difference to how affordable it is for school groups to travel to and from

the islands, whether for educational, cultural or sporting activities.

"I am pleased by the announcement, as I am sure all pupils and their families in the Western Isles will be too.

"Travel costs should not be a barrier to any pupil who wants to be involved in these types of activity."

The discount will be introduced on December 1 and reviewed after the initial year to establish how it has been taken up and how it is funded.

In the longer term, the discount will be considered as part of the fares policy review in the Islands Connectivity Plan.



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# Concerns raised on islands goose management scheme

Concerns have been raised at NatureScot's decision to end financial support for goose management schemes on islands.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie Halcro Johnston has said the decision by the agency of the Scottish Government to act only in an advisory capacity risks worsening problems where large populations of Greylag geese are already causing significant damage to islands ecosystems and agriculture.

Conservative Mr Halcro Johnston commented: 'I know first hand from our own farm the impact that unsustainable populations of geese can have on the islands.'

'The damage caused can be devastating to farmers and to other land.'

'Adaptive management of geese has had some positive impact, but it is clear that when this work is interrupted, particularly recently, that goose populations can quickly expand and cause real damage.'

'These schemes have shown that management can be successful when properly resourced.'

'NatureScot should reflect on that and either reverse its decision to withdraw funding or bring forward a comprehensive package of future support.'

'This is not a problem which has gone away and neither should the Scottish Government's focus on it.'

NFU Scotland last week called for support to continue, with President Martin Kennedy saying the grazing pressure exerted by the growing resident populations of Greylag geese on many Scottish islands continued to have a devastating impact on farming and crofting businesses.

'Now is not the time for NatureScot to withdraw support,' he said. 'We are fully aware that the adaptive management schemes were always intended to be short-term pilots to manage population density and mitigate against the agricultural damage caused by Greylags.'

'However, the pilots have demonstrated that with early intervention, funding and coordinated effort, farmers and crofters could control Greylag goose populations

## Withdrawal of financial support is condemned



Conservative Highlands and Islands MSP, Jamie Halcro Johnston has raised concerns over NatureScot's decision to end financial support for goose management schemes on islands.

development of infrastructure and marketing to allow the sale of goose meat.

'It is our view that until these objectives are met, and the populations of resident Greylags on these islands are reduced to a level where self-help is realistically achievable, it is not appropriate for NatureScot to withdraw financial and practical support and expect the pilots to continue as self-financing.'

'Failure to do so will see

those farmers and crofters involved in the pilots unable to control geese numbers and the populations rapidly increase - negating all the value of the public funding committed to date and the hugely significant commitment from farmers and crofters.'

A spokesperson for NatureScot told the Lochaber Times: 'As planned, local groups will now use their expertise on the ground to manage greylag geese sustainably.'

'We helped Local Goose Management Groups trial methods to control greylag goose populations with this in mind, and NatureScot will be available for advice, licensing and to help with monitoring whenever necessary.'

without harming conservation interests.

'Uist, Tiree and Coll, Lewis and Harris have been able to make some progress towards their reduction targets, but the Orkney pilot only managed to contain the expansion of resident Greylag birds.'

'When the pilots were reviewed in 2017, NatureScot recognised their fragile success and the need for further support to help LGMGs [Local Goose Management Groups] secure long-term benefit from

them. When we look at the objectives that were set in 2017, several have yet to be achieved including the development of longer-term funding arrangements for management and

## Food for Thought funding award for two Skye schools

There was good news for Portree's Kilmuir and Sgoil Stafainn primaries which have been awarded £3,000 from the Food for Thought Fund to support a food growing project to promote healthy and responsible food choices.

The funding will allow the schools to work in partnership to research, grow and share vegetables, developing school gardens and improve the school cooking facilities.

Kilmuir and Sgoil Stafainn headteacher Christina MacFarlane said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have been successful in being awarded £3,000 from the Food for Thought Funding application submitted to Education Scotland.'

'The project is an excellent opportunity to develop cooking resources in both schools and to create new links with the community, where crofting and hospitality are so active.'

'We will also be learning about important environmental and sustainability issues.'

The project will be a phased approach outlined below:

- Develop a 3-12 years cooking skills programme using local produce and vegetables grown in school gardens.

- Improve school facilities and install cookers

- Working with chefs and teachers to deliver a series of healthy eating and cooking skills lessons.

- Develop skills in food preparation, hygiene, safety, presentation, managing resources and materials and co-operative working.

- Run workshops to explore food culture, history and traditions in the area with community members, crofters and chefs.

It is hoped the project will greatly enhance the children's abilities and confidence in the production of healthy meals and life skills.

The project was one of 365 applications for the Food for Thought education funding of which 62 projects were successful.

The application was assessed and graded by a panel from Education Scotland, Scottish Government, RHET and Zero Waste Scotland.

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# Wild Words

**KIRSTEEN BELL**

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Wednesday September 22 was the autumn equinox, which marks the moment the Northern Hemisphere no longer leans towards the sun.

Air temperatures at the pole begin to drop. The resulting difference of temperature between pole and equator creates movement in the air – creates wind.

With the wind, comes change. Leaves that were quiet under the summer calls of birds and insects have now found their voice.

Birch whisper, alder and hazel flitter, and oaks swish. From a sheltered spot you can sometimes hear a gust on its way, the treetops susurrating in a westerly wave.

It won't be long before those leaves start to turn and fall. The trees know these winds are the first of many. If they drop their thousands of tiny sails, they have a better chance of bending through the coming weather.

Ravens and buzzards, however, seem to revel in the wind. Unlike crows, ravens will play in a turbulent sky, groups of them swinging and sliding on the air in what looks an awful lot like joy.

Buzzards sail easily through the



ravens' antics, sure on their course. One lands often by our house, on the northmost branch of an empty gean tree. Face and feathers into the wind, its wings blow out behind like a superhero's cape. It seems comfortable with the power of the wind.

On still days, buzzards will hunt from posts and treetops, but in autumn and winter they can also be seen hovering up high, wings wide open to the airflow, a steady stream of tiny adjustments shaping bird to sky.

Through all this movement, the head can be completely still, hooked on an invisible line of sight to prey far below.

For the humans in the landscape, wind has long brought problems.

Historian James Hunter has written about a particularly fierce gale that came on October 1, 1881, destroying crops and fishing boats and leaving Highlanders facing a particularly bad winter of famine.

In the present day, people whose livelihoods depend on the weather still face tense nights, waiting to see what damage a night-time gale has wrought.

Yet wind also keeps us going. It can be what keeps us cosy in the midst of a storm: wind turbines can provide heat and light all through the winter, such as those at Beinneun Wind Farm.

Visible from the A82 at Bridge of Oich, its giant, bird-like turbines perch elegantly on the hills, facing into the wind.

We sit somewhere between the trees and the buzzard: battening down the hatches where we have to, letting the wind support us where we can.

www.kirsteenbellblog.wordpress.com - @KirsteenBell

## Eigg trust puts bothy up for sale

Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust has announced it is selling Sandamhor Bothy, right, plus an adjoining quarter of an acre of land and is asking for offers over £65,000.

The trust says it is looking for a purchaser who wants to live on the island full time and who will be an 'active contributing member' of the community.

The single-room stone building was formerly a shepherd's dwelling and holiday accommodation, but now requires extensive ren-



ovation and improvements. The plot enjoys easterly views across the sea towards the mainland and access is via a shared unsurfaced and rough access track. Closing date for offers is November 1.

## Nevis Hillwalking Club: Glen Hurich

Nevis Hillwalking Club:  
Saturday, October 2 - Glen Hurich, Carn na Nathrach (786m, Corbett) – Cairn of the Adders.

A remote Corbett in Ardgour. It takes the form of a rugged ridge with many ups and downs extending from Glen Hurich to the head of Glen Scaddle.

The circular route mixes forest track and uneven rocky terrain with excellent views of Beinn Resipol on the return route. The route is 14km, 881m ascent.

For more detail of the route please visit website [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or 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 our club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club)

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# Planning issues top complaints

Planning was the top service complaint for residents of the Highland Council area last year.

While housing tops the list of complaints for other local authorities, planning woes were the number one subject of complaint in the Highlands.

In 2020-21, 39 complaints were made about the Highland Council to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman.

Of these, 35.9 per cent related to the planning process. Housing was second, with 17.95 per cent and finance-related issues came third.

In other local authority areas, housing complaints are the most common, followed by social work and then planning.

The figures are part of the annual report of Scottish Public Service Ombudsman cases, which will be discussed by councillors at the audit and scrutiny committee on Thursday.

Overall, the report paints a

positive picture. Total complaints determined by SPSO have dropped from 53 last year to 41 this year.

In 16 of those cases, the SPSO judged that the council had handled the complaint properly and declined to investigate at all.

This was the case in 39 per cent of all complaints.

Only one case was fully upheld in the time frame – a complaint relating to the council not following its own child protection guidance.

This upheld case was detailed to councillors at a meeting in June and has now been resolved.

Committee chairman Graham Mackenzie was upbeat about the report, saying there was 'much to be positive about'.

Reflecting on the prevalence of planning complaints, he observed that Highland had one of the busiest planning departments in Scotland.

# Pharmacy assistant in Kyle receives award

A medicines counter assistant from Right Medicine Pharmacy in Kyle of Lochalsh has been named highly commended in an excellence award.

Winners of the eighth annual Recognition of Excellence (RoE) Awards were announced last week.

Presented to key healthcare workers for outstanding achievements in the world of community pharmacy, this year's finalists included Kyle medicines counter assistant Gregor Main, for a Retail Skills Award.

He thought 'outside the box' during the pandemic to cater for the needs of people in the rural community and support other businesses in the area.

He brought in new product lines of essential items and sent out videos and pictures of the pharmacy's stock to shielding and housebound patients so they could choose Christmas

gifts for loved ones. The judges praised his caring nature and adaptability under difficult circumstances.

Finalists were treated to an all-expenses-paid trip to central London for the awards ceremony that took place over lunchtime at the glamorous 8

Northumberland Avenue.

Unfortunately, Mr Main was unable to attend the event, but his certificate is being sent to him along with the Training Matters team's warmest congratulations.

Commenting on the awards, editor of Training Matters and

RoE Awards host Helena Beer said: 'Our finalists represent the best of community pharmacy. I'm thrilled to be able to reward these individuals for their hard work, dedication and passion for helping the people in their communities live better and healthier lives.'

## MSP looks into National Eye Week

The importance of eye health during last week's National Eye Health Week was brought home to MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Alasdair Allan when he visited R Doig Optometrists in Stornoway, where he met two trainee optometrists. He said: 'It is important that people take advantage of their biennial free eye health check and do all they can to take care of their vision.'



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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

This week we report on The Highland Council's decision to approve a planning application for a new aluminium recycling plant adjacent to the Lochaber smelter site at Fort William.

While less than half the size when compared to the original plans for an alloy wheels factory by what was formerly known as Liberty British Aluminium and is now rechristened Alvanca Aluminium - a division of the GFG Alliance group of companies - it is still a welcome £94m investment in Lochaber.

However, it is a bit much to expect community councils such as Kilmallie to wade through 132 pages of documents attached to the planning application to comment as a statutory consultee. Community councils consist of unpaid elected members who are expected to give up hours of their time each week for the benefit of their communities and local democracy. Taking Kilmallie as an example, not only has it to consider the ramifications of the recycling plant's impact on the port at Corpach and all that might mean in terms of increased HGV movements, it also has on its plate the major development at Blar Mhor which encompasses scores of new homes, the replacement for the Belford Hospital and a STEM centre. Perhaps that is something Highland Council needs to bear in mind next time it is considering community council funding.

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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## Parking problems in Oban

The biggest problem with parking in Oban is there is no enforcement - and residents know this.

People are telling visitors to park on the street as there is no-one checking parking.

Someone has been parking in the Blue Badge space on Breadalbane Street for weeks.

I do not drive or have a car but I am a Blue Badge holder. Why should I have to walk down the street or cross the road every time I need a lift for shopping or hospital appointments?

What Oban needs to solve parking problems is enforcement.

Only then will residents toe the line and stop breaking the law.

Stuart Graham, Burnbank Terrace, Oban.

## Concern over road markings

I'm sure I'm not the only one who would like to see the recently installed white road markings under Achnacloich railway bridge removed, before there is an accident there.

A sign at each side of the bridge telling high-sided vehicles to use the middle of the road is all that is needed.

Now there are lines directing high-sided vehicles into the middle of the road on each side of the bridge.

These lines confuse other drivers who do not need to use the middle of the road to pass under the bridge.

They draw them into the middle of the road, which does not leave room for an oncoming car to pass.

There is going to be an accident there due to the confusion caused by these new lines. They need to be removed.

Viola Stephenson, North Connel.

## Islay transport links vital

I was out and about visiting constituents in Port Ellen recently and I got the chance to check up on the progress of infrastructure improvements and the areas where work still needs to be done, including Mansfield Road.

Recent and ongoing disruptions with our ferry sailings have been mentioned a great deal and my constituents are justifiably angry.

With all of the challenges we face as our economy recovers from the damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the last thing we need is for our vital transport links to be heavily disrupted.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands ward.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha e àraid mar a thig rudan nad inntinn aig amannan 's gun chinnt sam bith dè dhùisg a' chuimhne.

Sin mar a dh'èirich dhòmhsa is mi a' teannadh air a' chòlhb seo a sgrìobhadh, is a' bhàrdachd aig John Donne, No man is an Island, agus an leabhar aig Ernest Hemingway For whom the Bell Tolls a' tighinn nam inntinn. 'S neònach mura robh caochladh rudan a thug mi chun an litreachais sin, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gur e fosgladh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail a bhith faisg (8 Dàmhair) fear dhiubh sin. Tha obair mhòr ann an deasachadh Mòd sam bith, ach bha fear na bliadhna seo sònraichte duilich ri linn buaidh Covid naodh-deug, agus 's iomadh lùb dom b' fheadar stiùireadh thuige.

Thuir sinn gum biodh am Mòd seo eadar-dhealaichte, ach dha na thig a dh'èisteachd aig farpaisean neo cuirmean-ciùil beò, neo a bhios ag èisteachd air-loidhne, tha toradh na h-obrach dhìcheallach aig sgioba A' Chomuinn, agus luchd-taice saor-thoileach, a' ciallachadh gun cluinnear sàr cheòl, agus gum faicear a' Ghàidhlig air a foillseachadh le spèis agus urram! 'S e subhachas nar dualchas, agus an càirdeas a tha cho nochdte anns a' chruinneachadh sluaigh aig a' Mhòd, tomhas mòr de phrìomh amas a' Chomuinn leis an tachartas gach bliadhna, agus tha làn-chreidsinn againn gun tachair leithid sin ann an Inbhir Nis am-bliadhna a-rithist, agus gum buannaich am baile a' bhith a' toirt aoi gheachd dhan Mhòd!

Ach carson Donne agus Hemingway? Mar eileanach chan eil am facal eilean, neo a shamhla

uair sam bith fada bhuam, agus tha mi mothachail air dùbhlain iomail na dùthcha agus an spàirn a tha dhith gus goireasan is cosnaidhean a chruthachadh a ghleidheas òigridh agus misneachd anns na sgìrean sin. Tha cuimhne agam nam oileanach a bhith a' breithneachadh na bàrdachd aig Donne agus a' faighneachd an robh a' bheachd aige a thaobh gach duine a bhith cho cudromach dha càch a chèile ag argamaid, os-ìosal, airson aon chànan is dualchas. Bha an leabhar cumhachdach aig Hemingway ag aithris sgeulachd bho thaobh a-staigh blàr sìobhalta na Spàinne, agus na prìomh caractaran a' stri an aghaidh nam faisistich.

'S dòcha gun robh mar a bhuannaich na faisistich sin Spàinn na bhrosnachadh dha uimhir seasamh an aghaidh an fheallsanachd oillteil anns an dàrna cogadh, ach ged a chaidh am blàr sin leotha tha eachdraidh a' dearbhadh gum bheil faisisteachd làidir fhathast. Dhùin an cearcall smuaintean sin is mi a' leughadh sgrìobhadh an Àrd-Ollaimh Seumas Mac an t-Sealgair air mar is e an Gàidheil Iain A Dòmhnallach, ciad Phrìomhaire Chanada, a dh'òrdaich clann thùsanach a sgaradh bhon cuid choimhearsnachdan gu ruige sgoiltean far an d' rachadh an cànan agus dualchas "fhoghlam asta"! Daoine borba, thuir an Dòmhnallach, agus nan toirte foghlam dhaibh am measg an cuideachd cha bhiodh annta ach daoine borba le comas leughaidh is sgrìobhadh! Nach deach an aon seòrsa beachd a thoirt air na Gàidheil dam buineadh e fhèin!

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

## Energy crisis perfect storm

This autumn's equinox will see our self-inflicted energy crisis hit by a perfect storm.

Wind farms have stood idle, a fire in our key cable to France's nuclear power will interrupt supplies till next spring and post-Covid economic recovery and tightening Russian and Irish supplies mean gas prices are rocketing.

The cost of heating and lighting homes will ensure fuel poverty is the 'Scottish disease' for years to come. Yet it needn't have been such a shambles. Twenty years ago Holyrood's first scientific adviser, the distinguished St Andrews

physics professor Wilson Sibbett, warned climate hysteria was a fad, not a science; that energy's priorities were reliability and affordability; that for Scotland with its vast shale reserves, fracking ticked all the boxes. Mocking windmills, solar panels and tidal barrages, he observed the Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stone and the fossil fuel era would pass not because of political diktats but as a result of unexpected advances and human ingenuity. Scientifically-challenged politicians insist there will be no black-outs - I trust you have paraffin stoves and propane lanterns in your store-room.

Dr John Cameron, St Andrews.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## ARDGOUR

### Ardgour Community Council holds September meeting

Ardgour Community Council held its regular monthly meeting for September at which a number of issues were on the agenda for discussion.

Community councillors in attendance were Samantha Thomson, chairperson; Michael Foxley, vice-chairperson; Louise White, treasurer; Claire Bennett-Levy, secretary; Kendra Turnbull; Louise White; Tricia Kennedy and Elizabeth

Carmichael. Others attending - Ewen Maclean, Ardgour Estate.

Members heard that a suggestion concerning road marking for the A861 at Drumsallie from chairperson Samantha Thompson had been well received by Highland Council. Vice-chairman Michael Foxley suggested meeting with senior road officials to progress. The Stronchreggan bridge was identified as the worst section which requires immediate attention.

Work by power company SSE at the Corran Narrows will require some overnight working but this will only be required for one night at a date to be confirmed, the meeting heard. Near neighbours will be made aware by SSE. A planning application is being prepared to retain a section of road/bellmouth as a footpath and will be submitted in the next couple of weeks.

**Police Update** - PC MacIvor provided an update via email, stating: 'No news can be good news with no crimes of dishonesty or such like in the area. With Covid-19, there is no active police campaigns at this time, however, I am very conscious of carrying out pro-active patrols and stops at Ardgour, particularly at the ferry point.'

**Environmental issues from Annat Industrial Estate at Corpach** - Councillor Thompson provided an update. Residents have met with the BSW mill manager and were given an updated list of the noise mitigation work. One acoustic wall is being installed ahead of schedule, the other has been delayed due to supply issues. It was positive that recent log line working from 6am - 2am was communicated in advance, but disruption to residents was significant. Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd has lodged an appeal to ministers, objecting to the condition of the setting up of a liaison group (a condition attached to recent planning consent for Sunday berthing) and the council has submitted a response.

**Urram update** - Interviews have taken place to appoint a new development officer and a care coordinator. Appointments will be confirmed after meeting with other board members.

**Ardgour Area Fund update** - Elizabeth Carmichael provided an update. A meeting is planned with a development trust to move forward and plans are in place for setting up online membership (a paper form will also be available) before the November meeting. She encouraged everyone to become members and promote others to sign up. Michael Foxley added more details of reasons for the development trust and how it will improve things in the future.

**EV Charging Point (EVCP)** - Michael Foxley highlighted potential positions at Ardgour hall, hotel and ferry. Highland Council and HiTrans are putting in EVCP and ferry terminals are a priority area. Councillor Foxley has discussed with ferry crew a location adjacent to where the tender is moored. Councillors Foxley, Carmichael and Kendra Turnbull are to take this forward.

**Corran Ferry update** - No update since August meeting. Awaiting follow-up meeting with Kate Forbes and Graham Dey, possibly in October. Councillor Turnbull asked a question about counting taking place on ferry. Community council secretary Councillor Claire Bennett-Levy is to email Highland Council contacts to get more information.

**New Belford Hospital project** - Councillor Foxley provided an update on the community comments following the Belford staff presentations to stakeholders in June. A total of 54 questions were set and some have now been answered and were circulated by Councillor Bennett-Levy. Councillor Foxley explained positive responses included confirmation of two theatres and that the facility would include a place of safety. Members heard there were still concerns about lack of information regarding A&E facilities. Also highlighted were lack of information/answers regarding links with GPs, treatment of children and links for care home beds.

**Bus tenders** - Councillor Foxley took the chair. Frustrations were raised during discussions about lack of information included within the consultation; the proposed cuts to service and the general lack of bus service outwith school term times. Suggested minimum of retention and push for improvement. Councillors Foxley and Bennett-Levy are to pull facts together and submit a response.

**Acharacle GME (Gaelic Medium Education) catchment** - Councillor Thompson retook the



West Highland College campus in Fort William.

## West Highland College shortlisted again for awards

West Highland College has been shortlisted again in two categories for awards by the College Development Network.

The college, along with North Highland College UHI and Inverness College UHI, has been shortlisted for the Digital Learning Award for their Virtual Schools, Virtually Anywhere initiative.

WHC Supported Learning Programme lecturer Katy MacDonald has also been shortlisted for the Learning and Teaching Colleague of the Year Award.

WHC's Virtual School, Virtually Anywhere involves pupils from nine high schools across its area - and 20 more from outside - including Lochaber, Mallaig, Kilchuimen, Kinlochleven, Ardnamurchan, Portree, and Plockton.

Fiona Grant, director of academic affairs, said: 'Our staff have always embraced innovative practices to get the very best results for our students and we are delighted that being

shortlisted for these two categories shows how valuable their contribution is.

'Our Virtual School programme has been driven to success by the hard work and forward thinking of our own staff and those of our colleagues from other colleges within the university partnership.

'Virtual School is a remarkable testament to the benefits that such collaboration, combined with digital expertise, can bring to young people in even the smallest Highlands schools in remote and rural locations.

'And we are so pleased and proud that Katy has been shortlisted for teaching colleague of the year. This is recognition of the amazing work that Katy and her team of lecturers and support workers have done for supported learning students during the pandemic.'

The winners will be announced at a celebration ceremony at Radisson Blu, in Glasgow, on Thursday, December 9.

chair. Councillor Tricia Kennedy provided background and stressed the importance of keeping children within the peninsula. Proposals will exclude Ardgour Primary School from transport to GME unit in Acharacle.

Public meeting is due on September 29 which Councillor Kennedy will attend and submit a response.

Date of next meeting - Thursday, October 14, at 7.30pm via Zoom.

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# FOCUS



## We're helping Scottish businesses to connect with the world

Scottish businesses are being urged to reconnect with the world and discover valuable new opportunities at the World Expo being held in Dubai.

Running from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022, the World Expo will be one of the first major in-person events as the world emerges from the COVID pandemic.

The Scottish Chambers of Commerce network is leading three delegations later this year and into 2022, providing the platform for Scotland to showcase its skills, expertise and innovation across a range of sectors on the global stage in a single visit.

The World Expo will welcome more than 25 million visitors from 190 countries, with a stated aim of hosting a World Expo that inspires people by showcasing the best examples of collaboration, innovation and cooperation from around the world.

The Scottish Chambers network is organising three delegations that will guide its businesses through the experience, linking them with the right connections and hand-picking events around topics and themes where our national businesses shine.

Along with the support of 30 local Chambers across Scotland, Scottish Chambers will use its global links through the international Chamber network to set up meetings with carefully matched companies from around the world.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is part of the Scottish Chambers' International Trade Programme to help small and medium-sized businesses explore opportunities in global markets.

They have led successful virtual trade missions to Nova Scotia, Canada and North Carolina over the last year and a half and are currently inviting businesses to join a virtual mission to British Columbia in Canada. Virtual trade missions are a great way for businesses to dip their toe in international trading waters, without the need to travel or take time away from core business. Delegates are matched with carefully selected business contacts for one-to-one meetings and benefit from in-market briefings. Virtual trade missions have proved very successful in opening up new opportunities overseas for Scottish businesses that might never otherwise have considered taking their business international.

**If you didn't think international trade was for you, think again! Find out more about the opportunities on offer at [www.exporthubscotland.com](http://www.exporthubscotland.com)**

# Protect your business from online scams



You might have heard of BEC scams, but what are they and do they affect you? Business email compromise (or BEC) is a form of phishing attack where a criminal attempts to trick a senior executive (or budget-holder) into transferring funds, or revealing sensitive information.

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.

The criminals behind BEC 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.

### Spot the tell-tale signs of phishing

Spotting a phishing email is becoming increasingly difficult and can trick even the most careful user. Having the confidence to ask "is this genuine?" can make the difference between staying safe or a costly mishap.

Look out for emails that appear to come from a high-ranking person within your organisation, requesting a payment to a particular account. Look at the sender's name and email address - does it sound legitimate or is it trying to mimic someone you know?

Ensure that all email requests are verified using another method (such as SMS message, a phone call, logging into an account or confirmation by post or in person).

Think about your usual practices around financial transactions - if you get an email from an organisation that you

don't usually do business with, treat it with suspicion.

Some emails will try to create official-looking emails by including logos and graphics. Is this design and quality what you'd expect from the company the email is meant to be from?

### Make yourself a harder target

Information about you that's easily viewed on your work and private websites (including social media accounts) can be used by criminals to make their phishing emails appear more convincing.

Review your privacy settings and think about what you post across your social and professional accounts. Be aware of what family, friends and colleagues say about you online, as this can also reveal information that could be used to target you.

### What do you need to do?

If you are a small organisation that doesn't have an IT department to look after this, you need to create a cyber security plan to make sure you have a procedure to deal with this if it happens.

The UK Government's National Cyber Security Centre website at [www.ncsc.gov.uk](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk) is a great place to start, and will help you to create a Cyber Aware Action Plan for your business.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is running a Cyber Security webinar on 2nd November, which will give members an overview of what they need to consider and do to protect their business from online threats. Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for details of how to sign up to this free webinar.





# Develop your leadership skills right here in Lochaber!

When it comes to business success, we know it's all about leadership. The ability to lead individuals and teams to success is arguably the most important skill a manager can possess.

But when you live and work in a rural Highland location, what is the most effective way to develop your staff's leadership potential and skills?

Following the popularity of our business skills seminars, we surveyed local businesses and developed the 'One Lochaber' Leadership Programme' to provide a bespoke one-year accredited course to help develop the next generation of business leaders within organisations - right here in Lochaber. Successful delegates receive a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management.

There are many benefits of the One Lochaber Leadership Programme - the flexible style makes it easy to fit in with work, the small group style creates a friendly, informal learning environment with personal attention from tutors; plus there's no expensive and time-consuming travel and accommodation costs.

Led by expert leadership trainers, One Lochaber gives Lochaber businesses the capability to lead through uncertain times, set and achieve strategic goals, take decisive action at pace, out-perform the competition and create an environment that inspires all of your company's people to perform at the highest level.



If you or a member of your team would like to join the next One Lochaber Leadership Programme, please visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) or contact Wendy Reid, Skills for Work Manager, on [wendy.reid@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:wendy.reid@lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more information.

## Upcoming events to support your business

**Thurs 7 Oct**

**Networking Lunch** - Join us at 1pm for the return of our popular networking lunches (in-person). Ben Nevis Distillery

**Thurs 14 Oct**

**Your Business Journey to Net Zero** - Find out all the info on practical steps you can take now and where to get further help (online)

**Tues 26 Oct**

**Business as usual? Return to the workplace: the key issues for employer** - Webinar looking at the employment law impacts of COVID 19 as businesses look to deal with the legal aspects of working in a post COVID 19 world. (online)

**Tues 2 Nov**

**Cybersecurity Basics for Business: Do you know the steps to take to protect your business from online threats?** (online)

**Wed 17 Nov**

**LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK: Aquaculture Day** - A day celebrating innovation and inspiration in this key local industry (in-person)

**Thur 18 Nov**

**LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK: Tourism Day** - a look at what's happening and what's on the horizon for the visitor economy. (in-person)

**Fri 19 Nov**

**LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK: Gala Dinner** - Get your gladrags on and enjoy a well-deserved night out to celebrate the best of local business. (in-person)

See our events page at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more details on all events and how to book.



Subscribe and receive a FREE bottle of gin or whisky

## SCOTTISH FIELD October



*The luxury issue...*  
**Billionaire islands... Sustainable luxury fashion... Phyllida Law... Dream destinations... Decadent drams... Grand gardens... Michelin-starred chef Miguel Angel Mayor... Extraordinary interiors... Stunning Photo Essay...**



# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



The pubs, clubs, and venues of Glasgow have been in full swing for a few weeks now and, subsequently, the type of funny stories that these kind of places foster have started doing the rounds for the first time since before lockdown.

It seems there have been a great many party animals using the last month to make up for lost time.

One such socialite was the gentleman from Lewis who came down a couple of weekends ago to stay with his Argyllshire pal (a mutual friend of mine) in a Partick tenement flat.

The pair attended the Barrowlands on Saturday night for the big Trail West soiree; but, the evening before, decided to pop out to the 'Teuchter Triangle' just to find out 'how much they could take' in preparation for the following night.

This, of course, is a rookie error to make in relation to the triangle - a place that rivals its namesake in Bermuda for numbers of people missing in mysterious circumstances.

They are not the first to

make this mistake; and they won't be the last.

As these brave lads walked along Dumbarton Road, over the Partick Bridge, past the Art Gallery, and onto Argyle Street, they had no idea the sheer number of fellow Highlanders and islanders who had also embarked on a similar journey that day - all of whom were ready for plenty more libations than the boys originally had in mind.

Fast forward to 8am the following morning. The Argyllshire lad awoke in his bed to the sound of the buzzer going for the main close door.

Worried that it would similarly awake his guest on the couch in the living room, he shouted through 'sorry about this - it must be the postman,' and proceeded to press the buzzer before heading back to bed.

No sooner had he settled back down than his own doorbell went.

Rising from bed again, he shouted through to the living room: 'I've got no idea who this can be at this time in the morning!'

He opened the door and was stunned to be met with his Lewis lodger - who he believed he had just been shouting to in the living room!

Neither lad appears to be quite sure how this happened but, after an internal enquiry that would put Scotland Yard to shame, their best guess is that they became separated at some point between The Park Bar, Islay Inn, and Snaffle Bit, and had returned home at separate times.

This was no problem, of course, for the lad who owned the flat and, naturally, had the keys; but it provided a bit of an issue for the Lewis lad who had no way of getting into the close - either because his companion was asleep; or had not yet returned home.

The saving grace for an islander visiting these parts of Glasgow is that there are always plenty of offers of alternative accommodation so he was not without a place to lay his head.

He did, however, have a great story to tell at the Barrowlands.

# A story for St Conan's

St Conan's Kirk on the shores of Loch Awe is making history again.

For the first time, the church is about to be an outreach venue in October's Scottish International Storytelling Festival (SISF).

The main festival is based in Edinburgh and is one of the most admired storytelling events in the world but as well as venues in the Scottish capital, SISF takes acts to communities all over Scotland, rippling out the stories - and this year Lochawe is one of them.

The festival celebrates the joy of storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity and the story coming to St Conan's will be told by Donald Smith, director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre and Heather Yule, who will also be playing the clarsach.

The story is called Leaving Iona.

This year is the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Columba who founded the much-loved abbey on the island.

The tale follows his wake and imagined final journey.

Where should this hugely influential man be buried?

Columba came from Donegal in Ireland but made a huge impact not only on Iona but all over Scotland.

And who should tell his story: the monks, the poets or the women?

This storytelling event weaves together music and narrative, landscape and legend, tradition and humour.

Kathleen Hannigan, co-ordinating the event for the Friends of St Conan's, said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming SISF and look forward to hearing what promises to be a fascinating story. Donald Smith is a highly accomplished



St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

storyteller and we feel very fortunate to have this opportunity.'

The story is aimed at an adult audience but is also suitable for children.

'We hope that adults and families will come along and support this initiative,' added Kathleen.

Leaving Iona is in the kirk on Sunday October 3 at 3pm. Entry is by donation.

The performance will last about an hour and will be followed tea cake and biscuits.

## HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 1ST - THUR 7TH OCT

# NO TIME TO DIE

DANIEL CRAIG'S FINAL 007 ADVENTURE IS HERE!



HOP ON BOARD THE FAMILY ADVENTURE OF THE YEAR!



### THE Many Saints of Newark

WHO MADE TONY SOPRANO



#### FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER

No Time To Die (12a) 10:15am, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 4pm, 5:15pm + 7:30pm.  
Around The World In 80 Days (U) 10:30am. The Alpinist (12a) 8:40pm.

#### SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER

No Time To Die (12a) 10:15am, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 4pm, 5:15pm + 7:30pm.  
Around The World In 80 Days (U) 10:30am.  
The Many Saints Of Newark (12a) 8:40pm.

#### SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER

No Time To Die (12a) 10:15am, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 4pm, 5:15pm + 7:30pm.  
Around The World In 80 Days (U) 10:30am. The Alpinist (12a) 8:40pm.

#### MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. Around The World In 80 Days (U) Bairsns at the Box Office: 11am. No Time To Die (12a) 12:15pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm + 7:15pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 1:50pm.  
The Alpinist (12a) 4:30pm.

#### TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER

No Time To Die (12a) 12pm, 3:30pm + 6:45pm. The Alpinist (12a) 1:20pm.  
Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 3:45pm.  
CAFÉ BAR CLOSED FROM 6PM FOR PRIVATE EVENT.

#### WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 11:10am.  
No Time To Die (12a) 12:15pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm + 7:15pm.  
The Alpinist (12a) 2pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (15) 4:10pm.

#### THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER

No Time To Die (12a) 10:30am, 12:15pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm + 7:15pm.  
Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. The Last Bus (12a) 2pm.  
The Alpinist (12a) 4:15pm.



FILM SYNOPSIS, TRAILERS, TICKETS AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER:

WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK





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## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Fort William will play Kingussie in the cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi-finals and Beaully will face Skye Camanachd in the Alvanche British Aluminium Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday September 25.

#### cottages.com MacTavish Cup - quarter finals

##### Fort William 6 Glenurquhart 0

Fort William reached the cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi-finals after an impressive 6-0 win over Glenurquhart in their 3pm throw-up at An Aird.

Fort William co-managers Victor Smith and Adam Robertson had Calum Shepherd fit again following a knuckle injury whilst Johnny Foster was also back. Both missed the win over Skye a fortnight ago.

Glenurquhart travelled without keeper Stuart MacKintosh so Iain MacLeod played in goal. Michael Fraser was at full centre with Ally MacKintosh at buckshee back.

There was a minute's applause ahead of throw-up as those present marked the passing of Glenurquhart and Strathglass stalwart James 'Jimmac' MacKintosh.

Lewis Morrison put Fort William ahead on five minutes. The ball came across the penalty area where there was a tussle between Arran MacPhee and two Glenurquhart defenders. The ball broke to Morrison who struck it well into the middle of the goals.

Lachie Shaw opened his account on 12 minutes. Shaw took down Alexander MacMillan's lofted ball into the penalty area before taking one touch to the left, then turning and striking into the centre of the goal.

Victor Smith reacted first to a rebound, slotting the ball into the bottom left corner of the net to make it 3-0 on 25 minutes.

Arran MacPhee added another on 37 minutes when a shot hit a Glenurquhart defender and bounced up to MacPhee who took a touch in the air and lifted the ball over keeper MacLeod to make it 4-0 at the interval.

Lachie Shaw got his second on 63 minutes as a result of good link-up play by the midfield and forwards. The ball was played across the 'D' by Victor Smith from wide left and finished at the near post by Lachie Shaw.

Lachie Shaw completed his hat-trick five minutes later with an almost identical effort as Victor Smith's ball across left Shaw with a simple tap-in.

Fort William full back Johnny Foster had a great

game, snuffing out John Barr's threat before the Glenurquhart veteran was eventually substituted.

Fort William will now play Kingussie in the semi-finals whilst Caberfeidh face Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup winners Kinlochshiel in the other last four-tie.

The cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final is due to take place at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday October 23.

Fort William co-manager Victor Smith said: 'We're delighted with that performance. It's a while since Fort William have been in a semi-final and it keeps us going with something real to play for.'

#### Alvanche British Aluminium Balliemore Cup - semi final

##### Beaully 7 Bute 0

Beaully will play Skye Camanachd in this year's Alvanche Camanachd Cup Final after seeing off Bute 7-0 in a semi-final moved from the Jubilee Park to Canal Parks.

Beaully took a grip of this tie from the start with David MacLean on 14 minutes and Robbie Brindle on 23 minutes making it 2-0.

Ross Forbes hit a quick-fire double on 27 and 29 minutes to make it 4-0. A second from Robbie Brindle on 31 minutes made 5-0 with Jack MacDonald on 41 minutes and Calum MacMillan's own goal a minute into the second half making it 7-0.

Beaully now face Skye Camanachd in the Alvanche Camanachd Cup Final at An Aird, Fort William, this Saturday.

#### HIS Sutherland Cup - semi final

##### Lovat 5 Lochside Rovers 0

The Lovat second team were 5-0 winners against HIS Sutherland Cup holders Lochside Rovers at Spean Bridge.

Lovat got off to a blistering start with Raymond Rennie on three minutes and Fraser Gallagher 60 seconds later making it 2-0. Gary Marshall added a third on nine minutes with Lovat's final two goals coming late in the match through Ryan Ferguson on 83 and 87 minutes.

The Lovat seconds will now play the Newtonmore seconds in the HIS Sutherland Cup Final at Blairbeg, Drumadrochit, on Saturday October 16.

#### Mowi Senior League A Skye Camanachd 2 Kilmallie 3

An understrength Kilmallie side recovered from the loss of an early goal to beat Skye Camanachd 3-2 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Ross Gordon returned for Skye following a hand



Fort William's hat-trick hero Lachie Shaw tackles Fergus Robertson as he tries to deflect action away from the Glenurquhart goalmouth.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

injury, taking a place on the bench whilst John Gillies was unavailable. Martin Pringle started at full back whilst Ross MacKinnon at buckshee back and William MacKinnon at buckshee forward gave a strong core to the side.

Kilmallie were without a clutch of regulars including Shane Gillies, Stephen Mcalister, Andrew Mcalister, Ryan Stewart, Lewis Birrell, Craig MacIsaac and the suspended Innes Blackhall. Shane O'Rua and Martyn Cameron were given starting debuts whilst Stuart Ross and Kale Lacey made debuts from the bench.

Somhairle MacDonald's strike from wide on the left on seven minutes deceived keeper Kevin Toye to give Skye an early lead.

Skye had the majority of the early pressure, however, Martyn Cameron ensured the sides went into the break on level terms, scoring at the back post on 23 minutes following a corner on the right.

The goal lifted Kilmallie and they came much more into the game.

A great strike from Daniel Stewart on 68 minutes put Kilmallie in front. Stewart ran onto Steven Stewart's long ball forward before sending a first-time shot from left of the 'D' high into the net.

Substitute Taylor Matheson pulled Skye level on 75 minutes, taking Jordan Murchison's pass before turning inside from the right and hammering the ball over the keeper's left shoulder on his backhand to make it 2-2.

The winning goal came a couple of minutes later when two Skye defenders collided allowing Michael Rodger's ball out of defence to break to Stuart Callison on the left and

he sent a terrific drive across the keeper and inside the far post to make it 3-2.

The sides also contested the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup on the 50th year since Thomas tragically died in a road accident. The trophy was presented to Kilmallie skipper Robbie MacFadyen by Skye Camanachd stalwart Alasdair MacKinnon, who was best friends with Thomas. Skye's Ross MacKinnon, who suffered a nasty head cut during the game, was Kilmallie's choice as the best player in the opposing team so took the Glasgow Mid Argyll Shield.

Kilmallie boss Martin Stewart said: 'That was brilliant. The boys stood up right until then end, every single one of them and I couldn't ask for more than that.'

'Stevie Stewart ran the show. That's the best he's played in a blue top as far as I'm concerned and Shane O'Rua, an Under 14 player, was brilliant.'

'We were missing a lot of players today and we have a game against Lochaber this Saturday but how can I not pick that same team again.'

Full forward Daniel Stewart added: 'I thought we pressed the game well all over the pitch.'

**Mowi Senior League B Newtonmore 0 Kingussie 2** Kingussie won their fourth Badenoch derby of the season, beating Newtonmore 2-0 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore's Max Campbell was banned, whilst Robert Mabon and James Falconer returned for Kingussie. Savio Genini was still missing.

There was an early chance for Newtonmore when Iain Robinson got clear of his marker but he fired wide of goal. Ruairidh Anderson then

set up James Falconer but he hit the side-netting.

Newtonmore claimed for a penalty when a Kingussie defender blocked Iain Robinson's shot and cleared the ball when on the ground but referee John Angus Gillies waved away their claims.

James Falconer put Kingussie in front on 66 minutes. Roddy Young found Ruairidh Anderson who played in James Falconer with a clever flick and Falconer weaved his way through the home defence before flicking the ball by the goalie.

Newtonmore's Kenny Ross was the busier of the two keepers in the second half and made three excellent saves before Dylan Borthwick made it 2-0 on 78 minutes. Newtonmore were unable to clear Kieran MacPherson's ball from the left and Borthwick fired low across the keeper, beating him at his left post.

Referee John Angus Gillies wore a Go-Pro which recorded his view of proceedings throughout the match and the video will be used for referee training. There were no bookings.

**Lovat P Caberfeidh P** Tulloch Homes Camanachd cup finalists Lovat were unable to field a team for their match against Caberfeidh at Balgate.

**Mowi North League A Fort William P Lochcarron P** The Fort William second team's noon throw-up against Lochcarron at An Aird was a Friday evening postponement as the visitors were unable to raise a team.

**Glengarry 3 Kinlochshiel 0** Glengarry scored three times in the last 20 minutes to beat the Kinlochshiel second team 3-0 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Craigard.

Finlay Nicolson broke the

deadlock on 72 minutes with Shaun Nicolson doubling the host's advantage three minutes later. A second from Shaun Nicolson 10 minutes from time sealed the 3-0 triumph.

**Mowi North League B Kingussie 1 Newtonmore 5** The Newtonmore second team go top of Mowi North League B after beating the Kingussie seconds 5-1 in their Badenoch derby at the Dell.

Fraser MacKintosh on 27 minutes and Brodie MacBean on 32 minutes had Newtonmore 2-0 ahead at the break. Brodie MacBean added a third a minute into the second half. Glen MacKintosh's brace on 52 and 73 minutes made it 5-0 before Kingussie's Calum Moneagle countered on 81 minutes.

**Glenurquhart 6 Inverness 4** James MacPherson scored four times as the Glenurquhart second team overcame the Inverness first team 6-4 at Blairbeg.

Angus MacCallum gave Glenurquhart the lead on 17 minutes with James MacPherson striking on 19 and 27 minutes to make it 3-0.

Finlay Calder pulled a goal back on 35 minutes but a hat-trick goal from James MacPherson a minute later and Neale Reid's effort on 37 minutes made it 5-1.

Iain Hunter made it 5-2 on 56 minutes but a fourth from James MacPherson a couple of minutes later made it 6-2.

Glenurquhart's Euan Campbell added a late brace on 85 and 87 minutes to make the final score 6-4.

**Mowi North League C Inverness 2 Strathglass 3** The Strathglass seconds edged out the Inverness seconds 3-2 at the Bught Park.

Robbie Stokes had the visitors ahead on 39 minutes only for Ruairidh Hughes to level on the stroke of half-time.

Sinclair MacLeod put Strathglass back in front on 68 minutes but a second from Robbie Stokes four minutes from time looked to have rescued a Strathglass point.

However, with just a minute remaining, Lorn Hughes netted to give Inverness victory.

**Strathspey Camanachd 1 Lewis Camanachd 0** Calum MacKintosh scored on 72 minutes to give Strathspey Camanachd a 1-0 victory over Lewis Camanachd in their 1.30pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

**Beaully P Aberdeen University P** The game between the Beaully colts and Aberdeen University at Braeview Park will be rescheduled.

**Mowi Central League Kilmallie P Kilmory P** The clash between the Kilmallie seconds and Kilmory at the Canal Parks will be rescheduled.



## Parliament hears of historic shinty win

News of Kinlochshiel's historic Camanachd Cup win has reached the highest corridors of power.

Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament last week commending the Wester Ross shinty team's impressive achievement in lifting the honour for the first time in the club's 63-year history.

Mr Blackford, the SNP leader at Westminster, said: 'Thanks to an outstanding hat-trick from captain Keith MacRae, the Kinlochshiel team defeated 2015 cup winners Lovat 3-1 at a final held in Oban on Saturday September 18.

'The town was a sea of red and white as the team lifted the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup for the first time in their 63-year history, making the five-hour round trip more than worthwhile for their huge and jubilant support.'

He added: 'Not only did captain Keith MacRae excel, his team-mate Conor Cormack, in defence, was awarded the Albert Smith Medal for Man of the Match.

'I'd like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all involved - including manager Johnstone Gill - for this outstanding performance and fantastic result. What a wonderful achievement.'

## School sports boost - and new centre planned

A commitment to major investment in sports facilities at Stornoway Primary School has been made by Comhairle nan Eilean Star's Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee.

Members also last week approved outline proposals to construct a new indoor multi-use sports centre at the school.

Councillor Paul Steele, chairman of the committee, said: 'This investment by the comhairle will significantly expand the capacity for indoor physical education, learning, play, performance and social space for the school's 391 pupils.

'The comhairle recognises the commitment of the school and its pupils, parents and staff in working towards this new development and now looks forward to working with them to advance the project and progress it to the construction phase.'

# All change as troubled club faces challenges head on

**Continued from page 40.** its squad over the coming weeks.

'The Huntly game was a poor performance from the lads, some looking unfit and some just not hungry enough for the fight,' he said.

'This could be the biggest year for the club so far and I hope to see its fastest progression in many years... all brought on by the prospect of relegation.

Born in Manchester, Trew moved to the area 15 years ago and has been involved with Fort William FC for the past two years.

His main hopes for the season ahead are to avoid the playoff game and to get home games back on at Claggan Park.

'The league chairman visited and noticed a vast

**'We have to make the matchday experience better at Claggan Park. It can be grim sometimes. This will change if we get our home games back.'**

improvement, while Scottish Football Association referee Billy Baxter agrees it is now up to Highland league standard and ready to play on,' he told the Lochaber Times. 'We had a lot of rain



**Fort William FC's new chairman John Trew is confident the club can turn its fortunes around.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

added. 'We are also looking at the prospect of an accommodation block for players that have to travel.

'We have to make the matchday experience better at Claggan Park. It can be grim sometimes. This will change if we get our home games back.'

Trew also told the Lochaber Times that the club will be bringing in a new manager soon and in the meantime Tommy Lee and Callum McLean will take temporary charge. The new chairman thanked Ashley for the time and energy he brought to the club and wished him the best for future.

'It's going to be a crazy season and we want the fans to be a part of that, be our 12th man,' he added.

and the playing area is solid underfoot.'

Trew admitted that not being able to play home games was one of the biggest problems facing the club as they couldn't prepare

hospitality without certainty of the game going ahead.

'We need to secure a lengthy lease that will allow us to build a new clubhouse and access grants for the seniors and youth teams,' he

## Scottish success as mountain racing returns to Lochaber

Thousands of runners and spectators gathered in Kinlochleven over the weekend of September 18/19 for Salomon Skyline Scotland 2021.

Two days of mountain running saw athletes exploring the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands in a series of skyraces and trail runs.

Many more people turned up to enjoy the atmosphere, free talks, live music and food and drink in the Skyline Scotland Event Village in the centre of Kinlochleven near the finish line for all the races.

There was success for Scottish athletes in the toughest race of the event, the Salomon Glen Coe Skyline, with winners in both the men's and women's races - Andrew Fallas, Edinburgh, and Georgia Tindley, Kingussie.

During the prizegiving ceremony in the Event Village on Saturday afternoon, donations collected from entrants were handed to Glencoe and Lochaber mountain rescue teams. Each team received £3,000.

Andy Nelson of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) said: 'The do-

nation is significant for us because all rescue teams in the UK are staffed by volunteers and rely on donations.

'A fraction of the finance to run our services comes from government and other organisations, such as the police. Donations from the public are vital to be able to run our service.

'We are grateful for the money from runners in this event.'

Mike Smith of Lochaber MRT added: 'Our team needs about £85,000 annually on average to run and we only receive £24,000 funding so every other penny

of that comes from the public. We could not do what we do without that. This money is super kind.

'I hope participants will remember, too, that all mountain rescue teams across the UK need donations like this to keep going.'

For more news from Salomon Skyline Scotland 2021 and to find the full results from the races, visit [www.skylinescotland.com](http://www.skylinescotland.com) and follow @skylinescotland on social media for future updates.

For photographs from the event visit [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)

## Lochaber try, try and try again against Clydesdale

**Continued from page 40.** got his second of the day with all sorts of problems for Clydesdale.

Edward Murray John scored a brace of tries, with Davies converting the first to further increase their lead.

However, coming into half time Lochaber took their feet off the gas and allowed their opponents to score in the corner.

This gave the visitors a bit of a wake up just before half time and they got the last points of the half when Christopher Simpson ran clear to score, with Davies converting.

After a quick team talk at half time, Lochaber made quick work getting their first points of the second half with Callum Boyd scoring before MacKay

got his second of the day with Davies converting the second.

Lewis Morrison showed his pace to score, with Davies converting before Taylor got his second try. Simpson ran in for an easy score in the corner before captain Callum MacDonald finished things off with a try in the last play of the game with Boyd converting for a final tally of 5-79.

Things got a bit confusing, however, as the referee gave a final score of 5-68 - missing one try and three conversions. Lochaber were unable to talk to the referee about this after the game and the whistler's score stood.

Lochaber host Moffat on Saturday at Banavie. Kick-off 3pm.



**Action from the game.** Photograph Courtesy of Clydesdale RFC.





# Drizzle fails to dampen spirits at Dalriada

Saturday saw the first Dalriada Junior Rugby tournament in Oban in almost two years with the last fixtures taking place in October 2019.

The early morning rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the teams representing Oban, Kintyre (Campbeltown), Mid Argyll (Lochgilthead), Etive Vikings (Taynuilt), Mull and Lochaber.

There were healthy numbers at all age groups and some great rugby was played.

Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Andrew Johnston said: 'This was the second event in the series and the high standard of rugby on show was great to see with some strong running and tackling and great tries being scored.'

'Thank you to Walter Speirs and his team at Oban Lorne for running a great tournament.'

The day was rounded off with the Oban Minis running on to the pitch with the Oban senior team prior to their league match against Strathaven.

The next Dalriada event is in Fort William on Saturday October 9 at Lochaber Rugby club.



Primary school players from Lochaber took part in the Dalriada Mini Rugby Festival in Oban on Saturday.

# All change as troubled club faces challenges head on

by Fiona Scott  
[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

Fort William Football Club have been ringing the changes again with a view to turning fortunes around on and off the pitch.

Kinlochleven businessman John Trew has stepped up as chairman, taking over from Oliver Stephen who had only been in the role for a month, while coach Ashley Hollier and his team have also stepped down.

Last Saturday, the team suffered their eighth consecutive defeat of the season when they went down 3-0 away to Huntly. Having played and lost seven from seven matches, the club are firmly pinned to the bottom of the Highland League table.

Despite the current chaos, however, father-of-two Trew, who owns microbrewery equipment manufacturing company Oban Ales, is confident the club can turn its fortunes around. He told the Lochaber Times the club will be strengthening

Continued on page 39.

# Lochaber try, try and try again

Lochaber RFC travelled to Clydesdale on Saturday for the first meeting between the clubs.

Clydesdale had enjoyed an away win at Moffat the week before, while Lochaber had lost at home by a point to the Medics and were looking to make amends.

The first scrum came after only a few minutes and, even with the under-19

scrum laws in place this season, Lochaber folded the much heavier Clydesdale pack in half and left them in a heap on the ground. The under 19 law variant saved Clydesdale for the remainder of the game as Lochaber could only push 1.5 metres.

With this dominance up front, it wasn't long until Lochaber were in for their first points of the game with

Findlay Ireland breaking free twice in quick succession to score a brace of tries in the corner, with Ryan Davies converting the first one in very windy conditions.

Lochaber's lineout worked well the whole game with Alan Hamilton securing all of his own and stealing all bar one of Clydesdale's. And it was from one such lineout that Lochaber scored

their third try, Rory MacKay scoring from the back of the resulting maul, converted by Davies.

Conor Taylor secured the bonus point after brushing aside a couple of tackles from close range.

Lochaber were enjoying themselves, which could be seen in the confidence of their play, with their backs causing

Continued on page 39.



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 30 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>30</b>	0614 2.1 1309 2.8 TH 1911 2.3	<b>2</b>	0320 3.1 0849 1.7 SA 1529 3.3 2207 1.7	<b>4</b>	0431 3.6 1020 1.1 M 1635 3.9 2306 1.0	<b>6</b>	0534 3.9 1133 0.5 W 1741 4.3
<b>1</b>	0231 2.8 0735 2.0 F 1449 3.0 2141 2.0	<b>3</b>	0357 3.3 0940 1.4 SU 1602 3.6 2235 1.4	<b>5</b>	0504 3.8 1057 0.8 TU 1709 4.1 2338 0.8	<b>7</b>	0009 0.6 0602 4.0 TH 1210 0.4 1814 4.3

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

#### Thursday

Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

#### Friday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

#### Saturday

Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

#### Sunday

Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 12°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

