The Oban Times

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Royal Marine mum, Gill, is on a mission

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN: Oban – Scotland In One Place. Help our town win city status

AFTER THE STORM

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

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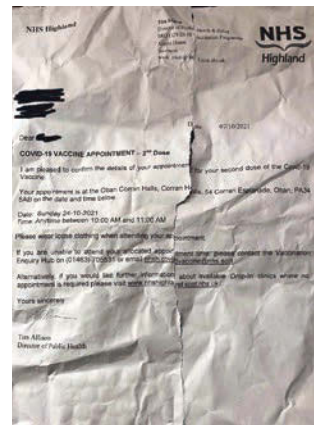
● REST AND BE THANKFUL PETITION GATHERS PACE – PAGE 10

Covid error



HSCP apologises after teens sent vaccination letters

● See page 3 for more

Don't forget

Make sure you turn your clocks back one hour this weekend

OT

Blue skies as Storm hits Oban

The sea goddess, Storm, received one of her best receptions on her tour of 11 Scottish cities and towns when she visited Oban on Sunday.
Photographs: Stewart Inglis, above, all others, Kevin McGlynn.

A 10-metre tall marching puppet was a giant attraction when she took Oban by 'Storm' on Sunday, writes Kathie Griffiths.

An estimated 4,000 people lined the streets to watch the spectacle that has been two years in the planning.

Not since the town hosted the world record attempt for Strip the Willow has Oban seen so many people in Station Square, George Street and the Esplanade.

The sea goddess, whose visit last year in celebration of the Year of Coasts and Waters was cancelled by Covid, got one of her best receptions on her tour of 11 Scottish cities and towns.

By Sunday, more than 8,300 people – as many as Oban's entire population – had also watched a livestream of her on Love Oban's Facebook page.

Storm's makers from Vision Mechanics, who masterminded her visit with BID4Oban, were so impressed by the turnout that they promise to be back, hopefully in 2023, with a new project called The Swarm - a mass event involving the whole town, lots of cycling and making of bikes.

A heavy downpour an hour before Storm's arrival was replaced by blue skies from beyond Kerrera as the mighty puppet began her march from Station Square led by Oban High School's Pipe Band.

Vision Mechanic's Simon MacIntyre said: 'We'd been worried the forecast for Sunday looked horrendous. But what happened? Storm came out and the sun shone. Oban was fantastic.'

Song

On her way to the North Pier, Storm stopped outside the VisitScotland office where the town's Gaelic choir serenaded her with Cearcall a' Chuain, a song all about the sea, how it affects people's lives, how people rely on it and a reminder of how it and its shorelines must be looked after.

Oban High School's trad band also played to crowds in Station Square and there were stalls from organisations and groups, including Argyll Wellbeing Hub, Adventure Oban and recycling champions the GRAB Trust.

BID4Oban's Andrew Spence said: 'The town has been through a tough time over the last 20 months but Storm's visit gave everyone a great boost.'

Visitors flooded into Oban from across Scotland, UK-wide and abroad to witness Storm rising. Bid4Oban's office had been inundated with calls in the run-up to the event with people wanting to find out more.

Students from the Scottish Association for Marine Science were out in force on the day to help with event marshalling, as well as other volunteers from across the town including Oban Ambassadors Kay MacDonald and Joe Reich.

Kay said she was still buzzing and glowing from Storm's visit 24 hours after the event. 'She exceeded my expectations. It was amazing. The town was hoaching.'

Also thanked for helping make Storm's visit a huge success were Argyll and Bute Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their support and G H Productions Argyll for the live streaming.

▌More photographs and video at www.obantimes.co.uk

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Vaccination letters sent out to 163 teens in error

by Kathie Griffiths
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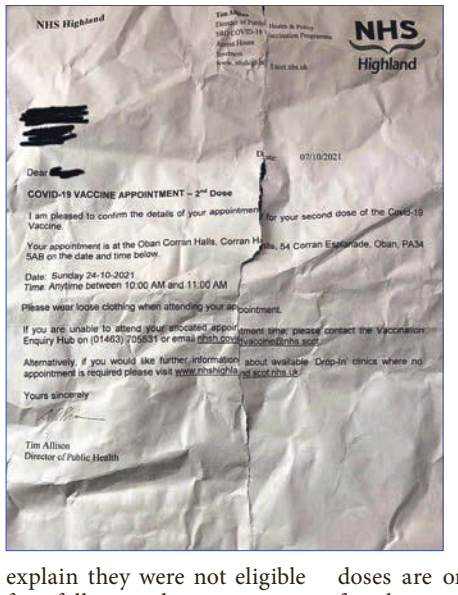
Argyll's health board has apologised for causing confusion after 163 vaccination appointments were posted out to Oban teenagers by mistake.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has blamed human error for sending out the letters inviting 16 and 17-year-olds for a second dose and has pleaded with them not to be disheartened by the blunder.

'In the future we expect teenagers will get a second vaccination, but we do not know definitely or when,' said the HSCP spokesperson.


NHS Highland

NHS Highland

07/10/2021

Dear [redacted]

COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT – 2nd Dose

I am pleased to confirm the details of your appointment for your second dose of the Covid-19 Vaccine.

Your appointment is at the Oban Corran Halls, Corran Halls, 54 Corran Esplanade, Oban, PA34 5AB on the date and time below.

Date: Sunday 24-10-2021
Time: Anytime between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Please wear loose clothing when attending your appointment.

If you are unable to attend your allocated appointment time please contact the Vaccination Enquiry Hub on (01463) 705531 or email nhsh.covidvaccine@nhs.scot

Alternatively, if you would like further information about available Drop-In clinics where no appointment is required please visit www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Tim Allison
Director of Public Health

The letter sent out to the 16 and 17-year-olds inviting them for a second doze of the vaccine was sent out by mistake.

Teenagers who turned up at Oban's Corran Halls on October 24 had a wasted journey and were sent away after staff running the clinic had to explain they were not eligible for a follow-up dose.

Current guidance is that under-18s should only have one dose of Covid vaccine. Second doses are only recommended for those who have a health condition – meaning that they are at increased risk from the virus – those who live with someone who is immunosuppressed and those aged 16 or 17 who are an unpaid carer, a frontline health or social care worker or are within three months of their 18th birthday.

The HSCP spokesperson added: 'We would discourage young people from being disheartened by the mistake and encourage everyone to get the jab to protect themselves and people around them to help us get out of the pandemic as quickly and safely as possible.

'We apologise sincerely for this error and the confusion that this has caused.'

An attempt to cancel the appointment scheduling tool from issuing the letters on October 7 was unsuccessful, although the vaccination team did manage to make telephone contact with some of the teenagers.

One concerned parent whose daughter was turned away from the Corran Halls clinic said despite the big slip-up he was 'happy' that the health board was encouraging young people to get their jags, 'which they should do', he said.

Argyll & Bute HSCP said the error did not cause any disruption to its clinic on October 24 as text messages were sent to eligible over-70s encouraging them to attend.

From Monday October 25, booster clinic invites were due to start arriving through the post for people aged 60 to 69 and for over-16s with underlying health conditions. But there were busy scenes at Oban's Corran Halls when some people turned up for their boosters without invites, thinking the clinics were drop-ins.

The uninvited were not turned away as long as they were eligible, but it did prompt a plea from Argyll & Bute HSCP for people to be patient and wait for an invitation first.

Anyone with questions about their appointment or who wants to reschedule can contact the Vaccination Enquiry Hub on 01463 705531.

Although most people across Argyll will attend health board-run community clinics, such as the ones at the Corran Halls, GP practices on Islay, Jura, Tiree, Colonsay, Coll and Bute will be administering the jag to their patients.

Across Argyll, Covid cases continue to be 'stubbornly high' in many communities warned public health boss Dr Nicola Schinaia this week, encouraging anyone with symptoms to get a PCR test.

£2m fit-out at European Marine Science Park's Malin House

Four marine science cluster companies are expanding into new workspace at the European Marine Science Park (EMPS) at Dunstaffnage near Oban.

It follows completion of a £2million fit-out of the ground floor of the park's Malin House by developer Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Malin House was completed in 2012, initially with only the first floor fitted out. This is home to 10 marine sector companies, active in a broad range of commercial marine activity.

The further fit-out investment was prompted by companies at the park expressing the need for additional office and laboratory space to enable them to expand their commercial activity. The new laboratories and offices were designed in consultation with those companies and the work was carried out by local contractor TSL Limited.

Patogen AS, Tritonia Scientific Ltd and Oceanium have already leased some of the new space, along with Shetland firm Ocean Kinetics, which is expanding into Argyll.

Morag Goodfellow, HIE's area manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'We're very pleased to have completed the fit-out of Malin House, which is enabling marine-based companies to expand. Argyll's rich marine resource has created and maintained significant economic opportunity for generations and these latest company expansions demonstrate how innovation and technology is continuing to drive the marine economy in the region. We can expect new opportunities in skills development and entrepreneurship, particularly for young people, and enhanced confidence in Argyll as a business location for inward investors.'

Anita Eriksson, PatoGen operations manager, and Siv Høgberg Iversen, project/startup manager, in the new lab space. Photograph: Teresa-Garzon.

Dr Teresa Garzon, key account manager with fish health firm PatoGen Ltd, said: 'We have been working in Scotland since 2014 and established our office at the EMSP in Oban in August 2018. Since we entered the Scottish market, we have collaborated well with aquaculture firms and seen a steady increase in activity. Our new laboratory in the excellent new facilities at Malin House is now in operation and represents the next stage in our company's growth.'

Adjacent to Malin House is the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS), part of the University of the Highlands and Islands network.

In the context of the global climate emergency, researchers at SAMS and commercial firms at the EMSP are playing a key role in safeguarding the oceans through greater understanding of the marine environment.

Funding from Sustrans is being used to create a pedestrian and cycle lane to allow greater access to the site.

OT

Councillor steps down

Lomond North Councillor Barbara Morgan has resigned from Argyll and Bute Council. Ms Morgan, who was elected as a Conservative councillor in 2017, has stood down for personal reasons.

She had been chairperson of the council's Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee since October 2020, following the passing of Helensburgh and Lomond South Councillor Ellen Morton.

Arrangements for the next steps are to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of the full council, which is scheduled for Thursday November 25.

It is not known whether a by-election will take place before the scheduled council elections on Thursday May 5, 2022, or whether the Lomond North ward will continue with its two remaining councillors – George Freeman and Iain S Paterson – until then.

Ms Morgan was also a member of the council's community services committee, and had been present at a virtual meeting of the full council on Thursday September 30.

National care plan fails Argyll, says authority

Social care minister Kevin Stewart.

Plans for a national care service in Scotland have failed to take account of the challenges facing Argyll and Bute, the area's council has claimed.

The Scottish Government proposal sets out to improve the way social care is delivered in Scotland after recommendations of an independent review.

The council has been invited to share its opinions, but a draft response claims that not enough consultation has taken place, and at the wrong time. It has also said a national care service is not the only solution to addressing the challenges faced by social care services in Scotland.

The authority's draft response will be discussed by the full council at a special virtual meeting today, Thursday October 28. In the draft document, a spokesperson for the council said: 'As a remote/rural council, we feel there has been a lack of consideration of the particular and unique challenges we face as an authority, compared to those within more urban areas, when developing the proposals, and would urge the Scottish Government to ensure the impacts of this proposal are fully assessed in an Islands Impact Assessment and Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

'Being able to provide equity of provision to all our residents and communities is a significant issue for an area like Argyll and Bute and there is concern some of the proposals will compound this issue.

'The council also believes the period of consultation is unnecessarily short given the scale of implications for social work/care service users, carers, staff in the sector, provider organisations and for local government as a whole.

'It is also being carried out at a time of unprecedented pressure on public services as they seek to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

'This response from the council is based upon the limited, and sometimes unclear, information provided as part of the consultation document. The council has concerns around the level of detail and evidence made available.

'Given the significance of the proposals there is an expectation of greater clarity but this does not currently exist.'

The council's draft response raised concerns about a perceived lack of detail on the medium- to long-term strategy required to implement the new service. It also expressed fears about 'unanswered questions' on the employment status of local government social work and social care staff.

The spokesperson added: 'The council recognises there are issues which require to be addressed in respect of social care services, but does not support the view that the creation of a National Care Service is the only solution to addressing these challenges. On this basis, the council has outlined a number of alternative measures that could be taken to implement the desired changes across the key themes within the consultation paper.

'To date there has been no involvement from local government in respect of developing the proposals, therefore the council would very much welcome further engagement and dialogue as the consultation process progresses.'

Social care minister Kevin Stewart said: 'We are committed to delivering a National Care Service by the end of this parliament in order to end the postcode lottery in the provision of care services in Scotland. The Independent Review of Adult Social Care found the current way of working has not fully delivered the improvements intended.

'A full range of impact assessments, including the Island Communities Impact Assessment and Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment will be carried out in line with our statutory duties and commitments. We are still very early in the consultation process.'

Warning white lines on A85 at Achnacloich for highsiders only

New white lines at an accident black-spot bridge on the A85 are only for high-sided vehicles to follow – not cars or smaller vehicles, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The recent markings at Achnacloich Railway Bridge, right, between Connel and Taynuilt are meant to help HGVs pass through the highest point of the bridge arch and avoid risk of collisions – but have been branded by some road-users as 'confusing' and 'lethal'.

The markings have also been described as 'ill-considered' by one letter writer who said she was 'taken by surprise' but obediently followed them into the middle of the road as they seemed to be directing her.

But a car, coming in the opposite direction, did exactly the same thing and they had to brake quickly. 'Terrifying for everyone' said Annabel Wheeler from Dingwall, who until recently travelled the Oban to Dalmally road daily.

In response to concerns, BEAR Scotland has put out a public explanation on how to negotiate the bridge safely, saying the new marking are up to standard and are appropriate.

The 'high vehs' marking on the road.

The previous markings had encouraged larger vehicles towards the edge of the road where there was reduced room under the arch.

A BEAR Scotland spokesperson said: 'In advance of the bridge there are 'high vehs' road markings with an arrow to encourage HGV drivers to move towards the centre of the bridge. There is no requirement for other roads users, such as private cars or smaller vehicles, to travel through the bridge in the centre of the road.'

New signs have also gone up to warn road-users of the layout and bridge restrictions.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West representative, said: 'The new road markings installed at this location on the A85 at Achnacloich Railway Bridge are crucial to ensure that HGVs avoid striking the structure which has been a historic problem in the area.

'We understand the concerns raised by the local community, however, the new road markings follow all relevant Traffic Signs Manual Advice and are appropriate for this type of bridge. The new road markings include 'high vehs' text with an arrow pointing to the middle of the road in advance of the bridge.'

Mr Ross added new signs have also been fitted to warn motorists of the restrictions at the bridge as well as electronic vehicle activated signs which will flash when motorists are approaching from either side of the structure. We are also reviewing the provision of temporary road signs on the approaches to the bridge to provide further information on the new layout to road users. Our teams will continue to monitor the new layout to determine if further measures are required to help inform road users about the new road marking layout,' he said.

POLICE FILES

Between 10am and 11.30am on October 14 near to Rockfield Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, a motorist is alleged to have collided with a moving vehicle. A man, aged 63, has been charged with dangerous driving. A report was sent to the fiscal.

At 8.50pm on October 21 at Railway Pier, Oban, a man was reported for behaving in a threatening manner towards members of the public. Police attended and the 38-year-old continued to act in an aggressive manner, allegedly assaulting a police officer. He was arrested and charged with the offence.

At 1.30am on October 21 at Dunollie Road, Oban two men were involved in a disturbance causing fear and alarm to residents. Damage was also caused to fencing. Enquiries continue.

At 8.05pm on October 23 within an Oban hotel, police had cause to stop and search a teenager. The 19-year-old man was found to be in possession of a small quantity of herbal cannabis. He was subsequently issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Help win city status for Oban

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Sharing what you think is best about Oban could help the town win city status.

People are being urged to get behind Oban's bid to be one of the UK's newest cities.

Cities come in all shapes and sizes and with your help the town could become one of them in 2022, fighting off stiff competition from other towns in the national competition marking the Queen's platinum jubilee.

And as part of the campaign, The Oban Times has joined forces with Argyll and Bute Council to champion the town as a worthy contender for city status.

Under the campaign heading, Oban – Scotland in one place, The Oban Times will be running weekly articles in the run-up to the bid being submitted.

Now council leader Robin Currie is inviting people to get involved and share what they like best about Oban. Your comments and photographs about what makes this such a special place to live, work and visit could make all the difference to the town's bid.

Backing the bid is one step in making sure that the town and Argyll has as much chance of a successful future as other parts of Scotland, says Councillor Currie.

Council officers are hard at work getting the big bid ready to meet the deadline on December 8, but need your help.

Visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity to share your support and to find out more about the bid and what it could mean for the town. You can send your photographs to workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Currie said: 'City status is about creating opportunities for investment to progress things that matter to local people, for example infrastructure or housing, that are beyond the resources of the council. Being a rural Scottish city would mean for example that Oban could be included in government city initiatives as well as rural growth initiatives.'

New leisure or community facilities as well as green spaces could be created as a result of a successful bid.

Public support so far is great says Argyll and Bute Council's head of development and economic growth Fergus Murray.

'We understand, too, of course, that there could be questions about what city status might mean for the area and have provided information in response on our website.

'There's stiff competition out there for the skills, jobs and investment Argyll and Bute needs. Bidding for city status will help with this by raising the profile of the area as a great place to invest, visit and live,' he said.

Oban was picked as Argyll and Bute's city contender because it has the highest chance of winning. Being a top tourist destination with good travel links, as well as having one of the UK's busiest ferry ports and being a gateway to a number of island communities are all plus points.

Already having University Town status with in excess of 1,000 students, including the world renowned SAMs (Scottish Association for Marine Science) institute, also goes in Oban's favour - as well as it being such a popular place to live.

Make sure you pick up your Oban Times in the coming week as we focus on key points for the bid, and have your say by emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk or call us on 01631 568000.

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

What a weekend we've just had. After all the build up and anticipation both Horse on Saturday night in The Rockfield Centre and Storm on Sunday exceeded my expectations beyond belief.

The Rockfield Centre was the perfect setting for the warm and informal concert by Horse whose voice and banter made the hours fly by. Local girl Lora MacLeod got the evening off to a perfect start with her beautiful voice.

After such a lovely evening I really hope more musicians come to The Rockfield Centre to make the most of the space.

Sunday was a spectacular day for Oban, with everything bigger and better than I had expected. Storm herself was amazing as were the team, Vision Mechanics, who made her come alive. The number of people who turned up to see her was phenomenal. The rain stopped and the sun came out – it doesn't get much better for an event than that.

It leads us nicely to the things that we have to look forward to in the coming months.

WHERE IS THIS?

First up we have a Vintage Tea Dance this Sunday in aid of the link club, which will be a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon with tea, cake and good music. We're also looking forward to the Firework Display on November 5, which is set off from the Northern Lighthouse Pier and is always beautiful, and that leads us into the Winter Festival, starting on November 19. Another of my favourite events is on the 27th when we have the Reindeer Parade and Lights Switch On.

I'm a big kid when it comes to seeing Santa.

There's lots to look forward to in the coming months with Storm a fantastic start to the autumn and winter events.

The photograph last week was of a bollard on the pier and this week's is close by.

Timeline revealed for school cluster headship talks

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Education chiefs have revealed a timeline for community engagement on shaking up school leadership across Argyll.

Argyll and Bute's Community Services Committee decided in June this year that there would be an extensive consultation process to help shape the future of education services.

The pledge was to listen to all stakeholders from parents to pupils and communities to education professionals, trade unions and policymakers so they can have input.

If the changes go ahead, it could see schools, covering

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly

from ages three to 18, working together in clusters. Instead of each school having its own headteacher, there would be an executive headship for each cluster. Resources would also be bought and shared out in each cluster and teachers would also work for a cluster rather than one particular school so they, too, could be shared to give cover, for example.

Potentially the numbers of headteachers across Argyll and Bute could be cut from 80 to around 14, warns Scotland's largest teaching union EIS (The Educational Institute of Scotland) which says it has major concerns.

More than 800 people have already signed an online petition to stop plans for a cluster schools programme in Cowal.

In 2004 Argyll and Bute plans for joint school campuses in Campbeltown, Dunoon and Helensburgh were abandoned after protest marches and petitions persuaded councillors to reject the super-campus idea.

Information from the new cluster consultations will be used to inform any proposals before they go back to the Community Services Committee.

Consultation time with communities, parents and pupils comes towards the end of the schedule, with groups receiving 'a toolkit' to help them lead their talks themselves.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'The best outcomes for our young people are at the heart of all our work. This proactive engagement programme will be at the core of our decision-making.

'We very much welcome the views and ideas of our communities and look forward to seeing what their vision is for the future of education services in Argyll and Bute.

'To provide the very best for our children and young people we must take positive action to deliver a sustainable education service.'

An overview of how the engagement would work was due to be shared with the council's policymakers last month when headteacher focus groups were due to start.

Union representatives and headteachers were to be consulted on proposals this month, with school staff being consulted next by their own headteachers. As part of the consultation process, between now and March all staff will be able to attend one-to-one engagement sessions. This will be followed by consultations with Higher Education and Further Education partners at Argyll College and SAMS before it is the turn of communities, parents and pupils. Over two weeks, sometime between next month or January – still to be confirmed – there will be an open consultation followed by a direct email campaign, reaching businesses, the diocese and Bord na Gaidhlig, the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development.

In April there will be a findings and analysis review of all the consultations, and in May there will be a presentation of findings and refined proposals to headteachers, unions and policymakers.

Light up for Winter Festival fun

Oban will be lighting up for this year's Winter Festival, writes Kathie Griffiths.

To maximise sparkle and make the 10-day event dazzle more than ever when it starts on November, businesses, friends, families and neighbours town-wide are being asked to turn up the glow power.

The last festival in 2019, with its 53 free events, attracted more than 26,000 people, raised £37,900 for good causes and brought £1.8million to Oban's economy.

After a year off in 2020 because of Covid, this year's festival team will be pulling out all the stops and want the town to plug in to all the fun.

To brighten up the dark nights, festival organisers want people to let their imaginations run wild and get creative, lighting up their windows and gardens, getting together with neighbours to illuminate their streets.

A festival spokesperson said: 'Anything is possible. Glasgow has a similar thing, the ideas people come up with are fabulous. There was one where flats from a basement floor to the top storey did their windows up to look like parts of a giraffe!

'It can be any theme people want!'

To let organisers know that you are lighting up for the festival, you can get in touch by emailing info@obanwinterfestival.com

There will be prizes to be won.

Shops in town are also being urged to join in and to dress their windows for the occasion.

Winner of the 2019 best-dressed Winter Festival shop window was George Street's Amore Hairdressing, owned by Rebecca Neilson.

Late night Winter Festival shopping will be Thursday November 25, names of shops taking part will be listed nearer the time.

Plans are also in the pipeline to use McCaig's Tower as an outdoor gallery during the festival week, projecting giant images on to the inside of its walls.

This year's festival will be smaller than in previous years, with Covid-safety in mind.

Organisers say it will be just as good but delivered in a different way, with some events possibly having to be ticketed.

Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is seeking new trustees

Dunollie is looking for a new generation of trustees to guard its castle, grounds and museums, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The search is on for volunteers willing to join the board of the not-for-profit registered charity that looks after it.

The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust (DPT) also has Gylen Castle on the southern tip of Kerrera under its wing.

Covid was a tough time, with restrictions forcing Dunollie's doors shut, losing the vital income used to preserve the charity's treasures for next generations, and although grants, donations and contributions from visitors and the community helped to keep up its work, the board is now looking ahead to its Covid recovery and wants to harness new opportunities.

Funds raised through tickets, the shop and café sales, as well as grants and donations, all go directly back into caring for and developing Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds.

Trustee positions are all on a voluntary basis, and are key to setting the direction and planning for all of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust's activities, alongside Dunollie's staff.

The trust particularly wants to hear from anyone who has experience of heritage, business and financial management, as well as community engagement. Trustees meet monthly, over Zoom, so candidates from outside the Oban area can be considered.

'However, the board would be really interested in hearing from local people who might want to be involved in caring for a site which is such an iconic part of Oban and invaluable treasure to both our local and national heritage,' said a Dunollie spokesperson.

Volunteers are also needed to help in the gardens, behind the scenes in the archive and stewarding the site during visiting times.

Interested? Visit the website at www.dunollie.org or email info@dunollie.org

Ferry group fails to meet in two years as lifeline services flounder

A group of ferry experts set up by the Scottish Government to advise on key issues affecting lifeline island services in Scotland has not met for two years, despite an ongoing ferry fiasco, writes Sandy Neil.

The Ferry Industry Advisory Group, established to inform the Scottish Government and its Transport Scotland agency on the way forward for ferry services, has not met since October 2019, when the network has continued to struggle with CalMac's ageing fleet.

The Ferry Industry Advisory Group's website explains it was set up in 2013, after 'the Scottish Ferries Plan 2013 – 2022 laid out the Scottish Government's desire to have ongoing consultation for all ferry-related issues.

'The remit of the group is to provide Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers with considered advice about strategic ferries-related issues in Scotland. The purpose of the group is to allow interested stakeholders with particular knowledge of the ferries industry to inform policy development.'

Members include the chief executive officer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), the managing director of Western Ferries, CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, a senior official from ZetTrans, and the director of HITRANS.

'The group will meet up to three times per year,' it says, and will not discuss local ferry issues, but strategic issues. The group, it continues, 'exists alongside, and complements, other regular engagement with a range of stakeholders'.

Its last meeting papers are dated October 17, 2019, when it discussed the purchase of MV Loch Seaforth, the National Transport Strategy, the National Islands Plan, and the Strategic Transport Projects Review. The minutes said the next meeting would be in February 2020. However, none have been recorded since.

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland said: 'The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy has portfolio responsibility for the delivery of vessels 801 and 802. The Minister for Transport maintains an active interest in the progress of these vessels and receives regular reports as a matter of course.

'Whilst the management and maintenance of the vessels is an operational issue for CalMac, we recognise communities' frustration during periods of disruption. We are doing everything that we can to support CalMac to maximise available capacity across the network.

'We acknowledge the CMAL fleet is ageing and as such we are delivering new tonnage to support our communities by working with CMAL, CalMac, MSPs, community representatives and others to develop investment programmes - at least £580 million over the next five years - for major vessels and small vessels.'

As recent evidence, he listed the deal to buy the MV Utne to operate on the Oban-Craignure route, and procuring two new vessels for Islay.

Column sponsored by Safer Scotland

Remember, remember... the impact of fireworks

New rules have been introduced to lessen the negative impact of fireworks, meaning it's illegal to set off fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm. This extends to midnight on 5th November and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

While fireworks can be great fun, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly. During bonfire season, 85% of all firework injuries treated at emergency departments happen at private displays, and more than half of those requiring treatment are children.

Mortars and rockets are responsible for the majority of serious eye and hand injuries, however sparklers, fountains and firecrackers are also frequent sources of injury.

It's safest to celebrate at an organised event if there's one in your area, but if you're planning a private display at home, make sure you know how to keep you and your family safe:

- Keep a safe distance
- Follow the fireworks code and read instructions before use
- Not all fireworks are suitable for private use. It depends on the size of your garden
- Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for more safety advice

It's important to think of others and be aware of the impact fireworks can have on those around you. The loud and sudden noises can be distressing for those with noise sensitivity, including autistic people and veterans, and pet owners know only too well the distress they can cause animals.

Enjoy fireworks safely. For more advice visit
www.firescotland.gov.uk

To report the misuse of fireworks anonymously
call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

Safer Scotland
Scottish Government

OT

Have your say on 'significant' MP boundary changes

Fort William joins the city of Inverness, and Morvern and Ardnamurchan become part of Argyll in a new review of MP constituency boundaries out for public consultation this week.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has published its initial proposals for a new map of UK Parliamentary constituencies in 2023, marking the start of an eight-week public consultation on the proposals, running until the end of Wednesday December 8.

Two Scottish Members of Parliament stand to lose their jobs, as legislation cuts the number of Westminster seats in Scotland from 59 to 57 in 2023 and there are a few rules the Boundary Commission for Scotland has to stick to.

'Due to the reduction in the number of constituencies, and the requirements for each constituency to have a number of electors within set limits, significant changes to existing constituencies are required,' a Boundary Commission spokesperson said.

Most of the current Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency, represented by the House of Commons' SNP leader Ian Blackford MP, will be replaced by a new Highland Central constituency, which takes the Highland capital away from the current Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, held by a fellow SNP MP Drew Hendry.

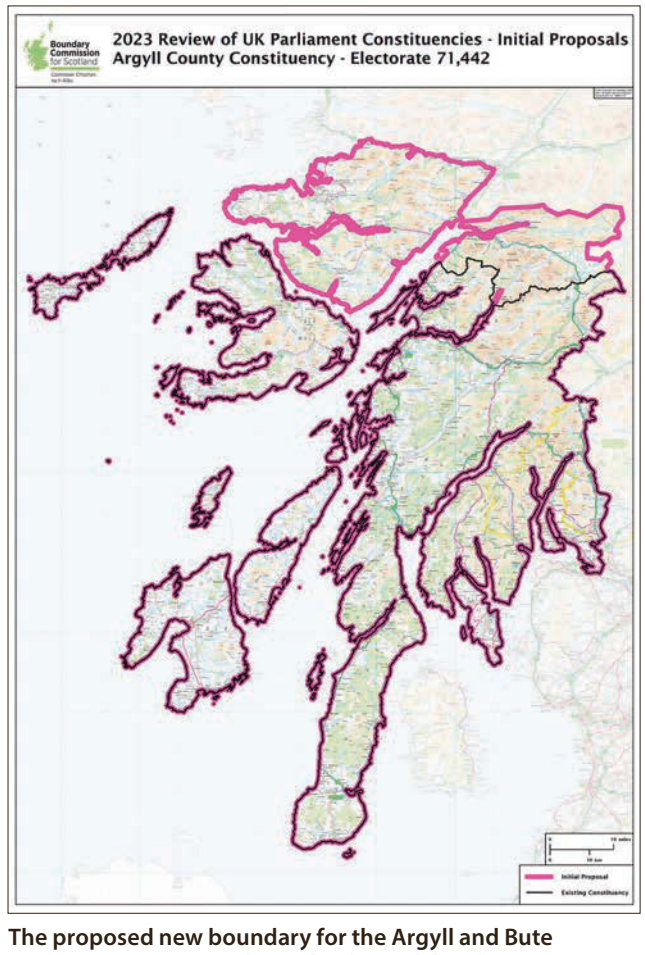
The Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency's northern boundary retreats south from Lochinver down to Strathcarron, lost to a new Highland North constituency covering the whole of north Scotland from Torridon and Beauly up to Cape Wrath and John O' Groats.

In return for its lost northern territory, the new Highland Central constituency spreads eastwards, subsuming all of Loch Ness from Fort Augustus to Inverness, back down through the Monadhliath Mountains to Roybridge.

Meanwhile, the current Argyll and Bute constituency creeps northwards, taking away the peninsulas of Morvern and Ardnamurchan up to the A830, plus Glencoe, Duror and Onich, from Ross, Skye and Lochaber, with the Corran Ferry chugging in between.

Lord Matthews, deputy chairman of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, said: 'We strongly encourage voters to make their views heard. We welcome all comments on our proposals on our consultation site at www.bcs2023review.com. We particularly want to hear suggestions on alternative boundaries that comply with the legislative requirements and constituency names.'

The recommendations do not affect council boundaries, ward boundary or community council boundaries, council tax and the services a council provides, school catchment areas, postcodes or postal addresses, access to public or private services or transport, policing or fire service areas, or NHS services such as GPs or local hospitals.



The proposed new boundary for the Argyll and Bute constituency in 2023, shown by the pink border.

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Remember, remember the impact of fireworks

The Scottish Government has launched a new campaign to ensure people are aware of new regulations on the use of fireworks.

New laws mean it is now illegal to set off fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm. The law allows for an extension until midnight on November 5 and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

The new rules aim to lessen the negative impact of fireworks on people and animals.

Fiona Clarke, an autistic person living in Scotland, supports the campaign.

She said: 'Visually, fireworks can be a sensory delight but for some of us, the noise, flashes of light, together with the unpredictable nature of how long they will go on for, can be overwhelming. It's not just sensory issues that can cause autistic people difficulty with fireworks, as some may simply not understand what Bonfire Night is or what to expect.'

If you plan on having your own firework display this year it is important you know the rules and how to keep you and your family safe.

Statistics show that during the bonfire season, 85 per cent of all firework injuries treated at emergency departments happen at informal displays. More than half of those requiring treatment are children.

So make sure you keep a safe distance – not all fireworks are suitable for private use. Follow the fireworks code – stand well back, never return to a firework after it's been lit and read instructions before use.

Deputy assistant chief officer Alasdair Perry, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's head of prevention and protection, said: 'Anyone thinking of hosting a private event involving fire, flame or fireworks is asked to consider the risks. Those who choose to do so should familiarise themselves with the fireworks code and fire safety guidance.'

If you are planning a private fireworks display, let your neighbours know when you might be setting fireworks off. For some of your neighbours, fireworks can be particularly distressing and frightening.

Many neighbourhood pets will also be distressed from the loud and sudden noise.

Scottish SPCA head of education, policy and research Gilly Mendes Ferreira said: 'Every year, thousands of animals suffer stress and anxiety caused by the use of fireworks. As animals have more acute hearing than humans, the loud and high pitched noises made by fireworks can cause animals to become fearful and distressed. Animals can panic and flee at the sound of the bang and this can lead them towards danger such as being the cause of a road traffic accident, also putting human lives at risk.

'Advice for those with animals can be found at www.scottishspca.org/news/fireworks-advice. This includes not walking your dog at night when fireworks are being set off, bringing all pets indoors and stabling horses. Make sure doors, windows and cat flaps are kept closed.

'If you're setting a bonfire, always check for cats or wildlife before setting it alight.'

If there is a local firework display taking place, think about going to it instead of holding your own private one.

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for more information.

OT

Oban festival helps us remember loved ones

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mairi Fleck is co-ordinating Ganavan's To Absent Friends event on November 3.
KG_T44_absentfriends02

Bereaved carers will be writing the names of lost loved ones in the sand at Ganavan as part of a special remembrance festival called To Absent Friends.

The Scotland-wide festival from November 1 to November 7 is all about celebrating, remembering and telling stories about people who have died but stay part of your lives.

In Oban, an event organised by North Argyll Carers Centre will see carers who are bereaved gather at Ganavan beach on Wednesday November 3 at 3.30pm.

It was the centre's learning and development co-ordinator Mairi Fleck who came up with the idea of the moving outdoor event and writing names in the sand.

'The Covid-19 pandemic has created terrible hardships and sadness for so many, and one of the most heartbreaking effects of the pandemic has been the inability of people to meet together to celebrate the life of a loved one after their death.

'With Covid in mind I wanted to come up with something we could do that would be safe and outdoors. Everyone loves going to Ganavan so meeting there to write names in the sand struck me as a good idea,' she said.

Mairi was successful in getting a grant from the To Absent Friends festival to make it happen.

There will also be a drone on the day taking footage that will be turned into a keepsake film to show later on Facebook.

People meeting at the beach will watch together as the sea washes the names away with the incoming tide.

'It will be very emotional remembering the loved ones we have lost but we will all be supporting each other together,' added Mairi, who runs a group through the Carers Centre called Still Caring.

Still Caring meets twice a month, once on Zoom and a second meet-up at the cafe at Dunollie.

Bereaved carers from Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree are also being encouraged to go to a beach at the same time on November 3 to join in.

To find out more email Mairi at mairi@northargyllcarers.org.uk

Dead salmon 'stink out' village

A sudden and unforseeable bloom of micro-jellyfish are being blamed for thousands of fish deaths at salmon pens in the Sound of Gigha, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A spokesperson for The Scottish Salmon Company dismissed claims by anti-fish farm campaigners that the mortalities had been caused by a severe outbreak of disease and gill issues.

Campaigners also claimed that up to 90 per cent of fish had died in some cages at the site that could amount to more than 500,000 caged salmon being lost, valued at millions of pounds.

There were also reports of nearby village Tayinloan 'stinking' of dead fish with lorry after lorry spilling rotten fish fluid on roads.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency is investigating,

A spokesperson for The Scottish Salmon Company said: 'Fish health and welfare is fundamental to responsible salmon farming.

'However, as with any farmer, operating in the natural environment brings unique biological challenges such as the sudden and unforeseeable bloom of micro-jellyfish which occurred recently at our Gigha site. Unfortunately, this has caused fish mortalities which we are disposing of in line with regulations and reporting as standard practice in the industry.'

The spokesperson said the claim of 90 per cent mortalities was not accurate as the incident was still being dealt with and the exact figure was yet unknown.

Correction

In The Oban Times October 21 we incorrectly stated that plans have been submitted to build seven new houses, comprising two terraces, on Gallanach Road in Oban.

The planning application is in fact a non-material amendment – to replace the zinc roofs of seven dwellings that have already been built, on land north east of Kilbowie House.

We apologise unreservedly for the error.

All change for bus to Inveraray

Frequent closures at the Rest and Be Thankful have caused Citylink bosses to re-route the Oban bus away from Inveraray, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The change to the 976 Glasgow to Oban service is for the winter months only as the intention is to bring back journeys via Inveraray next summer.

A spokesperson for Scottish Citylink said: 'We have made the decision to route the Oban service away from Inveraray for the winter months due to the unreliability of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful.

'The frequent road closures over the last couple of years have caused an increasing level of disruption to the service.'

Customers wanting to get to Inveraray from Oban will now have to get to Tarbet first to connect with the 926 Glasgow to Campbeltown Citylink service or catch a West Coast Motors service at Ardrishaig.

The change to the Oban to Glasgow service also means there are no buses at all serving the road between Dalmally and Inveraray.

The bus journey from Dalmally and Inveraray would normally take about 27 minutes to cover the distance of around 16 miles.

Before the service change, typically there were about 21 buses on that route a week.

Convener John Kerr said Glen Orchy and Innishail Community Council has not had any feedback from its communities on the revised Oban to Glasgow bus service.

Annual Argyll and Bute Early Years conference

Argyll and Bute Council's Early Years Team is gearing up to host its annual Early Years Conference next month.

This year's virtual conference from Tuesday November 16 until Friday November 19, is an opportunity for early years professionals to come together to hear from national and international speakers, share examples of best practice and explore ideas.

The title of the 2021 event is 'What's love got to do with it?' with sessions based around the importance of a rights-focused, relationship-centred and play-based approach to education.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'The conference is a great opportunity for everyone involved in early years education to get together and share ideas and best practice.'

To find out more, or to book a place, visit: https://sites.google.com/ab.glow.scot/early-years-conference-2021/home

Statkraft

AN CÀRR DUBH WIND FARM

Public Exhibition Invitation

We invite you to attend our public exhibition for the An Càrr Dubh (previously called Car Duibh) Wind Farm proposal, with the nearest turbine located over 5km to the north-west of Inveraray and over 4km to the east of Dalavich.

PHYSICAL EXHIBITION

Ford Village Hall - Tuesday 9 November, 2pm - 7pm

Dalavich Community Centre - Wednesday 10 November, 2pm - 7pm

Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray - Thursday 11 November, 2pm - 7pm

To help manage Covid-19 risks we are operating an appointment system, please book a space to attend at **www.ancarrdubh.co.uk** or call us on **0800 772 0668.** The booking system will be available from 1 November 2021.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Our exhibition website will be live from **1 November 2021 to 21 November 2021** with all exhibition material available and opportunities to discuss the project with the team. Please visit **www.ancarrdubh.co.uk** for more information, where a link to the online exhibition and details of the live Q&A sessions will be available.

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist when a subsequent application is made. Thank you and we hope you can take part in the events.

OT

Rest and be Thankful petition gathers pace as public gets behind campaign

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Members of the public from all corners of Argyll, as well as regular visitors from beyond the region, are coming forward in their masses to get behind the campaign to resolve the issues on the A83 once and for all – sooner rather than later.

A petition by the business-led Rest and be Thankful Campaign group calling for a permanent solution at Glen Croe by 2024 went live last Monday, October 18, and within a couple of days the petition had received more than 1,500 signatures.

At the time of going to print this week that number had shot up to 2,247.

The petition asks the Scottish Parliament to urge Transport Minister Graeme Dey MSP and the Scottish Government to recognise 'the crisis' at the Rest and be Thankful as an emergency due to the economic and environmental impacts, and the 'high risk' that 100,000 of debris is ready to fall which could be a 'risk to life'.

Andrew Spence, BID4Oban chief executive, is urging businesses and members of the public to sign the petition and get behind the campaign.

John Gurr, the campaign group's chairperson, said: 'We ask that Graeme Dey MSP and the Scottish Government deliver a robust two-way temporary alternative to the A83 by 2022 – the current mitigation works of planting trees and digging pits does not stop landslides or stop the road from being closed every time it rains.

'We ask Mr Dey and the Scottish Government to stop wasting time on lengthy consultation and deliver a permanent solution by 2024.'

Prior to the petition being launched, the campaign group engaged with local councillors and MSPs to raise support.

This led to a meeting with Transport Scotland and Mr Dey, who, according to the group, 'will not alter current plans to continue closing the road when it rains, without a suitable temporary solution, and will not rethink the lengthy project to decide on a permanent solution'.

'The road is used by 1.3 million vehicles annually yet was closed for 200 days last year, creating an unnecessary barrier to our region,' said Mr Gurr 'Furthermore, we know that 100,000 tonnes of debris is ready to fall. This is a risk to life and should therefore be treated as an emergency and addressed with the urgency that it deserves, yet Transport Scotland is now proposing a further 10 years to deliver a permanent solution.'

Oban Business Improvement District (BID4Oban) is one of the many business groups and organisations on the RABT campaign group and chief executive Andrew Spence is urging everyone in Oban and the surrounding area to sign the petition. 'Having good reliable and most of all safe road links in and out of Argyll is crucial not only to businesses but to tourism, farming, transport and emergency services among many. We have to keep the pressure on and make sure this issue is given priority and a solution found before there is a total disaster on this flood prone major road.'

To add your signature to the 'Deliver permanent solution to the Rest and Be Thankful by 2024' petition, visit chng.it/RQDn8NHcdf

In a separate move, Argyll and Bute councillors Dougie Philand (Mid Argyll) and Donald Kelly (South Kintyre) of the political grouping Argyll and Bute First have submitted a petition to the Scottish Parliament asking for a full public enquiry into the management of the Rest and be Thankful project.

Luchd-ceuma an t-Sabhail Mhòir 2021
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Graduates 2021

FOGHLAM ÀRD-ÌRE/ HIGHER EDUCATION
PhD.
Iain Gray Howieson
Màiri Ruiseal

BA (le Urram) Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig
Jamie MacGillEathain (ciad ìre)

BA (le Urram) Gàidhlig agus Foghlam
Rebekah Boyle
Emma Nic a' Phì (ciad ìre)

PGDE Foghlam Bun-sgoile
Heini Apajainen

BA Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig
Iain B Caimbeul

BA Gàidhlig is Leasachadh
Joanne McHale (Barraichte)
Helen Young (Barraichte)

TEISTEANAS FOGHLAIM ÀRD-ÌRE/CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
An Cùrsa Adhartais
Jonathan Appleby (Barraichte)
Yvonne Bloomer (Barraichte)
Colin Buchanan
Jacqueline Calder (Barraichte)
Amanda Clarkson
Hamish Finlay (Barraichte)
Colin Fisher (Barraichte)
Sinéad Teresa Fitzgerald
Mereoni Fraser (Barraichte)
Fionna Halliday (Barraichte)
Nicola Howarth (Barraichte)
Alexandra Kingham (Barraichte)
Heather Laird (Barraichte)
Robert Lewis-Lettington
Katie Leitch (Barraichte)
Nicky Lowden
Maccrimmon(Barraichte)
Anne MacAskill
Carrie MacArthur
Malcolm MacDonald
Rachel MacKay
Kim McClelland
Paul MacQuade
Ealasaid NicRath (Barraichte)
Audrey Paterson
Susan Tougas (Barraichte)
Fiona Waddell (Barraichte)
Kristin Wohlenberg (Barraichte)

An Cùrsa Comais
Seumas Dòmhnallach
Mhàiri Gray (Barraichte)
Johanna Michorl
Laura Nason (Barraichte)
Jasmine Threlfall (Barraichte)
Ailis Sutherland (Barraichte)
Ross Young (Barraichte)

Gàidhlig is Conaltradh
Kim Carnie (Barraichte)
Sorley Todd Johnston (Barraichte)
Lillie Anna Mehan

PDA Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig
Megan Dale
Eilidh Niclain
Etta May Olley
Mìcheal Steele

FOGHLAM ADHARTACH/ FURTHER EDUCATION
Preantasachd Tòiseachaidh (Clann is Daoine Òga)
Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill
Leila Urchardan

NPA (Clann is Daoine Òga)
Nadia Houston

DUAISEAN SÒNRAICHTE/ SPECIAL AWARDS
Megan Dale - Duais an SQA
Marine Venturi - Duais Comann na Gàidhealtachd an Lunnainn
Ciorstan Howarth - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Anna NicDhonnchaidh
Ruairidh Kelly - Duais Comunn na Gàidhlig
Jennifer Duncan - Duais Chaluim Bhàin
Emma Nic a' Phì - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Dhonnchaidh MhicGuaire
Jamie MacGillEathain - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Fhearchair Mhic an Tòisich

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG
University of the Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
SMO ALUMNI

OT

Oban backs national plan to end need for food banks

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Proposals to end the need for food banks as a primary response to food insecurity have been published.

Views are being sought on the Scottish Government's draft national plan, which is supported by food bank operators, including the Trussell Trust and Independent Food Aid Network.

The plan follows action during the pandemic to prevent food insecurity through strengthening household incomes and the delivery of cash-first responses to financial hardship.

Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said: 'We share the same vision as food bank operators – they are not a long-term solution to poverty. Our draft plan sets out what we will do within our powers – including introducing a shopping voucher pilot scheme - to make food banks the last port of call.

Catriona Petit, left, Hope Kitchen's service manager, welcomes Sabine Goodwin's endorsement of a cash-first approach to ending food insecurity.

'Over the last year we have invested around £2.5 billion to support low income households, including nearly £1 billion to directly support children.

'Despite our fixed budget and limited powers we are taking action to support those in poverty, including discussions around establishing a minimum income guarantee for Scotland.

'As part of the right to an adequate standard of living, people need to be able to access food that meets their dietary, social and cultural needs and this plan shows the way forward.'

Sabine Goodwin, co-ordinator of the Independent Food Aid Network, which represents more than 500 food banks across the UK, said: 'As the cut to Universal Credit and cost of living increases exacerbate poverty in Scotland, the publication of the draft national plan to end the need for food banks couldn't be more timely.

'With a cash-first, collaborative approach to food insecurity as the cornerstone of this plan, a time when food banks will no longer be needed to plug the gaps left by financial hardship is within sight.'

Catriona Petit, service manager at Oban's Hope Kitchen, said: 'As a member of the Independent Food Aid Network we would echo Sabine Goodwin's endorsement of a cash-first approach to food insecurity. We have always operated our food bank with a desire to see it not being needed.

'The food bank in Oban provides a vital crisis service but we would like to see an approach nationally that looks to significantly reduce the demand for such a service. We have welcomed Argyll and Bute's Flexible Food Fund which has helped so many people access financial support and advice during this difficult time.

'As a community café and garden the food bank is only one aspect of what we do and we would love to be able to focus more on providing activities to promote wellbeing and reduce isolation and loneliness, and less on responding to food insecurity. We look forward to a day when we can do that.'

Inquiry into accident aboard 'Boaty McBoatface' off Mull

Investigators have launched a probe into an accident aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough, the royal research ship named Boaty McBoatface by a public poll, off the coast of Mull earlier this year.

Crew members sustained injuries during a drill in Loch Buie, when a lifeboat they were in rolled on its side, and then fell overboard.

The incident, which occurred during trials in early March, is still the subject of an investigation by the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch (MAIB), a UK government organisation which investigates all maritime accidents in UK waters.

The £200 million, 423ft, 15,000t flagship, described as 'one of the most advanced polar research vessels in the world', became famous in 2016 when its owners, a UK government agency called the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), launched an online poll to give it a name.

By far the most popular out of the 32,000 entries was Boaty McBoatface, gaining 124,109 votes – 33 per cent of the total vote. However, the NERC chose another popular entry in a review of all the suggested names, the RSS Sir David Attenborough, marking the legendary broadcaster's 90th birthday in 2019. One of its robotic submarines was named Boaty McBoatface instead.

The RRS Sir David Attenborough during seagoing trials off Mull earlier this year.

The ship's operator, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), explains on its website: 'RRS Sir David Attenborough was handed over to NERC and BAS by shipbuilder Cammell Laird on 27 November 2020.

The ship is expected to commence polar operations in 2021 after a period of intensive mariner training, testing and trialling the many technical, scientific and operational features and capabilities.'

Earlier this year in February, the ship spent two weeks conducting trials around the Irish Sea, the West Coast of Scotland, and the Celtic Sea, when it was photographed by a reader passing through the Sound of Mull.

It returned the following month, when a spokesperson for the RSS Sir David Attenborough told The Oban Times on March 4 that the vessel was 'spending the next few days around the Isle of Mull for further trials and crew training'.

The next day on March 5, 2021, the MAIB details an accident occurring on board the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The incident is described in the MAIB's online list of ongoing investigations: 'Injuries to crewmembers inside a lifeboat that rolled onto its side then fell overboard during a launching drill on a research vessel in Loch Buie, Scotland.'

Corran Narrows
Subsea Cable Installation
A861 Overnight Roadworks

21.30 on Thursday 4th – 06.30 on Friday 5th November
21.30 on Friday 5th – 06.30 on Saturday 6th November

Local overnight diversion routes will be in place during works. Special arrangements made for Emergency Service vehicles. Specialist road covering plates will be in place during intervening periods. Please travel with caution and add some extra time for your journey.

Find out more
You can find out more about the project on our website or by contacting us via email:

Visit us:
ssen.co.uk/SubseaCables

Email us:
submarinecables@sse.com

Twitter: @ssencommunity Facebook: ssencommunity

LORN HEALTHY OPTIONS WEEKLY TIP

Don't fall into the complacency trap

Developing and cementing a new lifestyle habit can be a very powerful change in our life but sometimes there is a danger of falling into the complacency trap once an action has become automatic.

This could be someone who hopes that the same muscle and strength can be maintained by reducing their gym sessions from three to two each week. Perhaps hoping that the same body fat levels can be maintained by reducing walking distance and having a few more treats. Or perhaps hoping that the same positive mental health outlook can be maintained by staying up later, reducing sleep time and drinking a little more alcohol.

Once a new positive lifestyle habit is developed it is really important that we periodically review our progress and look out for complacency seeping in. Sometimes we can lose sight of how we achieved those desired outcomes in the first place and assume that things will now be easier to maintain. Therefore monitoring our progress and reviewing our approach is key to maintaining our focus on why we started in the first place.

Top performers in all fields engage in some type of reflection and the process does not have to be complicated or time consuming. Some of you may remember Nicola McDermott, the Australian high jumper from this year's Olympics in Tokyo, who scores the various components of every jump out of 10 immediately afterwards. This immediate review allows her to focus on where she can improve for the next attempt and fine tune her execution. This led to a silver medal and a personal best jump at the most important time.

Now I'm not saying you should review every gym session or walk but perhaps every three months we could take some time over a cuppa and think about the following questions.

What has been working well and what have I been able to maintain? What has not gone so well and needs some special attention?

What have I learned?

This may just prevent a gradual slide which can happen when we don't pay attention to things moving in reverse. Don't over analyse, it is a bit like looking at yourself in the mirror.

If we stand too close we see every flaw and imperfection and this excessive feedback can cause us to lose sight of the bigger picture. Not looking at the mirror at all or glancing from far away means you may miss easily fixable or preventable problems. Standing at a conversational distance allows us to notice the obvious issues without losing sight of the bigger picture. The bigger picture being the sort of person and identity that you targeted in the first place.

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

Rob Graham,
Lead Exercise Professional,
Healthy Options.

Young carers' grand day out

A grand day out in Glencruitten's woods has helped young carers branch out and grow in confidence, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The fun day, packed with activities from games in the trees to pilates exercise, meditation, weaving willow and lots of chat about positive mindset, was organised by North Argyll Carers Centre and funded by The Carers Trust.

Fun and games at Glencruitten woods for young carers.

Young carers co-ordinator Agnes Ingram said; 'We have a wonderful group of inspirational young people and hope this special day helped give them opportunities to grow in confidence and inspire others.

'Next year we hope to be away at the Young Carers Festival, but this year we were lucky to explore and appreciate our own area up at Glencruitten.

'We would like to say a huge thank you to Green Shoots for its great hospitality and letting us use its beautiful garden, and to the amazing Rie for coming along with a great routine to warm our muscles up for all the fun.

'We are also grateful to the girls from The Happy Wee Health Club, who brought a ray of sunshine and worked with our young carers on setting achievable goals, boosting them with positivity.

'Also a big shout out to the Highland Soap Company which gave us soaps for our goodie bags and to Kebabish for donating drinks and lots of extra snacks which were appreciated.

'Last but not least, thanks to The Carers Trust for the funding that helped us make this happen.'

Walk the lost hour to remember loved ones

Argyll Wellbeing Hub is inviting anyone who has lost someone special in their lives to join them on a walk at 1am on Sunday October 31, writes Fiona Scott.

The flagship event of the Campaign Against Living Miserably, the Lost Hours walk takes place every year when the clocks go back and offers the opportunity to remember those who are gone and the lost hours they would have had.

'This can be through suicide or just bereavement as they all affect us in the same way,' said Wellbeing Hub founding member Des MacMillan.

'Around the country thousands of people will walk forward, together, against suicide and to remember those that we have lost.

'It's our opportunity in Oban to deal with grief differently and defiantly, smash the silence around suicide, and remember our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, partners, loved ones and friends.

'Suicide prevention takes whole communities – from families and friends, schools and colleges to workplaces, pubs and entire towns. Walk against suicide and remember those we've lost this Sunday morning at 1am to walk back in time to remember our loved ones.'

Warm drinks will be available at some point on the route while a piper, poet and guest speaker have been organised.

The meeting point is at the North Pier and walkers are being asked to take a torch or light as parts of the route will be very dark. Stewards will also be on hand with lighting and first aid.

Islay whisky warehouses application continued

Plans for nine new whisky warehouses to be built on Islay have been put on hold after environmental chiefs raised concerns, writes Sandy Neil.

The proposal for the maturation facilities to be placed at the Ardnahoe Distillery, at Port Askaig, had initially been recommended for approval by an Argyll and Bute Council officer. But after the publication of a handling report, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) advised that it felt more information was needed.

At its virtual meeting on Wednesday October 20, the council's planning, protective services and licensing (PPSL) committee unanimously agreed to continue consideration of the plans.

An updated report to the committee said: 'Since the publication of the officer's report of handling SEPA has provided comment in relation to the potential storage of hazardous substances under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (COMAH) and a lack of detail on the procedural, design and modelling that needs to be addressed prior to the commencement of works.

'Although these matters would ordinarily be addressed under a separate application for Hazardous Substances Consent and building warrant discussions with SEPA have confirmed that the resolution to its concerns could result in necessary material changes to the planning application.

'For example, the building layout may need to alter to provide sufficient distance in the event of a fire, or due to the SuDS scheme.

'Therefore, officers consider it expedient to delay the determination of the application to allow the applicant to liaise directly with SEPA to resolve this issue.'

Storytellers recreate epic 1936 cycling adventure

A chance conversation in an Islay hostel has inspired an epic 500-mile cycle through Lochaber and Skye, recreating an adventure by three women 85 years ago, writes Sandy Neil.

The trip taken in 1936 is being recreated by the Adventure Syndicate, a trio of female adventurers and storytellers who promote mental and physical wellbeing through their outdoor endeavours. Lee Craigie, Alice Lemkes, and Phillipa Battye set out from Glasgow Youth Hostel on Thursday October 14, and finished on October 18 in Aviemore, staying overnight at Crianlarich, Glencoe, Ratagan, Portree, Torridon, Gairloch and Cairngorm Lodge Youth Hostels.

The route chosen by the Adventure Syndicate is a close representation of the original two-week, two-wheeled journey undertaken by 17-year-old hosteller Mary Harvie, from Shotts in Lanarkshire, with her two older sisters, Ella and Jean, in 1936.

This epic journey, that began in Glasgow and saw the women explore the North West Highlands, Skye, Highland Perthshire, and Stirlingshire, was documented in Mary's diary.

The diary extracts, which capture the true spirit of hostelling, are a poignant and insightful account of this great adventure, both on and off the bike, featuring some of Scotland's most iconic sites, stunning countryside, environment and natural heritage.

The Hostelling Scotland-led cycling project to recreate Mary's cycling trip in 2021 was born from a chance conversation between Mary's son, Harvie Paterson, and Karl and Lorna, who manage Hostelling Scotland's Port Charlotte Youth Hostel on the Isle of Islay.

Like his mother, Harvie has been a hosteller for many years. He has made regular trips to Islay on his bike over the last 12 years. In 2020 he told Lorna that as a Covid-19 lockdown project he had transcribed the diaries of his mother's cycling tour of Scottish Youth Hostels in 1936. He has also provided the Northern Irish Hostelling Association with diary extracts from a trip his mother made to Ireland which now has pride of place in its archives.

With the kind permission of Harvie, Hostelling Scotland published the diary entries of his mother's trip in its 90th anniversary issue of its annual Members' Handbook. Harvie, who is in his 70s, was delighted to see his mother's story being brought to life in print.

However, the management team at Hostelling Scotland always felt that there was more that could be done to bring this fantastic story to life, not only to celebrate Hostelling Scotland's 90th anniversary in 2021, but also in recognition of VisitScotland's Year of Stories in 2022.

Lee Craigie, Alice Lemkes, and Phil Battye will write a daily journal, post regularly on social media channels and take photos on mobile phones. A video of their adventure will be launched in early 2022.

The social media posts and video, their 21st century take on an adventure diary, will kick off Hostelling Scotland's celebration of VisitScotland's Year of Stories.

Lee Craigie, founder of the Adventure Syndicate, said at the start of the journey: 'We're so excited to take the inspiration for our next challenge from a journey between Hostelling Scotland's Youth Hostels, first made in the 1930s, and add our own modern day twist!

'Bike technology has evolved since the 1930s but the mentality of exploration and adventure has always been present. People have been using bikes to explore remote places for generations so now, with the increased traffic on our roads since this journal was first written, we're keen to explore the off-road alternatives where possible.

'Our ambitious route around Scotland will take us to lots of remote places that cars can't access. It might mean slower going and wetter feet but that will just make arriving in the evenings at our warm, dry accommodation all the more welcome.'

Hostelling Scotland is a self-funding charity operating a network of nearly 60 exceptional youth and affiliate hostels for the benefit of all those wishing to learn and experience what Scotland has to offer.

The three sisters, top to bottom Jean, Mary, Ella, with two joiners at the summit of Ben More.

The Adventure Syndicate: Philippa Battye, Lee Craigie, and Alice Lemkes, at Land's End.

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LETTERS

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Keeping safe is everyone's responsibility

At a time when Covid cases remain 'stubbornly high' in Argyll, it was unfortunate that a clerical mistake by the region's health board left 163 teenagers and their families understandably frustrated.

Due to human error, the HSCP sent out Covid vaccination letters to teenagers who were not eligible. After being contacted by The Oban Times, they apologised unreservedly for the confusion and have now implored youngsters not to feel disheartened but to continue to stick to the guidance.

Mistakes happen. And while we need to learn from them and do our utmost not to repeat them, people in our hard-pressed health service have had a lot more to deal with than many. They have gone above and beyond to ensure we are kept as safe as possible, often working long hours in stressful circumstances. All deserve our praise and thanks for keeping going in difficult circumstances.

We all have a responsibility to keep ourselves and each other safe, so let's keep following the guidance and supporting each other.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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Keep public toilets open

We, the undersigned, are members of groups who meet regularly at Ganavan throughout the year. One group meets daily, several meet every week and a few less often. None of these groups is seasonal. We cannot understand why Argyll and Bute Council regards sport and recreational activities at Ganavan as seasonal.

Ganavan beach and surrounding area is a hub which is used extensively by locals, an increasing number of visitors and ALL of our groups during the entire year.

We need this recognised by Argyll and Bute Council and insist that it is essential that the toilet block be open and available for us all throughout the year, not just April-October. Toilets use is not seasonal.

We understand from two MSPs that the Scottish Government has transferred additional funding to councils for the specific purpose of allowing public toilets to remain open throughout the year. We therefore insist that the toilets at Ganavan can, and MUST, be open to all regular users and visitors throughout the year.

Ganavan Sands parkrun, Macaulay Camanchd Association, Oban Lorn Shinty Club, Oban Celtic Shinty Club, Sofa 2 Summit, Jog Scotland, Adventure Oban, Loch Eck Orienteers, Oban Canoe Club, Oban Boxing Fitness, Oban Sea and Loch Swimmers, Stramash Outdoor Nursery, Oban Wild Swimmers, Oban Mountain Rescue.

A missing and crucial link

It was quite interesting to observe the juxtaposition of two articles on salmon in The Oban Times. A piece on MOWI seeking an injunction against a prominent anti-salmon feedlot campaigner who has extensive knowledge of the environmental impact of the industry in Scotland and Western Canada. Quite clearly the industry does not like his scrutiny. But someone must speak out.

Then an article on a £1.1million study into the drop in wild salmon numbers and 'salmon interactions', and penalties for escapes when the Scottish Environment Protection Agency failed to act.

The salmon farming impact is particularly devastating on the west of Scotland. Salmon are in decline for several reasons at sea, but the catastrophic decline on the West Coast has been going on longer and is directly attributable to the location and impact of salmon farms. This is not unique, as Canada and Chile's experience and the many science papers produced confirm. Chile has thrown them out, and native Americans in Canada have taken back control of their waters where possible and removed Atlantic Salmon farms so native Pacific species can return without the introduced infective diseases.

It is easy to knock an industry which by and large is a good employer but whose clout with government is huge due to the economic benefit. That it also sponsors sporting events and other good causes makes it all the harder to condemn.

The parallels with a previous time should not be lost. We cleared people for sheep and with rose-tinted glasses we now look on a devastated, over-grazed landscape as normal yet talk about rewilding, planting trees, and a greener future.

Salmon farming indirectly closed many bag net stations, ruined once abundant rivers such as the Awe/Orchy system and many once productive spate rivers. Ghillies and fishermen, hotel and boatmen jobs went too. I would argue more jobs lost than gained and less money in local economies as companies take their profits elsewhere.

Two articles of news in The Oban Times but a missing and crucial link to wild salmon decline not mentioned.

Wild salmon in west coast rivers and their migrating offspring and natal sea trout are in

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Toiseach sgaoileadh banachdach a' chorònabhìorais, is mòran a' togail theagamhan mu a shàbhailteachd, bha mi a' faighneachd ceist an seo a thaobh am bu chòir dha bhith do-sheachanta a rèir an lagha leithid banachdach Covid 19 a ghabhail. Mar a bhiodh dùil ann an dùthaich sam bheil saorsa dheamocrataigeach cho prìseil bhiodh leithid de lagh stèidhichte air argamaid gum bheil an dìth dìon aig feadhainn nach eil a' gabhail banachdach Covid na chunnart do dhaoine eile. Ged a bhiodh cead aca dìon a dhiùltadh dhaibh fhèin, bhiodh lagh den t-seòrsa air a bhonntachadh air creideas nach eil cead aca daoine eile a chur an cunnart tro ghànrachadh galair. Chan iongnadh sam bith nach cualas dad mu leithid seo bhon Riaghaltas, thuige seo co-dhiù, gu dearbh chanadh mòran gum bheil Ministearan air a bhith màirnealach air ceumannan mòran nas lugha connspaid a ghabhail!

Ann an agallamh air telebhisean chuala mi Hilary Clinton ag innse gum bheil cuid de bhuidhnean poblach ann am baile New York air riaghailtean den t-seòrsa seo a stèidheachadh, agus gun deach mar-thà luchd-obrach a dhiùlt banachdach a chur às an dreuchdan. Le fios gum bheil ìre a' chorònabhìorais a' dol am meud feadh na dùthcha seo a-rithist, agus le casaid gun robh e slaodach a' cur bhacaidhean an sàs roimhe, tha ceistean gam faighneachd air an Riaghaltas a thaobh dè tha e am beachd a dhèanamh gus smachd fhaotainn air an t-suidheachadh. Nuair a chaidh ceist air an t-Seansalair Rishi Sunak carson nach robh an Riaghaltas a' toirt eisimpleir nas fheàrr le bhith a' cleachdadh bhratan-gnùise sa Phàrlamaid, fhreagair e gun robh e an urra ri buill an rud freagarrach a dhèanamh mar a chì iad fhèin iomchaidh. Ach mur eil daoine uile-aonaichte mu na tha iomchaidh, tha fhios gum bheil cunnart gum bi poileasaidh dìon air leithid Covid mar chriathar, agus gum bi buil air ìre smachd sam bith! Aig an aon àm feumar cuimhneachadh gur i seo an t-saorsa phrìseil!

Thug seo mi gu smaoineachadh mun cho-labhairt COP eadar-nàiseanta a tha a' tòiseachadh a-màireach ann an Glaschu, agus na h-amasan dhùbhlanach a tha gan iarraidh air dùthchannan an t-saoghail gus rian fhaotainn air sgrios na h-àrainneachd. Le fios mar-thà mu cho leisg 's a tha cuid de na dùthchannan as motha san t-saoghal air gluasadan brìoghmhor a dhèanamh gus an cuid truaillidh air an àrainneachd a lùghdachadh, cha b' iongnadh cuid de shluagh dhùthchannan nas lugha, mar Bhreatann, a bhith a' gearan mu chosgaisean mòra a' tuiteam orrasan gus amasan cruaidhe a choileanadh taobh a-staigh trithead bliadhna. Saoil am bu chòir saorsa a bhith againn, nan iarramaid, diùltadh cur às dha teine a tha a' losgadh fiodh neo gas?

Tha amharas agam nach bi leithid sin de chothrom ann, air sgàth gach argamaid chumhachdach agus thiamhaidh a chluinnear mu dhìon àrainneachd an t-saoghail dha ainmhidhean agus an cinne-daonna. Nach fhaodte, gu ìre co-dhiù, na h-aon seòrsa argamaidean a dhèanamh mu chunnart Covid, agus dleastanasan a' mhòr-shluaigh cuideachadh gus smachd fhaotainn air?

DISTRICT NEWS

Conservationist Roy Dennis MBE receives RSPB award

Conservationist Roy Dennis MBE, who has worked on beavers and whitetailed eagles projects in Argyll, has been awarded the RSPB's top award.

The 81-year-old, who has dedicated his life to wildlife, received the honour of the RSPB Medal earlier this month, joining the likes of previous medallists HRH The Prince of Wales and Sir David Attenborough.

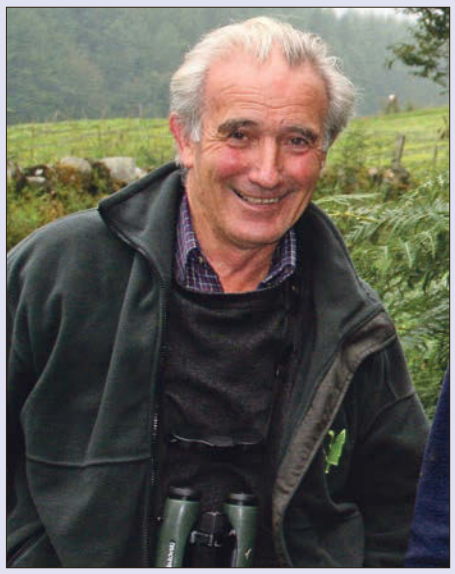
Roy, whose love of birds began as a child in the 1940s while exploring around his home in the New Forest, served as the RSPB's first Highland officer from 1970 to 1990 when he became an independent wildlife consultant and formed the Highland Foundation for Wildlife, now known as the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation.

His projects have included, with involvement from Mull's eagle project, bringing back white-tailed eagles to the south coast of England.

In 1992 he was awarded an MBE for services to nature conservation and in 2004 he received the RSPB Scotland Golden Eagle Award as the person who has done most for nature conservation in Scotland in the last 100 years.

Roy is also the author of several landmark, inspirational books and is a regular on TV and radio.

In 2012 there was a very unusual winner of the RSPB Medal when the entire community of Tristan da Cunha were awarded it for their efforts when a ship ran aground spilling 1,500 tonnes of oil into the sea threatening two-thirds of the world's population of rockhopper penguins.



Roy Dennis MBE has been awarded the top honour of the RSPB Medal

Royal Marine mum on a mission

Royal marine mum Gill McDougall is on a mission to complete 100 swims in 100 days.

Gill, who lives on Seil, wants to raise £1,000 before she takes a final fundraising dunk for her 100th swim on Sunday October 31.

Funds raised are going to The Royal Marines Charity helping to support serving and veteran marines - from giving them financial assistance to offering advice out on civvy street, including finding a second, meaningful career.

From calm seas to choppy waves, moonlit dips to sunrise splashes Gill has been out whatever the weather since day one of her challenge back in July.

Sometimes solo, with husband Ian on look-out from the shore, but more often with her Royal Marine teddy bear mascot Mouse (pictured) in tow, and with co-swimmers and friends from Seil's Bluetits of Dunearn, Gill is determined to reach her target and hopes to celebrate her last swim with a beach party.

She said: 'It has flown by. Committing to 100 swims in as many days is quite a challenge but I'm on countdown now. Big thanks to everyone who has supported me, swum with me and donated so far. It's all very much appreciated. Every little bit helps.'

To make a donation, go to Gill's fundraising page at www.facebook.com/donate/1748362435353312/2490093771135197

At random

MARTIN LAING
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Parking mad

The story last week about problems with renewing residents' parking permits in Oban certainly caught my attention as I am due to do precisely that chore myself.

So I thought I'd give it a go online. Oh dear.

After around an hour of trying to open my account, then setting up a new one, and a lengthy-ish phonecall to the appropriate department at Argyll and Bute Council, I still had not been able to renew my permit.

I walked to the council office in Albany Street to see if anyone there could assist with what should have been a simple task.

Alan in the service centre was extremely helpful and volunteered that there had been other residents in the office with the same issue, though I left without a resolution.

The council said in the paper last week there were 'teething problems' but that these had been 'quickly rectified'. No, they have not.

The website to which we have all been directed is useless as it does not offer an option for residents to buy an on-street annual permit. We are directed only to off-street car parks at nearly £500 instead of the £95 (I think) that it cost me last year.

Come on, Argyll and Bute Council: get this failing system sorted and pronto.

Welcome changes

Humble pie is a dish not to be savoured, but I suppose it's time I swallowed a little.

I was reminded in a gentle rib-taking the other day that I had objected at the planning stage to the changes that have taken place at The View in George Street.

Since the new management team carried out the improvements, I have been a fan of the transformation and have spent very pleasant hours on a number of occasions resting my buns on the open terrace overlooking the bay and with its spectacular vistas of Kerrera and Mull beyond, and more.

It's a genuine and welcome improvement to the Oban hospitality sector. And, yes, my objection was wrong.

What do you think?

Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

trouble where there are salmon farms inshore or offshore on migration routes. The presumption of harm by river owners, crown estate and local councils in the north and east of Scotland and most of England and Wales where there are no salmon farms show more stable wild salmon and sea trout populations, hence categorised as level one by Marine Scotland.

Virtually the whole of the West of Scotland wild salmon population is level three 'at risk' or level two 'under threat'.

It appears we humans do not have the hazelnut of wisdom to save the keeper of knowledge.

David Gunn, by email

Covid recovery funding will help buy guides' shelter

Dozens of community groups and projects across Argyll are getting council funding to help them recover from Covid-19 restrictions.

Among them are Seil Island Hall Community Trust which will be buying new signs, cleaning equipment and touch-free alcohol gel dispensers. Ardrishaig Guides will also be buying a shelter for outdoor meetings with its grant, as well as hi-vis vests, PPE and cleaning kit.

The grants to voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises, village halls and other community venues are coming from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund. In total 63 groups from across Argyll and Bute will benefit.

Policy lead for support services Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Community groups and local charities do fantastic work in bringing people in our towns and villages together and that's something that has been greatly missed during lockdown. This funding will provide much-needed support and help them provide safe and accessible venues across our communities.'

Gallimaufy of curious items br date with entries from Highlan

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

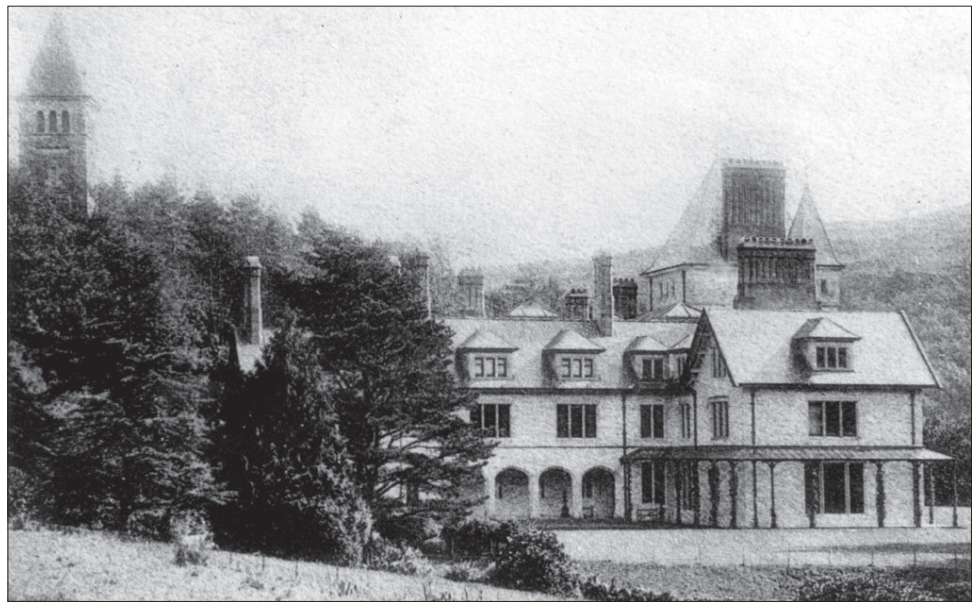
From 'Aald Rock' to 'Zeenty-teenty', A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase and Fable is an unputdownable gallimaufry of curious items, embracing sayings, put-downs, insults, mottos, traditions, legends, folklore, customs, festivals, games, songs, dances, nicknames – and it is now brought right up to date, with many entries from Scotland's Highlands and Islands.

Author Ian Crofton has cast his eye across Scottish life, history, language and culture to produce this unique compendium of all things Scottish. There are more than 4,500 authoritative entries on matters that you might have puzzled over without a clue where to find an answer. Crofton, a contributor to the renowned Brewer's Dictionary of Modern Phrase and Fable, has imagined the questions of curious minds and provides the answers. How does he do it?

'Back in the early Noughties, when I was working on a number of the Brewer's dictionaries of phrase and fable, it occurred to me that there was a big gap as far as Scotland was concerned. Scotland, I knew well, had a lexical fecundity, a folkloric and literary richness, a diversity of histories and local cultures, that were undreamt of by the Reverend E. Cobham Brewer and his largely English successors.

'So during my researches I started gathering specifically Scottish fragments of phrase and fable that I came across. Initially it was mostly a matter of serendipity, but as my baby began to grow and take shape, I realised what a wealth of expressions and cultural memes Scotland has produced over the centuries, and embarked on a more systematic approach to collection. And so I began to ransack dictionaries, anthologies, compilations and reference books, both ancient and modern, as well as shelves of works of literature and history.'

This new 2021 edition features many expanded entries, as well as completely new ones – including Big Tam, the Third Forth Bridge, the Loony Dook and the War of the One-eyed Woman. The result is a kaleidoscopic snapshot of the Scottish nation, both past and present, from the mythical origins of the Scots in ancient Scythia to the foibles of modern Follyrood, from Sawney Bean to Oor Wullie, from 'The end of an old song' to 'Aw fur coat and nae knickers', from The Heart of Midlothian to 'Ye cannae shove yer granny aff a bus'.



Morvern's Ardtornish House near Ardtornish Point. Photograph: Iain Thornber

Entries from the new edition

South Ayrshire golf club owner loses 2020 presidential election

How the Ayrshire News headlined its story on the result of the US election on November 7, 2020. Donald Trump (whose mother was a MacLeod, born near Stornoway in Lewis) had acquired the golf resort at Turnberry in South Ayrshire in 2014, and rebranded it Trump Turnberry.

Armstrong the Good Giraffe

Nom de guerre of the philanthropist Armstrong Baillie (b. 1980), an unemployed man who hit the headlines in 2012 for his acts of charity. Twice a week he would don a giraffe costume (including long neck), made for him by his mother, and travel to different parts of Scotland to commit good deeds, such as handing out bananas to runners in the Edinburgh Half Marathon, clearing litter off Portobello Beach, cleaning out cages in cat homes, handing out £10 vouchers to mothers in hospitals, and presenting passers-by with cups of coffee on cold mornings. He funded his acts of charity with the cash he raised by busking with his kazoo and djembe drum, and saved money by hitch-hiking to his destinations.

Unfortunately, the length of his neck meant that he was only able to accept lifts from open-topped convertibles. 'Giraffes are like me,' he said, 'as my head is in the clouds but my heart is in the right place.' Mostly people look on him kindly, but he receives mixed reactions from dogs, and was once chased by a beagle.

Other entries from the Highlands & Islands

Oban Sesame

The name of a whole food shop in Oban.

Aluminiumville

A name proposed for the new model industrial village completed in 1908 at the head of Loch Leven, between Glen Coe and the Mamores. It was built to serve the aluminium processing plant that had begun to operate there, powered by the hydroelectric scheme based on the Blackwater Reservoir, created by the building of a vast dam. The site of the new village was previously occupied by two tiny settlements, Kinlochbeg and Kinlochmore, and the name eventually chosen for the new village was Kinlochleven. Making use of the abundance of hydro power, Kinlochleven became the first village in the world to be powered entirely by electricity, earning it the title of 'the Electric Village', and inspiring The Oban Times to gush:

'Kinlochleven by night bears an impressive scenic aspect, which makes it worth the visitor's while to tarry until the shades of evening fall. Hosts of brilliant electric lights, every home illuminated, and the twinkling aluminium furnaces in a sombre setting of frowning bens and darkened sea, raise up fancies of fairyland and the magical power of Pluto.'

The aluminium plant closed in 2000.

The Hanging Tree of Fort William

An old oak that used to grow outside the walls of Fort William, which was used to hang malefactors. It was cut down in the 1970s to make way for the town's new public library, and this act of vandalism, according to some locals, provoked a buidseachd or curse.

Accordingly, so the press reported, the morning after the new library was opened staff found books and paintings strewn across the floor, heard toilets flushing and strange dog-like snuffling noises, and witnessed their precious electric typewriter chuntering along on its own – and printing out characters upside down.

Sanctuary

In medieval times, sanctuary from the law was obtainable in or at certain religious institutions and sites, such as the graves on Iona, and the Sanctuary Cross half-way across the strip of sand linking Colonsay and Oronsay at low tide; any law-breaker from Colonsay who succeeding in reaching the cross was given sanctuary on Oronsay (the 'island of St Oran', who founded a priory here in 563), provided he or she stayed on the island for a year and a day.

Eoghan of the Little Head (Gaelic Eoghan a chinn bhig)

A Maclean of Lochbuie on Mull, who was killed in battle some time in the 16th or early

rought up to nds and Islands

17th century, having had his head cut off with a claymore while charging full tilt at his enemies. His horse ran off with his body still mounted upon it, so that all his family could bury of him was his head. As a consequence, his restless (and headless) spirit still rides abroad at night, presumably in search of its missing member. According to some accounts, the reason Eoghan's ghost is unquiet is that he was killed before he had broken his fast. An early version was recounted in the periodical Teachdaire Gaelach (August 1830).

Tautological toponymy

Place names not infrequently have accretions of terms in different languages meaning the same thing. A fine example in Scotland is Ardtornish Point (on the east coast of Mull), which means 'point of Thorir's point point', from Gaelic ard, 'headland', plus Thoris, possessive of the Old Scandinavian male personal name Thorir, plus Old Scandinavian nes, 'promontory', plus Modern English point.

James Bond

The fictional Secret Service agent who features in a series of thrillers by the English writer Ian Fleming, starting with Casino Royale (1953). Bond is supposedly the son of a Scottish father, a certain Andrew Bond of Glencoe. The character of Bond is based on a range of men Fleming met during the Second World War while working in naval intelligence; a particular inspiration was the Scottish diplomat, soldier, politician and author Fitzroy Maclean (1911–96), who operated with Tito's partisans behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia.

The Lost Valley of Glencoe

A high hidden valley clenched between the precipitous flanks of Bheinn Fhada and Geàrr Aonach, two of the three sisters of Glencoe. In Gaelic it is known as Coire Gabhail, 'the corrie of capture', traditionally because it was here that the local Macdonalds hid their rustled cattle. Another peculiarity of the place is that the river, the Allt Coire Gabhail, disappears underground for much of the length of the valley (an unusual circumstance in non-limestone areas). Recalling a visit he made in March 1939, the mountaineer and writer W.H. Murray wrote (from the German prison camp where he spent the last three years of the war): Spring or autumn – for these have greatest charm – a man might come here for a week and be alone. He might pitch a tent on that meadow and be as much out of sight and sound of civilization as if he dwelt on the North Pole.

– W.H. Murray, Mountaineering in Scotland (1947)

Abducted by an Eagle

The following account of the abduction of an infant by an eagle is reported by William Daniell in his Voyage Round Great Britain (1815–25):

In conversing on the strength of these formidable animals, he [Dr Jura, the son of the laird of that isle] stated that an eagle once took up a child which its mother had wrapped up in a piece of flannel and laid down by a stook of oats (it being harvest time) and flew with it from Scarba to Jura [a flight of at least a mile, over the Gulf of corryvreckan]. Some of the people of Jura observing the eagle descend, with what they supposed to be a lamb in his talons, hastened to the place where he alighted, and, to their surprise, found the infant unhurt, with the wrapping around it scarcely discomposed.

Blue Men of the Minch

Supernatural sea creatures, known as Na Fir Ghorm in Gaelic, who haunt the Minch (the stretch of water between mainland Scotland and the Outer Hebrides), occasionally preying on sailors.

When the chief of the Blue Men had all his men gathered about him, ready to attack a ship, he rose high in the water and shouted to the skipper two lines of poetry and if the skipper did not reply at once by adding two lines to complete the verse, the Blue Men seized the ship and upset it. Many a ship was lost in days of old because the skipper had no skill at verse.

– Donald Alexander Mackenzie, Wonder Tales from Scottish Myth and Legend (1917)

It is possible that the Blue Men originated as personifications of the notoriously dangerous waters of the Minch, particularly those around the Shiant Isles.

John Campbell, minister of Tiree between 1861 and 1891, reported that on one voyage his boat had been followed by 'a blue-covered man', but the reverend gentleman came to no harm.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears

Oban Times reader Ishbel Banks got in touch to give us more information on the photograph we featured in The Oban Times Mòd preview on October 7.
The pair in the photograph with the backdrop of McCaig's Tower were Robin Banks and Cathie Thompson raffling a tregnum of whisky in 1992 in aid of Oban Mod funds.
Mrs Thompson was drawing the raffle and Mr Banks, a long serving councillor and solicitor in the town, was President of the Gaelic Society.

These four Oban children were spectators at one of the sections of the Six Days Trial, which was taking place in Duror. They were Anna McGregor, Scott and Annie Matheson, and Kirsty McGregor. But can any or our readers tell us which year? You can email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

BUSINESS NEWS

XpoNorth Christmas market returns

Makers and creators across the islands and Highlands are being encouraged to help shoppers bag the perfect Christmas gift this year.

In the run up to the festive season, XpoNorth Christmas Marketplace will be showcasing the best of produce and products from the region.

Creative businesses have until this Friday, October 29, to apply to be a part of the online campaign that will boost website traffic as it highlights their products to Yuletide-ready shoppers.

The 2021 campaign will run from Monday November 15 to Friday December 17.

Iain Hamilton, who is head of creative industries at Highlands and Islands Enterprise and is co-founder of XpoNorth, said despite the challenges Covid-19 had given, the Highlands and Islands continues to impress with its high calibre of creative businesses.

'This Christmas it is vital we support our hugely talented makers by buying local and ensuring they thrive as we approach 2022.

'We were inundated with businesses looking to participate last year and are looking forward to receiving this year's applications to make this Christmas Marketplace our best yet for businesses and consumers alike,' he said.

Orkney-based glass designer Carrie Paxton, who was at last year's XpoNorth Christmas Marketplace, added: 'Christmas 2020 was a very uncertain time for all small businesses.

'I had a successful season which was boosted considerably by XpoNorth's support and promotion.'

Interested in applying? Go to www.xponorth.co.uk for details. The closing date is Friday October 29.

Applications open for product launch training

Firms exploring ideas that help tackle climate change are being invited to apply for a free, six-month training and mentoring programme.

Developed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Pathfinder is for small- to medium-size businesses and is targeting those in the life sciences, healthcare, animal health, aquaculture technology, IT, and engineering sectors.

Delivered mostly online, Pathfinder is all about supporting entrepreneurs looking to build a company or launch a new product.

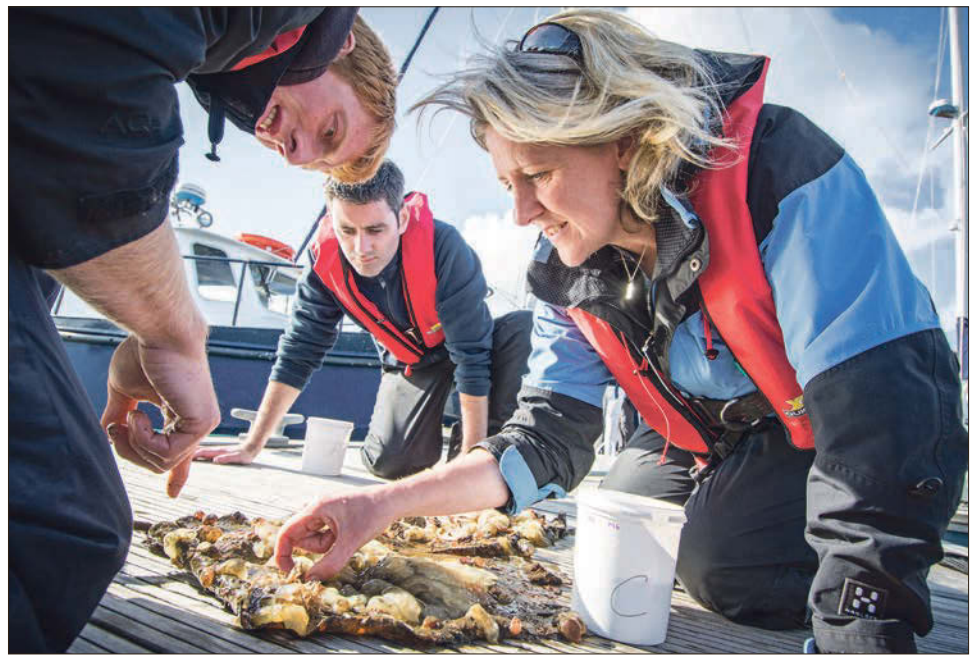
Applications for the programme are now open and potential participants can register for a taster session on November 10.

The application deadline is December 14 and the next programme starts on January 14, with a focus on climate change solutions.

Andrea McColl, senior development manager for life sciences at HIE, said: 'For this next cohort we are particularly interested in helping firms that want to contribute to improving the environment or develop a circular business model and the transition to a net-zero economy.

'We are delighted to be able to expand the programme to help more companies across the Highlands and Islands. Along with our programme delivery partners, Skillfluence and Investing Women Angels, we're really looking forward to welcoming another group of participants and supporting them to move forward with their ideas and achieve commercial success.'

Kyle Smith of Lochaber firm Energy Mutual is a previous participant of Pathfinder. He said: 'One of the benefits of being part of the Pathfinder programme is that it started to open up all the other doors that you didn't realise were out there in terms of support for small businesses in the Highlands. Having that initial contact has been really helpful.'



Pathfinder is targeting those in the life sciences, healthcare, animal health, aquaculture technology, IT, and engineering sectors.

Based in Fort William, Energy Mutual supports independent renewable energy generators through an online asset management platform.

Kyle applied for the Pathfinder programme to help focus the firm's strategy and gain the knowledge and tools to take it to the next level. Since participating in Pathfinder, Energy Mutual has begun to expand and will continue to increase its offering and further innovate.

The Pathfinder Accelerator programme forms part of the Northern Innovation Hub, a project led by HIE, with £11m from UK Government as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, and £1.7m through the European Regional Development Fund Scotland programme 2014-2020.

It will be delivered by training specialists Skillfluence, which has developed and designed a new course structure including an e-learning platform to make the course more accessible. Skillfluence will partner with Investing Women Angels to provide business advice and support to this year's participants, providing coaching and mentoring as well as help to develop networking, sourcing, funding and planning for future growth.

Send us your business news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

Everything on sale at Temple Café is made by hand using locally-sourced botanicals – from baked goods to jams, teas and even beauty products.

Expanding Harris deli creates new jobs

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A bakery and deli on Harris will create six new jobs as it expands with a new smokery and coffee roastery.

The Temple Café, built near the remains of an old stone temple in Northton on South Harris, outgrew itself within one year of owner Amanda Saurin buying it, and the croft across the road, in 2019 with husband Julian.

Now Amanda has bought a second building 10 minutes away in Leverburgh with £124,834 support from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

More space was needed after reopening with restrictions after lockdown so Amanda could grow her food and drinks business.

Once converted, the new space will add to the five people already employed at the Temple Cafe, which is under new management.

More room means Amanda can launch the coffee roastery and smokery, and expand her drinks range – her latest non-alcoholic drink Wild Eve, made from ingredients such as roses and honeysuckle harvested from her croft and sugar kelp seaweed from the nearby shore, is already proving popular with customers.

Everything on sale at Temple Café is made by hand using locally-sourced botanicals – from baked goods to jams, teas and even beauty products.

Before moving to Harris, Amanda had been looking at botanicals and researching what they could offer in terms of flavour. She has worked with the Isle of Harris Distillery as part of her previous apothecary business for several years and was a frequent visitor to the island.

All the packaging Amanda uses is compostable. In a bid to cut the amount of traffic driving through Northton, she plans to offer bikes that people can use to cycle from the main road to the café. Amanda will also be encouraging the use of electric charging vehicles and plans to install rapid charging points.

Gordon Macdonald, account manager at HIE, said: 'This exciting project adds to the rich variety and high-quality food and drink offering found in Harris. There is growing interest in products that use local ingredients and promote product provenance.

'Providing year-round jobs in South Harris is great news and I am very pleased we have been able to provide support.'

Arnish contract welcomed on Isle of Lewis

The Arnish fabrication yard on the Isle of Lewis has won a contract to build parts for an energy project.

This is the yard's first external deal since it was taken over in February this year by Harland and Wolff Group Holdings plc and involves building four steel section piles for a subsea template of a project in the Black Sea.

A company spokesperson said: 'This key win validates the company's strategy of getting Arnish ready for the wider renewables sector in the UK,' adding that its management believes additional deals 'will flow through Arnish in the coming weeks and months'.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan welcomed the announcement which was made on Tuesday October 19.

'The Arnish yard is a hugely important economic asset for the Western Isles and is renowned for the quality of its workforce and what it produces,' he said.

'After a turbulent few years, it is reassuring to see the yard has now been awarded a new external contract, with the view of more work being secured over the coming months to ensure its sustainability.'

It is expected manufacturing for the new contract will begin immediately and last around four-and-a-half months.

This is the yard's first external deal since it was taken over in February.

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Musicians tune up as Blas Festival returns to live stage

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Left, Norrie MacIver and west coast folk group Dàimh feature in the impressive line-up at this year's Blas Festival; and inset, Lochaber left-handed fiddler, Angus Grant, will celebrate his 90th birthday at the festival.

Gaelic music will be celebrated by live audiences across the Highlands and Islands once again as the Blas Festival returns to the stage next month.

An impressive line-up of traditional musicians and singers have signed up for the popular event – most of whom were not able to perform for more than 18 months due to the pandemic.

Musicians including Capercaillie's Karen Matheson, Donald Shaw and Charlie McKerron, Skipinnish front man and singer Norrie MacIver and BBC Radio 2 Folk awards winners, Mischa Macpherson, Brìghde Chaimbeul, Ross Ainslie and Tim Edey, will perform during the nine-day festival in November, which will take place in venues from Staffin in Skye to Arisaig.

The 2021 Blas Festival will host 26 concerts and cèilidhs as well as a variety of workshops and Facebook Live events. Blas, which means 'taste' or 'sample' is organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council and will take place from November 19-27.

It will open with a brand-new musical commission, Buaidh nam Ban, by Mànran singer and TV presenter Kim Carnie, celebrating the life and works of women bàrds and will culminate in a night of special concerts in Strathy, Raasay, Kilmuir and Inverness.

As always, a special birthday is being celebrated at the 17th Blas Festival; Legendary Lochaber left-handed fiddler Angus Grant will celebrate his 90th birthday in style with musician friends including former pupils Allan Henderson, Ingrid Henderson, Sarah Jayne Shankland, Eilidh Shaw and Kevin Cameron.

There will also be a special night dedicated to Uist singer, piper and tradition bearer Catriona Garbutt, who will be joined by fellow Uist musicians and singers, including Sineag MacIntyre, piper Dr Angus Macdonald, Catriona's nephew Niall Campbell and Ruairidh Gray.

Fiddler Iain Fraser will premiere his new album, Gneiss, which was commissioned by Fèis Rois.

On the final night of the festival there will be a special performance of the soundtrack from BBC Scotland's Gaelic drama, Gruth is Uachdar (Crowdie and Cream), composed by Donald Shaw and Charlie McKerron of Capercaillie in the stunning setting of Inverness Cathedral, with a stellar line up of traditional musicians and an opening set by Karen Matheson.

Other highlights of this year's Blas include Tim Edey and Ross Ainslie in Arisaig and husband and wife duo, Fionnag NicConnich and Brian Ó hEadhra in Lochinver and Applecross.

Arthur Cormack from Blas Festival organisers, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, said: 'In what has been another challenging year for musicians and communities, we are looking forward to bringing the Blas Festival back to audiences across the Highlands.

'The varied programme, which will consist of both ticketed and free events, provides much-needed work for musicians and creative practitioners.

'Musicians contributed greatly to the wellbeing of people during Covid lockdown periods and we hope they will now be supported as live events take place once again.

'We aim to make it as safe as possible for people to attend Blas events and are grateful to all our funders, particularly The Highland Council, for continuing to support the festival.'

The festival portrays the best of Gaelic language and culture, and each year contributes to the aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan that Gaelic is used more often by more people in a wider range of situations.

The full programme of events can be found at www.blas.scot along with details of how to purchase tickets.

COMPETITION TIME

WIN £250 OF LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS

With Christmas around the corner and pockets tightened this year wouldn't it be great to give that special someone exactly what they want!
Courtesy of our friends at BID4Oban, one lucky reader will win £250 worth of Love Oban Vouchers COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE.

All you have to do is collect 3 tokens over three weeks starting on 28th October, get them to us by 10am Tuesday 16th November and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic prize.

What are you waiting for, give the gift of Oban and start collecting your tokens!

View www.bid4oban.co.uk to find out where you can spend the vouchers.

HOW TO ENTER

All 3 tokens must be sent in a single envelope with your contact details to Oban Times Love Oban Competition Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, PA34 4HB. One token from each week is required, multiple entries are allowed, but must be submitted in separate envelopes. Photocopied tokens will not be accepted. Winners must agree to take part in publicity, Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.

T&Cs Winner must be able to collect vouchers from the BID4Oban Office, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA at 10.30am on Monday 22nd November. Digital Subscribers, please email your subscription number with a screenshot of each token to adverts@obantimes.co.uk. You will be interviewed by one of our trained journalists and photographed and this will appear in the Oban Times on Thursday 25th November. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Although not the usual subject for a Glasgow Letter, I could hardly write about Glasgow this week without starting off with a mention of COP26.

The UN Climate Change Conference is well and truly upon us in Glasgow and where better to hold an environmental conference than the city known as the Dear Green Place?

One way to make the city even greener and environmentally friendly, of course, is to close all the roads, so it's already looking like mission accomplished on that front with all the traffic cones popping up all over the place!

In all seriousness, however, let's hope for a positive outcome from the conference.

As I'm hardly an expert on climate change, I thought it better just to mention a number of events open to the public connected to the conference.

Live music is at the heart of that. Concerts for Climate will take place in the famous King Tuts on Thursday November 11, featuring stripped back performances by Twin Atlantic, Admiral Fallow, Rura, The Ninth Wave, Rachel Sermanni, Blue Rose Code, National Youth Pipe Band, and Tamzene – who, as I wrote a few weeks ago, supported us in the Kelvingrove Bandstand with such a stunning performance.

There is also a 'green zone' open to the public from November 1-12 at the Glasgow Science Centre. Youth groups, civil society, academia, artists, and business from across the UK and all over the world will be hosting events, exhibitions, cultural performances, workshops and talks. There are over 100 exhibitors, 200 events and 11 sponsors taking over the space – so plenty opportunity to listen and learn about climate action.

Mànran, fresh from the release of their new album, Urar, and heading off on tour to Germany.

There are multiple other interesting events, including a couple not yet announced. For anyone interested in heading along, you can check out what is available online.

On another note entirely, if anyone is looking for new album recommendations to keep you going through the winter, I have been very much enjoying Mànran's new record, Ùrar, which was released last Friday.

My attention was drawn to it first when I came across a hilarious video on Facebook of an outtake of their music video for the single, Ailean, in which box player, Gary Innes, just about scares the living daylights out of vocalist, Kim Carnie, by sneaking up behind her during a take!

The actual track is excellent, though, and the video a great piece of filming and lighting design. The rest of the album is a tremendous mix of traditional Gaelic songs, upbeat tune sets, and an original poppy folk song called Crow Flies. The album finishes with a wonderful rendition from Kim of Griogal Cridhe – the poignant lament for Griogair Ruadh Mac Griogair written after his execution in 1570.

It's a very old song but a very fresh version which will absolutely bring a tear to the eye and is a lovely way to finish the album.

Mànran are off on tour to Germany soon, where I'm sure the material will go down very well indeed.

Ullapool arts charity launches crowdfunder to secure its future

An Talla Solais in Ullapool is launching a crowdfunding campaign on October 26 in a bid to secure its future, writes Sandy Neil.

Up until now the arts charity has had use of a gallery space, rented from a local hotel, where it exhibited contemporary art and held community events. However, the gallery closed earlier this month after the charity was given notice to vacate the premises. After 18 months of lockdowns, the hotel required the space for its own recovery and so An Talla Solais is looking for a new home.

Community has been at the heart of An Talla Solais, but without a physical space to bring people together, the charity has found itself at a crucial point.

Alongside exhibitions, the charity works with people living with dementia through the Dolphin Arts project, and over lockdown ran community-led workshops online to encourage people who might not otherwise interact with art to engage in creative projects and connect with others. The benefits of creativity on mental health are well known and through community work the charity hopes to tackle isolation and loneliness, issues often felt more heavily in rural locations.

In order to see Ullapool remain as a creative hub in the rural Highlands, An Talla Solais needs a physical space to support its activities. The charity hopes to renovate its current office building in order to create a multi-purpose space where, alongside studio rooms and a ceramics facility, a dedicated community space will be created for workshops, events and exhibitions.

However, for this to happen the building needs significant work done.

An Talla Solais will launch its crowdfunding campaign through Crowdfunder UK and the Aviva Community Fund.

Jude Brooks, head of corporate social responsibility at Aviva, said: 'We are extremely proud to support An Talla Solais and look forward to enabling it to bring its ideas to life.'

An Talla Solais has an initial target of £10,000, but hopes to stretch the target to £20,000 before December. There is a range of rewards in thanks for donations on its crowdfunding campaign, from exhibition cards and posters to photography workshops, prints and original paintings.

To show support head to: www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/help-secure-the-future-of-an-talla-solais.

What's on at Oban Cinema

DRACULA ON HOLIDAY | 12A | COMEDY
Travelling from Transylvania to Scotland by train, the Count's companion Lucy and their man servant Renfield manage to surprise the Count with accommodation in a humble dwelling that is very different to his usual habitation at Borgo Castle. They try and help him step out of the past and into the twenty first century. They hope to get him over his many fears – sunlight, crosses, bibles, running water, garlic, food and drink. As the holiday progresses they meet Flora Goddaming, the daughter of the local undertaker. Learning from the child about their new surroundings, the Count begins to find life again until his estranged wife Elizabeta shows up to ruin his new self and threatens to ruin everything for the him and Lucy. Filmed in and around Inverness.

Friday 29 October
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 12:30/16:15
No Time To Die | 12A 15:15
COP26: Not Without Us | 12A 18:30
Dune | 12A 19:00
Dracula On Holiday | 12A 20:00

Saturday 30 October
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 13:15/16:00
The Addams Family 2 | U 13:30
No Time To Die | 12A 15:45
COP26: Thank You For The Rain | PG 18:30
Dune | 12A 19:30
Dracula On Holiday | 12A 20:15

Sunday 31 October
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 11:00/16:00
The Addams Family 2 | U 11:45
No Time To Die | 12A 13:30
Hocus Pocus | PG 14:00
Dracula On Holiday | 12A 17:00
Dune | 12A 18:45
Shepherd | 15 20:00

Wednesday 3 November
Dune | 12A 12:30★/19:15★
No Time To Die | 12A 16:15★
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 16:30★
Dracula On Holiday | 12A 19:45

Thursday 4 November
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 12:30/16:30
Dracula On Holiday | 12A 16:15
No Time To Die | 12A 19:00
Dune | 12A 19:15

★ Key: HOH - Subtitles & audio description for the hard of hearing.

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.

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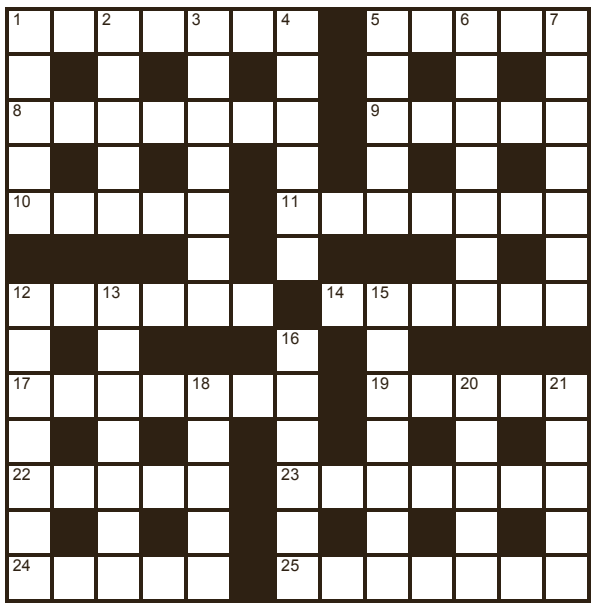
For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

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

CROSSWORD



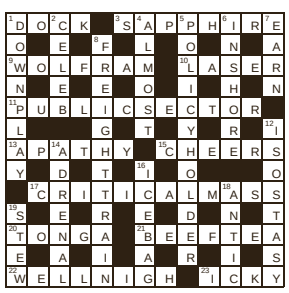
Across

1 Cottoned on (5,2)
5 Line dance (5)
8 Guide (7)
9 Unsophisticated (5)
10 The end (5)
11 Windy weather! (7)
12 Request nicely (6)
14 Vegetables (6)
17 Clot (7)
19 Precious bar (5)
22 Ornamental loop (5)
23 Transparent film (7)
24 Requires (5)
25 Surfeit (7)

Down

1 Slip (5)
2 Lucky number (5)
3 Stops (7)
4 Copying illegally (6)
5 Sour type (5)
6 Rotten (7)
7 Undying (7)
12 Ill-used (3-4)
13 Otalgia (7)
15 Clothing (7)
16 Essential parts (6)
18 Numbers subect (5)
20 Leafy area (5)
21 Wee (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Short film charts ri Scottish crime ficti

A short film has been launched shedding new light on the success of the UK's bestselling genre.

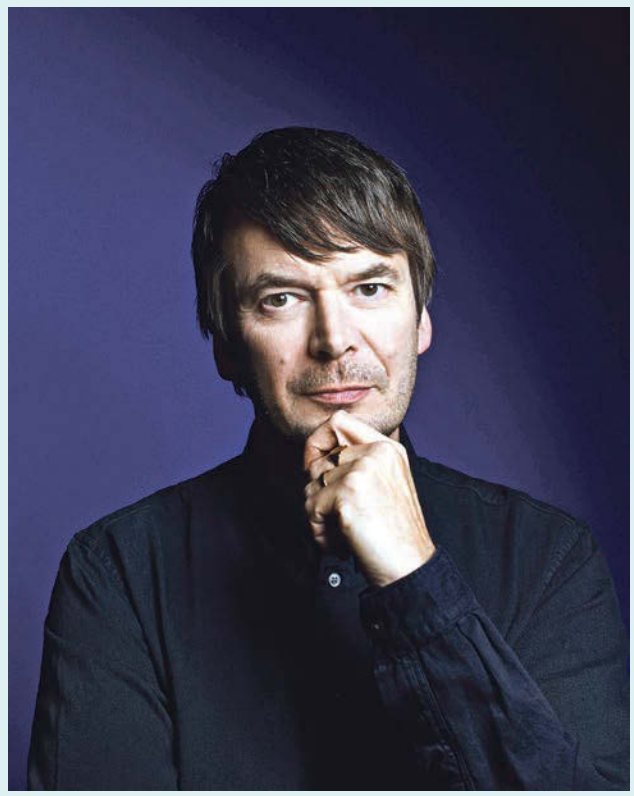
Including never-before- seen interviews with some of the biggest names in crime writing, it traces the origins of one of the key influences on all of their work.

Produced by Publishing Scotland to mark the 2021 Frankfurt International Book Fair, Dark Travellers – the Rise of Scottish Crime Writing is a 22-minute documentary featuring seven award-winning authors discussing the subject of crime writing today.

The film, featuring Ian Rankin, Val McDermid, Denise Mina, Abir Mukherjee, Christopher Brookmyre, Marisa Haetzman and Graeme Macrae Burnet, opens with the story of William McIlvanney's Laidlaw. First published in 1977, it is credited as being a vital inspiration behind the growth and development of the genre in Scotland. It is also a story that has now come full circle. When McIlvanney died in 2015, he left an incomplete, handwritten manuscript of Laidlaw's first case.

Ian Rankin was asked by McIlvanney's widow, and his publisher Canongate, to finish the work, which was published in September 2021 as The Dark Remains.

After three decades, Laidlaw, the father figure of Scottish crime-writing, has been brought back to life.



The father of Scottish crime writing has been brought back to life with the help of Ian Rankin.

Photograph: Hamish Brown

Ian Rankin has said that 'it's doubtful I would be a crime writer without the influence of McIlvanney's Laidlaw.'

In the film, he describes how his famous character John Rebus was invented as a way of understanding Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh.

'I wrote the first Rebus novel because I was trying to make sense of Edinburgh. Glasgow had McIlvanney, James Kelman had come along, but Edinburgh seemed to be Miss Jean Brodie, and some poets and playwrights. So, I thought, okay, I'm going to write contemporary fiction set in Edinburgh and it's going to be crime fiction, because crime is a great way of looking at society. A detective offers a good way of looking at the world. He has an access-all-areas pass to the haves and have-nots, the overworld and the underworld.'

Also interviewed in the film, author Val McDermid explains how her latest novel, 1979, can trace its influences back to McIlvanney's Laidlaw: 'It was the first time I had read any novel that was written in a modern Scottish working-class voice – and the fact that it was a crime novel was amazing and really made me understand what it was possible to do with the crime novel: for it to be a novel that reflected the way we live now.

'It is the perfect vehicle for writing a novel of social history. Not least because within the crime novel you are not constricted to one tiny social group of people.

'At a time when people are asking what it means to be Scottish, this is the perfect place for writers to explore that idea.'

James Crawford, writer, broadcaster and publisher, who has written and presented the film, said: 'All of the authors interviewed in

Skye poet becomes new Mòd Bard

The Royal National Mòd has appointed its new bard. Celebrated Gaelic poet Rody Gorman has been awarded the historic literature honour in recognition of his significant contribution to the Gaelic literary world.

Born in Dublin and now living on the Isle of Skye, Rody has enjoyed a prolific career, with dozens of Gaelic literary translations and original collections of poetry in Scottish Gaelic, Irish and English, to his name.

Rody lectures in creative writing, edits the annual bilingual anthology of contemporary Gaelic poetry An Guth, and has been awarded numerous writing fellowships and residencies, including

Celebrated Gaelic poet Rody Gorman has been appointed as the new bard.

writing fellow at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and convenor of the Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee of Scottish PEN.

Rody is the 57th recipient of the Bardic award, which was first awarded almost 100 years ago in 1923. The Skye-based writer takes over from outgoing bard Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, who held the role for two years after last year's Mòd was unable to go ahead in person.

Rody said: 'I am greatly honoured to have been awarded the position of bard of the Comunn Gàidhealach in recognition of my work over the years. I am conscious and proud that in doing so I'm following in the footsteps of so many others, including Donald Macintyre, Mary Maclean, Angus Peter Campbell, Myles Campbell, Catriona Montgomery and Aonghas MacNeacail, not to mention the office-bearer in 1935, Donald Grant of Camuscross, where I have lived for more than 30 years. While in office I hope to promote Gaelic poetry and produce relevant work.'

ise of on

this film keep coming back to the idea of the crime novel as being the ideal space to explore the human condition. This, it seems, is at the core of what makes crime writing so popular – a desire to work beneath the surface, to uncover the lies we tell and the secrets we keep; to explore the extremes of personality or circumstance that drive people to commit crimes, or even to kill. And is there something in the air, or the water, or the landscape that makes Scotland's crime writers so adept at this?

'Much of their success is, I'm sure, down to their being so skilled at unpeeling these layers of personality, to expose the raw nerves of identity, and truth.'

Chief executive of Publishing Scotland Marion Sinclair said 'We are living through a golden age of crime writing in Scotland; the growing popularity of the genre has been very exciting to chart over the last decade.'

The Dark Travellers film is part of Publishing Scotland's Autumn Publishing Package aimed at promoting the work of their members and includes a New Books Scotland rights catalogue of books for the season and Postcard from Scotland, a digital showcase highlighting the brilliant work of some of our publishers and authors.

The Glencairn Glass launches its first crime short story competition

For the past two years, the world's favourite whisky glass – The Glencairn Glass – has featured as headline sponsor of the prestigious McIlvanney and Bloody Scotland Debut Crime-writing prizes, celebrating the finest in Scottish crime-writing talent.

This week The Glencairn Glass is building on this creative collaboration by launching its own crime short-story competition, in partnership with Scottish Field magazine, a sister title of The Oban Times.

The Glencairn Glass is looking to celebrate up-and-coming literary talent through this exclusive competition from October to December.

The competition opened for entries on Wednesday, October 20, and runs until December 31, inviting all budding crime writers to build their stories around the theme: 'A Crystal-Clear Crime' in no more than 2,000 words.

The judging panel for the inaugural competition will comprise Deborah Masson – 2020 winner of the Bloody Scotland Debut Crime Novel of the Year with her book, Hold Your Tongue; Peter Ranscombe, Scottish Field's drinks columnist and author of the historical thriller, Hare; as well as Glencairn's marketing director Gordon Brown, who has written eight crime novels with his latest, Thirty-One Bones, written under the pseudonym Morgan Cry. Gordon is also one of the founding directors of the Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival.

Mr Brown commented: 'We're very excited to be launching the Glencairn Glass crime short story competition, supported by the team at the Bloody Scotland International Crime Writing Festival, along with the Culture and Business Fund Scotland, working with Scottish Field. We are delighted to invite both experienced and novice authors, alike, to take a stab at entering (excuse the pun!) and wish all entrants the best of luck.'

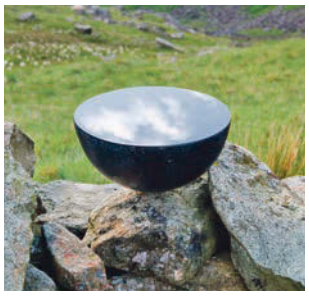
Three prizes will be available for the winning trio of authors – first prize, £1,000, with two runners-up each receiving £250. All three winners will also receive a set of six bespoke engraved Glencairn Glasses to enjoy their favourite dram with. The overall winning entry will be published by Scottish Field in spring 2022 as well as on The Glencairn Glass website.

All short story entries must be uploaded at www.whiskyglass.com/crime-short-story-competition by midnight on Friday December 31, 2021. Details can also be found at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Winners will be announced in March.

From Scotland and Japan to An Lanntair

Hosted as part of An Lanntair's Hebridean Book Festival, Faclan, Confluence of North opened in the art centre's Main Gallery on Saturday October 23, presenting a creative collaboration between Scotland and Japan with an artist-led exchange project between four artists in Scotland and four artists from Spirit of North in Japan.

The Scottish artists involved are Gillian Macfarlane, Su Grierson, Inge Panneels, Kyra Clegg; and from Japan, Maruyama Yoshiko, Asai Mariko, Maruyama Tokio, Takizawa Tatsushi. The collaboration has also led to a series of exhibitions and events engaging additional artists and audiences in both countries.



One of the pieces in the exhibition by Inge Paneels.

Focusing on new working structures and processes, the project has connected artists from Northern latitudes separated by geographical distance, since 2013. It aspires to a global network through which northerners from across the world, and anyone drawn to the north, can build a 'northern philosophy' and understand the northern cultural 'spirit'.

This is based on the idea that North is always conditional, a direction rather than a location, and that our ideas about it can be fundamental to how we see and relate to our own life and culture.

Confluence of North contains both newly commissioned and pre-existing artworks from digital media to silk prints to watercolour to glass works. A final publication will also connect artists with audiences in both countries.

The exhibition is free to attend and will run in An Lanntair's Main Gallery until November 27.

Check An Lanntair website www.lanntair.com for further details.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 28 An Dàmhair / THURSDAY 28 October
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Dileas/Working Dogs
19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep1 Caraidean Ùra/ New Friends
20.00 An Là – NEWS
20.30 Ceathrar air Chuairt
21.00 Eòlrpa/European Current Affairs
22.00 Seòid a'Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves S6 Ep6
22.30 Na Deachdairan/Dictators-Idi Amin
23.25 Celtic Connections Shorts
23.30 Dana-Scotland's Wild Side

DIHAOINE 29 An Dàmhair / FRIDAY 29 October
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Là -NEWS
19.25 Dan
19.30 Machair
19.55 Fraochy bay
20.00 Fianais S1 Torquil Crichton
20.30 An Taigh-Fuine/The Bakery
21.00 Benny/Benny Lynch
22.00 DNA S1 Ep1
22.40 Celtic Connections Shorts
22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
23.00 ALT

DISATHAIRNE 30 An Dàmhair/ SATURDAY 30 October
16.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là
18.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22 – Ross County v Hibernian
19.45 Sgeul Slainte
20.00 Fianais-Torquil Crichton
20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig
21.00 ALT (S1 Ep4)
22.00 Na Deachdairean/Dictators=Idi Amain
22.55 Celtic Connections Shorts
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Ross County v Hibernian
00.45 Skerryvore

DIDÒMHNAICH 31 An Dàmhair/ SUNDAY 31 October
16.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
18.15 An Là
18.30 Seachd Là
19.30 Alleluia23.35/Spiritual praise
20.00 Ceathrar air Chuairt
20.30 Golf: Mun Cuairt Alba
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach/Sheepdog Trials
22.00 Bannan (S4 Ep3)
22.40 Bannan (S4 Ep4)
23.00 DNA /Danish Drama
23.35 Celtic Connections Shorts
23.40 Sgeul Slainte

DILUAIN 1 An t -Samhain/ MONDAY 1 November
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Fuine
19.30 SpeakGaelic (S1Ep3) An Aimsir/The Weather
20.00 An Là – NEWS
20.30 An Cuan Sgith, le Anne Lundon/The Minch
21.00 Trusadh – Beairteas na Beairt/ Riches of the Loom
22.00 Bannan (S4 Ep5)
22.30 Ratharsair/Raasay
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin/The Kitchen Coves (S6 Ep6)

DIMÀIRT 2 An t-Samhain/ TUESDAY 2 November
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Dileas/Working Dogs
19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep2 Àitichean/Places
20.00 An Là – NEWS
20.30 Golf: Mun Cuairt Alba
21.00 Mac 'S Uaine/MacSween Goes Green
22.00 Trusach-Beairteas na Beairt/ Ritches of the Loom
23.00 Dan
23.05 Machair
23.30 Alleluia

DICIADAIN 3 An t-Samhain / WEDNESDAY 3 November
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Fuine
19.30 SpeakGaelic – S1 Ep3 An Aimsir/ The Weather
20.00 An Là – NEWS
20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig
21.00 Luther 500: An t-Stri Spioradail/ The Battle for Souls
22.00 Bannan S5 Ep1
22.25 Transatlantic Sessions S1 Ep1
23.00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs

DIARDAOIN 4 An t-Samhain / THURSDAY 4 November
17.00 Pròg ram Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Dileas/Working Dogs
19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep2 Àitichean:Places
20.00 An Là – NEWS
20.30 Ceathrar air Chuairt
21.00 Birdman of Pollock/Curaidh na Coile
22.00 Mach a Seo!
22.30 An Gabh an Saoghal Fhuarachadh?/ Can we cool the Planet?
23.25 Transatlantic Sessions: Dluth an Daimh

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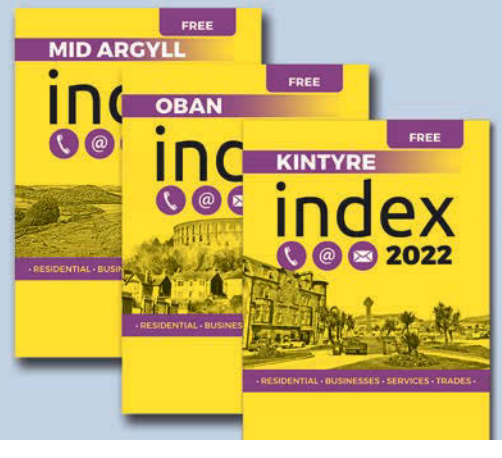

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Around the markets

United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday October 19: sold 1,301 sheep of all classes. Lambs sold to £88.00 for SuffX from Dunach Estate to average £59.83 (+£14.38). In keeping with current trends, lambs which consisted mainly of fourth draw types, sold exceptionally well. Ewes also met with a firm trade.
LEADING LOTS & PRICES:
LAMBS – SUFFx - £88.00, Dunach Estate; £86.50, Mid Farm; £78.00, Balnagown; £73.00, Mid Farm. TEXx - £81.50, Seaview; £80.00, Drimnin Estate; £78.00, Balnagown; £77.00, Inshaig; £75.50, Balnagown. CHEV - £87.00, Erray Farm; £76.00, Drimnin Estate; £73.50, Erray Farm; £70.00, Ardnacross. CROSS - £77.00, £75.00, Kilpatrick Croft; £70.00, Bailuacraich; £70.00, Ardachy. MULE - £84.50, Tyree; £78.00, Slaterich. CHEV MULE - £82.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £72.00, Ardnacross. BF - £78.00, Tigh Na Mara, Barra; £73.00, Killiechronan; £72.00, 83 Borve; £72.00, Gorteneoran; £72.00, Tigh Na Mara.
EWES – SUFFx - £67.00, Ardsheal. BELTx - £90.00, Tyree. CHEV - £80.00, Balnagown; £70.00, 75 Borve; £70.00, Balligarve. CROSS - £75.00, Newfield; £68.00, Killiechronan. MULE - £69.00, 3 Baligrundle; £68.00, Balligarve. BF - £78.00, Croft One; £62.00, Gometra.
United Auctions, Dalmally, Friday October 22: sold 2,072 sheep of all classes. Lambs sold to £87.50 from Couston Farm to average £59.09 (+£5.99). A good attendance of buyers were in attendance resulting in buoyant trade throughout and more could have been sold to seller's advantage.
LEADING LOTS & PRICES PER HEAD:
LAMBS – SUFFx - £85.00, Glenbrooke; £75.00, Ardsheal; £67.50, Glenbrooke; £62.00, Balvicar Farm. TEXx - £87.50, Turnault; £82.00, Innischeroch; £81.00, Lephinkill; £79.00, Colquhalzie; £74.00, Achnacone; £74.00, Couston; £70.50, Lephinkill; £70.00, Bragleenmore. CHEV - £77.00, Ardsheal; £70.00, Ellary; £66.00, Glenbrooke; £65.00, Ardsheal. CROSS - £87.50, Couston; £85.00, Brackley; £69.00, Auchreoch; £67.00, Brackley; £66.00, Balvicar; £65.00, Ederline; £64.50, Birchfield. HAMPx - £70.50, Glenbrooke. BF - £77.50, Raera; £76.00, Turnault; £72.50, Tullochcan; £72.50, Raera; £71.50, Lephinkill; £70.00, Raera; £69.50, Castles Estate; £68.50, Couston Farm; £68.50, Duncroisk; £68.00, Achnaba; £68.00, Acharonich; £66.00, Achalic; £66.00, Acharonich.
EWES – TEXx - £88.00, Lephinkill; £62.00, Achnacone. CHEV - £56.00, 1 Savary. CROSS - £48.00, Brackley; £44.00, Drumclach Croft. HAMPx - £50.00, Glenbrooke. BF - £60.00, Floors; £57.00, Raera; £56.00, Dunans; £55.00, Castles Estate; £54.00, Tullochcan; £53.00, Lephinkill; £49.50, Tullochcan; £46.00, Raera; £46.00, Achnacone.
LEADING PRICES PER KILO
LAMBS – SUFFx – 268p, Ardsheal; 250p, Glenbrooke; 244p, Achnacone. TEXx – 263p, Colquhalzie; 250p, Bragleenmore; 247p, Achnacone; 243p, Lephinkill. CHEV – 249p, Glenbrooke; 245p, 244p, Ardsheal; 241p, Ellary Farms. CROSS – 281p, Glenbrooke; 250p, Ederline Estate; 248p, Birchfield; 244p, BalvicarFarm. BF – 233p, Achnacone; 227p, Colquhalzie; 226p, Auchlyne.

The first lamb in the ring at the annual Blackface Ram and Lamb Ram Sale at Dalmally earlier this month came from Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, which made £24,000; and right, Jill Hunter from Dalchirla Farms checking out shearling before they go through the ring. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Crofters confront minister on 'severe damage' by geese

Crofters have raised a raft of concerns with the new minister for rural affairs, including 'obstacles' to grants and the end of funding for goose management, which, if left uncontrolled, could severely damage agriculture and disrupt island airports.

The chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Joint Crofting Consultative Committee, Councillor Donald Crichton, wrote to Mairi Gougeon MSP, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and islands, regarding a host of issues raised by the crofting sector at its recent meeting.

Reflecting the recent concerns about the obstacles encountered by crofters accessing crofting grants, Councillor Crichton requested more detailed information from the minister regarding the administration of the Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme (CCAGS).

Mr Crichton wrote: 'Members would like to understand better how the CCAGS scheme performs in the Outer Hebrides and would like detailed information on the following:

'The number of applications submitted to the local offices in Balivanich and Stornoway. How many applications were rejected, with a summary of the main reasons for refusal. The average time to process a CCAGS application. The length of time taken to process payments. The budget provision for the CCAGS scheme and whether it was fully utilised.'

Concern was raised about the removal of funding to help crofters and islanders manage goose numbers.

Councillor Crichton asked the minister if a reported underspend in the Crofter Housing Grant Scheme, which supports crofters seeking to build or renovate their croft houses, would be rolled over to next year.

Councillor Crichton also expressed crofters' disappointment at the removal of funding for the Goose Management Scheme, saying: 'There are real concerns that goose populations will rapidly increase and damage to traditional agricultural activities will be severe if numbers are not controlled, further exacerbating challenges faced by the sector in continuing in agricultural production at a time of great uncertainty around future funding schemes to replace the CAP.

'There are also wider implications affecting the operation of the islands' airports that could impact wildlife management around the islands' airports if the resident population continues to grow uncontrolled.'

Meanwhile, the Scottish Crofting Federation welcomed assurances by Ms Gougeon regarding continued government support and commitments to reforms to strengthen the future of crofting.

Auditor warns 'governance must improve' at Crofting Commission

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

The Crofting Commission, the body responsible for overseeing Scotland's 20,000 crofts, 'must improve its governance and rebuild damaged relationships between its board and managers', a government watchdog has warned.

The excoriating 2020/21 audit of the Crofting Commission, published by Audit Scotland, found its leadership 'falling below the standards expected of a public body in Scotland'.

It listed 'indecisiveness', 'procrastination', and 'a lack of communication' at the top, with 'weaknesses in overall business planning' that made it unable to conclude the commission would be in a financially sustainable position after 2022.

Crofting is a system of landholding unique to Scotland. A croft is a small agricultural land holding usually held in tenancy with buildings or a house. It provides a base for crofters and their families to live on, utilising the land for agriculture and other enterprises. There are around 20,000 crofts.

The Inverness-based Crofting Commission, established in 2012, 'regulates and promotes the interests of crofting in Scotland to secure the future of crofting'. During 2020/21, it employed 60 staff, with an expenditure of £3.1 million.

One half of its leadership consists of a board of six elected commissioners and three commissioners appointed by ministers, led by a convener, who are responsible for providing strategic direction.

The other half is its senior management team, consisting of a chief executive, and the heads of policy, finance, development, business support, etc., who ensure the board's aims and objectives are met.

This is not the first Audit Scotland report to find fault. An earlier review in 2016 found 'strong personalities, differences of opinion and apparent incongruent individual objectives and priorities were having negative impacts on how the commission's board carried out its functions'. An almost entirely new board took office in 2017.

Now, within the new leadership, the watchdog has found 'a breakdown in trust between the board and its senior management'. The report unearthed a lack of involvement of the board in the setting of the commission's budget, 'excessive involvement' of the board and former convener in operational decision-making, and concerns about the leadership of the former convener Rod MacKenzie, who resigned in July.

In November 2020, the report explained, 'the then convener sent a letter to the former Scottish cabinet secretary for rural economy and tourism on behalf of the board, communicating that it had no confidence in the abilities of the chief executive to discharge his duties.

'There is a need for significant improvements in the leadership...'

'Specific concerns raised included a lack of leadership; indecisiveness; procrastination; a lack of communication; and poor personnel management. The board did not inform the chief executive or senior management team about the letter.'

Audit Scotland welcomed the commission achieving financial balance in 2020/21 and 2021/2022, but it was 'unable to conclude that the commission is in a financially sustainable position over the medium-to-longer term,' due to 'weaknesses in its overall business planning'.

'At the core of these issues is a failure to respect established boundaries between the respective roles of the chief executive, convener and board,' it said. 'This transgression, when combined with a breakdown of trust between the various parties, means that the leadership and governance of the commission is currently falling below the standards expected of a public body in Scotland.

'There is a need for significant improvements in the leadership and governance of the commission if it is to provide effective strategic leadership and oversight of the key services it provides to crofting communities.'

Malcolm Mathieson, the Crofting Commission's new convenor since July 2021, said: 'We recognise the leadership and governance did not meet the standards expected of a public body. Whilst it is important to recognise the unprecedented pressures and exceptional circumstances we found ourselves in during the initial phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are confident that we have improved and transformed the organisation to ensure we meet the challenges of the future.

'The board is clear in its support of the previous convenor and whilst disappointed, respect his decision to resign as convenor and commissioner from the East Highlands in July. Substantial progress has been made since the completion of the audit report; in particular, the clarification of roles and remits within the commission have been defined and accepted by all.'

Bill Barron, the Crofting Commission's chief executive, said: 'We have worked exceptionally hard to make tangible and positive changes. The reports also highlight areas of our operation where we are exceeding the standards expected of us.'

The chairman of the Scottish Crofting Federation, Donald MacKinnon, said: 'It is very sad to read the report. The commission is the keystone to the much-valued regulated system of land tenure that is crofting, and we hoped that this sort of internal wrangling was a thing of the past.

'We appreciate that the setup of a board of commissioners, some of which are elected, some appointed, an executive team and a body of government officials isn't ideal for smooth functioning and really needs to be reviewed.

'Everyone involved must feel frustrated.

'The shame is that this translates into a lack of achievement of outcomes, particularly that which we have raised on many occasions about occupation and use of crofts. The lack of regulation is threatening the future of this system.

'We note issues are being addressed, and we wish them well in this – there is an urgency.'

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A shout out to people in Oban to work in social care and make a difference

We're here to tell you about working in social care for an organisation like Carr Gomm, and the challenges we face in delivering our essential services.

Like many organisations, the pandemic has hit us hard; impacting the services we provide and the health and wellbeing of our staff and people we support.

So it's even more important than ever that we continue to provide the vital services we deliver to many people with varying needs throughout the Oban area – many of whom are elderly and vulnerable in some way.

We also want to ensure that we have enough staff to be able to provide the future supports required by everyone in our community – for friends, family and neighbours – whenever they need it.

Oban has a strong and caring community spirit and it's those qualities we need in new staff – even if you've never thought of a career in social care. If you want to make a difference, we may have the job for you.

Working in social care

By working with Carr Gomm you can help people achieve their individual hopes and dreams every day.

Our work is challenging, but very rewarding. Our staff go home at the end of a shift knowing they've made a difference in many people's lives. We ensure you come to work every day informed, inspired, and determined to make a positive impact.

We require people with a flexible and inspirational approach, able to find innovative solutions with people – not for them.

You need to be patient and flexible, so if someone is unwell you may need to stay a little longer and possibly take a bit more time. You need to get to know the people you support and learn to read their body language – as not everyone communicates with words.

No two people we support are the same so you need to adapt, use your training and clear guidelines to ensure people are safe and well, and find ways to support them to live as independently as possible.

A day in the life of a support practitioner

Every day is different – and every interaction creates a new opportunity for you to make a difference.

You may start the day seeing someone who lives with their husband or wife. You might support them to get up, wash, and choose what to wear. You might spend a short time with them to enable them to spend the rest of their day being independent at home, such as setting them up to use digital equipment.

Next, you might visit someone with dementia. You know they forget your name every morning – but you also know that as soon as they see your face, they will recognise you and smile. They might tell you the same story every day. But you also know their favourite song and you play it every morning while you make their breakfast – and when they hear it, they sing and reminisce.

Next, you might see someone who needs reassurance that they've taken their medication and that they are safe and well.

Our services

Our Oban Home Care service provides support to people to lead a good quality of life in their own homes. The service aims to help people sustain, recover or manage their health, skills, and abilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Our role is not to do things for people, but to work with them. The service also provides support to those approaching the end of their lives in their own homes, where this is their choice.

Our Oban Day & Overnight Responder service provides an effective and efficient way to respond to known risks that occur on an unplanned basis, such as falls and other accidents. The service also provides planned support, including supporting people coming home from hospital, ensuring that they remain safe and well in their own home and supporting them to move through a planned process towards greater independence and improved health and wellbeing.

We are looking for staff with a range of backgrounds, knowledge, skills, and experiences.

You may have never worked in the sector before. You may want to gain experience with us before moving into another role in health or social care. You may be retired and looking for part time work. You might be leaving education and looking for your first job. You may want a career change. Or, you may just want seasonal or regular holiday work.

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£10.27 per hour – SVQ qualified
£10.52/hr – SVQ qualified and 4 years' service

Apply here:
https://recruitment.carrgomm.org

Or, contact Denise for an informal chat about the role:
denisemurdoch@carrgomm.org
07966 048186

Other social care providers in Oban are also recruiting, so if you're looking for a new career locally, now could be the right time.

carr gomm
Supporting People & Communities

A&B HSCP | Transforming Together
Argyll & Bute Health & Social Care Partnership

RECRUITMENT

Full time positions available for the following:

Joiners (Mid Argyll & Oban)
Bricklayers (Mid Argyll & Oban)
Electrician (Oban)
Labourers (Mid Argyll & Oban)
Quarry Machine Operative (Mid Argyll)

For more information call 01546602989 or email jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

North Argyll House

Bealach an Righ, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
Currently recruiting for:

Senior Carer
£13.16 per hour

Care Assistant
From £10.21 to £10.75 per hour
SVQ training.

Housekeeping Assistant
£9.68 per hour.
Full and part-time permanent positions.

Uniform provided, paid breaks and pension scheme.

For an application form contact 01631 562168 or Email info@northargyllhouse.org

Investor in People

Roadworker 2

Ref: ARB08882
Based in Lochgilphead
37 Hours per week
£20,237 - £21,125

Closing date: 12 November 2021
To apply visit our website

disability confident EMPLOYER
Argyll Bute COUNCIL

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Roadworker 2

Ref: ARB08881
Based in Lochgilphead
37 Hours per week
£20,237 - £21,125

Closing date: 12 November 2021
To apply visit our website

disability confident EMPLOYER
Argyll Bute COUNCIL

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

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 a Repairs Lead for our office based in Oban.

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

This is a new role in our organisation. The purpose of this customer focused role is to lead a small team delivering the customer facing and administration aspects of our reactive repairs service.

Your team will be responsible for repair diagnostics, customer support and advice, logging, issuing and tracking repairs and representing the customer's best interest. You will be experienced in a customer service environment and have access to your own vehicle.

This role requires:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- An ability to organise and prioritise own workload and that of your team
- A willingness to offer suggestions for service improvements
- ICT and digital literacy
- An ability to assess, interrogate data and produce reports

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 this post, please contact John MacDonald 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/vacancies

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

Applications should be received by noon on 8th November 2021. Interviews are planned for week beginning 15th November 2021.

LINKGROUP · Investors in People Gold · Investors in Young People Good Practice Award Silver · Investors in People Health & Wellbeing Award

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

NORTH WEST MARINE A JIFMAR COMPANY

VACANCIES

North West Marine Ltd are expanding our Oban office team and are looking to recruit 2 new employees, Accounts Assistant and Crewing Manager.

We are a specialist diving and marine contractor with dive teams and vessels working all over Scotland, activities ranging from mooring inspections to marine civil engineering projects.

We are looking for candidates who enjoy working in a busy office environment.

Accounts Assistant will assist the Accounts Manager with bookkeeping and administration of the company. Candidates should preferably have experience using bookkeeping or accounting software and spreadsheets.

Crewing Manager will be responsible for crew changes, day to day co-ordination with vessel skippers, vehicle allocations and all travel arrangements. Continuous training and development opportunities provided to the right candidates.

Salary dependent on experience. To apply please send cv with covering letter by email to: accounts@northwestmarine.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

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
21/04552/FUL	Land 40M West of Ardmor, Lochaline, Morvern	Erection of 2 glamping cabins for holiday use
21/04736/FUL	11 East Park, Bunroy, Roy Bridge, PH31 4AG	Change of use to a house
21/04809/FUL	Rowan Cottage, Kilmonivaig, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EX	Installation of 2No. holiday chalets and a shepherds hut. Installation of foul drainage system and access provision
21/04830/FUL	Site 105M North East of Woodside Cottage, Glenancross, Morar	Erection of house (replace 18/02550/FUL)

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

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

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION: Prospective Major Application

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

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

An online public consultation, where members of the project team representing the applicant, Gearach Ltd, will be available for a question and answer session via live interactive text chat, will take place on 4th November 2021 (3pm-7pm) via the project website: www.iliwhisky-consultation.co.uk.

If you wish to make comments on the proposals you may do so at the above event, on the project website or using the feedback forms or via email to enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk no later than 18th November 2021.

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

Email: enquiries@ilidistilleryconsultation.co.uk

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

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

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

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

1. A Macleod, South Corran, 0.548 ha, Site of 3 existing dwellinghouses, (106164)

2. C Sinclair, 1 & 2 Ardconnel. 0.1224ha, amenity ground (112553)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 25/11/21 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

1. D Colthart, 4 Ardconnel, 0.1995 ha, Site of a new dwellinghouse, Fencing Conditions (110891)

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01980/LIB	Installation of replacement external and internal doors	Perle Oban Hotel, Station Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5RT

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

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

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

First Registration of a Croft

Mr E A Carmichael has registered their crofts 2, 5 and 6 Glenuig , Arisaig & Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 07 July 2022
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration numbers are C7953, C7958 & C7959

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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PROPERTY

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Please contact Ardkinglas Estate for more information

Ardkinglas Estate
Cairndow
PA26 8BG

ARDKINGLAS

www.ardkinglas.com
info@ardkinglas.com
01499 600261

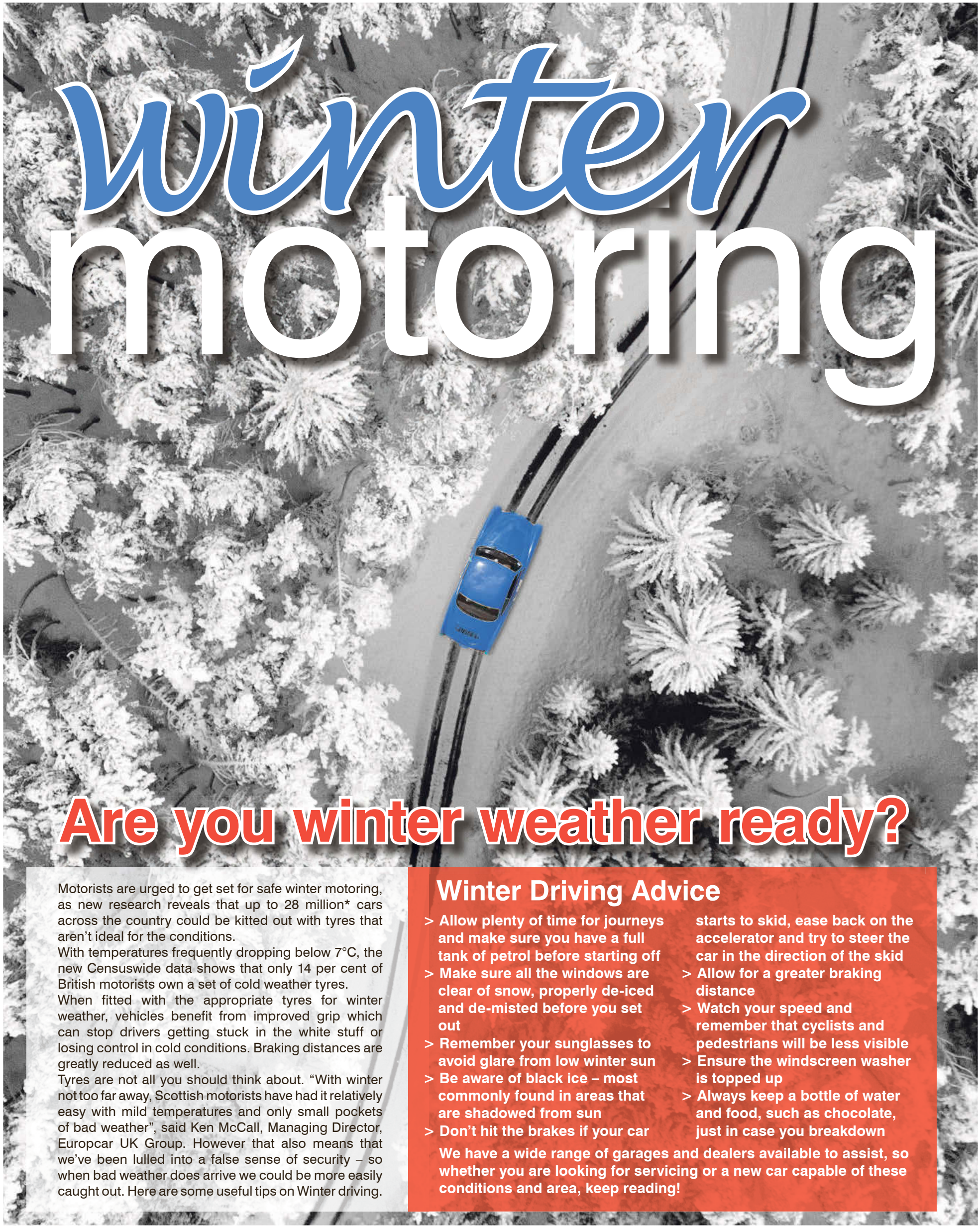
SVA Property Auctions Ltd
13 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QW
E-mail: info@sva-auctions.co.uk

The following are amongst 10 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction on 17th November 2021.

By ONICH (Glen Righ): Redundant water intake, weir and land straddling a burn – 0.46 acres.

www.sva-auctions.co.uk

winter motoring



Are you winter weather ready?

Motorists are urged to get set for safe winter motoring, as new research reveals that up to 28 million* cars across the country could be kitted out with tyres that aren't ideal for the conditions.

With temperatures frequently dropping below 7°C, the new Censuswide data shows that only 14 per cent of British motorists own a set of cold weather tyres.

When fitted with the appropriate tyres for winter weather, vehicles benefit from improved grip which can stop drivers getting stuck in the white stuff or losing control in cold conditions. Braking distances are greatly reduced as well.

Tyres are not all you should think about. "With winter not too far away, Scottish motorists have had it relatively easy with mild temperatures and only small pockets of bad weather", said Ken McCall, Managing Director, Europcar UK Group. However that also means that we've been lulled into a false sense of security – so when bad weather does arrive we could be more easily caught out. Here are some useful tips on Winter driving.

Winter Driving Advice

- > Allow plenty of time for journeys and make sure you have a full tank of petrol before starting off
- > Make sure all the windows are clear of snow, properly de-iced and de-misted before you set out
- > Remember your sunglasses to avoid glare from low winter sun
- > Be aware of black ice – most commonly found in areas that are shadowed from sun
- > Don't hit the brakes if your car starts to skid, ease back on the accelerator and try to steer the car in the direction of the skid
- > Allow for a greater braking distance
- > Watch your speed and remember that cyclists and pedestrians will be less visible
- > Ensure the windscreen washer is topped up
- > Always keep a bottle of water and food, such as chocolate, just in case you breakdown

We have a wide range of garages and dealers available to assist, so whether you are looking for servicing or a new car capable of these conditions and area, keep reading!

SUBARU
BETTER where it MATTERS

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ISUZU
THE PICK-UP PROFESSIONALS

SCOTLANDS NO1 DEALER

S&S Services ensures customers are still on the fastest route to an All-New D-Max

• A worldwide shortage of semiconductors, key components and shipping delays are resulting in longer production lead times
• All-New Isuzu D-Max demand currently outstripping supply
• Customers urged to begin new vehicle discussions with us as soon as possible

Isuzu UK, along with the entire automotive industry is facing increasingly complex trading conditions because of the worldwide shortage of components, semi-conductors, and key materials, which is having a detrimental impact on vehicle production and availability.

Isuzu UK is working hard to meet the high demand from customers for the All-New Isuzu D-Max, however, the global component shortages and shipping delays are currently resulting in longer lead times than normal.

William Brown, Managing Director, Isuzu UK said "The success of the All-New Isuzu D-Max has been both rewarding and challenging, with demand currently outstripping supply. As the pick-up professionals, we are committed to providing the most transparent process possible and urge any customers who may wish to purchase an Isuzu D-Max in the near future or perhaps later in 2022 to start discussions with your local Isuzu dealer as soon as possible."

He added, "Although not impacted as severely as most manufacturers, we are still working tirelessly with the vehicle production facility in Thailand to minimise customer waiting times and we will provide as much information to dealers as we can to ensure our customers are always on the fastest route possible to a new Isuzu D-Max."

The All-New Isuzu D-Max, which launched earlier this year, combines smart, bold, and aggressive styling and improved off-road performance with class-leading safety technology. Not only does it deliver the capability and durability you would expect from an Isuzu pick-up truck, but this tough workhorse has also now added superior levels of comfort, refinement, and next-generation technology.

Appealing to a wide variety of drivers, from fleet operators to families, the Isuzu D-Max model range is structured into three segments: Business, All-Purpose and Adventure, resulting in an Isuzu D-Max to suit every customer's requirement.

Customers looking to purchase a new Isuzu D-Max are encouraged to begin discussions with your local dealer, S&S Services, to ensure they remain on the fastest route to a new Isuzu D-Max. Please call us today to secure your discounts and price. Tel: 01292 880080.

S & S – REGULAR VISITS TO ARGYLL FOR SALES, SERVICE & PARTS

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S&S SERVICES

SUBARU [BETTER where it MATTERS]

ISUZU THE PICK-UP PROFESSIONALS

SCOTLANDS NO1 DEALER

Subaru UK fastest growing SUV brand in UK

Subaru UK reported an increase in the 2021 Q3 performance of 19.82% over Q3 2019, in a market that was down 31.54%, delivering pre-pandemic performance levels and looking to increase sales further in 2022. A key part of this success was down to the performance of the improved dealer network which helped Subaru UK become the fastest growing SUV brand in the UK with a record year to date sales increase of 143.45% year-on-year. This performance was predominantly due to the number of conquest sales with the introduction of a new 2.9% APR PCP offer which we are delighted will continue into Q4.

Pat Ryan, Managing Director of Subaru UK, said: "The last few months have been very successful for Subaru UK and we are very proud of both our dedicated dealer network and our latest sales campaign which has driven the performance. I would like to thank our dealer partners for their drive and passion for the brand which has contributed to this sales success. We have a clear plan and a 5-year road map which will see new and exciting products launching in the UK which provides us with confidence for our ambitious growth plans."

Better Where it Matters

A car's grip on slippery roads matters. How safe your car keeps your family. That really matters.

Reliability, year after year. That matters too. Subaru make cars for people who understand what really matters and that's why Subaru build them better, where it matters.

Consisting of three SUVs, the core Subaru range includes Forester e-BOXER, new XV and all-new Outback; embodying safety, capability and reliability at their core.

Since 1954, Subaru have been making cars for everyday life and every challenge. Whether it's a hiking holiday or the school run – capability, safety and reliability is engineered into every part. Subaru has earned a reputation for engineering excellence; we're proud to build cars that are better, where it matters.

For more details on the Subaru range contact S&S Services on 01292 880080

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First time buyers.
Any make or condition considered.

Tel: 07537 840381

WANTED

All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

Tel: 07546 788945

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards. We do not dispose.

T: 07885 203020

Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED 4X4

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc. We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED MOTOR HOMES

Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Social distancing measures in place.

Contact William 07730 130284
email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

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T: 07546 788945

WANTED
4x4 VEHICLES

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PERSONAL NOTICES

Golden Wedding

Wishing Susan and Jim Smith a wonderful 50th wedding anniversary, with love from their children Susan, Gillian, Jacqueline and Iain and all of their family.

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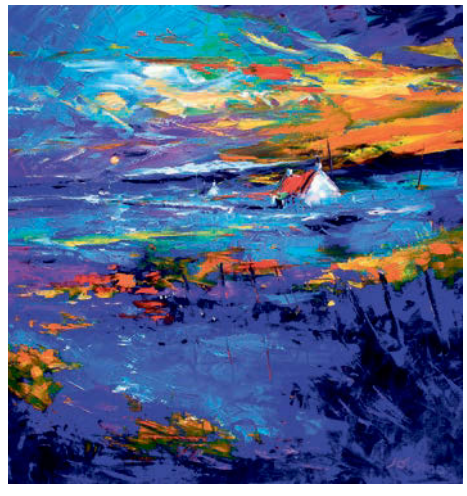
SCOTTISH FIELD
November



The Green Issue...

Perfect Perthshire... *Green lairds...*
Scotland's best eco-innovations... *Jolomo's art...*
Kilmacolm eco-friendly home... *Pumpkin recipes...*
An Angus garden... *Wild salmon in the Clyde...*
Images of the North East... *Aquaponics...*

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

MEMORIALS

DEATHS

BRUCE - Suddenly on October 9, 2021 at home in East Kilbride, Alistair (Ali) James Bruce, aged 38 years. Dearly loved partner of Lynne Marshall and adored daddy to Eilidh, much cherished son of Robert and Catriona Bruce (Milngavie, formerly Fort William). A dear brother to Shona, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, nephew and a good friend. Ali is sorely missed. Funeral service in East Mains Baptist Church, East Kilbride on November 2, 2021 at 12.00 noon, followed by interment at Phillipshill Cemetery. Donations if desired in memory of Ali can be given to Crohns & Colitis UK (www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk/donations).

CARMICHAEL - Unexpectedly at home, Lynn Court on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, Rhoda (née Morrison) in her 91st year. Wife of the late Iain, formerly of Killean, Lismore. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service at 11.30am at Oban Parish Church on Thursday, October 28 and thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Sadly missed by all the family.

COUTTS - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Thursday, October 21, 2021, aged 88, William Boyd Coutts (Bill) beloved husband of the late Sheila, much loved father of Douglas and Colin and father-in-law of Wendy and Jacqueline, dearly loved grandpa of Matthew and dear uncle to Sharon and Kathleen-Ann. Sorely missed by all who knew him.

JOHNSTON – Walter. Peacefully at home in Falkirk, after a short illness, on October 23, 2021, Walter, aged 77 years. A devoted husband and best friend to Anna. Former proprietor of The Old Manse Guest House. For funeral arrangements please contact Central Funeral Services, Falkirk on 01324 620520.

MACQUEEN - Sadie Agnes. Peacefully at home on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Wife of the late Peter MacQueen of Easdale Island, daughter of the late Coll and Mary MacFarlane of Cuan Ferry. Much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother and dear friend to many. 'Gus am bris an latha'. Funeral service at Kilbrandon Church, Isle of Seil 12.00 pm, Monday, November 1, 2021. Thereafter interment at Kilbrandon Cemetery.

Oban Times
ANNOUNCEMENTS

STANCER - John. Formerly of Glenforsa, Isle of Mull, died at home in Wyck Rissington on October 20, 2021, aged 91 years. Much loved husband of Angela and father of Katherine, William and Sarah, grandfather to Jamie, Benjamin, Angus, Mimi and Kal. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St. Laurence's Church, Wyck Rissington, Gloucestershire on November 4, 2021 at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations for St. Laurence's Church, if desired c/o Allen & Son Funeral Directors. Tel 01608 650633.

THOMPSON - Alexander McKim. Suddenly at home on October 11, 2021, aged 41. Sandy was a much loved son, brother, uncle, step-dad and friend, who was well known and greatly respected by his colleagues at Thermo Fisher Scientific in Glasgow and abroad. Taken far too soon, he will be sadly missed by all.

TURNER - Margaret Turner, of Laigh Allerstocks, Strathaven, originally from Torosay, Mull, passed away after a short illness at the Beatson Clinic, Glasgow on October 20, 2021. Beloved husband of Dougie Turner and devoted mother to Donald and Ewan and much loved grandmother. The funeral service will take place at Drumclog Parish Church, Strathaven on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 11.00am. A graveside service will follow at Kilpatrick Cemetery, Isle of Mull on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12.00 noon where all are welcome to attend.

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - In loving memory of Neil Clark, forever loved and missed by Eleanor, Fiona and Neil.
The moment that you left, my heart split in two, one side filled with memories, the other side died with you.
I lay awake at night when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheek.
Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing you is a heartache that never goes away.
I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain, life has gone on without you, but will never be the same.

CLARK – In loving memory of Neil, our dear brother and friend, who passed away on October 28, 2020.
- Colin and Pat and Ally and Joan.

CRAWFORD - In loving memory of Eddie, passed away October 30, 2015.
A dear dad and gg.
Sadly and badly missed by us all.

DOYLE – Avril, precious memories, passed away October 26, 2019.
I cried when you passed away
I still cry today
Although I loved you dearly
I couldn't make you stay
A golden heart stopped beating
Hard working hands at rest
God broke my heart to prove to me
He only takes the best
Until we meet again.
- Colin and family.

FREW – In loving memory of George, a dearly loved husband, dad and grampa, who died October 28, 2016.
Forever in our hearts.
- Jessie, Iain, Jimmy and all the family.

MACEACHEN - Margaret (Ita). Treasured memories of a beloved wife, mother and granny, who passed away on October 29, 2018, sorely missed.
Our lives go on without you,
Though nothing is the same,
We have to hide the heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was kind and true,
As long as we were happy,
You were happy too.
- Ian and family.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of Christina, who passed away on November 1, 2020.
Always in our thoughts.
- Bannantyne and family.

MACLEOD – In loving memory of our lovely sister Christina, who died November 1, 2020.
As long as we live we cherish her name
A beautiful memory that will always remain
Deep in our hearts she is living yet
We loved her too dearly to ever forget.
- Inserted by her sisters, Teeni, Maggie, Lainie and their families.

MACNAB – In loving memory of George, who died on October 27, 2019, a loving husband, father and papa.
Dearly missed in every way, always remembered.
- June and family, Glasgow, Oban and Canada.

MORRISON – Treasured memories of Ian (Heiker) who died October 29, 2009.
A dearly loved husband, dad and grandpa.
Sadly missed, loved always.
- Petra, Duncan and family xxx

RODGERS – In loving memory of Ian (Nena) Rodgers, died October 27, 2018.
Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure.
- From Caca, Roddy and family.

STURROCK – In loving memory of Captain William (Bill) Sturrock, who passed away on November 2, 2016. Sadly missed by his wife Ellen.

WALKER – In loving memory of Marion, a loving wife and mother who passed away October 26, 2001.
Always in our thoughts.
- Allan and family.

‘Penalties needed for fish farm escapes’, ghillies tell Holyrood

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Mass escapes from fish farms should be the subject of regulation ‘due to the known negative impacts genetic introgression has on declining wild salmon’, says the Scottish Gamekeepers Association’s fishing arm.

It’s one of the proposals river workers have put forward to the Scottish Government’s review of aquaculture legislation, being carried out by Professor Russel Griggs OBE.

‘Over a quarter of a million farmed fish have reported to have escaped from aquaculture operations in Scottish waters over the past five years, with numbers likely to be under-recorded,’ said the Scottish Gamekeeper Association (SGA) Fishing Group.

‘Given the negative impact that interbreeding between farmed and wild stock can have on the future survival of wild fish, appropriate penalties now need to be applied. If the Scottish Government is not willing to introduce measures to improve security, triploid fish should be bred on fish farms to prevent genetic introgression in the event of escape.’

Triploid fish are often used in river stocking programmes, with an extra set of chromosomes ruling out sexual reproduction. The Scottish Government has acknowledged genetic introgression to be one of the high level threats facing wild salmon survival, the group says.

The SGA says the impact on wild fish from fish farm escapes is serious.

At the COP26 event in Glasgow in November, a giant ‘salmon school’ sculpture of over 500 fish forms will greet delegates, highlighting their key role in ecosystems.

A spokesman for The SGA Fishing Group said: ‘There have been incidents where things like stormy weather has led to mass escapes. Storms happen in the sea, so this is not something which is entirely unforeseen. In those circumstances, there should be penalties or fines for farms, so that every care is taken in future to secure their site.

‘The impacts on wild fish from escapes are serious.

‘Obviously, in incidents where seals have breached nets, for example, and Scottish Government regulation prevents the management of seals, then a sliding scale of penalties would account for that type of occurrence appropriately.

‘However, regulation is needed or a solution must be found, such as using triploid fish, to prevent the damage to wild fish which are under considerable threat already from things like predation and a changing climate.’

In Norway, fish farms are fined heavily for escapes and the Norwegian aquaculture industry has a ‘zero escape’ vision. In the past decade over two million fish have escaped from farms in Norway.

The SGA Fishing Group, which ultimately wants fish farms to be sited on land in closed loop systems, also believes salmon farms must meet sea lice tests if they are to increase stock.

‘In Norway,’ the group added, ‘a traffic light system was introduced in 2017 whereby regulators could allow higher or reduced stocking densities, based on the impact sea lice from farms were having on wild fish.

‘High sea lice burdens can stress or kill wild salmon, and there is a strong correlation between proximity to open cage salmon farms and sea lice burdens on wild salmon.

‘In Norway, the pressure being exerted on wild salmon from sea lice is the key determinant upon which a farm can grow its output. That seems a sensible step. It would also reward farms who can prove consistently that they have sea lice infestations at recommended safe levels.’

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: ‘Escaped fish are in no one’s interest and their prevention is important for farmed fish welfare and to protect our iconic wild salmon.

‘We recently published an Aquaculture Code of Practice for containment and responded to the Salmon Interactions Working Group Report by committing to strengthen controls on sea lice and escapes, including plans to introduce penalties for fish farm escapes.

‘This follows the launch of an independent review of how fish farms are regulated in a move to make Scottish aquaculture legislation one of the most effective and transparent in the world. The review will report back in due course.’

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The world that we live in is full of rhythms: perhaps the most obvious of these is the rising and setting of the Sun each day.

The turn of the Earth around the Sun makes another rhythm, that of the seasons, autumn, winter, spring and summer. The circling of the Moon around the Earth causes another rhythm, of the tides rising and falling, nearly twice a day, which is difficult to understand or predict!

The society we live in has become increasingly chaotic, with less and less rhythm, and more and more uncertainty. Many of us have to work shift patterns to cover 24x7 opening or service.

Others of us get called in to work with no notice; or even worse, sent home from work with no notice. Many of us used to be certain that we had a job for life, so long as we didn’t mess up. Nowadays it’s hard to find work at all. The Covid virus has made things even more uncertain.

God sent his Son Jesus to give us a new pattern or rhythm for life. Jesus showed us how to begin and end each day in prayer, asking God what to be doing at the beginning of the day, and thanking Him for it all at the end of the day. Actually God wants us to be in contact with Him all day, looking for his guidance and strength in everything we are doing.

God loves you, and He wants what’s best for you. But it takes a listening spirit to hear his voice and to know what’s next. Whatever your rhythm, or however much chaos is in your life, God can help you through even the darkest valley.

Jesus brings light and life to everyone who journeys with Him. Come along and try it for yourself!

Stewart Goudie, Parish Minister, North West Lochaber.

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SHINTY ROUND-UP

Bullough Cup Final

Kyles Athletic 3
Lochside Rovers 3
Kyles Athletic won 3-1 on penalties.

The Kyles Athletic second team came from behind three times before eventually beating Lochside Rovers 3-1 on penalties to lift the Bullough Cup at Tighnabruaich.

The venue was decided by a toss of a coin, with Kyles winning home advantage. A big crowd gathered for the match with Kyles, not surprisingly, having the bulk of the support.

The recent rain left the pitch soft and the sides agreed beforehand to forego extra-time and go straight to penalties if the score was level after 90 minutes.

Rupert Williamson was at full centre for Kyles with Luke Thornton in attack alongside David Martin.

Keeper Dougie MacDonald returned for Lochside after missing the semi-final victory over the Oban Celtic colts, whilst Louis MacFarlane was also back to play at centre.

Both teams had five substitutes and agreed they could field them all so everyone had the chance to play in the final.

An Innes Jackson special on six minutes put Lochside ahead. Jackson was given time and space on the left to send a cracking 30-yard drive into the net.

Finan Kennedy equalised a couple of minutes before the break, when the ball broke to him at the edge of the 'D'.

Lochside played with the wind advantage in the first half and should have built an interval lead but just couldn't apply the finish when it counted. Matthew Sloss was unlucky with a shot on the angle from the left of the 'D' which hit the crossbar.

The wind picked up in the second half but it was Lochside who regained the lead through David Cameron with a well-worked goal on 57 minutes. Innes Jackson played the ball to Michael MacQueen, on as a half-time substitute, around the penalty spot. MacQueen, with his back to goal, spotted David Cameron's run by him and flicked the ball between his legs to Cameron whose first-time strike on the run flew into the net for a brilliant goal.

Finan Kennedy levelled for a second time on the hour when Lochside failed to clear a low, hard ball from the right and Kennedy netted from just outside the 'D'.

There was a delay in play when the pavilion end goals blew over, away from the pitch.

The final was end-to-end and Lewis Buchanan looked to have won it for Lochside when he made it 3-2 with just three minutes remaining. But, in the final minute, Lochside conceded an unnecessary free-hit in midfield. Kyles played the ball short and Lochside didn't react and when the ball came over from the right, Luke Thornton shot into the roof of the net.

There were only a few seconds gone following the restart before referee Graham Fisher took the final to penalties.

Luke Thornton was first for Kyles but Dougie MacDonald, who made some good saves throughout, stretched his right leg to save with the inside of his thigh. Michael MacQueen went next and he sent the ball into the top corner of the net to put Lochside ahead.

That was as good as it got for Lochside though as Matthew Sloss and Innes Jackson saw their efforts saved by Kieran Crystal, whilst Lewis Buchanan missed the target.

Cairn Lambert failed to score for Kyles, but it didn't matter as Rupert Williamson, Finan Kennedy and David Martin netted to take the trophy.

There were great contests all over the park including between Lochside's Callum MacMillan and Kyles Athletic's Finan Kennedy. Lochside's Matthew Sloss was also outstanding as was Rupert Williamson for Kyles Athletic.

Lochside keeper Dougie MacDonald saved two penalties in the shoot out, but Lochside still lost out to Kyles. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

The victorious Kyles team. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Kyles Athletic captain Cairn Lambert stepped forward to be presented with the Bullough Cup by Alex McNaughton.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans said: 'Usually you'd be a bit down after losing a cup final but that was a brilliant game. It was two young teams going at it and our Matthew Sloss was outstanding for someone so young, whilst Finan Kennedy caught the eye for Kyles. Rupert Williamson was key for Kyles in midfield.'

cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final

Kinlochshiel 3 Kingussie 2, after extra-time

Kinlochshiel won the cottages.com MacTavish Cup for the first time, coming from behind to beat Kingussie 3-2 in their 2pm throw-up at the Bught Park, Inverness.

Full match report at www.obantimes.co.uk

Mowi Senior League A

Fort William P
Glenurquhart P

Fort William's clash with Glenurquhart at an Aird was called off because of covid restrictions affecting the visitors.

Lochaber P
Skye Camanachd P

Skye Camanachd were unable to field a team for their meeting with Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Mowi Senior League B

Caberfeidh 8 Lovat 1

Caberfeidh trounced Lovat 8-1 at Castle Leod.

The match helped both teams reduce suspensions with Caberfeidh's Connor MacGregor and Lovat duo Lorne MacKay and Callum Cruden all knocking a game off their respective bans.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to mark the previous day's passing of Johnnie Sinclair, whose family's association with Caberfeidh stretches back to the founding of the club in 1896.

Kyle Grant gave Caberfeidh the lead on two minutes and they never looked back.

Ben MacDonald on 10 minutes and Craig Morrison's first on 24 minutes made it 3-0.

Lewis Tawse pulled a goal back on 38 minutes to leave the hosts 3-1 ahead at the break.

Kevin Bartlett restored Caberfeidh's three-goal cushion on 52 minutes with Craig Morrison completing his hat-trick on 63 and 65 minutes.

Kyle Grant and Kevin Bartlett scored their second goals of the afternoon on 77 and 82 minutes respectively.

The sides are scheduled to meet again in the league this Saturday at Balgate.

Mowi Senior League C

Oban Celtic P Aberdour P

Aberdour were unable to field a side for their trip to play Oban Celtic at Mossfield.

Mowi North League A

Skye Camanachd P
Fort William P

The Skye Camanachd second team were unable to fulfil their fixture with the Fort William second team at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Mowi North League B

Newtonmore 6 Caberfeidh 0

The Newtonmore colts scored three times in each half to beat the Caberfeidh colts 6-0 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore took the lead through Craig Macleod on 10 minutes, with Sorley Thomson adding a second on 25 minutes.

Daniel Craven struck four minutes later meaning the hosts led 3-0 at the break.

Craig Macleod got his second on the hour with Tristan Ross making it 5-0 on 70 minutes.

Kyle Clark rounded off the scoring with four minutes remaining.

Lovat P Glenurquhart P

The meeting between the Lovat seconds and the Glenurquhart seconds at Balgate was called off because of covid restrictions.

Kyles captain Cairn Limbert with the Bullough Cup. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Mowi North League C

Beauly P Strathglass P

There was disappointment for the Beauly reserves and the Strathglass reserves as their match at Braeview Park was postponed because of an unplayable field.

This is only the second match this season to be called off because of an unplayable pitch.

Mowi South League B

Bute 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

The Bute seconds played well despite going down 2-0 to the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds at the Meadows.

Nick Lavin opened the scoring on 25 minutes, with Neil Robertson clinching victory 15 minutes from time.

Tayforth P Aberdour P

Tayforth were unable to field a team for the Aberdour second team's visit to Peffermill.

Mowi Central League

Ardnamurchan 3
Oban Celtic 5

Andrew MacDonald's hat-trick helped the Oban Celtic second team come from 3-1 down to beat Ardnamurchan 5-3 at Strontian.

Herbie Patterson gave Ardnamurchan the lead on six minutes but Keegan Macphee levelled on 17 minutes.

Freddie Patterson scored on the stroke of half-time to give the hosts a 2-1 interval advantage.

Freddie Patterson got his second on 54 minutes and Ardnamurchan now led 3-1.

Oban Celtic made some positional changes and Andrew MacDonald took centre stage, scoring twice on 75 and 76 minutes to make it 3-3.

It was Andrew MacDonald again as he completed his hat-trick on 80 minutes to give Celtic a 4-3 lead. Joe MacVicar netted a couple of minutes later to complete the 5-3 victory.

Glenorchy P Kilmory P

Kilmory were unable to field a team for their match with Glenorchy at Mart Park.

RUGBY ROUND-UP

1st XV

Sitting fourth in the league, Oban hosted Paisley at Glencruitten last weekend and with just three points between them, and with a game in hand for Oban, it was a big game for the boys in green.

Paisley started off well with some good individual runs from the backs and the forwards. Oban knew this wasn't going to be an easy game and that was confirmed in the early stages when the visitors found a gap in the Oban defence to claim the first points of the day. Oban fought back and pressurised Paisley's pack and for the third week in a row dominated the scrums which give their backs great opportunities for running the ball. The game changed quickly and Oban's defence and attacking became too much for Paisley.

The final result was 28-15 to Oban, with home tries coming from Connor Ferris, Daniel Broderick and a brace from man-of-the-match Jethro Anderson.

Under 16s

Oban Under 16s travelled to take on Loch Lomond and a quick start led to Thomas Jackson breaking through the middle to score the opening try.

Loch Lomond started to come into the game and scored two tries before Oban broke through the centre with Thomas Jackson again providing the finishing touch to take his tally to 10 so far this season.

The hosts had significantly improved from the first meeting of the season and dominated Oban at the rucks. Drawing the team in before playing expansive rugby, the tries built up with the game finishing 65-12 in favour of Loch Lomond.

This was Oban Under 16s first defeat of the season and they will look to bounce back this Sunday at home to East Kilbride.

Under 14s

Having travelled to Kilmacolm to play Birkmyre, the game started 13-a-side at the request of the host team.

The reduced numbers helped the fast rucking expansive game played by Birkmyre, opening up space for their fast outside backs, who ran in a hat-trick of tries.

The second and third 20-minute periods were played at 15-a-side which enabled Oban to close down the Birkmyre attacks more efficiently.

During these periods, Oban's rucking and tackling improved. But so did Birkmyre's score with the hosts scoring four to Oban's one try, scored by man-of-the-match, the hard tackling Hamish Macintyre, who also converted the try.

Excellent performances were also put in by Josh Olds, Donald MacCormack and Ruari Cottier. Final score Birkmyre Under 14s 39, Oban Under 14s 7. There are plenty of positives to work on at training for the next game on Sunday at home to Ardrossan.

Visit the Oban Lorne RFC Facebook page and www.obanlornerfc.com for more information on all of the teams.

Oban 1XV man of the match Jethro Anderson scores one of his two tries.

Four out of 10 for out-of-sorts Saints

Oban Saints	4
Fallin	6

Central Scottish AFL Premier Division

Dene Cassells nets from the penalty spot to put Saints 2 - 1 in front. Match report and photograph: Derek Black .

A disastrous 18-minute spell at the end of the second half saw Oban Saints throw away a two-goal lead to hand visitors Fallin the three points at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Goals from Kyle Cooper, Dene Cassells, Cammy Hill and Daniel MacCuish had the home side 4 - 2 ahead going in to the closing stages of the encounter, however, the visitors staged a stunning comeback in torrential rain to bag four late goals and edge out the out-of-sorts Saints.

Saints opened the scoring after just four minutes with their first strike on goal. Scott Maitland, Daniel MacCuish and Lewis Cameron combined well on the left before Cameron found Kyle Cooper on the edge of the Fallin box. And Cooper's early right foot shot caught out Central Scottish Amateur Football League Select goalkeeper Michael Watson.

After a Stuart Henderson corner kick had been knocked out of the box, the clearly offside Andrew McGown was picked out by Alastair Brown's pass through the advancing Saints defence. Referee Chris Costello failed to spot the offside and the big central defender gladly slotted the ball past Graham Douglas.

Willie Gemmell allowed his incredulity at the referee's decision to boil over and Mr Costello brandished the red card to the Saints gaffer. Coaches Ross Maitland and Peter MacCallum and secretary David Buchanan took the reins and were forced into a half-time change when Kyle Cooper's troublesome groin injury flared up again. David Beaton was the replacement, taking up a wide right position with James Ford moving to centre forward.

Saints kept the pressure on through Scott Maitland and Daniel MacCuish, who was felled in the box giving referee Costello a straight forward decision to award a penalty kick. Dene Cassells stepped up and buried the spot kick to put Saints back in front.

Saints' good start to the second period continued when Cammy Hill scored Saints' third goal.

The home side made their second and final change of the afternoon on the hour mark sending on Myles McAuley to replace Gavin Forgrieve.

Saints were still adjusting to the personnel change when the visitors pulled one back 60 seconds later with a wonder strike from Stuart Henderson. But from a dead ball, Lewis Cameron picked out Daniel MacCuish on the edge of the box who made space for a low shot which fizzed past Michael Watson to reinstate Saints' two goal advantage.

A moment to forget from Saints number one Graham Douglas gifted Fallin the goal which kick-started their comeback. Douglas completely misjudged the flight of an Andrew McGown cross field pass looking for Stuart Henderson. With the Saints keeper stranded at the corner of his box the ball took a wicked bounce towards goal and was ushered into the unguarded net by Henderson.

An inspired substitution from the Fallin management team saw replacement Andrew Mochan score with his first touch, racing in at the back post to poke home a cutback from fellow substitute Kyle Imrie after less than 60 seconds on the field.

The Saints defence finally succumbed to Stephen Donaghy's long throw threat in the 84th minute. Donaghy's throw from the left into the Saints six-yard box was headed down by Cammy Hill, but Kyle Imrie was first to the second ball and hooked a close range effort in at the front post to give the visitors the lead for the first time in the match.

Another Saints attack was closed down midway inside the Fallin half with the ball being quickly sent forward for Stephen Donaghy to chase. Donaghy picked out Kyle Imrie at the back post for the substitute to complete his brace and round off a disappointing afternoon for Saints and their loyal support.

Saints face another big premier division test this Saturday when they travel to face 2019/20 League Division One Champions Castlemilk Dynamo. The game will take place at Barlia Sports Centre 3G with a 2pm kick-off.

Youth football results and fixtures

Oban Saints

Saints Under 13s 0, The W Academy 9; Under 15s 3, Dunoon 2. On target for Saints were Owen Lloyd, 2, and Rhys Millar.

Drumchapel United 0, Under 16s 8. Saints scorers were Michael Campbell, 4, Aidan MacDonald, Preston MacIntyre, Craig MacDougall and Ryan Hill.

Next Sunday's fixtures: Scotland Boys Club v Under 13s; Cranhill v Under 15s; Under 16s v Whitecraigs.

Lochnell FC

Sunday October 17: Lochnell Under 14s won 7-0 v Ashfield Juniors. Scorers for Lochnell: Cameron McAllister, 5, Matthew Sloss, Ronnie Welsh.

Sunday October 24: Lochnell Under 14s lost 1-5 to Clyde FC Community. Scorer for Lochnell: Cameron McAllister.

This Sunday, October 31, the Under 14s are at home to Glasgow South at Glen 2, Oban. Kick-off 1pm.

Loyalty rewarded with charity golf tournament

A golf tournament organised by Oban Sports Shop has raised almost £900 for The Argyll Wellbeing Hub.

The business decided to stage the event following a good year of Adidas golf clothing and footwear sales to golfers, many of whom are members of Glencruitten Golf Club.

Billy Thomson told The Oban Times: 'This was our first time hosting a golf event and we decided to support The Argyll Wellbeing Hub, with all proceeds from the entry fees, kindly donated by Glencruitten Golf Club, and our raffle going to the charity.

'We asked our main golf supplier Adidas to help and it donated great prizes for the first, second and third teams which we supported with vouchers of our own.

'Along with Oban Sports Shop, some of our other suppliers and other local businesses donated raffle prizes and we would like to thank them for supporting the event.'

Gavin Hill, Neil Allan and Kenny Campbell were the winning team, with the runners up only one shot behind and the third placed team only a single shot behind them.

'Our thanks go to Glencruitten Golf Club and staff for all their work during the day and to everyone who entered and bought raffle tickets.

'The total sum raised was £888 which was donated to Argyll Wellbeing Hub,' added Billy.

Billy Thomson, left, from the Sports Shop, with Argyll Wellbeing Hub members Des MacMillan and Lorraine King.

The Oban Times
SPORT

SCOTTISH FIELD
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'Tough weekend' ends in crash

After spending Friday in bed with the flu, Oban's John McPhee ended last Sunday's Emilia Romagna Grand Prix early, after just nine laps.

The race came to an early end for John, after a turn one crash on lap nine. He left Misano 13th in the riders' standings with 72 points.

'It was a tough weekend,' said John at the close of Sunday. 'I was in bed all day Friday thinking I wouldn't be able to ride, so I was really happy I could take part in the race.'

John will now have a two-week break before the final two rounds of the season get under way, starting with the Grande Prémio do Algarve from November 5 to November 7.

On a positive note, John will spend a further season in Moto3 after signing to partner Ayumu Sasaki in the Sterilgarda Max Husqvarna squad.

As Romano Fenati steps up to Moto2, McPhee moves out of the soon-to-be-defunct Petronas team and under the wing of self-styled Roman Emperor Max Biaggi.

'I'm really excited to be joining the Sterilgarda Max Racing Team and Husqvarna Motorcycles for 2022,' said the Oban rider.

'It's a great opportunity to get the best from myself.'

John McPhee, right, with his new Sterilgarda Max team mate Ayumu Sasaki.

Leighn's a knockout in epic Italian bike event

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A Barcaldine cyclist who took on a 1,200-kilometre race from Mount Etna to Mount Vesuvius wearing his wife's kit was knocked unconscious by flying fruit enroute and suffered six hours of memory loss before returning home to tell the tale.

North Argyll Cycle Club member Leighn Chambers hadn't even entered The Two Volcano Sprint (2VS) which began at 5am on October 15 at Nicolosi in Italy.

His wife of two years, Carolyn, had been keen to tackle the epic event which features 26,000 metres of climbing. It was not to be however. Mrs Chambers was forced to pull out 15 days prior to the race due to a limb debilitating illness and having already invested quite a bit of money in it the couple decided Leighn should take her place.

'I was hesitant at first but, fortunately, her parents stepped in to help and I was given the opportunity to compete; special thanks to them,' said Leighn.

'I felt bad taking her place, as she had trained so hard. To compensate I decided to take her along in whatever way I could by riding her bike and wearing some of her clothes.

'These items would serve as a reminder of who I was representing and inspire me to ride my best ride. Thankfully the majority of Carolyn's stuff fitted her husband pretty well. He wore her favourite pink Rapha Jersey, leg and arm warmers, base layers and helmet.

Taking in a good chunk of the southern Apennine mountain passes, 2VS riders have to follow a set route, completely unassisted, carrying and obtaining their own food and water and sleeping either using comercially available lodgings or by bringing their own equipment.

Eighty-six riders lined up at the start with Leighn in amongst them.

'I've never seen so many talented riders from all over the globe in one place,' he said.

'It was incredibly intimidating and I did not fancy my chances at a good result. Having had very little time to train, I opted to ride my own race. I chose to completely ignore everyone else, removing the pressures of competitive cycling.'

With some state-of-the-art technology on the bike and a bag full of Marks and Spencers Percy Pigs, Snicker bars, pizza and arancini to keep him fuelled Leighn got on his way.

The race started with two ascents of Mount Etna. The differences in altitude meant the temperatures were quite often a tale of two extremes. Not that it hindered Leighn who said he was perfectly climatised for the colder temperatures being resident in Argyll. 'A lot of the riders suffered with the cold on the first night but I found it pleasant. I used this to my advantage and managed to press on through the night with no sleep.'

Leighn Chambers completed the epic Two Volcanos endurance race in Italy recently and survived to tell the tale.

Freelance architect Leighn managed to build on his progress during the second day and night and had intended to keep the pace going into the third night when disaster struck.

He was hit in the face by a falling horse chestnut fruit which caused him to crash and completely knock himself out.

'I must have gotten up at some point and moved myself off the road to a nearby builders' yard. I didn't know where I was, what I was doing or even who I was.'

Leighn eventually came to on the floor of a small shed with only limited recollections of what was going on. He found his bike and continued to follow the route which was still on the computer display.

'The last 200km were by far the hardest. I haven't a clue how I managed to get through the Amalfi Coast. I just told myself to press on and reminded myself that I was riding on behalf of my wife and she's as tough as they come.'

An ascent and descent of Mount Vesuvius saw him to the finish line which he crossed with his arms lifted in the air and screaming for joy before passing out again.

Leighn finished in an impressive 13th place overall in a time of 84 hours and 37 mins.

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The Oban Times: 95p

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 28 October, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

28	0416	2.0	**30**	0150	2.8	**1**	0323	3.3	**3**	0430	3.8
	0942	3.1		0645	2.0		0854	1.5		1022	0.8
TH	1703	2.3	SA	1403	3.1	M	1526	3.6	W	1636	4.2
☾	2226	2.8		2031	2.1		2155	1.4		2304	0.8
29	0529	2.1	**31**	0243	3.0	**2**	0358	3.5	**4**	0500	4.0
	1110	3.0		0757	1.8		0940	1.2		1104	0.6
F	1847	2.3	**SU**	1449	3.4	TU	1601	3.9	TH	1711	4.3
				2119	1.7		2230	1.1	●	2339	0.7

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

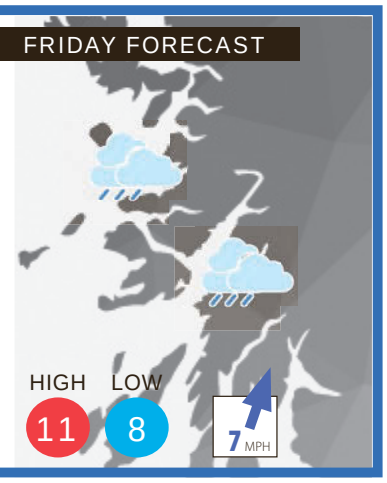
OBAN WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 9°C to 14ºC.

Friday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 8°C to 12ºC.

Saturday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 7ºC to 11ºC.

Sunday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 8ºC to 11ºC.



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Scientist to stand for Greens in by-election

FALL BACK: Remember to turn your clocks back this Sunday

HALLOWE'EN FUN

FULL STORY PAGE 2

Call for Lochaber peninsula to return to Argyll

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Today's (Thursday) meeting of The Highland Council will see a request for the local authority to consider the possibility of Ardnamurchan being transferred to the control of neighbouring Argyll and Bute Council.

Inverness South Ward Independent councillor Duncan Macpherson contacted the Lochaber Times this week following his recent visit to Kilchoan, at the westerly end of Ardnamurchan, to attend the funeral service of his late fellow councillor Ian Ramon.

And Councillor Macpherson, who hails originally from Fort William, told the Lochaber Times how a number of local residents of the peninsula told him they felt abandoned by the Inverness-headquartered Highland Council.

'I was saddened on the drive down by the condition of the roads, signs etc., and when I was speaking to people after the funeral they let me know that they felt exactly the same. Neglected,' he commented.

'It's all well and good Highland Council bragging about being the largest council area in Scotland but it's nothing to shout about unless it can maintain it all. It's like a mother bragging that she has the most children out of

● Turn to page 2 for more

LT

Bottle stall raises £576 for Caol Primary School

Not a masked 'stick-up' but some of the many people who freely parted with their cash when members of Caol School Parents' Council and a few young helpers ran a fundraising bottle stall in their village Co-op over two Saturdays. A total of £576 was raised for the school which will be used for school trips, fun days or equipment for the children.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Call for Lochaber peninsula to be transferred to Argyll control

Continued from page 1.
anyone but then not being able to feed them all.

'Hardly anyone I spoke to visits Inverness as the journey is a slow and arduous one with poor transport links. They say they have stronger links to Mull and Oban so it would make more sense for the area to be part of Argyll and Bute. It certainly gave us plenty to think about on the long drive home.'

It has resulted in Councillor Macpherson lodging a question to Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson for today's (Thursday's) meeting of the local authority, in which he states that while travelling around the Ardnamurchan peninsula he witnessed what he described as the 'impoverished' state of the single track roads, the lack of passing places and the many road signs barely legible due to fading and bleaching by the elements with discolouration and rusty poles.

Councillor Macpherson's question continues: 'It was therefore of little surprise to me when conversing with residents on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula [which was formerly in the Argyll Council area], they expressed their desire to once again be part of Argyll and Bute Council, which they rely heavily on in the neighbouring Isle of Mull or at Oban, [both places are one or two ferry journeys away], for everyday services of doctors, dentist, pharmacy, shopping supplies and essential services.

Council leader Councillor Margaret Davidson.

Councillor Duncan Macpherson.

'The residents I spoke with stated that Argyll and Bute Council seemed better equipped to understand and support their remote and rural areas, rather than the residents currently feel as the forgotten and neglected, remote part of Highland Council.

'Would Highland Council be prepared to discuss making boundary changes with Argyll and Bute via the Scottish Government, if it helped the vast majority of the community on the Ardnamurchan peninsula to feel better connected to a local authority that understood and practised 'localism' for its communities and constituents?'

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter has long advocated that Highland Council was 'too big and remote' to service the needs of West Coast rural communities.

Commenting on Councillor Macpherson's question, he said that, in his view, Highland Council was dominated by Inverness centric-thinking.

'We can see that with the multi-millions spent on converting the castle to become a so-called gateway to the Highlands. I do think it is time we broke up the Highland Council.

'Exact boundaries would be a matter for debate but I can see some form of West Coast Council including Lochaber, Oban and Mull as a sensible way forward.'

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Kilmallie toddlers enjoy spooky time at party

As Hallowe'en creeps ever closer with youngsters getting excited for the spookiest fright night of the year this weekend, parents and children, pictured, donned colourful costumes for the Kilmallie Toddlers Hallowe'en party this week. Pictured are two-year-old Chloe O'Brien, left, in a bright pumpkin costume and Grace MacDonald, two, who dressed up as a purple dragon. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Caol garage boss calls time after almost 40 years

by Iain Ferguson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A long career in the motor trade is coming to an end as Kevin MacFadyen of KMF Mechanical Services in Caol lays down his spanners for the final time this week.

Born and brought up in Caol, Kevin, 54, started out as an apprentice panel beater 38 years ago, then set up his own business in the village 21 years ago, building a large and loyal customer base in that time.

But he now feels that after such a long period and with ever-changing new technology on the way, it is time to take stock, have more time for himself and his family, while also exploring other things to do.

Kevin told the Lochaber Times: 'I have had a great time working in the motor trade and developed the business into selling cars and car rental as well as repair and maintenance.

Kevin MacFadyen, left, with new owner, Alan Beagrie.

'I would like to thank all of my customers for their support, many of whom have been with me since day one. I have enjoyed looking after them. However, I do feel it is time for me to wind down and stop doing 60-hour weeks, although I do have plans to keep me occupied.'

All of the staff are staying on under new boss Alan Beagrie, who has worked at KMF since leaving school.

Kevin added: 'I am happy to pass the business over to Alan who will continue it under his own name.

'He originally came on a week's work experience from the high school at age 14 and enjoyed it so much he kept coming in after school until he was old enough to get a job.

'I can't think of anyone better to take over from me.

'All of the staff have been brilliant over the years, too, and I was so worried about telling them, but am really glad they are all staying on.'

YOURSTORY
share with us: fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

Council gears up to take part in COP26

Following its own two-day Climate Change Conference last week, The Highland Council's focus now shifts to participating in the UN Climate Change Conference – COP26 – in Glasgow, which starts on Sunday.

Chairperson of the council's Climate Change Working Group and the Environment and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Trish Robertson will lead the representation. Her first event will be the official presentation of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration on Saturday November 6, of which the council is a signatory, during Nature Day at COP26.

Joining Councillor Robertson will be Councillor Angela MacLean, also a member of the council's Climate Change Working Group, and several members of staff from the Climate Change team with the purpose of networking and attending events, including those in the Green Zone.

Highland schools connected to top-of-the-class broadband

Children in more than a thousand schools, including 37 in the Highlands, are now enjoying next-generation internet speeds thanks to UK government investment.

It means teachers can make use of the most cutting-edge learning technology – such as video conferencing platforms to host joint classes and assemblies with schools anywhere in the world, and online tools that bring lessons to life such as films and learning games. It will also support teachers to spend more time planning and delivering lessons and less time staring at loading screens.

The work is part of Westminster's mission to level up internet access across the UK by investing in fast gigabit broadband and lifting barriers to commercial roll out.

The investment focused on schools in around 30 per cent of the UK that currently cannot access speeds of 100 megabits per second and were not in line to receive an upgrade commercially from broadband companies. Many of them are in rural or hard-to-reach areas, including the Highlands.

£30m is being invested in the Connect the Classroom project

Work is under way to bring gigabit speeds to even more schools by March next year.

It comes as the government launched a call to understand the future wireless connectivity needs of the UK and how it can support the rollout of 5G and other advanced wireless networks. The call will inform the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy announced in June.

Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries said: 'We are levelling up pupils' and teachers' access to the fastest future-proofed broadband, giving hundreds of schools better access to important learning opportunities, no matter where they live.'

The upgrades form part of a more than £210 million investment to bring next-generation connections to places where internet speeds are slower, such as in rural areas.

The investment also makes it easier for broadband providers to extend the network to surrounding communities, with around 1.5 million more homes and businesses now within 200 metres of a fibre optic broadband cable thanks to the investment.

The government is also supporting technology upgrades in classrooms, improving education for pupils and enabling school staff to work better by investing £30 million in the pilot project, Connect the Classroom.

LT

Glen Dessarry: Sgùrr Cos na Breachd-laoidh (835m, Corbett) – peak of the hollow of the speckled calf; Druim a' Chuirn (822m, Corbett Top) – ridge of the cairn

Sgùrr Cos na Breachd-laoidh, a steep-sided rough craggy hill that divides Glen Dessarry from the uppermost reaches of Glen Kingie. The route is a horseshoe-shaped circuit around Coire Chicheanais requiring careful route finding through the rocky outcrops – 14km, 880m ascent.

For more detail of the route please visit the website www.nevishillwalking.club or the Nevis Hillwalking Club Facebook page.

Please note walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions.

If you are a keen hill walker and want to know more about the club, participate in walks or want to become a member, email: enquiries@nevishillwalking.club

Call for more to be done to eradicate food poverty

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council has laid down a challenge to the Scottish Government to go further in its efforts to support local food initiatives.

Speaking at last week's climate change working group meeting Councillor Trish Robertson, chairwoman of the working group and economy and infrastructure committee, said that she believed that while the national and local government visions were an important marker, radical action should follow in terms of land reform, affordability and education.

'I don't think we can ever do enough really, but this is a step in the right direction,' she added.

The Scottish Government's definition of 'local food' is

Councillor Trish Robertson.

food that is produced locally, sustainably and with a short supply chain.

It also places emphasis on the relationship between the producer and the consumer – a relationship based on trust, information sharing, fairness and support.

There are three key pillars to the Local Food Strategy: connecting people with food, connecting Scottish produce with buyers, and harnessing public sector procurement.

The strategy is out to consultation.

Councillors attending last week's meeting agreed a formal response from the local authority broadly supportive of the strategy but challenging the Scottish Government to reduce barriers for people on low incomes or those experiencing food insecurity.

In its detailed response to the Scottish Government, the council has offered up a number of areas where more action could be taken.

The report calls for food education to be embedded in the school curriculum and for school meals to feature local ingredients.

To her surprise, chairwoman Mrs Robertson discovered that much of the school menu was governed by centralised rules. For instance, school dinners must feature 'fresh salad vegetables' which often means that imported tomatoes are served up in canteens.

'There are also still too many children who believe food comes from supermarkets,' said Mrs Robertson. 'However, it's not just children who need to adjust their viewpoint a little.

'Perception of food has changed even over my lifetime. I always budgeted carefully and most of my money went on fuel, then food, with the rest as luxuries. Food was expensive then.

'Now, we expect food to be cheap. We expect to eat meat every day, and we have much bigger portions.'

Mrs Robertson added that while a lot of emphasis was placed on growing vegetables, meat and fish such as mutton and mackerel used to be common local foods that have fallen largely out of fashion.

Her own grandfather was a butcher in Beauly in the '60s at a time when butchers bought their meat at the local mart and butchered it themselves, locally. This began to decline in the '80s and '90s.

The number of abattoirs in Highland has reduced from 11 in 2006 to just one, today.

'Today's debate was a really interesting one, and members were generally very supportive of the Scottish Government's strategy and our own initiatives,' said Mrs Robertson.

'However we can certainly do more. What is needed is both a behaviour and a mindset change.

'This is the start of a long process to change perceptions.'

Kyle and Lochalsh trust urges locals to pick favourite Plock trees

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT) is hoping to get the community out and about this autumn, admiring the changing colours of the leaves and selecting favourite Plock trees, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Plock, a 60-acre parkland located between Kyle and the Skye Bridge, is well-used by locals who have enjoyed a summer of children's and adults' activities and events.

Keen to keep interest high, and have people looking closer at their surroundings, the trust is planning to install a Tremendous Tree Trail which will feature trees both of biological interest and those that are most important to members of the community.

To enter, applicants – who should either live within or have a connection to the area - just have to choose a tree, find the location (the trust recommends using the What3Words app), take a photograph and fill out a form either via the KLCT website or in person with forms available from the Toll Office.

A shortlist will be produced by the trust, and the public will vote for their favourites during the festive period this year.

Ranger Heather Beaton with one of the trees on The Plock.

The trail, the first of its kind in the area, will open in spring 2022, just in time for the new season to be appreciated and for the enjoyment of a new year of trees to begin.

Using a variety of mediums, including interpretation boards, benches, and online pages, and including art, poetry and both creative and informative writing upon a background of the natural landscape of the Plock, the trail will be an experience for all the senses.

Encouraging public participation by allowing people to name trees after loved or missed ones, the Tree Trail will become a way to commemorate the inhabitants of Lochalsh, while fostering closer connections to the local environment.

Using a mix of English and Gaelic for the interpretation, the trust is hoping to encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility through the trail.

It will showcase the diversity of the Plock, while being both an educational and entertaining tool that can be visited throughout the seasons for new experiences each time.

The trust is also running a series of school events associated with the trail, and there will be tree planting through the month of November.

More information about the trail and online application forms can be found at Lochalsh.uk/treetrail

For further information, contact KLCT Ranger, Heather Beaton at heather.beaton@lochalsh.uk or 07794 374555.

Scotland's 'engine for renewables' needs a fund to tackle fuel poverty

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

'Norway has an oil fund; Highland should have a renewables fund,' urged Highland Council's leader Margaret Davidson, calling for radical action to tackle fuel poverty in a region known as Scotland's 'engine for renewables'.

Speaking after the London Real Estate Forum, which brings together thought-leaders to consider how to shape better cities, Ms Davidson said: 'We are massive exporters of renewable energy, and it's only getting bigger. I'm astonished at the range of ideas coming forward.'

Earlier this year, councillors were told hydrogen could 'evolve the region's unique role as Scotland's engine for renewables'. They threw their weight behind plans for a green hydrogen hub at the Cromarty Firth and to designate the area as a green port, a model adapted from the UK Government's free port scheme.

Mrs Davidson said responsible firms with clear 10-year strategies for moving towards net zero should be encouraged.

Mrs Davidson said responsible firms with clear 10-year strategies for moving towards net zero should be encouraged, but the council must ensure that it's not just the big estates mopping up the money. Communities must also benefit from these development opportunities.

She says Highland communities continue to live in fuel poverty and rural isolation, and it was time to reset that balance. 'We need to be telling these big firms that they must leave more behind than just the scraps on the table,' she said. 'We have the landscape and we have the renewables. So yes, come up here and do hydrogen, do wind energy, but you will be expected to support our infrastructure and our socio-economic development.

'Norway has an oil fund; Highland should have a renewables fund,' she argued.

Highland has some of the poorest housing in Scotland. According to the Scottish Housing Condition Survey this year, one third of Highland households are living in fuel poverty – significantly above the Scottish average of 24 per cent. The council's own figures also show that around 12 per cent are living in 'extreme' fuel poverty.

These stark figures coupled with the council's declaration of a climate emergency have led to an extensive retrofitting exercise across the council's property estate, starting with its 15,000 tenants.

Mrs Davidson also wants the local authority to consider private sector housing and raise ambitions across the board. That said, the leader acknowledged that the council must also set its own house in order. While it settles to the task of moving its fleet electric, it also has a big exercise in shifting its HGVs and private cars to hydrogen fuel.

'We can't keep doing what we've always done,' said Councillor Davidson. 'We need to be crystal clear about how we plan to get to net zero carbon. The big lesson I have taken from down south is that despite our geographical size and incredible opportunities, we have to work very hard to attract the investment. We need to get both governments in the zone to help us deliver benefits for the whole country.'

If Highland does its part, says Mrs Davidson, then both the UK and the Scottish governments need to deliver the legislation and the finance to crank up progress.

READMORE
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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce we work hard to provide business events on the issues that really matter to our members – there's always something helpful for our members in our events calendar.

This week we had a timely look at the issues facing businesses as they navigate the new normal of work in the Covid era. We were pleased to share expert insights from the employment law team at Harpers MacLeod LLP and it certainly helped us think through the issues to be aware of when dealing with hybrid/home working, the ethics of workplace testing and vaccination requirements.

While the Scottish Government's advice continues to be 'work from home where possible', many of us are returning to workplaces. This week's seminar was a great opportunity for our members to access free expert information on how best to approach the 'new employment normal'.

Next week we present another very timely member event, when we urge businesses to 'protect your business from online threats' on Tuesday November 2.

Online scams are getting more and more sophisticated and are increasingly targeting businesses of all sizes, across all sectors. It's time to make sure you're protected.

Are you sure that you're taking the right steps to protect yourself and your business finances and information? Come along to our interactive webinar to find out more about what steps to take to feel safer in the online business world.

Graeme Bass and Bex Griggs from member business Marsh Commercial will guide us through a discussion of cyber exposures, common misconceptions and solutions. There will also be plenty of time to ask questions, and follow-up resources will be provided.

Visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk for more on all our upcoming events, business news and information plus the benefits open to you as a member of your local Chamber of Commerce.

Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL
fort@obantimes.co.uk

When the skies are clear now, their blue is edged with ice, and the hills have gathered their first snow.

Finally, the acorns are turning from bright green to warm brown. I've been stalking the fallen fruit from the oak, raking my fingers through wet leaves to gather little harvests that are lunch for our pigs.

Each find is immensely satisfying, even more so when I reach for one and discover ten more rolled into a hollow. My eyes snag on the gleam of an acorns' soft white end, like the rear-end of a roe glimpsed through autumn bracken, or the tail-feathers of a jay as it scoots between the trees.

The jays come for the same harvest. Sometimes their flight is preceded by a shriek, but more often they are quiet as they go about their business. If the sun is out though, it catches their snowy undersides, or a bobbing branch might give away their landing spot, revealing a rose-brown breast and mantle, a bright blue edge.

Finally the acorns are turning from bright green to warm brown.

The clusters of acorns I uncover – tucked beneath tussocks of grass, nestled in the moss of the stone wall, or simply concealed by leaves – are potentially jay caches. Hidden locations are stowed in their memories for months – stowed so well that they can dig through thick layers of snow to retrieve them.

From the house, I watch three jays dropping out of the oak to the ground of the old pigpen, nosing through the fallen leaves. One bird flurries up to sit briefly on the fence, white gullet bulging with its haul. It scans the surroundings before flying into the birchwood, gullet empty on return.

As a well-fed jay will often leave a hoard untouched, it can be the trees who benefit.

A new generation of oaks might be given a head-start by an abandoned store. Left to grow, some of these green shoots will become a spring meal for a gestating roe deer. I wonder briefly who or what I might deprive by gathering bucketfuls of these acorns.

I console myself that this is just one of many fruiting oaks, on just one of the many tree-lined crofts that the jays and deer will frequent.

The pigs and I will collect a fraction of the acorns within our boundaries; the jays will not return to all their successful stashes; the nuts still hidden will have their chance.

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Final chance to have your say on licensing of short-term lets

Residents and businesses in Lochaber have one more day to tell the local government, housing and planning committee how the housing shortage is affecting them and to have their say on changes to the proposed legislation, writes Fiona Scott.

The Scottish Government is proposing to introduce a licensing scheme for Airbnb and short-term let properties in a bid to make them safer, to better protect those living next door and to tackle the rapid growth of Airbnb-style rentals.

Ariane Burgess, convener of Holyrood's local government, housing and planning committee and MSP for the Highlands and Islands, says the high number of short-term lets in popular tourist spots is leaving people struggling to find somewhere to live.

'There is no doubt there are economic benefits to short-term lets but the over-saturation in the Highlands is having a knock-on effect in the demand for long-term housing so that young people and key workers can't get a home where they need or want to live.'

Commenting on the proposed legislation last week Kate Willis from Lochaber Greens said: 'The proliferation of short-term lets in Fort William and Lochaber has reduced housing stock for locals and driven up house prices and rents.

Businesses say housing shortages are contributing to staffing issues.

'This has a knock-on effect with local businesses saying housing shortages are contributing to the staffing issues they face. It is time that short-term lets are regulated to ensure that long-term housing is available and affordable for residents.

'The answer to this housing shortage is not to endlessly build more houses, especially when these new housing developments involve destroying carbon storing peatland.'

The housing committee will be taking evidence in November and wants to understand the views and experiences of everybody involved, whether that's people looking for housing, businesses which are facing staff shortages, and people who have or use short-term lets or live near one.

You can give your views on introducing a licensing scheme for short-term lets until tomorrow, October 29.

More information about what is proposed can be found by accessing the following link: www.gov.scot/publications/short-term-lets/

Visit yourviews.parliament.scot/spice/licensing-of-short-term-lets/ to complete the survey.

Patience required as vaccine programme progresses

People waiting on Covid boosters and flu jabs are being asked to be patient as clinics across the region work hard to deliver the exceptionally high quantity of vaccinations.

NHS Highland says uptake of the Covid vaccine has been excellent and that it is progressing with the booster and flu vaccination programme which runs until December. Vaccinations are currently being delivered through NHS Highland clinics, GPs and school nurses, with further support from community pharmacies, the Scottish Ambulance Service and others due to the complexity and speed required.

Dr Tim Allison, NHS Highland's director of public health, said: 'The vaccine programme in NHS Highland has been a great success, with hundreds of thousands of vaccinations being delivered across a large, remote area. The first phase was not without challenges but we must praise our vaccination teams, those behind the scenes and the general public for embracing it the way they did.

'This next phase, which will see us delivering more vaccinations than ever before, will be challenging.

'Not only do we have a larger number of people requiring vaccination, we also have a population that has gone back to work or school and will not find it as easy to attend clinics.

'Clinic plans are kept under constant review and all options to increase the amount of qualified staff available to carry out vaccinations are being considered. Please be assured we are working to vaccinate you as quickly as we can but we would ask for everyone's patience as we work through our plans.'

Patients eligible for a booster should wait to be invited to clinics, rather than contact the hub about their appointment. More information can be found on the NHS Highland website.

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Councillor sought for Ward 21

A vacancy has arisen for a councillor to represent the Fort William and Ardnumurchan ward of The Highland Council following the death of Councillor Ian Ramon last month.

And returning officer, chief executive of The Highland Council Donna Manson, is encouraging people to put themselves forward as candidates.

She said: 'As an inclusive council, we need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they live in to put themselves forward for election.

'We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they live in to put themselves forward.'

'With Highland Council elections on May 5 2022, the elected member will hold the post for a short term, however, this should not stop candidates standing as it is an opportunity to build relationships and represent your ward with a possibility to get re-elected next May.'

Ward 21 is a four-member ward. The other ward members are councillors Blair Allan, Scottish National Party; Andrew Baxter, Scottish Conservative and Unionist; and Niall MacLean, Scottish National Party.

Candidate nomination forms can be downloaded from https://www.highland.gov.uk/byelection or by contacting the election office via email election@highland.gov.uk or 01349 886657.

Completed nomination papers must be delivered to Dot Ferguson, depute returning officer, The Highland Council, Policy and Reform, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ, by prior appointment between the hours of 10am and 4pm on any working day no later than 4pm on Friday October 29.

Prior to lodging papers, candidates and agents should contact Dot Ferguson 07899 067668 to arrange an appointment. Before the original documents are officially lodged by hand, candidates can scan and email their forms to election@highland.gov.uk for an informal check.

If the seat is contested, voting will take place on Thursday December 2, with the electronic count taking place in the ward on the following day.

Column sponsored by Safer Scotland

Remember, remember... the impact of fireworks

New rules have been introduced to lessen the negative impact of fireworks, meaning it's illegal to set off fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm. This extends to midnight on 5th November and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

While fireworks can be great fun, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly. During bonfire season, 85% of all firework injuries treated at emergency departments happen at private displays, and more than half of those requiring treatment are children.

Mortars and rockets are responsible for the majority of serious eye and hand injuries, however sparklers, fountains and firecrackers are also frequent sources of injury.

It's safest to celebrate at an organised event if there's one in your area, but if you're planning a private display at home, make sure you know how to keep you and your family safe:

- Keep a safe distance
- Follow the fireworks code and read instructions before use
- Not all fireworks are suitable for private use. It depends on the size of your garden
- Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for more safety advice

It's important to think of others and be aware of the impact fireworks can have on those around you. The loud and sudden noises can be distressing for those with noise sensitivity, including autistic people and veterans, and pet owners know only too well the distress they can cause animals.

Enjoy fireworks safely. For more advice visit
www.firescotland.gov.uk

To report the misuse of fireworks anonymously
call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**

Safer Scotland
Scottish Government

LT

Have your say on 'significant' changes

Fort William joins the city of Inverness, and Morvern and Ardnamurchan become part of Argyll in a new review of MP constituency boundaries out for public consultation this week.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has published its initial proposals for a new map of UK Parliamentary constituencies in 2023, marking the start of an eight-week public consultation on the proposals, running until the end of Wednesday December 8.

Two Scottish Members of Parliament stand to lose their jobs, as legislation cuts the number of Westminster seats in Scotland from 59 to 57 in 2023. England has been allocated 543, plus 10; Northern Ireland 18, no change, and Wales 32, down eight.

Time for some juggling, but there are a few rules the Boundary Commission for Scotland has to stick to.

'By law,' it explains, 'every constituency we propose must contain between 69,724 and 77,062 electors, unless its area is greater than 12,000 square kilometres, and a constituency with between 69,724 and 77,062 electors is not reasonably possible.

'Due to the reduction in the number of constituencies, and the requirements for each constituency to have a number of electors within set limits, significant changes to existing constituencies are required.'

The constituencies of Na h-Eileanan an Iar - electorate 21,177 - and Orkney and Shetland - electorate 34,824 - are protected by legislation and therefore not under review.

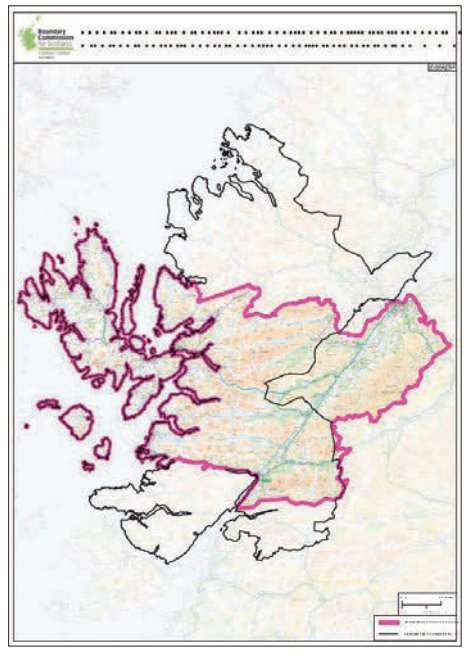
Nine others are being left alone: Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock; Central Ayrshire; East Renfrewshire; Edinburgh South West; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Midlothian; North Ayrshire and Arran; Stirling; and West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine. Note that Argyll and Lochaber are not on this list.

Most of the current Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency, represented by the House of Commons' SNP leader Ian Blackford MP, will be replaced by a new Highland Central constituency, which takes the Highland capital away from the current Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, held by fellow SNP MP Drew Hendry.

South

The Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency's northern boundary retreats south from Lochinver down to Strathcarron, lost to a new Highland North constituency covering the whole of north Scotland from Torridon and Beauly up to Cape Wrath and John o' Groats.

In return for its lost northern territory, the new Highland Central constituency spreads eastwards, subsuming all of Loch Ness from Fort Augustus to Inverness, before wiggling back down through the Monadhliath Mountains to Roybridge. Meanwhile, the current Argyll and Bute constituency creeps northwards, taking away the peninsulas of Morvern and Ardnamurchan up to the A830, plus Glencoe, Duror and Onich, from Ross, Skye and Lochaber, with the Corran Ferry chugging in between.



Under the proposals, the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency would shrink in its northern and southern boundaries, but expand east to take in Loch Ness and Inverness, shown by the pink border.

Lord Matthews, deputy chairman of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, said: 'Today is the beginning of a process and we now want to hear the views of the public. We will reflect on responses to the consultation and make changes where appropriate and where the legislation allows us to do so.

'We strongly encourage voters to make their views heard.

'We welcome all comments on our proposals on our consultation site at www.bcs2023review.com.

'We particularly want to hear suggestions on two aspects, suggestions for alternative boundaries that comply with the legislative requirements and constituency names.'

The recommendations do not affect council boundaries, ward boundary or community council boundaries, council tax and the services a council provides, school catchment areas, postcodes or postal addresses, access to public or private services or transport, policing or fire service areas, or NHS services such as GPs or local hospitals.

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Remember, remember

New laws aim to lessen the negative impact on people and animals

The Scottish Government has launched a new campaign to ensure people are aware of new regulations relating to the use of fireworks.

New laws mean it is now illegal to set off fireworks before 6pm and after 11pm. The law allows for an extension until midnight on November 5 and 1am on Hogmanay, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

The new rules aim to lessen the negative impact of fireworks on people and animals.

Fiona Clarke, an autistic person living in Scotland, supports the campaign.

She said: 'Visually, fireworks can be a sensory delight and portray celebration but for some of us, the noise, flashes of light, together with the unpredictable nature of how long they will go on for, can be overwhelming.

'It's not just sensory issues that can cause autistic people difficulty with fireworks, as some may simply not understand what Bonfire Night is or what to expect.

'This campaign is important in raising awareness of the negative impact fireworks can have on others and encouraging people to be more mindful of that.'

If you plan on having your own firework display this year it is important you know the rules and how to keep you and your family safe.

Statistics show that during the bonfire season, 85 per cent of all firework injuries treated at emergency departments happen at informal displays. More than half of those requiring treatment are children.

So make sure you keep a safe distance – not all fireworks are suitable for private use. It depends on size of your garden/area.

Follow the fireworks code – stand well back, never return to a firework after it has been lit and read instructions before use.

Deputy assistant chief officer Alasdair Perry is the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's head of prevention and protection.

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www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions

People facing fuel poverty encouraged to seek help

Households in Highland are being reminded of the support available to them if they are struggling to pay fuel bills.

Highland Council's welfare support team provides free, impartial and confidential support on fuel bill concerns and help with submitting claims for all benefits and entitlements.

Leader of The Highland Council Councillor Margaret Davidson said: 'The uncomfortable reality is that the withdrawal of the £20 top-up to Universal Credit and furlough, and now a domestic energy crisis, will mean there will be Highland citizens who will be forced to choose between food or fuel this winter.

'The current situation demonstrates the pressing need for a strategic review of our energy supply, market and infrastructure. I would encourage Highland residents who are facing difficulty in meeting the cost of their fuel bills to take full advantage of the support available.

'We know customers receiving this support often express the relief they feel and that it has had a positive impact on their wellbeing.'

Getting in touch with the welfare support team is the first step to maximising potential income and managing householdmoney well. The team can be contacted by phone on 08000 901004 or by emailing welfare.support@highland.gov.uk. In addition, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has a team of energy advisors who can undertake energy checks designed to help reduce domestic fuel bills. CAB energy advisers can be contacted on 01463 237664.

Funding is also available from the Scottish Government, Energy Company Obligation and Warm Homes Fund for those looking to implement energy efficiency measures in their home such as adding loft, cavity or external wall insulation to reduce heat loss and save on annual energy bills. Visit www.highland.gov.uk/energyefficientscotland for more information.

Looking ahead to a greener future

The green ambitions of Highland Council were highlighted by leader Margaret Davidson ahead of its meeting on October 28.

Speaking prior to last week's Highland Climate Change Conference she said: 'I am delighted there was cross chamber support at our meeting of Highland Council on September 9 for a Future Highlands Strategy, with the development of a Green Energy Hub in Highland at its heart.

'The Highland Climate Change Conference and COP26 in Glasgow next month sets the scene for people and nations to come together to focus on the ecological emergency facing us.

'A report to the council this week will set out more detailed plans for a green hub for Scotland here in Highland.'

Highland Council leader Councillor Margaret Davidson.

Cuncillor Davidson said the ambitious plan would involve working collaboratively with key partners to put the Highlands at the forefront of addressing climate change and sustainable energy requirements in Scotland, deriving value from waste, attracting green businesses and affordable energy efficient homes.

'We will also be giving our full support to the development of a green port in Highland,' she added.

'The Opportunity Cromarty Firth (OCF) Consortium is waiting for the chance to bid for green port or free port status which would have significant benefits for the whole of the Highlands. A co-ordinated, innovative approach between all public and private sectors will maximise the benefits, including the regeneration and sustainability of communities.'

The council is working with a number of partners through the OCF consortium to promote projects that aim to reinforce and optimise Highland's ongoing contribution to climate action at national and regional level.

Deputy Leader Councillor Alasdair Christie added: 'Achieving the vision of a Green Hub for Scotland in Highland will bring enormous opportunities to our population.

'One of our biggest challenges is depopulation and young people moving away from the Highlands. We need to provide clear opportunities and affordable, quality housing is essential to encourage inward migration and tackle recruitment and retention.

'Fuel poverty is another enormous problem for our communities. By developing a green hub for renewable energy, we can lay the foundations for a more sustainable and brighter future for everyone.'

the impact of fireworks

'Fireworks can be a sensory delight... but for some of us the noise, flashes of light and the unpredicatable nature of how long they will go on for, can be overwhelming.'

He said: 'We welcome the continuing support of our communities and by following all the available safety guidance from ourselves and our partners, they can help reduce the risk of harm. Every year people are injured by bonfires and fireworks and admitted to hospital – and children are particularly affected.

'Anyone thinking of hosting a private event involving fire, flame or fireworks is asked to consider the risks. Those who choose to do so should familiarise themselves with the fireworks code and fire safety guidance. We strongly advise them not to take risks because the consequences can be devastating.'

If you are planning a private fireworks display, let your neighbours know when you might be setting fireworks off. For some of your neighbours, fireworks can be distressing and frightening. Many neighbourhood pets will also be distressed from the loud and sudden noise.

Scottish SPCA head of education, policy and research Gilly Mendes Ferreira said: 'Every year, thousands of animals suffer stress and anxiety caused by the use of fireworks.

'As animals have more acute hearing than humans, the loud and high pitched noises made by fireworks can cause animals to become fearful and distressed. Animals can panic and flee at the sound of the bang and this can lead them towards danger such as being the cause of a road traffic accident, also putting human lives at risk. Our advice for those with animals can be found at www.scottishspca.org/news/fireworks-advice. This includes not walking your dog at night when fireworks are being set off, bringing all pets indoors and stabling horses. Make sure doors, windows and cat flaps are kept closed so your pet doesn't become distressed and try to escape. If you're setting a bonfire, always check for cats or wildlife before setting it alight. If there is a local firework display taking place, think about going to it instead of holding your own private one. Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for more information.'

Statkraft

AN CÀRR DUBH WIND FARM

Public Exhibition Invitation

We invite you to attend our public exhibition for the An Càrr Dubh (previously called Car Duibh) Wind Farm proposal, with the nearest turbine located over 5km to the north-west of Inveraray and over 4km to the east of Dalavich.

PHYSICAL EXHIBITION

Ford Village Hall - Tuesday 9 November, 2pm - 7pm

Dalavich Community Centre - Wednesday 10 November, 2pm - 7pm

Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray - Thursday 11 November, 2pm - 7pm

To help manage Covid-19 risks we are operating an appointment system, please book a space to attend at **www.ancarrdubh.co.uk** or call us on **0800 772 0668.** The booking system will be available from 1 November 2021.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Our exhibition website will be live from **1 November 2021 to 21 November 2021** with all exhibition material available and opportunities to discuss the project with the team. Please visit **www.ancarrdubh.co.uk** for more information, where a link to the online exhibition and details of the live Q&A sessions will be available.

Comments should be made to Statkraft UK and do not constitute a formal representation. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist when a subsequent application is made. Thank you and we hope you can take part in the events.

LT

£475k investment for Western Isles

Eight Western Isles projects have been successful with their applications for the Scottish Government's £2 million Island Communities Fund.

Securing almost half a million pounds of investment, the largest of the awards made to island areas were: Clan Macquarrie Community Centre, The Hebridean Community Garden, Lewis, £48,361.40; Leverhulme Community Hub, Leverhulme Community Hub - Towards Net Zero Carbon, Harris, £36,330; Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path SCIO, Shulishader to Flesherin link track and Path, Lewis, £80,920; Garadh a Bhagh a Tuath SCIO, Rays of Hope, Barra and Vatersay, £14,520; Keose Glebe Estate, The 80/90/100 Project, Lewis, £80,000; MacLeans Bakery Limited, Bakery Green Transport, Benbecula, £110,000; North Uist Distillery, Nunton Steadings' Journey Towards Carbon Neutral Status, Benbecula and North Uist, £49,310.17; and Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, Ness Historical Society, A' gluasad gu suidheachadh neodrach a thaobh carboin, Aiming for Carbon Neutrality, £56,411.75.

'These projects will add to the growing green agenda in the Western Isles in the fight against climate change.'

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Sustainable Development Committee, said: 'This significant investment into the community and business sectors across the islands is welcome and I congratulate all the successful communities.

'These projects will add to the growing green agenda in the Western Isles in the fight against climate change.'

MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan also welcomed the announcement. 'The Western Isles have a wealth of fantastic businesses and organisations and I am pleased to see a significant proportion of the Island Communities Fund has been awarded to innovative projects all across our islands,' he said. 'Our island communities have a hugely important role to play in helping us achieve Scotland's ambitious climate change targets and I congratulate those who have been awarded this funding which will enable them to develop and deliver their proposals over the next six months.

Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path project can stay on track thanks to funding from the Islands Community Fund. Photograph: Sandie Maciver, SandiePhotos.

'Each of these projects has the potential to have an enormously positive effect, supporting employment and community resilience through green economic initiatives.'

The Island Communities Fund is designed to support employment, community resilience and health and well-being in island communities.

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Rebekah Boyle
Emma Nic a' Phì (ciad ìre)

PGDE Foghlam Bun-sgoile
Heini Apajainen

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Helen Young (Barraichte)

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Laura Nason (Barraichte)
Jasmine Threlfall (Barraichte)
Ailis Sutherland (Barraichte)
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Gàidhlig is Conaltradh
Kim Carnie (Barraichte)
Sorley Todd Johnston (Barraichte)
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PDA Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig
Megan Dale
Eilidh Niclain
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Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill
Leila Urchardan

NPA (Clann is Daoine Òga)
Nadia Houston

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Marine Venturi - Duais Comann na Gàidhealtachd an Lunnainn
Ciorstan Howarth - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Anna NicDhonnchaidh
Ruairidh Kelly - Duais Comunn na Gàidhlig
Jennifer Duncan - Duais Chaluim Bhàin
Emma Nic a' Phì - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Dhonnchaidh MhicGuaire
Jamie MacGillEathain - Duais Cuimhneachaidh Fhearchair Mhic an Tòisich

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University of the Highlands and Islands
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SMO ALUMNI

Presenter Anne explores her coastal connections

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Presenter Anne Lundon travels from the west coast mainland to the easterly coast of the Outer Hebrides to discover how the rich culture of Scotland's coastal waters is always evolving and is kept alive by those who live beside them.

A series of six programmes, An Cuan Sgith – Minch was produced for BBC ALBA by Stornoway based Mast-Ard Studio and starts on Monday November 1.

Scottish media broadcaster Anne said: 'I could see out to the Minch every day growing up near Stornoway so this body of water is close to my heart.

'As an islander, it's what separates and connects us to the mainland. For many it's their economic, social and cultural lifeline and its coastal and marine environments sustain a multitude of important activities. This was a particularly special programme for me to work on with my own connection to it; meeting people who make their living from the Minch and those who take inspiration from it for their work was an experience I'll never forget.'

Anne Lundon, inset and in yellow in main photograph, meets Virtual Yarns founder Alice Starmore and model Emma MacRae on the Isle of Lewis. Photograph: Jade Starmore.

During her travels, Anne also meets Gill Williams, a retired police diver now living in Skye, who still dives regularly and creates stunning underwater photographs for a project called Below the Skyline, a collaboration between herself and Geraint Ashton Jones.

While the water looks pretty dull on the surface, she discovers there are some beautiful creatures and colours underneath.

In Harris, Anne meets Neil 'Neilly' Maclean, a young fisherman who has set up a shellfish business with his cousins, and in Lewis she visits a boatyard started by a young man in his home village which he has grown into a successful business. The series also includes a photoshoot with knitting designer Alice Starmore and her daughter Jade. Alice has an international profile for her new Virtual Yarns, which she runs from the edge of the Minch on the Isle of Lewis. Her products are rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the Hebrides and are sent directly from Scotland to her customers throughout the world.

An Cuan Sgith – The Minch is on BBC ALBA every Monday at 8.30pm from November 1 with each episode available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days afterwards.

College trio embark on merger

Three colleges are involved in a strategic project that seeks to bring together Lews Castle College UHI, North Highland College UHI and West Highland College UHI to form a new college within the University of the Highlands and Islands partnership by January 2023, writes Fiona Scott.

In order to progress with the plan, a Merger Partnership Board has been formed to achieve the vision and aims of all three colleges and to steer the process.

The board consists of the principals and board chairpersons of the three organisations, together with staff and student representatives from the three college boards and members of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association.

The board will develop a proposal which would inform the final decision of each of the college boards involved. Dr Michael Foxley, who served as the University of the Highlands and Islands regional lead for Further Education between 2014-2021 will chair the board.

A joint statement from the college principals said: 'We believe this is a unique opportunity to develop a new college of scale and impact that serves and supports around 9000 students in 20 remote rural and island campus locations across the Highlands, Skye and the Western Isles.

Students from across the Highlands and Islands are set to benefit from college merger.

'We will bring together and build on existing excellence and expertise within our three organisations in order to drive a step change for education from school to university as well as in research, enterprise and innovation in our region.

'Whilst there is a huge amount of work to be done over the next few months to explore with our key staff, students and stakeholders whether this can be successfully achieved, we agree that this is the absolute best option for our colleges.

'We believe we can better serve our students and our communities by providing a wider range of study options for our students and strengthened career pathways and job satisfaction for our staff.

'We will also be able to unlock new opportunities for future strategic development and investment through ambitious collaborations and projects that, as single small colleges, we are unable to achieve.'

A merger co-ordinator who will work across all three colleges to support the Merger Partnership Board, associated workstreams and the full consultation process will be appointed in the next few weeks.

Corran Narrows
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21.30 on Thursday 4th – 06.30 on Friday 5th November
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LT

Two-year haitus for ferry group as key services sink

by Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A group of ferry experts set up by the Scottish Government to advise on key issues affecting lifeline island services in Scotland has not met for two years, despite an ongoing ferry fiasco.

The Ferry Industry Advisory Group, established to inform the Scottish Government and its Transport Scotland agency on the way forward for ferry services, has not met since October 2019, when the network has continued to struggle with CalMac's ageing fleet.

The Ferry Industry Advisory Group's website explains it was set up in 2013, after 'the Scottish Ferries Plan 2013 – 2022 laid out the Scottish Government's desire to have ongoing consultation for all ferry-related issues. The remit of the group is to provide Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers with considered advice about strategic ferries related issues in Scotland. The purpose of the group is to allow interested stakeholders with particular knowledge of the ferries industry to inform policy development.'

The long-awaited Arran ferry MV Glen Sannox under construction in Glasgow.

Members include the chief executive officer of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), the managing director of Western Ferries, CalMac's director of community and stakeholder engagement, a senior official from ZetTrans, and the director of HITRANS.

'The group will meet up to three times per year,' it says, and will not discuss local ferry issues, but strategic issues. The group, it continues, 'exists alongside, and complements, other regular engagement with a range of stakeholders'.

Its last meeting papers are dated October 17, 2019, when it discussed the purchase of MV Loch Seaforth, the National Transport Strategy, the National Islands Plan, and the Strategic Transport Projects Review. 'These meetings would be helpful for emerging transport policy to ensure that industry views are properly represented,' it said.

The minutes said the next meeting would be in February 2020. However, none have been recorded since.

Transport Scotland was asked why the group was important, especially given all the challenges facing CalMac's lifeline services. It was also asked why the group had not met and when it would again.

A spokesperson for Transport Scotland said: 'The cabinet secretary for finance and economy has portfolio responsibility for the delivery of vessels 801 and 802. The minister for transport maintains an active interest in the progress of these vessels and receives regular reports as a matter of course.

'Whilst the management and maintenance of the vessels is an operational issue for CalMac, we recognise communities' frustration during periods of disruption. We are doing everything that we can to support CalMac to maximise available capacity across the network.

'We acknowledge the CMAL fleet is ageing and as such we are delivering new tonnage to support our communities by working with CMAL, CalMac, MSPs, community representatives and others to develop investment programmes – at least £580 million over the next five years – for major vessels and small vessels.'

As recent evidence, he listed the deal to buy the MV Utne to operate on the Oban-Craignure route, and procuring two new vessels for Islay.

Inquiry into accident aboard 'Boaty McBoatface' off Mull

Investigators have launched a probe into an accident aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough, the royal research ship named Boaty McBoatface by a public poll, off the coast of Mull earlier this year.

Crew members sustained injuries during a drill in Loch Buie, when a lifeboat they were in rolled on its side, and then fell overboard.

The incident, which occurred during trials in early March, is still the subject of an investigation by the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch (MAIB), a UK government organisation which investigates all maritime accidents in UK waters.

The £200 million, 423ft, 15,000t flagship, described as 'one of the most advanced polar research vessels in the world', became famous in 2016 when its owners, a UK government agency called the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), launched an online poll to give it a name.

By far the most popular out of the 32,000 entries was Boaty McBoatface, gaining 124,109 votes – 33 per cent of the total vote. However, the NERC chose another popular entry in a review of all the suggested names, the RSS Sir David Attenborough, marking the legendary broadcaster's 90th birthday in 2019. One of its robotic submarines was named Boaty McBoatface instead.

The RRS Sir David Attenborough during seagoing trials off Mull earlier this year.

The ship's operator, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), explains on its website: 'RRS Sir David Attenborough was handed over to NERC and BAS by shipbuilder Cammell Laird on 27 November 2020.

'The ship is expected to commence polar operations in 2021 after a period of intensive mariner training, testing and trialling the many technical, scientific and operational features and capabilities.'

Earlier this year in February, the ship spent two weeks conducting trials around the Irish Sea, the west coast of Scotland, and the Celtic Sea, when it was photographed by a reader passing through the Sound of Mull.

It returned the following month, when a spokesperson for the RSS Sir David Attenborough told The Oban Times on March 4 that the vessel was 'spending the next few days around the Isle of Mull for further trials and crew training'.

The next day on March 5, 2021, the MAIB details an accident occurring on board the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The incident is described in the MAIB's online list of ongoing investigations: 'Injuries to crew members inside a lifeboat that rolled onto its side then fell overboard during a launching drill on a research vessel in Loch Buie, Scotland.'

Lochaber marine scientist to stand for Greens in by-election

Well-known Lochaber environmental campaigner and marine scientist Kate Willis is to stand as a candidate for the Scottish Greens in the Fort William and Ardnamurchan by-election on December 2, writes Mark Entwistle.

Dr Willis, who will be the first Greens candidate to stand in council elections in Lochaber, has lived in the Highlands for almost 20 years, first working as a marine ecologist researching the environmental impacts of human activities, and then setting up and running a wildlife tourism business in the far north.

She currently works for Lochaber Environmental Group developing projects to improve active travel opportunities and cycling infrastructure in Fort William and Lochaber.

Many in the area will know her from the work she is doing to deliver HIBIKE, the Fort William ebike share scheme, which will be launching in spring 2022.

Local environmental campaigner and marine scientist Dr Kate Willis, left, is to stand as a candidate for the Scottish Greens in the coming Fort William and Ardnamurchan by-election.

Dr Willis is also passionate about rewilding and local food production and has campaigned for many years for government action on the climate and ecological crises.

She is standing as a Scottish Greens candidate because she believes that Fort William and Ardnamurchan needs a green voice to bring a new perspective on local issues.

Dr Willis said: 'As we look to the future after COP26, we need to think longer term and develop a green plan to create flourishing, resilient communities with democratic systems of local governance, affordable warm housing, and secure jobs, while protecting the environment we depend on.'

Highland Council currently has one Green councillor, Pippa Hadley, who was a key player in persuading the local authority to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency and recently played an important role in the campaign to divest council pensions from fossil fuels and the arms trade.

Dr Willis added: 'Just imagine what could be achieved if there were more Green councillors: we could create radical green changes and build inclusive resilient communities with affordable warm homes for all; we could significantly improve active travel infrastructure and public transport services, helping to reduce social inequalities.

'And with a more local focus, we could concentrate on building a circular economy, supporting and promoting local enterprises and jobs, while reducing waste and carbon emissions.

'I am standing for Scottish Greens so we can work together to build a stronger, sustainable future. It can't be business as usual, and we need to do everything we can to ensure the right decisions are made in the coming months and years.

'We need a proper green recovery to tackle the climate and ecological crises and build a greener, fairer world for our children and grandchildren to grow up in.'

Roy Dennis MBE receives RSPB award

Conservationist Roy Dennis MBE has been awarded the RSPB's top award.

The 81-year-old, who has dedicated his life to wildlife, received the honour of the RSPB Medal earlier this month, joining the likes of Sir David Attenborough.

Roy, whose love of birds began as a child in the 1940s while exploring around his home in the New Forest, served as the RSPB's first Highland officer from 1970 to 1990 when he became an independent wildlife consultant and formed the Highland Foundation for Wildlife, now known as the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation.

In 1992 he was awarded an MBE for services to nature conservation and in 2004 he received the RSPB Scotland Golden Eagle Award as the person who has done most for nature conservation in Scotland in the last 100 years.

Roy is also the author of several inspirational books and is a regular on TV and radio.

Skye college praised by MSP

The pioneering work of Gaelic medium college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has been praised by Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie Halcro Johnston during his autumn surgery tour of Skye.

Following a look round the campus and an update on plans for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig by director of development Donnie Munro, the Scottish Conservative MSP applauded the 'innovative' vision behind its success.

He said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is rightly recognised as the jewel in the crown of Gaelic medium higher and further education.

'It's clear this reputation for excellence is not just restricted to Scotland. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig commands international acclaim for its unique academic experience, all the while maintaining strong local ties as the third largest employer on Skye.

'The development of the new village at Kilbeg will be further testament to the innovative community focus of the Gaelic college and I was pleased to see good progress is being made in delivering what will be the first purpose-built village in Skye for 100 years.

Jamie Halcro Johnston, right, with Donnie Munro, director of development at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

'We can all be proud of the gradual revitalisation of Gaelic culture and language in the Highlands and Islands over the last 30 years.

'The challenge now is to encourage the newer generation of Gaelic speakers and learners to engage with what's on offer.'

During his visit, Mr Johnston recognised there were challenges around the roll-out of Gaelic medium education in secondary schools around the Highland region, with many lacking the dedicated provision which is in place much more broadly in primary schools.

'There are exciting new programmes coming out of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and I hope anyone with an interest in the language will get involved further,' he added.

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LETTERS

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Should Ardnamurchan return to the Argyll fold?

An Independent Inverness councillor this week has asked Highland Council to consider the possibility of Ardnamurchan being transferred to the control of neighbouring Argyll and Bute Council.

The move follows a visit to the area and discussions with a number of residents who told him they felt abandoned by the Inverness-headquartered Highland Council and that they would like to again be part of the neighbouring authority.

His own experience of the visit seemed to back up the claim of abandonment as he said that during his drive to Kilchoan he was saddened by the poor condition of the roads and signs, adding the area looked 'neglected'.

Given that people living on the peninsula rely heavily on the neighbouring Isle of Mull or Oban for doctors, dentists, pharmacy, shopping supplies and essential services, perhaps it is time to have a rethink.

We hope Highland Council will listen with an open mind to Councillor Macpherson's question and give it the attention it – and the residents of Ardnamurchan – deserve.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

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We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Keep public toilets open

We, the undersigned, are members of groups who meet regularly at Ganavan throughout the year. One group meets daily, several meet every week and a few less often. None of these groups is seasonal. Ganavan beach and surrounding area is a hub which is used extensively by locals, an increasing number of visitors and ALL of our groups during the entire year.

We need this recognised by Argyll and Bute Council and insist it is essential the toilet block be open throughout the year, not just April-October.

We understand from two MSPs that the Scottish Government has transferred additional funding to councils for the specific purpose of allowing public toilets to remain open throughout the year. We therefore insist the toilets at Ganavan can, and MUST, be open to all regular users and visitors throughout the year.

Ganavan Sands parkrun, Macaulay Camanchd Association, Oban Lorn Shinty Club, Oban Celtic Shinty Club, Sofa 2 Summit, Jog Scotland, Adventure Oban, Loch Eck Orienteers, Oban Canoe Club, Oban Boxing Fitness, Oban Sea and Loch Swimmers, Stramash Outdoor Nursery, Oban Wild Swimmers, Oban Mountain Rescue.

A missing and crucial link

It was quite interesting to observe the juxtaposition of two articles on salmon in The Oban Times. A piece on MOWI seeking an injunction against a prominent anti-salmon feedlot campaigner who has extensive knowledge of the environmental impact of the industry in Scotland and Western Canada. Then an article on a £1.1million study into the drop in wild salmon numbers and 'salmon interactions', and penalties for escapes.

The salmon farming impact is particularly devastating on the west of Scotland. Salmon are in decline for several reasons at sea, but the catastrophic decline on the West Coast has been going on longer and is directly attributable to the location and impact of salmon farms. This is not unique, as Canada and Chile's experience and the many science papers produced confirm. Chile has thrown them out, and native Americans in Canada have taken back control of their waters where possible and removed Atlantic Salmon farms so native Pacific species can return without the introduced infective diseases.

It is easy to knock an industry which by and large is a good employer but whose clout with government is huge due to the economic benefit. That it also sponsors sporting events and other good causes makes it all the harder to condemn.

The parallels with a previous time should not be lost. We cleared people for sheep and with rose-tinted glasses we now look on a devastated, over-grazed landscape as normal yet talk about rewilding, planting trees, and a greener future.

Salmon farming indirectly closed many bag net stations, ruined once abundant rivers such as the Awe/Orchy system and many once productive spate rivers. Ghillies and fishermen, hotel and boatmen jobs went too. I would argue more jobs lost than gained and less money in local economies as companies take their profits elsewhere.

Two articles in The Oban Times but a missing and crucial link to wild salmon decline. Wild salmon in west coast rivers and their migrating offspring and natal sea trout are in trouble where there are salmon farms inshore or offshore on migration routes. The presumption of harm by river owners, crown estate and councils in the north and east of Scotland and most of England and Wales where there are no salmon farms, show more stable wild salmon and sea trout populations, hence categorised as level one by Marine Scotland. Virtually the whole of the West of Scotland wild salmon population is level three 'at risk' or level two 'under threat'.

It appears we humans do not have the hazelnut of wisdom to save the keeper of knowledge.

David Gunn, by email

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Toiseach sgaoileadh banachdach a' chorònabhìorais, is mòran a' togail theagamhan mu a shàbhailteachd, bha mi a' faighneachd ceist an seo a thaobh am bu chòir dha bhith do-sheachanta a rèir an lagha leithid banachdach Covid 19 a ghabhail. Mar a bhiodh dùil ann an dùthaich sam bheil saorsa dheamocrataigeach cho prìseil bhiodh leithid de lagh stèidhichte air argamaid gum bheil an dìth dìon aig feadhainn nach eil a' gabhail banachdach Covid na chunnart do dhaoine eile. Ged a bhiodh cead aca dìon a dhiùltadh dhaibh fhèin, bhiodh lagh den t-seòrsa air a bhonntachadh air creideas nach eil cead aca daoine eile a chur an cunnart tro ghànrachadh galair. Chan iongnadh sam bith nach cualas dad mu leithid seo bhon Riaghaltas, thuige seo co-dhiù, gu dearbh chanadh mòran gum bheil Ministearan air a bhith màirnealach air ceumannan mòran nas lugha connspaid a ghabhail!

Ann an agallamh air telebhisean chuala mi Hilary Clinton ag innse gum bheil cuid de bhuidhnean poblach ann am baile New York air riaghailtean den t-seòrsa seo a stèidheachadh, agus gun deach mar-thà luchd-obrach a dhiùlt banachdach a chur às an dreuchdan. Le fios gum bheil ìre a' chorònabhìorais a' dol am meud feadh na dùthcha seo a-rithist, agus le casaid gun robh e slaodach a' cur bhacaidhean an sàs roimhe, tha ceistean gam faighneachd air an Riaghaltas a thaobh dè tha e am beachd a dhèanamh gus smachd fhaotainn air an t-suidheachadh. Nuair a chaidh ceist air an t-Seansalair Rishi Sunak carson nach robh an Riaghaltas a' toirt eisimpleir nas fheàrr le bhith a' cleachdadh bhratan-gnùise sa Phàrlamaid, fhreagair e gun robh e an urra ri buill an rud freagarrach a dhèanamh mar a chì iad fhèin iomchaidh. Ach mur eil daoine uile-aonaichte mu na tha iomchaidh, tha fhios gum bheil cunnart gum bi poileasaidh dìon air leithid Covid mar chriathar, agus gum bi buil air ìre smachd sam bith! Aig an aon àm feumar cuimhneachadh gur i seo an t-saorsa phrìseil!

Thug seo mi gu smaoineachadh mun cho-labhairt COP eadar-nàiseanta a tha a' tòiseachadh a-màireach ann an Glaschu, agus na h-amasan dhùbhlanach a tha gan iarraidh air dùthchannan an t-saoghail gus rian fhaotainn air sgrios na h-àrainneachd. Le fios mar-thà mu cho leisg 's a tha cuid de na dùthchannan as motha san t-saoghal air gluasadan brìoghmhor a dhèanamh gus an cuid truaillidh air an àrainneachd a lùghdachadh, cha b' iongnadh cuid de shluagh dhùthchannan nas lugha, mar Bhreatann, a bhith a' gearan mu chosgaisean mòra a' tuiteam orrasan gus amasan cruaidhe a choileanadh taobh a-staigh trithead bliadhna. Saoil am bu chòir saorsa a bhith againn, nan iarramaid, diùltadh cur às dha teine a tha a' losgadh fiodh neo gas?

Tha amharas agam nach bi leithid sin de chothrom ann, air sgàth gach argamaid chumhachdach agus thiamhaidh a chluinnear mu dhìon àrainneachd an t-saoghail dha ainmhidhean agus an cinne-daonna. Nach fhaodte, gu ìre co-dhiù, na h-aon seòrsa argamaidean a dhèanamh mu chunnart Covid, agus dleastanasan a' mhòr-shluaigh cuideachadh gus smachd fhaotainn air?

DISTRICT NEWS

UPPER ACHINTORE

Regeneration group outlines 'considerable progress'

The 'considerable progress' made by Upper Achintore Regeneration Group in the past year was highlighted at its recent annual general meeting.

Chairman Mark Linfield, who was re-elected for a further term, reported that planters had been put out on display, green areas had been cleared of mess and planted with wild flowers and trees, dog-poo bag dispensers had been put up in dog walking areas and litter picking equipment had been used on numerous occasions by residents.

The group has also agreed an action plan with Highland Council to progress many more issues.

'Last year we had a successful Christmas tree light switch-on and bought new pole mounted decorations. This year we intend to have a slightly bigger Christmas event for residents with a Christmas concert and switch-on ceremony,' said Mr Linfield.

'New housing opened this summer at Angus Maciver Way and a condition of the development was for the Ross Place kickabout pitch to be upgraded, so we really hope to see work starting on this soon. It has been far too long a wait for the area's children to be without their pitch.'

The reinstatement of the diverted path on to Angus Maciver Way will be happening soon thanks to the group successfully reaching an agreement with the council and it has been promised a seat on the community liaison group for the new housing development on land below Cow Hill.

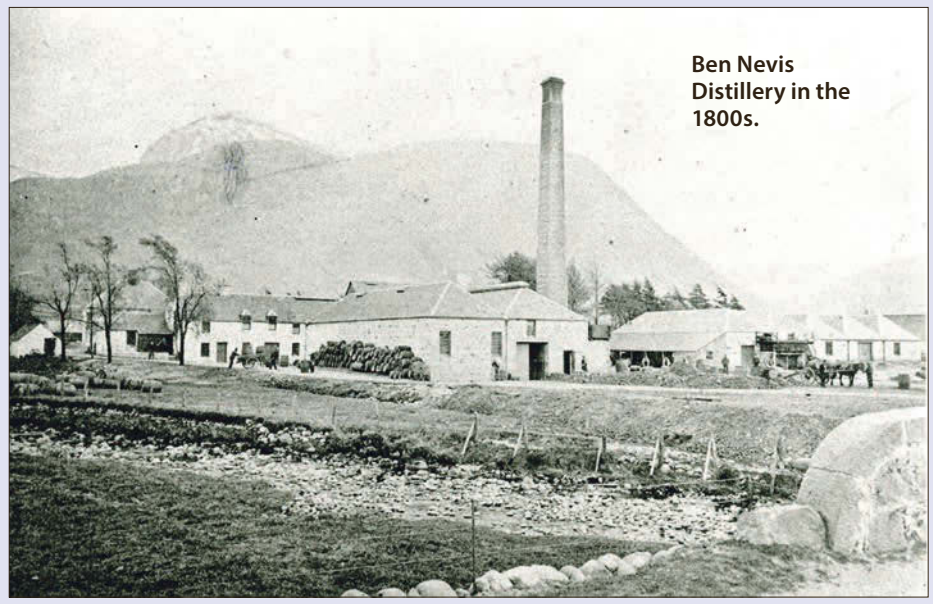
Mr Linfield thanked his committee and volunteers who have helped with projects as well as various Highland Council departments for assistance and guidance offered to the group. He also thanked Lochaber Housing Association for attending meetings to answer queries.

Further thanks went to the group's various funders and those that have offered future support: Highland Council, HiTrans, Lochaber Rotary Club, Broadland Energy, Morrisons, Fort William Town Council, Woodland Trust and Pebble Trust Team.

Thanks also went to Jim Tolmie and Bob Spence who have been helping the group with the Skeegan's Way path project.

'We are going into our fourth year as Upper Achintore Regeneration Group and it looks like it will be an exciting and busy one,' added Mr Linfield. 'We have been given £20,000 by Highland Council for an Upper Achintore area community hub feasibility study and have a consultant, with local connections, ready to do this. This is by far the most ambitious thing any residents' group has done in the area for a long time.'

Alongside this, the group will continue with the Greening the Burn project, Skeegan's Way project and the ebike hub and car park near the top of Lochaber Road.



Ben Nevis Distillery in the 1800s.

Great response to photograph appeal

Ben Nevis Distillery staff are raising a glass to the many people who responded to their appeal for old photographs of its buildings and workforce which has led to some never-before-seen images being produced.

The life and times of the distillery and its whisky is being traced on a storyboard to be located in the newly-revamped visitor centre but while staff found a good number of photographs from the early days, very few covered the mid-20th century period.

After an article in the Lochaber Times' sister publication Lochaber Life this month, several people contacted the distillery with images from the 1940s-on, many showing members of their family at work in the whisky-making process and the range of buildings which have gradually disappeared over time. Visitor centre manager Brian Hume said: 'We are very grateful to everyone who has shared their pictures with us and would be really interested to see any more that may be out there.'

If you think you may have something of interest, contact Brian on 01397 700200 or email tours@bennevisdistillery.com.

STRONTIAN

Award-winning buyout group to visit Longrigg Woodland

Sunart residents are being invited to get involved in progressing the community buyout of the Longrigg Woodland above Ardnastang, near Strontian, which is being sold off by Forestry and Land Scotland.

Anyone with an interest is being encouraged to share their views at one of two Sunart Community Company (SCC) meetings in November. The 87-hectare block of mature pine, spruce and larch at Longrigg was earmarked for sale a few years ago and Sunart Community Company commissioned a feasibility study and business plan funded by the Scottish Land Fund.

This showed a community buyout was financially feasible and earlier this year the SCC board voted to help organise the buyout if there was enough interest from people who would form a working group to advise on managing the land or take part in the project.

SCC will be holding the two meetings to share information about the buyout with anyone with an interest in woodlands in West Lochaber and to gather their views on the project.

John Jones, SCC director, said: 'We would really like to hear from anyone in the area who might want to get involved. We believe owning the forest presents great opportunities for new recreational activities, a woodfuel business, perhaps even a forest croft, as well as a chance to generate cash for the community given the high values of timber. It's an exciting project and we hope people will get in touch.'

On Wednesday November 3 at 7pm there will be a socially-distanced meeting in the Sunart Centre. Special guests will be Gill and Harry Burn, volunteers with Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland north of Loch Ewe, which recently won the Small Community Woodland category of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards.

The audience will hear an inspiring story of how the community bought a remote block of commercial forestry in 2003 and are gradually installing new access and recreational routes and improving biodiversity whilst battling hurricane winds, forest fires and Covid-19.

On Thursday November 4 at 7pm, there will be a Zoom meeting. Anyone wishing to register for the zoom event should email enquiries@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk to receive the zoom link.

Longrigg Woodland near Stontian is being sold off by Forestry and Land Scotland.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Although not the usual subject for a Glasgow Letter, I could hardly write about Glasgow this week without starting off with a mention of COP26.

The UN Climate Change Conference is well and truly upon us in Glasgow and where better to hold an environmental conference than the city known as the Dear Green Place?

One way to make the city even greener and environmentally friendly, of course, is to close all the roads, so it's already looking like mission accomplished on that front with all the traffic cones popping up all over the place!

In all seriousness, however, let's hope for a positive outcome from the conference.

As I'm hardly an expert on climate change, I thought it better just to mention a number of events open to the public connected to the conference.

Live music is at the heart of that. Concerts for Climate will take place in the famous King Tuts on Thursday November 11, featuring stripped back performances by Twin Atlantic, Admiral Fallow, Rura, The Ninth Wave, Rachel Sermanni, Blue Rose Code, National Youth Pipe Band, and Tamzene – who, as I wrote a few weeks ago, supported us in the Kelvingrove Bandstand with such a stunning performance.

There is also a 'green zone' open to the public from November 1-12 at the Glasgow Science Centre. Youth groups, civil society, academia, artists, and business from across the UK and all over the world will be hosting events, exhibitions, cultural performances, workshops and talks. There are over 100 exhibitors, 200 events and 11 sponsors taking over the space – so plenty opportunity to listen and learn about climate action.

Mànran, fresh from the release of their new album, Urar, and heading off on tour to Germany.

There are multiple other interesting events, including a couple not yet announced. For anyone interested in heading along, you can check out what is available online.

On another note entirely, if anyone is looking for new album recommendations to keep you going through the winter, I have been very much enjoying Mànran's new record, Ùrar, which was released last Friday.

My attention was drawn to it first when I came across a hilarious video on Facebook of an outtake of their music video for the single, Ailean, in which box player, Gary Innes, just about scares the living daylights out of vocalist, Kim Carnie, by sneaking up behind her during a take!

The actual track is excellent, though, and the video a great piece of filming and lighting design. The rest of the album is a tremendous mix of traditional Gaelic songs, upbeat tune sets, and an original poppy folk song called Crow Flies. The album finishes with a wonderful rendition from Kim of Griogal Cridhe – the poignant lament for Griogair Ruadh Mac Griogair written after his execution in 1570.

It's a very old song but a very fresh version which will absolutely bring a tear to the eye and is a lovely way to finish the album.

Mànran are off on tour to Germany soon, where I'm sure the material will go down very well indeed.

Ullapool arts charity launches crowdfunder to secure its future

An Talla Solais in Ullapool is launching a crowdfunding campaign on October 26 in a bid to secure its future, writes Sandy Neil.

Up until now the arts charity has had use of a gallery space, rented from a local hotel, where it exhibited contemporary art and held community events. However, the gallery closed earlier this month after the charity was given notice to vacate the premises. After 18 months of lockdowns, the hotel required the space for its own recovery and so An Talla Solais is looking for a new home.

Community has been at the heart of An Talla Solais, but without a physical space to bring people together, the charity has found itself at a crucial point.

Alongside exhibitions, the charity works with people living with dementia through the Dolphin Arts project, and over lockdown ran community-led workshops online to encourage people who might not otherwise interact with art to engage in creative projects and connect with others. The benefits of creativity on mental health are well known and through community work the charity hopes to tackle isolation and loneliness, issues often felt more heavily in rural locations.

In order to see Ullapool remain as a creative hub in the rural Highlands, An Talla Solais needs a physical space to support its activities. The charity hopes to renovate its current office building in order to create a multi-purpose space where, alongside studio rooms and a ceramics facility, a dedicated community space will be created for workshops, events and exhibitions.

However, for this to happen the building needs significant work done.

An Talla Solais will launch its crowdfunding campaign through Crowdfunder UK and the Aviva Community Fund.

Jude Brooks, head of corporate social responsibility at Aviva, said: 'We are extremely proud to support An Talla Solais and look forward to enabling it to bring its ideas to life.'

An Talla Solais has an initial target of £10,000, but hopes to stretch the target to £20,000 before December. There is a range of rewards in thanks for donations on its crowdfunding campaign, from exhibition cards and posters to photography workshops, prints and original paintings.

To show support head to: www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/help-secure-the-future-of-an-talla-solais.

HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 29TH OCT THUR 4TH NOV

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND FILMS

FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER
The Addams Family 2 (PG) 11am. **The Alpinist (12a)** 11:30am. **No Time To Die (12a)** 1:15pm + 7:15pm. **Dune (12a)** 1:45pm + 4:45pm. **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (15)** 5pm. **Halloween Kills (18)** 8pm.

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER
The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG) 10:30am. **The Addams Family 2 (PG)** 10:45am. **ParaNorman (PG)** 12:30pm. **Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone (PG)** 1:15pm. **Hocus Pocus (PG)** 3pm. **Dune (12a)** 4:45pm. **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (15)** 5:30pm. **Halloween Kills (18)** 7:50pm. **The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15)** 8:15pm.

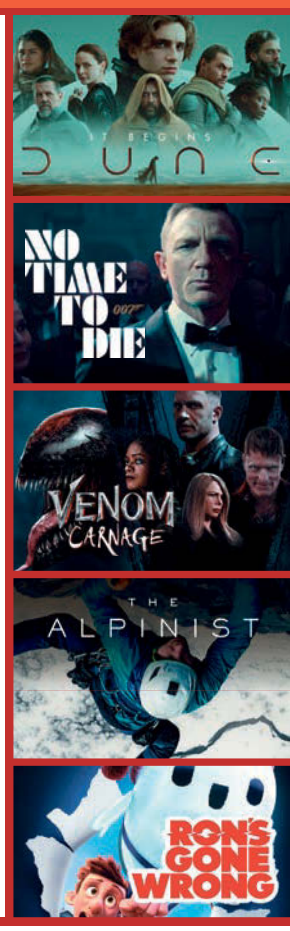
SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER
Coco (PG) 10:30am. **The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)** 10:45am. **Highlands From The Air (U)** 12:45pm. **Dune (12a)** 1pm + 4:30pm. **Hocus Pocus (PG)** 2:15pm. **No Time To Die (12a)** 4:45pm. **Halloween Kills (18)** 8pm. **Shepherd (15)** 8:15pm.

MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
Dune (12a) 11am + 4:30pm. **Coco (PG)** *Bairns At The Box Office: 11:30am.* **Highlands From The Air (U)** 2:15pm. **The Alpinist (12a)** 2pm. **No Time To Die (12a)** 3:30pm + 7pm. **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (15)** 8pm.

TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
No Time To Die (12a) 1:30pm + 7pm. **Highlands From The Air (U)** 2pm. **Dune (12a)** 3:30pm + 7:15pm. **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (15)** 5pm.

WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
The Alpinist (12a) 10:40am. **Highlands From The Air (U)** 11am. **No Time To Die (12a)** 12:15pm + 3:40pm. **Albatross (15)** 1pm. **Dune (12a)** 4:10pm + 7:10pm.

THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. **Ron's Gone Wrong (PG)** 11:30am. **Dune (12a)** 12:15pm + 7:15pm. **The Alpinist (15)** 2:30pm. **No Time To Die (12a)** 3:30pm + 7pm. **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (15)** 5pm.



FILM SYNOPSIS, TRAILERS, TICKETS AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER:
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HIGHLAND CINEMA

SHINTY ROUND-UP

The victorious Kinlochshiel team with the MacTavish Cup. Photograph Neil Paterson.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup Final
Kinlochshiel 3 Kingussie 2, after extra-time

Kinlochshiel won the cottages.com MacTavish Cup for the first time, coming from behind to beat Kingussie 3-2 in their 2pm throw-up at the Bught Park, Inverness.

Referee Des McNulty signalled a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to mark the passing of Dougie MacDougall, born in 1928, who was one of Kingussie's most loyal and well-travelled supporters for the best part of a century.

It was a cagey opening, but Kingussie took the lead on 10 minutes. Dylan Borthwick, with his back to goal, played the ball out to the Kingussie right where Ruaridh Anderson was darting forward and he cracked a great shot past Josh Grant to make it 1-0.

Kingussie now had their tails up and pressed Kinlochshiel but the west coast side defended well.

Kinlochshiel were enjoying their best period in the final so far but Kingussie's Robert Mabon made several important interventions.

When the ball broke to Jordan Fraser on the left of the 'D', his shot was weak and Rory MacGregor comfortably saved with his feet.

A Kinlochshiel goal was coming and it arrived on the half hour. Keith MacRae played the ball inside, picking out Jordan Fraser's run forward. If Fraser's previous effort lacked power, this strike more than made up for it as he hit the ball across keeper MacGregor to make it 1-1.

Kingussie went back on the attack and Josh Grant had to make a quick double-save before Roddy Young rushed in from the right, but he pushed the ball into the side-netting.

There were a couple of late first half chances for Kinlochshiel as Keith MacRae lifted the ball over the bar following Donald Nixon's firm hit-in on the left, then John MacRae shot wide from distance before Des McNulty brought an open and entertaining first 45 minutes to an end.

Kingussie were back on the field first for the start of the second half, with Ryan Borthwick replacing Calum Grant in defence.

Kingussie introduced Fraser Munro for Liam Borthwick as the final approached the hour mark, before Roddy Young went close for Kingussie following a nice passing move.

Kinlochshiel made a couple of changes with Jonnie MacAskill on for Duncan 'DA' MacRae and Archie MacRae replacing Duncan 'WD' MacRae soon after. When Ruaridh Anderson found Dylan Borthwick, his effort went wide, then Dylan Borthwick saw his snapshot saved with his feet by Josh Grant and the ball turned away for a corner with 20 minutes remaining.

Kingussie made their third change as Savio Genini came on for Dylan Borthwick for the final 15 minutes of regulation time.

Kieran MacPherson needed spray after taking a blow to the arm with five minutes remaining with thoughts already turning to the possibility of extra-time.

Kinlochshiel had a late set-piece chance when Archie MacRae was impeded. Donald Nixon found John MacRae but his effort was deflected away for a corner, taken by Jonnie MacAskill, with the ball going dangerously across goal before being cleared.

Kinlochshiel finished the 90 minutes on the attack, before referee Des McNulty took the final into extra-time.

Jordan Fraser hooked the ball over the top with the first chance of additional time following Keith MacRae's free-hit on the left. Dylan Borthwick returned to the field to take over from Roddy Young.

Kinlochshiel took the lead for the first time in the match on 100 minutes. Donald Nixon's hit-in on the right reached John MacRae who turned and blasted the ball high past the keeper to make it 2-1.

There was better to come for the west coast side a couple of minutes later as Archie MacRae skipped past Rory MacKeachan on the Kinlochshiel right before cutting in towards goal, keeping his composure to score a wonderful individual goal.

Kingussie responded and Savio Genini won possession on the right but his shot lacked accuracy and referee McNulty signalled the end of the first period of extra-time.

Duncan 'DA' MacRae came back on for Keith MacRae for the final 15 minutes of this enthralling contest.

Josh Grant made a superb save to deny Ruaridh Anderson and Kingussie had to settle for a corner. Calum Grant came back on for Kieran MacPherson but Kinlochshiel were slowing the game down at every opportunity, as you would expect from a side holding a two-goal lead.

Keith MacRae came back on when Donald Nixon was forced to leave the field.

Kingussie pushed Robert Mabon forward and he shot wide from the left.

Kingussie pressed hard and Savio Genini and Robert Mabon had half-chances but they couldn't breach the Kinlochshiel back line.

There was late drama as, with only moments remaining, Ryan Borthwick forced the ball home following James Hutchison's free-hit but there was only enough time remaining to restart the match before the referee blew for time.

Jordan Fraser celebrates the equalising goal for Kinlochshiel. Photograph Neil Paterson.

It is always easy to take Kinlochshiel talisman Finlay MacRae's performances for granted but he was commanding throughout and was deservedly named man of the match, receiving the Tom Mackenzie Memorial Medal.

Keith MacRae, who has fought back to fitness following a knee injury, raised the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup for the first time in his club's history last month. This was another milestone as MacRae became the first Kinlochshiel player to raise the MacTavish Cup in the competition's 123-year history, with Stuart Walkden from sponsors cottages.com looking on.

A jubilant Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill said: 'Making history, that's what we are good at, at the moment. This was a big occasion for our fans and our community and we are delighted. I always said Kingussie would be a tough nut to crack and they proved that today as the game could have gone either way. Without a doubt, we are the best team in Scotland at the moment.'

Bullough Cup final
Kyles Athletic 3
Lochside Rovers 3
Kyles Athletic won 3-1 on penalties)

The Kyles Athletic second team came from behind three times before eventually beating Lochside Rovers 3-1 on penalties to lift the Bullough Cup at Tighnabruaich.

Full report at www.lochabertimes.co.uk

Mowi Senior League A
Fort William P
Glenurquhart P

Fort William's clash with Glenurquhart at an Aird was called off because of covid restrictions affecting the visitors.

Lochaber P
Skye Camanachd P

Skye Camanachd were unable to field a team for their meeting with Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Mowi Senior League B
Caberfeidh 8 Lovat 1

Caberfeidh trounced Lovat 8-1 at Castle Leod.

The match helped both teams reduce suspensions with Caberfeidh's Connor MacGregor and Lovat duo Lorne MacKay and Callum Cruden all knocking a game off their respective bans.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to mark the previous day's passing of Johnnie Sinclair, whose family's association with Caberfeidh stretches back to the founding of the club in 1896. Kyle Grant gave Caberfeidh the lead on two minutes and they never looked back. Ben MacDonald on 10 minutes and Craig Morrison's first on 24 minutes made it 3-0. Lewis Tawse pulled a goal back on 38 minutes to leave the hosts 3-1 ahead at the break.

Kevin Bartlett restored Caberfeidh's three-goal cushion on 52 minutes with Craig Morrison completing his hat-trick on 63 and 65 minutes.

Kyle Grant and Kevin Bartlett scored their second goals of the afternoon on 77 and 82 minutes respectively.

The sides are scheduled to meet again in the league this Saturday at Balgate.

Mowi Senior League C
Oban Celtic P Aberdour P

Aberdour were unable to field a side for their trip to play Oban Celtic at Mossfield.

Mowi North League A
Skye Camanachd P Fort William P

The Skye Camanachd second team were unable to fulfil their fixture with the Fort William second team at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Mowi North League B
Newtonmore 6 Caberfeidh 0

The Newtonmore colts scored three times in each half to beat the Caberfeidh colts 6-0 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore took the lead through Craig Macleod on 10 minutes, with Sorley Thomson adding a second on 25 minutes.

Daniel Craven struck four minutes later meaning the hosts led 3-0 at the break.

Craig Macleod got his second on the hour with Tristan Ross making it 5-0 on 70 minutes.

Kyle Clark rounded off the scoring with four minutes remaining.

Lovat P Glenurquhart P

The meeting between the Lovat seconds and the Glenurquhart seconds at Balgate was called off because of covid restrictions.

Mowi North League C
Beauly P Strathglass P

There was disappointment for the Beauly reserves and the Strathglass reserves as their match at Braeview Park was postponed because of an unplayable field.

This is only the second match this season to be called off because of an unplayable pitch.

Mowi South League B
Bute 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

The Bute seconds played well despite going down 2-0 to the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds at the Meadows.

Nick Lavin opened the scoring on 25 minutes, with Neil Robertson clinching victory 15 minutes from time.

Tayforth P Aberdour P

Tayforth were unable to field a team for the Aberdour second team's visit to Peffermill.

Mowi Central League
Ardnamurchan 3 Oban Celtic 5

Andrew MacDonald's hat-trick helped the Oban Celtic second team come from 3-1 down to beat Ardnamurchan 5-3 at Strontian.

Herbie Patterson gave Ardnamurchan the lead on six minutes but Keegan Macphee levelled on 17 minutes.

Freddie Patterson scored on the stroke of half-time to give the hosts a 2-1 interval advantage.

Freddie Patterson got his second on 54 minutes and Ardnamurchan now led 3-1.

Oban Celtic made some positional changes and Andrew MacDonald took centre stage, scoring twice on 75 and 76 minutes to make it 3-3.

It was Andrew MacDonald again as he completed his hat-trick on 80 minutes to give Celtic a 4-3 lead. Joe MacVicar netted a couple of minutes later to complete the 5-3 victory.

Glenorchy P Kilmory P

Kilmory were unable to field a team for their match with Glenorchy at Mart Park.

Cross country back up and running in Forres

Lochaber Athletics Club siblings Rocco and Maddison MacMillan were in cross country action recently after almost two years without a competitive race.

The first race in the North District cross country league was on Saturday October 16, with a Covid secure event in Grant Park, Forres.

Competing in far-from-autumnal weather, the runners enjoyed sunny, warm conditions and a family atmosphere resonated round the beautiful park.

Arguably this is the finest cross country running course in Scotland, with a large grass area for the start of the race where spectators get a good view of the action, then a steep uphill section followed by an undulating trail section and a rapid descent back to the park.

Rocco, aged nine, was in his first race finishing a respectable 10th out of 24 runners in six minutes 40 seconds.

Sister Maddison, now an experienced runner over track and country, coped well in her first year in the under-13-year race.

Maddison showed her endurance on the uphill section and worked through the field to finish in ninth place in 18 minutes 16 seconds on the 3,200-metre course.

Lochaber Athletic Club is looking for more young runners to represent the area in cross country running.

Training is on Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm at Claggan Park.

Rocco and Maddison MacMillan with Lochaber Athletic Club's mascot Speedy who also made the trip to Forres to cheer them on.

Stuart Whyte in the new Iron Therapy gym. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Iron therapy from strong man Stuart

Continued from page 40.

permitting, outside his gym and will give relative newcomers to competition the chance to meet and perform alongside each other in a number of well-recognised and demanding tasks in lifting various weights and tackling courses with them.

Always popular is the stone lift, where participants take it in turn to 'dead lift' a large, heavy stone, often raising them to shoulder height and carrying them a set distance, although there are many variations on this activity. With its roots in the past, where different areas each had their own stones, these would be lifted by young clansmen to mark the transition to manhood, or even to settle disputes without resorting to battle.

Stones

Stuart has been travelling the country identifying and lifting these historic stones, many of which have been largely forgotten by the communities in which they are located.

In another, updated version the modern 'warriors' will be lifting a van weighing at least 250kg and timed on how long they can support it.

Unfortunately, due to Covid regulations, the number of spectators will be limited, especially if events have to take place inside but everyone will be welcome to look in and make donations to the two charities being supported - Lochaber Hope and Lochaber Mindfit.

The event starts at noon and runs until 4pm at the Iron Therapy Gym, close to NewStart Highland.

Under-strength Lochaber power through to win

RUGBY

A lack of forwards meant two players moving out of position for Lochaber Rugby Club's Saturday league clash against Hyndland at Banavie.

But despite the weight disadvantage at the scrum, the hosts showed plenty forward thinking to come away with an impressive 61-0 victory.

Lochaber's first points came after just a few minutes when Matt Murray intercepted a Hyndland pass a metre from his own line which he duly crossed to touch down.

Lochaber were in for their second after just eight-and-a-half minutes. From a lineout, the backs ran a set move which put Euan Larter clean through to score.

Larter got himself involved in the next try too, offloading in the tackle to Jack Hamilton who ran in for a try under the posts.

Captain Callum MacDonald secured the bonus point after taking a short ball at pace 30m out, beating the first defender, before side-stepping the fullback. He was tackled just before the line but momentum took him over to score.

Lochaber's fifth try came from the restart with Larter getting a clear run from outside the 22 to score under the posts. Hyndland looked to finish the first half with points of their own but some resolute defending by Lochaber eventually led to a knock-on allowing Lochaber to clear their lines.

Ryan Davies was 100 per cent with the boot converting all five Lochaber tries to make it 35-0 at half-time.

A cheeky short restart saw the rout continue after the break with Conor Taylor finishing off a well-orchestrated passage between forwards and backs.

Hyndland then enjoyed one of their best spells and were camped in Lochber's 22 for some time but their big forwards couldn't find a hole in the home defence which continued to repel all attacks.

Lochaber eventually managed to clear their lines and normal service resumed when Henry Luke, who had just come on, ran in from 30m to score with his first touch of the ball on his debut.

Lochaber went down to 14 men with around 15 minutes remaining after MacDonald had to leave the field with an injury and no subs remaining. Despite being a man down, the hosts continued to score with Lewis Morrison showing pace to beat three defenders on his way to the line.

Alan Hamilton then left the field with an injury from an awkward landing reducing Lochaber to 13 players for the final five minutes, just enough time for Luke to run in for his second try. Davies made one more conversion in the second half with Callum Boyd adding another two.

Man of the match was Koni Johnson.

This weekend, Lochaber travel to Shawlands to play Cartha Queens Park. Kick-off has been brought forward to 12.30pm as Scotland play Tonga at Murrayfield the same afternoon.

Calum Boyd under attack. All photographs: Iain Ferguson alba.photos.

Finlay Ireland powering through opposition.

Above left, textbook passing technique as Lochaber players race down the pitch; and above, Chris Simpson fights to stay in possession.

LOCHABER TIMES
SPORT

SCOTTISH FIELD
November
The Green Issue...
Perfect Perthshire... Green lairds...
Scotland's best eco-innovations... Jolomo's art...
Kilmacolm eco-friendly home... Pumpkin recipes...
An Angus garden... Wild salmon in the Clyde...
Images of the North East... Aquaponics...

Win, win in the cup for South Lochaber Thistle

South Lochaber Thistle secured their passage to the third round of the Scottish Cup with a comprehensive victory against Glasgow Wellington. Again.

The repeat tie, due to a referee error in the previous game, was played in 'Highland conditions' from the start with the weather rather more suited to Wellington boots than football boots for everyone involved.

The game was fast and frenetic from the start, with neither team able to get a firm hold.

The home side slowly started to exert their dominance, with Sean Noble fashioning a pair of decent chances. Logan Barker, Keir Kennedy and Martin Munro were linking well and all three made the 'Duke's' defence look leaden-footed.

As half time approached, Munro left the defender for dust before cutting it back for Barker to finish smartly under pressure and give the Jags a 1-0 lead at the break.

With the weather getting worse, Barker doubled his tally for the day after Lewis Campbell played a pinpoint ball through to Andrew McLean. McLean took a good forward touch to nose past the defender and his cut back from the byline was slotted home by Barker.

The Jags backline, marshalled by seasoned centre half Kieran Lopez, were giving little away.

Wellington were, however, coming back into the game and Lewis Campbell and John Ferguson were being tested by the Glasgow outfit's wide men, the Thistle full back pairing consistently coming out on top.

The Jags looked to put the game beyond doubt and they did so in spectacular fashion. A great cross-field ball from Munro saw Noble unleashed from his wide right vantage point, the hawk-like full back/winger striding forward and boldly chipping the oncoming keeper with an impish finish on the angle with Messi-like finesse.

All that was left was for Barker to net his hat-trick. After winning the ball high up the park, Kennedy laid on a delicious pass for Barker to slot home.

Wellington pulled one back from a set piece, with Curtis Rose rising like a salmon to nod home a consolation goal for the travelling side.

At the full time whistle, the score was SLT 4 Wellington 1 and the Kinlochleven side had secured their place to Aberdeen for a third round tie with Insches AFC.

Manager Alan Gray said: 'Huge thanks to Glasgow Wellington FC for coming up and playing again. We wish you all the best for the rest of the season, odd circumstances of the replay aside. It was an excellent performance from a very strong Thistle side today. Logan thoroughly deserved his man-of-the-match award but everyone played extremely well. A special mention to Dave Forbes, veteran, founding member and arguably the biggest whinger in the team, who defied his age to cover every blade of turf alongside the industrious Andrew Mclean today. He really rolled the years back.

'Finally, thank you to everyone who decided to spend their Saturday afternoon in the heavy rain in Kinlochleven. The lads appreciated it.'

Celebrations in the rain as SLT take an unassailable lead.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Iron therapy from strong man Stuart

Novice strong men from across Scotland will be flexing their muscles on Saturday in an 'Iron Therapy' competition being organised by Stuart Whyte at his new gym in Lochaber.

A multi-award-winning athlete who has successfully competed on the national and international circuits, Stuart is also a 'strong' believer in exercise as a way to good mental health, which is the focus of his new venture.

His Iron Therapy Health and Fitness gym on the Ben Nevis Estate has been designed around his knowledge of strong man events which require more than just brute strength, but also dedication and clear mental focus to be successful.

Stuart said: 'Many people need physical activity not only to keep their bodies healthy, but also their minds.

'During lockdown this has been a double challenge and I have tried to help them as much as possible with advice and suggestions.

'I have been exercising right through, keeping up a level of fitness to pursue my sport and from this I had the idea of the new gym, which aims to highlight and bolster the healthy mental side as well as developing physical fitness.'

Next Saturday's event is to be held in, and weather

Continued on page 39.

Woody stands down from Fort duties, leaving club in good hands

Colin 'Woody' Wood has stood down from his duties at Fort William FC and has wished the club well in its future endeavours, writes Fiona Scott.

Having already stood down from his role as vice-president at the AGM last month, Woody remained a director and committee member to help the new board find its feet.

In a statement released last week he said: 'I am delighted to say that the new board is doing well and the football club is in good hands. With this in mind it is now time for me to resign my directorship and place on the committee.'

A committed fan, Woody said that he will remain as such and that he looks forward to seeing the club continue to build on the work that he and the rest of the Fort FC team have done.

'I have been privileged to meet some fantastic people, both players and committee members, each of whom have been instrumental in getting the ball further down the field and making sure we still have a team to represent us,' he added.

'My highlights are many but they would certainly include the BBC documentary, including Scott Hunter's panenka penalty and standing with the ultras when we equalised away at Albion Rovers.

'A power of work has been done both on and off the park but there is still a lot more to do, so if you can spare the time and the energy please contact the club.'

In response, Fort William FC thanked Woody for all the hard work, commitment and energy he has brought to the club over the past few years and wished him and his family all the very best for the future.

This weekend's Highland League Cup fixture against Brora Rangers has been postponed.

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 28 October, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

28	0416	2.0	**30**	0150	2.8	**1**	0323	3.3	**3**	0430	3.8
	0942	3.1		0645	2.0		0854	1.5		1022	0.8
TH	1703	2.3	SA	1403	3.1	M	1526	3.6	W	1636	4.2
☾	2226	2.8		2031	2.1		2155	1.4		2304	0.8
29	0529	2.1	**31**	0243	3.0	**2**	0358	3.5	**4**	0500	4.0
	1110	3.0		0757	1.8		0940	1.2		1104	0.6
F	1847	2.3	SU	1449	3.4	TU	1601	3.9	TH	1711	4.3
				2119	1.7		2230	1.1	●	2339	0.7

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

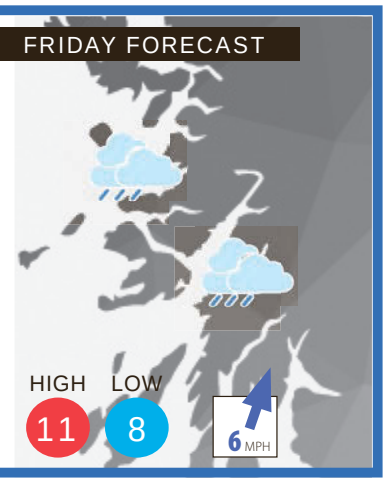
FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

Thursday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

Saturday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Sunday
Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.



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