



## Top musicians heading for live Oban gig

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### Climate hopefuls



### Oban braves weather to wave for change

• See page 4 for more

### Light fantastic



### Oban, Dunbeg and Taynuilt fireworks special

• See pages 10&11 for more

# Call to act now to keep rockfall road open

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Action must be taken now to stop Gallanach Road becoming a mini Rest and be Thankful, a councillor has warned.

The road has been a no-go zone since boulders split from cliffs above the road on Friday just missing a house below.

Argyll and Bute Council says it is still tracing whoever owns the cliffs, but Oban councillor Roddy McCuish says there is no time for delay.

He wants the council to do whatever it takes to re-open the road now and to 'pursue' whoever owns the cliffs later.

Checks are still ongoing for more loose rocks, with concerns that other landslides could follow. Under Section 89 of the Roads Scotland Act, the council has been able to take some action to protect the public road – even though the cliffs are beyond its control.

At the time of going to press, a spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The road remains closed due to concerns that more rocks could fall. We are in the process of assessing the rockface and tracing the landowner so that we can have discussions



with them about the best way to make things safe so that the road can re-open and the owner of the nearby house can return home.'

Jennifer Shaw, who has lived there for 23 years, was asleep on Friday when three giant boulders crashed down from the cliff top, narrowly avoiding hitting her home.

One blocked the road, another stuck fast on her

garden steps and a third rolled towards the foreshore leaving her house unscathed thanks, she believes, to a tree that got in the way and changed the direction of one of the giant rocks.

A school service bus and a works van also had a lucky escape.

Mrs Shaw followed advice to leave her property soon after on Friday to wait for news -

only returning to feed her cats. 'I'm anxious, of course, and worried it could happen again, so I moved out.'

'The first thing I knew what happened was when the dog barked and woke me up. I got out of bed and there was a man stood in the road in a hi-vis next to a big boulder,' she said.

Alchemy employee John Maclean said: 'When the van came round the corner there



The boulder blocking Gallanach Road – Alchemy employees and a school bus driver had a narrow escape and, inset, Jennifer Shaw was asleep in bed when the rockfall came crashing down close to her home.

was a lot of dust floating in the air. It was a near-miss. There was a school bus too. Luckily I don't think there were any children on it. It was a nasty surprise for everyone.'

Councillor McCuish said: 'The last thing we want is for it to become a mini Rest and be Thankful, but it's well known if you get one landslide there will be more to come. We have to make sure it is safe up there. We have to do what we can to keep the road safe and open.'

Continued on page 5.

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OT

# Seaweed project funding will 'kelp' the UK's Blue Economy

The fledgling UK seaweed farming industry has taken a major step forward after the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) gained funding to develop training and business development for the sector.

The Seaweed Academy, which will be based at SAMS, near Oban, will be the UK's first dedicated seaweed industry base, offering advice to start-ups, training workers and sharing the latest research to help businesses develop.

The aim of the academy is to catalyse growth of an industry that has a crucial role to play in the UK's net zero, regional growth and levelling up aspirations. It will provide an innovative service to the sector, from seeded line through to research and practical skills at SAMS' existing seaweed farm sites.

The £407,000 grant from the



UK Government's Community Renewal Fund is one of 56 projects across Scotland to share an £18m investment.

Globally, the seaweed farming industry has been growing exponentially and is estimated to be worth around \$15billion per annum. However, the vast majority of this activity is in Asia and there is huge growth potential in Europe, with a growing demand for seaweed from gourmet restaurants to livestock feeds. Already used extensively in food ingredi-

ents, agriculture, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, seaweed farming has a low carbon footprint, using no fresh water and with minimal land-based infrastructure.

SAMS director Professor Nick Owens said: 'Using our own seaweed farms and the most up-to-date research, we have been laying foundations for a thriving UK seaweed farming industry. We are excited to now move into the next phase of training, education and business development, which will see our ambitions realised. SAMS works internationally on seaweed research and are well placed to deliver the most up-to-date advice for start-ups and existing farmers.'

'We are grateful to the UK Government for its investment in this climate-friendly industry that will not only support the regional economy of the Highlands and Islands, but



SAMS is working on seaweed research at international level.

will give others an example of the best of the blue economy.'

The Seaweed Academy will be operated by SAMS, in partnership with SAMS Enterprise and Argyll College, a fellow academic partner within the University of the Highlands and Islands, and will deliver immediate economic benefit to Argyll and Bute.

It also aims to stimulate the growth of UK seaweed aquaculture, exploring high-value markets and using the latest research to increase the com-

petitiveness of UK products globally. SAMS will also promote seaweed production as a means of bioremediation, including the resulting carbon sequestration, therefore mitigating the impacts of climate change.

SAMS Professor Michele Stanley specialises in seaweed research and spoke at a COP26 event on seaweed. She said: 'Seaweed is already widely used in food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical and agriculture industries and has potential

as a biofuel. But the benefits of seaweed farming go beyond natural products. It increases and restores biodiversity by providing habitats for marine creatures and can help mitigate climate change through carbon capture and methane emission reduction.

'There is also a growing commercial demand for higher value seaweed-derived products, such as hydrocolloids, and for food ingredients and medical treatment and high-bacto agar used as a laboratory medium for Covid-19 testing.'

To help fully embed the new industry at a community level, SAMS' Ocean Explorer Centre will develop STEM educational outreach materials to raise awareness of seaweed farming, climate change and the importance of net zero, from primary storytelling to workshops for Higher/A-level curricula.

## OBAN SCOTLAND IN ONE PLACE



Cities come in all shapes and sizes, some smaller than Oban is today.

**Bidding for city status is about supporting what's great about Oban, and creating opportunities for funding for improvements such as more affordable housing, or infrastructure.**

### Funding

Being a rural Scottish city would mean that Oban could be included in government city initiatives as well as rural growth initiatives.

### Future

The area needs to attract more people, investment and high quality jobs, to reverse our population decline and build a successful future. City status could help by raising the profile of the area nationally and internationally.

Help attract what our future needs.

See [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity) to support the bid.



## Rescue on River Awe

Emergency services rescued a person stranded in the water near the Bridge of Awe on Saturday November 6.

'Operations control immediately mobilised two fire engines and specialist water rescue units to the scene,' a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said, 'and crews assisted the coastguard to safely recover the casualty to a position of safety before they were handed into the care of the Scottish Ambulance Service.'

Coastguard rescue teams from Oban and Inveraray were also deployed.

Meanwhile, Tobermory RNLI is celebrating Scotland's lifeboats by showing an archive film called Launch! at An Tobar in Tobermory on Sunday November 14 at 4pm.

The film has been two years in the making, with unprecedented access to the RNLI's own archives. Film footage from the 1920s of lifeboats, sourced from the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive, is woven with 1960s colour promotional films and breath-taking digital video captured by RNLI

crews' helmet cameras while at sea. The film is part of the celebration of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21. Mull's audience will be delighted to see featured in Launch! a film shot in 1930s Tobermory showing the naming ceremony of the lifeboat Sir Arthur Rose.

Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat operations manager Dr Sam Jones said: 'As well as some modern rescue footage from our station, the film features footage of the naming ceremony of the Sir Arthur Rose, Tobermory's first lifeboat, at the fisherman's pier in August 1939. We're grateful to An Tobar for hosting what promises to be a wonderful afternoon but for also donating the proceeds of the box office to our lifeboat station.'

Roger Lockwood CB, chairman of the RNLI Scottish Council, said: 'This is a unique and exciting opportunity for audiences to see the operations of the RNLI in Scotland.'

After the film, some of Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew will be talking about their lifesaving work and audiences are welcome to share their own stories about the RNLI.

# Dunbeg CC meets back in person

Dunbeg is one of Argyll's first community councils to meet in person since the pandemic, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Four of the growing neighbourhood's community councillors hosted the meeting on Monday at Dunbeg Parish Church, attended by Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green along with five members of the public and The Oban Times.

Community councillors have been keeping in touch with each other during the absence of meetings but it was good to be back, said convener Marion Power, who also praised the community spirit throughout the village during lockdown.

November 15 will see the return of Taynuilt Community Council to the village hall.

The Dunbeg meeting was updated on matters from the new-homes build to progress

Dunbeg is one of the first community councils in Argyll to meet in person.



on the new science park and plans for a new roundabout and potential park-and-ride scheme. Transport Scotland has instructed BEAR Scotland to find a way of improving the village bus stop - the Glasgow-Oban bus is too big to get round the roundabout

in Lorn Road. Funds from St John's Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms have secured a defibrillator for Dunbeg.

Community councillors have agreed funding to buy new noticeboards for the area.

Concern over speed limits and about safe routes to school

were also discussed. Highland and Islands Enterprise, which is behind the new science park build, has told the community council it plans to replant some of the trees that were uprooted during the construction.

Councillors are to follow up reports that homes in a square on Hillside and Lochnell Road have been left in the dark for two years due to faults with street lighting. A member of the public who tripped on the pavement and fell into a fence told the meeting 'the whole square is pitch black'.

Councillor Robertson urged the community council to join Dunbeg Development steering group, which will restart at a meeting on December 1, keeping people informed and involved with plans and work in the area. The community council's secretary Linda Robb will be attending.

## Mull's second-hand ferry is a 'gas guzzling cast-off', says Tory MSP

The Isle of Mull's new second hand ferry, the MV Utne, is a 'gas-guzzling cast-off' from Norway, said Graham Simpson MSP at a Holyrood debate on the crisis facing CalMac's ageing fleet, writes Sandy Neil.

The Highlands and Islands' Green MSP Ariane Burgess called for all new vessels to be zero or low carbon, like the electric ferries in Sweden and Denmark that run off renewable energy.

In the wide-ranging debate in the Scottish Parliament, MSPs discussed the late and over budget dual fuel vessels 801 and 802, contracted to Clyde shipyard Ferguson marine in 2015, which had put added pressure on CalMac's creaking network.

Neil Bibby, Labour MSP for West Scotland, said: 'The Government has presided over the fiasco at Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd, such that we are now buying second-hand ferries from other countries, and a Scottish yard supporting Scottish jobs and owned by the Scottish Government cannot even make the shortlist to build new ferries in Scotland.'

Graham Simpson, Conservative MSP for Central Scotland, agreed: 'We are in

the embarrassing position of having to buy a second-hand ferry from Norway to service the Craignure to Oban route.

'The MV Utne is being sold so that the Norwegians can replace her with a zero-emission battery vessel, so we get the gas-guzzling cast-off while they save the planet. We also have to fork out more than

**'...We get the gas-guzzling cast-off while they save the planet.'**

£3million to prepare her to operate here. Quite what the justification is for that price tag is anyone's guess, because the Government has not told us.'

Katy Clark, Labour MSP for West Scotland, added: 'CMAL scouring the globe for second-hand vessels or, out of desperation, seeking to charter vessels such as MV Pentalina is not the solution to the challenge that we face.'

'The current structures are a mess and dysfunctional. CMAL owns the ferries and CalMac operates most of them, but the ports are owned by trusts, private companies or public bodies, depending on

the area. We therefore have a fragmented structure.'

Jenni Minto, SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, defended the Scottish Government, saying: 'I am slightly at a loss to explain why Tory members complain that we have a poor service and then, when something is done, they still complain.'

Liam McArthur, Liberal Democrat MSP for the Orkney Islands, said: 'The current fleet is costly to run, increasingly unreliable and a disaster in terms of the environment.'

Ariane Burgess agreed, saying: 'There is another problem with Scotland's ferries: the majority of them run on diesel, which is carbon intensive and damaging to our marine environment. New vessels should be zero or low carbon, as are the electric ferries that run on renewable energy in Sweden and Denmark, and Europe's first green hydrogen ferry, which is being designed in Scotland. There should also be more diesel-electric hybrid ferries until we can phase out diesel. We must also decarbonise our existing vessels. Retrofitting an electric motor to a diesel ferry is a win-win as it cuts pollution, emissions, noise and running costs.'

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OT

# Community council could seek permission itself for a new supermarket on Mull

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Community councillors on Mull say they will seek planning permission themselves for a new supermarket in Tobermory if the Co-op does not 'step up to the mark'.

Unless the Co-op commits to building a bigger store at the top of town, the community council will look itself at getting planners' approval to build one - then offer it to other supermarket chains.

The council has been in discussion with the Co-op about moving to a site at Baliscate. Despite that, the Co-op says it has no future plans for a second store.

Meanwhile empty shelves at the Tobermory Co-op and lack of essentials such as bread, milk and fruit have been frustrating islanders who rely on the store for their supplies.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said she knew it was very busy at the end of the English half-term but when she called in it 'looked like staff had stripped the shelves to paint the shop' it was so bare.

The High Street Co-op is only classed as a convenience store, not a supermarket, and community councillors would like to see the town get a larger supermarket with a bigger selection of goods.

Community councillor Alasdair McCrone said sup-

plies in the Co-op had been in trouble during the summer.

'We've had a lot of people but there was definitely a shortage of supplies,' he said describing a particular stretch of shortages lasting almost ten days as 'catastrophic'.

'No one is blaming the local staff, but the Co-op as a service to this community has failed,' he said.

## Supply problems

The introduction of a new computer system by the Co-op had caused some supply problems, the meeting was told.

Councillor Devon said: 'Argyll and Bute Council got the biggest shock when they found out the Co-op had no firm plans to move to the site

at the top of town. The council had even prepared some of the ground.'

Community councillor Billy Clymont said they should 'flush out' the Co-op's plans and try to find out what the Co-op's commitment is going to be to the island.

'If it's nothing, I think we should apply for planning permission to have a supermarket on that site then see who wants it,' he said.

Councillor Devon suggested a letter is sent to Fergus Murray saying if the Co-op is not going to 'step up to the mark' then the community council would look at seeking planning permission and 'put it on the open market'.

A similar situation happened in Dunoon and six or seven of the major supermarkets showed interest, the meeting heard.

Shortages at the Co-op are also a serious matter for people making a 40 or 60-mile round trip from the island's remotest parts, only to find it does not have what they want.

The meeting heard there were no stock problems at other stores such as the Spar on Iona and in Salen, the shop in Bunnassan and the one in Dervaig.

A letter is also going to be sent from the community council to Morrisons at Fort William to see if it would be willing to continue its delivery route to Lochaline over to Mull.

However, on Tuesday Tobermory's Co-op was one of five branches having plans for home delivery ruled upon by licensing chiefs.

The others are in Port Ellen on Islay, on Tiree, Inveraray and Tarbert. The plans were due to be heard by the licensing board during its virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 9.

No concerns have been raised by licensing standards officers or police, and environmental health officers are working on a Covid-19 assessment for each store with the applicants.



Environmentalists Janie Steele and Ross Preston joined Saturday's human wave along the esplanade with plastic debris they have cleared from beaches.



It's Our Planet plea from young climate change protesters in Oban.

## Oban human wave calls for climate change action

A human wave rolled along Oban seafront at the weekend calling for action on climate change.

About 60 people of all ages met on the Esplanade on Saturday as part of a protest organised by Argyll and Bute Time For Change.

The turnout in torrential rain and high winds showed how much love there was for Oban as a coastal town and how

much people want to protect it from rising sea-levels and flooding, said organiser Ellen Bird.

Oban's blue wave was a drop in the ocean of thousands of grassroots events being organised in towns and cities across the world on November 6, marking a global day of action as world leaders met in Glasgow at the COP26 Global Climate Summit.

## POLICE FILES

■ A 24-year-old male driver has been charged with speeding and having no insurance after his car was stopped by police in Taynuilt at 1.40pm on Friday October 29.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ A man, aged 19, was charged with speeding after he was stopped by police carrying out speed checks at Arrivain, Tyndrum, at 12.20pm on Saturday October 30.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ A fight witnessed by police, at 1.05am on Sunday October 31, at Queens Park Place, Oban, resulted in a man, aged 33, being arrested and charged with assault. A report will be

submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ Between 6pm on Tuesday October 26 and 6pm on Wednesday October 27, at Glen Lonan, Taynuilt, a car's window wiper was vandalised. Enquiries continue and police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

■ On three separate occasions between Sunday August 1 and Monday November 1, at an address in Barcaldine, people were seen acting suspiciously within private land.

The suspects were driving a dark hatchback. Enquiries continue and police are appealing for witnesses to contact



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# MSP demands action over drop in police numbers

by Sandy Neil  
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Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has urged the Scottish Government to back Scottish Conservative proposals for a Local Policing Act after latest Police Scotland figures revealed that Argyll's police division has lost 28 officers over the last eight years.

Meanwhile its law enforcers have been bolstering the stretched 'centralised' force at COP26 in Glasgow, where around 10,000 officers were needed each day of the two-week conference.

Between 2013 and 2021, the numbers of police officers have been reduced from 570 to 542 in the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division, according to the most recent Police Officer Quarterly Strength fact sheet on September 30.

Overall, Scotland currently has 17,232 police officers, around 100 fewer than in 2013 when the single force of Police Scotland was created. The number of police officers in Scotland could be cut further in 2021, Police Scotland's Chief Constable Iain Livingstone told MSPs earlier this year. Mr Livingstone said reducing numbers this year would be 'imprudent' given

Donald Cameron MSP has urged the government to back a Tory proposal, which he said will put more bobbies on the beat.



the 'unprecedented demand' facing the force.

The force also has a draft plan to work out how many officers it will need in the future. Its much delayed workforce plan, due to be published later this year, is designed to ensure the force's resources match modern law enforcement requirements.

Donald Cameron said: 'Since the SNP centralised the police force we have seen a decline in the number of officers on the beat here.

'Since 2013, according to Police Scotland's own figures, we have lost 28 officers from our local divisional area and this at a time when local people are becoming ever more concerned about levels of crime.

'Our proposal for a Local

Policing Act will put more bobbies on the beat, involve local people in policing decisions and ensure our hardworking officers always have the resources they need, including decent modern police stations which, as we know, remains a significant problem in Argyll.

'SNP policies are all too often focused on the Central Belt and ignore the requirements of more rural areas such as Argyll and Bute.

'That needs to change and a Local Policing Act would help drive a greater focus on combating crime in regions like the one I represent.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'The recruitment and deployment of police officers is a matter for the Chief Constable and

Scotland's national police service allows local divisions across the country to access national and regional resources depending on demand.

'Officer numbers have been maintained and are favourable relative to elsewhere in the UK, with around 32 officers per 10,000 population in Scotland compared to around 23 in England and Wales. Officers received a £700 pay uplift in 2021/22 and a separate non-consolidated payment of £250. This contrasts with England and Wales where the majority of officers received no increase.

'The Scottish Government has increased police funding year-on-year since 2016-17, investing more than £1.3 billion in 2021/22 and more than £10 billion since the creation of Police Scotland in 2013.

'Recorded crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974 and is down 41 per cent since 2006-07 and homicide levels are at their lowest level since 1976.'



The school bus arrived just after the rockfall took place.

## Act now to keep rockfall road open, says councillor

Continued from page 1.

'It's an arterial route into Oban.

'In my view the council needs to act now. Get the work done and then pursue who owns it.'

Back in 2001 Gallanach Road faced possible permanent closure when cracks further along the cliff face, after the Kerrera jetty, revealed about 600 tonnes of unstable rock. Costly mitigation work was opted for instead, putting up

wire meshing to hold back any loose rocks.

After Friday's rockfall the council soon had stability experts on the scene and brought in a drone to assess the situation from above.

Workers from Alchemey Plant and Contracting services on Gallanach Road, who started dismantling the boulder that was blocking the road, had to stop for fear of vibrations bringing more rocks down.



The road has been closed since last Friday.

them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

■ A report is to be sent to the Procurator Fiscal after police charged a man, aged 26, for driving without due care and consideration by overtaking in a 30mph zone in Taynult at 11.22am on Tuesday November 2.

■ Timber railings were stolen from Skinners Shopping Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, sometime between 7.30pm on Sunday October 31 and 7pm on Monday November 1. Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously at Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

■ Police stopped a car travel-

ling at more than the 30mph speed limit in Connel at 9.30pm on Tuesday November 2. A check of the vehicle revealed one of its tyres was below the legal tread depth. The driver, a man aged 23, was charged and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ At 11.30pm on Tuesday November 2 police received a report of a man at an address in Benderloch driving a vehicle without the owner's permission. A man, aged 36, was arrested and charged with the offence along with driving without insurance, driving whilst disqualified and failing to stop at a red light. He was kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

■ A man, aged 36, has been charged with theft after a van was stolen from a driveway at Powel Place, Connel, sometime between 1.30am and 8am on Wednesday November 3. He was also charged with driving without insurance and driving whilst disqualified. He was kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

■ At 3.30am on Wednesday November 3 police were called to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Glegallan Road, Oban, following reports about a patient acting in a threatening and abusive manner towards hospital staff.

A man, aged 27, was charged and kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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What a show we had last Friday – Fireworx Scotland exceeded expectations again this year.

Some of the photographs I've seen on social media have been spectacular, a fantastic reminder of a great show.

Don't forget to go to the LoveOban Facebook page if you have photographs to share, or if you'd like a look at some of the beautiful images captured.

Thanks must also go to the Northern Lighthouse Board for the use of the pier and their ever-obliging staff, the Auxiliary Coastguard who kept us all safe and the irrepressible Campbell Cameron of Oban FM who entertained us as we waited and led the countdown. Without them it wouldn't have been such a magical evening.

Another great event over but we have so much more to look forward to this winter.

As well as Oban Winter Festival approaching at a rate of knots, there are still a couple of weekends before it starts with lots of great music

## WHERE IS THIS?



happening in Markie Dans, The View and The Clarry to name but a few.

We also have some great evenings in The Corran Halls coming up, with Doug Allan charting his 35 years as a natural history filmmaker, and fantastic Scottish author Alex Gray visiting. As well as all that we have our usual fare of quizzes, bingo and weekly clubs, so remember to check out what's happening online at Oban What's On or add your event if you have something coming up.

I'm starting to run out of places to take photographs, so this week's is from a few years ago, but that might not make it any easier. The one last week was the Stevenson Kennedy and OES building in Stevenson Street.

# Aviation businessman airs Mull glamping plan

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

An aviation expert hopes his glamping site on the Isle of Mull will take off after planners gave it the go ahead.

Aerospace engineer Mike Roche, 60, has been based in Malaysia since the mid-1990s but is heading back to the UK to run the new development on the Ross of Mull.

Pennycross Mill will cover 1.5 acres on the peninsula and feature five luxury en-suite timber units all coming complete with under-floor heating, wifi and contemporary kitchens.

Designed by Edinburgh-based Glampitect, the site will also have a pod specifically adapted for guests with disabilities. If all goes smoothly, the site could be open for business by Easter 2022.



**Aerospace engineer Mike Roche has received planning permission for five luxury en-suite timber glamping pods at Pennycross Mill, on the Ross of Mull.**



piece of land on the Isle of Mull has always been in the back of my mind with various ideas.

'The reason I have the land is my parents bought a place there 30 years ago and, of course, fell in love with the place. My sister and I still own the bungalow above the site we're looking to develop.

'When my parents were still living there we were regular visitors to Mull and spent quite a bit of time there with them. It basically became my home in the UK for nearly 20 years as I had nowhere else to go back to, until my father passed away

in 2016,' said Mike, who is originally from Coventry.

When the pandemic struck, he began to think of life outside the aerospace industry and that started the glamping site idea.

Mike continued: 'The pandemic has shown nowhere is remote any more, so I don't see a problem of basing myself in Mull for long periods, if I have to, and working on projects in Malaysia as well.

'The idea of developing the

The high cost of developing housing meant I downgraded my ideas to something like a campsite, or a place where motor homes could set up.

'Having waited for seven or eight months for planning to come through, it was great to finally get the green light.'

Mike says he will be looking to partner up with business owners in the area, the likes of linen and cleaning services, electricians and the local construction trade.

## Duck race raises vital cash for this year's Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance

Oban Rotary Club of Oban president Kees van Rein and junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter handed over a £1,000 cheque to Friends of Oban Hospice stalwarts Catherine MacKechnie and Mary Black recently to assist with postage and printing for this year's Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance, writes Susan Windram.

The money was raised at Oban Rotary Club's annual Duck Race, organised earlier this year by Ciorsti and the Rotary Club Duck Race Committee.

Friends of Oban Hospice are the fundraising arm of Oban Hospice Ltd, which runs the Dove Centre in Stevenson Street. This is the 17th year the hospice has participated in the worldwide Light Up a Life event.

This year also sees a new



**President Kees van Rein and junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter with Catherine MacKechnie and Mary Black from Friends of Oban Hospice.**

initiative starting up at the Dove Centre called Cairdeas, or friendship in Gaelic, which will offer befriending and support services.

### Efforts

President Kees said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban is proud to support everything that is done through the Dove

Centre and to help as much as possible to assist the Friends of Oban Hospice with their huge fundraising efforts.

'Well done to everyone concerned. It's a fantastic thing you do.

'We look forward to hearing how the new Cairdeas Initiative is progressing.'



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# Vaccinations should run smoothly now, says HSCP

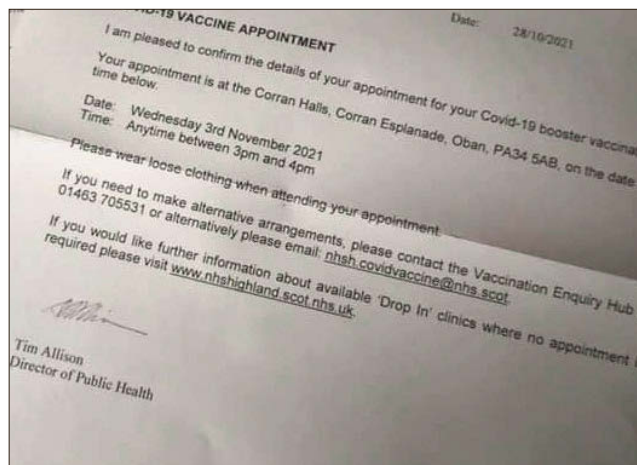
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Covid jag clinics continue to roll out across the district along with a third apology for more mistakes.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) says confusion at the latest Corran Halls booster clinics was the result of it putting out inaccurate information and insists people getting more than 20 copies of the same appointment letter through the post were 'isolated'.

From now on the vaccination programme should run smoothly, the HSCP told The Oban Times.

Earlier this week the health board put out a zero tolerance message on social media as a 'friendly reminder' there is



no excuse for abuse. It said: 'All our members of staff are here to help you. Please treat our staff with the same respect you would expect to receive.'

For booster clinics at the Corran Halls on November 3 and November 4, the HSCP

said it failed to send out 975 invites. Despite it advertising them on social media as drop-ins, the clinics were then changed to 'by letter' appointments, only to be swapped back again when people did not turn up.

Several people reported receiving multiple letters for the same appointment.

A number of older people gave up queuing because they were getting too cold to wait outside. In the end, 1,100 people got their boosters at those two clinics - 125 more than planned. Across Argyll and Bute 5,476 people received their boosters between November 1 and November 7. A series of mis-communications have been made since the HSCP took over delivery from GP practices - including sending out second dose invites to 163 Oban teenagers who were not eligible.

One woman who got 10 invites one day and another 10 letters in the next post for the same Corran Halls clinic said:

'We were surprised when the first 10 invites came through the door but then another 10 arrived the following day.'

'It does seem like a waste of money that the NHS can ill afford right now.'

Similar mistakes have been reported since the HSCP took the jags delivery over from the doctors' surgeries, with many left wondering what will happen next.

NHS Highland is now listing its next mainland clinics, informing people invites could be either by letter or a phone call.

Today, November 11, there is a clinic at Taynuilt Village Hall for village medical practice patients from 9.30am to 4pm, tomorrow November 12 Lorn Medical Centre patients have a clinic at the Corran Halls from 9am to 4pm.

November 15 sees a 9am to 4.45pm over 50s booster and second dose clinic at the Corran Halls, with one for 50s plus boosters at Connel Hall on November 16 from 9am to 4pm for Taynuilt surgery patients.

For the latest information on jag clinics go to [www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx](http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx).

Take note there is a disclaimer on the web page that details are subject to change.

A new helpline number for booster appointments is 0800 6783393.

**YOURSTORY**  
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## Ardfern artwork lights up for COP26 to show rising sea levels

The Ardfern shoreline lit up during COP26 with a laser projection artwork showing sea levels rises if climate change is left unchecked

The art installation, entitled Sea Of Change 79, runs from 6pm to 6.30pm, Monday to Thursday, until the end of the UN climate change summit on Friday November 12.

Lizzie Rose, the artist behind the Sea Of Change 79 artwork, explained: 'I wanted to do something during COP26 to highlight the fact sea levels are rising. I feel it's important, not just for us as a coastal community, but to raise awareness of this happening all over the world. Climate change does not see borders or countries. What we do here affects people, plants and animals everywhere.'

'The installation is in three parts. There are 21 posts for 2100 that should remain 30cm above current high tide. There is the Rising Sea Measure (there are two of them) - to me 2100 felt like another world away - a distant time that I did not connect with. Figures are often given for this time.'

'By connecting this time to how old my family are or will



The Sea of Change 79 Installation during COP 26 in Ardfern.

be (my children will be 79 in 2091) it feels more relevant. I hope people will think about what age their family and friends will be and make a connection to the future. It is 79 years until 2100.

'The laser connects to all of this through words and images. It is run from a solar powered battery and the posts have solar lights on them.'

'I used two quotations from climate.gov as my reference points for the installation. These are reflected in the 21 Posts for 2100 and The Rising Sea Measure - both located on the shore.'

The two quotes are: 'Even if the world follows a low greenhouse gas pathway, global sea

levels will likely rise at least 12 inches (0.30m) above 2000 levels by 2100,' and 'If we follow a pathway with high emissions, a worst case scenario of as much as 8.2 feet (2.5m) above 2000 levels by 2100 cannot be ruled out. This installation is temporary - climate change is not,' she said. 'Things you can do: reduce emissions, reuse and recycle, restore habitats. Thanks to everyone who helped out, at very short notice, to make this happen.'

In particular Lizzie thanked Emma Davie, director of Black Black Oil, the artist and designer Hannah Tofts, Plastic Sea and Matt Walsh for his sound and lighting production.

## Butternut squash soup

A pumpkin shell filled with scrumptious soup

Syn FREE  
Takes 45 minutes  
Serves 4

### Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into wedges
- 1 small potato, peeled and quartered
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 900ml hot vegetable stock
- Fat-free natural fromage frais, to serve

### Method

Spray a large non-stick pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a low heat. Add the onion and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Increase the heat to medium, add the butternut squash and potato and cook for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and season lightly. Pour in the stock and simmer for 25 minutes, or until everything is tender and cooked through.

Using a hand blender or food processor, blend the mixture until smooth. Transfer the soup to a hollowed-out pumpkin (or a large serving bowl!) and top with a swirl of fromage frais and the sliced chillies.



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# Government to help six islands reach net zero

The Scottish Government is doubling the number of islands it will support to become carbon neutral by 2040, five years ahead of mainland Scotland and a decade before the UK, the minister for islands announced at COP26, writes Sandy Neil.

In a speech before delegates from Greenland and the Åland Islands during the UN climate change summit in Glasgow, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands Mairi Gougeon said Holyrood would help six islands to achieve net zero, twice the number announced in September.

The Scottish Government is working towards Scotland becoming net zero by 2045, five years before the UK Government target.

'We are determined for Scotland to lead the race to net zero,' said Ms Gougeon.



Mairi Gougeon.

'Climate change and nature loss are the greatest threats facing people and our planet and we're already seeing the impact of this here in Scotland. Small low-lying islands are under threat from climate change and predicted sea-level rise.

'Climate change is expected to increase instances of flooding and coastal erosion, while simultaneously negatively affecting water supply, food pro-

duction, health, tourism and accelerating habitat depletion. The Dynamic Coast project has sought to map the extent of coastal erosion in Scotland. It has highlighted that a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions is essential – but must be delivered alongside adaptation of coastal infrastructure and communities.

'Islands aren't just a climate problem to solve, but actually could unlock the solutions to the climate challenges we face. Our activity here in Scotland seeks to put islanders in charge of their own carbon destiny.

'There are vast opportunities for island communities to lead the way in showing how to realise our climate change ambitions.

'Both renewable (green) and low-carbon (blue) hydrogen will play an increasingly important role in our energy

transition to net zero in 2045. Many communities have exciting ambitions to be important renewable energy hubs. This includes establishing hydrogen production facilities to make use of the islands' wind, wave and tidal generation capacity.

'We will support not three, but six Scottish islands to become carbon neutral by 2040. By 'carbon neutral', we mean an island where the greenhouse gas emissions, captured as CO2 equivalent, are in balance with the carbon sinks.

'To begin supporting these six islands in their journey towards carbon neutrality, early next summer, we will begin to undertake carbon audits to plan action and track progress.

'We will also continue to consult with communities so that we fully understand the local impacts of carbon neutral solutions.'

## Piper Angus MacColl takes second place at championships

The overall champion of the Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been named as British Columbia piper Jack Lee, inset, beating Benderloch's Angus MacColl into second place.



Third time overall champion, Jack went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the renowned 48th annual competition at Blair Castle to claim the title.

The Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl was crowned runner-up and 2019 title holder Finlay Johnston of Glasgow was third overall and the Piobaireachd winner. The MSR competition winner was William McCallum of Bearsden.

The competition was played out in front of a live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian ballroom and hundreds from around the world who watched the spectacle online.

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay Mac Donald, said:

'The Glenfiddich is solo piping's ultimate prize and this year's competition

yet again set the bar for world-class piping. I would like to extend my warm congratulations to our new champion and to all of the competitors for their excellent performances today.'

This year, participants were selected from the two qualifying events that took place, with Stuart Liddell as the 2020 champion and Callum Beaumont as the overall winner of the Piping Live! Masters Competition. The other competitors were chosen based on previous achievements at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

The competition was topped off with a celebratory Pipers' Ceilidh in Pitlochry.

## Bus talks in drive to improve service on Isle of Mull

Mull could be on the road to improved bus services, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Representatives from West Coast Motors met online with the island's community council last week.

The lack of a Sunday service and an early bus service from the Ross of Mull to Craignure in time for the 8.40am ferry to Oban were on the table for discussion.

No early morning bus means people cannot attend hospital appointments on the mainland any earlier than lunchtime, the meeting heard.

Also no buses on Sunday makes it difficult for students to come home for the weekends, unless they can be sure of a lift back to Craignure.

The meeting heard about one elderly man whose wife was airlifted to hospital on a Sunday but he could not get a bus for a ferry to see her.

'We are the only island on the West Coast that doesn't have a Sunday bus service,' she said.

'I don't think anyone in the community council would disagree this is really penalising people in the Ross of Mull,' said Councillor Devon, who



Councillor Devon.

asked if a subsidy from Argyll and Bute Council could help.

A national shortage of bus drivers is part of the problem the meeting was told.

Councillor Devon added: 'We have to look at a way forward. We have to sit down and find a way - even if it is a small token.'

Young people at Salen waiting for the bus to school are getting drenched, sitting soaked through before they get to class. 'We are going to look at a suitable place where the bus could stop and there could be a shelter put up for them,' said Councillor Devon.

Plans are also afoot to let ferry passengers know there will not always be a bus meeting every boat at Craignure. Letters have been received by the community council from visitors surprised by this.

A notice is also going to go up urging people wanting the 5.15pm bus to Tobermory to wait at the bus shelter opposite until it arrives.

The bus coming from Tobermory has to travel to Lochbuie road end to drop off a small number of children before returning to Craignure for the return trip, picking up passengers from the 3.55pm Oban boat. In winter that bus service is shared with the school run.

There was talk of seeing if the council contract car that meets the bus to take the children down to Lochbuie could pick them up at Craignure instead, which means people wanting the bus back to Tobermory would not have to wait so long.

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# Up, up and away – couple fly house to Easdale plot

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Easdale has taken delivery of its newest house – by air.

It took 23 lifts with a helicopter to carry sections of Ruth Barratt and Dughall Macleod's new home from a loading site at Sea View on Seil.

The couple, whose building plot is up a hill next to the house they just sold, are hoping the basic structure will be up in time for Christmas.

The house, made of structurally insulated panels, started its journey on the back of a lorry from Auchterarder in Perthshire where it was designed and made.

Once unloaded at Sea View, Ruth, who runs Katya Embroidery in Oban, got



For Ruth, inset, and her partner Dughald, having the helicopter meant it only took two-and-a-half hours to fly the kit onto the island, with materials placed exactly where they were needed on the plot.

a helping hand from farmer Seamus Anderson to strap

up the boxes ready to be lifted by Inverness-based PDG helicopter service.

'It was hands-on getting the straps ready for the helicopter...then run. We had to keep well clear of it.

'After the first lift we didn't really have much time to think about it! I was so busy getting

the next load ready I didn't have time to take any photographs but there was a good crowd out on Easdale who had the luxury of time to watch it being flown in,' said Ruth.

The ferryman's house was

the last home to be flown on to Easdale in the 1960s 'when they nearly dropped the roof', said Ruth.

Luckily for Ruth, who is now on the 19th house move of her life, and partner Dughall

their move went without any turbulence, taking about two-and-a-half hours from start to finish.

The pair are now looking forward to the new year when they can move in to their new 'des-res' complete with eco-friendly features and a look in keeping with other quarry workers' cottages on the island.

'It's going to be insulated within an inch of its life. We're going to be so toasty,' said Ruth.

Materials for other new houses on the island have come by sea, but the sums worked for Ruth.

'Having the helicopter meant it could deliver the house parts to the exact spot where we needed them.

'We're up a bit of a hill so it's definitely saved us a lot of heaving and hauling.'

**A wee reminder.**

**Let's stop the spike.**

NHSinform.scot/testing

OT

# Bonfire night was real blast

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Crowds turning out for community bonfires and fireworks displays had an absolute blast at the weekend.

Oban's esplanade was full of families and fun-seekers on Friday wanting the best view of the explosive action that lit up the night sky across the bay.

Thousands of people watched the display brought to the town by BID4Oban with £6,000 funding from Scottish Sea Farms.

BID's Kay MacDonald said the event was 'joyous.'

'People were just so excited to have an event like this to attend. You could feel it in the air. It was joyous. Many thanks to Oban FM for the countdown and music, to Scottish Sea Farms for the funding help again this year, and to the Northern Lighthouse Board for letting us use their yard to set off the fireworks. We couldn't have

done it without them.'

Despite high winds and a drenching on Saturday, the weather dried out for Dunbeg's bonfire and fireworks that drew hundreds of people.

Volunteers pulled out all the stops to make the event, organised by Dunbeg Development Group, a roaring success, with one of the sparkliest stars on the night was light juggler Nicky McInnes who entertained onlookers.

Donations from the night are still being totted up but organisers are confident it will cover costs.

'The fireworks cost us £1,300 and it was an extra £300 for all the other bits, but as long as we cover that – and I'm sure we will – and people have had a good night then we're happy with that,' said one of the organisers James MacDonald.

Any extra money will go towards a new village hall.

'Everyone stayed safe which

was a big priority for us. We also noticed there weren't any random fireworks going off or fires in the village which helped keep people out of harm's way,' added Mr MacDonald.

In Taynuilt, youngsters accompanied by adults were handed free sparklers at the bonfire and fireworks display on the sports pavilion field organised by Taynuilt Community Council and volunteers.

Community council convenor David Sloss said: 'It went off without a hitch, it was well-attended and there was no shortage of sparklers! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and came along.'

And there was an extra thanks to people who took their litter home with them.

'We noticed there wasn't as much litter to clear up as in previous years so that was very much appreciated by helpers,' David added.

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



Fireworks light up the night sky above Oban, above and right.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

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11

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SAT DEC  
11

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WED NOV  
17

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31

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Juggler Nicky McInnes juggles the light fantastic at Dunbeg. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn; and above right, Ayda Douglas, eight, and Perrie Douglas, nine, with sparkler at Oban fireworks display.



Above right, Taynuilt Bonfire attracted a big crowd in the sports pavilion field. Photograph: Eilidh Livingstone



Oban's firework display was a 'joyous' occasions, according to Kay McDonald of BID4Oban. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

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OT

## Serious road accidents halved in Argyll during pandemic

Road accidents in Argyll & Bute halved in 2020 compared to the previous year, according to the latest government figures.

The Reported Road Casualties publication released by Transport Scotland statisticians provides finalised figures for the number of people injured or killed as a result of road accidents.

The number of fatal and serious casualties on all of Argyll & Bute's roads fell from 83 in 2019 down to 37 in 2020, while all severities of injuries also dropped from 211 to 120 in the same period.

However the number of fatalities only reduced slightly, from nine in 2019 down to seven in 2020. In a year where travel habits were significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, 141 people were killed in reported road accidents in Scotland in 2020, 25 fewer than in 2019.

'The casualty reductions will have been significantly influenced by the general

reduction in motor traffic seen over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic,' said Transport Scotland. 'The Department for Transport estimate that motor traffic volume dropped by 23 per cent in Scotland in 2020 compared with 2019.'

There was a significant drop in the overall number of

### Pre-Covid, Scotland was not on track to cut serious injuries.

casualties, which fell by 35 per cent between 2019 and 2020 from 7,745 to 5,040, the lowest number since records began.

Compared to 2019, the total reported casualties decreased across all modes except pedal cyclists which increased by two per cent. As context for this increase, cycling on the Scottish road network is estimated to have increased by 61 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019.

'In February, the Scottish

Government published a new road safety framework running until 2030,' Transport Scotland said. 'The previous road safety framework ran until 2020 and contained five national casualty reduction targets for 2020. All five targets have been met. Prior to the casualty reductions seen in 2020, Scotland was not on track to meet the two targets relating to serious injuries.'

Car driver accident rates per head of population varied markedly by age and sex. In 2020, the overall rate was 1 accident per thousand population aged 17+. The highest rate was for males in the 17-25 age group, with a rate of 1.9 per thousand population in 2020. This rate is one and a half times those of females of the same age (1.2 per thousand in 2020).

The latest available estimates suggest that the number of drink-drive accidents fell by 57 per cent between 2009 and 2019: from 530 accidents to 230.

## The day Amazonians to help protect Argyll

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Lochgoilhead is not the first place you'd expect to meet tribespeople from the Amazonian rainforest, but they are here for COP26, to help save Scotland's own vanishing rainforest.

The ceremony in Cormonachan Community Woodland and Lochgoilhead Village Hall on November 7, organised by Raleigh International and the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, brought together environmental activists from Scotland and the Amazon 'to share in a sacred blessing of Scotland's rainforest by indigenous representatives from Association Jiboiana'.

Jiboiana, a South American environmental conservation group, supported a delegation of five indigenous leaders from



Five indigenous leaders from the Amazon spoke to world leaders at COP26.

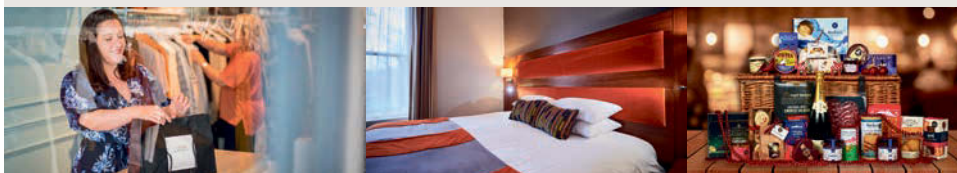
five different tribes to travel from the heart of the Amazon to speak to world leaders at COP26, and 'most importantly, to thousands of people in Europe about the tragic situation of the Amazon and of its guardians', it said.

'They are frontline populations: among the first to be confronted with climate change

and related environmental disasters, but also the first to be on the front to mitigate related crisis. Since they have been preserving and living in harmony within the Amazon for thousands of years, we believe it is time that they have their voices and ancestral wisdom heard - reminding us that humanity is neither superior nor

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# Oban tribes came Argyll's rainforests

separated from Nature, but an integral part of it.

Their knowledge of nature and understanding of its sacredness may help us find other possible ways of co-existing on Earth: Voices for a post-modern world as an alternative to a system that seeks endlessly profit and encourages the reckless exploitation of ecosystems.

'Co-creating humanitarian and environmental projects with indigenous peoples is both wonderful and necessary, but clearly insufficient to change the roots of why these projects are called for in the first place: racism, discrimination, poverty, lack of recognition for their role of guardians of Nature.

Indigenous peoples represent only five per cent of the global population yet they protect 80 per cent of the biodiversity on Earth. Just these two numbers show us the incredible extent of their importance in what is

the greatest challenge of our time: changing our way of thinking in the hopes of living and thriving in harmony with the Earth. These leaders from the Amazon will show that all forests need to be protected. Because Scotland's forests have been dramatically damaged over the centuries, they would see what the Amazon could become if we don't act altogether.'

Scotland's rainforest is a rare and endangered habitat. It's as important as tropical rainforest, but even rarer. The conditions to support this coastal temperate rainforest occur on less than one per cent of the globe's surface.

Scotland's rainforest, also known as Atlantic woodland and Celtic rainforest, is special, containing trees dripping with lichens and rocks clad with abundant mosses. These native woodlands are found on our West Coast where there is high

rainfall and relatively mild, year-round temperatures.

But Scotland's rainforest is in trouble. As little as 30,000 hectares remain – a mere two per cent of Scotland's woodland cover and only one fifth of the area that has climatic conditions suitable for rainforest.

The remnant oak, birch, ash, native pine and hazel woodlands are small, fragmented and isolated from each other. Almost all show little or no regeneration due to high levels of grazing; almost half are being choked with Rhododendron ponticum and a fifth have been planted with exotic conifer plantations. They also face threats from diseases like ash dieback; as well as nitrogen pollution, infrastructure development and climate change.

Visit Scotland's rainforests at Tainish, Glasdrum Wood, Ariundle Oakwood and Beinn Eighe.

# Winter Festival to turn McCaig's Tower into outdoor gallery

All eyes will be on Oban when the winter festival comes to town.

Iconic McCaig's Tower will be lighting up during the seasonal hoe-down of fun.

Photographers and contributors from the area are collaborating with festival organisers to project some of their best images onto the inside of the tower walls turning it into a wander-through gallery.

The free event will run from Tuesday November 23 to Thursday November 25, 4pm to 8.30pm.

Under-12s must be accompanied by adults and people are being asked to bring a torch and stick to the set routes.

The giant projections will include coastal shots, landscapes, community spirit, winter scenes and shots from the natural world, as well as images from children's competitions plus lots more.

The festival's markets are all booked up by stallholders and makers across the district are busy getting ready for the



Images will be projected onto the tower during the festival.

doors opening on Saturday November 20 at Oban Distillery and at the Corran Halls then again on Saturday November 27 at Oban Distillery and The View.

The Perle Hotel will be serving up festive afternoon teas both weekends with a Turkish twist on the last Saturday and Sunday.

The Winter Festival's late-night shopping evening will be on Thursday November 25.

A Winter Festival spokesperson said: 'There's lot of work

going on behind the scenes to make this a festival to remember with lots of events happening across the town.'

Check out next week's Oban Times to see a full programme of events covering the ten-days from November 19 to November 27.

**READMORE**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Blas festival 2021 November 19-27 Samhain

Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council

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Saturday 20 November - Astley Hall, Arisaig @ 7.30pm  
Tim Edey & Ross Ainslie and WHYTE in concert

Saturday 20 November - Caol Community Centre @ 7.30pm  
Cèilidh-Dance with Monach Isles Cèilidh Band and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

Monday 22 November - Roybridge Memorial Hall @ 7.30pm  
Buaidh nam Ban featuring Kim Carnie, Megan Henderson, James MacIntosh, Sorren Maclean & Brian McAlpine and Brìghde Chaimbeul & Aidan O' Rourke

Friday 26 November - Glengarry Community Hall @ 7.30pm  
Aonghas Grannd aig 90 - marking the significant birthday of the celebrated fiddler with former pupils including Allan Henderson, Ingrid Henderson, Sarah Jayne Shankland, Eilidh Shaw & Kevin Cameron

Saturday 27 November - Highland Cinema, Fort William  
6pm (with dinner) & 9pm (no dinner)  
Gary Innes and Ewen Henderson + Special Guest

Fiosrachadh [www.blas.scot](http://www.blas.scot) for details of events

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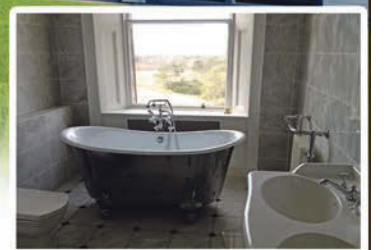
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OT

## TRIBUTE LACHLAN RODERICK EWEN ROBERTSON – 29/8/59 – 24/06/21

Here's a health to the fishermen  
who plough the lonely sea

And battle with the ocean  
where it's in their blood to be.

Dear the fruitful bounty of the  
blind and savage foam.

They're the last of the hunters,  
and they're proudly sailing  
home.

The sea is beautiful, powerful,  
heartless, enchanting, cruel  
and kind in equal measure.

On the evening of June 24 this year it dealt a devastating blow to the west coast of Scotland when it took the life of well-known Mallaig fisherman, musician and renowned character and gentleman Lachie Robertson.

I wrote about my friend, Lachie, in August 2019 in an article for The Oban Times to mark his 60th birthday. It is a very strange feeling to put pen to paper again about this legendary man in such a tragically different context.

Here are the opening paragraphs from that piece: 'For nearly four years now, I have been shooting away my weekly articles to The Oban Times and, as regular readers will know, the subject matters



hold certain common themes. Among the foremost-featured areas have been music, boats, fishing, anniversaries and birthdays, providential coincidence, Highland hospitality,

**'The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.'**

the Mod, music festivals, Gaelic language and culture, good ceilidhs and well-known characters of the west coast. This week's offering covers a man who encapsulates all of the above.

'I have known Lachie Robertson from Mallaig for 20 years and many a good escapade we have had together. This Thursday, Lachie will turn 60, as too - if my memory serves me correctly - will his Danish-built fishing boat Reul a' Chuain (Star of the Sea). As this paper will be published that day, I thought it fitting to celebrate the aligning of dates and stars and write about this well-known west coast character, piper, fisherman, expert host and ceilidh maker.'

The contrast in the emotion felt in writing his obituary compared to that happy article two years ago to celebrate his birthday is vast and the change of circumstance is difficult to comprehend.

Lachie had a positive effect on the lives of many people and was as widely liked and revered a human being as one could ever meet.

Known for both his hard work as a fisherman and a fulfilling social, musical and home life, he was someone whose company was always sought out and always enjoyed. For Lachie, there was an open door, a welcome and a bed in houses across the country, the islands and across many walks of life. Likewise, his own door was always open to welcome others.

Lachie's early years were spent in the Scottish borders with primary school days at Canonbie, then secondary at Langholm Academy, with most holidays spent in Elgol on the Isle of Skye where his father was from. His natural attributes and abilities were evident during his school years and as well as being the athletics champion, he was selected as the school's head boy.

From knowing Lachie and from hearing of his earlier years, it is clear he would have excelled in whatever area of work-life he chose to follow, but it was the call of the sea that would give Lachie his life-long vocation.

After leaving school, he took what was to be a temporary holiday job working on the

Olive Branch, fishing out of Mallaig with Jock Summers.

Fishing and the enchantment of the sea gripped him and after some time working on other boats including the Solon with Alex 'Baitch' MacDonald, and getting his skipper's ticket, Lachie had his first boat, the Elizabeth Anne, built. The Danish-built Nighean Donn and his last boat, Reul a' Chuain, were to follow.

Lachie also spent a few years running sea trips on the fast, rigid inflatable Brightwater. My uncle and I bought Brightwater from him before he went back to fishing full time and the night Lachie delivered her down to Oban for us was the setting for a great night of drams and celebration.

Between fishing and running the Brightwater, Lachie also studied for and obtained a degree in Gaelic from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

It is difficult to convey fully just how special a human being was Lachie, and various attempts at writing this obituary, I have felt, were just not hitting the right resonance and giving a true picture of the man he was. With that in mind, I have reverted to verse to try to create a more vivid picture of this unique and wonderful man.

### Lachie

*Some walk the earth and have little effect, and pass like a ship in the night*

*But some have the gift of love to collect, and the beam of a magical light.*

*From a Cardinal Buoy guiding all who came near, from the North, East, South and from West*

*Came Lachie's bright beam telling, 'Deep water here', of friendship from one of the best.*

*A hard-working man whose world was the sea, of long days and nights at the wheel*

*Of shoot, tow and haul and born to be, a skipper of strength and of steel;*

*Steaming for home at the end of the trip, and the peace of being tied at the pier*

*The landing ashore, and hose down the ship, and mending and sorting the gear.*

*Then the Lachie most knew, Lachie ashore, a man of family*

and home -

*Warmth and love to the depth of his core when not fishing the merciless foam*

*Or a pint with the boys and a toast to the sea, some drams and a verse of a song*

*And the wondering lust for a tune and spree, in a blink the session was on!*

*To Mods he would travel on the pull of the tide, festivals, parties or fèis.*

*His passion for music he spread far and wide, as the nights moved into the days.*

*His pipes striking up and hitting the notes of richness and wonder of life*

*He played them on piers, at parties, or boats, and blessed many a husband and wife!*

*His nature was kind and always to give, and always the good he would see.*

*With a wonderful mind, he knew how to live, his company easy and free.*

*He emitted a warmth of goodness and trust, of decency, mischief and fun*

*And tomorrow could wait till next week if it must, if the tunes they welcomed the sun.*

*His magic would spread to all who he'd know, and the better for knowing him we are*

*Like his own Reul a' Chuain eternal the glow, of the gift of Lachie's bright star.*

*Now he's moved on but his spirit's not gone, he'll be here long into the years*

*And with laughter and song and tunes all night long, here's to Lachie with joy in our tears.*

The night Lachie was lost, I was sitting in the Heathbank Hotel in Northbay, Barra, with my friend and partner in fishing, Donald Uileam MacLeod (Copper Top). Word had reached Donald that there had been an incident on Reul a' Chuain and that Lachie had been in the water. A short while later the dreadful news came that, as Donald put it at the time, 'he didn't make it'.

The shock we felt that night would have been felt far and wide as the news spread. The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.

Lachie is survived by his daughters Kenna and Rachael and their mother Niki, his partner Fiona, his brother Donald and his sister Catriona.

**Angus MacPhail,  
Skipinnish.**

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# £2M boost for Argyll economy, plus £175k for Oban drone hub

Argyll and Bute is set to benefit from over £2 million of UK Community Renewal Funding, writes Sandy Neil.

Part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Agenda, funding will stimulate growth in the area and help deliver community projects.

Argyll and Bute Council submitted the bids to the UK Government on behalf of organisations and council services who are investing in skills, place making, the community and supporting people into employment.

The award of £2 million is one of the largest in Scotland, and came from a total allocation of £18.4 million.

Successful initiatives include £407,715 for the new Seaweed Academy, helping to create the UK's only dedicated seaweed industry facility, near Oban, offering training, education and business development.

Nearly £175,000 will also go to the West Coast UAV Innovation Logistics and Training Hub in Oban, after successfully trialling unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) or drones to transport medical supplies to islands. Funding will commission a business case to support the further use of drones.

Almost £185,000 has also been given to MACC Hydrogen Futures – a feasibility and



Nearly £175,000 will commission a business case to support the further use of drones to transport medical supplies to the islands.

design project to help establish a green hydrogen production and distribution facility at the Machrihanish Airbase outside of Campbeltown.

Funding of £359,652 will help expand the Dunoon Project team looking to develop a nearby forest into a world class tourism offering. Meanwhile in Tarbert, £262,395 will help establish a team to complete business plans and planning applications as a prelude to a £13 million transformation project to regenerate the town.

A similar sum of £265,200, to aid access to ethical and responsible means of carbon sequestration, will be made available to organisations looking to offset their carbon emissions.

A further £102,000 will go towards curriculum development for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Hubs projects, while £275,253 will help drive economic

growth through a bounce back curriculum that includes employer focused education and training in remote and rural areas.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for the economy and economic growth, said:

'Fostering innovation and expertise across Argyll and Bute is absolutely essential in attracting more jobs and investment to the area.

'We are delighted with the scale of the award for the area which will help drive positive change improving places for our communities and attracting further investment.

'The council works hard to source and secure funding opportunities to help grow the area. We are pleased that the hard work has paid off and communities will benefit from a range of innovative projects. We look forward to showcasing the very best Argyll and Bute can offer.'

# Call for volunteer tour guides

Oban is on the look out for more tour guides to show off the town's sights, Kathie Griffiths.

Port of Oban Cruise Group wants to boost its number of yellow badge-trained guides ready for the return of cruise ships next year.

Since the first cohort of guides, officially badged by the Scottish Tourism Guides Association (STGA), stepped out in May 2018 some of them have retired, moved away or gone to university leaving vacancies to be filled.

Working alongside BID4Oban, Port of Oban Cruise Group chairman Rab Black is raring to go on a recruitment drive and is feeling optimistic.

'We are well placed to offer cruise ship passengers guided walking tours of Oban and we're delighted to be back in talks with Patricia Bain who heads up training for STGA.

'With Patricia's help we produced 12 yellow badge guides in 2018 and with some now retired, others away at university or moved permanently, it's the right time to look at increasing our numbers so we're ready



Cruise ship in Oban Bay.

when more cruise ships return next season,' he said.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence is also confident that new guides will be in place for spring 2022 ready and waiting to welcome back cruise passengers.

Signs are that cruise line operators will be offering longer port stays in the future which would be good news for Oban businesses.

BIDS4Oban and Port of Oban Cruise Group say they are determined that Oban will be front of mind when cruise lines are planning forward

their itineraries.

An open evening will be held early next year for anyone interested in training as yellow badge walking tour guide.

Places will be offered by an interview panel and successful candidates will be expected to be available for walking tours throughout the season.

Training is likely to take place in late March, early April, with a mix of classroom learning, practical skills and home study.

Interested? Watch out for more information to come later this year.

## LORN HEALTHY OPTIONS WEEKLY TIP

### It's not all about the bodyweight

We all know that holding excessive body weight can be damaging in the long term and increase our risk of developing long-term health conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis and cardiovascular disease.

When it comes to reducing excessive body weight and the risk of unwanted health problems many will immediately opt for the diet route alone and by doing so, they are perhaps unwittingly choosing the most difficult path ahead.

When it comes to reducing the risk of long-term health conditions and the likelihood of suffering a life-threatening or life-changing event, we need to look at a slightly bigger

picture. Along with a sensible approach to nutrition we know that those who keep themselves fit, eat a range of fruit and vegetables and limit their smoking and alcohol intake can significantly reduce their likelihood of death at any particular time. Interestingly when we talk about 'keeping fit' we are not talking about competing in triathlons, more like a half hour of walking each day. Instead of the huge effort required to continually limit calories through a strict diet, perhaps a better approach would be to apply a little focus to each of the lifestyle adaptations mentioned above. In fact, research shows that overweight or obese individ-



uals who do so exhibit the same risk of a life ending health problem as those who are a healthy weight.

So perhaps we all too often try to grasp the problem by the wrong end and make success difficult through a strict calorie-controlled diet which requires 24hrs a day effort and discomfort. A half hour walk each day is much more achievable and even if you don't find it the most enjoyable part of your day, it is only half an hour.

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

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



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OT

# Rural rally cry for members

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The Rural is coming out of Covid with a rallying cry for new members to join its institutions.

With 14 institutes across Argyll, from Appin down to Southend by Campbeltown, boosting its women-only membership is much on the mind of Brenda MacLeod – fourth-time president of the Scottish Women Institute's (SWI) Argyll Federation.

It was thanks to her farmer husband that she join the SWI almost 40 years ago, discovering a world of friendship and learning new skills that still keep on coming.

There is much more to it than making the perfect scone or knitting a cosy hat, says Brenda. It is a community where women can have fun and make friends while learning, sharing and socialising together. Raising awareness of issues affecting women and campaigning to influence government is also on the priority list.

'My husband's mum had been in the Rural, that's how I got into it. I didn't know many people when I first came to Appin and was on the farm by myself a lot. I think he wanted me out from under his feet and thought it would be a good way of meeting others. My first time away in Oban at the Rural and he went and broke his



The SWI offers A programme of demonstrations, speakers, classes and competitions brings plenty of variety throughout the year; left, this is Brenda MacLeod's fourth time as Appin SWI's president.



leg!' said Brenda. A lesser woman might have taken that as a bad omen but Brenda was not put off and soon was volunteering for various roles with the Rural that took her from village to regional and national levels of officialdom. 'Suddenly I wasn't just Willie's wife or the children's mum – I was me!' said Brenda.

Although the SWI no longer has a central council to govern it, there are trustees and now Federation Committees for homeskills and handicrafts, education and finance.

Each year there is a central AGM but otherwise area federations are run independently with their own a president, treasurer and vice-president as honorary posts – only the secretary gets paid.

'We're not just about making jam – we still make it, of course, but there's lots more

to us than that. While we have our traditions, we also want to move with the times. We know it's important to attract new members to keep us fresh,' said Brenda, who is already working with others on the Federation's show for next year at the Corran Halls.

'We're hoping it will be third time lucky after Covid. After all that extra time to perfect our skills it should be a really impressive show!' she added.

A programme of demonstrations, speakers, classes and competitions brings plenty of variety throughout the year. One of Brenda's speciality subjects is microwave cooking – even though she has a Rayburn at home. Although it might horrify some of the earliest Rural members, the lemon curd you can ping up in just five minutes would soon win them over, she says.

In Argyll there are 270 members, the oldest are in their 90s, some are in their



40s and the rest are mainly in between.

'Some institutes manage to attract younger members. We don't seem to do that here in Argyll. I don't know if it because we are in more remote areas and it takes more effort to get to meetings than for those living in towns. Some meet in pubs and restaurants whoever will let them in! We don't have quite as many options as that here.

'Any woman can come along and join us, any age but it is women-only – it's been to court to make sure we can still say that! Our retiring

chief executive is a man – Raymond Pratt. He has done a lot of modernising and there have been changes. I think personally he has been good for us,' said Brenda.

The new CEO taking over in December is Diana Cooper. 'We're hoping she will be equally dynamic,' said Brenda.

Created by women for women in 1917, the Rural is definitely not beyond having its adventures and that could include starting up meetings for young members called the Junior Dippers – something that Brenda would like to see

happen in Argyll to bring on the next generation.

Her own adventures with the Rural have taken her to plush garden parties and receptions at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood, and a couple of trips to London – she was also shortlisted for a TV show. She didn't quite make the screen herself but Southend's Elizabeth Semple did – her cloutie dumpling was a hit with viewers.

Interested in joining? Email Brenda at lurignish@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 01631 730365 to find out about your nearest meeting.

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**Around the markets**

**United Auctions, Tیره, Tuesday**

**November 2:** sold 682 suckled calves and store cattle and 77 breeding cattle. Bullocks sold to £1280 for a 635kg, AAX from A Lamont, Croish to average £817.60. Heifers sold to £1200 for a 567kg, CHx from M/s MacKinnon, 4 Kilkenneth to average £702.19.

Bullocks sold to 316p/kg for 3, 215kg, LIMx from G Campbell, Garaphail to average 240.5p/kg and heifers sold to 296p/kg for 3, 261kg LIMx from E MacKinnon, Hillcrest to average 226.53p/kg. Farrow cows sold to £1350 for a SALx from Drumaglea and incalf heifers sold to £1200 for a SALx from the same home.

A large turnout of buyers was in attendance and all classes of stock sold well and comparing well to current mainland levels. In general, although stock was presented in good bloom, most lots were lighter on the year.

**LEADING LOTS & PRICES**

**TOP PRICES PER HEAD**

**BULLOCKS** – AAX – £1280, Croish; £1200(2), Whitehouse; £1150(4), Croish; £1140, Hillcrest; £1120, 9 Barrapol; £1080(2), Croish; £1065, Heylipol Farm; £1050, Croish; £1050(2), 5 Balevullin; £1030, Whitehouse; £1000, Heylipol Farm. **BSHx** – £1080, £1060, 13 Moss. **BRBx** –

£1080, Ruaig. **CHARx** – £1270, £1220(3), 4 Kilkenneth; £1190, £1170, Heylipol Farm; £1130, Drumaglea; £1110, £1100(3), £1090, 4 Kilkenneth; £1060, £1050, Salum; £1050, Heylipol Farm; £1050, £1020, 4 Kilkenneth; £1010, Salum; £1010, Heylipol Farm. **LIMx** – £1120(2), Lochside; £1115, Heylipol Farm; £1110, Whitehouse; £1105(2), Heylipol Farm; £1100, 4 Kilkenneth; £1080, Hillcrest; £1080(2), £1045, Heylipol Farm; £1020, Ardmay; £1020(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £1000, Garaphail; £1000, Hillcrest. **SALx** – £1040(4), Druimasaidh; £1010(2), Drumaglea; £970, 2/15 Balevullin; £925, 3 Kenovay. **SIMx** – £1070, £1030, Vaul. **HEIFERS** – AAX – £1150, £1050(2), Hillcrest; £990(3), Croish; £960, Hillcrest. **BSHx** – £930, £900, 13 Moss. **CHARx** – £1200, 4 Kilkenneth; £1090, Salum; £1075(2), £1070, £1060(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £1050, Salum; £1000(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £960, Heylipol Farm; £950, Garaphail; £900(4), Salum. **LIMx** – £1170, Hillcrest; £1130, 7 Balinoe; £1070, 4 Kilkenneth; £1045, £1000, Heylipol Farm; £950, 12 Crossapol; £940, 7 Balinoe; £910, 6 Barrapol. **SALx** – £830, Mainroad; £820, 8 Cornaigbeg; £800, 5 Balevullin. **SIMx** – £980, Hillcrest; £940, 7 Kilkenneth; £940, Vaul; £920, Ardeas.

**LEADING PRICES PER KILO**  
**BULLOCKS** – AAX – 275p, 270p, Heylipol Farm; 270p(4), 269p(9), Scarinish Farm;

264p(4), Heylipol Farm; 264p, 6 Barrapol; 261p(3), 260p, Heylipol Farm. **BRBx** – 236p, 3A Caolis; 223p, Ruaig. **CHARx** – 314p, Garaphail; 304p(3), Ruaig; 292p(3), Salum; 290p(3), Garaphail; 285p, Salum; 276p, 4 Kilkenneth; 270p(3), Heylipol Farm; 269p(2), Garaphail; 266p(3), Heylipol Farm; 265p(3), 264p(2), Garaphail; 261p(2), Heylipol Farm. **LIMx** – 316p(3), Garaphail; 314p, 7 Balinoe; 302p(3), 1 Kilkenneth; 298p, 6 Barrapol; 296p, Lochside; 295p, 9 Barrapol; 295p(2), 6 Balevullin; 293p, Garaphail; 292p(2), 290p, 2 Heylipol; 288p, Garaphail; 287p, Lochside; 280p, Hillcrest; 278p, Lochside; 278p, 6 Barrapol; 277p, 12 Crossapol; 271p, Lochside. **SALx** – 263p(2), 254p, Hough; 251p(5), Mainroad; 251p(2), 6 Crossapol. **SIMx** – 282p, 3 Middleton; 282p, 10 Crossapol; 272p, 3 Middleton; 271p(2), 10 Crossapol; 267p, 4 Heanish; 259p, 10 Crossapol; 256p, 3A Caolis; 256p(2), Vaul; 256p, 4 Heanish. **HEIFERS** – AAX – 255p(3), Scarinish Farm; 253p, Whitehouse; 246p(2), 6 Barrapol. **CHARx** – 276p, Garaphail; 270p(7), Ruaig; 269p(4), Salum; 267p(2), 260p(5), 254p(2), 252p(2), Heylipol Farm; 251p(3), 240p(3), Ruaig. **LIMx** – 296p(3), Hillcrest; 294p, Parkhouse; 276p(4), 275p, Garaphail; 273p,

Mannal; 271p, 6 Barrapol; 269p, 2 Heylipol; 268p, Hillcrest; 264p(3), 2 Heylipol; 263p(3), Parkhouse; 257p, 2 Heylipol; 254p, Mannal; 254p, 2 Heylipol; 252p, Parkhouse. **SALx** – 261p(4), Mainroad; 256p, 8 Balevullin; 255p(2), Scarinish Farm; 251p, Mainroad. **SIMx** – 266p, 256p, 10 Crossapol. **INCALF HEIFERS** – LIMx – £1100, £1080, Heylipol Farm. **SALx** – £1200, Drumaglea. **FARROW COWS** – AAX – £1080, Heylipol Farm; £990, £980, 8 Cornaigbeg; £960, Heylipol Farm; £930, Parkhouse; £900, Hillcrest. **LIMx** – £1210, Vaul; £1140, Druimasaidh; £1130, Parkhouse; £1060, 4 Kilkenneth; £960, Heylipol Farm; £920, Hillcrest; £900, 4 Kilkenneth. **SALx** – £1350, Drumaglea; £900, Parkhouse. **SIMx** – £900, Vaul. **FARROW COWS** – AAX – 145p, Heylipol Farm; 135p, 133p, 8 Cornaigbeg. **LIMx** – 147p, 137p, 4 Kilkenneth. **SALx** – 150p, Parkhouse; 149p, Drumaglea. **SIMx** – £151p, 2 Heylipol; 138p, Ruaig.

**Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, Fort William, Friday November 5:** sold 474 Rams at its annual sale. "It was certainly a sale of fireworks and bangs where the Blackface tup entry saw the trade set alight from start to finish, with over 60 '4 figure' prices achieved."

Blackface ram lambs (74) averaged £564.59 and sold to £3,200 gross from Elmscleugh, Dunbar. Blackface Shearlings (245) averaged 497.43 and sold to £4,500 gross from Dalchirla Farm, Muthill. Blackface Two Sears (45) averaged £346.67 and sold to £1,000 gross from Dunalastair Estate. Blackface Three Sears (26) averaged £342.31 and sold to £800 gross from Dalbuiack, Carrbridge. Blackface Aged (3) averaged £316.67 and sold to £550 gross from Balrazzie. Texel Rams (22) averaged £370 and sold to £700 gross from Crookston, Heriot. Suffolk Rams (1) sold to £200 from Newton of Crathie, Ballater. Cross Rams (9) averaged £452.22 and sold to £1,000 gross from Balmaglaster, Spean Bridge (Cameron). Blue Faced Leicester (3) averaged £850 and sold to £1,000 gross from Crookston. Cheviot Rams (41) averaged £357.32 and sold to £900 gross (twice) from Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell & Balmaglaster (Cameron). Swale Rams (3) averaged £243.33 and sold to £450 gross from Cara View, Argyll. Berrichon Rams (2) averaged £325 and sold to £350 gross from Camoquholm. Other leading prices per head:

BF ram Lambs: Allanfauld, Kilsyth, £3,000, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk, £3,000, £1,500 & £1,200; Auchnalongford, £2,400, £2,100 & £1,100, Midlock, £2,000, Elmscleugh, £1,400 & £1,200, Greenside, £1,200, Dalchirla, £1,200, Killoch, £1,000. BF Shearlings: Elmscleugh, £3,000, £1,700 & £1,000, Dalchirla, £2,500, £1,800, £1,600, £1,400 & £1,000, Midlock, £2,000 & £1,700, Clashnoir, £1,500 (twice) & £1,050, The Beeches, £1,400. BF Two Sears: Dunalastair Estate, £1,000 & £450 (twice), Craig Farm, £800, Shenlarich, £700 (twice), £550 & £450, Aitkenhead, £600 & £500. BF Three Sears: Dalbuiack, £800, Aitkenhead, £600, Dall Farm, £500 & £400, Croughly, £450, Burnfoot, £400 (twice), Knockandhu, £400, Castles Estate, £400. Texel Rams: Crookston, £700, £600 & £550 & £400, Hill of Errol, £650 & £550, Veltigar, £380 & £350, Ardchatten, £350, Bracklin, £350. Cross Rams: Balmaglaster (Cameron), £900, £800 & £500, Bracklin, £300. BFL Rams: Crookston, £900 & £650. Cheviot Rams: Keppoch, £550 (twice) & £450, Balmaglaster (Cameron), £600, £550 (twice), £500 & £450, Wood Cottage Croft, £650 & £450, Bracklin, £450 (twice), Craigview, £400.

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Are you up for a monster of a challenge?

How about taking on 96kms, four lochs and one monster all in four days?

Bereaved families charity Anam Cara Fasgadh is looking for a team of canoeists and kayakers who are up for the epic challenge next April, paddling from the Atlantic to the North Sea via the Great Glen.

The mission from Banavie to Inverness via Loch Ness is being hosted by Dunbeg's Susan Simpson who is a co-founder of Anam Cara Fasgadh, working towards providing free breaks for families bereaved through the death of a child, baby, or young person.

There is room for 20 taker, open to 12-year-olds and over – but under-16s must have an adult with them.

Equipment and a guide are provided but anyone taking part will be expected to bring their own camping gear and be self sufficient – that



Anam Cara Fasgadh co-founders Susan and Andrew Simpson at Tralee Bay Holidays, the site of the charity's first caravan.

includes carrying your own equipment in dry bags.

To find out more go to [anam-cara-fasgadh-great-glen-challenge.eventbrite.co.uk](http://anam-cara-fasgadh-great-glen-challenge.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Bonnie Banks lay-by litter bin scheme a success

In a move to tackle Loch Lomond's chronic litter problems following the easing of COVID 19 travel restrictions, conservation charity Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs introduced a pilot litter bin scheme in laybys along the busy 13-mile stretch of the A82 between Arden and Tarbet over the summer.

This has been a great success, with 15 tonnes of litter collected by the 20 new bins, and an

impressive 97 per cent of this waste being recycled instead of strewn along road verges and in laybys. This equates to a staggering 4,000 bags of litter collected overall with 3,880 bags of litter being recycled. The road is one of the busiest routes in Scotland with more than six million vehicle movements annually. The funding was provided by NatureScot and the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust.

## A touch of romance for Seil concerts

Netherlorn Music Scheme (NeMS) emerges after lockdown with two concerts later this month by the Resol String Quartet and the saxophonist Richard Schofield.

The five performers from America, Catalonia, England, Japan and Scotland who recently completed their postgraduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will be offering a short programme of specially-arranged pieces by well-known composers such as Vaughan-Williams, Sibelius and Chopin.

Admission is free but donations are welcome at the concerts on Thursday November 25 at Easdale Community Hall at 6.30pm, the ferry leaves Seil at 6.15pm, and also on Friday November 26 at 8pm in Kilbrandon Church on Seil Island.

'Many of the pieces derive from folk-cultures around Europe and America, with the unifying theme of An Atypical Romance, from the light-hearted to the tragic,' says Stephen Arnold from NeMS.



Murray Hamilton from Oban and Lorn Rugby Club, Dave Bleazard from Outside Edge, Morag MacKinnon from Inner Wheel Club Oban and Kay McDonald from Bid4Oban with the second run of A Taste of Oban.

## Oban has huge appetite for Inner Wheel's cookbook

A cook book that sold like hot cakes raising money for research into Motor Neurone Disease has just had 200 more printed, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Copies of a first run of A Taste of Oban compiling favourite recipes from the town's Inner Wheel members sold out in just four weeks making £1,108 for MND charity My Name's Doddie Foundation.

Donations from Oban Lorn Rugby Club, Oban Rotary Club, Bid4Oban, and various individuals helped get the first 100 printed and because they were such a sell-out success, Bid4Oban then put even more support into the mix and now another 200 copies have gone on sale.

The Inner Wheel Club Oban wants to thank everyone for continued

support and encouragement. The books cost £10 and are available from Bids4Oban office, Outside Edge and by mail order, at an additional cost £1.50, by sending enquiries to [tasteofobaniw@gmail.com](mailto:tasteofobaniw@gmail.com).

Photographs and recipes from soups to cocktails pack the book's 100 pages and chefs from Coast, The Manor House and Etive restaurants in town have also contributed.

Former Oban High School pupil Ruth Williamson, formerly Gibson, inspired the book. Ruth, who now lives in Edinburgh, was given two years to live by doctors after being diagnosed with the disease that affects the brain and nerves, but has incredibly beaten the odds four years later by seeing her daughter Anna start school.





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OBAN & LORN – TUESDAY, LOCHABER – TUESDAY, MULL – WEDNESDAY

# St Conan's last call for Christmas trees

Organisers of St Conan Kirk's are sprucing it up for this year's magical Christmas Tree Festival.

A call for any last entries is going out, with decorated trees already booked to come from Oban, Inveraray, Tyndrum and lots of the villages in between, writes Kathie Griffiths.

'We've been very pleased to once again see a real cross section of the community getting behind the festival and registering to enter a tree,' said Liz Mackay, of the Friends of St Conan's.

'We plan to close registration in mid November and at the moment have room for another seven to 10 trees,' she added.

Individuals, families, organisations, businesses and local groups can take part. The tree should be at least 4ft, but can be taller, traditional or made of any material in a tree shape.

And they can be decorated to represent the organisation or with any theme that appeals.

It is free to enter but the trees must be lit with battery lights - and no flashing ones.

Anyone who would like to enter a tree should email Liz on enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk by November 19.

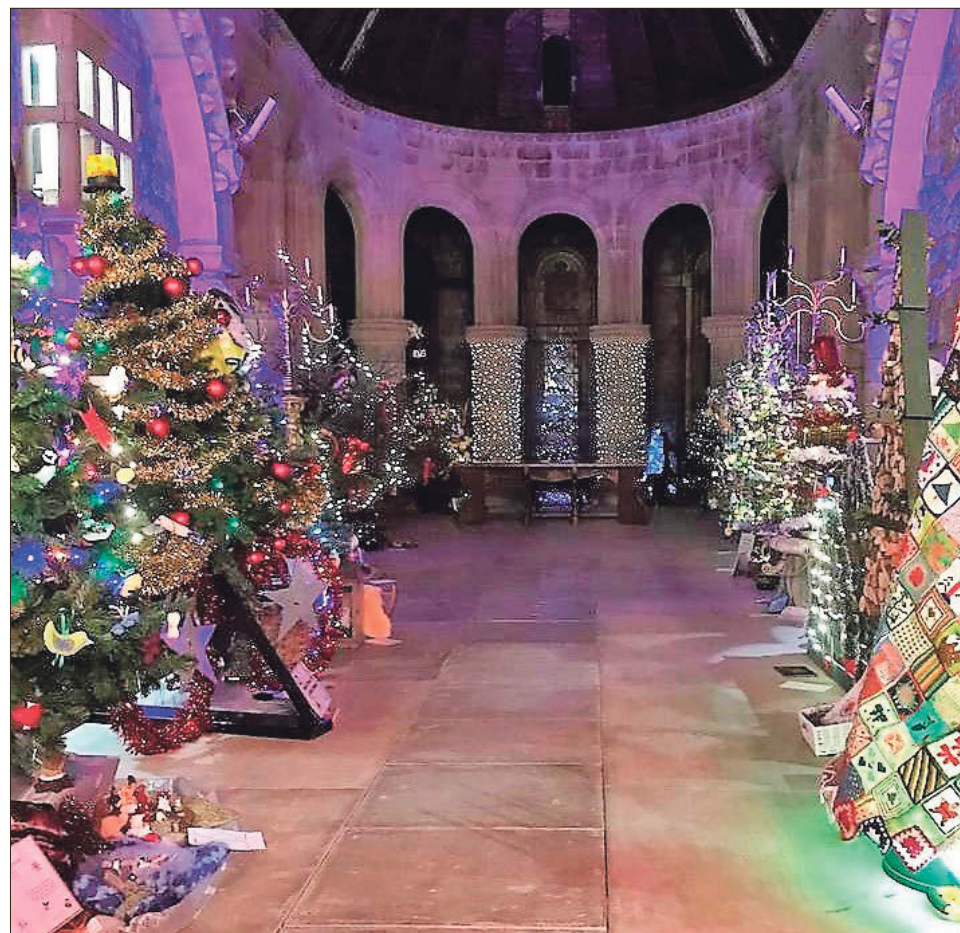
Festival visitors will be asked to make a donation and to vote for their favourite tree.

Competition is fierce for the accolade of Visitors' Favourite, won in 2019 by Lochnell Primary pupils for their fantastic Reduce, Reuse, Treecycle.

'We hope that everyone will enjoy the festival and we are working hard on safety plans,' said Liz.

To spread out visitor attendance the festival will be open for extra hours, there will be a new layout and route around the kirk for distancing purposes, and measures, such as wearing masks, will be in place.

'It would also be very much appreciated if everyone did a Lateral Flow Test before coming along,' said Liz.



As well as the trees, there will be a festive raffle, hot drinks and homebaking, and younger visitors are asked to look for Santa's Elves.

St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival in Lochawe runs from Friday December 3 to Sunday December 5, 10am to 6pm.

St Conan's Kirk will light up for this year's Christmas tree Festival from December 3 to December 5.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Fuelling debate

Confession: I have only been following the COP26 gathering of the world's leaders in Glasgow superficially.

However, I realise the crucial nature of the debate.

On that front, I was intrigued by the news Oban is trialling a hydrogen bus this month as part of a joint initiative.

I think the idea of hydrogen-fuelled public transport - emitting zero CO2 - is a splendid development and is obviously a significant step to improving air quality and reducing pollution.

It is also being linked to Oban's bid for city status, on which I have voiced my doubts previously. If that ambition is to be successful and bring about the economic development suggested by its supporters, I'd offer that the most important change in the area's transport infrastructure should be sweeping improvements to the road links between Oban and the central belt.

Now, I'm sanguine enough to know we are not going to get motorways built between Oban and Stirling, but at least some dual carriageway stretches could be developed to allow more safe overtaking and faster links. That would be my personal priority, although the hydrogen bus is a promising start to improving transport in the West Highlands.

### Helping hands

I have never been to the Men's Shed in Oban and have had no involvement with the organisation but I have friends who have been part of it and who vouch for the excellent work it achieves.

I was, therefore, interested to hear of its need to find new premises after being told the Salvation Army building it uses in Stevenson Street is up for sale.

The Men's Shed is a country-wide movement which offers peer support to men by encouraging social interaction and engagement in constructive projects. It is, by all accounts, an excellent group in the town and one which deserves support.

I'd appeal to anyone out there with potential premises to consider helping out. I'm told they can be contacted on Facebook at Men's Shed Oban.

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



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OT

## LETTERS

**Be patient and kind**

Confusion reigned again this week as the HSCP apologised for the third time over inaccurate information concerning the Covid jag booster clinics.

However, the HSCP insists the vaccination programme should now run smoothly and has said people eligible for a second dose or a booster will be either sent a letter or will receive a phone call to let them know which clinic they should attend, whether in the Corran Halls, Oban, or in Connel or Taynuilt.

The Oban Times has received a number of calls from worried residents who have become very anxious about getting their booster as soon as possible, and the current problems have not helped.

However, we would reiterate NHS Highland's call for people to be respectful of all the wonderful staff manning the vaccination clinics.

The frustration and anxiety that some people are feeling is understandable, however, clinic staff are doing their best to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible, but sometimes the circumstances are outwith their control. Please be kind. We owe these people a debt of gratitude, not attitude.

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

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

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

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**Covid jag fiasco**

My 91-year-old mother was on of the 'uninvited' who you report attended the Corran Halls vaccine clinic on October 27.

We were there because my mother was 28 weeks past her second vaccine doze and every time we turned on the TV we were exhorted by politicians and health experts to get a booster shot as soon as we were eligible.

We tried to find out when that might be but the NHS Highland website held no clues and the Vaccination Enquiry Hub took nearly an hour to answer and was unable to give definitive information.

Having had no blue envelope and becoming increasingly anxious, when a friend told us that the Corran Halls clinic was giving booster jabs, we set off because we thought it might be her only chance to get a booster.

If the appointment letters had come out in a timely fashion we would have been happy to wait patiently for a jab.

I wonder what would have happened to the vaccine doses unused if those uninvited people had not turned up?

**K Davidson, Ardfern.**

**War memorial omission**

It is a historical oddity that no First World War Mercantile Marine casualties appear on the Oban war memorial, possibly due to then prevailing social attitudes.

Their names are commemorated in bronze letters at the Memorial at Tower Hill in London, but I wondered if they are remembered anywhere within the town.

Two probable local men were Second Officer John McNeil whose mother lived at Airds Crescent and Trimmer Donald Stewart, born in Oban. Further afield are Neil Campbell of Easdale, Barra men Donald McNeil and John MacDonald, Neil Cameron from Mull, John MacMillan Tiree and John MacLean Coll.

Their memory deserves to be respected with honour.

The contribution of civilian seamen to the war effort was recognised by the King granting the title "Merchant Navy" after the peace was won.

**Norman Martin, by email.**

**Royal Mail woes**

I was interested to find out that the people of Oban are having issues with Royal Mail deliveries. The people of Oban are not alone.

## YOUR PICTURES

This photograph was sent in by Tom Harrigan MBE who last month spent some time in Oban.

He told us: 'On my list of places we must visit was the poignant War Memorial on the north headland.

'I am 73 years of age and the War Memorial holds lasting memories of an old friend and former colleague I once took to the Memorial, an experience he always recalled once back home in India.

'Whilst making my way around the memorial, reading the names on the Role of Honour, I caught sight of the CalMac Ferry about to approach and pass the opposite side of the memorial. I immediately took the opportunity and 'snapped' the ferry with my little point-and-shoot camera just as its bow was about to enter behind the seaward side of the memorial.

'Here is the resultant image.

'When I returned home, I viewed the photograph and was moved by the content.

The empty benches, where minutes before sat adults and children having a snack. The 'ship' heading out of Oban and the section of the memorial with names of those brave individuals who never returned to their homeland.

'No doubt many of these brave souls may have departed Oban by sea, heading for unknown destinations, with their friends and relatives standing off the very headland where their memorial stands to this day.



'I then thought of the title 'No one to wave goodbye'. To the outgoing ship, no one waving, and no doubt there would have been no one to say goodbye to the brave souls as they perished.

'However, I realise this is my personal

I am a postal subscriber to the Oban Times, and I live in central Edinburgh. For a period of 11 days I had no Royal Mail deliveries whatsoever. In effect, some important mail I was expecting had gone missing. While things have subsequently, to an extent, settled down, confidence in the Royal Mail has diminished considerably.

At the time, I put a complaint in writing to the relevant Edinburgh sorting office, and have not had as much as an acknowledgement. Having spoken to Royal Mail staff locally, it seems, as in Oban, there is a serious lack of delivery staff.

This sort of thing tends to be looked upon as a local issue, though my suspicion is that the issue is much more widespread. I haven't seen anything in the national press, or on the BBC, though their involvement may not be at all inappropriate.

**George Knight, Edinburgh.**

**Achnacloich Bridge**

Clearly there are significant concerns over the (relatively) new road markings at Achnacloich Bridge. On 16 August, I wrote to Mr Hugh

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



interpretation of the content and that it may not convey the same message to others.'

If you have a photograph you would like to share with our readers. Please email the jpeg (1MB) to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Gillies, director of Roads at Transport Scotland, imploring him to take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

Within a few days I received a reply (signed by MiCase?!) giving me a reference number and telling me a response would be provided within the timescale stated on the gov.scot website, or at least, that was their aim.

The stated timescale lapsed on September 5 but I waited until October 28 before I chased things up. A few days later I received a reply (signed by MiCase - again!). It was exactly the same

letter, the only change being a different reference number!

On October 29 I wrote to Ms Jenni Minto MSP, with a copy to Brendan O'Hara, and forwarded copies of both replies from Transport Scotland. I asked her to investigate and let me know what the outcome was (assuming she got a reply).

It's now November 5 and so far there has been nothing from the MSP or MP, and not surprisingly, nothing from Transport Scotland.

It's little wonder that people can't be bothered to complain.

Les Stewart, Connel.

## Road markings do not comply

Further to my wife, Annie's letter to you regarding the road markings at Achnacloich, I read the article in the Oban Times (Oct 28) with interest.

Contrary to Mr Ross's assertion that the markings comply with the Traffic Signs Manual, the markings at Achnacloich Bridge do not include the important centre line which separates the two lanes of normal road traffic as specified in Section 11.3 of the manual. (This may be confirmed by Googling traffic signs manual gov.uk chapter five and turning to Section 11.3.)

That said, it is clear to me that this system of markings is far more suited to an urban environment with slow moving vehicles. Frankly, on a fast trunk road, its use beggars belief.

Most modern car safety systems such as Lane Assist automatically de-activate below 10mph so would be unlikely to try to steer the vehicle into the "High Vehicle Lane" in towns but, at anything over that speed, drivers would need to be quite alert to keep their cars from steering themselves directly into a head-on collision.

However, many of these safety systems (which can cost up to £2,000 as an optional extra on new cars) can be de-activated by the driver so perhaps Bear should erect 'De-Activate Lane Assist' signs well before the bridge to prevent too many head-on collisions.

For a region that used to emphasise the well-meaning (if ungrammatical) slogan 'Drive Safe', this would seem like a somewhat ridiculous, backward step though.

Jackson F Wheeler, Dingwall.

# HAVE YOUR SAY

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

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Leis a' Bheachd seo a' nochdadh air ceann-latha cuimhneachaidh cho sòlaimte tha e iomchaidh aithne agus spèis mhaireann a' chomharrachadh dha laoiach a dh'ìobair am beatha anns an dà Chogadh Mhòr, agus anns gach blàr fuilteach eile bhon àm. Ged a tha fios is cinnt gun deach iomadh neach gu cath an aghaidh an toil, agus aig amannan le ceist fiù 's carson a bha am blàr ga chur, choilean iad an dleastanas a chaidh orra agus ro thrìc chailleadh òigridh ghinealaichean. Gu ìre tha lot nam blàr sin fhathast ga fhulang is ri fhaicinn, gu h-àraid ann an coimhearsnachdan iomail na dùthcha, far an tug e buaidh leantainneach air àireamhan sluaigh, is neart eaconamach, agus far na dh'fhàg crìonadh sluaigh cuideachd crìonadh ann an neart dualchais, cultair, agus cànan. Gun teagamh b' e sin pàirt de bhuidhean an t-strì gus saorsa a ghleidheadh dhuinne a tha beò an-diugh, agus a' leantainn na sìthe tha riaghaltasan fa leth air a bhith a' toirt gheallaidhean air leasachaidhean. Tha beagan air tachairt, ach tha sin cho slaodach is gum bheil dragh air mòran gum bheil an t-iomall dol a chall roimhe 's às a dhèidh ri linn 's cho màirnealach 's a tha adhartas a ghleidheas òigridh agus dòchas anns na coimhearsnachdan dùthchail sin.

Thàinig an t-sith sa Chogadh Mhòr is dìreach uair a thide samhlauchail air fhàgail mus cuireadh an cinne-daonna às don t-saoghal, agus dh'aontach ceannardan na cruinne gun ionnsaichte, agus nach tachradh a leithid a-rithist. Ach mar a tha mòr-thinneas Covid air a dhearbhadh tha iomad-

ach seòrsa blàir a dh'fhaodas buaidh a thoirt air an t-saoghal, agus na òraid aig fosgladh co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta COP26 ann an Glaschu air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, thuirnt air Prìomhaire Boris Johnson gum bheil gànrachadh àrainneachd na cruinne air ar toirt gu beagan mhionaidean bho dhà uair dheug agus sgrìos an t-saoghal! Ged nach robh for ann fad bhliadhnaichean gun robh uimhir de chron ga dhèanamh air an àrainneachd tha co-dhiù caogad bliadhna a-nise bho thòisich rabhaidhean air nochdadh bho eòlaichean, ach tha cumhachd ionmhais air bacadh a chumail air adhartas gus dìon a dhèanamh air a' ghnàth-aim-sir! Cha robhas ga thuigsinn mar chogadh ach gun fhiosa dhuinn tha sinn air a bhith a' cur às dhan t-saoghal agus ar n-àite-còmhnaidh.

Ged a thug na cogaidhean a bh' ann droch bhuidhean air na h-iomail cha do chuir iad às dhan tìr, ach sin an dearbh chunnart anns am bheil uimhir de na coimhearsnachdan iomallach feadh an t-saoghail an-diugh. Tha at na mara a' sìor bhlèith nan cladaichean, agus far am bheil tìr ìosal thathas a' cur air mhanadh dha gum faodadh sin a dhol à sealladh fon t-sàl ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean. Chan e a-mhàin gun caillear tìr ach falbhaidh sluaigh, cànan, cultar, agus dualchas aig an aon àm. Abair adhbhar iomagain dhan t-saoghal agus chan iongnadh gum bheil uimhir de spàirn ga dhèanamh gus aontachaidhean sheasmhach eadar-nàiseanta a choileanadh gus cor a' ghnàth-thide a ghleidheadh ron dà uair dheug!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty, **Psalm 84:1**

Psalm 84 is credited to the Sons of Korah, Levites, faithful servants of the temple in Jerusalem. They locked and unlocked the temple, they kept an eye on all the precious vessels and utensils used in worship, they kept charge of the money and the collecting boxes, and they offered praise to God in the temple choir and orchestra.

The writer of this psalm makes it clear that the temple's eternal purpose is to glorify its occupant, the Lord Almighty, and the writer thanks God for the opportunity of being His humble servant - I would rather be a doorkeeper in the

House of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked, Psalm 84:10.

Do we thank God for our opportunities to humbly serve Him in the humdrum duties of our everyday lives? If we lift our eyes to see the eternal consequences of our mundane labours done for His glory, we will never cease to thank Him.

The servant's master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21.

David James, Glencruitten House

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This photograph was taken in 1934. After his death, all the papers and photographs from Charles McLean's locker were returned to the family, who added them to the letters he had sent home. In 2018, this archive was donated to An Iodhlann, having lain untouched for more than 70 years.

## Virtue Mine Honour: a Tiree man's war

A new book published by An Iodhlann, the museum on the island of Tiree, tells the story of a young man's war – and his tragic death in 1941 at the age of 24.

The book was written by Dr John Holliday, the chairman and main driving force behind the heritage centre, and Charles McLean's niece, Fiona Wilson, who donated the family archive to An Iodhlann.

Charles McLean's father was from Tiree. Donald Archie McLean was from Kenovay but left the island for Linlithgow in 1911. He joined the Lothian Constabulary and married Euphemia Stoddart, a local girl. Charles, their first child, was born in 1917. The family returned to Tiree every summer.

When Charles left school, he joined the Commercial Bank in Linlithgow, but was called up by the RAF just before the war and sent to Hastings on the south coast of England. His training as a navigator lasted 17 months before he was posted to 217 Squadron Coastal Command, flying Bristol Beauforts out of RAF St Eval in Cornwall.

Charles was a prolific correspondent and his letters home were rich with details of daily life: 'Yesterday we emptied our pallasses and filled them with fresh straw. The bedroom smells like a stable now.' He made friends easily. One wrote to him: 'Fate has had so many chances to get rid of you that He must give it up as impossible by this time.' However, it was not to be. On November 15 1941 his plane did not return from a night-time sortie over the Channel. The bodies of two fellow crew members were washed up on the Dutch coast, but Charles and his pilot were lost in action.



Charles McLean.

Charles McLean's name is on the Tiree war memorial. His war had lasted just six months. Of his initial training group, only two in 10 survived the war. When his plane did not return, the families of the crew supported each other. Margaret Halley, the mother of the pilot, wrote to Charles's father: 'Our dear boys have given their lives in all probability for their country and all that their country stands for just now. Since we must all die, there are worse ways of dying than that.'

Virtue Mine Honour: Charles McLean's War by Dr John Holliday and Fiona Wilson, and designed by Colin Woodcock from Blue Beyond Design in Balemartine, is published by An Iodhlann Press. It is available from An Iodhlann, the Tiree Business Centre or Dr John Holliday at doc.holliday@tireebroadband.com. Price £12, UK post and packing £3.50.

# Kilmartin Museum

Kilmartin's new museum is starting to take shape as construction continues apace.

Staff from the museum were treated to a site tour last week, courtesy of contractors TSL, giving them the opportunity to view the new basement-level, which includes a learning space. This will provide classrooms for the museum's renowned education service, as well as a state-of-the-art collections store where the museum's ever-growing collection of ancient artefacts will be housed.

Dr Sharon Webb MBE, director and curator of Kilmartin Museum, said: 'So many changes have taken place since I was last here in August when the foundation slabs were cast. Now there are complete rooms.'

'It is fantastic to see the new museum taking shape, particularly the space where our artefacts, including the museum's Nationally Significant Prehistoric Collection, will be safely stored. A museum standard collections store has been needed for so long and we are so grateful to everyone who has helped this project to finally become a reality.'

Ground floor level has been reached on both sides of the former museum building. Work has now started on foundations for the extension that will wrap around to form a major part of the new museum galleries.

Internally, the old museum building is being strengthened and refurbished to make it fit for purpose for many years to come.

At the heart of Kilmartin Glen since 1997, Kilmartin Museum inspires and educates people by interpreting, explaining and conserving the internationally important archaeological landscape, artefacts and natural heritage of Kilmartin Glen.

The museum's work and artefact collections outgrew the original building, so to ensure there was space to expand and continue its work, an ambitious re-development project was launched.

A major extension, designed by award-winning architects Reiach and Hall, is being joined together by the two existing buildings, creating a seamless museum.

The aim is to significantly develop the museum's work and create an inspiring place where staff can care for, celebrate and tell the story of Kilmartin Glen's unique archaeological and natural heritage.

The re-development provides a much larger exhibition space; a creative space, which can be used to deliver and participate in cultural



activities as well as allowing staff to stage temporary exhibitions; an accessible research and learning area where staff can safely curate all the collections and a fit-for-purpose education space, which will allow the active learning and volunteering programme to be developed.

Added to this, a new path which is a direct link to the monuments will be created so visitors will be able to use the museum as a starting point to begin their exploration of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

There will also be a remodelled shop, reception and café and better car parking.

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# um takes shape



Kilmartin Museum's re-developed exhibitions are due to open in March 2023. For those interested in seeing the changes, Kilmartin Museum's website features a construction diary at [www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org).

This shows the progress of the build and will be regularly updated.

During the construction phase, museum staff are working from home and temporary offices in Cairnbaan and can be contacted via email at [admin@kilmartin.org](mailto:admin@kilmartin.org)

TSL says the work is on schedule to be finished in June 2022.

**Kilmartin Museum director and curator Dr Sharon Webb MBE, far right, accompanies staff on a visit to the construction site.**

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph shows Oban Branch Royal British Legion in bygone days. It was submitted by Mrs Mary Burt whose uncle, John Binnie (JB) is shown third left, top. Others include Johnnie Drummond, Dan Anderson and 'Bunnocks' MacIntyre. If you can tell us about anyone else in the photograph, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



Donald Macpherson sent in this photograph saying: 'I thought you might be interested in a little bit of history from Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.'

'The picture is of the Macpherson siblings taken around 1904. Their father, my grandfather, Donald Macpherson, was a slate quarrier who mainly worked in the Easdale quarries.'

From the left is Peter, my father, Jean then Mary Ann.

Peter became a police Inspector in Glasgow, Jean married Donald MacKenzie who later became the minister for Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, and Mary Ann opened the first tea room in Ellenabeich.

■ If you have a photograph you would like to share with us, email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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# Isolde needs a hand to get show back on the road

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A Barcaldine puppeteer is looking for a helping hand as she spreads joy around the region to children and adults alike.

Born in Colorado in the USA, Isolde MacKay has lived in the Argyll village for the past 20 years and until recently has been entertaining local children with magical tales brought to life by her self-created hand/glove and finger puppet shows.

Due to other commitments Isolde's assistant Sue Greenwood has had to give up her role and the Oban postie is now looking for a replacement so that the show can go on.

Isolde told us: 'I am looking for an enthusiastic person to help me set up the shows, do scene changes, help with props, as well as work and



Isolde MacKay with a small selection of cast members.

her educational stories focus on wildlife and fantasy. Her most recent creations include Max the cat on his mission to find the moon and a Rabbit who meets an array of animals while journeying along the tunnels until finding one who shares his enthusiasm for rhyme.

Isolde added: 'It's so much fun making these stories up and then developing them into a show. Some of the stories I have taken from other things I have heard or seen and then I adapt them but all of them have a message and are full of fun.'

'Puppeteering is a great way of building your confidence. You are able to get creative,

lose yourself in the characters and tales and witness the joy it brings to others.

'I absolutely love doing it and am grateful to Barcaldine Community Association for providing opportunities for me to perform. It would be great to have someone working with me that enjoyed doing the shows as much as I do.'

Anyone who wishes to assist Isolde should contact her by emailing [binnett@aol.co.uk](mailto:binnett@aol.co.uk) or by phoning her on 07493 936462.

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EMAIL US AT  
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01631 568000

voice the puppets.

'I'm quite happy to show someone the ropes so they just need to come with enthusiasm

and a little bit of imagination so that they can put their own stamp onto the characters.'

Isolde began puppeteering at

primary school and has been performing shows for the past 50 years.

Aimed mostly at children,

## COMPETITION TIME

# WIN £250 OF LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS

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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!



### 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.

View [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) to find out where you can spend the vouchers.

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](mailto: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



It was great last Tuesday evening to play an acoustic set with my Tide Lines band mate, Alasdair Turner, for the Extreme Hangout at COP26.

For the fortnight of COP, Extreme have taken over the Renfrew Ferry and turned it into a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet. The two other artists performing that evening were Raine Stern, from Madison, Wisconsin, and AY Young, from Kansas City. Those guys are incredible musicians and their collaboration was musically outstanding.

For them, though, their environmental activism is equally as important as their music. AY uses his voice all over the world to promote his message and Raine always donates a percentage of her ticket money to environmental causes.

They are committed activists but many more that evening, like us, were simply trying to make small changes in our lives that we hope will have a positive effect.

Tide Lines recently made a decision to invest in Earth Positive merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags) made from 100% organic and ethically-sourced materials. We also stock our own stainless steel water bottles which we use ourselves at gigs to avoid relying on single-use plastic bottles.



Extreme Hangout at the Renfrew Ferry is hosting a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet

We're hardly Coldplay (who are cutting their carbon footprint by 50 per cent on their next world tour and planting a tree for every ticket they sell), but we're trying in our own small way.

The lyrics of our songs speak so often about the natural environment among which all four of us were brought up and, while we in Scotland are concerned for the future of our natural heritage, there are communities throughout the world that are seeing devastating effects very much

in the present. For a lot of the countries attending COP, this is an immediate problem and not a future one.

As a result of our Extreme Hangout gig, I was asked to speak live on Sky News' instagram account about sustainability in the music industry. I thought I had put my points across as eloquently as I could; until I saw a comment from a viewer down south saying 'What is this guy saying?!' Clearly my Highland accent was providing a challenge for some viewers!

A reminder, before I go, that the 121st Tiree Association annual gathering concert takes place on Thursday November 18 at 7.30pm at Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary and features a fine line up, including Mary Ann Kennedy, Jamie MacDonald, Kaitlin Ross, John Joe MacNeil, and Kathryn Callender. The gathering dance, as usual, takes place the following evening (Friday November 19) at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union to the music of Gunna Sound. Due to venue policy, a vaccine passport is required to attend the dance and – for both dance and concert – the committee ask that anyone attending takes a lateral flow test.

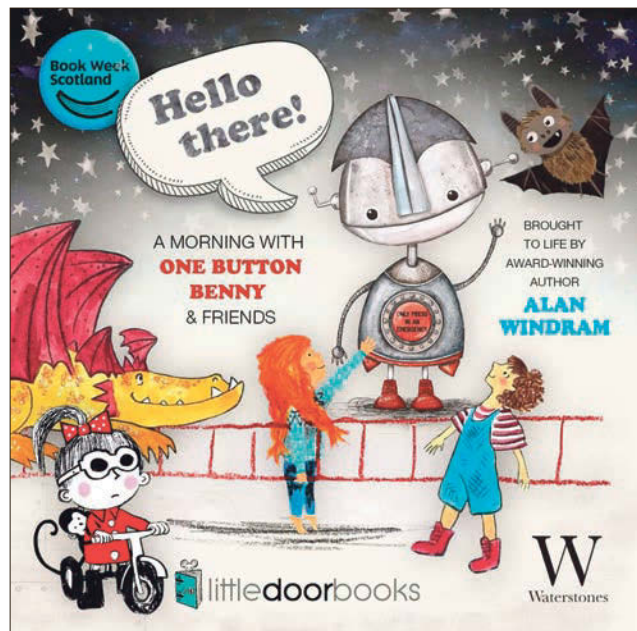
Tickets must be pre-booked by contacting the association via Facebook, phone (07763 126309), or email: thireeassociation@gmail.com

# Storytelling fun as One Button Benny and friends visit Waterstones Oban

Waterstones in Oban is hosting a special storytelling morning as part of Book Week Scotland on Saturday November 20 starting at 10am till around 11.30am. The event is free to all.

Kilchrenan-based author Alan Windram, who is also a director with children's publisher Little Door Books, will read from his own One Button Benny picture books, as well as reading other stories published by Little Door Books. These include Scaredy Bat by Jonathan Meres and Anders Frang, Pinkie and Boo by Chae Strathie and Francis Martin; The Girl Who Stole The Stars by Corrina Campbell, and A Dragon Story by Madeline Pinkerton.

He said this week: 'I am absolutely thrilled to be taking part in this fun, interactive picture book event at Waterstones in Oban as part of Book Week Scotland. It is great to get back to real live events with an actual audience. I will be reading



both of my One Button Benny books plus other stories from some of our recently published Little Door Books.

"There will be songs, stories and even some robot dancing.

Adults are very welcome to join in the fun too.'

The event is suitable for children ages three to six years old.

Book Week Scotland runs from November 15-21.

# What's on at Oban Cinema



Wes Anderson's **The French Dispatch** is a love letter to journalists set in an outpost of an American magazine in a fictional 20th-century French city and brings to life a collection of stories published in The French Dispatch.

Written and directed by Wes Anderson, the film stars Benicio del Toro, Frances McDormand, Jeffrey Wright, Adrien Brody, Timothée Chalamet, Léa Seydoux, Tilda Swinton, Mathieu Amalric, Lyna Khoudri, Stephan Park, Owen Wilson, and Bill Murray. The film is produced by Wes Anderson, Steven Rales, and Jeremy Dawson.

### Friday 12 November

The French Dispatch | 15 12:30/19:15  
 Dune | 12A 16:15  
 Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30  
 Venom 2 | 15 19:30

### Saturday 13 November

Boss Baby 2 | PG 11:30/14:15  
 Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 11:45  
 No Time To Die | 12A 14:00  
 Dune | 12A 16:45  
 French Film Festival: Kaamelott | 15 17:30  
 The French Dispatch | 15 20:00  
 Venom 2 | 15 20:15

### Sunday 14 November

Boss Baby 2 | PG 11:30/14:00  
 Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 11:45  
 Dune | 12A 14:15  
 No Time To Die | 12A 16:30  
 French Film Festival: Kaamelott | 15 17:30  
 Venom 2 | 15 19:45  
 The French Dispatch | 15 20:00

### Wednesday 17 November

Dune | 12A 12:30 ★/16:15 ★  
 Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30 ★  
 The French Dispatch | 15 19:15 ★  
 Venom 2 | 15 19:30 ★

### Thursday 18 November

The French Dispatch | 15 12:30/19:15  
 Dune | 12A 16:15  
 Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30  
 Venom 2 | 15 19:30

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

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**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.

# Tartan Trampoline stories ready to bounce off bookshop shelves

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

You can take our trampoline... but you can't take our freedom! That's the message from Lismore granny-turned-author Jennifer Baker whose trio of children's Tartan Trampoline stories are flying off the shelves. Lockdown saw youngsters cooped up with adults and that gave Jennifer the idea of publishing the adventure stories as a way of giving them a bit of grown-up-free space - and lots of fun.



Lismore's Jennifer Baker and Sarah Campbell of Mogwaii Design, with copies of the books Jennifer wrote for her grandchildren. Photograph: Julia Fayngruen

They tell the tales of Manny, Effie and Tilly who visit their grandmother on a Scottish island every holiday. In her garden is a magic tartan trampoline which whisks them off to adventures around the Argyll islands.

The three stories were already written by the time Covid struck, inspired by a garden trampoline that got blown away in a storm that blasted its way across Lismore in 2016.

'I'd been driving friends home from choir when I told them about the vanishing trampoline. One of them joked it would have been funny if the kids were on it.

That led to an idea - what a great story that would make - so I set to and The Tartan Trampoline and the Pirate was written. That was for Effie, one of my three grandchildren who was crazy about pirates,'

said Jennifer.

The Tartan Trampoline and the Red Shoes and the Superheroes followed, written especially for Manny and Tillie.

A one-off of The Tartan Trampoline and the Pirates was published first - the size of the Mr Men books - to be read at one of Lismore's Litfests, but in 2020 when lockdown kicked in Jennifer got thinking about her own grandchildren in Glasgow and Manchester,



and all the other children who were suddenly under constant adult-supervision, not able to get out and about much and

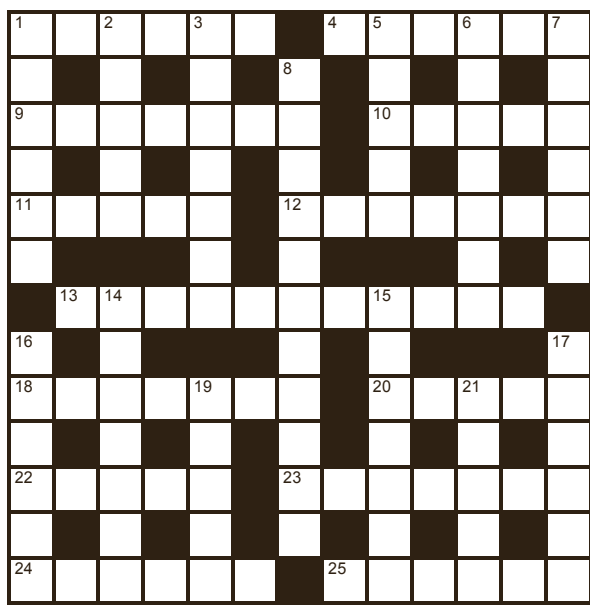
not able to play with friends or visit family. 'So I decided to publish these stories which are about flying and freedom and no adults overseeing every move. If the children couldn't come here to our Scottish island then I would take freedom to them,' said Jennifer, who called on the help of two other women to help make it happen.

Illustrator Sarah Campbell who also lives on Lismore and runs Mogwaii Design joined Jennifer on the Tartan Trampoline adventure and so did Benderloch publisher and editor Helen Crossan of Mòr Media Ltd.

'The three of us worked socially distanced for many months - it was a marathon job. Writing the stories was the easy bit!' said Jennifer, who hopes to take her books on tour including a storytime, she hopes, at Lismore Primary and Oban Waterstones.

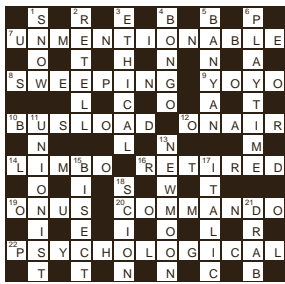
Waterstones has the books in store now, they are also available at shops in Inveraray and Appin, and can be bought from online marketplace [www.isle20.com](http://www.isle20.com) - a social enterprise supporting island businesses.

## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Potato (6)
  - 4 Molded (6)
  - 9 Together (2,5)
  - 10 Makes sense (5)
  - 11 Rock bottom (5)
  - 12 Treatment (7)
  - 13 Considerable (11)
  - 18 Highly perfumed flower (7)
  - 20 Rush (3,2)
  - 22 Honour (5)
  - 23 One who receives money (7)
  - 24 Type of monkey (6)
  - 25 Run through with a sharp object (6)
- Down**
- 1 Starting play on the course (6)
  - 2 Nervous (5)
  - 3 One who gives out when you break down (7)
  - 5 Bisect (5)
  - 6 Sounds like a curly hairstyle (7)
  - 7 A digit (6)
  - 8 Submarine is the target of this (5,6)
  - 14 Gentry of a country (7)
  - 15 A coin equal to 100 puls (7)
  - 16 Happening activity (6)
  - 17 Globe (6)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## Music lovers to enjoy The View from Benderloch

Anyone missing their beloved nights out at the Benderloch Palladium need wait no longer, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The gigs packaged by Campbell and Joy Cameron from Making it Happen are returning - just not in Benderloch for the time being.

The music-promoting couple have teamed up with Dan MacIntyre from The View to get live music back on stage safely.

'We wanted to get back to the live music as soon as we



Ross Ainslie and Tim Edey.

could, but doing it safely was big in our minds. We knew Dan had it all worked out, so as a temporary arrangement we've pooled resources to see

how it goes,' said Campbell. Edinburgh Indy band Wrest were first up on Saturday and next comes Tim Edey and Ross Ainslie on November 20.

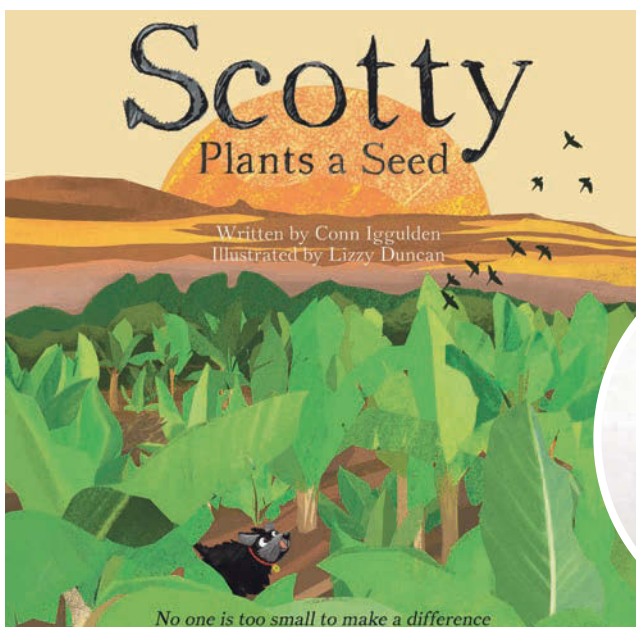
'The boys were due to play in the spring of 2020 at the Victory Hall in Benderloch, but then lockdown intervened. When we pulled The View plan together with Dan, Tim and Ross were top of our list - they are exceptional,' said Campbell. Tim Edey is a former BBC Musician of the Year and is rated by many to be one of

the world's best guitarists and melodeon players in the Celtic folk scene.

Team Tim up with Ross Ainslie and the magic grows.

Ross is three times nominated Musician of the Year at the BBC Folk Awards and won Composer of the Year in 2015 at the Scots Trad Music Awards. He performs with many bands and has four solo albums.

For tickets visit [www.obanview.com/whats-on/live-music/ross-ainslie-and-tim-edey](http://www.obanview.com/whats-on/live-music/ross-ainslie-and-tim-edey)



Scotty the dog from Mull stars in a new children's book about climate change. The book is based on an original idea by James Wright, the owner of the Western Isles Hotel, who grew up in Tobermory.



# David Attenborough praises Mull man's climate change book

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@bantimes.co.uk

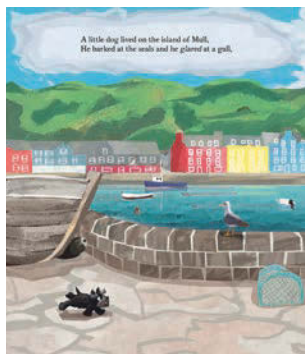
A Tobermory hotel owner has launched a new book at COP26 teaching children about climate change, through the adventures of a Scotty dog from Mull and his best friend Owl.

The new owner of Mull's Western Isles Hotel, James Wright, who grew up in Tobermory where his father was a grocer and baker, commissioned the book as his contribution to alerting young children about the climate crisis.

It has already been issued to 400 delegates attending the UN's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who called it a 'valuable contribution', and the legendary broadcaster David Attenborough, who told James it was a 'stupendous idea'.

Scotty Plants a Seed, the first book in a series, stars a small black dog from the island called Scotty. His website explains: 'Climate change can sometimes be a little frightening. This is a story about the small changes we can all make, to help protect the planet. No one is too small to make a difference, and no difference is too small to make.'

'Come with Scotty - to the island of Mull, then India, Brazil, Africa and right around the world. Will he find his way



home? Will his friend owl lose all his feathers flying after him? Will they learn something extraordinary about trees on the way? Hold tight...'

The book, written by author Conn Iggulden and illustrated by Lizzy Duncan, is based on James Wright's original idea. James explained: 'I was invited to join the Scotia group, a not-for-profit environmental group, with a view to producing a blueprint recommendation on how to tackle carbon emissions to reduce rising global temperatures.'

'The recommendations will be presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations at the Cop 26 Climate Change Conference in November 2021.'

'Not being a scientist, I took the following view. Conferences come and conferences go. Politicians come and politicians go but children are constant.'

'I felt it was essential to find a medium by which young children could be educated

about climate change and how our planet is currently being destroyed by modern living practices.

'Today's children will be the very people that will have to deal with the consequences of what my generation and the generation before us has created. These children when grown will need to continue what we have now started, albeit with greater urgency, to make the necessary changes to reverse global warming.'

'Scotty and his adventures are the medium by which I felt we could teach young nursery and primary school children all about the varying issues facing us today. Meet Scotty in his brand-new book, Scotty Plants a Seed, where we find out that no one is too small to make a difference and no difference is too small to make.'

'Keep in mind that TODAY we have an opportunity to do good for ourselves, the planet, and others. We do still have time and this first book is our small contribution towards that end.'

Scotty's website also features colouring in pages, a Scotty wall, and Scotty's collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank in Kew's wild botanical gardens in Sussex, which stores over 2.4 billion seeds to save the plants from becoming extinct.

The team are hoping to find a publisher so the Scotty books can be available at Christmas.

## M'ALBA MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 11 An t-Samhain THURSDAY 11 November

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Dileas/Working Dogs
- 19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep3 An Aimsir/The Weather
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Eòrpa/European Current Affairs
- 21.00 Tearlach Ceannadach/Charles Kennedy: A Good Man Speaking
- 22.00 Mach a Seo!
- 22.30 Rudeigan san Eadhar/Something in the Air
- 23.25 Fraochy Bay
- 23.30 Transatlantic Sessions: Dluth an Daimh

### DIHAOINE 12 An t-Samhain FRIDAY 12 November

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 Dan
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Fraochy bay
- 20.00 Fianais S1 Pat Ballantyne
- 20.30 An Cuan Sgith/The Minch with Anne Lunden
- 21.00 Sgeulachd Sheila Garvie/The Sheila Garvie Story
- 22.00 DNA S1
- 22.40 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 22.45 Binneas-Na Trads
- 23.00 ALT

### DISATHAIRNE 13 An t-Samhain SATURDAY 13 November

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là
- 18.00 Iorram-Boat Song

- 19.30 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile
- 19.45 Sgeul Slainte
- 20.00 Fianais- Pat Ballantyne
- 20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig
- 21.00 ALT (S1 Ep6)
- 22.00 Rudeigin san Eadhar/Something in the Air
- 22.55 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 23.00 Mathair a' Chinn Suidhe/Trump's Mother
- 00.15 Binneas-Na Trads
- 00.30 Belladrum 2017: First Aid Kit

### DIDÒMHAICH 14 An t-Samhain SUNDAY 14 November

- 16.00 Live Rugby- Women's Friendly-Scotland v Japan
- 18.05 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 18.15 An Là
- 18.30 Seachd Là / News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia/Spiritual praise
- 20.00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs
- 20.30 Golf: Mun Chuairt Alba
- 21.00 Sruth
- 22.00 Bannan (S5 Ep2)
- 22.40 Bannan (S5 Ep3)
- 23.00 DNA/Danish Dra
- 23.40 Sgeul Slainte

### DILUAIN 15 An t-Samhain MONDAY 15 November

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine
- 19.30 SpeakGaelic (S1 Ep5) Dachaigh/Home
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Cuan Sgith/The Minch with Anne Lunden
- 21.00 Trusach- Sgeulachd a' Ghille/The Gillie's Story
- 22.00 Bannan (S5 Ep4)

- 22.30 Caileagan a' Chogaidh Mhoir/A Great Adventure
- 23.30 Mach a Seo!

### DIMÀIRT 16 An t-Samhain TUESDAY 16 November

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Beartas nan Daoine/The People's Riches
- 19.25 Dan
- 19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep4 Teaghlach/Family
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Miann na Maighdinn-mara/Mermaid Tales
- 21.00 Sruth/Music programme
- 22.00 Trusach- Sgeulachd a' Ghille/The Gillie's Story
- 23.00 Dan
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Alleluia

### DICIADAIN 17 An t-Samhain WEDNESDAY 17 November

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine
- 19.30 SpeakGaelic – S1 Ep5 Dachaigh/Home
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig
- 21.00 Bho Stalag gu Gulag/From Stalag to Gulag
- 22.00 Bannan S5 Ep5
- 22.30 Transatlantic Sessions: Dluth an Daimh
- 23.00 Tearlach Ceannadach/ Charles Kennedy: A good Man Speaking



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**Living Proof** (8+) 98 mins Doc about Scotland and climate change. 15/11 at 8.30pm The short film Our Plastic Ocean will precede the feature.

**The French Dispatch** (15) 108 mins Anthology comedy-drama by Wes Anderson. 19/11 at 8.30pm The short film SIXTEEN will precede the feature.

Read about our Covid measures at [www.screenmachine.com/covid-measures](http://www.screenmachine.com/covid-measures)



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Father & son team, John and Matthew Spicer are both excited to be coming back and seeing some familiar faces. John said "Vehicles, now more than ever, have a computer centre and the shortage in chips, the "brain" within every electronic device in the world, has been steadily worsening since last year. This has had a knock on effect to car manufacturing. However, although production is back to normal we are urging customers to pre-



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November, we look forward to seeing you" says son Matthew

S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979

from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr.

Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business and for almost two decades cars were sold, serviced and many friendships

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**Closing date 15th Nov 21**

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call on 01880 770720 for more details.

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If you feel you have the leadership qualities and skills required for this post or just want some more information, please contact Mairi Dunning Practice Manager [mairi.dunnings@nhs.scot](mailto:mairi.dunnings@nhs.scot) or telephone her on 01631 563175 for further information or send a c.v with a covering letter explaining why you would like to join the team..

**Closing date; 15 November 2021**

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### LORN MEDICAL CENTRE, OBAN

We are looking for someone with excellent communication and organisational skills to join our Practice Team. You will be expected to communicate and liaise with patients, clinical staff and other members of the wider health care team. The post will be full time to cover the opening hours of the Practice.

Please apply with a CV and covering letter to:

Mairi Dunning  
Practice Manager, Lorn Medical Centre,  
Soroba Road, Oban. PA34 4HE

by 15 November 2021

**For further information,  
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**The Highland Council**  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/02989/MSC	Land 130M East of 77 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore, Fort William	Submission of Matters Specified in Condition 2 (Siting, Design and Layout) of Planning Permission in Principle 19/00897/PIP - Erection of 27 residential units and associated infrastructure
21/04399/FUL	St Marys School House, Victoria Road, Fort William, PH33 6BJ	2 Glamping pods and fence
21/04541/FUL	51 Lochiel Road, Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NR	Siting of holiday pod
21/04620/FUL	Marine House, Onich, Fort William, PH33 6SE	Erection of letting unit
21/04842/FUL	Kilcamb Lodge Hotel, Strontian, Acharacle, PH36 4HY	Erection of boathouse with residential accommodation above
21/04875/FUL	Land 105M NW of Invergloy House, Spean Bridge	Alterations to boathouse including installation of balconies to form self-contained residential unit
21/05002/FUL	Whinburn, Lundavra Road, Fort William, PH33 6RF	Erection of Self Catering Pod
21/05004/FUL	Land 470M SW of Achriachach Cottage East, Achreoch, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Installation of 35m telecoms mast and associated equipment (previous permission 20/04058/FUL)
21/05052/FUL	Layby Off A82 600M North of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge	Continued siting of snack van
21/05068/FUL	Silver Birches, West Tirindrish, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EU	Extension to form self-contained unit
21/05105/FUL	2 Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EU	Alterations to shopfront and north west elevation; erection of fence and ramp

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

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**  
**DECROFTING**  
**DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

1. M Campbell, 5 Airds Bay, 0.03 ha, Amenity Ground. Fencing Conditions. (109338)
2. PD Kennedy, 8 & 9 Blarmachfoldach, 0.1353 ha, Croft House Site & Garden Ground, With Fencing Conditions (105789)

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

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Lochiel Estates have registered their croft Glenloy in the parish of Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by June 16 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7946

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

**Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)**

E POWER LIMITED, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising up to 14 wind turbines, with tip heights of up to 180m and associated ancillary infrastructure with an installed capacity of more than 20MW at land around Sidh Mor, South of Lochan Anama and West of A'Chruach Wind Farm.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting E POWER LIMITED, 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at the Ford Community Hall on 12 November and 26 November between the hours of 3pm and 6pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU before 10 December 2021.

**Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.**

**Com-pairteachas Nibheis**  
**The Nevis Partnership**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEVIS PARTNERSHIP WILL BE HELD ON: TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.00PM VIA ZOOM PLEASE CONTACT [sarah@nevispartnership.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nevispartnership.co.uk) FOR MEETING DETAILS**

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01627/PP	Erection of multi purpose agricultural shed (including storage of feed, machinery and use for animal husbandry and housing)	Brackley, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute, PA33 1AX
21/02047/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North West Of Barranrioch Mews, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/02083/LIB	Replace existing Slate roof finish with Natural Slates	Ulva Manse, Ulva, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA73 6LZ
21/02082/PP	Renewal of planning permission 18/00985/PP (Installation of septic tank, formation of vehicular access, tanker layby, vehicle turning area and ground re-profiling including rock armour protection)	Land West Of Seaview Terrace, Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Argyll And Bute
21/02042/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of Lower Achachenna, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01848/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Salen Hotel, Ardmor Road, Salen, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/02045/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North West Of Barranrioch Mews, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute

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

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

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

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Web: <https://www.theglenlivet.com/en-UK>

# CLASSIFIED

## PERSONAL NOTICES - WEDDING



### McInnes/Kitchin

Married at Barcaldine Castle on July 24, 2021 by the Rev. Margaret Millar, Barbara Catherine McInnes, eldest daughter of Ian and Rhoda McInnes, Connel to Tristan Christopher William Kitchin, eldest son of the late Andy Kitchin, Newcastle.

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## BIRTHS

**ELLIOTT** - The family are delighted to announce the birth of Angus Shaun Elliott at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. A first child for Lisa MacInnes and Callum Elliott, Tarbert. A first grandchild for Mary and Kenny MacInnes, Tarbert and Jane Elliott, Tarbert. We would like to thank the midwives in Argyll and at the RAH, Paisley for all their help.

**ROBERTSON** - On September 29, 2021, to Lotti (née Mellor) and Jamie, a daughter, Evie Rose. A sister to Alfie and Beaudi.

## DEATHS

**BROWNE** - (Hay), Moira, Crieff. Very peacefully at Ruthven Towers Care Home on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, Moira Ann, dearly loved and loving wife of, and reunited now with, the late Capt. Cameron Browne, cherished and loved mother of Elaine, Christopher and Sinclair and grandmother of Natasha and Iona.

**CALLANDER** - Peacefully at home on November 4, 2021 in his 91st year, William Callander, beloved husband of Lily. A dear father to David and wife Catherine, stepson George and wife Gabriella and much loved grandfather to Fergus and Ewan. Sadly missed.

**HESKETH** - John, Barrie MBE, April 11, 1930 to October 19, 2021. Dearly loved husband of Philippa and of his late wife Marianne. Father of Richard, Nick and Jim. Grandfather of Gary, Jenny, Nathan, Maddy,

Alex, Maisie and Logan. Great-grandfather of Milo, Beth and Ian. Flowers if wished or donations to Parkinson's UK or Bickham House Care Home via [www.memorygiving.com/johnbarrieheskethmbe](http://www.memorygiving.com/johnbarrieheskethmbe). Funeral to take place at 11.30am on Friday, November 19, 2021 at Calgary Cemetery, Isle of Mull.

**LYNN** - (Argyll and Aberdeen). Alistair G Lynn CVO CBE QPM, dearly loved and loving husband of the late Chrissie (née MacNaughton) and sometime Chief Constable of The Scottish North-Eastern Counties Constabulary and Grampian Police, died peacefully on October 31, 2021, aged 95 years, in the warm, loving and dedicated care of staff at Victoria Grange, Dyce. Dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. Now resting at the premises of Eric P Massie, Funeral Directors, 41 High Street, Inverurie. A church service to celebrate Alistair's life will be held in Dyce Parish Church, Victoria Street, Dyce at 11am on Friday, November 12, 2021, followed by a short committal service at Baldarroch Crematorium, Crathes, Aberdeenshire at 2.30pm on the same day. Family and friends are invited to attend either or both parts of Alistair's funeral. No flowers, please, but wear a Remembrance Day poppy if you can. Alistair's ashes will be interred beside Chrissie at Oban on a later date.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Peacefully at home on November 3, 2021, age 90, Janet (Jill) MacCorquodale (Baillie), wife of the late Captain Dugald

MacCorquodale, mother of Geraldine, sister of Maureen, aunt and great-aunt. Grateful thanks for help and support from all staff at Taynuilt Medical Practice, Jess MacDonald and family and friends. Private graveside service to be held at Ardchattan Churchyard on Thursday, November 18 at 1pm. Family flowers only please.

**MARTIN** - Hugh. Peacefully at home on Thursday, October 28, 2021 on the Isle of Seil, in the loving care of his family, Hugh, aged 97 years. Beloved husband of Rose, and the late Maureen. Loving father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. A celebration of Hugh's life will take place at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh, on Friday, November 19 at 1.00 pm to which all family and friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in Hugh's memory may be made to the RNLI, Oban Branch.

**MOUAT** - Very peacefully on November 1, 2021 at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Bernie Mouat (née Devine) passed away. Mother to Duncan and Lawrence and the late Mary Mackenzie (née Mouat). Beloved mum, granny and great-granny.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BRUCE** - Alistair James. Lynne, Eilidh, Robert, Catriona, Shona, Jamie and families thank all who were with us for Ali's funeral on November 2, 2021. We sincerely thank the Rev Richard Baxter for conducting a very comforting service and Pastor Ruari O'Brien for making East Mains Baptist Church, East Kilbride available for the funeral

service. We are also grateful to Co-Operative Funeralcare, East Kilbride for their caring and dignified services throughout this sad and difficult time. Our heartfelt thanks to all who sent flowers, cards and who donated so generously to Crohn's & Colitis UK at the Church and online in memory of Ali. Forever in our hearts.

**MAIR** - Valerie and family of the late James (Hamish) would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness to us following our sad loss. Heartfelt thanks to doctors, nurses and all the staff at Lorn Medical Centre, also to Carers Direct and all the carers for their kindness to Hamish and myself. Thanks also to Catriona and the team at Hamish Hoey and Son, Petals and Jackie for the floral arrangements. Also grateful thanks to Rev. Maggie McAuthur and staff at Cardross. God Bless.

## MEMORIALS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu.

Like falling leaves the years slip by  
But loving memories never die  
- Your loving family, Allan, Catherine, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of our Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000.

Sadly missed.  
- MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balforn

**DUNCAN** - Precious memories of Howard, who passed away on November 12, 2001.

Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered every day.

- Love always Chrissie x

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Effie, a dear mum, mother-in-law and nanny who passed away November 8, 2019.

You left us beautiful memories  
Your love is still our guide  
Although we cannot see you  
You are always by our side  
- Mairi-Anne, Neil, Kieran, Kyle and Ryan.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of our parents Bertie, who died on November 11, 1989, and Agnes who died on January 29, 2011. Always in our thoughts. Also remembering Uncle Jack who died on November 17, 1993.

- The Mackay and Gillies families, Oban and Lochgilphead.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of our dear brother Angus who passed away on November 12, 2020.

Silent tears we have cried this year

But in our hearts you are always near

We ache to see your face once more

To hear your voice as we did before.

- Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda and Alastair.

**MACNICOL** - In loving memory of Ishbel M. MacNicol, February 27, 1945 - November 14, 2013.

No longer in our lives to share  
But in our hearts you are always there.

- Love Hamish and family.

**PARKINSON** - Treasured memories of a dear Dad and Pop, Arthur (Scouse) who passed away November 12, 1990.

Memories are like keepsakes,  
We treasure all life through,  
But ours are very special Dad,  
Because they are of you.

- Peggy, Alistair, and family xx

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# Saints drummed out of Scottish Cup

Oban Saints	1
Drumchapel United	2
Scottish Cup third round	



**An excellent challenge from Drumchapel's Adam Douglas denies Cammy Hill.** Match report and photograph: Derek Black.

Oban Saints crashed out of the Scottish Amateur Cup at a wet and windy Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

Saints started brightly with Scott Maitland forcing the first corner kick of the match in the fourth minute. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the left was tempting but cleanly caught by Drumchapel keeper Stephen Mather.

At the other end, Saints number one Graham Douglas punched clear a corner kick from the left after Willie Gemmell had deflected a Marc McCran shot wide of target.

Myles McAuley, whose midfield partnership with Gavin Forgivee looked solid, turned the clock back several years with a rampaging run forward in the 16th minute. Not renowned for his shooting prowess, McAuley unleashed a powerful shot from 25 yards which Stephen Mather could only parry into the path of Daniel MacCuish whose attempt to lob the big keeper unfortunately cleared the crossbar.

Saints opened the scoring in the 34th minute from a free kick inside their own half following a foul on Lewis Cameron after Dene Cassells had headed away a Drumchapel corner kick from the left. Willie Gemmell rolled the ball short to Myles McAuley who once again strode forward purposefully, this time picking out Daniel MacCuish for an accomplished finish into the top corner from the edge of the box.

David Beaton was inches away from doubling Saints'

lead, diving in at the back post after Drumchapel skipper Paul McConachie had headed a 39th minute Lewis Cameron free-kick back across the face of his own goal.

On the stroke of half-time, a perfectly timed tackle from Adam Douglas foiled Cammy Hill who delayed pulling the trigger when clean through on Stephen Mather's goal just long enough for the Drumchapel full back to get his challenge in.

The second half was just three minutes old when Saints were made to pay for their missed first half opportunities.

Paul McConachie and Jack Wilson were allowed to race in unattended at the back post from an Alan Kelly free-kick from the right. McConachie squared the ball into the path of Connor Higgins who prodded past Graham Douglas from six yards. Saints appealed loudly for an offside decision but referee Joe Todd saw no infringement and further upset the home side by cautioning Willie Gemmell for dissent.

Three minutes later the turnaround was complete with Higgins knocking home from just a few inches after Graham Douglas had clawed a dipping and swerving Jamie Ross effort from underneath his crossbar to the feet of the onrushing striker.

Dene Cassells joined central defensive partner Gemmell in the referee's notebook for a late

challenge on Paul McConachie with Mr Todd, who handled the keenly-contested cup tie well throughout, balancing up the card count with cautions for Connor Higgins and Marc McCran.

Saints introduced Craig MacEwan, Matty Kelly and Kyle Cooper but the closest the home side would come was a close range David Beaton effort which Stephen Mather clawed behind at his near post.

As the clock ticked down, Saints gave a debut to youth team product Louie MacFarlane before Mr Todd brought proceedings to a close.

This Saturday Saints return to league business with a trip to Dumbarton to face reigning Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Champions St Patrick's FP. The game will be played on a 3G surface at either Our Lady of St Patrick's High School or Argyll Park, Alexandria, with a 2pm kick-off.

## Youth results and fixtures

League Cup: Dumbarton United 6, Under-13s 2. Scoring for Saints were Corey Pyper and Duncan Hunt. Scottish Cup: Under-16s 1, Pollok United 3. Cody McCulloch scored for Saints. This Sunday's fixtures: Under-15s v East Kilbride; St Cadoc's v Under-16s. Under-13s - no game.

## Robert's late season woes continue

### GOLF

Robert Macintyre's late season woes continued last week when, despite a promising start, he finished 64th out of 65 players who made the halfway cut at the Portugal Masters.

His two under par total on Friday should have left him in a position to contend for at least a top 20 finish, but a round of 74 on Saturday, followed by a disastrous 82 on Sunday left him

languishing at the bottom of the leaderboard.

His final round implosion, which included two eights on the back nine, means the Oban left hander will go into this week's AVIV Dubai Championship - the penultimate competition in this year's European Tour - short of confidence and trying to recapture the mid-season

form that saw him finish eighth in the Open, 12th in the Masters and contend for a spot on the European Ryder Cup team. If he is able to get four decent rounds under his belt in Dubai, the following week's season-ending DP World Tour Championship gives him an opportunity to finish the season on a high and climb up the Race to Dubai table where he currently lies in 17th place.

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OT

## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Stephen Sloss  
steps down  
as Oban  
Camanachd boss

Stephen Sloss has informed the Oban Camanachd committee of his decision to step down as team manager.

Stephen took charge at the end of the 2018 season, replacing Iain Hay, before retaining the Scottish Seas Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, as well as finishing runners-up in the Mowi Premiership, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the Artemis Macaulay Cup in his first season.

He said: 'I've enjoyed my time as manager and will always look back on the 2019 season as one where we could have done something special. However, it is a good time for the club to make a change and I'll always be interested in the goings-on at the club.'

Oban Camanachd vice president Gareth Evans said: 'Everyone at the club would like to thank Stephen for all his hard work. It is not an easy job and everyone has an opinion,



Stephen Sloss.

but Stephen has shown massive commitment, always at training twice a week and at games on a Saturday, tying it all in with his work commitments.'

Thoughts will now turn to finding a replacement.

Gareth added: 'We have a committee meeting this week when we will set a date for our annual general meeting which should take place by the beginning of December.'

Stephen Sloss will reflect on the 2021 shinty season in next week's Oban Times and Lochaber Times.



The victorious Oban Camanachd Under-14 side with the South League Final Trophy.

Oban youngsters win  
entertaining Under 14  
South League Final

Oban Camanachd's Under-14s won the South League Final, beating Aberdour Under-14s 7-1 on Sunday November 7.

This final brought together West League winners Oban Camanachd and Central League winners Aberdour in a 2pm throw-up at Lochaber High School's astro pitch.

The Aberdour defence, well marshalled by skipper Tom Shenfield, stood up well to a series of Oban attacks, keeping the final scoreless for the opening 25 minutes, before Scott Campbell and Matthew Sloss gave the Oban side a 2-0 lead at the break.

Matthew Sloss proved too hot to handle for the Aberdour defence, taking his tally to four goals, with Daniel Duffy and Fraser MacMillan getting the others.

Logan Adam, who made his first team debut this season, countered for Aberdour whose keeper John Henderson made a string of fine saves during this entertaining final.

Camanachd Association Youth Director Willie MacDonald presented the South League Shield to a delighted Oban Camanachd captain Alexander MacDonald.



Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart watches his side play Kingussie in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final, played at The Dell.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Positive message as manager  
reflects on Kilmallie's season

'We showed at times this season just how good we can be, competing with top sides in certain games whilst at the same time boosting the size of our first team squad.'

That was the positive message from Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart when reflecting on the 2021 shinty season. 2019 ended with former manager John Stewart keeping Kilmallie in the Mowi Premiership, securing an eighth-place finish to beat the drop by three points. However, he stepped down before the start of the following season to be replaced by his brother Martin Stewart.

2020 began with a 6-0 humbling at Lovat with Greg Matheson scoring four times. It didn't count though as less than a week later, covid concerns led to a suspension of all shinty activity until further notice.

When shinty eventually restarted in June 2021, Kilmallie got off to a false start, as Martin Stewart recalls. 'Five of our players had covid and opposing teams called games off too, meaning we missed the first month of the season.'

A season low-point followed as Kilmallie's first game was a 6-1 defeat to fierce rivals Fort William.

'You never want to lose to your local rivals but we just didn't apply ourselves. It is difficult to get all the boys on board at the start and to get them to trust me and back me, but we all worked hard to turn things around.'

Kilmallie bounced back with a much-improved performance the following week, twice taking the lead before eventually going down 4-2 at Kinlochshiel. 'We pushed Kinlochshiel all the

way and they went on to lift the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup.'

With two tough encounters out of the way, Kilmallie went on to play six more matches with a heavy defeat at Kingussie in the Tulloch Homes quarter-finals puncturing a winning run against Bute, Glenurquhart, Skye twice and Lochaber.

'Kingussie exploited our lack of pace at the back. We just have to hold our hands up as far as that game goes. What a squad they have though. They were just so good and they seem to have cover for every position, whether on the bench or in their second team. Even their substitutes would start for just about every other team.'

'Winning is a great  
feeling. We beat  
Skye home and away  
and they won  
the Balliemore.'

The victories are proof there is plenty to build on. 'Winning is a great feeling,' said Martin. 'We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore. We have rarely had a full squad to choose from and the away game in Skye was particularly testing in that respect. We played really well in the first half against Glenurquhart and in the derby against Lochaber. It was also nice to win the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup on Skye and the BSW Cup against Lochaber. These days help bring everyone together.'

During the season Kilmallie introduced 11 new players into their first team with Dylan Monk, Martyn

Cameron, Shane O'Rua, Stuart Ross, Kale Lacey, Aidan Love, Finlay Ireland, Jordan Campbell, Cam Ross and Phil Fyfe and new signing Stuart Callison from Lochaber all making their debuts. 'It's a boost for next season. We also have a lot of good youngsters who just need game time to make the next step. Ben MacKinnon can be great player and is still only 16. Dylan Monk and Aidan Love are also under 17 players and they too have great futures.'

'I thanked the players for their efforts at the end of the season. Take Robbie MacFadyen, for example. He stepped in as captain when Innes Blackhall was suspended and he has been solid in every game with his 'never-say-die' attitude. He'd be our player of the year if we had awards for the season.'

Martin has a keen interest in all things Kilmallie and has a clear desire for the club to do well. 'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter within the squad is unbelievable and reminds me of the first team a few years back. I believe they could win a cup next season.'

As far as Martin Stewart's own position as manager is concerned, Kilmallie usually has its annual general meeting in mid-January. 'I'd love to keep doing it,' he said, 'but there are changes at my work and that has to come first so I will have to see how that works out. I'd also like to get some help on the touchline as I'd really like to get back playing next season and I must say Craig MacDougall has been a big help this year.'

There will be issues to address ahead of the 2022

shinty season. Steven Stewart has relocated to London and is a significant loss. There are also the inevitable injuries. 'We've had more than our fair share of injuries of late,' said Martin.

Suspensions are a particular bugbear with bans for Innes Blackhall and Stuart Callison stretching into next season.

Stewart said: 'I'm not a fan of the current points system. We have only played eight matches this season so how do players serve their suspensions. I know players need to be more disciplined and some of our boys need to work on that. However Innes Blackhall was sent off last July and with three games still to serve, he probably won't play again until April 2022. That's an awful long time not to be playing, especially following a year with no shinty. There is a real danger guys will go off and find something else to do on a Saturday. The club is going to speak to the Camanachd Association about it.'

To make matters worse, Michael Rodger has a suspension which carries forward from the end of the 2019 season.

Despite the loss of Blackhall, Callison, MacIsaac, Rodger and MacDougall for the start of next season, Martin Stewart prefers to focus on additions to his squad.

'Kevin Toye has stepped down as second team manager so the club is looking to replace him. Kevin featured in the first team this season and is keen to try and win a place in the side permanently so he will compete with Shane Gillies. That's great for me as we will have two quality keepers competing for a place in the first team. We haven't had that for around 30 years.'

'It would also be great to get Jordan MacPhee back playing in midfield and I'm looking to play myself. I also think we have a forward line that will do well and score goals in the Premiership with Michael Rodger, Daniel Stewart and Craig MacIsaac, whilst Stuart Callison will add pace.'

The season might be over but Stewart has lost none of his enthusiasm adding: 'Our training takes place on the astro at Lochaber High School. It has been really competitive and the ball moves at pace. We have been getting 17 players at training each week and we'll keep that going into December, then have a break. We'll get back training in the New Year, play some friendlies in February and maybe organise an away trip. We will be ready to go by the time the new season comes around, there's no doubt about that.'



Bill Clark, centre, is congratulated by fellow players.

## Bill donates his prize from Ian's charity tournament

Isle of Seil Golf Club held its annual Ian Fullerton charity competition on Sunday October 31.

Players took part in a nine-hole Stableford tournament, won by Bill Clark with a score

of 18. Second equal was club captain Pat Mill and John Morgan on a count back with the same score of 18.

The event raised £125 which the winner Bill Clark donated to Marie Curie.

## 'Oar'some Rowaround Scotland celebrated

Rowers across Scotland have celebrated the end of an epic RowAround bid celebrating the country's coast and waters, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Saturday marked the end of an 'oar'some coastal voyage that has involved more than 1,200 rowers from clubs in Seil, Loch Awe and Mull, and as far apart as Orkney in the north, Annan in the south, Barra in the west and Dunbar in the east passing on a relay baton.

The ambitious challenge that has been two-and-a-half years in the making was organised to mark the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association – although this is now the 11th anniversary because Covid pulled the plug on the RowAround in 2020.

To get it done, the attempt had to be compressed into a shorter space of time but it has been worth all the muscle-power put into it, says Sue Fenton from Seil Coastal Rowing Club, who played a key part in its planning.

'Everyone involved has done a great job. We've had 1,282 rowers from 64 clubs who have covered 750 miles. People have been rowing right up until the



Rowing clubs met at Loch Tummel Sailing Club to celebrate the end of the 2021 RowAround Scotland challenge and join in freshwater sprints before the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's AGM.

last minute,' said Sue, who rowed 120 of those miles with eight different crews on eight separate legs on the way round. Her personal highlight was going through the Dorus Mor at the end of Loch Craignish with its extreme whirlpools.

RowAround Scotland 2021 was supported by the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21, co-ordinated by Event Scotland. The project is also supported by NatureScot, through Plunge In! The Coasts and Waters Community Fund. 'When we started the Rowaround, it was very hot

weather and sweat was dripping off our faces, then we ended in the freezing cold and it being very rough in the Sound of Mull and Ardnamurchan. One extreme to the other, in lots of different ways,' she said.

As part of the challenge, the open-top boats have been trawling for micro-plastics. The last of the sample bottles were handed over to Sue on Sunday to add to the others she has been storing in her shed at home ready to be handed over to researchers for analysis at The Scottish Association for Marine Science near Oban.

'It's the first time a small boat has done trawls of this kind for micro-plastics round Scotland. We've done 54 of them and the findings will eventually be written up in a paper we hope will benefit the planet and our seas. The information it will give is a kind of legacy from the RowAround,' added Sue.

On Saturday, founding members of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association 11 years ago rowed along Loch Tummel to the sailing club where they were met with cheers and handed over the RowAround relay batons to members of new clubs who have only launched skiffs for the first time this year. One of the specially-made batons will be going to the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther for safekeeping and a reminder of RowAround's achievement.

Boatie Blest from Cockenzie and Port Seton, Ullapool, North Berwick, RowPorty from Portobello and Coigach were the original clubs. The newest clubs to join are from Wigtown Bay, Loch Tay and Royal Northern and Clyde.

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

## RUGBY ROUND-UP

### Men's/Ladies

Oban Lorne Rugby Club's men's team travelled to Clydebank at the weekend, with a strong squad.

Conditions were bad, but the game went ahead on Clydebank's 4G pitch.

The coach wanted to see an improvement on the last few games and he got his wish with positivity and hunger shining through in the game.

The game started off well, with the Oban boys putting pressure on Clydebank but line-outs were difficult for both teams because of the weather.

The forwards knew they had to win the ball because of the conditions and get the ball out wide to the backs.

There was excellent ball carrying from Callum Maclachlan, Duncan Ferris and Jethro Anderson. This must have pleased residents of Jethro's home village of Brakpan in South Africa as they watched a live stream of the game. Oban is fortunate to have a player of his standard in Oban.

Oban started to get points on the board with two tries from Craig Wright and an excellent try from David Cameron.

Oban received two red cards and one yellow card meaning they ended up with only 12 players on the park who de-



Craig Wright makes a break for his first of two tries. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

fended for the last 15 minutes. All 22 played a part in the game, but special mention goes to Ross McCaskell, who came on for his first appearance for the senior squad.

Final score, 24-0 to Oban.

Oban sit fourth in the table with two games in hand. The next game is home to Dalziel on Saturday November 27.

There was no game for the ladies this week. Their next game is also at home on Sunday November 28 against Biggar.

### Girls Under 14s and Under 16s

The Under-14s and Under-16s attended a regional festival at East Kilbride with coaches Isla Macgillvray and Jordan MacIntyre.

The Under-14s enjoyed some 10-minute matches and had a chance to play Sevens.

There were big carries and tries from Abby McQueen, Rowan Gemmel, Autumn Maclarty and Pamela Ingram but brilliant play from all the girls.

The Under-16s played three 20-minute games. Everyone played exceptionally well with superb carries from Nicola Duncan and great support from Jess Jevons and Aimee Clark.

Check Oban Lorne Rugby Club's Facebook page for more information on all of its teams or visit [www.obanlornerfc.com](http://www.obanlornerfc.com).

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

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The RideOban Weekender attracted more than 80 people on their bikes.

# RideOban puts a great new spin on adventure

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

More than 80 people got on their bikes to join in Adventure Oban's first RideOban Weekender.

The event was packed with community cycling activities, including group social rides, mountain bike coaching in and around Oban, from Glencruitten Woods to Sutherland's Grove. There was also a screening of several

outdoor adventure films, including question-and-answer sessions with some of the people behind each film.

The RideOban Weekender was organised by the not-for-profit charity Adventure Oban in partnership with Chris Hutchens and Ben Cathro – two former Oban residents who have risen to the top of world mountain biking racing.

They were joined on the saddle by big-name Scottish riders Mikayla Parton and Joe Barnes

who joined in with rides and were special guests at the film screening.

A founding member of North Argyll Cycle Club, the event made good on Chris's commitment to find ways to give back to the community that supported him in his formative years in the sport.

Event organiser and Adventure Oban director Ben Sunderland said the weekend provided a framework to build on mountain bike provision

for all ages, shining a spotlight on what the community could do for young riders in particular. He hopes conversations started will go on to inspire more initiatives.

He said: 'The RideOban Weekender was an absolute blast, with a focus on having fun and making friends. The event delivered on exactly what Adventure Oban was set up to do: seek and provide ways to increase community access to the great outdoors for every-

one and help support existing clubs, organisations and local businesses.

'We're excited for what might come out of the conversations we've helped start with this event,' said Mr Sunderland, who praised the support of key partners North Argyll Cycle Club, Café Atlantis, Atlantis Leisure, Oban Cycles and the Rusty Cycle Shed.

Catch up with the RideOban fun on the Adventure Oban Facebook page.

## Disappointing finish for John

### MOTORCYCLING

It proved to be a difficult day at the office for Oban's John McPhee when a crash brought his Grande Prémio do Algarve at Portimao to an early end.

John entered the first corner third, having started the race from second, and dropped to seventh in the opening laps, but was able to stay with the lead group for a time. However, a gap started to form and in the process of pushing hard to close the leading riders down, he lost the front end going into turn 13. This unfortunately brought his race to an early end on the fifth lap.

John said: 'It was a disappointing way to finish a strong weekend. I've felt good every day and I was fast in the race.'

'Apologies to the team for the crash as it was my mistake. We were suffering in a straight line and were losing too much time. It was really tough and I had to go over the limit to compensate.'

'We know we're fast, we just need a little more when we're in the group to be able to fight in the long straights.'



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<b>11</b>	0422 1.4 1032 3.3 TH 1711 1.6 D 2320 2.8	<b>13</b>	0151 2.8 0705 1.6 SA 1404 3.3 2011 1.7	<b>15</b>	0338 3.1 0919 1.4 M 1533 3.6 2151 1.4	<b>17</b>	0418 3.6 1043 1.1 W 1635 3.9 2255 1.2
<b>12</b>	0537 1.6 1246 3.2 F 1839 1.8	<b>14</b>	0302 3.0 0822 1.5 SU 1457 3.5 2110 1.6	<b>16</b>	0353 3.3 1004 1.2 TU 1604 3.8 2224 1.3	<b>18</b>	0447 3.7 1118 1.1 TH 1706 4.0 2325 1.1

#### OBAN WEATHER

##### Thursday

Drizzle and a gentle breeze  
 Temperatures 10°C to 11°C.

##### Friday

Heavy rain and a moderate breeze  
 Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

##### Saturday

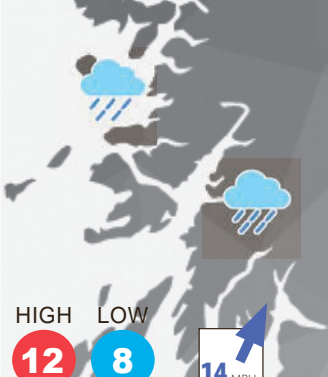
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
 Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

##### Sunday

Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
 Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

#### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardrishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30



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No 8589

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### Players encouraged to make own shinty sticks

### INSIDE THIS WEEK: Lochaber Ideas Week returns to celebrate and inspire

# MEMORIAL UNVEILED

**Donald Cameron of Lochiel unveils plaque to his famous ancestor.**

● FULL STORY PAGE 4



Photograph: Iain Ferguson

## Call to restrict second homes in Lochaber

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

With more than half of all homes in West Ardnachurchan now holiday homes, and with some townships seeing that rate surge to as much as 90 per cent, the demand for second homes in the area and wider Lochaber region is having a 'corrosive negative impact' which blights the opportunity for local young people to buy or rent homes.

So says Dr Michael Foxley, now a community councillor on Ardgour, but a former leader of Highland Council and a founder member of Lochaber Housing Association.

Dr Foxley was commenting in the wake of the recent decision by the Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) to block holiday home hunters from buying one of its vacant properties at Daliburgh on South Uist.

HHP director of operations John Maciver told the Lochaber Times: 'This property was determined as not being part of our long-term planning and our board decided to dispose of it.'

'We are very aware of the challenges and pressures people face in accessing housing due, in part, to the number of second homes and holiday lets on the islands and want to do anything we can to

● Turn to page 5 for more



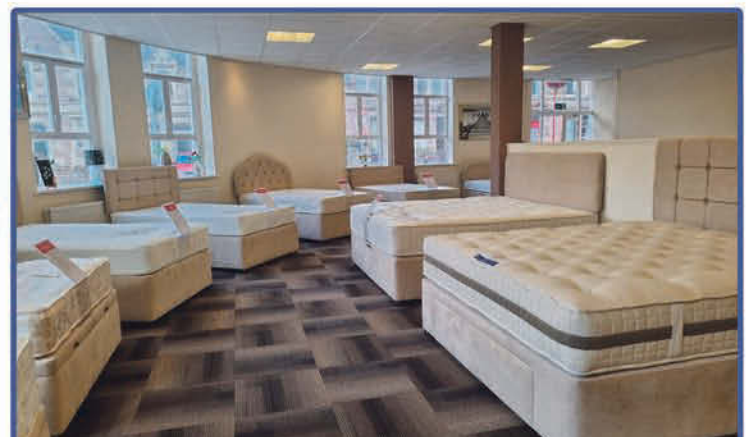
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LT

# Fireworks night lights up Kinlochleven

Kinlochleven's Island Park burst into life again with its first organised event for many years, a Guy Fawkes' Night fireworks display, writes Iain Ferguson.

Hundreds of people braved the changeable weather to join the celebrations which were run by The Island Park Community Field committee, a charity set up by a group of local people to bring the huge grassy area back to life and able to be used for sports and events.

Committee chairman Matthew Prosser said: 'We were delighted to announce our first official event at The Island Park Community Field on Guy Fawkes' Night. We made sure we sourced low noise fireworks in consideration of pets and wildlife.'

In addition to the fireworks, the committee organised a burger stall selling local venison donated by Jahama and cooked by local 'burger maker' John Hart, as well as a stall for homebaking. A raffle attracted donations from a number



A spectacular display of low noise fireworks and stalls were the perfect event to welcome people back to Island Park.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

viduals - for their help,' added Mr Prosser.

'It would not have been possible without them. We had a great night, only a little wet, and thankfully Scottish Fire and Rescue from Kinlochleven Station were on hand, but not needed. Thank you also to everyone who came and supported the event.'

At one time the hub of activity in the village for numerous different functions, Island Park

has recently lain dormant and overgrown used only rarely by the occasional dog walker, despite its convenient location and spectacular views.

Thanks to the committee and help from a number of bodies, including Jahama Highland Estates, the grass has been cut and the surface smoothed. A ride-on mower has also been bought to ensure it is kept at its best and a garage to house it has also been built.



## OBAN SCOTLAND IN ONE PLACE



Cities come in all shapes and sizes, some smaller than Oban is today.

Bidding for city status is about supporting what's great about Oban, and creating opportunities for funding for improvements such as more affordable housing, or infrastructure.

### Funding

Being a rural Scottish city would mean that Oban could be included in government city initiatives as well as rural growth initiatives.

### Future

The area needs to attract more people, investment and high quality jobs, to reverse our population decline and build a successful future. City status could help by raising the profile of the area nationally and internationally.

Help attract what our future needs.

See [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity) to support the bid.



# Call to completely overhaul town centre underpass

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@lochabertimes.co.uk

Two senior community councillors for Fort William have met with Highland Cinema owner Angus MacDonald, with the trio discussing a number of ideas of how the town could be enhanced.

Members of Fort William, Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council held their online October meeting recently and heard that chairman Mark Linfield and secretary Patricia Jordan had met with Mr MacDonald, at the cinema, at the latter's request.

Among various ideas talked about was a revamp of the

town's underpass, which everyone at the community council meeting agreed was in need of an urgent clean-up and makeover.

After discussion, it was agreed that some of the more innovative ideas would have to go to public consultation before the community council could commit its support.

Councillors Linfield and Jordan agreed with Mr MacDonald that the town requires 'something new and original' and with this in mind the members agreed to ask him to attend the November 16 meeting.

Members then agreed with a suggestion from Councillor

Andy McKenna that the community council should be engaging with the Highland Council FW2040 plan when it comes to pursuing projects such as this.

On the issue of the underpass, which connects the town's railway and bus stations with the High Street, councillors agreed it was in 'dire need' of a complete overhaul.

'It is an unwelcoming and poor exit/entrance to the High Street,' the council recorded in its minutes. 'It needs more than just another lick of paint and clean up, which we agreed is regularly undertaken by Highland Council.

'Also, the CCTV camera is

not working. This is unacceptable at a time when the message to women is safety first and not to walk alone at night.'

A number of ideas were discussed and the council agreed to email Highland Council ward manager Dot Ferguson.



Fort William's underpass which, community councillors say, is in dire need of a total revamp.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



# Councillor's change of heart over mowing and strimming of green space

A self-described 'fiend' for grass cutting and strimming, even Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson says he has now become a convert to seeing more open green spaces being allowed to grow just that little bit wilder.

Councillor Henderson told the recent full meeting of Highland Council, during a discussion on recommendations as part of its medium term financial planning approach, that he now enjoyed seeing more splashes of colour from wildflowers where once there were just uniform strips of green.

The council is having to plan for a budget gap in 2022-23 ranging from £9million at best, to as much as £35.4m.

In preparation for this, councillors last week agreed a £1.61m package of initial savings for 2022/23 which included efficiencies through reduced staff travel costs, procurement savings, cost recovery, deletion of some vacant posts and an increase in commercial waste charges. And there are potential savings to be made from reducing the amount of strimming and grass cutting undertaken each year, although Councillor Henderson warned it was important to use local knowledge and gain the backing of communities.

He told his fellow councillors: 'Something else that was touched on was the amenity service.

'If you look at the savings that are made there, some of them have already been proven. It is all

just good housekeeping and taking that money out of budget.

'I know it is different for city people when it comes to amenities and how you can change things, but in rural areas where you can work with communities, what tourists want now is green tourism, and there is a huge drive to having nice open green services, letting people see we have colour rather than pristine cut areas.

'I was a fiend myself for having stuff cut to the bone at one time. But I've changed my mind and everything looks so much better nowadays. I get to see colour in my eyes instead of just green.'

Asked to explain more about his change of heart, Councillor Henderson told the Lochaber Times that with less staff members available during the Covid pandemic, there had been less mowing and strimming.

'And there also wasn't a huge clamour from residents during this period and it seems when you are working with communities it is important not to over egg their expectations.

'I think we need to use local knowledge more to get better results, although you will still always get the one or two who will complain, but they are in the minority, I would say now.

'Transport Scotland did not cut some of its areas and it has been fantastic seeing all those yellow wild flowers instead of just willow herb.

'I've got quite a few people saying it's so much nicer.'

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Nevis Hillwalking Club is leading a hike this Saturday November 13 up two munros in Glen Spean: Beinn a' Chaorainn (1052m) and Beinn Teallach (915m).

'Beinn a' Chaorainn is a fine mountain just west of the mighty Creag Meagaidh, with three summits on a narrow, sinuous plateau above three east facing corries,' the club says. 'Its more humble neighbour is worth bagging for a little extra effort and an easy walk out. There are options to shorten the walk by omitting either summit. Full route – 16km, 1161m ascent. Omitting Beinn a' Chaorainn – 13km, 647m ascent. Omitting Beinn Teallach – 14km, 856m ascent.'

Walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions. If you want to know more about the club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact enquiries@nevishillwalking.club

# Remembering Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel

Driving rain and strong winds did not deter a group of loyal Camerons gathering at old Kilmallie graveyard on Saturday morning, where a fine slate plaque was unveiled by the present day chief of the clan, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, in memory of his famous ancestor, Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, 1629-1719, or Eoghain Dubh as he was more commonly known across the Highlands, on account of his long dark hair, was the 17th chief of the Clan Cameron.

Often depicted as the 'Ulysses of the Highlands', he was a staunch supporter of the Jacobite rebellions.

He lived at a time in Scottish history when military might and a fearless attitude towards government forces were much lauded attributes and Sir Ewen was a much admired and trusted leader by his fellow clansmen, most notably for his successful military planning and wise counsel.

There exists a good number of reports of the legendary exploits of Sir Ewen, including



his involvement in battles throughout his 90 years, including settling a 100-year feud with the neighbouring MacKintosh clan.

To commemorate the life of this Highland chief, 300 years on since his death in 1719, a number of members of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland undertook historical research to establish the possible resting place of Sir Ewen.

It is believed his remains are interred within the old Kilmallie enclosure where the slate plaque has now been attached to the outside wall.

Due to issues relating to Covid over the past two years,

The famous portrait of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

the installation and unveiling were delayed until this month.

Also attending Saturday's dedication ceremony was 100-year old Colonel Charles

Cameron, the present Lochiel's uncle, who was brought up at the clan seat of nearby Achnacarry and has a great memory for Lochaber history.

Lochiel thanked Chris Doak and Dr Roddy Cameron for their historical research into the final resting place of Sir Ewen and for organising the making of the plaque, while Bill Cameron and Andrew Macleod were thanked for its installation.

Thanks were also given to members of Kilmallie Parish Church who served hot drinks and biscuits in the church hall after the dedication.

Lochiel told the Lochaber Times this week: 'We had a very successful day at Kilmallie churchyard where we unveiled

a plaque at what is believed to be the final resting place of Sir Ewen. He was the 17th chief of Clan Cameron and described by Lord Macaulay as the Ulysses of the Highlands. A remarkable man who lived to be 90 and was a firm supporter of the Stuart cause.

'He reportedly bit out the throat of an English soldier who was about to stab him and is also thought to have killed the last wolf in Scotland.

'As one of the most formidable clan chiefs of the time, it is very fitting that he is commemorated in this way.'

## Apology for lack of tests as Western Isles hit by worst outbreak since Covid began

The head of NHS Western Isles has apologised for a lack of Covid tests following the highest daily case numbers to date.

The spike surged on Thursday November 4, when the health board reported 36 new cases in 24 hours, all of which were on the Isle of Lewis.

Following the outbreak, NHS Western Isles faced an 'unprecedented' demand for tests. In its regular updates on social media, it said: 'We wish to apologise to people waiting for testing. We are seeing unprecedented demand and we have a backlog.'

As a solution, it ran overnight testing and sent for a mobile testing unit from the mainland.

Infections continued to climb on November 5, with two further cases detected each on the Isles of Barra, Benbecula and North Uist, and a further 31 on Lewis, NHS Western Isles' chief executive Gordon Jamieson reported.

The next day, Saturday November 6, the health board updated: 'NHS Western Isles has seen more cases of Covid-19 in one day this week than we saw in the first six months of last year.'

'Many of the cases have a large number of adults and children who are their close contacts.'

'Alongside the measures to keep everyone safe – wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, keeping physical distancing and limiting the number of people in social gatherings – we offer testing to contacts to help reduce the

spread. We are trying to test more people than ever before. Up till now, we have always been able to maintain the incredibly rapid turnaround times that have been the envy of many other areas in Scotland.

'We have now moved to turnaround times similar to the mainland and ask people to bear with us whilst we increase the testing capacity by accessing a mobile testing unit from the mainland.'

'We will get tests arranged as quickly as we can, although we have to prioritise some tests over others, for example, hospital admissions and care home tests.'

'You will be contacted with the result of your test within 48 hours of it being taken. If you have waited 72 hours, please contact us to check on your result.'

'Otherwise, please do not call the Covid line as they cannot speed up the processes.'

'We have a no tolerance policy for abuse or threats to our staff and will report to the police as appropriate. We do appreciate your patience and understanding.'

Many islanders offered the service messages of support and gratitude. 'We know you are all doing your very best to keep us safe. Thank you,' said one. 'How lucky we are up here – incredible service and dedication, which is appreciated,' wrote another.

The board reported more than 300 people had been vaccinated on Saturday across the islands, and posted information about covid booster and

flu drop in clinics. That day 14 more cases were reported on Lewis, followed on Sunday by a further 18 on the island, plus one other case each on North Uist and Harris.

Meanwhile in Lochaber, NHS Highland will be delivering the following vaccination clinics for these GP practices: Acharacle, Covid and flu; Ballachulish, Covid and flu; Cill Chumein, Covid; Glen Mor, Covid; Kinlochleven, Covid; Mallaig and Arisaig, Covid, and Tweeddale, Covid and flu.

Eligible patients with these practices will be invited by letter or asked to call the vaccination hub. Appointments can also be rescheduled via the NHS Highland vaccination hub. Please only call the hub if you have been asked to. Other clinics are being run by your own GP practices and they will get in touch with patients directly.

NHS Highland said: 'We will roll out vaccination over the coming weeks, prioritising the over 70s, the clinically extremely vulnerable and the severely immunosuppressed and working through other eligible groups.'

'We have clinics scheduled for the remainder of the month in Fort William, Ballachulish, Sheilbridge, Kinlochleven, Kilchoan and Mallaig.'

'Patients will be invited by letter to these clinics with the exception of the clinics on November 22 and 29 in the Nevis Centre, Fort William. These two clinics are drop in for patients registered with non-participating practices.'



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# Caol and Mallaig funding given the green light

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Councillors have agreed to spend £100,000 on community initiatives in Caol and Mallaig. The Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee approved funding from the Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF) for the six community initiatives, including play parks in Caol and Mallaig.

The six schemes to benefit from funding are as follows:

■ **Caol Play Space** – Caol has few freely accessible areas where children can play games.

A vacant site has been identified adjacent to the community centre which could be developed to provide an open grass site for use by the whole community.

Subject to approval being received from the owning service (Care and Learning) and an acceptable project plan being drafted which would consider project specification, security, management, cost and ongoing maintenance, consideration would be given to allocating £35,000.

■ **Mallaig Playpark provision** – outdoor play is seen as increasingly important after the

past 18 months of lockdown for children.

In Mallaig, a small group of parents has been working in conjunction with the Road to the Isles Facilities Group to upgrade and improve the currently outdated and dilapidated playpark in the area located

## The area committee approved funding from the Place Based Investment Fund

Loch Nevis Terrace and Loch Nevis Crescent in Mallaig to enhance play opportunities for children up to the age of 12 years old.

To date, grant funding of £48,000 has been raised and it is considered an additional £30,000 would complete the project.

Consideration could therefore be given to contributing this from the PBIF fund.

Quotes would need to be obtained for the equipment and works.

Total – £30,000.

■ **Trishaw project** – this is a project to provide an electric

trishaw under the charity banner of 'Cycling Without Age' which allows accompanied excursions on specially developed bikes.

West Highland Wheelers members will volunteer as trishaw pilots and will take people who are no longer able to get out and enjoy the outdoors out on the front of the tricycle, with a carer or loved one seated beside them up front and a cyclist manning the pedals behind.

This is similar to projects being developed very successfully in other areas. Cost for trishaw and ancillaries. Total – £9,800.

■ **Housing Needs Assessment** – there is a lack of clarity and understanding of the extent of housing need in the area.

A housing needs survey is currently being carried out with the business sector which will help to identify their needs in terms of being able to attract and retain staff. Total – £5,000.

■ **Support for Young Carers Lochaber** – operating under the Connecting Carers banner, this proposal has two strands, both to support young carers.

It will work with the youth

hubs and education partners to run awareness raising activities and training. This will improve professionals' awareness of Young Carers and their needs and help to boost the number of referrals from the area. Total – £4,000.

Offer a range of short break activities, both single day events and residential weeks to young carers from the area.

These would focus on confidence building, resilience, team building and play. Total – £8,000.

■ **Community Planning – Caol** suffers from a high level of deprivation and as such is one of the identified areas within the Lochaber Community Partnership to have a locality plan.

The community and partners have worked together to develop a number of priority projects, but more work needs to be done to broaden the work of the Community Action Group and to ensure the ongoing engagement and project development is comprehensive.

Funding is required for both projects which will contribute to the objectives contained within the Caol Locality Plan. Total – £8,200.

## Kyle lifeboat aids stricken yacht off Eilean Donan Castle

Kyle lifeboat was called out on Sunday night after a yacht suffered engine failure and was dragging its anchor in extremely high winds near Eilean Donan Castle.

The lifeboat launched at 6.12pm after Stornoway Coastguard received a 'Pan Pan' urgent radio message from the lone sailor on board the disabled yacht.

The vessel was trying to motor from Loch Duich to Kyleakin when its engine had failed. The sailor had managed to seek a little shelter from the worst of the wind in the bay of Totaig by the mouth of Loch Duich, however, due to the weather, when the anchor was deployed it would not hold and began to drag towards the rocks.

The lifeboat made best possible speed through rough seas and arrived on scene at 6.30pm, where a crew member was put onboard the casualty vessel. It was then determined that the only safe outcome was to tow the vessel to the nearest safe harbour at Kyle of Lochalsh.

The lifeboat crew established a tow and began the journey heading back into the weather, taking more than two hours to get back to Kyle. However, on arrival in Kyle, a combination of the worsening weather conditions and the large number



of vessels seeking shelter in the port, it was decided it was too dangerous to try and get the yacht alongside the pier.

The lifeboat towed the vessel the short distance to Kyleakin harbour, where the vessel was put alongside the pontoons and handed over to the waiting local UK Coastguard team. Kyle lifeboat then returned to station and was refuelled and made ready for service at 10.15pm.

Speaking of the incident, a Kyle spokesperson said: 'The yacht had suffered mechanical failure and with the gale force winds and very rough seas, it was decided the only safe location to tow the casualty vessel to was Kyle or Kyleakin. However, this required the lifeboat to tow the 11-ton yacht through the extremely heavy seas which took over two hours. It is a timely reminder to all mariners to ensure they check the weather forecast before setting out on a voyage to ensure they can reach their destination in plenty of time before bad weather comes in.'

## Call to restrict second homes

Continued from page 1.

assist with this. Consequently, we are seeking to ensure that this property provides an opportunity for first-time buyers and households who wish to make their home on the island. If we were to dispose of further properties we would likely seek to protect them in a similar manner.'

Reacting, Dr Foxley said he was not surprised with the HHP's decision: 'There is now a very serious crisis in Highland rural areas and the islands, which directly prevents our young people being able to remain living in their own communities. Urgent and determined action is now required by the Scottish Government and by the Highland Council.

'We initiated a strong policy in the Lochaber Planning Committee 15 years ago that one house in a three-house development had to be sold at an affordable price to a local

person, with equity of site size, garden ground and view. This has now been reduced to a commuted payment towards a distant urban housing development. This policy needs to be reinstated and actioned.'

Dr Foxley called for the council tax on second homes to be significantly increased, but with an exemption from any punitive tax for historic family homes used by family members for generations.

He added: 'Holiday homes and Airbnb conversions should be capped at an agreed percentage of housing within any post code area as they provide little or no local benefit and buyers now outbid local people for these properties.'

A Gaelic summit, organised and chaired by Deputy First Minister John Swinney in 2020, heard of small island communities suffering what Dr Foxley said was a 'tidal wave of English incomers with little or no interest in

the Gaelic language, culture, nor the local community andcrofting way of life'.

He went on: 'People are now fleeing the cities, buying houses and sites unseen, above the offer price, with the proceeds from house sales in London giving them £2-6million to outbid all local interests... forcing local young people out of their local communities.'

'Other parts of the UK and Europe have formidable policies protecting local people in the rural housing market, whether by having a strict planning condition that the occupation is for a permanent residence or a two-tier market in housing – one for local people and another open market.'

Dr Foxley now believes second home sales should be restricted to no more than 15 per cent of any postcode area.

'Over 50 per cent of homes in West Ardnachurchan are now holiday homes. Some townships are 90 per cent,' he said.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



## Net zero resources hub helps businesses reduce carbon footprint

With COP26 well into its second week, we're all hoping for new international agreements to protect our environment.

In Lochaber, we've got many businesses that already work in areas directly involved with reducing our environmental impact and now is the time for ALL businesses to rethink the way we do things, reducing their climate impact and to help Scotland reach the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

But where do you start?

It can be confusing knowing what to do when looking at ways to reduce the environmental impact of your

business. That's why Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has added a new net zero resources hub on our website.

It signposts helpful resources like webinars, funding information and training to get you started and help along the way as we all join the race to net zero.

Find out how to calculate the carbon footprint of your business, how to ensure your energy is as green as it can be, learn from businesses that have already started on their net zero journey and find out about the benefits of training to become a certified green champion.

You'll also find out more about funding support available to help your business invest in energy-efficiency measures like heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades.

We're all in this together and together we can all make a real difference to reduce our environmental impact.

Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) and look for the net zero resources hub to find help to get you started.

# MSP calls for solution to rural connectivity issues

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant says the case of a constituent on Morvern frustrated by a lack of phone connectivity has highlighted gaps in rural provision, writes Mark Entwistle.

Mrs Grant has now challenged mobile phone companies and the Scottish Government to look seriously at the situation after investigating the case.

Sally Semple, of Drumbuidhe, on Morvern, contacted Mrs Grant complaining of 'evidence of gaps and deterioration in service' which still existed in the Highlands despite the Scottish 4G Infill programme.

Mrs Grant commented: 'Sally's case highlights that there needs to be some more joined-up thinking about how people live in rural areas and how to service their needs.'

'I see the frustration that many constituents suffer



Sally Semple outside her Morvern home.

highlighted in this one case.' Ms Semple explained she lived in a remote cottage six miles from the nearest public road and from the nearest neighbour, with no electrical connection or landline service. She said there was no consistent mobile reception at the site.

For more than 20 years, her family had used a Vodafone telephone number which was accessed via a fixed cellular terminal attached to an antenna pointed towards the Glengorm transmitter above Tobermory.

Ms Semple, a senior technical advisor in the Directorate of Energy and Climate Change, explained: 'Given my location, the combination of an antenna and a fixed cellular terminal has been an invaluable resource for the folk working and

travelling through this remote area.

'The door to my office where the phone is located has always been open for folk to use in an emergency.'

However, she told the MSP that from April this year the phone system stopped working and the company eventually told her it was unable to provide a service to her location. She never received an explanation of what changed and had not managed to cancel her service or received compensation.

Mrs Grant, who has campaigned for more than a decade for the need for better digital connectivity, investigated. Ms Semple did then get to cancel her service and received compensation and then signed up for wifi calling with a different operator.

Vodafone told Mrs Grant that it had not shut down any sites in the area but was stopping its Sure Signal devices to replace with wifi calling using an internet connection. But the MSP noted Ms Semple had never used Sure Signal and the company did not explain the lack of service to the location.

Ms Semple told the MSP: 'Being able to make phone calls using the mobile phone network – albeit with an amplified signal – was a key factor that allowed my family to use our home and to provide com-

munication and help to those who pass by. I remain nervous that communication over the internet will be able to replace the signal from Glengorm in all circumstances.'

She also said her phone would no longer be available to people passing by and she had been working from her Edinburgh office due to connection difficulties.

Finance Secretary and constituency MSP Kate Forbes also provided an update on the government's 4G infill programme which provides new mobile masts to rural communities.

Mrs Grant added: 'Sally's case highlighted that some fixes weren't suitable for her location – the Scottish Government's offer of a super-fast broadband voucher was not needed as she is connected to the best available supplier in her location and she does have satellite broadband.'

'Sally is also on her third supplier in the last five years as each has gone bust and a physical internet connection is out of the question as in 2008 the SSE quotation for providing electricity was about £400,000.'

'It's fine for public bodies and companies to encourage people to work from home, especially as a result of the pandemic, but we need the services to help them.'

## Young people tell conference good mental health is a priority

Prevention and early intervention support to prevent a deterioration in mental health is a priority for young people in Lochaber, it has emerged.

Youngsters have been making changes following the Highland Youth Parliament's conference focused on improving support for young people's mental health.

Highland Youth Convener Anja Johnston said she was happy to see young people taking control of their future.

The Thurso resident said: 'Our recent conference was a much more focused discussion compared to previous confer-

ences which I believe has given young people the tools to go away and have discussions with adults that can help them to implement change.

'The vision of our Mind Us campaign is starting to become a reality and young people are taking their mental health needs into their own hands. Across the Highlands, there are excellent examples of what can be done when young

people are given the opportunity to take the lead in making positive changes to better themselves and their peers.'

In Lochaber, the Lochaber Health and Social Care redesign is progressing with young people highlighting that the prevention and early intervention provision of mental health is a priority for young people in Lochaber.

Youth development officers have been supporting young people and gathering their views which has culminated in mental health becoming an agenda item for consideration at the stakeholders' redesign meetings. It is hoped this will form and become part of an integral part of the redesign process.



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# Police reminder of mountain safety

## Pledges to protect Lochaber's rainforest

A number of mountain rescue call-outs in Lochaber has triggered an appeal from Police Scotland asking the public to be prepared for all eventualities in the Highlands when enjoying hiking and climbing.

Mountain users are urged to ensure they are fully equipped for their activities and are prepared for conditions at this time of year, which includes a torch and spare batteries.

Since the beginning of October, a number of people have become lost due to fading light.

As a result, police and Mountain Rescue Team volunteers have responded to assist people from remote and rural locations who have inadequate skills and equipment to safely complete their route or have a lack of equipment for darkness.

On Sunday November 2, a man and teenage boy became



Glencoe is one of the busiest areas of Lochaber in winter.

lost in the Spean Bridge area around 6.20pm and were walked safely off the hill with mountain rescue assistance.

A second call out at 11pm saw a man and a woman lost in Glencoe without torches. Twelve mountain rescue

volunteers found the pair, who were walked to a safe area to be airlifted from the hill.

No-one was injured in the incidents.

Inspector Nick Hough, based in Fort William, said: 'The change of seasons as we move

into the colder months with shorter daylight hours brings additional challenges to those going to enjoy the expanse of areas across the Highlands.

'We'd ask the public to be mindful of their own skills and experience and always be prepared for all eventualities. It is crucial you are prepared.

'Plan the route you are going to walk and consider whether it is safe and you have the ability to complete it safely. Do not go beyond your ability. Scottish mountains are extremely unpredictable so take precautions, plan ahead and be aware of, and have respect for, the Outdoor Access Code.

'If you do find yourself in need of assistance because of being lost, injured or in an emergency when outdoors, phone 999, ask for police then Mountain Rescue. You will be helped.'

Lochaber and the wider Highlands are home to some of Scotland's last remaining temperate rainforests, including at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest.

Now Highland Council has welcomed the commitment by COP26 leaders in Glasgow to end deforestation by 2030.

Through the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforests, a diverse group of organisations and public bodies, the council has said it is committed to working with partners such as the Woodland Trust, Forestry and Land Scotland and the Scottish Government to protect these areas.

The Woodland Trust is investing significant resources in the expansion and protection of Scotland's rainforest. The trust manages the chain of five woodlands on the West Coast, all of which have unique rainforest characteristics.

While each site is managed to conserve this rare habitat, the native pinewoods of Loch Arkaig and Ben Shieldaig are especially significant – native pinewoods make up only three

per cent of woodland found in Scotland's rainforest.

Chairperson of Highland Council's Climate Change Working Group, Councillor Trish Robertson, said: 'Only 30,000 hectares of rainforest habitat remains in Scotland, mostly in small woodlands such as those in Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross. But these are not large enough to be self-sustainable and we need to help.'

'We absolutely welcome the pledge by world leaders to end deforestation by 2030 and we will fully support our partners and the Scottish Government to enhance our existing forests and continue their growth elsewhere. Highland is home to some of the most stunning woodland in the UK and we must look after it.'

Environment Minister Mairi McAllan said Scotland's rainforest will be restored and expanded as a natural solution to the climate emergency. Supporting the restoration and expansion of the rainforest will be a key part of a £500m investment.

## Plockton and Portree pupils prove STEM bright sparks

More than 500 pupils from Plockton and Portree high schools and their associated primary schools are taking part in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) sessions.

Between August and November, the Science Skills Academy (SSA) has been delivering 36 hands-on practical STEM sessions, called Newton Modules, to P6-S2 classes during the inaugural tour of its 'pop-up' Newton Room.

The final two legs of the tour saw the Newton Room hosted at An Crùbh on the Sleat Peninsula last week before returning to Portree Shinty Club on Tuesday, where it will remain until November 16.

Primary pupils have taken part in the robotics and mathematics Newton Modules, investigating different ways of estimating, calculating and measuring distance then using LEGO Mindstorms robots to assess their accuracy.

Secondary pupils have explored electricity generation and renewable energy sources via the Renewable Energy Newton Module.

SSA is a partnership project led by Highlands and Islands



Children from Bunscoil Shlèite taking part in STEM activities on Wednesday, November 3.

Photograph: Skye Commercial Photography.

Enterprise (HIE) as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal.

It aims to inspire more young people to become interested in STEM, encourage them to study these subjects at school and beyond and raise awareness of the wide range of STEM careers available in the Highlands and Islands. The Highland Newton Room Network has been created by the SSA in locations across the region, including Fort William, which opened in 2019.

The pop-up approach replicates the experience of visiting a Newton Room, with portable furniture and equipment and a dedicated member of staff to deliver activities.

The pop-up Newton Room has been hosted at various

locations across Skye and Lochalsh including Achmore, Dunvegan and Staffin.

Emma Robertson, SSA project manager at HIE, said: 'One of the fundamental principles of the SSA is to ensure that all young people aged 10-14 years, in every part of the region get equal access to inspiring STEM activities.'

'We are delighted, after a challenging 18 months, to now trial our pop-up Newton Room model with schools in Skye and Lochalsh.'

Katie Wight, teacher at Bunscoil Shlèite, added: 'The pupils got to use the technology and experience programming as well as robotics in a combination of fun activities.'

'Scott was fantastic with the pupils.'

## Butternut squash soup

A pumpkin shell filled with scrumptious soup

Syn FREE

Takes 45 minutes

Serves 4

### Ingredients

Low-calorie cooking spray

1 onion, diced

1 medium butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into wedges

1 small potato, peeled and quartered

2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed

900ml hot vegetable stock

Fat-free natural fromage frais, to serve



### Method

Spray a large non-stick pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a low heat. Add the onion and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Increase the heat to medium, add the butternut squash and potato and cook for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and season lightly. Pour in the stock and simmer for 25 minutes, or until everything is tender and cooked through.

Using a hand blender or food processor, blend the mixture until smooth. Transfer the soup to a hollowed-out pumpkin (or a large serving bowl!) and top with a swirl of fromage frais and the sliced chillies.

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## Glen Spean Market

Glen Spean Market is hosting producers and crafters markets at the Ben Nevis Auction Mart, Torlundy, on Saturday November 13 and Saturday December 11 from 10am-1pm.

There will be a range of food producers, brewers, distillers and crafters hoping to entice shoppers for Christmas.

Glen Spean Market is the brain child of Viv MacDonald and Liz MacMaster who came up with the idea during lockdown. They went on a Zoom course facilitated by the Scottish Crofting Federation and run by Elchies Farm.

Their aim was to provide a once-a-month Farmers Market for local producers to sell their (mainly) perishable goods and also provide a safe outdoors environment for local people to meet. Originally based in the courtyard at Glen Spean Brewery, Tirindrish, visitors could also stock up on beer and wine from the Glen Spean Brewery shop.

From small acorns large trees grow... There has been such a demand for stalls for the winter markets (and to be somewhere dry out of the inclement weather), the team



Glen Spean Market is the brain child of Viv MacDonald and Liz MacMaster.

had to think of a different venue.

They are delighted that the Ben Nevis Auction Mart has agreed to let them host markets there. There is plenty cover and plenty parking. Each month the market supports a charity – in November there will be fund raising for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

**GET INVOLVED**  
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# Activists join climate marches in Glasgow

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

A number of climate and environmental activists from Lochaber made the journey to Glasgow on Saturday to join thousands of others for the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice March, to coincide with the city's hosting of the COP26 conference.

Some also took part in the march on Friday, organised by Fridays for Future Scotland, a group founded by youngsters inspired by Swedish teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

Local SNP constituency MSP Kate Forbes – also the Scottish Government finance minister – was among those attended a number of official events at COP26 itself.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'As we come to the end of the second week of COP26, Scotland has lived up to its



Lochaber climate activists Andrew Squire, Kate Willis (centre) from the Fort William branch of Extinction Rebellion, and Scottish Greens MSP for the Highlands and Islands, Arianne Burgess, pictured at the march in Glasgow on Friday.

proud tradition of activism and of peaceful protest.

'That is a source of pride for the whole country, and I know

folk from Lochaber have also been a key part of this.

'As the First Minister has repeatedly said, everyone

knows what is required for this summit to be a success.

'COP26 must secure the commitments that will limit global warming to 1.5°C or, at the very least, the near term commitments that will keep that objective alive.

'It must also deliver a fair financial settlement for developing countries, one which takes account of the loss and damage caused by climate change.

'There's no doubt that over the past week we have seen progress. But it's also clear that we've not yet seen enough.

'World leaders – and the biggest emitters and potential funders especially – must step up. That is essential.

'But governments like ours must continue to play our part because, while none of us are at the negotiating table, our influence and our example will be crucial in building the momentum.'

## Lochaber campaigners support day of action



Braving strong winds and heavy rain, local environmental campaigners marked the COP26 Day of Action on Saturday at the Old Fort site at Fort William, with many 'toots' of support from passing motorists. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Area committee approves traffic calming

Members of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee this week gave their backing for the installation of three sets of speed cushions on Lundavra Road, Fort William, writes Mark Entwistle.

Traffic calming on the Lundavra Road is to improve the safety of walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users, which also ties in with the council's commitment to climate change and cutting emissions. The speed cushions support the temporary 20mph speed limit on this road and enable it to be

self-enforcing.

The cushions are spaced out to ensure reduced speeds will be maintained over the entire length of Lundavra Road.

Full statutory consultation for the introduction of the speed cushions on Lundavra Road was carried out with proposals being sent to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Bus Companies, Highland Council Public Transport, Highland Cycle Campaign, Road Haulage Association, Logistics UK, Local Elected Members and the local

community council.

The wider public was also consulted via a public notice that appeared on local lamp columns and in the Lochaber Times back in July.

The decision this week means that the temporary order and traffic calming will continue to be in place for a maximum of 18 months from when it went live on March 12 this year, expiring on August 22, 2022.

This time will be used to carry out statutory consultation for consideration of permanent 20mph speed limits in Fort William.

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# Arisaig tech whizz hopes video game will revolutionise online learning

A 3D video game developed by Arisaig-based tech entrepreneur Anne Widdop could change the way we learn.

Launched at the end of October, Planet Pollinate uses cutting-edge technology to create classrooms of the future.

Anne, a former software engineer and Global IT Director for IBM and Hewlett-Packard, who lives and runs the tech business from her Lochaber home, said the initiative came about from a desire to solve a problem that almost everyone she knew had.

'Children, students and workers have been stuck at home trying to learn using out of date materials they can't interact with. People deserve more. Education needs to be brought into the 21st century and why can't it be fun?' she asked.

Anne continued: 'There

are big problems with online learning. Eighty per cent of us who started a course online gave up because we were bored, distracted or frustrated with the content and the pace.

'Shockingly only five per cent of knowledge is retained and only one third of learners improve their performance.'

The VR Hive uses video gaming technology and artificial intelligence to really shake up online learning.

Anne added: 'Clearly many others see this as a major problem, I am delighted to say that I've won several competitions recently.'

'Being chosen to be part of the AI Accelerator at the world-class Bayes Centre in Edinburgh is a real boost and I have secured funding from Innovate UK, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Amazon.'



An image from the Planet Pollinate 3D video game. Inset: Anne Widdop, right, and Morag Webster, with VR headsets.

**A wee reminder.**

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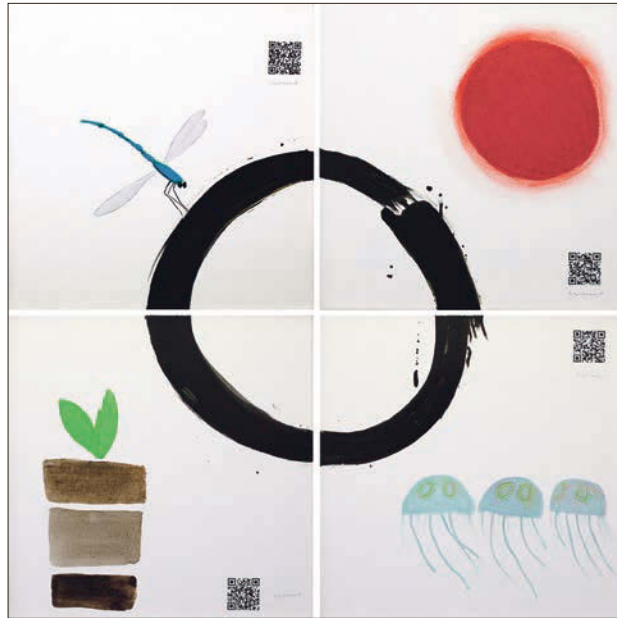
# Gallery showcase chimes with C

As COP26, hosted in Glasgow, draws global focus to climate change, Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery, close to Loch Sunart, is showcasing two exhibitions with an environmental theme, writes Nic Goddard.

All Things Connect, on display in the main gallery space until December 3, brings together 11 artists, all of whom present work celebrating and exploring the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

Andrew Squire, a Lochaber-based artist and activist who presents the title piece, explained: 'It can feel as though there are just two options in the face of the climate emergency we are facing; to blindly believe everything will be okay or to accept we are doomed.'

'I want to remind people there is a third way, to connect and create networks with others to find collective and creative solutions. Art gets under our skin and can speak to us in a way statistics and cli-



mate change facts sometimes do not.'

Squire's artwork, consisting of four panels joined by the Zen symbol for the completeness of the universe, features the four elements of water, air,

earth and sun with QR codes which link to apt quotes.

Stained glass artist Ise Stumpff, who uses the same techniques developed by medieval artists to create her wonderful art from her

Andrew Squire's work which is on show as part of the exhibition.

Lochaber studio, presents a triptych of glass panels, connected by a stream of water to represent the communities which exist within the connected environments of air, soil and water, which she feels we must both connect with and work to protect.

Referring to the quote from which the exhibition takes its title, Stumpff elaborated: 'Humans have come to believe that Earth's resources were ours to take, yet we must understand, as Chief Seattle said, 'we are one thread within the web of life and whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.'

Anna Raven, who presents a meditation on the movement of water as part of the exhibition, said: 'Through human actions we risk our natural world. Fires rage, ice melts and

sea levels rise. We must change how we live on planet earth.' Fort William-based landscape artist Amy Marshall, who uses sustainable art materials including hemp canvases and handmade natural paints, is inspired by woodlands, beaches and oceans rich with biodiversity and habitat.

A mother of young children, Amy explained: 'My art depicts some of the precious landscapes I want my children to grow up surrounded by.'

All Things Connect, which also includes work by Georgia Murray, Lotte Glob, Helen Michie, Jane Rushton, Kate Foster, Richard Bracken and Tamsin Cunningham, is accompanied by a beautiful original piece of music written by composer Kerrie J Robinson.

Also on display during November is Recovering Ground, a collaborative exhibition between sculptor Lucy Gray and writer Leonie Charlton. It's a powerful

combination of beautiful poetry from Leonie illustrated by the work of Lucy, who uses materials found in nature to create her sculptures.

The Recovering Ground poem, displayed in full on a board at the start of the exhibition, is continued around the walls alongside sculptures.

A QR code linked to the poem read aloud by Joanna Tope set to music by Breagha Charlton, allows for a fully immersive experience as you linger beside each sculpture.

Both the materials and subject of Lucy Gray's art drawn from the landscape and natural world and the evocative beauty of Leonie Charlton's words draw you in to engage with the connection we each have to the landscape.

Lucy explained a little of the process of her art which combines found natural materials such as wood and stone with bronze gilding and lacquering, taking inspiration from the wildlife and the landscape

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# COP26

around her. She said: 'I am fascinated by the movement and ever-changing motion of rivers and tides. The work involved in creating a sculpture echoes that of exposure to the elements and the passing of time adding and removing layers to the natural world.'

Gallery owner Andrew Sinclair explained: 'It is always exciting to be approached by our exhibiting artists with ideas for new and interesting exhibitions. Climate change affects us all and using the arts to raise awareness made perfect sense.'

The two exhibitions can be viewed at Resipole Studios, located between Strontian and Acharacle on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

All Things Connect and Recovering Ground are available to view on the website, along with the accompanying music and poetry.

# Boost for Lochalsh community food project

The future of the Community Fridge in Kyle has been secured for a further year and a new community food growing project will start soon in Lochalsh with £20,000 of funding from the People's Postcode Lottery.

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust has been awarded the funding to continue, expand and find permanent premises for the Community Fridge in Kyle and to start a new community food growing project in three pilot areas in Lochalsh.

The project will be co-ordinated by Annie Chalmers who has been running the Community Fridge since it was set up more than a year ago.

The Community Fridge was set up during Covid as a food share scheme to address low income and food waste. To date it has redistributed more than 4,000 kilos of food from local shops – the Kyle Co-op and the Spar Shop in Balmacara – to benefit local people and has prevented the food from being sent to landfill.

The Community Fridge is

**'We are delighted this funding will secure the Community Fridge for another year.'**

open six days a week with 60 to 90 household visits a week and is also used as a drop-off point for the southern branch of the Community Foodbank, Skye and Lochalsh.

With the kind support of the Church of Scotland, the community fridge is currently housed in the church hall on Church Road.

The Community Fridge has been run so far using a series of small grants which covered the cost of the co-ordinator on 45 hours a month, supported by six volunteers, however this funding was due to run out at the end of October.

With this funding, the Community Food co-ordinator's role will be extended to 25 hours a week for a year, allowing Annie to expand the Community Fridge by developing recipe cards and



The project will be co-ordinated by Annie Chalmers, who has been running the Community Fridge since it was set up more than a year ago.

ing polytunnels, allotments or orchards and 294 people wanted this for individuals.

During lockdown, the interest in Lochalsh in growing and processing food locally was made clear. Six growing/foraging/cooking digital events during lockdown attracted up to 100 attendees per event.

The project will also reduce loneliness and increase well-being and physical fitness.

Maggie Byrne, chairperson of Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust, said: 'We are delighted this funding will secure the Community Fridge for another year. The project will address food waste, train people about how to reduce food waste and how to grow, cook and preserve their own food, reducing food miles, increasing local food resilience and making the area more healthy and more sustainable.'

'This funding commitment is already demonstrating how important our community survey will be in demonstrating to funders what our community wants and needs. The next step is to write our community action plan.'

cookery classes throughout Lochalsh; researching and securing permanent premises and setting up community food growing projects in three areas of Lochalsh where land can be identified.

One of the community growing projects will be in Kyle and organisers are talking to another potential partner, but if your community can identify land and is interested in developing a community growing project, please get in touch with the trust through social media or the website.

Funding to buy equipment

and three community polytunnels is being applied for from other funders. This is the first project developed as a result of the Lochalsh Community Survey, part of the Lochalsh Collaborates project led by Community Development Officer Susan Walker and funded by the Scottish Government.

Almost 600 survey responses from an adult population of 2,000 showed that 72 per cent wanted action on waste reduction; 299 people wanted improved access to land for community growing, includ-

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# Not all plain sailing but plenty to celebrate

Members of Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) came together at the end of October to celebrate all that was good with their 2021 season.

And the general consensus was that after a challenging time for the club due to Covid it was fantastic to see sailing return to Loch Linnhe.

LYC worked hard to ensure Covid protocols were in place to enable members to sail safely, take part in events and enjoy being back on the water.

The club benefited from new members joining and achieving their RYA qualifications, members participating in the club regatta plus a number of dinghy and keelboat races taking place throughout the season.

Club members also took part in West Highland Yachting week, the Soling Nationals and represented LYC at dinghy championships around the UK.

All this hard work culminated in the annual prizegiving evening and annual general meeting. The event was well-attended by members



Hamish Loudon, right, presents the Commodore's burgee to Vince Dean.

with the trophies presented by outgoing Commodore Hamish Loudon and Cheryl Allan.

The club thanks Sharon at Slainte Mhath for her help engraving the trophies.

After the prizegiving, it

was time for Hamish to be thanked for his long service and dedication to the club. He was presented with the Ancient Mariners award in recognition of his years spent volunteering at LYC.



Keith Falconer, Tim Sims and Kenny Clark at Lochaber Yacht Club's prizegiving and annual general meeting.

New Commodore Vince Dean was presented with the Commodore's burgee and chaired a short meeting to discuss the future season and members thoughts on what the club's focus should be for

2022. The new committee will continue to meet monthly during the winter to plan the 2022 programme.

For more information on joining the club, learning to sail or getting involved



Stephanie James presenting Hamish Loudon with the Ancient Mariners trophy for long service and dedication.



Robbie Thurlow and Cheryl Allan.

in other ways contact sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk or go to the website Lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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

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- A Best of Perthshire Gift Basket featuring a host of treats.

What beautiful park does Parklands Hotel overlook?

To enter, send entries with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 December 2021. **Entries from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Crossbill Gin.**

T&C: Overnight stay for 2 people at Parklands Boutique Hotel is for 2 nights bed and breakfast. Subject to availability. Must be taken by 31st March 2022. Gift card and basket will be presented to the winner on arrival at the hotel. Cannot be exchanged for monetary value

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# Skye salmon farmer sends greenhouse gases packing

As the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow starts to wind up, Scotland's newest organic salmon farming start-up is launching new greener packaging.

The fully-compostable packaging will contain less than half the amount of CO2 than normal packaging, reduce the need for energy at the packing stage and eliminate microplastics, while still ensuring food safety and storage time.

The Organic Sea Harvest organic salmon portions in the new packaging will be available early next year.

Called CF422, the packaging will be sourced from CELNOR Eco Packaging Limited, a company offering plastic-free, compostable biomaterial packaging purpose-grown and sourced in the EU.

Organic Sea Harvest has been searching for packaging in keeping with their organic



Salmon portions in the new packaging.

with environmentally-friendly packaging that helps contribute to global net zero.

Ove Thu, Organic Sea Harvest chief executive, said: 'As people all over the globe work together to overcome climate change, it is important for us that we take every opportunity to safeguard the planet. Today's packaging and transportation of food must change to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. As an ever-changing company, we have been invested in finding a better way to package our frozen salmon portions.'

'This is a small, yet not insignificant step, towards securing net zero – a goal we all have a responsibility to work towards.'

ethos. CF422 will reduce the use of plastics and, therefore, eliminate the danger of microplastics in the environment, unlike current, widely-used industry packaging. Once the

salmon has been removed and enjoyed, the packaging can be composted.

The packaging is partly composed of calcium carbonate, the same material found in

eggshells, so will leave nothing behind except compost.

As Organic Sea Harvest works toward its goal of becoming the world's leading organic salmon farmer, it will move forward

## Council confirms plan to close Uig Primary School on Skye

The Highland Council has confirmed it has implemented its proposal to formally close the mothballed Uig Primary School on Skye.

Between 2019 and 2021, the local authority undertook extensive consultation on a proposal to close the school.

As with all school closures, the proposal was referred to Scottish ministers who can decide to 'call-in' a school closure proposal for further investigation.

On November 2, Ministers confirmed the closure proposal will not be called in and that Highland Council can implement the closure.

The Highland Council says it will work with the community to explore how to make best use of the former Uig Primary School building.

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## Blas festival 2021 November 19-27 Samhain

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Saturday 20 November - Caol Community Centre @ 7.30pm  
Cèilidh-Dance with Monach Isles Cèilidh Band and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

Monday 22 November - Roybridge Memorial Hall @ 7.30pm  
Buaidh nam Ban featuring Kim Carnie, Megan Henderson, James MacIntosh, Sorren Maclean & Brian McAlpine and Brìghde Chaimbeul & Aidan O' Rourke

Friday 26 November - Glengarry Community Hall @ 7.30pm  
Aonghas Grand aig 90 - marking the significant birthday of the celebrated fiddler with former pupils including Allan Henderson, Ingrid Henderson, Sarah Jayne Shankland, Eilidh Shaw & Kevin Cameron

Saturday 27 November - Highland Cinema, Fort William  
6pm (with dinner) & 9pm (no dinner)  
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# Lochaber Ideas Week returns

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce the return of Lochaber Ideas Week, its flagship week of events to inspire, educate and motivate the business and wider community of Lochaber and the Highlands, from Monday November 15 to Friday November 19.

The seventh outing of this popular fixture in the annual business and community calendar, slimmed-down and Covid-safe for 2021, will bring the local business community together to focus on and celebrate the power of ideas and to inspire and inform.

In partnering with West Highland College UHI's Advancing Manufacturing Centre, Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre, Ben Nevis Distillery, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland and BSW Timber, Lochaber Ideas Week will offer exclusive opportunities to promote business growth, while encouraging the community back into the swing of sociable, safe in-person business focused



Frazer Coupland.

events. Frazer Coupland, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'We can't wait to immerse ourselves once again in a week of events that brings the business community together in a Covid-safe way. I am delighted the base for our events this year will be Ben Nevis Distillery and we look forward to welcoming our members and community along to a great week of inspiration and insight, culminating in our grand finale gala dinner on Friday night.'

Lochaber Ideas Week 2021 events are mostly free-to-attend. They include:

Monday November 15, 3pm to 7pm: Lochaber Chamber Premium Members Event at Advancing Manufacturing Centre, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

In celebration of the official opening of West Highland College UHI's Advancing Manufacturing Centre (AMC), Premium Members are being invited to the new centre where they can speak to the experts about ways this facility can help improve and enhance their business.

Tuesday November 16: Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland Schools Event at AMC, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

At this exclusive event, young people will have the opportunity to learn about the future of manufacturing and what Lochaber has to offer.

Wednesday November 17: Aquaculture Day at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort



Lisa Wharton and Mark Gibbings, from Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, immerse themselves in the finer details of the Lochaber Ideas Week programme.

Photograph: Brodie Hood.

William. The Aquaculture Day celebrates innovation in this key growth industry for Lochaber and is targeted towards sector professionals interested in aquaculture innovations for sustainability, training and recruiting for tomorrow's aquaculture sector.

The event is presented in collaboration with the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre.

Thursday November 18: Tourism Day at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort William.

The Tourism Day offers the opportunity to celebrate the resilience and inspiration of Lochaber's biggest industry. Sustainability is the key to the future of tourism and delegates will reflect on what they have learned from the chal-

lenges of the last 18 months and what future trends will shape the visitor economy of tomorrow to make sure the local tourism industry is ready for the future.

Friday November 19, BSW Timber Tours, 9am and 1pm, at BSW Timber, K2 Sawmill, Corpach, Fort William.

An exclusive tour behind the scenes at BSW Timber. BSW Timber is one of Lochaber's biggest and busiest local employers, one of seven UK sawmills in the largest integrated forestry business in the UK. This is a fantastic and rare opportunity for businesses and the general public to go behind the scenes of the operation that manufactures and supplies a wide range of quality, FSC®-certified sawn products and co-products for an array of

industries and is committed to supporting sustainable forestry. Tours at 9am and 1pm last approximately 1.5 to two hours. Only 30 places available on each tour.

AMC Open Day, 11am to 3pm, at AMC, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

The AMC will be throwing open its doors all day for a special 'behind the scenes' look around the centre as it plans ahead to becoming a drop-in hub for anyone hoping to bring their business ideas to life. The open day will include a on-the-hour centre tours so you can see all the machinery and software on offer. Find out what it could do for you and all at zero cost. To book a tour contact Margaret Weir or Andy Harpur on [amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk).

## Get in touch.

Find out from DYW West Highland how **your business** will benefit from the drive, energy and diversity that **young people** bring to the workplace

Visit [www.dywwesthighland.org](http://www.dywwesthighland.org) or email [info@dywwesthighland.org](mailto:info@dywwesthighland.org)

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## Tourism is everyone's

Tourism Day is always a big part of Lochaber Ideas Week and this year is no different.

The pandemic and the climate emergency are both having a major impact on the way people go on holiday and what they want to do at their destination.

Sustainability will be key to the future of tourism and during Lochaber Ideas Week's Tourism Day on Thursday November 18, we will consider what we can all do now to make sure we are ready for the future.

This all-day event at Ben Nevis Distillery is open to everyone in the community with an interest in the future of our tourism industry.

You don't need to be a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to join in Lochaber Ideas Week events – everyone's welcome.

Hosted by Laurence Young,

of the award-winning local tourism business Woodlands Glencoe, the Tourism Day on Thursday November 18, will give participants a chance to hear an illuminating mix of insights on areas like sustainable development, environmental management and tourism investment.

We're pleased to benefit from an international perspective on sustainable tourism from sustainability and tourism expert Keith Sproule.

Keith will join us on live video link from his base in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA.

Keith is an accomplished tourism professional and advisor on sustainable development. His professional background includes serving as an advisor to governments on three continents and operations consulting with hotel and tourism companies globally.

We'll gain a more local perspective on sustainable tourism and environmental management from the Highland Council Rangers, who have worked hard over this last year to inform and advise visitors on taking care of our unique environment as they enjoy their holiday.

What have been the main issues they have encountered and what are the priorities for 2022 and beyond?

We'll hear about the exciting new plans for marketing Lochaber to UK visitors under the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK' brand and the investment plans of key local tourism businesses.

Find out how your tourism business could benefit from the increasing interest in active travel and all things two-wheeled. The Highland Bike Plan offers real opportunities for sustainable tourism,

# to Fort William

Meet the equipment makers who will give demonstrations so you can see the equipment in action.

WHC business team will be there to discuss all your training and funding support needs.

Samples of products designed and created by AMC will be on display to showcase the art of the possible.

■ Ideas Week Gala Dinner at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort William.

It's time to get dressed up again and join the celebrations with fellow Chamber members and your friends from work at the Lochaber Ideas Week Gala Dinner 2021, featuring fabulous local food and drink in a delicious seven-course taster menu.

For everyone's comfort and safety, numbers are limited to 96 attendees. Don't miss your chance to enjoy a black-tie night.

Bookings for all events are now open.

To find out more about all the events taking place during Lochaber Ideas Week 2021 and to book tickets, go to [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events/lochaber-ideas-week-2021](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events/lochaber-ideas-week-2021)

You can also email [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk) or call 01397 705 765 to chat to a member of the team.

All events are free to attend, with the exception of the Ideas Week Gala Dinner, and are open to non-chamber members.

# business

plus how can you make the most of the return of the UCI Mountain Biking World Cup in May next year after a two-year hiatus.

And don't forget the big one...the World Championships in 2023.

We're looking forward to a varied and insightful day looking at the challenges and opportunities for our unique tourism industry in Lochaber. We hope to see you there.

The event starts at 9.30am and includes a light lunch and valuable networking opportunities.

Places are limited due to Covid-safe protocols so get in quick to guarantee your place.

Booking is essential. Book your free place by visiting the events section on the [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) website or call Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on 01397 705765.

## Explore the possibilities on offer at the Advancing Manufacturing Centre

On Friday November 19, the new Advancing Manufacturing Centre at Marine Walk, Fort William, will be throwing open its doors all day for a special 'behind the scenes' Open Day to allow businesses and interested members of the public to look around the centre.

The Advancing Manufacturing Centre is a unique facility in the Highlands allowing businesses in remote and rural communities to compete on a global level using all of the advantages that advanced technology can bring but at zero cost.

The centre's aim is to be a drop-in hub for anyone looking to bring their business ideas to life.

AMC project manager Margaret Weir told the Lochaber Times: 'We want to encourage companies of all sizes to come and find out about the free support and expertise we can offer across a wide range of sectors, including food and drink, marine, construction, renewables, aquaculture and hospitality.'

'Our open day is a chance to see how specialist advice and equipment can transform even the smallest business by bringing ideas for products to life, exploring diversification options for resilience and providing access to some of our suppliers to explore the art of what could be possible.'

'We will have demonstrations of 3D scanning and

printing, CNC machining, including Mazak CV5-500 – the first Mazak model of its kind in Scotland, and access to our advancing manufacturing lab.'

Come along on Friday November 19, from 11am to 3pm, to find out more about how the centre could help your business.

There will be on-the-hour centre tours so you can see all the machinery and software on offer. Find out what it could do for you – you might not even realise the ways that advanced manufacturing could benefit your business. The team is here to help and it's all completely free.

Meet the equipment makers, who will give demonstrations so you can see the equipment in action, plus have a look at samples of products designed and created by AMC that showcase the art of the possible.

The West Highland College Business team will also be there to discuss all your training and funding support needs.

To keep guests Covid-safe, the centre team advises booking onto a tour, which will be held every hour from 11am, with the last one starting at 2pm, to help

maintain safe social distancing. If you'd like to book a space on a tour – or can't make it on the day but would like to find out more – contact Margaret Weir or Andy Harpur on [amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk).



Advanced Manufacturing Centre's team of Margaret Weir and Andy Harpur with Industry 4.0 equipment.

## Take a peek behind the scenes at BSW Timber

BSW Timber is one of our biggest and busiest local employers and a major UK business.

We all know it is there, but how many of us have ever been able to go in and look around at how the sawmill works? Now is your chance.

BSW Timber is kindly inviting two tour groups on Friday November 19, to see their operations in action. The first tour starts at 9am and a later one runs at 1pm, with a maximum of 30 people on each tour.

This tour is open to all local people, aged over 18, and you do not have to be a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to attend. The tour will last approximately one-and-a-half to two hours.

Mill manager Oliver Stephen said: 'I'm really pleased that Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has allowed me the opportunity during Ideas Week to open



BSW Timber is one of Lochaber's biggest and busiest local employers and a major UK business.

up the doors of BSW Timber's largest and most advanced site in the UK to the wider Lochaber community.

'It's always a pleasure to show people what we do here and there are very few people that aren't surprised with how much activity goes on behind the big green walls and the scale of the operation.'

'Employing 209 people on site, we are the largest single operation in the town,

and with our new owners Binderholz on board, and some exciting plans afoot, we intend to grow the workforce and capabilities of the site further.'

Booking is essential. Book your free place today by visiting the events section on the [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) website, or call 01397 705765. This invite is extended to everyone in our community.



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Get a behind the scenes look at the new  
**Advancing Manufacturing Centre**  
at our **Open Day** event

- Meet our team, who can help bring your ideas to life
- Book a tour to see how we can help businesses at zero cost
- Watch expert demonstrations of the tech available

**Friday 19th November from 11 am to 3pm**

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Advancing Manufacturing Centre



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LT

**TRIBUTE** LACHLAN RODERICK EWEN ROBERTSON – 29/8/59 – 24/06/21

*Here's a health to the fishermen  
who plough the lonely sea*

*And battle with the ocean  
where it's in their blood to be.*

*Dear the fruitful bounty of the  
blind and savage foam.*

*They're the last of the hunters,  
and they're proudly sailing  
home.*

*The sea is beautiful, powerful,  
heartless, enchanting, cruel  
and kind in equal measure.*

On the evening of June 24 this year it dealt a devastating blow to the west coast of Scotland when it took the life of well-known Mallaig fisherman, musician and renowned character and gentleman Lachie Robertson.

I wrote about my friend, Lachie, in August 2019 in an article for The Oban Times to mark his 60th birthday. It is a very strange feeling to put pen to paper again about this legendary man in such a tragically different context.

Here are the opening paragraphs from that piece: 'For nearly four years now, I have been shooting away my weekly articles to The Oban Times and, as regular readers will know, the subject matters hold certain common themes. Among the foremost-featured



areas have been music, boats, fishing, anniversaries and birthdays, providential coincidence, Highland hospitality, the Mod, music festivals, Gaelic language and culture, good ceilidhs and well-known characters of the west coast.

**'The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.'**

This week's offering covers a man who encapsulates all of the above.

I have known Lachie Robertson from Mallaig for 20 years and many a good escapade we have had together. This Thursday, Lachie will turn 60, as too - if my memory serves me correctly - will his Danish-built fishing boat Reul a' Chuain (Star of the Sea). As this paper will be published that day, I thought it fitting to celebrate the aligning of dates and stars and write about this well-known west coast character, piper, fisherman, expert host and ceilidh maker.'

The contrast in the emotion felt in writing his obituary compared to that happy article two years ago to celebrate his birthday is vast and the change of circumstance is difficult to comprehend.

Lachie had a positive effect on the lives of many people and was as widely liked and revered a human being as one could ever meet.

Known for both his hard work as a fisherman and a fulfilling social, musical and home life, he was someone whose company was always sought out and always enjoyed. For Lachie, there was an open door, a welcome and a bed in houses across the country, the islands and across many walks of life. Likewise, his own door was always open to welcome others.

Lachie's early years were spent in the Scottish borders with primary school days at Canonbie, then secondary at Langholm Academy, with most holidays spent in Elgol on the Isle of Skye where his father was from. His natural attributes and abilities were evident during his school years and as well as being the athletics champion, he was selected as the school's head boy.

From knowing Lachie and from hearing of his earlier years, it is clear he would have excelled in whatever area of work-life he chose to follow, but it was the call of the sea that would give Lachie his life-long vocation.

After leaving school, he took what was to be a temporary holiday job working on the Olive Branch, fishing out of Mallaig with Jock Summers.

Fishing and the enchantment of the sea gripped him and after some time working on other boats including the Solon with Alex 'Baitch' MacDonald, and getting his skipper's ticket, Lachie had his first boat, the Elizabeth Anne, built. The Danish-built Nighean Donn and his last boat, Reul a' Chuain, were to follow.

Lachie also spent a few years running sea trips on the fast, rigid inflatable Brightwater. My uncle and I bought Brightwater from him before he went back to fishing full time and the night Lachie delivered her down to Oban for us was the setting for a great night of drams and celebration.

Between fishing and running the Brightwater, Lachie also studied for and obtained a degree in Gaelic from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

It is difficult to convey fully just how special a human being was Lachie, and various attempts at writing this obituary, I have felt, were just not hitting the right resonance and giving a true picture of the man he was. With that in mind, I have reverted to verse to try to create a more vivid picture of this unique and wonderful man.

### Lachie

*Some walk the earth and have little effect, and pass like a ship in the night*

*But some have the gift of love to collect, and the beam of a magical light.*

*From a Cardinal Buoy guiding all who came near, from the North, East, South and from West*

*Came Lachie's bright beam telling, 'Deep water here', of friendship from one of the best.*

*A hard-working man whose world was the sea, of long days and nights at the wheel*

*Of shoot, tow and haul and born to be, a skipper of strength and of steel;*

*Steaming for home at the end of the trip, and the peace of being tied at the pier*

*The landing ashore, and hose down the ship, and mending and sorting the gear.*

*Then the Lachie most knew, Lachie ashore, a man of family and home -*

*Warmth and love to the depth of his core when not fishing the merciless foam*

*Or a pint with the boys and a toast to the sea, some drams and a verse of a song*

*And the wondering lust for a tune and spree, in a blink the session was on!*

*To Mods he would travel on the pull of the tide, festivals, parties or fèis.*

*His passion for music he spread far and wide, as the nights moved into the days.*

*His pipes striking up and hitting the notes of richness and wonder of life*

*He played them on piers, at parties, or boats, and blessed many a husband and wife!*

*His nature was kind and always to give, and always the good he would see.*

*With a wonderful mind, he knew how to live, his company easy and free.*

*He emitted a warmth of goodness and trust, of decency, mischief and fun*

*And tomorrow could wait till next week if it must, if the tunes they welcomed the sun.*

*His magic would spread to all who he'd know, and the better for knowing him we are*

*Like his own Reul a' Chuain eternal the glow, of the gift of Lachie's bright star.*

*Now he's moved on but his spirit's not gone, he'll be here long into the years*

*And with laughter and song and tunes all night long, here's to Lachie with joy in our tears.*

The night Lachie was lost, I was sitting in the Heathbank Hotel in Northbay, Barra, with my friend and partner in fishing, Donald Uileam MacLeod (Copper Top). Word had reached Donald that there had been an incident on Reul a' Chuain and that Lachie had been in the water. A short while later the dreadful news came that, as Donald put it at the time, 'he didn't make it'.

The shock we felt that night would have been felt far and wide as the news spread. The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.

Lachie is survived by his daughters Kenna and Rachael and their mother Niki, his partner Fiona, his brother Donald and his sister Catriona.

**Angus MacPhail,  
Skipinnish.**



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## PLOCKTON

### Disappointing turnout for sailing club's annual meeting

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club held its annual general meeting in the boatshed.

There was a disappointing attendance of 12 members, with 11 apologies.

Martin Clark handed out the audited accounts which showed the club was in a fairly healthy position, thanks to many donations, and 82 members.

The following office-bearers were elected: Commodore – no nominations; vice commodore – David Hay; timekeeper – no nominations; secretary and membership secretary – Neil MacRae; sailing secretary – Michael Hay; treasurer – Julia Mackenzie; principal instructor – Alexander Mackenzie; welfare officer – Lauren Glasgow; committee – Ian Hay and Graham Sharp.

Young Duncan Sweeney played the pipes for the visit of small cruise ships when they visited Plockton and raised £85.50 which he kindly donated to the sailing club.

## BALLACHULISH

### Respected European artist leads inspiring workshop

Artists from across the UK gathered in Ballachulish during the weekend of October 30/31 for a masterclass led by respected European artist Peter Monaghan.

The residential workshop, entitled Loosening the Line, challenged each of the eight participants to drop established styles and 'explore a bit of wildness'. The west highland location on a blowy weekend was certainly encouraging for this.

Peter has studios in West Ireland and Germany and his inspirational teaching style makes him a much sought-after instructor.

Event organiser Morag Young of Woodlands Glencoe said: 'We've been working on attracting Peter Monaghan here for three years and the workshop exceeded all our expectations. He's such a relaxed, warm and skilful teacher and over the weekend, the delegates created brilliant work.'

Morag runs her business The Art Circle from studios on the Woodlands estate and each of



### Fancy dress fun as hotel team marks end of season

The team at Glenfinnan House Hotel marked the end of a busy season with a dip in nearby Loch Shiel, followed by Hallowe'en fancy dress fun at a party.

the residential delegates stayed in one of the RiverBeds Luxury Lodges complete with hot tubs.

Penny Lordan, an artist from York, commented: 'After a day out sketching in the rain, it was wonderful to sink into the hot waters of a jacuzzi. The autumn colours were amazing, but that blue, bubbling water seemed even better.'

The Art Circle plans to hold three workshops a year in Lochaber and will continue to draw world-class tutors to run them, attracting local, Scottish and UK artists.

Morag Young is currently finalising paintings for her next exhibition to be staged at the Dundas Gallery, Edinburgh, from November 18-27.



Peter Monaghan, right, with York artist Penny Lordan.

## ARISAIG AND MORAR

### Council to produce 2022 plan for Arisaig and Morar

Plans to protect Highland tourist hotspots, including beaches at Morar and Arisaig, are being drawn up.

The move was confirmed last week when it was announced the team of seven Highland Council access rangers will continue to patrol and carry out countryside, core path and visitor preparation work throughout winter.

During summer 2021, the rangers patrolled much of the council area and helped reduce the impact of thousands of visitors on the environment and communities. They welcomed and engaged with nearly 20,000 people, informed them about the area and services and stressed the importance of responsible behaviour.

They encountered 8,600 tents and 24,500 motorhomes and identified and removed the remains of 3,500 fires, 4,200 toileting sites and more than 2,000 bags of litter.

There has been extensive positive feedback from communities and visitors regarding the rangers' work, with calls for the service to be continued in 2022.

Council members recognised the benefits the rangers provide and agreed to extend visitor management plan funding into 2022 by a one-off investment of £1.5m. Consultations will be held with council services to determine specific funding allocations.

Funding allocated to the outdoor access team for the remainder of this financial year will allow five rangers to continue working until April 2022.

They will help access officers carry out countryside site and core path improvements. Details are to be confirmed, but paths in Fort William are likely to be included.

A further two access rangers will continue working until April 2022 thanks to other funding. One, in partnership with Visit Inverness Loch Ness and SSE, will continue to work in the Loch Ness area, and the other will help identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and community food growing on council-managed land.

Plans for hotspots, including Morar/Arisaig, Durness and Glen Brittle, will be produced in preparation for the 2022 season. Other maintenance work will likely take place at Ardvreck, Strathy, Duntelchaig, Duntulm and Gruinard, with other areas to be confirmed.



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OBAN & LORN – TUESDAY, LOCHABER – TUESDAY, MULL – WEDNESDAY



Ballachulish Wellbeing Volunteers were inundated with stunning photographs.

## Volunteers gather stunning images for calendar

Ballachulish Wellbeing Volunteers had the idea to launch a community calendar as a fundraising activity.

In September, they advertised locally asking for local images from local people who were happy to let them make money from their submissions.

The group was inundated with beautiful images and had to enlist the help of a professional

photographer to help choose the final line-up.

'We honestly had so many great shots we could have done with a 25-month year and still had some spare,' said a spokesperson.

The final A3-sized calendar is on sale for £10 each or three for £25 from Ruth Sime at 58 Loanfern or Chaz and Eileen at 3 Railway Cottages. They are supplied with cardboard envelopes for easy wrapping/postage.



One of the beautiful images for the fundraising calendar.



## Bonfire Night goes with a bang at Strontian

After being cancelled due to Covid last year, Strontian's bonfire and fireworks event was back with a bang this year.

On Friday November 5, socially-distanced crowds gathered to watch the magnificent display in the Strontian showground and enjoy the warmth from the towering bonfire.

A selection of food was on offer including soup and marshmallows to toast around log candles.

The event, which is a community

effort organised and supported by Sunart Community Council and local businesses, collected donations for Strontian Beaver and Cub Scouts.

Cub Scout leader Jamie Tait said: 'We're still tallying up, but more than £520 was raised for the scouts. Huge thanks to Sunart Community Council, Kate Campbell from the Ariundle Centre, Alasdair Maclean from Strontian Stores and the Strontian firefighters.'



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## LETTERS

**Time for government to intervene in housing crisis**

This week's call by Dr Michael Foxley for the Scottish Government and Highland Council to take urgent action to help local young people and families wanting to access housing – whether to rent or buy – in rural areas and the islands, has been a long time coming.

The Lochaber Times has in recent months highlighted the growing crisis and we would back Dr Foxley's call that a firm decision needs to be taken urgently.

Hebridean Housing Partnership on South Uist has already taken steps to block holiday home hunters from buying one of its surplus homes. And other parts of the UK and Europe already have formidable policies protecting local people in the rural housing market. It is time such restrictions were put in place here to protect our fragile communities.

For too long now young people and families have been priced out of the market and out of the communities they want to remain in or move into to live on a permanent basis.

We desperately need this new blood, so we add our voice to those calling for change.

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

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

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

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**Covid jag fiasco**

My 91-year-old mother was one of the 'uninvited' who you report attended the Corran Halls vaccine clinic on October 27.

We were there because my mother was 28 weeks past her second vaccine dose and every time we turned on the TV we were exhorted by politicians and health experts to get a booster shot as soon as we were eligible.

We tried to find out when that might be but the NHS Highland website held no clues and the Vaccination Enquiry Hub took nearly an hour to answer and was unable to give definitive information.

Having had no blue envelope and becoming increasingly anxious, when a friend told us that the Corran Halls clinic was giving booster jabs, we set off because we thought it might be her only chance to get a booster.

If the appointment letters had come out in a timely fashion we would have been happy to wait patiently for a jab.

I wonder what would have happened to the vaccine doses unused if those uninvited people had not turned up?

**K Davidson, Ardfern.**

**War memorial omission**

It is a historical oddity that no First World War Mercantile Marine casualties appear on the Oban war memorial, possibly due to then prevailing social attitudes.

Their names are commemorated in bronze letters at the Memorial at Tower Hill in London, but I wondered if they are remembered anywhere within the town.

Two probable local men were Second Officer John McNeil whose mother lived at Airds Crescent and Trimmer Donald Stewart, born in Oban. Further afield are Neil Campbell of Easdale, Barra men Donald McNeil and John MacDonald, Neil Cameron from Mull, John MacMillan, Tiree, and John MacLean, Coll.

Their memory deserves to be respected with honour.

The contribution of civilian seamen to the war effort was recognised by the King granting the title 'Merchant Navy' after the peace was won.

**Norman Martin, by email.**

**Royal Mail woes**

I was interested to find out that the people of Oban are having issues with Royal Mail deliveries. The people of Oban are not alone.

## YOUR PICTURES

This photograph was sent in by Tom Harrigan MBE who last month spent some time in Oban.

He told us: 'On my list of places we must visit was the poignant War Memorial on the north headland.

'I am 73 years of age and the War Memorial holds lasting memories of an old friend and former colleague I once took to the Memorial, an experience he always recalled once back home in India.

'Whilst making my way around the memorial, reading the names on the Role of Honour, I caught sight of the CalMac Ferry about to approach and pass the opposite side of the memorial. I immediately took the opportunity and 'snapped' the ferry with my little point-and-shoot camera just as its bow was about to enter behind the seaward side of the memorial.

'Here is the resultant image.

'When I returned home, I viewed the photograph and was moved by the content.

The empty benches, where minutes before sat adults and children having a snack. The 'ship' heading out of Oban and the section of the memorial with names of those brave individuals who never returned to their homeland.

'No doubt many of these brave souls may have departed Oban by sea, heading for unknown destinations, with their friends and relatives standing off the very headland where their memorial stands to this day.



'I then thought of the title 'No one to wave goodbye'. To the outgoing ship, no one waving, and no doubt there would have been no one to say goodbye to the brave souls as they perished.

'However, I realise this is my personal

I am a postal subscriber to The Oban Times and I live in central Edinburgh. For a period of 11 days I had no Royal Mail deliveries. In effect, some important mail I was expecting had gone missing. While things have subsequently, to an extent, settled down, confidence in the Royal Mail has diminished considerably.

At the time, I put a complaint in writing to the relevant Edinburgh sorting office and have not had as much as an acknowledgement. Having spoken to Royal Mail staff locally, it seems, as in Oban, there is a serious lack of delivery staff.

This sort of thing tends to be looked upon as a local issue, though my suspicion is that the issue is much more widespread. I haven't seen anything in the national press, or on the BBC, though their involvement may not be at all inappropriate.

**George Knight, Edinburgh.**

**Achnacloich Bridge**

Clearly there are significant concerns over the (relatively) new road markings at Achnacloich Bridge. On August 16, I wrote to Mr Hugh

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interpretation of the content and that it may not convey the same message to others.'

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Gillies, director of Roads at Transport Scotland, imploring him to take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

Within a few days I received a reply (signed by MiCase?!) giving me a reference number and telling me a response would be provided within the timescale stated on the gov.scot website, or at least, that was their aim.

The stated timescale lapsed on September 5 but I waited until October 28 before I chased things up. A few days later I received a reply (signed by MiCase - again!). It was exactly the same

letter, the only change being a different reference number.

On October 29, I wrote to Ms Jenni Minto MSP, with a copy to Brendan O'Hara, and forwarded copies of both replies from Transport Scotland. I asked her to investigate and let me know what the outcome was, assuming she got a reply.

It's now November 5 and so far there has been nothing from the MSP or MP and, not surprisingly, nothing from Transport Scotland.

It's little wonder people can't be bothered to complain.

Les Stewart, Connel.

### Road markings do not comply

Further to my wife Annie's letter to you regarding the road markings at Achnacloch, I read the article in The Oban Times, October 28, with interest.

Contrary to Mr Ross's assertion that the markings comply with the Traffic Signs Manual, the markings at Achnacloch Bridge do not include the important centre line which separates the two lanes of normal road traffic as specified in Section 11.3 of the manual. This may be confirmed by Googling traffic signs manual gov.uk chapter five and turning to Section 11.3. That said, it is clear to me that this system of markings is far more suited to an urban environment with slow moving vehicles. Frankly, on a fast trunk road, its use beggars belief.

Most modern car safety systems such as lane assist automatically de-activate below 10mph so would be unlikely to try to steer the vehicle into the 'high vehicle lane' in towns but, at anything over that speed, drivers would need to be quite alert to keep their cars from steering themselves directly into a head-on collision.

However, many of these safety systems, which can cost up to £2,000 as an optional extra on new cars, can be de-activated by the driver so perhaps Bear should erect 'De-Activate Lane Assist' signs well before the bridge to prevent too many head-on collisions. For a region that used to emphasise the well-meaning, if ungrammatical, slogan 'Drive Safe', this would seem like a somewhat ridiculous, backward step though.

Jackson F Wheeler, Dingwall.

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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Leis a' Bheachd seo a' nochdadh air ceann-latha cuimhneachaidh cho sòlaime tha e iomchaidh aithne agus spèis mhaireann a' chomharrachadh dha laoch a dh'ìobair am beatha anns an dà Chogadh Mhòr, agus anns gach blàr fuilteach eile bhon àm. Ged a tha fios is cinnt gun deach iomadh neach gu cath an aghaidh an toil, agus aig amannan le ceist fiù 's carson a bha am blàr ga chur, choilean iad an dleastanas a chaidh orra agus ro thrìc chailleadh òigridh ghinealaichean. Gu ìre tha lot nam blàr sin fhathast ga fhulang is ri fhaicinn, gu h-àraid ann an coimhearsnachdan iomail na dùthcha, far an tug e buaidh leantainneach air àireamhan sluaigh, is neart eaconamach, agus far na dh'fhàg crìonadh sluaigh cuideachd crìonadh ann an t-iomall dol a chall roimhe 's às a dhèidh ri linn 's cho màirnealach 's a tha adhartas a ghleidheas òigridh agus dòchas anns na coimhearsnachdan dùthchail sin.

Thàinig an t-sith sa Chogadh Mhòr is dìreach uair a thide samhlauchail air fhàgail mus cuireadh an cinne-daonna às don t-saoghal, agus dh'aontach ceannardan na cruinne gun ionnsaichte, agus nach tachradh a leithid a-rithist. Ach mar a tha mòr-thinneas Covid air a dhearbhadh tha iomad-

ach seòrsa blàir a dh'fhaodas buaidh a thoirt air an t-saoghal, agus na òraid aig fosgladh co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta COP26 ann an Glaschu air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, thuirnt am Prìomhaire Boris Johnson gum bheil gànrachadh àrainneachd na cruinne air ar toirt gu beagan mhionaidean bho dhà uair dheug agus sgrìos an t-saoghail! Ged nach robh for ann fad bhliadhnaichean gun robh uimhir de chron ga dhèanamh air an àrainneachd tha co-dhiù caogad bliadhna a-nise bho thòisich rabhaidhean air nochdadh bho eòlaichean, ach tha cumhachd ionmhais air bacadh a chumail air adhartas gus dìon a dhèanamh air a' ghnàth-aimsir! Cha robhas ga thuigsinn mar chogadh ach gun fhìosta dhuinn tha sinn air a bhith a' cur às dhan t-saoghal agus ar n-àite-còmhnaidh.

Ged a thug na cogaidhean a bh' ann droch bhuaidh air na h-iomail cha do chuir iad às dhan tìr, ach sin an dearbh chunnart anns am bheil uimhir de na coimhearsnachdan iomallach feadh an t-saoghail an-diugh. Tha at na mara a' sìor bhleith nan cladaichean, agus far am bheil tìr ìosal thathas a' cur air mhanadh dha gum faodadh sin a dhol à sealladh fon t-sàl ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean. Chan e a-mhàin gun caillear tìr ach falbhaidh sluaigh, cànan, cultar, agus dualchas aig an aon àm. Abair adhbhar iomagain dhan t-saoghal agus chan iongnadh gum bheil uimhir de spàirn ga dhèanamh gus aontachaidhean sheasmhach eadar-nàiseanta a choileanadh gus cor a' ghnàth-thide a ghleidheadh ron dà uair dheug!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty, Psalm 84:1

Psalm 84 is credited to the Sons of Korah, Levites, faithful servants of the temple in Jerusalem. They locked and unlocked the temple, they kept an eye on all the precious vessels and utensils used in worship, they kept charge of the money and the collecting boxes and they offered praise to God in the temple choir and orchestra.

The writer of this psalm makes it clear that the temple's eternal purpose is to glorify its occupant, the Lord Almighty, and the writer thanks God for the opportunity of being His humble servant - I would rather be a doorkeeper in the

House of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked, Psalm 84:10.

Do we thank God for our opportunities to humbly serve Him in the humdrum duties of our everyday lives? If we lift our eyes to see the eternal consequences of our mundane labours done for His glory, we will never cease to thank Him.

The servant's master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21.

David James, Glencruitten House.

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# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



It was great last Tuesday evening to play an acoustic set with my Tide Lines band mate, Alasdair Turner, for the Extreme Hangout at COP26.

For the fortnight of COP, Extreme have taken over the Renfrew Ferry and turned it into a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet. The two other artists performing that evening were Raine Stern, from Madison, Wisconsin, and AY Young, from Kansas City. Those guys are incredible musicians and their collaboration was musically outstanding.

For them, though, their environmental activism is equally as important as their music. AY uses his voice all over the world to promote his message and Raine always donates a percentage of her ticket money to environmental causes.

They are committed activists but many more that evening, like us, were simply trying to make small changes in our lives that we hope will have a positive effect.

Tide Lines recently made a decision to invest in Earth Positive merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags) made from 100% organic and ethically-sourced materials. We also stock our own stainless steel water bottles which we use ourselves at gigs to avoid relying on single-use plastic bottles.



**Extreme Hangout at the Renfrew Ferry is hosting a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet**

We're hardly Coldplay (who are cutting their carbon footprint by 50 per cent on their next world tour and planting a tree for every ticket they sell), but we're trying in our own small way.

The lyrics of our songs speak so often about the natural environment among which all four of us were brought up and, while we in Scotland are concerned for the future of our natural heritage, there are communities throughout the world that are seeing devastating effects very much

in the present. For a lot of the countries attending COP, this is an immediate problem and not a future one.

As a result of our Extreme Hangout gig, I was asked to speak live on Sky News' Instagram account about sustainability in the music industry. I thought I had put my points across as eloquently as I could; until I saw a comment from a viewer down south saying 'What is this guy saying?!' Clearly my Highland accent was providing a challenge for some viewers!

A reminder, before I go, that the 121st Tiree Association annual gathering concert takes place on Thursday November 18 at 7.30pm at Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary and features a fine line up, including Mary Ann Kennedy, Jamie MacDonald, Kaitlin Ross, John Joe MacNeil, and Kathryn Callender. The gathering dance, as usual, takes place the following evening (Friday November 19) at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union to the music of Gunna Sound. Due to venue policy, a vaccine passport is required to attend the dance and – for both dance and concert – the committee ask that anyone attending takes a lateral flow test.

Tickets must be pre-booked by contacting the association via Facebook, phone (07763 126309), or email: thireeassociation@gmail.com

# Storytelling fun as One Button Benny and friends visit Waterstones Oban

Waterstones in Oban is hosting a special storytelling morning as part of Book Week Scotland on Saturday November 20 starting at 10am till around 11.30am. The event is free to all.

Kilchrenan-based author Alan Windram, who is also a director with children's publisher Little Door Books, will read from his own One Button Benny picture books, as well as reading other stories published by Little Door Books. These include Scaredy Bat by Jonathan Meres and Anders Frang, Pinkie and Boo by Chae Strathie and Francis Martin; The Girl Who Stole The Stars by Corrina Campbell, and A Dragon Story by Madeline Pinkerton.

He said this week: 'I am absolutely thrilled to be taking part in this fun, interactive picture book event at Waterstones in Oban as part of Book Week Scotland. It is great to get back to real live events with an actual audience. I will be reading



both of my One Button Benny books plus other stories from some of our recently published Little Door Books.

'There will be songs, stories and even some robot dancing.

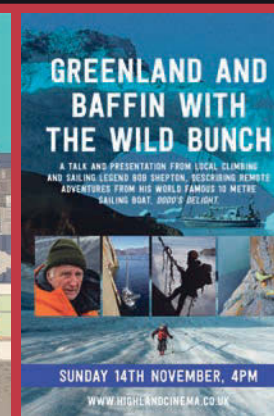
Adults are very welcome to join in the fun too.'

The event is suitable for children ages three to six years old.

Book Week Scotland runs from November 15-21.

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

**FRI 12TH - THUR 18TH NOV**



**FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**  
 Dune (12a) 10:15am. The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:30am.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 1pm. Eternals (12a) 1:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm.  
 The French Dispatch (15) 4:45pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:50pm.

**SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:30am + 1:10pm. The French Dispatch (15) 10:15am. Eternals (12a) 12:45pm, 4:15pm + 7:15pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 3:45pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:45pm.

**SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:15am + 1pm. Eternals (12a) 10:30am, 3:35pm + 7:05pm. Scotland: Our Climate Journey (PG) 2pm.  
 Bob Shepton: Greenland & Baffin with the Wild Bunch Talk (U) 4pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 6:45pm.

**MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) Bairns At The Box Office 10:45am.  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. Eternals (12a) 12:10pm, 3:50pm + 7:15pm. The French Dispatch (15) 1:15pm. Dune (12a) 3:30pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 7pm.

**TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**  
 Eternals (12a) 12pm, 3:30pm + 7pm. The French Dispatch (15) 12:30pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 3:15pm. Dune (12a) 7:15pm.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:45am. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:15am. Dune (12a) 12:30pm. Eternals (12a) 1:10pm, 3:45pm + 7:15pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 4:30pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:50pm.

**THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:45am.  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 11:30am. Eternals (12a) 12:45pm, 4:15pm + 7:15pm. No Time To Die (12a) 1:15pm. The French Dispatch (15) 4:45pm.  
 Ghostbusters: Afterlife (12a) 7:45pm.

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The Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club 'team' which took part in the Home Show, back row, left to right, Lee Bruce, Kevin Aitchison, Farquhar MacRae, John Hutton and Siobhan Duncan. Front row, left to right, Jamie Douglas, Toby Jackson, Noah Johnston, Callum MacLean and Josh Dieguno. Photograph: iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Boxing returns with a belter of a home show

Boxing was back in big way when Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club held its first Home Show in two years in a packed Caol Community Centre on Saturday, writes Iain Ferguson.

The club normally hosts two shows a year, giving boxers the chance to perform in front of a local audience, while raising the money needed to keep them operating.

Unfortunately Covid prevented these from taking place and the club's Corpach gym was closed for an extended period, although training continued online.

When personal contact was allowed, sessions began outdoors, gradually moving back inside under strict control and with limited numbers, building up to an almost 'normal' schedule at present.

Covid also meant Lochaber boxers missed out on regular competitions and visits to other gyms. But dedicated work by coaches and boxers meant Saturday's Home Show offered an exciting action packed programme of 14 bouts, 11 of which featured Lochaber boxers.

Young members making their ring debut, Toby Jackson, Callum Maclean - exhibition bout as it was difficult to find a match for him - Jamie Douglas and Noah Johnston, appeared in the first half and gave excellent performances showing great skill, determination and courage. While they recorded no wins, each found their bouts a tremendous learning curve. After the interval, six Lochaber boxers appeared in succession, each stirring loud and enthusiastic support from the

audience. With two Scottish Championships under his belt, local teenager Josh Dieguno won by a split decision after an outstanding performance against a formidable opponent from Newarthill Boxing Club in Wishaw.

He was followed in the ring by Siobhan Duncan, appearing for the club in only her second bout, working tirelessly, following instructions from the coaches at the ringside and stopping her Dundee opponent in the second of what would have been three rounds after two counts from the referee.

Former novice champion, Lee Bruce, made a return to the ring after an absence of four years having moved away from the area.

Working tremendously hard throughout what was his 12th bout, against a more experienced opponent from Cambusnethan Boxing Club, Bruce dealt with everything that was thrown at him, giving a fantastic display of skill, despite the judges decision going against him.

Tall, lean and powerful, former Northern District Champion Kevin Aitchison also gave a thrilling performance of skill in attack and defence throughout his bout, losing narrowly on points.

Glenfinnan's Farquhar MacRae was next in the ring against Glasgow Boxing Academy's Israel Erinolua. Due to Covid, this was only MacRae's second bout but he put in great work throughout each of the three rounds and only lost narrowly on points.

The final bout saw 'big' John Hutton making his ring debut

and he lived up to being top of the bill, turning in an amazing performance which had the crowd on their feet for most of the bout. Definitely a debut to be proud of and a great experience for him, losing on points by the narrowest of margins.

Earlier in the year, pro boxing champion and multi-title holder Lee Selby visited Lochaber Phoenix and spent three days in the gym working with members. He also joined the crowds in Caol and picked the 'Boxer of the Night' - Siobhan Duncan. He also donated items of his personal boxing kit which were auctioned to raise funds.

Other awards went to Callum MacLean as Most Improved Junior Boxer, receiving the John Donnelly Trophy, presented by DMD Construction, while Farquhar MacRae took the Most Improved Senior Boxer presented by Alistair Sim of the club's main sponsor, Caley Timber and Building Supplies.

Head coach Vince Lopez said: "There were some hard bouts for our boxers who gave everything, with some outstanding performances on the night. They all stuck with training through Covid and hopefully, with restrictions easing, we will be able to get them away to other clubs to gain experience against other boxers. This has been a great learning curve for them and we are proud of how confident they were in stepping into the ring. We will be entering all of them into the Northern Districts championship in Montrose at the end of this month."

More photographs from the Home Show at [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)

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LT

# Positive message as manager reflects on Kilmallie's season

'We showed at times this season just how good we can be, competing with top sides in certain games whilst at the same time boosting the size of our first team squad.'

That was the positive message from Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart when reflecting on the 2021 shinty season.

2019 ended with former manager John Stewart keeping Kilmallie in the Mowi Premiership, securing an eighth-place finish to beat the drop by three points. However, he stepped down before the start of the following season to be replaced by his brother Martin Stewart.

2020 began with a 6-0 humbling at Lovat with Greg Matheson scoring four times. It didn't count though as less than a week later, covid concerns led to a suspension of all shinty activity until further notice.

When shinty eventually restarted in June 2021, Kilmallie got off to a false start, as Martin Stewart recalls. 'Five of our players had covid and opposing teams called games off too, meaning we missed the first month of the season.'

A season low-point followed as Kilmallie's first game was a 6-1 defeat to fierce rivals Fort William.

'You never want to lose to your local rivals but we just didn't apply ourselves. It is difficult to get all the boys on board at the start and to get them to trust me and back me, but we all worked hard to turn things around.'

Kilmallie bounced back with a much-improved performance the following week, twice taking the lead before eventually going down 4-2 at Kinlochshiel. 'We pushed Kinlochshiel all the way and they went on to lift the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup.'

With two tough encounters out of the way, Kilmallie went on to play six more matches with a heavy defeat at Kingussie in the Tulloch Homes quarter-finals puncturing a winning run against Bute, Glenurquhart, Skye twice and Lochaber.

'Kingussie exploited our lack of pace at the back. We just have to hold our hands up as far as that game goes. What a squad they have though. They were just so good and they seem to have cover for every position, whether on the bench or in their second team. Even their substitutes would start for just about every other team.'

The victories are proof there



**Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart watches his side play Kingussie in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter final, played at The Dell.**  
Photograph: Neil Paterson.

**'Winning is a great feeling. We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore'**

is plenty to build on. 'Winning is a great feeling,' said Martin. 'We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore. We have rarely had a full squad to choose from and the away game in Skye was particularly testing in that respect. We played really well in the first

half against Glenurquhart and in the derby against Lochaber. It was also nice to win the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup on Skye and the BSW Cup against Lochaber. These days help bring everyone together.'

During the season Kilmallie introduced 11 new players into their first team with Dylan Monk, Martyn Cameron, Shane O'Rua, Stuart Ross, Kale Lacey, Aidan Love, Finlay Ireland, Jordan Campbell, Cam Ross and Phil Fyfe and new signing Stuart Callison from Lochaber all making their debuts. 'It's a boost for

next season. We also have a lot of good youngsters who just need game time to make the next step. Ben MacKinnon can be great player and is still only 16. Dylan Monk and Aidan Love are also under 17 players and they too have great futures.

'I thanked the players for their efforts at the end of the season. Take Robbie MacFadyen, for example. He stepped in as captain when Innes Blackhall was suspended and he has been solid in every game with his 'never-say-die' attitude. He'd be our player of the year if we had awards for the season.'

Martin has a keen interest in all things Kilmallie and has a clear desire for the club to do well. 'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter within the squad is unbelievable and reminds me of the first team a few years back. I believe they could win a

**'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter is unbelievable.'**

cup next season.' As far Martin Stewart's own position as manager is concerned, Kilmallie usually has its annual general meeting in mid-January. 'I'd love to keep doing it,' he said, 'but there are changes at my work and that has to come first so I will have to see how that works out. I'd also like to get some help on the touchline as I'd really like to get back playing next season and I must say Craig MacDougall has been a big help this year.'

There will be issues to address ahead of the 2022 shinty season. Steven Stewart has

relocated to London and is a significant loss. There are also the inevitable injuries. 'We've had more than our fair share of injuries of late,' said Martin.

Suspensions are a particular bugbear with bans for Innes Blackhall and Stuart Callison stretching into next season.

Stewart said: 'I'm not a fan of the current points system. We have only played eight matches this season so how do players serve their suspensions. I know players need to be more disciplined and some of our boys need to work on that. However Innes Blackhall was sent off last July and with three games still to serve, he probably won't play again until April 2022. That's an awful long time not to be playing, especially following a year with no shinty. There is a real danger guys will go off and find something else to do on a Saturday. The club is going to speak to the Camanachd Association about it.'

To make matters worse, Michael Rodger has a suspension which carries forward from the end of the 2019 season.

Despite the loss of Blackhall, Callison, MacIsaac, Rodger and MacDougall for the start of next season, Martin Stewart prefers to focus on additions to his squad.

'Kevin Toye has stepped down as second team manager so the club is looking to replace him. Kevin featured in the first team this season and is keen to try and win a place in the side permanently so he will compete with Shane Gillies. That's great for me as we will have two quality keepers competing for a place in the first team. We haven't had that for around 30 years.

'It would also be great to get Jordan MacPhee back playing in midfield and I'm looking to play myself. I also think we have a forward line that will do well and score goals in the premiership with Michael Rodger, Daniel Stewart and Craig MacIsaac, whilst Stuart Callison will add pace.'

The season might be over but Stewart has lost none of his enthusiasm adding: 'Our training takes place on the astro at Lochaber High School. It has been really competitive and the ball moves at pace. We have been getting 17 players at training each week and we'll keep that going into December, then have a break. We'll get back to training in the New Year, build on our fitness, play some friendlies in February and maybe organise an away trip. We will be ready to go by the time the new season comes around, there's no doubt about that.'



Kilmallie shinty players marked the end of the season with a celebration in Caol Community Centre. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos.

## Kilmallie Shinty Club marks end of broken season

Kilmallie Shinty Club players, officials, supporters, friends and families came together on Saturday to mark the end of the season with a celebration in Caol Community Centre.

The first team were due to play their final game against Glenurquhart on Saturday but this was called off. However, many of the players went along to join in the festivities, alongside the second and junior sides, some also taking advantage

of the large bouncy castle and slide with the youngsters.

Team manager Martin Stewart said: 'I am disappointed the match didn't go ahead but it has often been difficult to avoid this season, with games being called off all the time.'

'However, we all enjoyed what we had of the season. We played nine games and won six which is definitely moving in the right direction.'

'We had 11 players making their first team debut, which is great for them and shows the depth of the club and what can be achieved when we all pull together.'

'This evening we hope to relax and celebrate with our families, who are often the 'quiet' supporters of the club, and thank everyone involved for their dedication.'

'Here's hoping we can have a 'proper' year of shinty in 2022. We'll be ready for it!'



# Jags net place in cup fourth round

SLT 6  
Insch FC  
Scottish AFA Cup

South Lochaber Thistle booked their place in the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur FA Cup with a powerful demolition of Aberdeenshire side Insch AFC, writes Peter Newman.

It was the home side which opened the strongest. Insch moved the ball comfortably and retained position with some slick movement.

However, veteran founding father David Forbes was determined to keep his house in order this week and marauded forward after snapping into an early challenge. Looking up, the home grown Methuselah took aim from outside the box and fired the Jags into a 1-0 lead.

## Heavy defeat for Fort William away to Brora

### FOOTBALL

**Brora 10-1 Fort William FC**  
Fort William travelled to Dudgeon park to face Brora Rangers in the Highland League cup preliminary round on Wednesday November 3 after the match was rescheduled for the weekend before.

The first half was a lively encounter, with both teams having chances, but Brora took theirs better than the visitors.

The home side went into the interval leading 3-1 with goals from Andrew MacRae in the 21st and 24th minute, then Dale Gillespie in the 31st minute. Blessings Tshibikubula replied for Fort William on the 44th minute.

The second half was a far more one-sided affair, unfortunately, as Brora scored seven more goals to give Fort William an evening to forget.

Brora scorers included a hat-trick from Jordan Macrae and an excellent free kick from Dale Gillespie.

Fort William looked to bounce back from the poor result against Keith at the weekend but the game was cancelled due to a failed pitch inspection at Kynoch Park.

## Amendment

In last week's photograph of the South Lochaber Thistle U15s girls team, we mistakenly used the wrong surname for team coach Roman Kondziela. Apologies to Roman.

### FOOTBALL

This encouraged SLT to further endeavours. With a quarter of an hour gone, the visitors won a corner. Forbes turned provider and slipped the ball to youthful centre half Stevie Neil who dipped his shoulder to wrong foot his opposite number before slamming the ball into the bottom corner for 2-0. His knee slide celebration of his first goal for the club was almost as much a thing of beauty as his goal.

Ten minutes later, Forbes' midfield partner and protégé Andrew Mclean was the next to turn provider. Driving forward, he nosed past the defender and slipped a ball to Keir Kennedy who made no mistake with the finish.

That made it 3-0 at the interval but Thistle had to reshuffle the pack when reserve full back Sean Noble was forced from the field with a sore toe, Lewis Murphy coming into midfield.

The second half began on a knife edge and things looked like they were about to take a turn for the worse for the Jags.



Stevie Neil celebrates his first goal for South Lochaber Thistle.

Driving into the box and getting his shot away, an Insch striker cannoned the ball off Neil's hand for an unavoidable penalty.

Stepping up and dispatching the ball towards Ryan Boomer's bottom corner, the youngster went full stretch to his left and clawed the ball away which allowed SLT to scramble the ball away to safety.

Murphy had been making an impact since coming on. First, he had a goal chalked off for offside, before Thistle capitalised on the penalty save and broke up the other end of the field. Murphy pressed the

defence and gobbled up an under hit back pass to round the Insch's keeper to make the score 4-0.

Things went from good to better as Murphy fed the ball to last week's hat trick hero Logan Barker who unleashed a chip worthy of his mentor for 5-0.

SLT were managing the game as well as they have ever done and looking to see out the victory in as professional manner as possible. Boomer was called on to save another penalty after Kieron Lopez was adjudged to have pulled the striker down in the box. High on confidence

after his last save, the keeper was more than a match and secured his clean sheet.

With the clock ticking down, skipper Martin Munro stepped up behind a free kick 25 yards from goal. With the minimum of fuss, the pint-sized winger steered the ball around the wall to conclude the scoring for an emphatic 6-0 victory.

Manager Alan Gray said: 'This was such an exciting victory. Insch are a good team but we just blew them away. We won the crucial moments and we owe a huge amount to Ryan Boomer in goal with two outstanding saves from the penalties. Logan Barker was outstanding going forward and holding the ball and Marty terrorised their full back.'

'But it is almost impossible to pick out individuals from such a comprehensive team performance.'

'It was also great to see young Kyle Dignan making his debut for the club. It's incredibly exciting to see how far this team can push themselves in this competition. To be in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup is overwhelming.'

## Pitch perfect? Not according to Highland League

**Continued from page 40.**  
in a hotel in Keith, but they were asked to leave the room when the issue came up.

'We will have to wait until the minutes come out before we find out the reasoning behind it. In the meantime we have a perfectly good pitch which is in far better condition than many of the grounds we have played at recently.'

When asked by the Lochaber Times for the reason behind this latest decision, Highland League secretary Rod Houston sent the following statement:

'Having given the matter some consideration and following a submission by Fort William FC, the meeting decided to uphold the decision of July 25 and that's where matters currently stand.'

Thanks mainly to donations from supporters, the club has spent around £40,000 on ground improvements including the installation of draining tubes. A spectator rail will be built around the pitch once permission is granted by Highland Council and a new clubhouse, hopefully to be completed by the start of next season, will be funded by a grant, donations and a directors' loan.

The current timber frame clubhouse will be demolished following the friendly against South Lochaber Thistle in December.

Mr Trew added that the club faces a loss in revenue of around £25,000 through not being allowed to play home games.

The next Highland League management meeting is in mid-December when the minutes from the October meeting, currently in draft form, can be approved and shared.



Members of the Fort William FC Committee getting stuck in to drainage works at Claggan Park in July 2020.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

# Lochaber up to third in table

### Lochaber 51 Isle of Mull RFC 17

Lochaber hosted Mull on Saturday before the break for international fixtures.

Unfortunately Mull were not able to field a full team so Lochaber agreed to a development game which would get the fixture fulfilled and give Lochaber a 28-0 bonus point win.

The game would also be played to the new 'game on' rules. Instead of the usual 80 minutes, it was agreed the game would be played in three, 20-minute sections. Lochaber gave two players to Mull for the start of the game meaning both teams played with 13 players. The game also started with uncontested scrums with Mull not having a front row.

Lochaber broke the deadlock when a training ground move came off for the backs with Koni Johnson shrugging off several tackles to run in to score by the posts with Ryan Davies converting.

From the restart, Conor Taylor took the ball and set off swatting aside would be tacklers before eventually being dragged down by three defenders.

The ball was then passed to Callum Boyd who dummied

### RUGBY

before giving the ball to Euan Larter who first used his pace to run free before showing his strength to get the ball down after being tackled on the try line.

Lochaber were almost in for their third try minutes later when Boyd made a looping pass out to Christopher Simpson to score but the referee deemed the pass had drifted forward and brought the play back.

Lochaber got their third after a scrum when they spread the ball wide and after a few phases Jonathan McCook found himself in space out wide to run it in under the posts, with Davies converting.

In the second third, from the re-start captain Callum MacDonald and Conor Taylor dragged Ally Weir, who was playing for Mull, into touch.

MacDonald took a quick line-out and some quick hands put Larter in space and he made around 35m before being tackled five metres out, but Jack Hamilton was there in support and got the pass from Larter to run it in and score with Davies converting.

From the restart, Lochaber worked the ball out wide,

stretching the Mull defence. The ball came out to captain MacDonald and Simpson was calling for a kick ahead to chase with no defenders back.

MacDonald chipped the ball over the top and Simpson got there first ahead of the Mull defender with Hamilton in support.

He kicked the ball onwards over the goal line then touched it down to score.

Mull came back into the third with two tries of their own, with the same player scoring from close range before breaking free and running it in for his second.

Lochaber responded to that second try with Simpson in for his second try, running it in before spinning out of the tackle of Lewis Morrison who was playing for Mull at the time.

In the final third, Mull were first to score, after Lochaber cleared the ball from their own goal line with a kick.

Hamilton, now playing for Mull, found himself in space and ran into score his second of the match making him the only player to score one try for each team.

Lochaber won a turnover to regain possession. Calum Sandison almost scored after

breaking free but was tackled five metres out but Larter was there in support to score.

Captain MacDonald was then in after a quick tap penalty seven metres out. The Mull defender stepped to the side as MacDonald ran at him to go through and score unchallenged.

Lochaber worked it up the pitch just over the half way line and MacDonald found a hole in Mull's defence to run in to score under the posts from almost 50m out.

Hamilton chased hard and got the tackle in, but MacDonald was already crossing the line.

MacDonald then converted his own try with a drop kick and the referee brought the game to an end.

With the score 51-17, the win moves Lochaber up to third in the table with three games in hand over Cumbernauld who are seven points ahead and one game in hand over Glasgow University Medics who are eight points ahead.

Lochaber are scheduled to host old rivals Ross Sutherland this Saturday for a friendly game before getting back into league action on November 27 away to Bishopton. Kick-off, 2pm.

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# There's life in the old sticks yet, says maker

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A caman maker who was brought up in Ardnamurchan is encouraging shinty players to try the craft themselves.

George Mead, 31, moved to London after studying woodwork in Buckinghamshire and since 2018 has been supplying handmade shinty sticks to players from both north and south from his workshop in the UK capital.

Most of his business comes from Scotland, however, and tends to be individuals looking for sticks for themselves or their children. George also does the odd team order and has sent camans to the USA and New Zealand.

George says he has seen the demand for camans rise since the end of lockdown and realises there is a need to attract others to take up the trade.

'The sense I get from my customers is that they have been struggling to get hold of sticks from their usual suppliers, so they are turning to outlying makers with shorter lead times,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'The pandemic had a big impact on the sport and consequently the craft.

'It's a sad fact that caman making is barely a viable business on its own and better money can be had using woodworking skills in more conventional ways.



**Caman maker George Mead inspects his workmanship.**

Photograph by Flavio Bosi.

## 'Nothing beat the feeling of scoring a goal with a stick you've made yourself'

'During lockdown I took on work doing site joinery which was comparatively well paid but not nearly as fulfilling.

'I'm sure other makers did similar things and I think that when the pandemic eased and shinty picked up again they

were slow to come back to the craft.

'Couple that with the recent supply chain issues, the rising cost of materials and sudden influx of demand when the sport kicked off again, it's no surprise there is now a shortage.'

Excluding the caman he made from some architrave and plywood in high school, George didn't make his first proper stick until 2018 – and he has never looked back. He is now encouraging other

shinty players to try it or help alleviate a possible shortage by repairing old and damaged sticks to give them a second life.

'If you don't have the ability yourself, a carpenter or joiner might be able to help,' he said.

'If the stick is too far gone, it can often be cut down and given to a child. If you're feeling adventurous, making a shinty stick for yourself is a great thing to do. The earliest and simplest camans were just curved tree branches carved

into shape. This can be done in a garden shed with basic tools and with time and patience it's an achievable and rewarding process.

'Nothing beats the feeling of scoring a goal with a stick you've made yourself.'

Born in Somerset, George and his family moved to the peninsula when he was five. He went to Ardnamurchan High School where he first set foot on a shinty field and since moving to the metropolis has played with London Camanachd.

## Pitch perfect? Not according to Highland League

Fort William Football Club's Claggan Park pitch will hear the pitter patter of booted feet for the first time in more than four months when amateur league side South Lochaber Thistle visit for a friendly on Saturday December 1.

But the club is still being denied home league and cup games after the Highland Football League management committee decided not to reverse the initial decision at its last meeting on October 14.


Fort William Football Club chairman John Trew is at a loss as to how league members came to that conclusion.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'It belies belief that after all the hard work that has gone into improving our playing surface, not to mention the money spent, we are still being told we can't play our league games at home.'

'We weren't even given a reason why. Marie Macmillan and Matthew MacDonald went up to represent the club at the meeting which was held

Continued on page 39.

**MORE SPORT ON PAGES 37, 38, 39**



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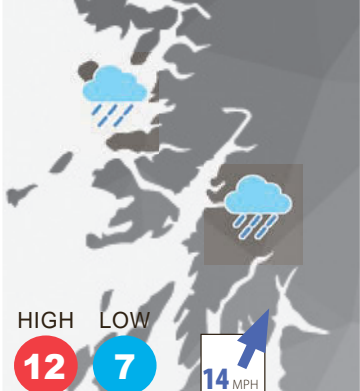
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 11 November, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>11</b>	0422 1.4 1032 3.3 TH 1711 1.6 D 2320 2.8	<b>13</b>	0151 2.8 0705 1.6 SA 1404 3.3 2011 1.7	<b>15</b>	0338 3.1 0919 1.4 M 1533 3.6 2151 1.4	<b>17</b>	0418 3.6 1043 1.1 W 1635 3.9 2255 1.2
<b>12</b>	0537 1.6 1246 3.2 F 1839 1.8	<b>14</b>	0302 3.0 0822 1.5 SU 1457 3.5 2110 1.6	<b>16</b>	0353 3.3 1004 1.2 TU 1604 3.8 2224 1.3	<b>18</b>	0447 3.7 1118 1.1 TH 1706 4.0 2325 1.1

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Drizzle and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.	<b>Friday</b> Heavy rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.
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### FRIDAY FORECAST



Ardrishaig -5.35  
Campbeltown -5.30  
Crinan -0.47  
Islay Port Ellen 2.00  
Lochboisdale +0.30  
Mallaig +0.25  
Portree +0.55  
Tobermory +0.16  
Dover +5.30

HIGH 12 LOW 7 14 MPH

OT

# Seaweed project funding will 'kelp' the UK's Blue Economy

The fledgling UK seaweed farming industry has taken a major step forward after the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) gained funding to develop training and business development for the sector.

The Seaweed Academy, which will be based at SAMS, near Oban, will be the UK's first dedicated seaweed industry base, offering advice to start-ups, training workers and sharing the latest research to help businesses develop.

The aim of the academy is to catalyse growth of an industry that has a crucial role to play in the UK's net zero, regional growth and levelling up aspirations. It will provide an innovative service to the sector, from seeded line through to research and practical skills at SAMS' existing seaweed farm sites.

The £407,000 grant from the



UK Government's Community Renewal Fund is one of 56 projects across Scotland to share an £18m investment.

Globally, the seaweed farming industry has been growing exponentially and is estimated to be worth around \$15billion per annum. However, the vast majority of this activity is in Asia and there is huge growth potential in Europe, with a growing demand for seaweed from gourmet restaurants to livestock feeds. Already used extensively in food ingredi-

ents, agriculture, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, seaweed farming has a low carbon footprint, using no fresh water and with minimal land-based infrastructure.

SAMS director Professor Nick Owens said: 'Using our own seaweed farms and the most up-to-date research, we have been laying foundations for a thriving UK seaweed farming industry. We are excited to now move into the next phase of training, education and business development, which will see our ambitions realised. SAMS works internationally on seaweed research and are well placed to deliver the most up-to-date advice for start-ups and existing farmers.'

'We are grateful to the UK Government for its investment in this climate-friendly industry that will not only support the regional economy of the Highlands and Islands, but



SAMS is working on seaweed research at international level.

will give others an example of the best of the blue economy.'

The Seaweed Academy will be operated by SAMS, in partnership with SAMS Enterprise and Argyll College, a fellow academic partner within the University of the Highlands and Islands, and will deliver immediate economic benefit to Argyll and Bute.

It also aims to stimulate the growth of UK seaweed aquaculture, exploring high-value markets and using the latest research to increase the com-

petitiveness of UK products globally. SAMS will also promote seaweed production as a means of bioremediation, including the resulting carbon sequestration, therefore mitigating the impacts of climate change.

SAMS Professor Michele Stanley specialises in seaweed research and spoke at a COP26 event on seaweed. She said: 'Seaweed is already widely used in food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical and agriculture industries and has potential

as a biofuel. But the benefits of seaweed farming go beyond natural products. It increases and restores biodiversity by providing habitats for marine creatures and can help mitigate climate change through carbon capture and methane emission reduction.

'There is also a growing commercial demand for higher value seaweed-derived products, such as hydrocolloids, and for food ingredients and medical treatment and high-bacto agar used as a laboratory medium for Covid-19 testing.'

To help fully embed the new industry at a community level, SAMS' Ocean Explorer Centre will develop STEM educational outreach materials to raise awareness of seaweed farming, climate change and the importance of net zero, from primary storytelling to workshops for Higher/A-level curricula.

## OBAN SCOTLAND IN ONE PLACE



Cities come in all shapes and sizes, some smaller than Oban is today.

**Bidding for city status is about supporting what's great about Oban, and creating opportunities for funding for improvements such as more affordable housing, or infrastructure.**

### Funding

Being a rural Scottish city would mean that Oban could be included in government city initiatives as well as rural growth initiatives.

### Future

The area needs to attract more people, investment and high quality jobs, to reverse our population decline and build a successful future. City status could help by raising the profile of the area nationally and internationally.

Help attract what our future needs.

See [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/obancity) to support the bid.



## Rescue on River Awe

Emergency services rescued a person stranded in the water near the Bridge of Awe on Saturday November 6.

'Operations control immediately mobilised two fire engines and specialist water rescue units to the scene,' a Scottish Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said, 'and crews assisted the coastguard to safely recover the casualty to a position of safety before they were handed into the care of the Scottish Ambulance Service.'

Coastguard rescue teams from Oban and Inveraray were also deployed.

Meanwhile, Tobermory RNLI is celebrating Scotland's lifeboats by showing an archive film called Launch! at An Tobar in Tobermory on Sunday November 14 at 4pm.

The film has been two years in the making, with unprecedented access to the RNLI's own archives. Film footage from the 1920s of lifeboats, sourced from the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive, is woven with 1960s colour promotional films and breath-taking digital video captured by RNLI

crews' helmet cameras while at sea. The film is part of the celebration of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21. Mull's audience will be delighted to see featured in Launch! a film shot in 1930s Tobermory showing the naming ceremony of the lifeboat Sir Arthur Rose.

Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat operations manager Dr Sam Jones said: 'As well as some modern rescue footage from our station, the film features footage of the naming ceremony of the Sir Arthur Rose, Tobermory's first lifeboat, at the fisherman's pier in August 1939. We're grateful to An Tobar for hosting what promises to be a wonderful afternoon but for also donating the proceeds of the box office to our lifeboat station.'

Roger Lockwood CB, chairman of the RNLI Scottish Council, said: 'This is a unique and exciting opportunity for audiences to see the operations of the RNLI in Scotland.'

After the film, some of Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew will be talking about their lifesaving work and audiences are welcome to share their own stories about the RNLI.

# Dunbeg CC meets back in person

Dunbeg is one of Argyll's first community councils to meet in person since the pandemic, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Four of the growing neighbourhood's community councillors hosted the meeting on Monday at Dunbeg Parish Church, attended by Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green along with five members of the public and The Oban Times.

Community councillors have been keeping in touch with each other during the absence of meetings but it was good to be back, said convener Marion Power, who also praised the community spirit throughout the village during lockdown.

November 15 will see the return of Taynuilt Community Council to the village hall.

The Dunbeg meeting was updated on matters from the new-homes build to progress

Dunbeg is one of the first community councils in Argyll to meet in person.



on the new science park and plans for a new roundabout and potential park-and-ride scheme. Transport Scotland has instructed BEAR Scotland to find a way of improving the village bus stop - the Glasgow-Oban bus is too big to get round the roundabout

in Lorn Road. Funds from St John's Scotland and Scottish Sea Farms have secured a defibrillator for Dunbeg.

Community councillors have agreed funding to buy new noticeboards for the area.

Concern over speed limits and about safe routes to school

were also discussed. Highland and Islands Enterprise, which is behind the new science park build, has told the community council it plans to replant some of the trees that were uprooted during the construction.

Councillors are to follow up reports that homes in a square on Hillside and Lochnell Road have been left in the dark for two years due to faults with street lighting. A member of the public who tripped on the pavement and fell into a fence told the meeting 'the whole square is pitch black'.

Councillor Robertson urged the community council to join Dunbeg Development steering group, which will restart at a meeting on December 1, keeping people informed and involved with plans and work in the area. The community council's secretary Linda Robb will be attending.

## Mull's second-hand ferry is a 'gas guzzling cast-off', says Tory MSP

The Isle of Mull's new second hand ferry, the MV Utne, is a 'gas-guzzling cast-off' from Norway, said Graham Simpson MSP at a Holyrood debate on the crisis facing CalMac's ageing fleet, writes Sandy Neil.

The Highlands and Islands' Green MSP Ariane Burgess called for all new vessels to be zero or low carbon, like the electric ferries in Sweden and Denmark that run off renewable energy.

In the wide-ranging debate in the Scottish Parliament, MSPs discussed the late and over budget dual fuel vessels 801 and 802, contracted to Clyde shipyard Ferguson marine in 2015, which had put added pressure on CalMac's creaking network.

Neil Bibby, Labour MSP for West Scotland, said: 'The Government has presided over the fiasco at Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd, such that we are now buying second-hand ferries from other countries, and a Scottish yard supporting Scottish jobs and owned by the Scottish Government cannot even make the shortlist to build new ferries in Scotland.'

Graham Simpson, Conservative MSP for Central Scotland, agreed: 'We are in

the embarrassing position of having to buy a second-hand ferry from Norway to service the Craignure to Oban route.

'The MV Utne is being sold so that the Norwegians can replace her with a zero-emission battery vessel, so we get the gas-guzzling cast-off while they save the planet. We also have to fork out more than

**'...We get the gas-guzzling cast-off while they save the planet.'**

£3million to prepare her to operate here. Quite what the justification is for that price tag is anyone's guess, because the Government has not told us.'

Katy Clark, Labour MSP for West Scotland, added: 'CMAL scouring the globe for second-hand vessels or, out of desperation, seeking to charter vessels such as MV Pentalina is not the solution to the challenge that we face.'

'The current structures are a mess and dysfunctional. CMAL owns the ferries and CalMac operates most of them, but the ports are owned by trusts, private companies or public bodies, depending on

the area. We therefore have a fragmented structure.'

Jenni Minto, SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, defended the Scottish Government, saying: 'I am slightly at a loss to explain why Tory members complain that we have a poor service and then, when something is done, they still complain.'

Liam McArthur, Liberal Democrat MSP for the Orkney Islands, said: 'The current fleet is costly to run, increasingly unreliable and a disaster in terms of the environment.'

Ariane Burgess agreed, saying: 'There is another problem with Scotland's ferries: the majority of them run on diesel, which is carbon intensive and damaging to our marine environment. New vessels should be zero or low carbon, as are the electric ferries that run on renewable energy in Sweden and Denmark, and Europe's first green hydrogen ferry, which is being designed in Scotland. There should also be more diesel-electric hybrid ferries until we can phase out diesel. We must also decarbonise our existing vessels. Retrofitting an electric motor to a diesel ferry is a win-win as it cuts pollution, emissions, noise and running costs.'

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OT

# Community council could seek permission itself for a new supermarket on Mull

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Community councillors on Mull say they will seek planning permission themselves for a new supermarket in Tobermory if the Co-op does not 'step up to the mark'.

Unless the Co-op commits to building a bigger store at the top of town, the community council will look itself at getting planners' approval to build one - then offer it to other supermarket chains.

The council has been in discussion with the Co-op about moving to a site at Baliscate. Despite that, the Co-op says it has no future plans for a second store.

Meanwhile empty shelves at the Tobermory Co-op and lack of essentials such as bread, milk and fruit have been frustrating islanders who rely on the store for their supplies.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon said she knew it was very busy at the end of the English half-term but when she called in it 'looked like staff had stripped the shelves to paint the shop' it was so bare.

The High Street Co-op is only classed as a convenience store, not a supermarket, and community councillors would like to see the town get a larger supermarket with a bigger selection of goods.

Community councillor Alasdair McCrone said sup-

plies in the Co-op had been in trouble during the summer.

'We've had a lot of people but there was definitely a shortage of supplies,' he said describing a particular stretch of shortages lasting almost ten days as 'catastrophic'.

'No one is blaming the local staff, but the Co-op as a service to this community has failed,' he said.

## Supply problems

The introduction of a new computer system by the Co-op had caused some supply problems, the meeting was told.

Councillor Devon said: 'Argyll and Bute Council got the biggest shock when they found out the Co-op had no firm plans to move to the site

at the top of town. The council had even prepared some of the ground.'

Community councillor Billy Clymont said they should 'flush out' the Co-op's plans and try to find out what the Co-op's commitment is going to be to the island.

'If it's nothing, I think we should apply for planning permission to have a supermarket on that site then see who wants it,' he said.

Councillor Devon suggested a letter is sent to Fergus Murray saying if the Co-op is not going to 'step up to the mark' then the community council would look at seeking planning permission and 'put it on the open market'.

A similar situation happened in Dunoon and six or seven of the major supermarkets showed interest, the meeting heard.

Shortages at the Co-op are also a serious matter for people making a 40 or 60-mile round trip from the island's remotest parts, only to find it does not have what they want.

The meeting heard there were no stock problems at other stores such as the Spar on Iona and in Salen, the shop in Bunnassan and the one in Dervaig.

A letter is also going to be sent from the community council to Morrisons at Fort William to see if it would be willing to continue its delivery route to Lochaline over to Mull.

However, on Tuesday Tobermory's Co-op was one of five branches having plans for home delivery ruled upon by licensing chiefs.

The others are in Port Ellen on Islay, on Tiree, Inveraray and Tarbert. The plans were due to be heard by the licensing board during its virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 9.

No concerns have been raised by licensing standards officers or police, and environmental health officers are working on a Covid-19 assessment for each store with the applicants.



Environmentalists Janie Steele and Ross Preston joined Saturday's human wave along the esplanade with plastic debris they have cleared from beaches.



It's Our Planet plea from young climate change protesters in Oban.

## Oban human wave calls for climate change action

A human wave rolled along Oban seafront at the weekend calling for action on climate change.

About 60 people of all ages met on the Esplanade on Saturday as part of a protest organised by Argyll and Bute Time For Change.

The turnout in torrential rain and high winds showed how much love there was for Oban as a coastal town and how

much people want to protect it from rising sea-levels and flooding, said organiser Ellen Bird.

Oban's blue wave was a drop in the ocean of thousands of grassroots events being organised in towns and cities across the world on November 6, marking a global day of action as world leaders met in Glasgow at the COP26 Global Climate Summit.

## POLICE FILES

■ A 24-year-old male driver has been charged with speeding and having no insurance after his car was stopped by police in Taynuilt at 1.40pm on Friday October 29.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ A man, aged 19, was charged with speeding after he was stopped by police carrying out speed checks at Arrivain, Tyndrum, at 12.20pm on Saturday October 30.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ A fight witnessed by police, at 1.05am on Sunday October 31, at Queens Park Place, Oban, resulted in a man, aged 33, being arrested and charged with assault. A report will be

submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ Between 6pm on Tuesday October 26 and 6pm on Wednesday October 27, at Glen Lonan, Taynuilt, a car's window wiper was vandalised. Enquiries continue and police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

■ On three separate occasions between Sunday August 1 and Monday November 1, at an address in Barcaldine, people were seen acting suspiciously within private land.

The suspects were driving a dark hatchback. Enquiries continue and police are appealing for witnesses to contact



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# MSP demands action over drop in police numbers

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has urged the Scottish Government to back Scottish Conservative proposals for a Local Policing Act after latest Police Scotland figures revealed that Argyll's police division has lost 28 officers over the last eight years.

Meanwhile its law enforcers have been bolstering the stretched 'centralised' force at COP26 in Glasgow, where around 10,000 officers were needed each day of the two-week conference.

Between 2013 and 2021, the numbers of police officers have been reduced from 570 to 542 in the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division, according to the most recent Police Officer Quarterly Strength fact sheet on September 30.

Overall, Scotland currently has 17,232 police officers, around 100 fewer than in 2013 when the single force of Police Scotland was created. The number of police officers in Scotland could be cut further in 2021, Police Scotland's Chief Constable Iain Livingstone told MSPs earlier this year. Mr Livingstone said reducing numbers this year would be 'imprudent' given

Donald Cameron MSP has urged the government to back a Tory proposal, which he said will put more bobbies on the beat.



the 'unprecedented demand' facing the force.

The force also has a draft plan to work out how many officers it will need in the future. Its much delayed workforce plan, due to be published later this year, is designed to ensure the force's resources match modern law enforcement requirements.

Donald Cameron said: 'Since the SNP centralised the police force we have seen a decline in the number of officers on the beat here.'

'Since 2013, according to Police Scotland's own figures, we have lost 28 officers from our local divisional area and this at a time when local people are becoming ever more concerned about levels of crime.'

'Our proposal for a Local

Policing Act will put more bobbies on the beat, involve local people in policing decisions and ensure our hardworking officers always have the resources they need, including decent modern police stations which, as we know, remains a significant problem in Argyll.

'SNP policies are all too often focused on the Central Belt and ignore the requirements of more rural areas such as Argyll and Bute.'

'That needs to change and a Local Policing Act would help drive a greater focus on combating crime in regions like the one I represent.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: 'The recruitment and deployment of police officers is a matter for the Chief Constable and

Scotland's national police service allows local divisions across the country to access national and regional resources depending on demand.

'Officer numbers have been maintained and are favourable relative to elsewhere in the UK, with around 32 officers per 10,000 population in Scotland compared to around 23 in England and Wales. Officers received a £700 pay uplift in 2021/22 and a separate non-consolidated payment of £250. This contrasts with England and Wales where the majority of officers received no increase.'

'The Scottish Government has increased police funding year-on-year since 2016-17, investing more than £1.3 billion in 2021/22 and more than £10 billion since the creation of Police Scotland in 2013.'

'Recorded crime remains at one of the lowest levels since 1974 and is down 41 per cent since 2006-07 and homicide levels are at their lowest level since 1976.'



The school bus arrived just after the rockfall took place.

## Act now to keep rockfall road open, says councillor

Continued from page 1.

'It's an arterial route into Oban.'

'In my view the council needs to act now. Get the work done and then pursue who owns it.'

Back in 2001 Gallanach Road faced possible permanent closure when cracks further along the cliff face, after the Kerrera jetty, revealed about 600 tonnes of unstable rock. Costly mitigation work was opted for instead, putting up

wire meshing to hold back any loose rocks.

After Friday's rockfall the council soon had stability experts on the scene and brought in a drone to assess the situation from above.

Workers from Alchemey Plant and Contracting services on Gallanach Road, who started dismantling the boulder that was blocking the road, had to stop for fear of vibrations bringing more rocks down.



The road has been closed since last Friday.

them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

A report is to be sent to the Procurator Fiscal after police charged a man, aged 26, for driving without due care and consideration by overtaking in a 30mph zone in Taynuilt at 11.22am on Tuesday November 2.

Timber railings were stolen from Skinners Shopping Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, sometime between 7.30pm on Sunday October 31 and 7pm on Monday November 1. Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously at Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Police stopped a car travel-

ling at more than the 30mph speed limit in Connel at 9.30pm on Tuesday November 2. A check of the vehicle revealed one of its tyres was below the legal tread depth. The driver, a man aged 23, was charged and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

At 11.30pm on Tuesday November 2 police received a report of a man at an address in Benderloch driving a vehicle without the owner's permission. A man, aged 36, was arrested and charged with the offence along with driving without insurance, driving whilst disqualified and failing to stop at a red light. He was kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

A man, aged 36, has been charged with theft after a van was stolen from a driveway at Powel Place, Connel, sometime between 1.30am and 8am on Wednesday November 3. He was also charged with driving without insurance and driving whilst disqualified. He was kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

At 3.30am on Wednesday November 3 police were called to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Glegallan Road, Oban, following reports about a patient acting in a threatening and abusive manner towards hospital staff.

A man, aged 27, was charged and kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



What a show we had last Friday – Fireworx Scotland exceeded expectations again this year.

Some of the photographs I've seen on social media have been spectacular, a fantastic reminder of a great show.

Don't forget to go to the LoveOban Facebook page if you have photographs to share, or if you'd like a look at some of the beautiful images captured.

Thanks must also go to the Northern Lighthouse Board for the use of the pier and their ever-obliging staff, the Auxiliary Coastguard who kept us all safe and the irrepressible Campbell Cameron of Oban FM who entertained us as we waited and led the countdown. Without them it wouldn't have been such a magical evening.

Another great event over but we have so much more to look forward to this winter.

As well as Oban Winter Festival approaching at a rate of knots, there are still a couple of weekends before it starts with lots of great music

## WHERE IS THIS?



happening in Markie Dans, The View and The Clarry to name but a few.

We also have some great evenings in The Corran Halls coming up, with Doug Allan charting his 35 years as a natural history filmmaker, and fantastic Scottish author Alex Gray visiting. As well as all that we have our usual fare of quizzes, bingo and weekly clubs, so remember to check out what's happening online at Oban What's On or add your event if you have something coming up.

I'm starting to run out of places to take photographs, so this week's is from a few years ago, but that might not make it any easier. The one last week was the Stevenson Kennedy and OES building in Stevenson Street.

# Aviation businessman airs Mull glamping plan

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

An aviation expert hopes his glamping site on the Isle of Mull will take off after planners gave it the go ahead.

Aerospace engineer Mike Roche, 60, has been based in Malaysia since the mid-1990s but is heading back to the UK to run the new development on the Ross of Mull.

Pennycross Mill will cover 1.5 acres on the peninsula and feature five luxury en-suite timber units all coming complete with under-floor heating, wifi and contemporary kitchens.

Designed by Edinburgh-based Glampitect, the site will also have a pod specifically adapted for guests with disabilities. If all goes smoothly, the site could be open for business by Easter 2022.



**Aerospace engineer Mike Roche has received planning permission for five luxury en-suite timber glamping pods at Pennycross Mill, on the Ross of Mull.**



piece of land on the Isle of Mull has always been in the back of my mind with various ideas.

'The reason I have the land is my parents bought a place there 30 years ago and, of course, fell in love with the place. My sister and I still own the bungalow above the site we're looking to develop.

'When my parents were still living there we were regular visitors to Mull and spent quite a bit of time there with them. It basically became my home in the UK for nearly 20 years as I had nowhere else to go back to, until my father passed away

in 2016,' said Mike, who is originally from Coventry.

When the pandemic struck, he began to think of life outside the aerospace industry and that started the glamping site idea.

Mike continued: 'The pandemic has shown nowhere is remote any more, so I don't see a problem of basing myself in Mull for long periods, if I have to, and working on projects in Malaysia as well.

'The idea of developing the

The high cost of developing housing meant I downgraded my ideas to something like a campsite, or a place where motor homes could set up.

'Having waited for seven or eight months for planning to come through, it was great to finally get the green light.'

Mike says he will be looking to partner up with business owners in the area, the likes of linen and cleaning services, electricians and the local construction trade.

## Duck race raises vital cash for this year's Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance

Oban Rotary Club of Oban president Kees van Rein and junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter handed over a £1,000 cheque to Friends of Oban Hospice stalwarts Catherine MacKechnie and Mary Black recently to assist with postage and printing for this year's Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance, writes Susan Windram.

The money was raised at Oban Rotary Club's annual Duck Race, organised earlier this year by Ciorsti and the Rotary Club Duck Race Committee.

Friends of Oban Hospice are the fundraising arm of Oban Hospice Ltd, which runs the Dove Centre in Stevenson Street. This is the 17th year the hospice has participated in the worldwide Light Up a Life event.

This year also sees a new



**President Kees van Rein and junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter with Catherine MacKechnie and Mary Black from Friends of Oban Hospice.**

initiative starting up at the Dove Centre called Cairdeas, or friendship in Gaelic, which will offer befriending and support services.

### Efforts

President Kees said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban is proud to support everything that is done through the Dove

Centre and to help as much as possible to assist the Friends of Oban Hospice with their huge fundraising efforts.

'Well done to everyone concerned. It's a fantastic thing you do.

'We look forward to hearing how the new Cairdeas Initiative is progressing.'



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# Vaccinations should run smoothly now, says HSCP

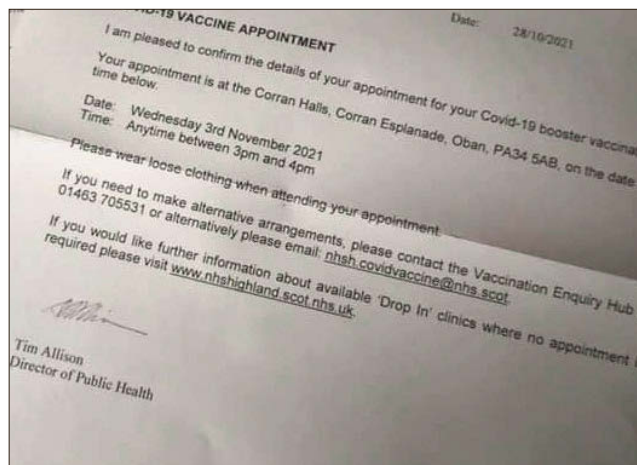
by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Covid jag clinics continue to roll out across the district along with a third apology for more mistakes.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) says confusion at the latest Corran Halls booster clinics was the result of it putting out inaccurate information and insists people getting more than 20 copies of the same appointment letter through the post were 'isolated'.

From now on the vaccination programme should run smoothly, the HSCP told The Oban Times.

Earlier this week the health board put out a zero tolerance message on social media as a 'friendly reminder' there is



no excuse for abuse. It said: 'All our members of staff are here to help you. Please treat our staff with the same respect you would expect to receive.'

For booster clinics at the Corran Halls on November 3 and November 4, the HSCP

said it failed to send out 975 invites. Despite it advertising them on social media as drop-ins, the clinics were then changed to 'by letter' appointments, only to be swapped back again when people did not turn up.

Several people reported receiving multiple letters for the same appointment.

A number of older people gave up queuing because they were getting too cold to wait outside. In the end, 1,100 people got their boosters at those two clinics - 125 more than planned. Across Argyll and Bute 5,476 people received their boosters between November 1 and November 7.

A series of mis-communications have been made since the HSCP took over delivery from GP practices - including sending out second dose invites to 163 Oban teenagers who were not eligible.

One woman who got 10 invites one day and another 10 letters in the next post for the same Corran Halls clinic said:

'We were surprised when the first 10 invites came through the door but then another 10 arrived the following day.'

'It does seem like a waste of money that the NHS can ill afford right now.'

Similar mistakes have been reported since the HSCP took the jags delivery over from the doctors' surgeries, with many left wondering what will happen next.

NHS Highland is now listing its next mainland clinics, informing people invites could be either by letter or a phone call.

Today, November 11, there is a clinic at Taynuilt Village Hall for village medical practice patients from 9.30am to 4pm, tomorrow November 12 Lorn Medical Centre patients have a clinic at the Corran Halls from 9am to 4pm.

November 15 sees a 9am to 4.45pm over 50s booster and second dose clinic at the Corran Halls, with one for 50s plus boosters at Connel Hall on November 16 from 9am to 4pm for Taynuilt surgery patients.

For the latest information on jag clinics go to [www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx](http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx).

Take note there is a disclaimer on the web page that details are subject to change.

A new helpline number for booster appointments is 0800 6783393.

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## Ardfern artwork lights up for COP26 to show rising sea levels

The Ardfern shoreline lit up during COP26 with a laser projection artwork showing sea levels rises if climate change is left unchecked

The art installation, entitled Sea Of Change 79, runs from 6pm to 6.30pm, Monday to Thursday, until the end of the UN climate change summit on Friday November 12.

Lizzie Rose, the artist behind the Sea Of Change 79 artwork, explained: 'I wanted to do something during COP26 to highlight the fact sea levels are rising. I feel it's important, not just for us as a coastal community, but to raise awareness of this happening all over the world. Climate change does not see borders or countries. What we do here affects people, plants and animals everywhere.'

'The installation is in three parts. There are 21 posts for 2100 that should remain 30cm above current high tide. There is the Rising Sea Measure (there are two of them) - to me 2100 felt like another world away - a distant time that I did not connect with. Figures are often given for this time.'

'By connecting this time to how old my family are or will



The Sea of Change 79 Installation during COP 26 in Ardfern.

be (my children will be 79 in 2091) it feels more relevant. I hope people will think about what age their family and friends will be and make a connection to the future. It is 79 years until 2100.

'The laser connects to all of this through words and images. It is run from a solar powered battery and the posts have solar lights on them.'

'I used two quotations from climate.gov as my reference points for the installation. These are reflected in the 21 Posts for 2100 and The Rising Sea Measure - both located on the shore.'

The two quotes are: 'Even if the world follows a low greenhouse gas pathway, global sea

levels will likely rise at least 12 inches (0.30m) above 2000 levels by 2100,' and 'If we follow a pathway with high emissions, a worst case scenario of as much as 8.2 feet (2.5m) above 2000 levels by 2100 cannot be ruled out. This installation is temporary - climate change is not,' she said. 'Things you can do: reduce emissions, reuse and recycle, restore habitats. Thanks to everyone who helped out, at very short notice, to make this happen.'

In particular Lizzie thanked Emma Davie, director of Black Black Oil, the artist and designer Hannah Tofts, Plastic Sea and Matt Walsh for his sound and lighting production.

## Butternut squash soup

A pumpkin shell filled with scrumptious soup

Syn FREE

Takes 45 minutes

Serves 4

### Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into wedges
- 1 small potato, peeled and quartered
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 900ml hot vegetable stock
- Fat-free natural fromage frais, to serve

### Method

Spray a large non-stick pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a low heat. Add the onion and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Increase the heat to medium, add the butternut squash and potato and cook for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and season lightly. Pour in the stock and simmer for 25 minutes, or until everything is tender and cooked through.

Using a hand blender or food processor, blend the mixture until smooth. Transfer the soup to a hollowed-out pumpkin (or a large serving bowl!) and top with a swirl of fromage frais and the sliced chillies.



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# Government to help six islands reach net zero

The Scottish Government is doubling the number of islands it will support to become carbon neutral by 2040, five years ahead of mainland Scotland and a decade before the UK, the minister for islands announced at COP26, writes Sandy Neil.

In a speech before delegates from Greenland and the Åland Islands during the UN climate change summit in Glasgow, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands Mairi Gougeon said Holyrood would help six islands to achieve net zero, twice the number announced in September.

The Scottish Government is working towards Scotland becoming net zero by 2045, five years before the UK Government target.

'We are determined for Scotland to lead the race to net zero,' said Ms Gougeon.



Mairi Gougeon.

'Climate change and nature loss are the greatest threats facing people and our planet and we're already seeing the impact of this here in Scotland. Small low-lying islands are under threat from climate change and predicted sea-level rise.

'Climate change is expected to increase instances of flooding and coastal erosion, while simultaneously negatively affecting water supply, food pro-

duction, health, tourism and accelerating habitat depletion. The Dynamic Coast project has sought to map the extent of coastal erosion in Scotland. It has highlighted that a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions is essential – but must be delivered alongside adaptation of coastal infrastructure and communities.

'Islands aren't just a climate problem to solve, but actually could unlock the solutions to the climate challenges we face. Our activity here in Scotland seeks to put islanders in charge of their own carbon destiny.

'There are vast opportunities for island communities to lead the way in showing how to realise our climate change ambitions.

'Both renewable (green) and low-carbon (blue) hydrogen will play an increasingly important role in our energy

transition to net zero in 2045. Many communities have exciting ambitions to be important renewable energy hubs. This includes establishing hydrogen production facilities to make use of the islands' wind, wave and tidal generation capacity.

'We will support not three, but six Scottish islands to become carbon neutral by 2040. By 'carbon neutral', we mean an island where the greenhouse gas emissions, captured as CO2 equivalent, are in balance with the carbon sinks.

'To begin supporting these six islands in their journey towards carbon neutrality, early next summer, we will begin to undertake carbon audits to plan action and track progress.

'We will also continue to consult with communities so that we fully understand the local impacts of carbon neutral solutions.'

## Piper Angus MacColl takes second place at championships

The overall champion of the Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been named as British Columbia piper Jack Lee, inset, beating Benderloch's Angus MacColl into second place.



Third time overall champion, Jack went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the renowned 48th annual competition at Blair Castle to claim the title.

The Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl was crowned runner-up and 2019 title holder Finlay Johnston of Glasgow was third overall and the Piobaireachd winner. The MSR competition winner was William McCallum of Bearsden.

The competition was played out in front of a live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian ballroom and hundreds from around the world who watched the spectacle online.

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay Mac Donald, said:

'The Glenfiddich is solo piping's ultimate prize and this year's competition yet again set the bar for world-class piping. I would like to extend my warm congratulations to our new champion and to all of the competitors for their excellent performances today.'

This year, participants were selected from the two qualifying events that took place, with Stuart Liddell as the 2020 champion and Callum Beaumont as the overall winner of the Piping Live! Masters Competition. The other competitors were chosen based on previous achievements at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

The competition was topped off with a celebratory Pipers' Ceilidh in Pitlochry.

## Bus talks in drive to improve service on Isle of Mull

Mull could be on the road to improved bus services, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Representatives from West Coast Motors met online with the island's community council last week.

The lack of a Sunday service and an early bus service from the Ross of Mull to Craignure in time for the 8.40am ferry to Oban were on the table for discussion.

No early morning bus means people cannot attend hospital appointments on the mainland any earlier than lunchtime, the meeting heard.

Also no buses on Sunday makes it difficult for students to come home for the weekends, unless they can be sure of a lift back to Craignure.

The meeting heard about one elderly man whose wife was airlifted to hospital on a Sunday but he could not get a bus for a ferry to see her.

'We are the only island on the West Coast that doesn't have a Sunday bus service,' she said.

'I don't think anyone in the community council would disagree this is really penalising people in the Ross of Mull,' said Councillor Devon, who



Councillor Devon.

asked if a subsidy from Argyll and Bute Council could help.

A national shortage of bus drivers is part of the problem the meeting was told.

Councillor Devon added: 'We have to look at a way forward. We have to sit down and find a way - even if it is a small token.'

Young people at Salen waiting for the bus to school are getting drenched, sitting soaked through before they get to class. 'We are going to look at a suitable place where the bus could stop and there could be a shelter put up for them,' said Councillor Devon.

Plans are also afoot to let ferry passengers know there will not always be a bus meeting every boat at Craignure. Letters have been received by the community council from visitors surprised by this.

A notice is also going to go up urging people wanting the 5.15pm bus to Tobermory to wait at the bus shelter opposite until it arrives.

The bus coming from Tobermory has to travel to Lochbuie road end to drop off a small number of children before returning to Craignure for the return trip, picking up passengers from the 3.55pm Oban boat. In winter that bus service is shared with the school run.

There was talk of seeing if the council contract car that meets the bus to take the children down to Lochbuie could pick them up at Craignure instead, which means people wanting the bus back to Tobermory would not have to wait so long.

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# Up, up and away – couple fly house to Easdale plot

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Easdale has taken delivery of its newest house – by air.

It took 23 lifts with a helicopter to carry sections of Ruth Barratt and Dughall Macleod's new home from a loading site at Sea View on Seil.

The couple, whose building plot is up a hill next to the house they just sold, are hoping the basic structure will be up in time for Christmas.

The house, made of structurally insulated panels, started its journey on the back of a lorry from Auchterarder in Perthshire where it was designed and made.

Once unloaded at Sea View, Ruth, who runs Katya Embroidery in Oban, got



For Ruth, inset, and her partner Dughald, having the helicopter meant it only took two-and-a-half hours to fly the kit onto the island, with materials placed exactly where they were needed on the plot.

a helping hand from farmer Seamus Anderson to strap

up the boxes ready to be lifted by Inverness-based PDG helicopter service.

'It was hands-on getting the straps ready for the helicopter...then run. We had to keep well clear of it.

'After the first lift we didn't really have much time to think about it! I was so busy getting

the next load ready I didn't have time to take any photographs but there was a good crowd out on Easdale who had the luxury of time to watch it being flown in,' said Ruth.

The ferryman's house was

the last home to be flown on to Easdale in the 1960s 'when they nearly dropped the roof', said Ruth.

Luckily for Ruth, who is now on the 19th house move of her life, and partner Dughall

their move went without any turbulence, taking about two-and-a-half hours from start to finish.

The pair are now looking forward to the new year when they can move in to their new 'des-res' complete with eco-friendly features and a look in keeping with other quarry workers' cottages on the island.

'It's going to be insulated within an inch of its life. We're going to be so toasty,' said Ruth.

Materials for other new houses on the island have come by sea, but the sums worked for Ruth.

'Having the helicopter meant it could deliver the house parts to the exact spot where we needed them.

'We're up a bit of a hill so it's definitely saved us a lot of heaving and hauling.'



**A wee reminder.**

**Let's stop the spike.**

NHSinform.scot/testing

OT

# Bonfire night was real blast

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Crowds turning out for community bonfires and fireworks displays had an absolute blast at the weekend.

Oban's esplanade was full of families and fun-seekers on Friday wanting the best view of the explosive action that lit up the night sky across the bay.

Thousands of people watched the display brought to the town by BID4Oban with £6,000 funding from Scottish Sea Farms.

BID's Kay MacDonald said the event was 'joyous.'

'People were just so excited to have an event like this to attend. You could feel it in the air. It was joyous. Many thanks to Oban FM for the countdown and music, to Scottish Sea Farms for the funding help again this year, and to the Northern Lighthouse Board for letting us use their yard to set off the fireworks. We couldn't have

done it without them.'

Despite high winds and a drenching on Saturday, the weather dried out for Dunbeg's bonfire and fireworks that drew hundreds of people.

Volunteers pulled out all the stops to make the event, organised by Dunbeg Development Group, a roaring success, with one of the sparkliest stars on the night was light juggler Nicky McInnes who entertained onlookers.

Donations from the night are still being totted up but organisers are confident it will cover costs.

'The fireworks cost us £1,300 and it was an extra £300 for all the other bits, but as long as we cover that – and I'm sure we will – and people have had a good night then we're happy with that,' said one of the organisers James MacDonald.

Any extra money will go towards a new village hall.

'Everyone stayed safe which

was a big priority for us. We also noticed there weren't any random fireworks going off or fires in the village which helped keep people out of harm's way,' added Mr MacDonald.

In Taynuilt, youngsters accompanied by adults were handed free sparklers at the bonfire and fireworks display on the sports pavilion field organised by Taynuilt Community Council and volunteers.

Community council convenor David Sloss said: 'It went off without a hitch, it was well-attended and there was no shortage of sparklers! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and came along.'

And there was an extra thanks to people who took their litter home with them.

'We noticed there wasn't as much litter to clear up as in previous years so that was very much appreciated by helpers,' David added.

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



Fireworks light up the night sky above Oban, above and right.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

## WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS 2021

THU NOV  
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SAT DEC  
11

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WED NOV  
17

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FRI DEC  
31

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Covid vaccination passports may be required for some events.

Find out more at  
[liveargyll.co.uk/whats-on](http://liveargyll.co.uk/whats-on)





Juggler Nicky McInnes juggles the light fantastic at Dunbeg. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn; and above right, Ayda Douglas, eight, and Perrie Douglas, nine, with sparkler at Oban fireworks display.



Above right, Taynuilt Bonfire attracted a big crowd in the sports pavilion field. Photograph: Eilidh Livingstone



Oban's firework display was a 'joyous' occasions, according to Kay McDonald of BID4Oban. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

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OT

## Serious road accidents halved in Argyll during pandemic

Road accidents in Argyll & Bute halved in 2020 compared to the previous year, according to the latest government figures.

The Reported Road Casualties publication released by Transport Scotland statisticians provides finalised figures for the number of people injured or killed as a result of road accidents.

The number of fatal and serious casualties on all of Argyll & Bute's roads fell from 83 in 2019 down to 37 in 2020, while all severities of injuries also dropped from 211 to 120 in the same period.

However the number of fatalities only reduced slightly, from nine in 2019 down to seven in 2020. In a year where travel habits were significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, 141 people were killed in reported road accidents in Scotland in 2020, 25 fewer than in 2019.

'The casualty reductions will have been significantly influenced by the general

reduction in motor traffic seen over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic,' said Transport Scotland. 'The Department for Transport estimate that motor traffic volume dropped by 23 per cent in Scotland in 2020 compared with 2019.'

There was a significant drop in the overall number of

### Pre-Covid, Scotland was not on track to cut serious injuries.

casualties, which fell by 35 per cent between 2019 and 2020 from 7,745 to 5,040, the lowest number since records began.

Compared to 2019, the total reported casualties decreased across all modes except pedal cyclists which increased by two per cent. As context for this increase, cycling on the Scottish road network is estimated to have increased by 61 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019.

'In February, the Scottish

Government published a new road safety framework running until 2030,' Transport Scotland said. 'The previous road safety framework ran until 2020 and contained five national casualty reduction targets for 2020. All five targets have been met. Prior to the casualty reductions seen in 2020, Scotland was not on track to meet the two targets relating to serious injuries.'

Car driver accident rates per head of population varied markedly by age and sex. In 2020, the overall rate was 1 accident per thousand population aged 17+. The highest rate was for males in the 17-25 age group, with a rate of 1.9 per thousand population in 2020. This rate is one and a half times those of females of the same age (1.2 per thousand in 2020).

The latest available estimates suggest that the number of drink-drive accidents fell by 57 per cent between 2009 and 2019: from 530 accidents to 230.

## The day Amazonians to help protect Argyll

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Lochgoilhead is not the first place you'd expect to meet tribespeople from the Amazonian rainforest, but they are here for COP26, to help save Scotland's own vanishing rainforest.

The ceremony in Cormanachan Community Woodland and Lochgoilhead Village Hall on November 7, organised by Raleigh International and the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, brought together environmental activists from Scotland and the Amazon 'to share in a sacred blessing of Scotland's rainforest by indigenous representatives from Association Jiboiana'.

Jiboiana, a South American environmental conservation group, supported a delegation of five indigenous leaders from



Five indigenous leaders from the Amazon spoke to world leaders at COP26.

five different tribes to travel from the heart of the Amazon to speak to world leaders at COP26, and 'most importantly, to thousands of people in Europe about the tragic situation of the Amazon and of its guardians', it said.

'They are frontline populations: among the first to be confronted with climate change

and related environmental disasters, but also the first to be on the front to mitigate related crisis. Since they have been preserving and living in harmony within the Amazon for thousands of years, we believe it is time that they have their voices and ancestral wisdom heard - reminding us that humanity is neither superior nor

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**Entries from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Crossbill Gin.**

T&C: Overnight stay for 2 people at Parklands Boutique Hotel is for 2 nights bed and breakfast. Subject to availability. Must be taken by 31st March 2022. Gift card and basket will be presented to the winner on arrival at the hotel. Cannot be exchanged for monetary value

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# Oban tribes came Argyll's rainforests

separated from Nature, but an integral part of it.

Their knowledge of nature and understanding of its sacredness may help us find other possible ways of co-existing on Earth: Voices for a post-modern world as an alternative to a system that seeks endlessly profit and encourages the reckless exploitation of ecosystems.

'Co-creating humanitarian and environmental projects with indigenous peoples is both wonderful and necessary, but clearly insufficient to change the roots of why these projects are called for in the first place: racism, discrimination, poverty, lack of recognition for their role of guardians of Nature.

Indigenous peoples represent only five per cent of the global population yet they protect 80 per cent of the biodiversity on Earth. Just these two numbers show us the incredible extent of their importance in what is

the greatest challenge of our time: changing our way of thinking in the hopes of living and thriving in harmony with the Earth. These leaders from the Amazon will show that all forests need to be protected. Because Scotland's forests have been dramatically damaged over the centuries, they would see what the Amazon could become if we don't act altogether.'

Scotland's rainforest is a rare and endangered habitat. It's as important as tropical rainforest, but even rarer. The conditions to support this coastal temperate rainforest occur on less than one per cent of the globe's surface.

Scotland's rainforest, also known as Atlantic woodland and Celtic rainforest, is special, containing trees dripping with lichens and rocks clad with abundant mosses. These native woodlands are found on our West Coast where there is high

rainfall and relatively mild, year-round temperatures.

But Scotland's rainforest is in trouble. As little as 30,000 hectares remain – a mere two per cent of Scotland's woodland cover and only one fifth of the area that has climatic conditions suitable for rainforest.

The remnant oak, birch, ash, native pine and hazel woodlands are small, fragmented and isolated from each other. Almost all show little or no regeneration due to high levels of grazing; almost half are being choked with Rhododendron ponticum and a fifth have been planted with exotic conifer plantations. They also face threats from diseases like ash dieback; as well as nitrogen pollution, infrastructure development and climate change.

Visit Scotland's rainforests at Tainish, Glasdrum Wood, Ariundle Oakwood and Beinn Eighe.

# Winter Festival to turn McCaig's Tower into outdoor gallery

All eyes will be on Oban when the winter festival comes to town.

Iconic McCaig's Tower will be lighting up during the seasonal hoe-down of fun.

Photographers and contributors from the area are collaborating with festival organisers to project some of their best images onto the inside of the tower walls turning it into a wander-through gallery.

The free event will run from Tuesday November 23 to Thursday November 25, 4pm to 8.30pm.

Under-12s must be accompanied by adults and people are being asked to bring a torch and stick to the set routes.

The giant projections will include coastal shots, landscapes, community spirit, winter scenes and shots from the natural world, as well as images from children's competitions plus lots more.

The festival's markets are all booked up by stallholders and makers across the district are busy getting ready for the



Images will be projected onto the tower during the festival.

doors opening on Saturday November 20 at Oban Distillery and at the Corran Halls then again on Saturday November 27 at Oban Distillery and The View.

The Perle Hotel will be serving up festive afternoon teas both weekends with a Turkish twist on the last Saturday and Sunday.

The Winter Festival's late-night shopping evening will be on Thursday November 25.

A Winter Festival spokesperson said: 'There's lot of work

going on behind the scenes to make this a festival to remember with lots of events happening across the town.'

Check out next week's Oban Times to see a full programme of events covering the ten-days from November 19 to November 27.

**READMORE**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Blas festival 2021 November 19-27 Samhain

Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council

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Saturday 20 November - Astley Hall, Arisaig @ 7.30pm  
Tim Edey & Ross Ainslie and WHYTE in concert

Saturday 20 November - Caol Community Centre @ 7.30pm  
Cèilidh-Dance with Monach Isles Cèilidh Band and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

Monday 22 November - Roybridge Memorial Hall @ 7.30pm  
Buaidh nam Ban featuring Kim Carnie, Megan Henderson, James MacIntosh, Sorren Maclean & Brian McAlpine and Brìghde Chaimbeul & Aidan O' Rourke

Friday 26 November - Glengarry Community Hall @ 7.30pm  
Aonghas Grannd aig 90 - marking the significant birthday of the celebrated fiddler with former pupils including Allan Henderson, Ingrid Henderson, Sarah Jayne Shankland, Eilidh Shaw & Kevin Cameron

Saturday 27 November - Highland Cinema, Fort William  
6pm (with dinner) & 9pm (no dinner)  
Gary Innes and Ewen Henderson + Special Guest

Fiosrachadh [www.blas.scot](http://www.blas.scot) for details of events

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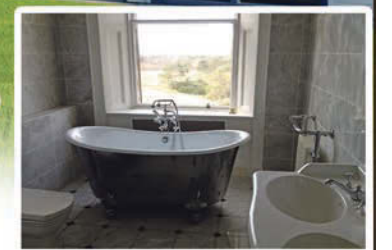
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## TRIBUTE LACHLAN RODERICK EWEN ROBERTSON – 29/8/59 – 24/06/21

*Here's a health to the fishermen  
who plough the lonely sea*

*And battle with the ocean  
where it's in their blood to be.*

*Dear the fruitful bounty of the  
blind and savage foam.*

*They're the last of the hunters,  
and they're proudly sailing  
home.*

*The sea is beautiful, powerful,  
heartless, enchanting, cruel  
and kind in equal measure.*

On the evening of June 24 this year it dealt a devastating blow to the west coast of Scotland when it took the life of well-known Mallaig fisherman, musician and renowned character and gentleman Lachie Robertson.

I wrote about my friend, Lachie, in August 2019 in an article for The Oban Times to mark his 60th birthday. It is a very strange feeling to put pen to paper again about this legendary man in such a tragically different context.

Here are the opening paragraphs from that piece: 'For nearly four years now, I have been shooting away my weekly articles to The Oban Times and, as regular readers will know, the subject matters



hold certain common themes. Among the foremost-featured areas have been music, boats, fishing, anniversaries and birthdays, providential coincidence, Highland hospitality,

**'The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.'**

the Mod, music festivals, Gaelic language and culture, good ceilidhs and well-known characters of the west coast. This week's offering covers a man who encapsulates all of the above.

'I have known Lachie Robertson from Mallaig for 20 years and many a good escapade we have had together. This Thursday, Lachie will turn 60, as too - if my memory serves me correctly - will his Danish-built fishing boat Reul a' Chuain (Star of the Sea). As this paper will be published that day, I thought it fitting to celebrate the aligning of dates and stars and write about this well-known west coast character, piper, fisherman, expert host and ceilidh maker.'

The contrast in the emotion felt in writing his obituary compared to that happy article two years ago to celebrate his birthday is vast and the change of circumstance is difficult to comprehend.

Lachie had a positive effect on the lives of many people and was as widely liked and revered a human being as one could ever meet.

Known for both his hard work as a fisherman and a fulfilling social, musical and home life, he was someone whose company was always sought out and always enjoyed. For Lachie, there was an open door, a welcome and a bed in houses across the country, the islands and across many walks of life. Likewise, his own door was always open to welcome others.

Lachie's early years were spent in the Scottish borders with primary school days at Canonbie, then secondary at Langholm Academy, with most holidays spent in Elgol on the Isle of Skye where his father was from. His natural attributes and abilities were evident during his school years and as well as being the athletics champion, he was selected as the school's head boy.

From knowing Lachie and from hearing of his earlier years, it is clear he would have excelled in whatever area of work-life he chose to follow, but it was the call of the sea that would give Lachie his life-long vocation.

After leaving school, he took what was to be a temporary holiday job working on the

Olive Branch, fishing out of Mallaig with Jock Summers.

Fishing and the enchantment of the sea gripped him and after some time working on other boats including the Solon with Alex 'Baitch' MacDonald, and getting his skipper's ticket, Lachie had his first boat, the Elizabeth Anne, built. The Danish-built Nighean Donn and his last boat, Reul a' Chuain, were to follow.

Lachie also spent a few years running sea trips on the fast, rigid inflatable Brightwater. My uncle and I bought Brightwater from him before he went back to fishing full time and the night Lachie delivered her down to Oban for us was the setting for a great night of drams and celebration.

Between fishing and running the Brightwater, Lachie also studied for and obtained a degree in Gaelic from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

It is difficult to convey fully just how special a human being was Lachie, and various attempts at writing this obituary, I have felt, were just not hitting the right resonance and giving a true picture of the man he was. With that in mind, I have reverted to verse to try to create a more vivid picture of this unique and wonderful man.

### Lachie

*Some walk the earth and have  
little effect, and pass like a ship  
in the night*

*But some have the gift of love  
to collect, and the beam of a  
magical light.*

*From a Cardinal Buoy guid-  
ing all who came near, from the  
North, East, South and from  
West*

*Came Lachie's bright beam  
telling, 'Deep water here', of  
friendship from one of the best.*

*A hard-working man whose  
world was the sea, of long days  
and nights at the wheel*

*Of shoot, tow and haul and  
born to be, a skipper of strength  
and of steel;*

*Steaming for home at the end  
of the trip, and the peace of  
being tied at the pier*

*The landing ashore, and hose  
down the ship, and mending  
and sorting the gear.*

*Then the Lachie most knew,  
Lachie ashore, a man of family*

*and home -*

*Warmth and love to the depth  
of his core when not fishing the  
merciless foam*

*Or a pint with the boys and  
a toast to the sea, some drams  
and a verse of a song*

*And the wondering lust for a  
tune and spree, in a blink the  
session was on!*

*To Mods he would travel on  
the pull of the tide, festivals,  
parties or fèis.*

*His passion for music he  
spread far and wide, as the  
nights moved into the days.*

*His pipes striking up and  
hitting the notes of richness and  
wonder of life*

*He played them on piers, at  
parties, or boats, and blessed  
many a husband and wife!*

*His nature was kind and  
always to give, and always the  
good he would see.*

*With a wonderful mind, he  
knew how to live, his company  
easy and free.*

*He emitted a warmth of  
goodness and trust, of decency,  
mischief and fun*

*And tomorrow could wait till  
next week if it must, if the tunes  
they welcomed the sun.*

*His magic would spread to all  
who he'd know, and the better  
for knowing him we are*

*Like his own Reul a' Chuain  
eternal the glow, of the gift of  
Lachie's bright star.*

*Now he's moved on but his  
spirit's not gone, he'll be here  
long into the years*

*And with laughter and song  
and tunes all night long, here's  
to Lachie with joy in our tears.*

The night Lachie was lost, I was sitting in the Heathbank Hotel in Northbay, Barra, with my friend and partner in fishing, Donald Uileam MacLeod (Copper Top). Word had reached Donald that there had been an incident on Reul a' Chuain and that Lachie had been in the water. A short while later the dreadful news came that, as Donald put it at the time, 'he didn't make it'.

The shock we felt that night would have been felt far and wide as the news spread. The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.

Lachie is survived by his daughters Kenna and Rachael and their mother Niki, his partner Fiona, his brother Donald and his sister Catriona.

**Angus MacPhail,  
Skipinnish.**

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# £2M boost for Argyll economy, plus £175k for Oban drone hub

Argyll and Bute is set to benefit from over £2 million of UK Community Renewal Funding, writes Sandy Neil.

Part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Agenda, funding will stimulate growth in the area and help deliver community projects.

Argyll and Bute Council submitted the bids to the UK Government on behalf of organisations and council services who are investing in skills, place making, the community and supporting people into employment.

The award of £2 million is one of the largest in Scotland, and came from a total allocation of £18.4 million.

Successful initiatives include £407,715 for the new Seaweed Academy, helping to create the UK's only dedicated seaweed industry facility, near Oban, offering training, education and business development.

Nearly £175,000 will also go to the West Coast UAV Innovation Logistics and Training Hub in Oban, after successfully trialling unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) or drones to transport medical supplies to islands. Funding will commission a business case to support the further use of drones.

Almost £185,000 has also been given to MACC Hydrogen Futures – a feasibility and



**Nearly £175,000 will commission a business case to support the further use of drones to transport medical supplies to the islands.**

design project to help establish a green hydrogen production and distribution facility at the Machrihanish Airbase outside of Campbeltown.

Funding of £359,652 will help expand the Dunoon Project team looking to develop a nearby forest into a world class tourism offering. Meanwhile in Tarbert, £262,395 will help establish a team to complete business plans and planning applications as a prelude to a £13 million transformation project to regenerate the town.

A similar sum of £265,200, to aid access to ethical and responsible means of carbon sequestration, will be made available to organisations looking to offset their carbon emissions.

A further £102,000 will go towards curriculum development for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Hubs projects, while £275,253 will help drive economic

growth through a bounce back curriculum that includes employer focused education and training in remote and rural areas.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for the economy and economic growth, said:

'Fostering innovation and expertise across Argyll and Bute is absolutely essential in attracting more jobs and investment to the area.

'We are delighted with the scale of the award for the area which will help drive positive change improving places for our communities and attracting further investment.

'The council works hard to source and secure funding opportunities to help grow the area. We are pleased that the hard work has paid off and communities will benefit from a range of innovative projects. We look forward to showcasing the very best Argyll and Bute can offer.'

## Call for volunteer tour guides

Oban is on the look out for more tour guides to show off the town's sights, Kathie Griffiths.

Port of Oban Cruise Group wants to boost its number of yellow badge-trained guides ready for the return of cruise ships next year.

Since the first cohort of guides, officially badged by the Scottish Tourism Guides Association (STGA), stepped out in May 2018 some of them have retired, moved away or gone to university leaving vacancies to be filled.

Working alongside BID4Oban, Port of Oban Cruise Group chairman Rab Black is raring to go on a recruitment drive and is feeling optimistic.

'We are well placed to offer cruise ship passengers guided walking tours of Oban and we're delighted to be back in talks with Patricia Bain who heads up training for STGA.

'With Patricia's help we produced 12 yellow badge guides in 2018 and with some now retired, others away at university or moved permanently, it's the right time to look at increasing our numbers so we're ready



Cruise ship in Oban Bay.

when more cruise ships return next season,' he said.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence is also confident that new guides will be in place for spring 2022 ready and waiting to welcome back cruise passengers.

Signs are that cruise line operators will be offering longer port stays in the future which would be good news for Oban businesses.

BIDS4Oban and Port of Oban Cruise Group say they are determined that Oban will be front of mind when cruise lines are planning forward

their itineraries.

An open evening will be held early next year for anyone interested in training as yellow badge walking tour guide.

Places will be offered by an interview panel and successful candidates will be expected to be available for walking tours throughout the season.

Training is likely to take place in late March, early April, with a mix of classroom learning, practical skills and home study.

Interested? Watch out for more information to come later this year.

## LORN HEALTHY OPTIONS WEEKLY TIP

### It's not all about the bodyweight

We all know that holding excessive body weight can be damaging in the long term and increase our risk of developing long-term health conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis and cardiovascular disease.

When it comes to reducing excessive body weight and the risk of unwanted health problems many will immediately opt for the diet route alone and by doing so, they are perhaps unwittingly choosing the most difficult path ahead.

When it comes to reducing the risk of long-term health conditions and the likelihood of suffering a life-threatening or life-changing event, we need to look at a slightly bigger

picture. Along with a sensible approach to nutrition we know that those who keep themselves fit, eat a range of fruit and vegetables and limit their smoking and alcohol intake can significantly reduce their likelihood of death at any particular time. Interestingly when we talk about 'keeping fit' we are not talking about competing in triathlons, more like a half hour of walking each day. Instead of the huge effort required to continually limit calories through a strict diet, perhaps a better approach would be to apply a little focus to each of the lifestyle adaptations mentioned above. In fact, research shows that overweight or obese individ-



uals who do so exhibit the same risk of a life ending health problem as those who are a healthy weight.

So perhaps we all too often try to grasp the problem by the wrong end and make success difficult through a strict calorie-controlled diet which requires 24hrs a day effort and discomfort. A half hour walk each day is much more achievable and even if you don't find it the most enjoyable part of your day, it is only half an hour.

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

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



University of the  
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OT

# Rural rally cry for members

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The Rural is coming out of Covid with a rallying cry for new members to join its institutions.

With 14 institutes across Argyll, from Appin down to Southend by Campbeltown, boosting its women-only membership is much on the mind of Brenda MacLeod – fourth-time president of the Scottish Women Institute's (SWI) Argyll Federation.

It was thanks to her farmer husband that she join the SWI almost 40 years ago, discovering a world of friendship and learning new skills that still keep on coming.

There is much more to it than making the perfect scone or knitting a cosy hat, says Brenda. It is a community where women can have fun and make friends while learning, sharing and socialising together. Raising awareness of issues affecting women and campaigning to influence government is also on the priority list.

'My husband's mum had been in the Rural, that's how I got into it. I didn't know many people when I first came to Appin and was on the farm by myself a lot. I think he wanted me out from under his feet and thought it would be a good way of me meeting others. My first time away in Oban at the Rural and he went and broke his



The SWI offers A programme of demonstrations, speakers, classes and competitions brings plenty of variety throughout the year; left, this is Brenda MacLeod's fourth time as Appin SWI's president.

leg!' said Brenda. A lesser woman might have taken that as a bad omen but Brenda was not put off and soon was volunteering for various roles with the Rural that took her from village to regional and national levels of officialdom. 'Suddenly I wasn't just Willie's wife or the children's mum – I was me!' said Brenda.

Although the SWI no longer has a central council to govern it, there are trustees and now Federation Committees for homeskills and handicrafts, education and finance.

Each year there is a central AGM but otherwise area federations are run independently with their own a president, treasurer and vice-president as honorary posts – only the secretary gets paid.

'We're not just about making jam – we still make it, of course, but there's lots more

to us than that. While we have our traditions, we also want to move with the times. We know it's important to attract new members to keep us fresh,' said Brenda, who is already working with others on the Federation's show for next year at the Corran Halls.

'We're hoping it will be third time lucky after Covid. After all that extra time to perfect our skills it should be a really impressive show!' she added.

A programme of demonstrations, speakers, classes and competitions brings plenty of variety throughout the year. One of Brenda's speciality subjects is microwave cooking – even though she has a Rayburn at home. Although it might horrify some of the earliest Rural members, the lemon curd you can ping up in just five minutes would soon win them over, she says.

In Argyll there are 270 members, the oldest are in their 90s, some are in their



40s and the rest are mainly in between.

'Some institutes manage to attract younger members. We don't seem to do that here in Argyll. I don't know if it because we are in more remote areas and it takes more effort to get to meetings than for those living in towns. Some meet in pubs and restaurants whoever will let them in! We don't have quite as many options as that here.

'Any woman can come along and join us, any age but it is women-only – it's been to court to make sure we can still say that! Our retiring

chief executive is a man – Raymond Pratt. He has done a lot of modernising and there have been changes. I think personally he has been good for us,' said Brenda.

The new CEO taking over in December is Diana Cooper. 'We're hoping she will be equally dynamic,' said Brenda.

Created by women for women in 1917, the Rural is definitely not beyond having its adventures and that could include starting up meetings for young members called the Junior Dippers – something that Brenda would like to see

happen in Argyll to bring on the next generation.

Her own adventures with the Rural have taken her to plush garden parties and receptions at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood, and a couple of trips to London – she was also shortlisted for a TV show. She didn't quite make the screen herself but Southend's Elizabeth Semple did – her cloutie dumpling was a hit with viewers.

Interested in joining? Email Brenda at lurignish@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 01631 730365 to find out about your nearest meeting.

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**Around the markets**

**United Auctions, Tیره, Tuesday**

**November 2:** sold 682 suckled calves and store cattle and 77 breeding cattle. Bullocks sold to £1280 for a 635kg, AAX from A Lamont, Croish to average £817.60. Heifers sold to £1200 for a 567kg, CHx from M/s MacKinnon, 4 Kilkenneth to average £702.19.

Bullocks sold to 316p/kg for 3, 215kg, LIMx from G Campbell, Garaphail to average 240.5p/kg and heifers sold to 296p/kg for 3, 261kg LIMx from E MacKinnon, Hillcrest to average 226.53p/kg. Farrow cows sold to £1350 for a SALx from Drumaglea and incalf heifers sold to £1200 for a SALx from the same home.

A large turnout of buyers was in attendance and all classes of stock sold well and comparing well to current mainland levels. In general, although stock was presented in good bloom, most lots were lighter on the year.

**LEADING LOTS & PRICES**

**TOP PRICES PER HEAD**

**BULLOCKS** – AAX – £1280, Croish; £1200(2), Whitehouse; £1150(4), Croish; £1140, Hillcrest; £1120, 9 Barrapol; £1080(2), Croish; £1065, Heylipol Farm; £1050, Croish; £1050(2), 5 Balevullin; £1030, Whitehouse; £1000, Heylipol Farm. **BSHx** – £1080, £1060, 13 Moss. **BRBx** –

£1080, Ruaig. **CHARx** – £1270, £1220(3), 4 Kilkenneth; £1190, £1170, Heylipol Farm; £1130, Drumaglea; £1110, £1100(3), £1090, 4 Kilkenneth; £1060, £1050, Salum; £1050, Heylipol Farm; £1050, £1020, 4 Kilkenneth; £1010, Salum; £1010, Heylipol Farm. **LIMx** – £1120(2), Lochside; £1115, Heylipol Farm; £1110, Whitehouse; £1105(2), Heylipol Farm; £1100, 4 Kilkenneth; £1080, Hillcrest; £1080(2), £1045, Heylipol Farm; £1020, Ardmay; £1020(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £1000, Garaphail; £1000, Hillcrest. **SALx** – £1040(4), Druimasaidh; £1010(2), Drumaglea; £970, 2/15 Balevullin; £925, 3 Kenovay. **SIMx** – £1070, £1030, Vaul. **HEIFERS** – AAX – £1150, £1050(2), Hillcrest; £990(3), Croish; £960, Hillcrest. **BSHx** – £930, £900, 13 Moss. **CHARx** – £1200, 4 Kilkenneth; £1090, Salum; £1075(2), £1070, £1060(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £1050, Salum; £1000(2), 4 Kilkenneth; £960, Heylipol Farm; £950, Garaphail; £900(4), Salum. **LIMx** – £1170, Hillcrest; £1130, 7 Balinoe; £1070, 4 Kilkenneth; £1045, £1000, Heylipol Farm; £950, 12 Crossapol; £940, 7 Balinoe; £910, 6 Barrapol. **SALx** – £830, Mainroad; £820, 8 Cornaigbeg; £800, 5 Balevullin. **SIMx** – £980, Hillcrest; £940, 7 Kilkenneth; £940, Vaul; £920, Ardeas.

**LEADING PRICES PER KILO**  
**BULLOCKS** – AAX – 275p, 270p, Heylipol Farm; 270p(4), 269p(9), Scarinish Farm;

264p(4), Heylipol Farm; 264p, 6 Barrapol; 261p(3), 260p, Heylipol Farm. **BRBx** – 236p, 3A Caolis; 223p, Ruaig. **CHARx** – 314p, Garaphail; 304p(3), Ruaig; 292p(3), Salum; 290p(3), Garaphail; 285p, Salum; 276p, 4 Kilkenneth; 270p(3), Heylipol Farm; 269p(2), Garaphail; 266p(3), Heylipol Farm; 265p(3), 264p(2), Garaphail; 261p(2), Heylipol Farm. **LIMx** – 316p(3), Garaphail; 314p, 7 Balinoe; 302p(3), 1 Kilkenneth; 298p, 6 Barrapol; 296p, Lochside; 295p, 9 Barrapol; 295p(2), 6 Balevullin; 293p, Garaphail; 292p(2), 290p, 2 Heylipol; 288p, Garaphail; 287p, Parkhouse; 284p(4), Hillcrest; 282p, 12 Crossapol; 280p(2), Manna; 280p(2), Lochside; 280p, Hillcrest; 278p, Lochside; 278p, 6 Barrapol; 277p, 12 Crossapol; 271p, Lochside. **SALx** – 263p(2), 254p, Hough; 251p(5), Mainroad; 251p(2), 6 Crossapol. **SIMx** – 282p, 3 Middleton; 282p, 10 Crossapol; 272p, 3 Middleton; 271p(2), 10 Crossapol; 267p, 4 Heanish; 259p, 10 Crossapol; 256p, 3A Caolis; 256p(2), Vaul; 256p, 4 Heanish. **HEIFERS** – AAX – 255p(3), Scarinish Farm; 253p, Whitehouse; 246p(2), 6 Barrapol. **CHARx** – 276p, Garaphail; 270p(7), Ruaig; 269p(4), Salum; 267p(2), 260p(5), 254p(2), 252p(2), Heylipol Farm; 251p(3), 240p(3), Ruaig. **LIMx** – 296p(3), Hillcrest; 294p, Parkhouse; 276p(4), 275p, Garaphail; 273p,

Manna; 271p, 6 Barrapol; 269p, 2 Heylipol; 268p, Hillcrest; 264p(3), 2 Heylipol; 263p(3), Parkhouse; 257p, 2 Heylipol; 254p, Manna; 254p, 2 Heylipol; 252p, Parkhouse. **SALx** – 261p(4), Mainroad; 256p, 8 Balevullin; 255p(2), Scarinish Farm; 251p, Mainroad. **SIMx** – 266p, 256p, 10 Crossapol. **INCALF HEIFERS** – LIMx – £1100, £1080, Heylipol Farm. **SALx** – £1200, Drumaglea. **FARROW COWS** – AAX – £1080, Heylipol Farm; £990, £980, 8 Cornaigbeg; £960, Heylipol Farm; £930, Parkhouse; £900, Hillcrest. **LIMx** – £1210, Vaul; £1140, Druimasaidh; £1130, Parkhouse; £1060, 4 Kilkenneth; £960, Heylipol Farm; £920, Hillcrest; £900, 4 Kilkenneth. **SALx** – £1350, Drumaglea; £900, Parkhouse. **SIMx** – £900, Vaul. **FARROW COWS** – AAX – 145p, Heylipol Farm; 135p, 133p, 8 Cornaigbeg. **LIMx** – 147p, 137p, 4 Kilkenneth. **SALx** – 150p, Parkhouse; 149p, Drumaglea. **SIMx** – £151p, 2 Heylipol; 138p, Ruaig.

**Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, Fort William, Friday November, 5:** sold 474 Rams at its annual sale. "It was certainly a sale of fireworks and bangs where the Blackface tup entry saw the trade set alight from start to finish, with over 60 '4 figure' prices achieved."

Blackface ram lambs (74) averaged £564.59 and sold to £3,200 gross from Elmscleugh, Dunbar. Blackface Shearlings (245) averaged 497.43 and sold to £4,500 gross from Dalchirla Farm, Muthill. Blackface Two Sears (45) averaged £346.67 and sold to £1,000 gross from Dunalastair Estate. Blackface Three Sears (26) averaged £342.31 and sold to £800 gross from Dalbuiack, Carrbridge. Blackface Aged (3) averaged £316.67 and sold to £550 gross from Balrazzie. Texel Rams (22) averaged £370 and sold to £700 gross from Crookston, Heriot. Suffolk Rams (1) sold to £200 from Newton of Crathie, Ballater. Cross Rams (9) averaged £452.22 and sold to £1,000 gross from Balmaglaster, Spean Bridge (Cameron). Blue Faced Leicester (3) averaged £850 and sold to £1,000 gross from Crookston. Cheviot Rams (41) averaged £357.32 and sold to £900 gross (twice) from Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell & Balmaglaster (Cameron). Swale Rams (3) averaged £243.33 and sold to £450 gross from Cara View, Argyll. Berrichon Rams (2) averaged £325 and sold to £350 gross from Camoquholm. Other leading prices per head:

BF ram Lambs: Allanfauld, Kilsyth, £3,000, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk, £3,000, £1,500 & £1,200; Auchnalongford, £2,400, £2,100 & £1,100, Midlock, £2,000, Elmscleugh, £1,400 & £1,200, Greenside, £1,200, Dalchirla, £1,200, Killoch, £1,000. BF Shearlings: Elmscleugh, £3,000, £1,700 & £1,000, Dalchirla, £2,500, £1,800, £1,600, £1,400 & £1,000, Midlock, £2,000 & £1,700, Clashnoir, £1,500 (twice) & £1,050, The Beeches, £1,400. BF Two Sears: Dunalastair Estate, £1,000 & £450 (twice), Craig Farm, £800, Shenlarich, £700 (twice), £550 & £450, Aitkenhead, £600 & £500. BF Three Sears: Dalbuiack, £800, Aitkenhead, £600, Dall Farm, £500 & £400, Croughly, £450, Burnfoot, £400 (twice), Knockandhu, £400, Castles Estate, £400. Texel Rams: Crookston, £700, £600 & £550 & £400, Hill of Errol, £650 & £550, Veltigar, £380 & £350, Ardchatten, £350, Bracklin, £350. Cross Rams: Balmaglaster (Cameron), £900, £800 & £500, Bracklin, £300. BFL Rams: Crookston, £900 & £650. Cheviot Rams: Keppoch, £550 (twice) & £450, Balmaglaster (Cameron), £600, £550 (twice), £500 & £450, Wood Cottage Croft, £650 & £450, Bracklin, £450 (twice), Craigview, £400.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Are you up for a monster of a challenge?

How about taking on 96kms, four lochs and one monster all in four days?

Bereaved families charity Anam Cara Fasgadh is looking for a team of canoeists and kayakers who are up for the epic challenge next April, paddling from the Atlantic to the North Sea via the Great Glen.

The mission from Banavie to Inverness via Loch Ness is being hosted by Dunbeg's Susan Simpson who is a co-founder of Anam Cara Fasgadh, working towards providing free breaks for families bereaved through the death of a child, baby, or young person.

There is room for 20 taker, open to 12-year-olds and over – but under-16s must have an adult with them.

Equipment and a guide are provided but anyone taking part will be expected to bring their own camping gear and be self sufficient – that



Anam Cara Fasgadh co-founders Susan and Andrew Simpson at Tralee Bay Holidays, the site of the charity's first caravan.

includes carrying your own equipment in dry bags.

To find out more go to [anam-cara-fasgadh-great-glen-challenge.eventbrite.co.uk](http://anam-cara-fasgadh-great-glen-challenge.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Bonnie Banks lay-by litter bin scheme a success

In a move to tackle Loch Lomond's chronic litter problems following the easing of COVID 19 travel restrictions, conservation charity Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs introduced a pilot litter bin scheme in laybys along the busy 13-mile stretch of the A82 between Arden and Tarbet over the summer.

This has been a great success, with 15 tonnes of litter collected by the 20 new bins, and an

impressive 97 per cent of this waste being recycled instead of strewn along road verges and in laybys. This equates to a staggering 4,000 bags of litter collected overall with 3,880 bags of litter being recycled. The road is one of the busiest routes in Scotland with more than six million vehicle movements annually. The funding was provided by NatureScot and the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Trust.

## A touch of romance for Seil concerts

Netherlorn Music Scheme (NeMS) emerges after lockdown with two concerts later this month by the Resol String Quartet and the saxophonist Richard Schofield.

The five performers from America, Catalonia, England, Japan and Scotland who recently completed their postgraduate studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will be offering a short programme of specially-arranged pieces by well-known composers such as Vaughan-Williams, Sibelius and Chopin.

Admission is free but donations are welcome at the concerts on Thursday November 25 at Easdale Community Hall at 6.30pm, the ferry leaves Seil at 6.15pm, and also on Friday November 26 at 8pm in Kilbrandon Church on Seil Island.

'Many of the pieces derive from folk-cultures around Europe and America, with the unifying theme of An Atypical Romance, from the light-hearted to the tragic,' says Stephen Arnold from NeMS.



Murray Hamilton from Oban and Lorn Rugby Club, Dave Bleazard from Outside Edge, Morag MacKinnon from Inner Wheel Club Oban and Kay McDonald from Bid4Oban with the second run of A Taste of Oban.

## Oban has huge appetite for Inner Wheel's cookbook

A cook book that sold like hot cakes raising money for research into Motor Neurone Disease has just had 200 more printed, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Copies of a first run of A Taste of Oban compiling favourite recipes from the town's Inner Wheel members sold out in just four weeks making £1,108 for MND charity My Name's Doddie Foundation.

Donations from Oban Lorn Rugby Club, Oban Rotary Club, Bid4Oban, and various individuals helped get the first 100 printed and because they were such a sell-out success, Bid4Oban then put even more support into the mix and now another 200 copies have gone on sale.

The Inner Wheel Club Oban wants to thank everyone for continued

support and encouragement. The books cost £10 and are available from Bids4Oban office, Outside Edge and by mail order, at an additional cost £1.50, by sending enquiries to [tasteofobaniw@gmail.com](mailto:tasteofobaniw@gmail.com).

Photographs and recipes from soups to cocktails pack the book's 100 pages and chefs from Coast, The Manor House and Etive restaurants in town have also contributed.

Former Oban High School pupil Ruth Williamson, formerly Gibson, inspired the book. Ruth, who now lives in Edinburgh, was given two years to live by doctors after being diagnosed with the disease that affects the brain and nerves, but has incredibly beaten the odds four years later by seeing her daughter Anna start school.





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# St Conan's last call for Christmas trees

Organisers of St Conan Kirk's are sprucing it up for this year's magical Christmas Tree Festival.

A call for any last entries is going out, with decorated trees already booked to come from Oban, Inveraray, Tyndrum and lots of the villages in between, writes Kathie Griffiths.

'We've been very pleased to once again see a real cross section of the community getting behind the festival and registering to enter a tree,' said Liz Mackay, of the Friends of St Conan's.

'We plan to close registration in mid November and at the moment have room for another seven to 10 trees,' she added.

Individuals, families, organisations, businesses and local groups can take part. The tree should be at least 4ft, but can be taller, traditional or made of any material in a tree shape.

And they can be decorated to represent the organisation or with any theme that appeals.

It is free to enter but the trees must be lit with battery lights - and no flashing ones.

Anyone who would like to enter a tree should email Liz on [enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk) by November 19.

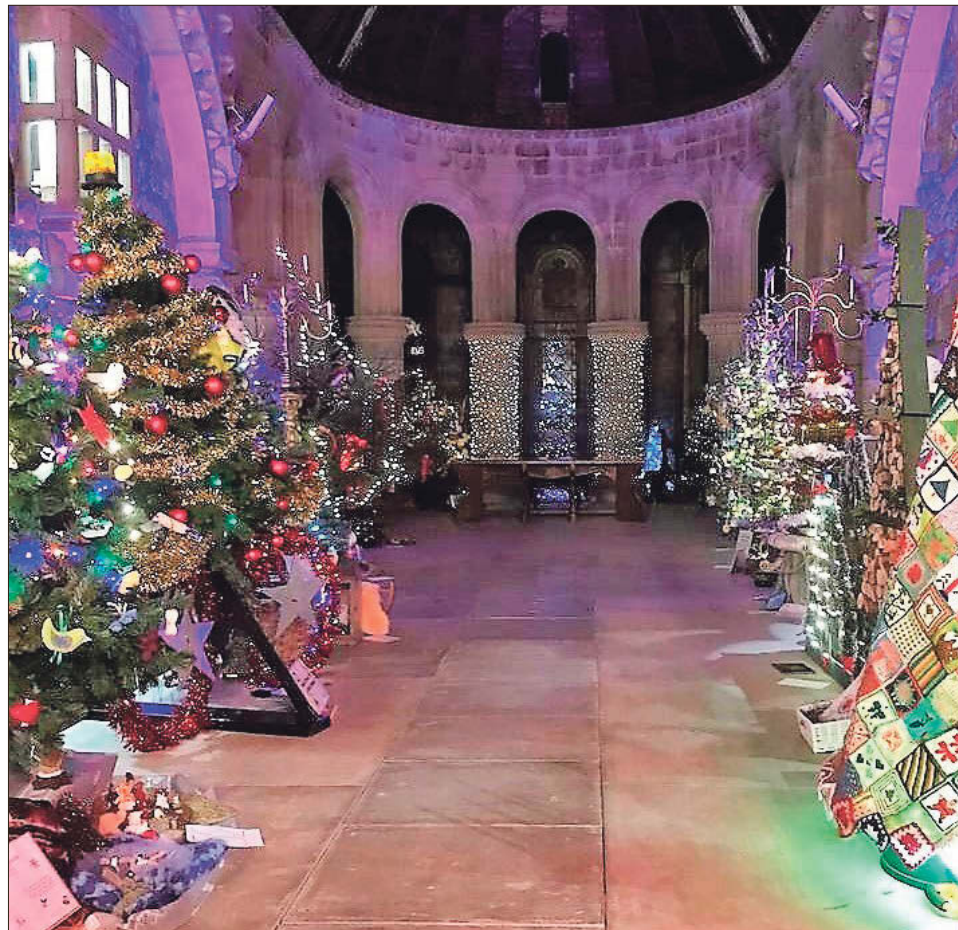
Festival visitors will be asked to make a donation and to vote for their favourite tree.

Competition is fierce for the accolade of Visitors' Favourite, won in 2019 by Lochnell Primary pupils for their fantastic Reduce, Reuse, Treecycle.

'We hope that everyone will enjoy the festival and we are working hard on safety plans,' said Liz.

To spread out visitor attendance the festival will be open for extra hours, there will be a new layout and route around the kirk for distancing purposes, and measures, such as wearing masks, will be in place.

'It would also be very much appreciated if everyone did a Lateral Flow Test before coming along,' said Liz.



As well as the trees, there will be a festive raffle, hot drinks and homebaking, and younger visitors are asked to look for Santa's Elves.

St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival in Lochawe runs from Friday December 3 to Sunday December 5, 10am to 6pm.

St Conan's Kirk will light up for this year's Christmas tree Festival from December 3 to December 5.

## At random



MARTIN LAING

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

### Fuelling debate

Confession: I have only been following the COP26 gathering of the world's leaders in Glasgow superficially.

However, I realise the crucial nature of the debate.

On that front, I was intrigued by the news Oban is trialling a hydrogen bus this month as part of a joint initiative.

I think the idea of hydrogen-fuelled public transport - emitting zero CO2 - is a splendid development and is obviously a significant step to improving air quality and reducing pollution.

It is also being linked to Oban's bid for city status, on which I have voiced my doubts previously. If that ambition is to be successful and bring about the economic development suggested by its supporters, I'd offer that the most important change in the area's transport infrastructure should be sweeping improvements to the road links between Oban and the central belt.

Now, I'm sanguine enough to know we are not going to get motorways built between Oban and Stirling, but at least some dual carriageway stretches could be developed to allow more safe overtaking and faster links. That would be my personal priority, although the hydrogen bus is a promising start to improving transport in the West Highlands.

### Helping hands

I have never been to the Men's Shed in Oban and have had no involvement with the organisation but I have friends who have been part of it and who vouch for the excellent work it achieves.

I was, therefore, interested to hear of its need to find new premises after being told the Salvation Army building it uses in Stevenson Street is up for sale.

The Men's Shed is a country-wide movement which offers peer support to men by encouraging social interaction and engagement in constructive projects. It is, by all accounts, an excellent group in the town and one which deserves support.

I'd appeal to anyone out there with potential premises to consider helping out. I'm told they can be contacted on Facebook at Men's Shed Oban.

What do you think? Send your comments to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



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OT

## LETTERS

**Be patient and kind**

Confusion reigned again this week as the HSCP apologised for the third time over inaccurate information concerning the Covid jag booster clinics.

However, the HSCP insists the vaccination programme should now run smoothly and has said people eligible for a second dose or a booster will be either sent a letter or will receive a phone call to let them know which clinic they should attend, whether in the Corran Halls, Oban, or in Connel or Taynuilt.

The Oban Times has received a number of calls from worried residents who have become very anxious about getting their booster as soon as possible, and the current problems have not helped.

However, we would reiterate NHS Highland's call for people to be respectful of all the wonderful staff manning the vaccination clinics.

The frustration and anxiety that some people are feeling is understandable, however, clinic staff are doing their best to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible, but sometimes the circumstances are outwith their control. Please be kind. We owe these people a debt of gratitude, not attitude.

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

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

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

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk We will attempt to resolve your issue in a 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.

**Covid jag fiasco**

My 91-year-old mother was on of the 'uninvited' who you report attended the Corran Halls vaccine clinic on October 27.

We were there because my mother was 28 weeks past her second vaccine doze and every time we turned on the TV we were exhorted by politicians and health experts to get a booster shot as soon as we were eligible.

We tried to find out when that might be but the NHS Highland website held no clues and the Vaccination Enquiry Hub took nearly an hour to answer and was unable to give definitive information.

Having had no blue envelope and becoming increasingly anxious, when a friend told us that the Corran Halls clinic was giving booster jabs, we set off because we thought it might be her only chance to get a booster.

If the appointment letters had come out in a timely fashion we would have been happy to wait patiently for a jab.

I wonder what would have happened to the vaccine doses unused if those uninvited people had not turned up?

**K Davidson, Ardfern.**

**War memorial omission**

It is a historical oddity that no First World War Mercantile Marine casualties appear on the Oban war memorial, possibly due to then prevailing social attitudes.

Their names are commemorated in bronze letters at the Memorial at Tower Hill in London, but I wondered if they are remembered anywhere within the town.

Two probable local men were Second Officer John McNeil whose mother lived at Airds Crescent and Trimmer Donald Stewart, born in Oban. Further afield are Neil Campbell of Easdale, Barra men Donald McNeil and John MacDonald, Neil Cameron from Mull, John MacMillan Tiree and John MacLean Coll.

Their memory deserves to be respected with honour.

The contribution of civilian seamen to the war effort was recognised by the King granting the title "Merchant Navy" after the peace was won.

**Norman Martin, by email.**

**Royal Mail woes**

I was interested to find out that the people of Oban are having issues with Royal Mail deliveries. The people of Oban are not alone.

## YOUR PICTURES

This photograph was sent in by Tom Harrigan MBE who last month spent some time in Oban.

He told us: 'On my list of places we must visit was the poignant War Memorial on the north headland.

'I am 73 years of age and the War Memorial holds lasting memories of an old friend and former colleague I once took to the Memorial, an experience he always recalled once back home in India.

'Whilst making my way around the memorial, reading the names on the Role of Honour, I caught sight of the CalMac Ferry about to approach and pass the opposite side of the memorial. I immediately took the opportunity and 'snapped' the ferry with my little point-and-shoot camera just as its bow was about to enter behind the seaward side of the memorial.

'Here is the resultant image.

'When I returned home, I viewed the photograph and was moved by the content.

The empty benches, where minutes before sat adults and children having a snack. The 'ship' heading out of Oban and the section of the memorial with names of those brave individuals who never returned to their homeland.

'No doubt many of these brave souls may have departed Oban by sea, heading for unknown destinations, with their friends and relatives standing off the very headland where their memorial stands to this day.



'I then thought of the title 'No one to wave goodbye'. To the outgoing ship, no one waving, and no doubt there would have been no one to say goodbye to the brave souls as they perished.

'However, I realise this is my personal

I am a postal subscriber to the Oban Times, and I live in central Edinburgh. For a period of 11 days I had no Royal Mail deliveries whatsoever. In effect, some important mail I was expecting had gone missing. While things have subsequently, to an extent, settled down, confidence in the Royal Mail has diminished considerably.

At the time, I put a complaint in writing to the relevant Edinburgh sorting office, and have not had as much as an acknowledgement. Having spoken to Royal Mail staff locally, it seems, as in Oban, there is a serious lack of delivery staff.

This sort of thing tends to be looked upon as a local issue, though my suspicion is that the issue is much more widespread. I haven't seen anything in the national press, or on the BBC, though their involvement may not be at all inappropriate.

**George Knight, Edinburgh.**

**Achnacloich Bridge**

Clearly there are significant concerns over the (relatively) new road markings at Achnacloich Bridge. On 16 August, I wrote to Mr Hugh

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interpretation of the content and that it may not convey the same message to others.'

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Gillies, director of Roads at Transport Scotland, imploring him to take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

Within a few days I received a reply (signed by MiCase?!) giving me a reference number and telling me a response would be provided within the timescale stated on the gov.scot website, or at least, that was their aim.

The stated timescale lapsed on September 5 but I waited until October 28 before I chased things up. A few days later I received a reply (signed by MiCase - again!). It was exactly the same

letter, the only change being a different reference number!

On October 29 I wrote to Ms Jenni Minto MSP, with a copy to Brendan O'Hara, and forwarded copies of both replies from Transport Scotland. I asked her to investigate and let me know what the outcome was (assuming she got a reply).

It's now November 5 and so far there has been nothing from the MSP or MP, and not surprisingly, nothing from Transport Scotland.

It's little wonder that people can't be bothered to complain.

Les Stewart, Connel.

## Road markings do not comply

Further to my wife, Annie's letter to you regarding the road markings at Achnaclloch, I read the article in the Oban Times (Oct 28) with interest.

Contrary to Mr Ross's assertion that the markings comply with the Traffic Signs Manual, the markings at Achnaclloch Bridge do not include the important centre line which separates the two lanes of normal road traffic as specified in Section 11.3 of the manual. (This may be confirmed by Googling traffic signs manual gov.uk chapter five and turning to Section 11.3.)

That said, it is clear to me that this system of markings is far more suited to an urban environment with slow moving vehicles. Frankly, on a fast trunk road, its use beggars belief.

Most modern car safety systems such as Lane Assist automatically de-activate below 10mph so would be unlikely to try to steer the vehicle into the "High Vehicle Lane" in towns but, at anything over that speed, drivers would need to be quite alert to keep their cars from steering themselves directly into a head-on collision.

However, many of these safety systems (which can cost up to £2,000 as an optional extra on new cars) can be de-activated by the driver so perhaps Bear should erect 'De-Activate Lane Assist' signs well before the bridge to prevent too many head-on collisions.

For a region that used to emphasise the well-meaning (if ungrammatical) slogan 'Drive Safe', this would seem like a somewhat ridiculous, backward step though.

Jackson F Wheeler, Dingwall.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Leis a' Bheachd seo a' nochdadh air ceann-latha cuimhneachaidh cho sòlaimte tha e iomchaidh aithne agus spèis mhaireann a' chomharrachadh dha laoch a dh'ìobair am beatha anns an dà Chogadh Mhòr, agus anns gach blàr fuilteach eile bhon àm. Ged a tha fios is cinnt gun deach iomadh neach gu cath an aghaidh an toil, agus aig amannan le ceist fiù 's carson a bha am blàr ga chur, choilean iad an dleastanas a chaidh orra agus ro thrìc chailleadh òigridh ghinealaichean. Gu ìre tha lot nam blàr sin fhathast ga fhulang is ri fhaicinn, gu h-àraid ann an coimhearsnachdan iomail na dùthcha, far an tug e buaidh leantainneach air àireamhan sluaigh, is neart eaconamach, agus far na dh'fhàg crìonadh sluaigh cuideachd crìonadh ann an neart dualchais, cultair, agus cànan. Gun teagamh b' e sin pàirt de bhuidh an t-strì gus saorsa a ghleidheadh dhuinne a tha beò an-diugh, agus a' leantainn na sìthe tha riaghaltasan fa leth air a bhith a' toirt gheallaidhean air leasachaidhean. Tha beagan air tachairt, ach tha sin cho slaodach is gum bheil dragh air mòran gum bheil an t-iomall dol a chall roimhe 's às a dhèidh ri linn 's cho màirnealach 's a tha adhartas a ghleidheas òigridh agus dòchas anns na coimhearsnachdan dùthchail sin.

Thàinig an t-sith sa Chogadh Mhòr is dìreach uair a thide samhlauchail air fhàgail mus cuireadh an cinne-daonna às don t-saoghal, agus dh'aontach ceannardan na cruinne gun ionnsaichte, agus nach tachradh a leithid a-rithist. Ach mar a tha mòr-thinneas Covid air a dhearbhadh tha iomad-

ach seòrsa blàir a dh'fhaodas buaidh a thoirt air an t-saoghal, agus na òraid aig fosgladh co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta COP26 ann an Glaschu air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, thuirnt air Prìomhaire Boris Johnson gum bheil gànrachadh àrainneachd na cruinne air ar toirt gu beagan mhionaidean bho dhà uair dheug agus sgrìos an t-saoghal! Ged nach robh for ann fad bhliadhnaichean gun robh uimhir de chron ga dhèanamh air an àrainneachd tha co-dhiù caogad bliadhna a-nise bho thòisich rabhaidhean air nochdadh bho eòlaichean, ach tha cumhachd ionmhais air bacadh a chumail air adhartas gus dìon a dhèanamh air a' ghnàth-aimsir! Cha robhas ga thuigsinn mar chogadh ach gun fhiosa dhuinn tha sinn air a bhith a' cur às dhan t-saoghal agus ar n-àite-còmhnaidh.

Ged a thug na cogaidhean a bh' ann droch bhuidh air na h-iomail cha do chuir iad às dhan tìr, ach sin an dearbh chunnart anns am bheil uimhir de na coimhearsnachdan iomallach feadh an t-saoghail an-diugh. Tha at na mara a' sìor bhleith nan cladaichean, agus far am bheil tìr ìosal thathas a' cur air mhanadh dha gum faodadh sin a dhol à sealladh fon t-sàl ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean. Chan e a-mhàin gun caillear tìr ach falbhaidh sluaigh, cànan, cultar, agus dualchas aig an aon àm. Abair adhbhar iomagain dhan t-saoghal agus chan iongnadh gum bheil uimhir de spàirn ga dhèanamh gus aontachaidhean sheasmhach eadar-nàiseanta a choileanadh gus cor a' ghnàth-thide a ghleidheadh ron dà uair dheug!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty, **Psalm 84:1**

Psalm 84 is credited to the Sons of Korah, Levites, faithful servants of the temple in Jerusalem. They locked and unlocked the temple, they kept an eye on all the precious vessels and utensils used in worship, they kept charge of the money and the collecting boxes, and they offered praise to God in the temple choir and orchestra.

The writer of this psalm makes it clear that the temple's eternal purpose is to glorify its occupant, the Lord Almighty, and the writer thanks God for the opportunity of being His humble servant - I would rather be a doorkeeper in the

House of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked, Psalm 84:10.

Do we thank God for our opportunities to humbly serve Him in the humdrum duties of our everyday lives? If we lift our eyes to see the eternal consequences of our mundane labours done for His glory, we will never cease to thank Him.

The servant's master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21.

David James, Glencruitten House

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This photograph was taken in 1934. After his death, all the papers and photographs from Charles McLean's locker were returned to the family, who added them to the letters he had sent home. In 2018, this archive was donated to An Iodhlann, having lain untouched for more than 70 years.

## Virtue Mine Honour: a Tiree man's war

A new book published by An Iodhlann, the museum on the island of Tiree, tells the story of a young man's war – and his tragic death in 1941 at the age of 24.

The book was written by Dr John Holliday, the chairman and main driving force behind the heritage centre, and Charles McLean's niece, Fiona Wilson, who donated the family archive to An Iodhlann.

Charles McLean's father was from Tiree. Donald Archie McLean was from Kenovay but left the island for Linlithgow in 1911. He joined the Lothian Constabulary and married Euphemia Stoddart, a local girl. Charles, their first child, was born in 1917. The family returned to Tiree every summer.

When Charles left school, he joined the Commercial Bank in Linlithgow, but was called up by the RAF just before the war and sent to Hastings on the south coast of England. His training as a navigator lasted 17 months before he was posted to 217 Squadron Coastal Command, flying Bristol Beauforts out of RAF St Eval in Cornwall.

Charles was a prolific correspondent and his letters home were rich with details of daily life: 'Yesterday we emptied our pallasses and filled them with fresh straw. The bedroom smells like a stable now.' He made friends easily. One wrote to him: 'Fate has had so many chances to get rid of you that He must give it up as impossible by this time.' However, it was not to be. On November 15 1941 his plane did not return from a night-time sortie over the Channel. The bodies of two fellow crew members were washed up on the Dutch coast, but Charles and his pilot were lost in action.



Charles McLean.

Charles McLean's name is on the Tiree war memorial. His war had lasted just six months. Of his initial training group, only two in 10 survived the war. When his plane did not return, the families of the crew supported each other. Margaret Halley, the mother of the pilot, wrote to Charles's father: 'Our dear boys have given their lives in all probability for their country and all that their country stands for just now. Since we must all die, there are worse ways of dying than that.'

Virtue Mine Honour: Charles McLean's War by Dr John Holliday and Fiona Wilson, and designed by Colin Woodcock from Blue Beyond Design in Balemartine, is published by An Iodhlann Press. It is available from An Iodhlann, the Tiree Business Centre or Dr John Holliday at doc.holliday@tireebroadband.com. Price £12, UK post and packing £3.50.

# Kilmartin Museum

Kilmartin's new museum is starting to take shape as construction continues apace.

Staff from the museum were treated to a site tour last week, courtesy of contractors TSL, giving them the opportunity to view the new basement-level, which includes a learning space. This will provide classrooms for the museum's renowned education service, as well as a state-of-the-art collections store where the museum's ever-growing collection of ancient artefacts will be housed.

Dr Sharon Webb MBE, director and curator of Kilmartin Museum, said: 'So many changes have taken place since I was last here in August when the foundation slabs were cast. Now there are complete rooms.'

'It is fantastic to see the new museum taking shape, particularly the space where our artefacts, including the museum's Nationally Significant Prehistoric Collection, will be safely stored. A museum standard collections store has been needed for so long and we are so grateful to everyone who has helped this project to finally become a reality.'

Ground floor level has been reached on both sides of the former museum building. Work has now started on foundations for the extension that will wrap around to form a major part of the new museum galleries.

Internally, the old museum building is being strengthened and refurbished to make it fit for purpose for many years to come.

At the heart of Kilmartin Glen since 1997, Kilmartin Museum inspires and educates people by interpreting, explaining and conserving the internationally important archaeological landscape, artefacts and natural heritage of Kilmartin Glen.

The museum's work and artefact collections outgrew the original building, so to ensure there was space to expand and continue its work, an ambitious re-development project was launched.

A major extension, designed by award-winning architects Reiach and Hall, is being joined together by the two existing buildings, creating a seamless museum.

The aim is to significantly develop the museum's work and create an inspiring place where staff can care for, celebrate and tell the story of Kilmartin Glen's unique archaeological and natural heritage.

The re-development provides a much larger exhibition space; a creative space, which can be used to deliver and participate in cultural



activities as well as allowing staff to stage temporary exhibitions; an accessible research and learning area where staff can safely curate all the collections and a fit-for-purpose education space, which will allow the active learning and volunteering programme to be developed.

Added to this, a new path which is a direct link to the monuments will be created so visitors will be able to use the museum as a starting point to begin their exploration of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

There will also be a remodelled shop, reception and café and better car parking.



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# um takes shape



Kilmartin Museum's re-developed exhibitions are due to open in March 2023. For those interested in seeing the changes, Kilmartin Museum's website features a construction diary at [www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org).

This shows the progress of the build and will be regularly updated.

During the construction phase, museum staff are working from home and temporary offices in Cairnbaan and can be contacted via email at [admin@kilmartin.org](mailto:admin@kilmartin.org)

TSL says the work is on schedule to be finished in June 2022.

**Kilmartin Museum director and curator Dr Sharon Webb MBE, far right, accompanies staff on a visit to the construction site.**

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph shows Oban Branch Royal British Legion in bygone days. It was submitted by Mrs Mary Burt whose uncle, John Binnie (JB) is shown third left, top. Others include Johnnie Drummond, Dan Anderson and 'Bunnocks' MacIntyre. If you can tell us about anyone else in the photograph, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



Donald Macpherson sent in this photograph saying: 'I thought you might be interested in a little bit of history from Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil.'

'The picture is of the Macpherson siblings taken around 1904. Their father, my grandfather, Donald Macpherson, was a slate quarrier who mainly worked in the Easdale quarries.'

From the left is Peter, my father, Jean then Mary Ann.

Peter became a police Inspector in Glasgow, Jean married Donald MacKenzie who later became the minister for Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, and Mary Ann opened the first tea room in Ellenabeich.

■ If you have a photograph you would like to share with us, email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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# Isolde needs a hand to get show back on the road

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A Barcaldine puppeteer is looking for a helping hand as she spreads joy around the region to children and adults alike.

Born in Colorado in the USA, Isolde MacKay has lived in the Argyll village for the past 20 years and until recently has been entertaining local children with magical tales brought to life by her self-created hand/glove and finger puppet shows.

Due to other commitments Isolde's assistant Sue Greenwood has had to give up her role and the Oban postie is now looking for a replacement so that the show can go on.

Isolde told us: 'I am looking for an enthusiastic person to help me set up the shows, do scene changes, help with props, as well as work and



Isolde MacKay with a small selection of cast members.

her educational stories focus on wildlife and fantasy. Her most recent creations include Max the cat on his mission to find the moon and a Rabbit who meets an array of animals while journeying along the tunnels until finding one who shares his enthusiasm for rhyme.

Isolde added: 'It's so much fun making these stories up and then developing them into a show. Some of the stories I have taken from other things I have heard or seen and then I adapt them but all of them have a message and are full of fun.'

'Puppeteering is a great way of building your confidence. You are able to get creative,

lose yourself in the characters and tales and witness the joy it brings to others.

'I absolutely love doing it and am grateful to Barcaldine Community Association for providing opportunities for me to perform. It would be great to have someone working with me that enjoyed doing the shows as much as I do.'

Anyone who wishes to assist Isolde should contact her by emailing [binnett@aol.co.uk](mailto:binnett@aol.co.uk) or by phoning her on 07493 936462.

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voice the puppets.

'I'm quite happy to show someone the ropes so they just need to come with enthusiasm

and a little bit of imagination so that they can put their own stamp onto the characters.'

Isolde began puppeteering at

primary school and has been performing shows for the past 50 years.

Aimed mostly at children,

## COMPETITION TIME

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### 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.

View [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk) to find out where you can spend the vouchers.

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](mailto: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



It was great last Tuesday evening to play an acoustic set with my Tide Lines band mate, Alasdair Turner, for the Extreme Hangout at COP26.

For the fortnight of COP, Extreme have taken over the Renfrew Ferry and turned it into a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet. The two other artists performing that evening were Raine Stern, from Madison, Wisconsin, and AY Young, from Kansas City. Those guys are incredible musicians and their collaboration was musically outstanding.

For them, though, their environmental activism is equally as important as their music. AY uses his voice all over the world to promote his message and Raine always donates a percentage of her ticket money to environmental causes.

They are committed activists but many more that evening, like us, were simply trying to make small changes in our lives that we hope will have a positive effect.

Tide Lines recently made a decision to invest in Earth Positive merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags) made from 100% organic and ethically-sourced materials. We also stock our own stainless steel water bottles which we use ourselves at gigs to avoid relying on single-use plastic bottles.



Extreme Hangout at the Renfrew Ferry is hosting a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet

We're hardly Coldplay (who are cutting their carbon footprint by 50 per cent on their next world tour and planting a tree for every ticket they sell), but we're trying in our own small way.

The lyrics of our songs speak so often about the natural environment among which all four of us were brought up and, while we in Scotland are concerned for the future of our natural heritage, there are communities throughout the world that are seeing devastating effects very much

in the present. For a lot of the countries attending COP, this is an immediate problem and not a future one.

As a result of our Extreme Hangout gig, I was asked to speak live on Sky News' instagram account about sustainability in the music industry. I thought I had put my points across as eloquently as I could; until I saw a comment from a viewer down south saying 'What is this guy saying?!' Clearly my Highland accent was providing a challenge for some viewers!

A reminder, before I go, that the 121st Tiree Association annual gathering concert takes place on Thursday November 18 at 7.30pm at Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary and features a fine line up, including Mary Ann Kennedy, Jamie MacDonald, Kaitlin Ross, John Joe MacNeil, and Kathryn Callender. The gathering dance, as usual, takes place the following evening (Friday November 19) at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union to the music of Gunna Sound. Due to venue policy, a vaccine passport is required to attend the dance and – for both dance and concert – the committee ask that anyone attending takes a lateral flow test.

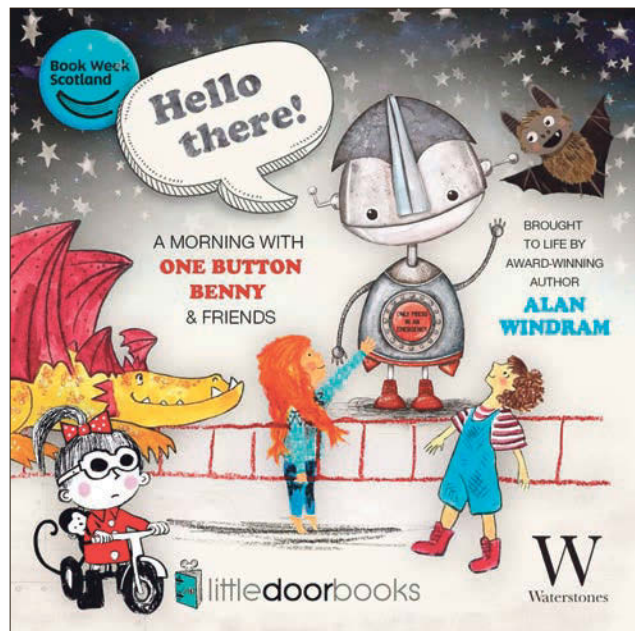
Tickets must be pre-booked by contacting the association via Facebook, phone (07763 126309), or email: thireeassociation@gmail.com

# Storytelling fun as One Button Benny and friends visit Waterstones Oban

Waterstones in Oban is hosting a special storytelling morning as part of Book Week Scotland on Saturday November 20 starting at 10am till around 11.30am. The event is free to all.

Kilchrenan-based author Alan Windram, who is also a director with children's publisher Little Door Books, will read from his own One Button Benny picture books, as well as reading other stories published by Little Door Books. These include Scaredy Bat by Jonathan Meres and Anders Frang, Pinkie and Boo by Chae Strathie and Francis Martin; The Girl Who Stole The Stars by Corrina Campbell, and A Dragon Story by Madeline Pinkerton.

He said this week: 'I am absolutely thrilled to be taking part in this fun, interactive picture book event at Waterstones in Oban as part of Book Week Scotland. It is great to get back to real live events with an actual audience. I will be reading



both of my One Button Benny books plus other stories from some of our recently published Little Door Books.

"There will be songs, stories and even some robot dancing.

Adults are very welcome to join in the fun too.'

The event is suitable for children ages three to six years old.

Book Week Scotland runs from November 15-21.

# What's on at Oban Cinema



Wes Anderson's **The French Dispatch** is a love letter to journalists set in an outpost of an American magazine in a fictional 20th-century French city and brings to life a collection of stories published in The French Dispatch.

Written and directed by Wes Anderson, the film stars Benicio del Toro, Frances McDormand, Jeffrey Wright, Adrien Brody, Timothée Chalamet, Léa Seydoux, Tilda Swinton, Mathieu Amalric, Lyna Khoudri, Stephan Park, Owen Wilson, and Bill Murray. The film is produced by Wes Anderson, Steven Rales, and Jeremy Dawson.

### Friday 12 November

The French Dispatch | 15 12:30/19:15  
Dune | 12A 16:15  
Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30  
Venom 2 | 15 19:30

### Saturday 13 November

Boss Baby 2 | PG 11:30/14:15  
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 11:45  
No Time To Die | 12A 14:00  
Dune | 12A 16:45  
French Film Festival: Kaamelott | 15 17:30  
The French Dispatch | 15 20:00  
Venom 2 | 15 20:15

### Sunday 14 November

Boss Baby 2 | PG 11:30/14:00  
Ron's Gone Wrong | PG 11:45  
Dune | 12A 14:15  
No Time To Die | 12A 16:30  
French Film Festival: Kaamelott | 15 17:30  
Venom 2 | 15 19:45  
The French Dispatch | 15 20:00

### Wednesday 17 November

Dune | 12A 12:30 ★/16:15 ★  
Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30 ★  
The French Dispatch | 15 19:15 ★  
Venom 2 | 15 19:30 ★

### Thursday 18 November

The French Dispatch | 15 12:30/19:15  
Dune | 12A 16:15  
Boss Baby 2 | PG 16:30  
Venom 2 | 15 19:30

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

Join our mailing list at [www.obanphoenix.com/mailling-list](http://www.obanphoenix.com/mailling-list)

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

**obanphoenix.com 01631 562905**

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**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.

# Tartan Trampoline stories ready to bounce off bookshop shelves

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

You can take our trampoline... but you can't take our freedom! That's the message from Lismore granny-turned-author Jennifer Baker whose trio of children's Tartan Trampoline stories are flying off the shelves. Lockdown saw youngsters cooped up with adults and that gave Jennifer the idea of publishing the adventure stories as a way of giving them a bit of grown-up-free space - and lots of fun.



Lismore's Jennifer Baker and Sarah Campbell of Mogwaii Design, with copies of the books Jennifer wrote for her grandchildren. Photograph: Julia Fayngruen

They tell the tales of Manny, Effie and Tilly who visit their grandmother on a Scottish island every holiday. In her garden is a magic tartan trampoline which whisks them off to adventures around the Argyll islands.

The three stories were already written by the time Covid struck, inspired by a garden trampoline that got blown away in a storm that blasted its way across Lismore in 2016.

'I'd been driving friends home from choir when I told them about the vanishing trampoline. One of them joked it would have been funny if the kids were on it.

That led to an idea - what a great story that would make - so I set to and The Tartan

Trampoline and the Pirate was written. That was for Effie, one of my three grandchildren who was crazy about pirates,'

said Jennifer.

The Tartan Trampoline and the Red Shoes and the Tartan Trampoline and the Superheroes followed, written especially for Manny and Tillie.

A one-off of The Tartan Trampoline and the Pirates was published first - the size of the Mr Men books - to be read at one of Lismore's Litfests, but in 2020 when lockdown kicked in Jennifer got thinking about her own grandchildren in Glasgow and Manchester,



and all the other children who were suddenly under constant adult-supervision, not able to get out and about much and

not able to play with friends or visit family.

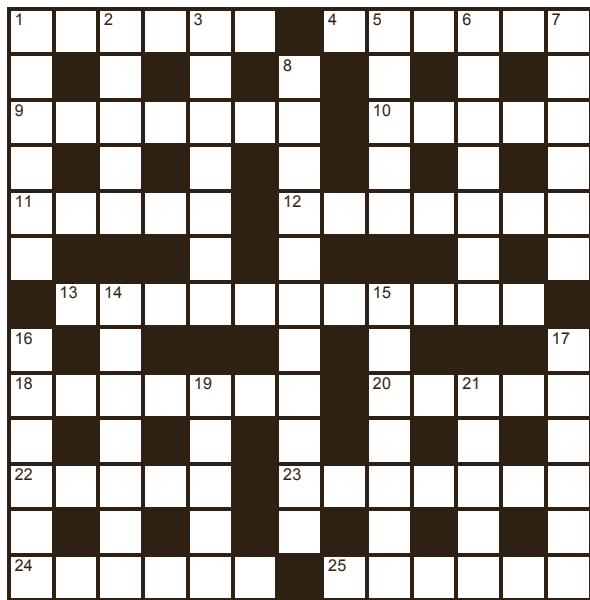
'So I decided to publish these stories which are about flying and freedom and no adults overseeing every move. If the children couldn't come here to our Scottish island then I would take freedom to them,' said Jennifer, who called on the help of two other women to help make it happen.

Illustrator Sarah Campbell who also lives on Lismore and runs Mogwaii Design joined Jennifer on the Tartan Trampoline adventure and so did Benderloch publisher and editor Helen Crossan of Mòr Media Ltd.

'The three of us worked socially distanced for many months - it was a marathon job. Writing the stories was the easy bit!' said Jennifer, who hopes to take her books on tour including a storytime, she hopes, at Lismore Primary and Oban Waterstones.

Waterstones has the books in store now, they are also available at shops in Inveraray and Appin, and can be bought from online marketplace [www.isle20.com](http://www.isle20.com) - a social enterprise supporting island businesses.

## CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Potato (6)
- 4 Molded (6)
- 9 Together (2,5)
- 10 Makes sense (5)
- 11 Rock bottom (5)
- 12 Treatment (7)
- 13 Considerable (11)
- 18 Highly perfumed flower (7)
- 20 Rush (3,2)
- 22 Honour (5)
- 23 One who receives money (7)
- 24 Type of monkey (6)
- 25 Run through with a sharp object (6)

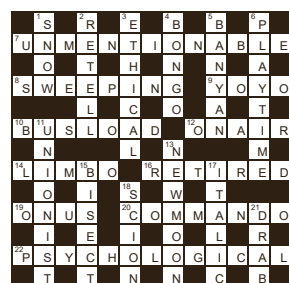
Down

- 1 Starting play on the course (6)
- 2 Nervous (5)
- 3 One who gives out when you break down (7)
- 5 Bisect (5)
- 6 Sounds like a curly hairstyle (7)

7 A digit (6)

- 8 Submarine is the target of this (5,6)
- 14 Gentry of a country (7)
- 15 A coin equal to 100 puls (7)
- 16 Happening activity (6)
- 17 Globe (6)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## Music lovers to enjoy The View from Benderloch

Anyone missing their beloved nights out at the Benderloch Palladium need wait no longer, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The gigs packaged by Campbell and Joy Cameron from Making it Happen are returning - just not in Benderloch for the time being.

The music-promoting couple have teamed up with Dan MacIntyre from The View to get live music back on stage safely.

'We wanted to get back to the live music as soon as we



Ross Ainslie and Tim Edey.

could, but doing it safely was big in our minds. We knew Dan had it all worked out, so as a temporary arrangement we've pooled resources to see

how it goes,' said Campbell. Edinburgh Indy band Wrest were first up on Saturday and next comes Tim Edey and Ross Ainslie on November 20.

'The boys were due to play in the spring of 2020 at the Victory Hall in Benderloch, but then lockdown intervened. When we pulled The View plan together with Dan, Tim and Ross were top of our list - they are exceptional,' said Campbell.

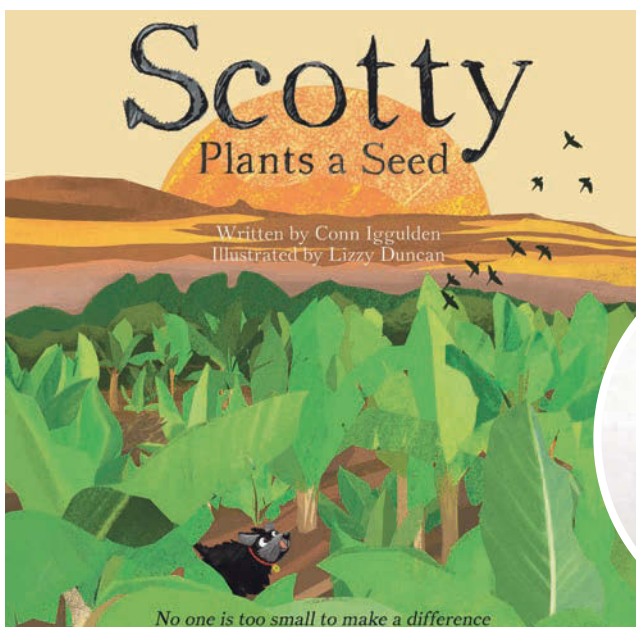
Tim Edey is a former BBC Musician of the Year and is rated by many to be one of

the world's best guitarists and melodeon players in the Celtic folk scene.

Team Tim up with Ross Ainslie and the magic grows.

Ross is three times nominated Musician of the Year at the BBC Folk Awards and won Composer of the Year in 2015 at the Scots Trad Music Awards. He performs with many bands and has four solo albums.

For tickets visit [www.obanview.com/whats-on/live-music/ross-ainslie-and-tim-edey](http://www.obanview.com/whats-on/live-music/ross-ainslie-and-tim-edey)



Scotty the dog from Mull stars in a new children's book about climate change. The book is based on an original idea by James Wright, the owner of the Western Isles Hotel, who grew up in Tobermory.



# David Attenborough praises Mull man's climate change book

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@bantimes.co.uk

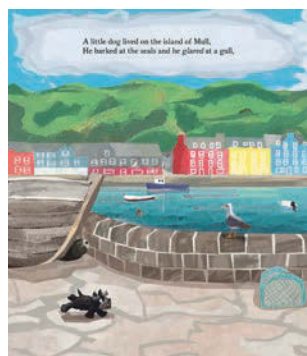
A Tobermory hotel owner has launched a new book at COP26 teaching children about climate change, through the adventures of a Scotty dog from Mull and his best friend Owl.

The new owner of Mull's Western Isles Hotel, James Wright, who grew up in Tobermory where his father was a grocer and baker, commissioned the book as his contribution to alerting young children about the climate crisis.

It has already been issued to 400 delegates attending the UN's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who called it a 'valuable contribution', and the legendary broadcaster David Attenborough, who told James it was a 'stupendous idea'.

Scotty Plants a Seed, the first book in a series, stars a small black dog from the island called Scotty. His website explains: 'Climate change can sometimes be a little frightening. This is a story about the small changes we can all make, to help protect the planet. No one is too small to make a difference, and no difference is too small to make.'

'Come with Scotty - to the island of Mull, then India, Brazil, Africa and right around the world. Will he find his way



home? Will his friend owl lose all his feathers flying after him? Will they learn something extraordinary about trees on the way? Hold tight...'

The book, written by author Conn Iggulden and illustrated by Lizzy Duncan, is based on James Wright's original idea. James explained: 'I was invited to join the Scotia group, a not-for-profit environmental group, with a view to producing a blueprint recommendation on how to tackle carbon emissions to reduce rising global temperatures.'

'The recommendations will be presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations at the Cop 26 Climate Change Conference in November 2021.'

'Not being a scientist, I took the following view. Conferences come and conferences go. Politicians come and politicians go but children are constant.'

'I felt it was essential to find a medium by which young children could be educated

about climate change and how our planet is currently being destroyed by modern living practices.

'Today's children will be the very people that will have to deal with the consequences of what my generation and the generation before us has created. These children when grown will need to continue what we have now started, albeit with greater urgency, to make the necessary changes to reverse global warming.'

Scotty and his adventures are the medium by which I felt we could teach young nursery and primary school children all about the varying issues facing us today. Meet Scotty in his brand-new book, Scotty Plants a Seed, where we find out that no one is too small to make a difference and no difference is too small to make.

'Keep in mind that TODAY we have an opportunity to do good for ourselves, the planet, and others. We do still have time and this first book is our small contribution towards that end.'

Scotty's website also features colouring in pages, a Scotty wall, and Scotty's collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank in Kew's wild botanical gardens in Sussex, which stores over 2.4 billion seeds to save the plants from becoming extinct.

The team are hoping to find a publisher so the Scotty books can be available at Christmas.

## M' ALBA MY ALBA

<b>DIARDAOIN 11 An t-Samhain</b> <b>THURSDAY 11 November</b>	19.30 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile 19.45 Sgeul Slainte 20.00 Fianais - Pat Ballantyne 20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig 21.00 ALT (S1 Ep6) 22.00 Rudeigin san Eadhar/Something in the Air 22.55 Celtic Connections Shorts 23.00 Mathair a' Chinn Suidhe/Trump's Mother 00.15 Binneas-Na Trads 00.30 Belladrum 2017: First Aid Kit	22.30 Caileagan a' Chogaidh Mhoir/A Great Adventure 23.30 Mach a Seo!
<b>DÌMÀIRT 16 An t-Samhain</b> <b>TUESDAY 16 November</b>	<b>DIDÒMHAICH 14 An t-Samhain</b> <b>SUNDAY 14 November</b>	<b>DIMÀIRT 16 An t-Samhain</b> <b>TUESDAY 16 November</b>
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 19.00 Dileas/Working Dogs 19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep3 An Aimsir/The Weather 20.00 An Là - NEWS 20.30 Eòrpa/European Current Affairs 21.00 Tearlach Ceannadach/Charles Kennedy: A Good Man Speaking 22.00 Mach a Seo! 22.30 Rudeigan san Eadhar/Something in the Air 23.25 Fraochy Bay 23.30 Transatlantic Sessions: Dluth an Daimh	16.00 Live Rugby- Women's Friendly-Scotland v Japan 18.05 Celtic Connections Shorts 18.15 An Là 18.30 Seachd Là / News Review 19.30 Alleluia/Spiritual praise 20.00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs 20.30 Golf: Mun Chuairt Alba 21.00 Sruth 22.00 Bannan (S5 Ep2) 22.40 Bannan (S5 Ep3) 23.00 DNA/Danish Dra 23.40 Sgeul Slainte	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 19.00 Beartas nan Daoine/The People's Riches 19.25 Dan 19.30 SpeakGaelic S1 Ep4 Teaghlach/Family 20.00 An Là - NEWS 20.30 Miann na Maighdinn-mara/Mermaid Tales 21.00 Sruth/Music programme 22.00 Trusach - Sgeulachd a' Ghille/The Gillie's Story 23.00 Dan 23.05 Machair 23.30 Alleluia
<b>DIHAOINE 12 An t-Samhain</b> <b>FRIDAY 12 November</b>	<b>DILUAIN 15 An t-Samhain</b> <b>MONDAY 15 November</b>	<b>DICIADAIN 17 An t-Samhain</b> <b>WEDNESDAY 17 November</b>
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 19.00 An Là - NEWS 19.25 Dan 19.30 Machair 19.55 Fraochy bay 20.00 Fianais S1 Pat Ballantyne 20.30 An Cuan Sgith/The Minch with Anne Lunden 21.00 Sgeulachd Sheila Garvie/The Sheila Garvie Story 22.00 DNA S1 22.40 Celtic Connections Shorts 22.45 Binneas-Na Trads 23.00 ALT	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 19.00 Fuine 19.30 SpeakGaelic (S1 Ep5) Dachaigh/Home 20.00 An Là - NEWS 20.30 An Cuan Sgith/The Minch with Anne Lunden 21.00 Trusach - Sgeulachd a' Ghille/The Gillie's Story 22.00 Bannan (S5 Ep4)	17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 19.00 Fuine 19.30 SpeakGaelic - S1 Ep5 Dachaigh/Home 20.00 An Là - NEWS 20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig 21.00 Bho Stalag gu Gulag/From Stalag to Gulag 22.00 Bannan S5 Ep5 22.30 Transatlantic Sessions: Dluth an Daimh 23.00 Tearlach Ceannadach/ Charles Kennedy: A good Man Speaking
<b>DISATHAIRNE 13 An t-Samhain</b> <b>SATURDAY 13 November</b>	<b>DISATHAIRNE 13 An t-Samhain</b> <b>SATURDAY 13 November</b>	
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 17.45 An Là 18.00 Iorram-Boat Song	16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming 17.45 An Là 18.00 Iorram-Boat Song	



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**PAW Patrol: The Movie** (U) 86 mins 12/11 at 5.30pm, 13/11 at 2pm, 16/11 at 5.30pm, 18/11 at 5.30pm  
**No Time to Die** (12A) 163 mins 12/11 at 8pm, 13/11 at 5pm, 14/11 at 8pm, 15/11 at 2pm (captioned), 15/11 at 5.30pm, 16/11 at 8pm, 17/11 at 5.30pm, 18/11 at 8pm, 19/11 at 5pm  
**Our Ladies** (15) 106 mins 13/11 at 8.30pm, 17/11 at 8.30pm The short film SIXTEEN will precede the feature.

**LAUNCH! On the Sea with Scotland's Lifeboats** (U) 44 mins + 20 min Pre-recorded Q&A Dive into archive footage of RNLI crews. 14/11 at 5.30pm  
**Living Proof** (8+) 98 mins Doc about Scotland and climate change. 15/11 at 8.30pm The short film Our Plastic Ocean will precede the feature.  
**The French Dispatch** (15) 108 mins Anthology comedy-drama by Wes Anderson. 19/11 at 8.30pm The short film SIXTEEN will precede the feature.

Read about our Covid measures at [www.screenmachine.com/covid-measures](http://www.screenmachine.com/covid-measures)



# What's under the tree this Christmas

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# AWARD WINNING DEALER IS BACK IN ARGYLL

## SATURDAY 20TH & SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, TESCO, OBAN

One of the longest serving Subaru & Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services is glad to be back in time for Christmas. It has been a hard year for showrooms as consumers are facing price rises and shortages of vehicles due to a global shortage in semiconductors.

Father & son team, John and Matthew Spicer are both excited to be coming back and seeing some familiar faces. John said "Vehicles, now more than ever, have a computer centre and the shortage in chips, the "brain" within every electronic device in the world, has been steadily worsening since last year. This has had a knock on effect to car manufacturing. However, although production is back to normal we are urging customers to pre-



order their dream cars and offering amazing savings" "We are so excited to be back and we are bringing some fantastic models to showcase. We have been supporting the people of

Argyll for over 30 years, through three generations, and during that time we have formed many friends, and founded a trusted, reliable business. Come a meet us at Tesco Oban this

November, we look forward to seeing you" says son Matthew

S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979

from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr. Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business and for almost two decades cars were sold, serviced and many friendships

formed.

The family business was further enhanced when John's wife Lesley joined the business in 1997.

It was in the latter nineties that the business had out grown the location and they now reside

in an impressive state of the art showroom and workshop at Ayr.

Now on the to the 3rd generation with Matthew Spicer, business has flourished to unbelievable standards meaning that S & S are now the top UK Subaru dealer.

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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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**Please call or WhatsApp James on  
07789 138028/ 07487 548703  
Email: wanted4x4s@gmail.com**

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New April 2016 7 speed Auto, Motd Nov.2022, only 17,500 miles, immaculate condition. 4 berth with rear garage takes motorcycles, karts, bicycles etc Hob, fridge, shower, toilet etc. Fitted with awning and tow bar.  
john.stoddarts@btconnect.com

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You will be a team player who can work alone or within a group and hold a current driving licence.

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

To apply and to see our other vacancies within the Group please visit our website

[www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers)

Completed application forms should be returned to  
Nichola Greig, Payroll & HR Co-ordinator,  
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or by email to [recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

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**VACANCY: PROCESS OPERATOR –  
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ISLE OF MULL**

**Fixed Term Contract – 12 Months**

Applications are invited for the above-mentioned position based in Tobermory.

The role will be a 38 hour working week.

#### Overall Purpose:

A process operator's role is responsible for carrying out all of the operations in the distillery, including goods receipt, mashing, distilling, operation of services plant and warehousing duties. To ensure that all aspects of process operations are carried out to deliver best cost effective, efficient and quality results in line with corporate goals

#### Key Responsibilities

- Unloading of yeast and checking delivery agrees with ordered amount.
- Unloading of malt and checking delivery agrees with malt specification.
- Taking spirit accounts and loading of road tankers.
- Ensuring stock is used in rotation.
- Safe operation of running the mash house.
- Safe operation of the stillhouse.

#### Application

For full job specification, additional information, or to apply for this position, please email:  
[HRInternational@distellinternational.com](mailto:HRInternational@distellinternational.com)

**Closing Date: Monday 15th November 2021.  
No Agencies Please.**

### Roadworker 3

**Based in Oban**

**Ref: ARB08957**

**37 Hours per week**

**£21,780 - £23,112**

**Closing date:**

**25 November 2021.**

To apply visit  
our website



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

### Roadworker 1

**Based in Mid Argyll**

**Ref: ARB08888**

**37 Hours per week –**

**Temporary up to 26 August 2022**

**£19,369 - £21,125**

**Closing date: 25 November 2021.**

To apply visit  
our website



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### We are looking for an electrician to fit and maintain electrical and electronics systems on boats and yachts.

Based at Craobh Haven, you will cover the coast from Portavadie to Dunstaffnage, and occasionally support our Clyde based team.

You need to have previous experience working on electrical systems and a driving licence.

You should be confident in troubleshooting and being able to work well within a team, but also unsupervised. The candidate must be able to be customer facing, providing a first-class service to our boat owners.

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Salary of £21000 to £35000 depending on experience.

Please send your CV and a covering letter to  
[info@lombardelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@lombardelectrical.co.uk)



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The Freshwater Husbandry Operator is responsible for duties involving the production of high-quality, organic Atlantic salmon fry, Parr & smolts.

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**Closing date 15th Nov 21**

Please contact

[louise.curtis@hendrix-genetics.com](mailto:louise.curtis@hendrix-genetics.com) or  
call on 01880 770720 for more details.

# RECRUITMENT

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## Lorn Medical Centre Mull and Iona Medical Group PRACTICE MANAGER

A very exciting opportunity has arisen for an accomplished, innovative and highly motivated manager, with strategic vision, to join our busy established medical practice covering 14500 patients residing in and around Oban and the Isles of Mull and Iona.

We are looking to replace our highly regarded management team, who have been with us for over 30 years. We pride ourselves on being one of the most progressive and innovative GP Practices in Rural Scotland and are looking for someone special to take on the role of Practice Manager. Excellent inter-personal and communication skills are essential in this challenging but very rewarding role.

We are a training practice and are supported in delivering our services by a wider multidisciplinary team, inclusive of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Practice Nurse Teams and Pharmacy Team alongside Patient Facilitators. One of our greatest assets is the way all our administrative and clinical staff work together as a team in a very supportive environment.

Candidates must be able to provide evidence of proven change management skills, strong and consistent leadership skills and have a sound knowledge of business management, finance, strategic planning and HR. The role of Practice Manager is very complex and wide ranging and we will offer the right person a comprehensive package to include personal development and mentoring.

If you feel you have the leadership qualities and skills required for this post or just want some more information, please contact Mairi Dunnings Practice Manager [mairi.dunnings@nhs.scot](mailto:mairi.dunnings@nhs.scot) or telephone her on 01631 563175 for further information or send a c.v with a covering letter explaining why you would like to join the team..

**Closing date; 15 November 2021**

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HIJOBS

### LORN MEDICAL CENTRE, OBAN

We are looking for someone with excellent communication and organisational skills to join our Practice Team. You will be expected to communicate and liaise with patients, clinical staff and other members of the wider health care team. The post will be full time to cover the opening hours of the Practice.

Please apply with a CV and covering letter to:

Mairi Dunnings  
Practice Manager, Lorn Medical Centre,  
Soroba Road, Oban. PA34 4HE

by 15 November 2021

**For further information,  
please phone 01631 563175.**

### Refuse Collector

**Based in Islay**

**Ref: ARB08969**

**37 Hours per week**

**£19,369 - £19,948**

**Closing date:**

**26 November 2021.**

To apply visit  
our website



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

# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**The Highland Council**  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/02989/MSC	Land 130M East of 77 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore, Fort William	Submission of Matters Specified in Condition 2 (Siting, Design and Layout) of Planning Permission in Principle 19/00897/PIP - Erection of 27 residential units and associated infrastructure
21/04399/FUL	St Marys School House, Victoria Road, Fort William, PH33 6BJ	2 Glamping pods and fence
21/04541/FUL	51 Lochiel Road, Inverloch, Fort William, PH33 6NR	Siting of holiday pod
21/04620/FUL	Marine House, Onich, Fort William, PH33 6SE	Erection of letting unit
21/04842/FUL	Kilcamb Lodge Hotel, Strontian, Acharacle, PH36 4HY	Erection of boathouse with residential accommodation above
21/04875/FUL	Land 105M NW of Invergloyle House, Spean Bridge	Alterations to boathouse including installation of balconies to form self-contained residential unit
21/05002/FUL	Whinburn, Lundavra Road, Fort William, PH33 6RF	Erection of Self Catering Pod
21/05004/FUL	Land 470M SW of Achriachach Cottage East, Achreoch, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Installation of 35m telecoms mast and associated equipment (previous permission 20/04058/FUL)
21/05052/FUL	Layby Off A82 600M North of Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge	Continued siting of snack van
21/05068/FUL	Silver Birches, West Tirindish, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EU	Extension to form self-contained unit
21/05105/FUL	2 Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EU	Alterations to shopfront and north west elevation; erection of fence and ramp

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

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**  
**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

1. M Campbell, 5 Airds Bay, 0.03 ha, Amenity Ground. Fencing Conditions. (109338)
2. PD Kennedy, 8 & 9 Blarmachfoldach, 0.1353 ha, Croft House Site & Garden Ground, With Fencing Conditions (105789)

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

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Lochiel Estates have registered their croft Glenloy in the parish of Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by June 16 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7946

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

**Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)**

E POWER LIMITED, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising up to 14 wind turbines, with tip heights of up to 180m and associated ancillary infrastructure with an installed capacity of more than 20MW at land around Sidh Mor, South of Lochan Anama and West of A'Chruach Wind Farm.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting E POWER LIMITED, 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at the Ford Community Hall on 12 November and 26 November between the hours of 3pm and 6pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU before 10 December 2021.

**Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.**

**Com-pairteachas Nibheis**  
**The Nevis Partnership**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEVIS PARTNERSHIP WILL BE HELD ON: TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.00PM VIA ZOOM PLEASE CONTACT [sarah@nevispartnership.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nevispartnership.co.uk) FOR MEETING DETAILS**

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01627/PP	Erection of multi purpose agricultural shed (including storage of feed, machinery and use for animal husbandry and housing)	Brackley, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute, PA33 1AX
21/02047/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North West Of Barranrioch Mews, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/02083/LIB	Replace existing Slate roof finish with Natural Slates	Ulva Manse, Ulva, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA73 6LZ
21/02082/PP	Renewal of planning permission 18/00985/PP (Installation of septic tank, formation of vehicular access, tanker layby, vehicle turning area and ground re-profiling including rock armour protection)	Land West Of Seaview Terrace, Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Argyll And Bute
21/02042/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of Lower Achachenna, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01848/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Salen Hotel, Ardmor Road, Salen, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/02045/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North West Of Barranrioch Mews, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute

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

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

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

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# CLASSIFIED

## PERSONAL NOTICES - WEDDING



### McInnes/Kitchin

Married at Barcaldine Castle on July 24, 2021 by the Rev. Margaret Millar, Barbara Catherine McInnes, eldest daughter of Ian and Rhoda McInnes, Connel to Tristan Christopher William Kitchin, eldest son of the late Andy Kitchin, Newcastle.

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## BIRTHS

**ELLIOTT** - The family are delighted to announce the birth of Angus Shaun Elliott at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. A first child for Lisa MacInnes and Callum Elliott, Tarbert. A first grandchild for Mary and Kenny MacInnes, Tarbert and Jane Elliott, Tarbert. We would like to thank the midwives in Argyll and at the RAH, Paisley for all their help.

**ROBERTSON** - On September 29, 2021, to Lotti (née Mellor) and Jamie, a daughter, Evie Rose. A sister to Alfie and Beaudi.

## DEATHS

**BROWNE** - (Hay), Moira, Crieff. Very peacefully at Ruthven Towers Care Home on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, Moira Ann, dearly loved and loving wife of, and reunited now with, the late Capt. Cameron Browne, cherished and loved mother of Elaine, Christopher and Sinclair and grandmother of Natasha and Iona.

**CALLANDER** - Peacefully at home on November 4, 2021 in his 91st year, William Callander, beloved husband of Lily. A dear father to David and wife Catherine, stepson George and wife Gabriella and much loved grandfather to Fergus and Ewan. Sadly missed.

**HESKETH** - John, Barrie MBE, April 11, 1930 to October 19, 2021. Dearly loved husband of Philippa and of his late wife Marianne. Father of Richard, Nick and Jim. Grandfather of Gary, Jenny, Nathan, Maddy,

Alex, Maisie and Logan. Great-grandfather of Milo, Beth and Ian. Flowers if wished or donations to Parkinson's UK or Bickham House Care Home via [www.memorygiving.com/johnbarrieheskethmbe](http://www.memorygiving.com/johnbarrieheskethmbe). Funeral to take place at 11.30am on Friday, November 19, 2021 at Calgary Cemetery, Isle of Mull.

**LYNN** - (Argyll and Aberdeen). Alistair G Lynn CVO CBE QPM, dearly loved and loving husband of the late Chrissie (née MacNaughton) and sometime Chief Constable of The Scottish North-Eastern Counties Constabulary and Grampian Police, died peacefully on October 31, 2021, aged 95 years, in the warm, loving and dedicated care of staff at Victoria Grange, Dyce. Dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. Now resting at the premises of Eric P Massie, Funeral Directors, 41 High Street, Inverurie. A church service to celebrate Alistair's life will be held in Dyce Parish Church, Victoria Street, Dyce at 11am on Friday, November 12, 2021, followed by a short committal service at Baldarroch Crematorium, Crathes, Aberdeenshire at 2.30pm on the same day. Family and friends are invited to attend either or both parts of Alistair's funeral. No flowers, please, but wear a Remembrance Day poppy if you can. Alistair's ashes will be interred beside Chrissie at Oban on a later date.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Peacefully at home on November 3, 2021, age 90, Janet (Jill) MacCorquodale (Baillie), wife of the late Captain Dugald

MacCorquodale, mother of Geraldine, sister of Maureen, aunt and great-aunt. Grateful thanks for help and support from all staff at Taynuilt Medical Practice, Jess MacDonald and family and friends. Private graveside service to be held at Ardchattan Churchyard on Thursday, November 18 at 1pm. Family flowers only please.

**MARTIN** - Hugh. Peacefully at home on Thursday, October 28, 2021 on the Isle of Seil, in the loving care of his family, Hugh, aged 97 years. Beloved husband of Rose, and the late Maureen. Loving father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. A celebration of Hugh's life will take place at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh, on Friday, November 19 at 1.00 pm to which all family and friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in Hugh's memory may be made to the RNLI, Oban Branch.

**MOUAT** - Very peacefully on November 1, 2021 at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Bernie Mouat (née Devine) passed away. Mother to Duncan and Lawrence and the late Mary Mackenzie (née Mouat). Beloved mum, granny and great-granny.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BRUCE** - Alistair James. Lynne, Eilidh, Robert, Catriona, Shona, Jamie and families thank all who were with us for Ali's funeral on November 2, 2021. We sincerely thank the Rev Richard Baxter for conducting a very comforting service and Pastor Ruari O'Brien for making East Mains Baptist Church, East Kilbride available for the funeral

service. We are also grateful to Co-Operative Funeralcare, East Kilbride for their caring and dignified services throughout this sad and difficult time. Our heartfelt thanks to all who sent flowers, cards and who donated so generously to Crohn's & Colitis UK at the Church and online in memory of Ali. Forever in our hearts.

**MAIR** - Valerie and family of the late James (Hamish) would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness to us following our sad loss. Heartfelt thanks to doctors, nurses and all the staff at Lorn Medical Centre, also to Carers Direct and all the carers for their kindness to Hamish and myself. Thanks also to Catriona and the team at Hamish Hoey and Son, Petals and Jackie for the floral arrangements. Also grateful thanks to Rev. Maggie McAuthur and staff at Cardross. God Bless.

## MEMORIALS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu.

Like falling leaves the years slip by  
But loving memories never die  
- Your loving family, Allan, Catherine, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of our Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000.

Sadly missed.  
- MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balforn

**DUNCAN** - Precious memories of Howard, who passed away on November 12, 2001.

Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered every day.

- Love always Chrissie x

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Effie, a dear mum, mother-in-law and nanny who passed away November 8, 2019.

You left us beautiful memories  
Your love is still our guide  
Although we cannot see you  
You are always by our side  
- Mairi-Anne, Neil, Kieran, Kyle and Ryan.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of our parents Bertie, who died on November 11, 1989, and Agnes who died on January 29, 2011. Always in our thoughts. Also remembering Uncle Jack who died on November 17, 1993.

- The Mackay and Gillies families, Oban and Lochgilphead.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of our dear brother Angus who passed away on November 12, 2020.

Silent tears we have cried this year

But in our hearts you are always near

We ache to see your face once more

To hear your voice as we did before.

- Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda and Alastair.

**MACNICOL** - In loving memory of Ishbel M. MacNicol, February 27, 1945 - November 14, 2013.

No longer in our lives to share  
But in our hearts you are always there.

- Love Hamish and family.

**PARKINSON** - Treasured memories of a dear Dad and Pop, Arthur (Scouse) who passed away November 12, 1990.

Memories are like keepsakes,  
We treasure all life through,  
But ours are very special Dad,  
Because they are of you.

- Peggy, Alistair, and family xx

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# Saints drummed out of Scottish Cup

Oban Saints	1
Drumchapel United	2
Scottish Cup third round	



**An excellent challenge from Drumchapel's Adam Douglas denies Cammy Hill.** Match report and photograph: Derek Black.

Oban Saints crashed out of the Scottish Amateur Cup at a wet and windy Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

Saints started brightly with Scott Maitland forcing the first corner kick of the match in the fourth minute. Lewis Cameron's delivery from the left was tempting but cleanly caught by Drumchapel keeper Stephen Mather.

At the other end, Saints number one Graham Douglas punched clear a corner kick from the left after Willie Gemmell had deflected a Marc McCran shot wide of target.

Myles McAuley, whose midfield partnership with Gavin Forgivee looked solid, turned the clock back several years with a rampaging run forward in the 16th minute. Not renowned for his shooting prowess, McAuley unleashed a powerful shot from 25 yards which Stephen Mather could only parry into the path of Daniel MacCuish whose attempt to lob the big keeper unfortunately cleared the crossbar.

Saints opened the scoring in the 34th minute from a free kick inside their own half following a foul on Lewis Cameron after Dene Cassells had headed away a Drumchapel corner kick from the left. Willie Gemmell rolled the ball short to Myles McAuley who once again strode forward purposefully, this time picking out Daniel MacCuish for an accomplished finish into the top corner from the edge of the box.

David Beaton was inches away from doubling Saints'

lead, diving in at the back post after Drumchapel skipper Paul McConachie had headed a 39th minute Lewis Cameron free-kick back across the face of his own goal.

On the stroke of half-time, a perfectly timed tackle from Adam Douglas foiled Cammy Hill who delayed pulling the trigger when clean through on Stephen Mather's goal just long enough for the Drumchapel full back to get his challenge in.

The second half was just three minutes old when Saints were made to pay for their missed first half opportunities.

Paul McConachie and Jack Wilson were allowed to race in unattended at the back post from an Alan Kelly free-kick from the right. McConachie squared the ball into the path of Connor Higgins who prodded past Graham Douglas from six yards. Saints appealed loudly for an offside decision but referee Joe Todd saw no infringement and further upset the home side by cautioning Willie Gemmell for dissent.

Three minutes later the turnaround was complete with Higgins knocking home from just a few inches after Graham Douglas had clawed a dipping and swerving Jamie Ross effort from underneath his crossbar to the feet of the onrushing striker.

Dene Cassells joined central defensive partner Gemmell in the referee's notebook for a late

challenge on Paul McConachie with Mr Todd, who handled the keenly-contested cup tie well throughout, balancing up the card count with cautions for Connor Higgins and Marc McCran.

Saints introduced Craig MacEwan, Matty Kelly and Kyle Cooper but the closest the home side would come was a close range David Beaton effort which Stephen Mather clawed behind at his near post.

As the clock ticked down, Saints gave a debut to youth team product Louie MacFarlane before Mr Todd brought proceedings to a close.

This Saturday Saints return to league business with a trip to Dumbarton to face reigning Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Champions St Patrick's FP. The game will be played on a 3G surface at either Our Lady of St Patrick's High School or Argyll Park, Alexandria, with a 2pm kick-off.

## Youth results and fixtures

League Cup: Dumbarton United 6, Under-13s 2. Scoring for Saints were Corey Pyper and Duncan Hunt. Scottish Cup: Under-16s 1, Pollok United 3. Cody McCulloch scored for Saints. This Sunday's fixtures: Under-15s v East Kilbride; St Cadoc's v Under-16s. Under-13s - no game.

## Robert's late season woes continue

### GOLF

Robert Macintyre's late season woes continued last week when, despite a promising start, he finished 64th out of 65 players who made the halfway cut at the Portugal Masters.

His two under par total on Friday should have left him in a position to contend for at least a top 20 finish, but a round of 74 on Saturday, followed by a disastrous 82 on Sunday left him

languishing at the bottom of the leaderboard.

His final round implosion, which included two eights on the back nine, means the Oban left hander will go into this week's AVIV Dubai Championship - the penultimate competition in this year's European Tour - short of confidence and trying to recapture the mid-season

form that saw him finish eighth in the Open, 12th in the Masters and contend for a spot on the European Ryder Cup team. If he is able to get four decent rounds under his belt in Dubai, the following week's season-ending DP World Tour Championship gives him an opportunity to finish the season on a high and climb up the Race to Dubai table where he currently lies in 17th place.

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OT

## SHINTY ROUND-UP

Stephen Sloss  
steps down  
as Oban  
Camanachd boss

Stephen Sloss has informed the Oban Camanachd committee of his decision to step down as team manager.

Stephen took charge at the end of the 2018 season, replacing Iain Hay, before retaining the Scottish Seas Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, as well as finishing runners-up in the Mowi Premiership, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and the Artemis Macaulay Cup in his first season.

He said: 'I've enjoyed my time as manager and will always look back on the 2019 season as one where we could have done something special. However, it is a good time for the club to make a change and I'll always be interested in the goings-on at the club.'

Oban Camanachd vice president Gareth Evans said: 'Everyone at the club would like to thank Stephen for all his hard work. It is not an easy job and everyone has an opinion,



Stephen Sloss.

but Stephen has shown massive commitment, always at training twice a week and at games on a Saturday, tying it all in with his work commitments.'

Thoughts will now turn to finding a replacement.

Gareth added: 'We have a committee meeting this week when we will set a date for our annual general meeting which should take place by the beginning of December.'

Stephen Sloss will reflect on the 2021 shinty season in next week's Oban Times and Lochaber Times.



The victorious Oban Camanachd Under-14 side with the South League Final Trophy.

Oban youngsters win  
entertaining Under 14  
South League Final

Oban Camanachd's Under-14s won the South League Final, beating Aberdour Under-14s 7-1 on Sunday November 7.

This final brought together West League winners Oban Camanachd and Central League winners Aberdour in a 2pm throw-up at Lochaber High School's astro pitch.

The Aberdour defence, well marshalled by skipper Tom Shenfield, stood up well to a series of Oban attacks, keeping the final scoreless for the opening 25 minutes, before Scott Campbell and Matthew Sloss gave the Oban side a 2-0 lead at the break.

Matthew Sloss proved too hot to handle for the Aberdour defence, taking his tally to four goals, with Daniel Duffy and Fraser MacMillan getting the others.

Logan Adam, who made his first team debut this season, countered for Aberdour whose keeper John Henderson made a string of fine saves during this entertaining final.

Camanachd Association Youth Director Willie MacDonald presented the South League Shield to a delighted Oban Camanachd captain Alexander MacDonald.



Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart watches his side play Kingussie in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter-final, played at The Dell.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Positive message as manager  
reflects on Kilmallie's season

'We showed at times this season just how good we can be, competing with top sides in certain games whilst at the same time boosting the size of our first team squad.'

That was the positive message from Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart when reflecting on the 2021 shinty season. 2019 ended with former manager John Stewart keeping Kilmallie in the Mowi Premiership, securing an eighth-place finish to beat the drop by three points. However, he stepped down before the start of the following season to be replaced by his brother Martin Stewart.

2020 began with a 6-0 humbling at Lovat with Greg Matheson scoring four times. It didn't count though as less than a week later, covid concerns led to a suspension of all shinty activity until further notice.

When shinty eventually restarted in June 2021, Kilmallie got off to a false start, as Martin Stewart recalls. 'Five of our players had covid and opposing teams called games off too, meaning we missed the first month of the season.'

A season low-point followed as Kilmallie's first game was a 6-1 defeat to fierce rivals Fort William.

'You never want to lose to your local rivals but we just didn't apply ourselves. It is difficult to get all the boys on board at the start and to get them to trust me and back me, but we all worked hard to turn things around.'

Kilmallie bounced back with a much-improved performance the following week, twice taking the lead before eventually going down 4-2 at Kinlochshiel.

'We pushed Kinlochshiel all the

way and they went on to lift the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup.'

With two tough encounters out of the way, Kilmallie went on to play six more matches with a heavy defeat at Kingussie in the Tulloch Homes quarter-finals puncturing a winning run against Bute, Glenurquhart, Skye twice and Lochaber.

'Kingussie exploited our lack of pace at the back. We just have to hold our hands up as far as that game goes. What a squad they have though. They were just so good and they seem to have cover for every position, whether on the bench or in their second team. Even their substitutes would start for just about every other team.'

'Winning is a great  
feeling. We beat  
Skye home and away  
and they won  
the Balliemore.'

The victories are proof there is plenty to build on. 'Winning is a great feeling,' said Martin. 'We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore. We have rarely had a full squad to choose from and the away game in Skye was particularly testing in that respect. We played really well in the first half against Glenurquhart and in the derby against Lochaber. It was also nice to win the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup on Skye and the BSW Cup against Lochaber. These days help bring everyone together.'

During the season Kilmallie introduced 11 new players into their first team with Dylan Monk, Martyn

Cameron, Shane O'Rua, Stuart Ross, Kale Lacey, Aidan Love, Finlay Ireland, Jordan Campbell, Cam Ross and Phil Fyfe and new signing Stuart Callison from Lochaber all making their debuts. 'It's a boost for next season. We also have a lot of good youngsters who just need game time to make the next step. Ben MacKinnon can be great player and is still only 16. Dylan Monk and Aidan Love are also under 17 players and they too have great futures.'

'I thanked the players for their efforts at the end of the season. Take Robbie MacFadyen, for example. He stepped in as captain when Innes Blackhall was suspended and he has been solid in every game with his 'never-say-die' attitude. He'd be our player of the year if we had awards for the season.'

Martin has a keen interest in all things Kilmallie and has a clear desire for the club to do well. 'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter within the squad is unbelievable and reminds me of the first team a few years back. I believe they could win a cup next season.'

As far as Martin Stewart's own position as manager is concerned, Kilmallie usually has its annual general meeting in mid-January. 'I'd love to keep doing it,' he said, 'but there are changes at my work and that has to come first so I will have to see how that works out. I'd also like to get some help on the touchline as I'd really like to get back playing next season and I must say Craig MacDougall has been a big help this year.'

There will be issues to address ahead of the 2022

shinty season. Steven Stewart has relocated to London and is a significant loss. There are also the inevitable injuries. 'We've had more than our fair share of injuries of late,' said Martin.

Suspensions are a particular bugbear with bans for Innes Blackhall and Stuart Callison stretching into next season.

Stewart said: 'I'm not a fan of the current points system. We have only played eight matches this season so how do players serve their suspensions. I know players need to be more disciplined and some of our boys need to work on that. However Innes Blackhall was sent off last July and with three games still to serve, he probably won't play again until April 2022. That's an awful long time not to be playing, especially following a year with no shinty. There is a real danger guys will go off and find something else to do on a Saturday. The club is going to speak to the Camanachd Association about it.'

To make matters worse, Michael Rodger has a suspension which carries forward from the end of the 2019 season.

Despite the loss of Blackhall, Callison, MacIsaac, Rodger and MacDougall for the start of next season, Martin Stewart prefers to focus on additions to his squad.

'Kevin Toye has stepped down as second team manager so the club is looking to replace him. Kevin featured in the first team this season and is keen to try and win a place in the side permanently so he will compete with Shane Gillies. That's great for me as we will have two quality keepers competing for a place in the first team. We haven't had that for around 30 years.'

'It would also be great to get Jordan MacPhee back playing in midfield and I'm looking to play myself. I also think we have a forward line that will do well and score goals in the premiership with Michael Rodger, Daniel Stewart and Craig MacIsaac, whilst Stuart Callison will add pace.'

'The season might be over but Stewart has lost none of his enthusiasm adding: 'Our training takes place on the astro at Lochaber High School. It has been really competitive and the ball moves at pace. We have been getting 17 players at training each week and we'll keep that going into December, then have a break. We'll get back training in the New Year, play some friendlies in February and maybe organise an away trip. We will be ready to go by the time the new season comes around, there's no doubt about that.'



Bill Clark, centre, is congratulated by fellow players.

## Bill donates his prize from Ian's charity tournament

Isle of Seil Golf Club held its annual Ian Fullerton charity competition on Sunday October 31.

Players took part in a nine-hole Stableford tournament, won by Bill Clark with a score

of 18. Second equal was club captain Pat Mill and John Morgan on a count back with the same score of 18.

The event raised £125 which the winner Bill Clark donated to Marie Curie.

## 'Oar'some Rowaround Scotland celebrated

Rowers across Scotland have celebrated the end of an epic RowAround bid celebrating the country's coast and waters, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Saturday marked the end of an 'oar'some coastal voyage that has involved more than 1,200 rowers from clubs in Seil, Loch Awe and Mull, and as far apart as Orkney in the north, Annan in the south, Barra in the west and Dunbar in the east passing on a relay baton.

The ambitious challenge that has been two-and-a-half years in the making was organised to mark the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association – although this is now the 11th anniversary because Covid pulled the plug on the RowAround in 2020.

To get it done, the attempt had to be compressed into a shorter space of time but it has been worth all the muscle-power put into it, says Sue Fenton from Seil Coastal Rowing Club, who played a key part in its planning.

'Everyone involved has done a great job. We've had 1,282 rowers from 64 clubs who have covered 750 miles. People have been rowing right up until the



Rowing clubs met at Loch Tummel Sailing Club to celebrate the end of the 2021 RowAround Scotland challenge and join in freshwater sprints before the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's AGM.

last minute,' said Sue, who rowed 120 of those miles with eight different crews on eight separate legs on the way round. Her personal highlight was going through the Dorus Mor at the end of Loch Craignish with its extreme whirlpools.

RowAround Scotland 2021 was supported by the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21, co-ordinated by Event Scotland. The project is also supported by NatureScot, through Plunge In! The Coasts and Waters Community Fund. 'When we started the Rowaround, it was very hot

weather and sweat was dripping off our faces, then we ended in the freezing cold and it being very rough in the Sound of Mull and Ardnamurchan. One extreme to the other, in lots of different ways,' she said.

As part of the challenge, the open-top boats have been trawling for micro-plastics. The last of the sample bottles were handed over to Sue on Sunday to add to the others she has been storing in her shed at home ready to be handed over to researchers for analysis at The Scottish Association for Marine Science near Oban.

'It's the first time a small boat has done trawls of this kind for micro-plastics round Scotland. We've done 54 of them and the findings will eventually be written up in a paper we hope will benefit the planet and our seas. The information it will give is a kind of legacy from the RowAround,' added Sue.

On Saturday, founding members of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association 11 years ago rowed along Loch Tummel to the sailing club where they were met with cheers and handed over the RowAround relay batons to members of new clubs who have only launched skiffs for the first time this year. One of the specially-made batons will be going to the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther for safekeeping and a reminder of RowAround's achievement.

Boatie Blest from Cockenzie and Port Seton, Ullapool, North Berwick, RowPorty from Portobello and Coigach were the original clubs. The newest clubs to join are from Wigtown Bay, Loch Tay and Royal Northern and Clyde.

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

## RUGBY ROUND-UP

### Men's/Ladies

Oban Lorne Rugby Club's men's team travelled to Clydebank at the weekend, with a strong squad.

Conditions were bad, but the game went ahead on Clydebank's 4G pitch.

The coach wanted to see an improvement on the last few games and he got his wish with positivity and hunger shining through in the game.

The game started off well, with the Oban boys putting pressure on Clydebank but line-outs were difficult for both teams because of the weather.

The forwards knew they had to win the ball because of the conditions and get the ball out wide to the backs.

There was excellent ball carrying from Callum Maclachlan, Duncan Ferris and Jethro Anderson. This must have pleased residents of Jethro's home village of Brakpan in South Africa as they watched a live stream of the game. Oban is fortunate to have a player of his standard in Oban.

Oban started to get points on the board with two tries from Craig Wright and an excellent try from David Cameron.

Oban received two red cards and one yellow card meaning they ended up with only 12 players on the park who de-



Craig Wright makes a break for his first of two tries. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

fended for the last 15 minutes. All 22 played a part in the game, but special mention goes to Ross McCaskell, who came on for his first appearance for the senior squad.

Final score, 24-0 to Oban.

Oban sit fourth in the table with two games in hand. The next game is home to Dalziel on Saturday November 27.

There was no game for the ladies this week. Their next game is also at home on Sunday November 28 against Biggar.

### Girls Under 14s and Under 16s

The Under-14s and Under-16s attended a regional festival at East Kilbride with coaches Isla Macgillvray and Jordan MacIntyre.

The Under-14s enjoyed some 10-minute matches and had a chance to play Sevens.

There were big carries and tries from Abby McQueen, Rowan Gemmel, Autumn Maclarty and Pamela Ingram but brilliant play from all the girls.

The Under-16s played three 20-minute games. Everyone played exceptionally well with superb carries from Nicola Duncan and great support from Jess Jevons and Aimee Clark.

Check Oban Lorne Rugby Club's Facebook page for more information on all of its teams or visit [www.obanlornerfc.com](http://www.obanlornerfc.com).

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

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The RideOban Weekender attracted more than 80 people on their bikes.

# RideOban puts a great new spin on adventure

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

More than 80 people got on their bikes to join in Adventure Oban's first RideOban Weekender.

The event was packed with community cycling activities, including group social rides, mountain bike coaching in and around Oban, from Glencruitten Woods to Sutherland's Grove. There was also a screening of several

outdoor adventure films, including question-and-answer sessions with some of the people behind each film.

The RideOban Weekender was organised by the not-for-profit charity Adventure Oban in partnership with Chris Hutchens and Ben Cathro – two former Oban residents who have risen to the top of world mountain biking racing.

They were joined on the saddle by big-name Scottish riders Mikayla Parton and Joe Barnes

who joined in with rides and were special guests at the film screening.

A founding member of North Argyll Cycle Club, the event made good on Chris's commitment to find ways to give back to the community that supported him in his formative years in the sport.

Event organiser and Adventure Oban director Ben Sunderland said the weekend provided a framework to build on mountain bike provision

for all ages, shining a spotlight on what the community could do for young riders in particular. He hopes conversations started will go on to inspire more initiatives.

He said: 'The RideOban Weekender was an absolute blast, with a focus on having fun and making friends. The event delivered on exactly what Adventure Oban was set up to do: seek and provide ways to increase community access to the great outdoors for every-

one and help support existing clubs, organisations and local businesses.

'We're excited for what might come out of the conversations we've helped start with this event,' said Mr Sunderland, who praised the support of key partners North Argyll Cycle Club, Café Atlantis, Atlantis Leisure, Oban Cycles and the Rusty Cycle Shed.

Catch up with the RideOban fun on the Adventure Oban Facebook page.

## Disappointing finish for John

### MOTORCYCLING

It proved to be a difficult day at the office for Oban's John McPhee when a crash brought his Grande Prémio do Algarve at Portimao to an early end.

John entered the first corner third, having started the race from second, and dropped to seventh in the opening laps, but was able to stay with the lead group for a time. However, a gap started to form and in the process of pushing hard to close the leading riders down, he lost the front end going into turn 13. This unfortunately brought his race to an early end on the fifth lap.

John said: 'It was a disappointing way to finish a strong weekend. I've felt good every day and I was fast in the race.'


'Apologies to the team for the crash as it was my mistake. We were suffering in a straight line and were losing too much time. It was really tough and I had to go over the limit to compensate.'

'We know we're fast, we just need a little more when we're in the group to be able to fight in the long straights.'



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<b>11</b>	0422 1.4 1032 3.3 TH 1711 1.6 D 2320 2.8	<b>13</b>	0151 2.8 0705 1.6 SA 1404 3.3 2011 1.7	<b>15</b>	0338 3.1 0919 1.4 M 1533 3.6 2151 1.4	<b>17</b>	0418 3.6 1043 1.1 W 1635 3.9 2255 1.2	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
<b>12</b>	0537 1.6 1246 3.2 F 1839 1.8	<b>14</b>	0302 3.0 0822 1.5 SU 1457 3.5 2110 1.6	<b>16</b>	0353 3.3 1004 1.2 TU 1604 3.8 2224 1.3	<b>18</b>	0447 3.7 1118 1.1 TH 1706 4.0 2325 1.1	

#### OBAN WEATHER

##### Thursday

Drizzle and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 10°C to 11°C.

##### Friday

Heavy rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.

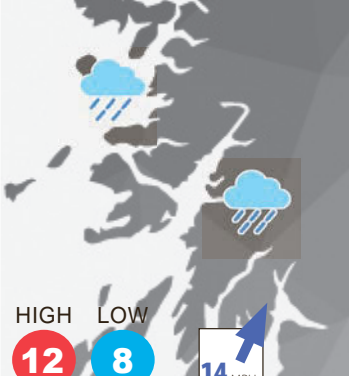
##### Saturday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

##### Sunday

Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

#### FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH **12** LOW **8** **14** MPH



# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8589

Thursday 11 November, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p

### Players encouraged to make own shinty sticks

### INSIDE THIS WEEK: Lochaber Ideas Week returns to celebrate and inspire

# MEMORIAL UNVEILED

**Donald Cameron of Lochiel unveils plaque to his famous ancestor.**

● FULL STORY PAGE 4



Photograph: Iain Ferguson

## Call to restrict second homes in Lochaber

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

With more than half of all homes in West Ardnachurchan now holiday homes, and with some townships seeing that rate surge to as much as 90 per cent, the demand for second homes in the area and wider Lochaber region is having a 'corrosive negative impact' which blights the opportunity for local young people to buy or rent homes.

So says Dr Michael Foxley, now a community councillor on Ardgour, but a former leader of Highland Council and a founder member of Lochaber Housing Association.

Dr Foxley was commenting in the wake of the recent decision by the Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) to block holiday home hunters from buying one of its vacant properties at Daliburgh on South Uist.

HHP director of operations John Maciver told the Lochaber Times: 'This property was determined as not being part of our long-term planning and our board decided to dispose of it.'

'We are very aware of the challenges and pressures people face in accessing housing due, in part, to the number of second homes and holiday lets on the islands and want to do anything we can to

● Turn to page 5 for more



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# Fireworks night lights up Kinlochleven

Kinlochleven's Island Park burst into life again with its first organised event for many years, a Guy Fawkes' Night fireworks display, writes Iain Ferguson.

Hundreds of people braved the changeable weather to join the celebrations which were run by The Island Park Community Field committee, a charity set up by a group of local people to bring the huge grassy area back to life and able to be used for sports and events.

Committee chairman Matthew Prosser said: 'We were delighted to announce our first official event at The Island Park Community Field on Guy Fawkes' Night. We made sure we sourced low noise fireworks in consideration of pets and wildlife.'

In addition to the fireworks, the committee organised a burger stall selling local venison donated by Jahama and cooked by local 'burger maker' John Hart, as well as a stall for homebaking. A raffle attracted donations from a number



**A spectacular display of low noise fireworks and stalls were the perfect event to welcome people back to Island Park.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

viduals - for their help,' added Mr Prosser.

'It would not have been possible without them. We had a great night, only a little wet, and thankfully Scottish Fire and Rescue from Kinlochleven Station were on hand, but not needed. Thank you also to everyone who came and supported the event.'

At one time the hub of activity in the village for numerous different functions, Island Park

has recently lain dormant and overgrown used only rarely by the occasional dog walker, despite its convenient location and spectacular views.

Thanks to the committee and help from a number of bodies, including Jahama Highland Estates, the grass has been cut and the surface smoothed. A ride-on mower has also been bought to ensure it is kept at its best and a garage to house it has also been built.



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# Call to completely overhaul town centre underpass

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@lochabertimes.co.uk

Two senior community councillors for Fort William have met with Highland Cinema owner Angus MacDonald, with the trio discussing a number of ideas of how the town could be enhanced.

Members of Fort William, Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council held their online October meeting recently and heard that chairman Mark Linfield and secretary Patricia Jordan had met with Mr MacDonald, at the cinema, at the latter's request.

Among various ideas talked about was a revamp of the

town's underpass, which everyone at the community council meeting agreed was in need of an urgent clean-up and makeover.

After discussion, it was agreed that some of the more innovative ideas would have to go to public consultation before the community council could commit its support.

Councillors Linfield and Jordan agreed with Mr MacDonald that the town requires 'something new and original' and with this in mind the members agreed to ask him to attend the November 16 meeting.

Members then agreed with a suggestion from Councillor

Andy McKenna that the community council should be engaging with the Highland Council FW2040 plan when it comes to pursuing projects such as this.

On the issue of the underpass, which connects the town's railway and bus stations with the High Street, councillors agreed it was in 'dire need' of a complete overhaul.

'It is an unwelcoming and poor exit/entrance to the High Street,' the council recorded in its minutes. 'It needs more than just another lick of paint and clean up, which we agreed is regularly undertaken by Highland Council.

'Also, the CCTV camera is

not working. This is unacceptable at a time when the message to women is safety first and not to walk alone at night.'

A number of ideas were discussed and the council agreed to email Highland Council ward manager Dot Ferguson.



Fort William's underpass which, community councillors say, is in dire need of a total revamp.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



# Councillor's change of heart over mowing and strimming of green space

A self-described 'fiend' for grass cutting and strimming, even Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson says he has now become a convert to seeing more open green spaces being allowed to grow just that little bit wilder.

Councillor Henderson told the recent full meeting of Highland Council, during a discussion on recommendations as part of its medium term financial planning approach, that he now enjoyed seeing more splashes of colour from wildflowers where once there were just uniform strips of green.

The council is having to plan for a budget gap in 2022-23 ranging from £9million at best, to as much as £35.4m.

In preparation for this, councillors last week agreed a £1.61m package of initial savings for 2022/23 which included efficiencies through reduced staff travel costs, procurement savings, cost recovery, deletion of some vacant posts and an increase in commercial waste charges. And there are potential savings to be made from reducing the amount of strimming and grass cutting undertaken each year, although Councillor Henderson warned it was important to use local knowledge and gain the backing of communities.

He told his fellow councillors: 'Something else that was touched on was the amenity service.

'If you look at the savings that are made there, some of them have already been proven. It is all

just good housekeeping and taking that money out of budget.

'I know it is different for city people when it comes to amenities and how you can change things, but in rural areas where you can work with communities, what tourists want now is green tourism, and there is a huge drive to having nice open green services, letting people see we have colour rather than pristine cut areas.

'I was a fiend myself for having stuff cut to the bone at one time. But I've changed my mind and everything looks so much better nowadays. I get to see colour in my eyes instead of just green.'

Asked to explain more about his change of heart, Councillor Henderson told the Lochaber Times that with less staff members available during the Covid pandemic, there had been less mowing and strimming.

'And there also wasn't a huge clamour from residents during this period and it seems when you are working with communities it is important not to over egg their expectations.

'I think we need to use local knowledge more to get better results, although you will still always get the one or two who will complain, but they are in the minority, I would say now.

'Transport Scotland did not cut some of its areas and it has been fantastic seeing all those yellow wild flowers instead of just willow herb.

'I've got quite a few people saying it's so much nicer.'

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Nevis Hillwalking Club is leading a hike this Saturday November 13 up two munros in Glen Spean: Beinn a' Chaorainn (1052m) and Beinn Teallach (915m).

'Beinn a' Chaorainn is a fine mountain just west of the mighty Creag Meagaidh, with three summits on a narrow, sinuous plateau above three east facing corries,' the club says. 'Its more humble neighbour is worth bagging for a little extra effort and an easy walk out. There are options to shorten the walk by omitting either summit. Full route – 16km, 1161m ascent. Omitting Beinn a' Chaorainn – 13km, 647m ascent. Omitting Beinn Teallach – 14km, 856m ascent.'

Walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions. If you want to know more about the club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact enquiries@nevishillwalking.club

# Remembering Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel

Driving rain and strong winds did not deter a group of loyal Camerons gathering at old Kilmallie graveyard on Saturday morning, where a fine slate plaque was unveiled by the present day chief of the clan, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, in memory of his famous ancestor, Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, 1629-1719, or Eoghain Dubh as he was more commonly known across the Highlands, on account of his long dark hair, was the 17th chief of the Clan Cameron.

Often depicted as the 'Ulysses of the Highlands', he was a staunch supporter of the Jacobite rebellions.

He lived at a time in Scottish history when military might and a fearless attitude towards government forces were much lauded attributes and Sir Ewen was a much admired and trusted leader by his fellow clansmen, most notably for his successful military planning and wise counsel.

There exists a good number of reports of the legendary exploits of Sir Ewen, including



his involvement in battles throughout his 90 years, including settling a 100-year feud with the neighbouring MacKintosh clan.

To commemorate the life of this Highland chief, 300 years on since his death in 1719, a number of members of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland undertook historical research to establish the possible resting place of Sir Ewen.

It is believed his remains are interred within the old Kilmallie enclosure where the slate plaque has now been attached to the outside wall.

Due to issues relating to Covid over the past two years,

The famous portrait of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

the installation and unveiling were delayed until this month.

Also attending Saturday's dedication ceremony was 100-year old Colonel Charles

Cameron, the present Lochiel's uncle, who was brought up at the clan seat of nearby Achnacarry and has a great memory for Lochaber history.

Lochiel thanked Chris Doak and Dr Roddy Cameron for their historical research into the final resting place of Sir Ewen and for organising the making of the plaque, while Bill Cameron and Andrew Macleod were thanked for its installation.

Thanks were also given to members of Kilmallie Parish Church who served hot drinks and biscuits in the church hall after the dedication.

Lochiel told the Lochaber Times this week: 'We had a very successful day at Kilmallie churchyard where we unveiled

a plaque at what is believed to be the final resting place of Sir Ewen. He was the 17th chief of Clan Cameron and described by Lord Macaulay as the Ulysses of the Highlands. A remarkable man who lived to be 90 and was a firm supporter of the Stuart cause.

'He reportedly bit out the throat of an English soldier who was about to stab him and is also thought to have killed the last wolf in Scotland.

'As one of the most formidable clan chiefs of the time, it is very fitting that he is commemorated in this way.'

## Apology for lack of tests as Western Isles hit by worst outbreak since Covid began

The head of NHS Western Isles has apologised for a lack of Covid tests following the highest daily case numbers to date.

The spike surged on Thursday November 4, when the health board reported 36 new cases in 24 hours, all of which were on the Isle of Lewis.

Following the outbreak, NHS Western Isles faced an 'unprecedented' demand for tests. In its regular updates on social media, it said: 'We wish to apologise to people waiting for testing. We are seeing unprecedented demand and we have a backlog.'

As a solution, it ran overnight testing and sent for a mobile testing unit from the mainland.

Infections continued to climb on November 5, with two further cases detected each on the Isles of Barra, Benbecula and North Uist, and a further 31 on Lewis, NHS Western Isles' chief executive Gordon Jamieson reported.

The next day, Saturday November 6, the health board updated: 'NHS Western Isles has seen more cases of Covid-19 in one day this week than we saw in the first six months of last year.'

'Many of the cases have a large number of adults and children who are their close contacts.

'Alongside the measures to keep everyone safe – wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, keeping physical distancing and limiting the number of people in social gatherings – we offer testing to contacts to help reduce the

spread. We are trying to test more people than ever before. Up till now, we have always been able to maintain the incredibly rapid turnaround times that have been the envy of many other areas in Scotland.

'We have now moved to turnaround times similar to the mainland and ask people to bear with us whilst we increase the testing capacity by accessing a mobile testing unit from the mainland.

'We will get tests arranged as quickly as we can, although we have to prioritise some tests over others, for example, hospital admissions and care home tests.

'You will be contacted with the result of your test within 48 hours of it being taken. If you have waited 72 hours, please contact us to check on your result.

'Otherwise, please do not call the Covid line as they cannot speed up the processes.

'We have a no tolerance policy for abuse or threats to our staff and will report to the police as appropriate. We do appreciate your patience and understanding.'

Many islanders offered the service messages of support and gratitude. 'We know you are all doing your very best to keep us safe. Thank you,' said one. 'How lucky we are up here – incredible service and dedication, which is appreciated,' wrote another.

The board reported more than 300 people had been vaccinated on Saturday across the islands, and posted information about covid booster and

flu drop in clinics. That day 14 more cases were reported on Lewis, followed on Sunday by a further 18 on the island, plus one other case each on North Uist and Harris.

Meanwhile in Lochaber, NHS Highland will be delivering the following vaccination clinics for these GP practices: Acharacle, Covid and flu; Ballachulish, Covid and flu; Cill Chumein, Covid; Glen Mor, Covid; Kinlochleven, Covid; Mallaig and Arisaig, Covid, and Tweeddale, Covid and flu.

Eligible patients with these practices will be invited by letter or asked to call the vaccination hub. Appointments can also be rescheduled via the NHS Highland vaccination hub. Please only call the hub if you have been asked to. Other clinics are being run by your own GP practices and they will get in touch with patients directly.

NHS Highland said: 'We will roll out vaccination over the coming weeks, prioritising the over 70s, the clinically extremely vulnerable and the severely immunosuppressed and working through other eligible groups.'

'We have clinics scheduled for the remainder of the month in Fort William, Ballachulish, Sheilbridge, Kinlochleven, Kilchoan and Mallaig.

'Patients will be invited by letter to these clinics with the exception of the clinics on November 22 and 29 in the Nevis Centre, Fort William. These two clinics are drop in for patients registered with non-participating practices.'



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# Caol and Mallaig funding given the green light

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Councillors have agreed to spend £100,000 on community initiatives in Caol and Mallaig. The Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee approved funding from the Place Based Investment Fund (PBIF) for the six community initiatives, including play parks in Caol and Mallaig.

The six schemes to benefit from funding are as follows:

■ **Caol Play Space** – Caol has few freely accessible areas where children can play games.

A vacant site has been identified adjacent to the community centre which could be developed to provide an open grass site for use by the whole community.

Subject to approval being received from the owning service (Care and Learning) and an acceptable project plan being drafted which would consider project specification, security, management, cost and ongoing maintenance, consideration would be given to allocating £35,000.

■ **Mallaig Playpark provision** – outdoor play is seen as increasingly important after the

past 18 months of lockdown for children.

In Mallaig, a small group of parents has been working in conjunction with the Road to the Isles Facilities Group to upgrade and improve the currently outdated and dilapidated playpark in the area located

## The area committee approved funding from the Place Based Investment Fund

Loch Nevis Terrace and Loch Nevis Crescent in Mallaig to enhance play opportunities for children up to the age of 12 years old.

To date, grant funding of £48,000 has been raised and it is considered an additional £30,000 would complete the project.

Consideration could therefore be given to contributing this from the PBIF fund.

Quotes would need to be obtained for the equipment and works.

Total – £30,000.

■ **Trishaw project** – this is a project to provide an electric

trishaw under the charity banner of 'Cycling Without Age' which allows accompanied excursions on specially developed bikes.

West Highland Wheelers members will volunteer as trishaw pilots and will take people who are no longer able to get out and enjoy the outdoors out on the front of the tricycle, with a carer or loved one seated beside them up front and a cyclist manning the pedals behind.

This is similar to projects being developed very successfully in other areas. Cost for trishaw and ancillaries. Total – £9,800.

■ **Housing Needs Assessment** – there is a lack of clarity and understanding of the extent of housing need in the area.

A housing needs survey is currently being carried out with the business sector which will help to identify their needs in terms of being able to attract and retain staff. Total – £5,000.

■ **Support for Young Carers Lochaber** – operating under the Connecting Carers banner, this proposal has two strands, both to support young carers.

It will work with the youth

hubs and education partners to run awareness raising activities and training. This will improve professionals' awareness of Young Carers and their needs and help to boost the number of referrals from the area. Total – £4,000.

Offer a range of short break activities, both single day events and residential weeks to young carers from the area.

These would focus on confidence building, resilience, team building and play. Total – £8,000.

■ **Community Planning – Caol** suffers from a high level of deprivation and as such is one of the identified areas within the Lochaber Community Partnership to have a locality plan.

The community and partners have worked together to develop a number of priority projects, but more work needs to be done to broaden the work of the Community Action Group and to ensure the ongoing engagement and project development is comprehensive.

Funding is required for both projects which will contribute to the objectives contained within the Caol Locality Plan. Total – £8,200.

## Kyle lifeboat aids stricken yacht off Eilean Donan Castle

Kyle lifeboat was called out on Sunday night after a yacht suffered engine failure and was dragging its anchor in extremely high winds near Eilean Donan Castle.

The lifeboat launched at 6.12pm after Stornoway Coastguard received a 'Pan Pan' urgent radio message from the lone sailor on board the disabled yacht.

The vessel was trying to motor from Loch Duich to Kyleakin when its engine had failed. The sailor had managed to seek a little shelter from the worst of the wind in the bay of Totaig by the mouth of Loch Duich, however, due to the weather, when the anchor was deployed it would not hold and began to drag towards the rocks.

The lifeboat made best possible speed through rough seas and arrived on scene at 6.30pm, where a crew member was put onboard the casualty vessel. It was then determined that the only safe outcome was to tow the vessel to the nearest safe harbour at Kyle of Lochalsh.

The lifeboat crew established a tow and began the journey heading back into the weather, taking more than two hours to get back to Kyle. However, on arrival in Kyle, a combination of the worsening weather conditions and the large number



of vessels seeking shelter in the port, it was decided it was too dangerous to try and get the yacht alongside the pier.

The lifeboat towed the vessel the short distance to Kyleakin harbour, where the vessel was put alongside the pontoons and handed over to the waiting local UK Coastguard team. Kyle lifeboat then returned to station and was refuelled and made ready for service at 10.15pm. Speaking of the incident, a Kyle spokesperson said: 'The yacht had suffered mechanical failure and with the gale force winds and very rough seas, it was decided the only safe location to tow the casualty vessel to was Kyle or Kyleakin. However, this required the lifeboat to tow the 11-ton yacht through the extremely heavy seas which took over two hours. It is a timely reminder to all mariners to ensure they check the weather forecast before setting out on a voyage to ensure they can reach their destination in plenty of time before bad weather comes in.'

## Call to restrict second homes

Continued from page 1.

assist with this. Consequently, we are seeking to ensure that this property provides an opportunity for first-time buyers and households who wish to make their home on the island. If we were to dispose of further properties we would likely seek to protect them in a similar manner.'

Reacting, Dr Foxley said he was not surprised with the HHP's decision: 'There is now a very serious crisis in Highland rural areas and the islands, which directly prevents our young people being able to remain living in their own communities. Urgent and determined action is now required by the Scottish Government and by the Highland Council.

'We initiated a strong policy in the Lochaber Planning Committee 15 years ago that one house in a three-house development had to be sold at an affordable price to a local

person, with equity of site size, garden ground and view. This has now been reduced to a commuted payment towards a distant urban housing development. This policy needs to be reinstated and actioned.'

Dr Foxley called for the council tax on second homes to be significantly increased, but with an exemption from any punitive tax for historic family homes used by family members for generations.

He added: 'Holiday homes and Airbnb conversions should be capped at an agreed percentage of housing within any post code area as they provide little or no local benefit and buyers now outbid local people for these properties.'

A Gaelic summit, organised and chaired by Deputy First Minister John Swinney in 2020, heard of small island communities suffering what Dr Foxley said was a 'tidal wave of English incomers with little or no interest in

the Gaelic language, culture, nor the local community and crofting way of life'.

He went on: 'People are now fleeing the cities, buying houses and sites unseen, above the offer price, with the proceeds from house sales in London giving them £2-6million to outbid all local interests... forcing local young people out of their local communities.'

'Other parts of the UK and Europe have formidable policies protecting local people in the rural housing market, whether by having a strict planning condition that the occupation is for a permanent residence or a two-tier market in housing – one for local people and another open market.'

Dr Foxley now believes second home sales should be restricted to no more than 15 per cent of any postcode area.

'Over 50 per cent of homes in West Ardnachan are now holiday homes. Some townships are 90 per cent,' he said.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



## Net zero resources hub helps businesses reduce carbon footprint

With COP26 well into its second week, we're all hoping for new international agreements to protect our environment.

In Lochaber, we've got many businesses that already work in areas directly involved with reducing our environmental impact and now is the time for ALL businesses to rethink the way we do things, reducing their climate impact and to help Scotland reach the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

But where do you start?

It can be confusing knowing what to do when looking at ways to reduce the environmental impact of your

business. That's why Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has added a new net zero resources hub on our website.

It signposts helpful resources like webinars, funding information and training to get you started and help along the way as we all join the race to net zero.

Find out how to calculate the carbon footprint of your business, how to ensure your energy is as green as it can be, learn from businesses that have already started on their net zero journey and find out about the benefits of training to become a certified green champion.

You'll also find out more about funding support available to help your business invest in energy-efficiency measures like heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades.

We're all in this together and together we can all make a real difference to reduce our environmental impact.

Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) and look for the net zero resources hub to find help to get you started.

# MSP calls for solution to rural connectivity issues

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant says the case of a constituent on Morvern frustrated by a lack of phone connectivity has highlighted gaps in rural provision, writes Mark Entwistle.

Mrs Grant has now challenged mobile phone companies and the Scottish Government to look seriously at the situation after investigating the case.

Sally Semple, of Drumbuidhe, on Morvern, contacted Mrs Grant complaining of 'evidence of gaps and deterioration in service' which still existed in the Highlands despite the Scottish 4G Infill programme.

Mrs Grant commented: 'Sally's case highlights that there needs to be some more joined-up thinking about how people live in rural areas and how to service their needs.'

'I see the frustration that many constituents suffer



Sally Semple outside her Morvern home.

highlighted in this one case.' Ms Semple explained she lived in a remote cottage six miles from the nearest public road and from the nearest neighbour, with no electrical connection or landline service. She said there was no consistent mobile reception at the site.

For more than 20 years, her family had used a Vodafone telephone number which was accessed via a fixed cellular terminal attached to an antenna pointed towards the Glengorm transmitter above Tobermory.

Ms Semple, a senior technical advisor in the Directorate of Energy and Climate Change, explained: 'Given my location, the combination of an antenna and a fixed cellular terminal has been an invaluable resource for the folk working and

travelling through this remote area.

'The door to my office where the phone is located has always been open for folk to use in an emergency.'

However, she told the MSP that from April this year the phone system stopped working and the company eventually told her it was unable to provide a service to her location. She never received an explanation of what changed and had not managed to cancel her service or received compensation.

Mrs Grant, who has campaigned for more than a decade for the need for better digital connectivity, investigated. Ms Semple did then get to cancel her service and received compensation and then signed up for wifi calling with a different operator.

Vodafone told Mrs Grant that it had not shut down any sites in the area but was stopping its Sure Signal devices to replace with wifi calling using an internet connection. But the MSP noted Ms Semple had never used Sure Signal and the company did not explain the lack of service to the location.

Ms Semple told the MSP: 'Being able to make phone calls using the mobile phone network – albeit with an amplified signal – was a key factor that allowed my family to use our home and to provide com-

munication and help to those who pass by. I remain nervous that communication over the internet will be able to replace the signal from Glengorm in all circumstances.'

She also said her phone would no longer be available to people passing by and she had been working from her Edinburgh office due to connection difficulties.

Finance Secretary and constituency MSP Kate Forbes also provided an update on the government's 4G infill programme which provides new mobile masts to rural communities.

Mrs Grant added: 'Sally's case highlighted that some fixes weren't suitable for her location – the Scottish Government's offer of a super-fast broadband voucher was not needed as she is connected to the best available supplier in her location and she does have satellite broadband.'

'Sally is also on her third supplier in the last five years as each has gone bust and a physical internet connection is out of the question as in 2008 the SSE quotation for providing electricity was about £400,000.'

'It's fine for public bodies and companies to encourage people to work from home, especially as a result of the pandemic, but we need the services to help them.'

## Young people tell conference good mental health is a priority

Prevention and early intervention support to prevent a deterioration in mental health is a priority for young people in Lochaber, it has emerged.

Youngsters have been making changes following the Highland Youth Parliament's conference focused on improving support for young people's mental health.

Highland Youth Convener Anja Johnston said she was happy to see young people taking control of their future.

The Thurso resident said: 'Our recent conference was a much more focused discussion compared to previous confer-

ences which I believe has given young people the tools to go away and have discussions with adults that can help them to implement change.

'The vision of our Mind Us campaign is starting to become a reality and young people are taking their mental health needs into their own hands. Across the Highlands, there are excellent examples of what can be done when young

people are given the opportunity to take the lead in making positive changes to better themselves and their peers.'

In Lochaber, the Lochaber Health and Social Care redesign is progressing with young people highlighting that the prevention and early intervention provision of mental health is a priority for young people in Lochaber.

Youth development officers have been supporting young people and gathering their views which has culminated in mental health becoming an agenda item for consideration at the stakeholders' redesign meetings. It is hoped this will form and become part of an integral part of the redesign process.



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# Police reminder of mountain safety

## Pledges to protect Lochaber's rainforest

A number of mountain rescue call-outs in Lochaber has triggered an appeal from Police Scotland asking the public to be prepared for all eventualities in the Highlands when enjoying hiking and climbing.

Mountain users are urged to ensure they are fully equipped for their activities and are prepared for conditions at this time of year, which includes a torch and spare batteries.

Since the beginning of October, a number of people have become lost due to fading light.

As a result, police and Mountain Rescue Team volunteers have responded to assist people from remote and rural locations who have inadequate skills and equipment to safely complete their route or have a lack of equipment for darkness.

On Sunday November 2, a man and teenage boy became



Glencoe is one of the busiest areas of Lochaber in winter.

lost in the Spean Bridge area around 6.20pm and were walked safely off the hill with mountain rescue assistance.

A second call out at 11pm saw a man and a woman lost in Glencoe without torches. Twelve mountain rescue

volunteers found the pair, who were walked to a safe area to be airlifted from the hill.

No-one was injured in the incidents.

Inspector Nick Hough, based in Fort William, said: 'The change of seasons as we move

into the colder months with shorter daylight hours brings additional challenges to those going to enjoy the expanse of areas across the Highlands.

'We'd ask the public to be mindful of their own skills and experience and always be prepared for all eventualities. It is crucial you are prepared.

'Plan the route you are going to walk and consider whether it is safe and you have the ability to complete it safely. Do not go beyond your ability. Scottish mountains are extremely unpredictable so take precautions, plan ahead and be aware of, and have respect for, the Outdoor Access Code.

'If you do find yourself in need of assistance because of being lost, injured or in an emergency when outdoors, phone 999, ask for police then Mountain Rescue. You will be helped.'

Lochaber and the wider Highlands are home to some of Scotland's last remaining temperate rainforests, including at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest.

Now Highland Council has welcomed the commitment by COP26 leaders in Glasgow to end deforestation by 2030.

Through the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforests, a diverse group of organisations and public bodies, the council has said it is committed to working with partners such as the Woodland Trust, Forestry and Land Scotland and the Scottish Government to protect these areas.

The Woodland Trust is investing significant resources in the expansion and protection of Scotland's rainforest. The trust manages the chain of five woodlands on the West Coast, all of which have unique rainforest characteristics.

While each site is managed to conserve this rare habitat, the native pinewoods of Loch Arkaig and Ben Shieldaig are especially significant – native pinewoods make up only three

per cent of woodland found in Scotland's rainforest.

Chairperson of Highland Council's Climate Change Working Group, Councillor Trish Robertson, said: 'Only 30,000 hectares of rainforest habitat remains in Scotland, mostly in small woodlands such as those in Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross. But these are not large enough to be self-sustainable and we need to help.

'We absolutely welcome the pledge by world leaders to end deforestation by 2030 and we will fully support our partners and the Scottish Government to enhance our existing forests and continue their growth elsewhere. Highland is home to some of the most stunning woodland in the UK and we must look after it.'

Environment Minister Mairi McAllan said Scotland's rainforest will be restored and expanded as a natural solution to the climate emergency. Supporting the restoration and expansion of the rainforest will be a key part of a £500m investment.

## Plockton and Portree pupils prove STEM bright sparks

More than 500 pupils from Plockton and Portree high schools and their associated primary schools are taking part in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) sessions.

Between August and November, the Science Skills Academy (SSA) has been delivering 36 hands-on practical STEM sessions, called Newton Modules, to P6-S2 classes during the inaugural tour of its 'pop-up' Newton Room.

The final two legs of the tour saw the Newton Room hosted at An Crùbh on the Sleat Peninsula last week before returning to Portree Shinty Club on Tuesday, where it will remain until November 16.

Primary pupils have taken part in the robotics and mathematics Newton Modules, investigating different ways of estimating, calculating and measuring distance then using LEGO Mindstorms robots to assess their accuracy.

Secondary pupils have explored electricity generation and renewable energy sources via the Renewable Energy Newton Module.

SSA is a partnership project led by Highlands and Islands



Children from Bunscoil Shlèite taking part in STEM activities on Wednesday, November 3.

Photograph: Skye Commercial Photography.

Enterprise (HIE) as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal.

It aims to inspire more young people to become interested in STEM, encourage them to study these subjects at school and beyond and raise awareness of the wide range of STEM careers available in the Highlands and Islands. The Highland Newton Room Network has been created by the SSA in locations across the region, including Fort William, which opened in 2019.

The pop-up approach replicates the experience of visiting a Newton Room, with portable furniture and equipment and a dedicated member of staff to deliver activities.

The pop-up Newton Room has been hosted at various

locations across Skye and Lochalsh including Achmore, Dunvegan and Staffin.

Emma Robertson, SSA project manager at HIE, said: 'One of the fundamental principles of the SSA is to ensure that all young people aged 10-14 years, in every part of the region get equal access to inspiring STEM activities.

'We are delighted, after a challenging 18 months, to now trial our pop-up Newton Room model with schools in Skye and Lochalsh.'

Katie Wight, teacher at Bunscoil Shlèite, added: 'The pupils got to use the technology and experience programming as well as robotics in a combination of fun activities.

'Scott was fantastic with the pupils.'

## Butternut squash soup

A pumpkin shell filled with scrumptious soup

Syn FREE

Takes 45 minutes

Serves 4

### Ingredients

Low-calorie cooking spray

1 onion, diced

1 medium butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into wedges

1 small potato, peeled and quartered

2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed

900ml hot vegetable stock

Fat-free natural fromage frais, to serve



### Method

Spray a large non-stick pan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a low heat. Add the onion and cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Increase the heat to medium, add the butternut squash and potato and cook for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and season lightly. Pour in the stock and simmer for 25 minutes, or until everything is tender and cooked through.

Using a hand blender or food processor, blend the mixture until smooth. Transfer the soup to a hollowed-out pumpkin (or a large serving bowl!) and top with a swirl of fromage frais and the sliced chillies.

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## Glen Spean Market

Glen Spean Market is hosting producers and crafters markets at the Ben Nevis Auction Mart, Torlundy, on Saturday November 13 and Saturday December 11 from 10am-1pm.

There will be a range of food producers, brewers, distillers and crafters hoping to entice shoppers for Christmas.

Glen Spean Market is the brain child of Viv MacDonald and Liz MacMaster who came up with the idea during lockdown. They went on a Zoom course facilitated by the Scottish Crofting Federation and run by Elchies Farm.

Their aim was to provide a once-a-month Farmers Market for local producers to sell their (mainly) perishable goods and also provide a safe outdoors environment for local people to meet. Originally based in the courtyard at Glen Spean Brewery, Tirindrish, visitors could also stock up on beer and wine from the Glen Spean Brewery shop.

From small acorns large trees grow... There has been such a demand for stalls for the winter markets (and to be somewhere dry out of the inclement weather), the team



Glen Spean Market is the brain child of Viv MacDonald and Liz MacMaster.

had to think of a different venue.

They are delighted that the Ben Nevis Auction Mart has agreed to let them host markets there. There is plenty cover and plenty parking. Each month the market supports a charity – in November there will be fund raising for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

**GET INVOLVED**  
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# Activists join climate marches in Glasgow

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

A number of climate and environmental activists from Lochaber made the journey to Glasgow on Saturday to join thousands of others for the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice March, to coincide with the city's hosting of the COP26 conference.

Some also took part in the march on Friday, organised by Fridays for Future Scotland, a group founded by youngsters inspired by Swedish teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

Local SNP constituency MSP Kate Forbes – also the Scottish Government finance minister – was among those attended a number of official events at COP26 itself.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'As we come to the end of the second week of COP26, Scotland has lived up to its



Lochaber climate activists Andrew Squire, Kate Willis (centre) from the Fort William branch of Extinction Rebellion, and Scottish Greens MSP for the Highlands and Islands, Arianne Burgess, pictured at the march in Glasgow on Friday.

proud tradition of activism and of peaceful protest.

'That is a source of pride for the whole country, and I know

folk from Lochaber have also been a key part of this.

'As the First Minister has repeatedly said, everyone

knows what is required for this summit to be a success.

'COP26 must secure the commitments that will limit global warming to 1.5°C or, at the very least, the near term commitments that will keep that objective alive.

'It must also deliver a fair financial settlement for developing countries, one which takes account of the loss and damage caused by climate change.

'There's no doubt that over the past week we have seen progress. But it's also clear that we've not yet seen enough.

'World leaders – and the biggest emitters and potential funders especially – must step up. That is essential.

'But governments like ours must continue to play our part because, while none of us are at the negotiating table, our influence and our example will be crucial in building the momentum.'

## Lochaber campaigners support day of action



Braving strong winds and heavy rain, local environmental campaigners marked the COP26 Day of Action on Saturday at the Old Fort site at Fort William, with many 'toots' of support from passing motorists. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Area committee approves traffic calming

Members of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee this week gave their backing for the installation of three sets of speed cushions on Lundavra Road, Fort William, writes Mark Entwistle.

Traffic calming on the Lundavra Road is to improve the safety of walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users, which also ties in with the council's commitment to climate change and cutting emissions. The speed cushions support the temporary 20mph speed limit on this road and enable it to be

self-enforcing.

The cushions are spaced out to ensure reduced speeds will be maintained over the entire length of Lundavra Road.

Full statutory consultation for the introduction of the speed cushions on Lundavra Road was carried out with proposals being sent to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Bus Companies, Highland Council Public Transport, Highland Cycle Campaign, Road Haulage Association, Logistics UK, Local Elected Members and the local

community council.

The wider public was also consulted via a public notice that appeared on local lamp columns and in the Lochaber Times back in July.

The decision this week means that the temporary order and traffic calming will continue to be in place for a maximum of 18 months from when it went live on March 12 this year, expiring on August 22, 2022.

This time will be used to carry out statutory consultation for consideration of permanent 20mph speed limits in Fort William.

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# Arisaig tech whizz hopes video game will revolutionise online learning

A 3D video game developed by Arisaig-based tech entrepreneur Anne Widdop could change the way we learn.

Launched at the end of October, Planet Pollinate uses cutting-edge technology to create classrooms of the future.

Anne, a former software engineer and Global IT Director for IBM and Hewlett-Packard, who lives and runs the tech business from her Lochaber home, said the initiative came about from a desire to solve a problem that almost everyone she knew had.

'Children, students and workers have been stuck at home trying to learn using out of date materials they can't interact with. People deserve more. Education needs to be brought into the 21st century and why can't it be fun?' she asked.

Anne continued: 'There

are big problems with online learning. Eighty per cent of us who started a course online gave up because we were bored, distracted or frustrated with the content and the pace.

'Shockingly only five per cent of knowledge is retained and only one third of learners improve their performance.'

The VR Hive uses video gaming technology and artificial intelligence to really shake up online learning.

Anne added: 'Clearly many others see this as a major problem, I am delighted to say that I've won several competitions recently.'

'Being chosen to be part of the AI Accelerator at the world-class Bayes Centre in Edinburgh is a real boost and I have secured funding from Innovate UK, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Amazon.'



An image from the Planet Pollinate 3D video game. Inset: Anne Widdop, right, and Morag Webster, with VR headsets.

A doormat with the text "DO THE TEST" on a tiled floor.

# A wee reminder.

## Let's stop the spike.

[NHSinform.scot/testing](https://nhsinform.scot/testing)

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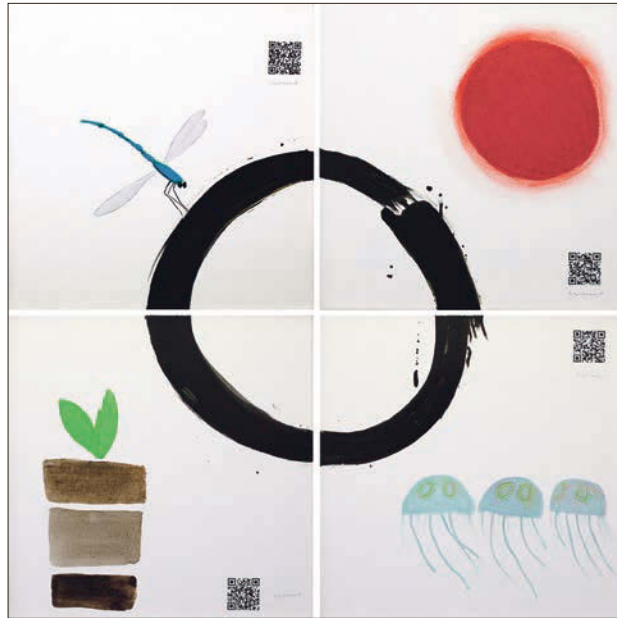
# Gallery showcase chimes with C

As COP26, hosted in Glasgow, draws global focus to climate change, Resipole Studios and Fine Art Gallery, close to Loch Sunart, is showcasing two exhibitions with an environmental theme, writes Nic Goddard.

All Things Connect, on display in the main gallery space until December 3, brings together 11 artists, all of whom present work celebrating and exploring the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

Andrew Squire, a Lochaber-based artist and activist who presents the title piece, explained: 'It can feel as though there are just two options in the face of the climate emergency we are facing; to blindly believe everything will be okay or to accept we are doomed.'

'I want to remind people there is a third way, to connect and create networks with others to find collective and creative solutions. Art gets under our skin and can speak to us in a way statistics and cli-



mate change facts sometimes do not.'

Squire's artwork, consisting of four panels joined by the Zen symbol for the completeness of the universe, features the four elements of water, air,

earth and sun with QR codes which link to apt quotes.

Stained glass artist Ise Stumpff, who uses the same techniques developed by medieval artists to create her wonderful art from her

Andrew Squire's work which is on show as part of the exhibition.

Lochaber studio, presents a triptych of glass panels, connected by a stream of water to represent the communities which exist within the connected environments of air, soil and water, which she feels we must both connect with and work to protect.

Referring to the quote from which the exhibition takes its title, Stumpff elaborated: 'Humans have come to believe that Earth's resources were ours to take, yet we must understand, as Chief Seattle said, 'we are one thread within the web of life and whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.'

Anna Raven, who presents a meditation on the movement of water as part of the exhibition, said: 'Through human actions we risk our natural world. Fires rage, ice melts and

sea levels rise. We must change how we live on planet earth.' Fort William-based landscape artist Amy Marshall, who uses sustainable art materials including hemp canvases and handmade natural paints, is inspired by woodlands, beaches and oceans rich with biodiversity and habitat.

A mother of young children, Amy explained: 'My art depicts some of the precious landscapes I want my children to grow up surrounded by.'

All Things Connect, which also includes work by Georgia Murray, Lotte Glob, Helen Michie, Jane Rushton, Kate Foster, Richard Bracken and Tamsin Cunningham, is accompanied by a beautiful original piece of music written by composer Kerrie J Robinson.

Also on display during November is Recovering Ground, a collaborative exhibition between sculptor Lucy Gray and writer Leonie Charlton. It's a powerful

combination of beautiful poetry from Leonie illustrated by the work of Lucy, who uses materials found in nature to create her sculptures.

The Recovering Ground poem, displayed in full on a board at the start of the exhibition, is continued around the walls alongside sculptures.

A QR code linked to the poem read aloud by Joanna Tope set to music by Breaghna Charlton, allows for a fully immersive experience as you linger beside each sculpture.

Both the materials and subject of Lucy Gray's art drawn from the landscape and natural world and the evocative beauty of Leonie Charlton's words draw you in to engage with the connection we each have to the landscape.

Lucy explained a little of the process of her art which combines found natural materials such as wood and stone with bronze gilding and lacquering, taking inspiration from the wildlife and the landscape

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# COP26

around her. She said: 'I am fascinated by the movement and ever-changing motion of rivers and tides. The work involved in creating a sculpture echoes that of exposure to the elements and the passing of time adding and removing layers to the natural world.'

Gallery owner Andrew Sinclair explained: 'It is always exciting to be approached by our exhibiting artists with ideas for new and interesting exhibitions. Climate change affects us all and using the arts to raise awareness made perfect sense.'

The two exhibitions can be viewed at Resipole Studios, located between Strontian and Acharacle on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

All Things Connect and Recovering Ground are available to view on the website, along with the accompanying music and poetry.

# Boost for Lochalsh community food project

The future of the Community Fridge in Kyle has been secured for a further year and a new community food growing project will start soon in Lochalsh with £20,000 of funding from the People's Postcode Lottery.

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust has been awarded the funding to continue, expand and find permanent premises for the Community Fridge in Kyle and to start a new community food growing project in three pilot areas in Lochalsh.

The project will be co-ordinated by Annie Chalmers who has been running the Community Fridge since it was set up more than a year ago.

The Community Fridge was set up during Covid as a food share scheme to address low income and food waste. To date it has redistributed more than 4,000 kilos of food from local shops – the Kyle Co-op and the Spar Shop in Balmacara – to benefit local people and has prevented the food from being sent to landfill.

The Community Fridge is

**'We are delighted this funding will secure the Community Fridge for another year.'**

open six days a week with 60 to 90 household visits a week and is also used as a drop-off point for the southern branch of the Community Foodbank, Skye and Lochalsh.

With the kind support of the Church of Scotland, the community fridge is currently housed in the church hall on Church Road.

The Community Fridge has been run so far using a series of small grants which covered the cost of the co-ordinator on 45 hours a month, supported by six volunteers, however this funding was due to run out at the end of October.

With this funding, the Community Food co-ordinator's role will be extended to 25 hours a week for a year, allowing Annie to expand the Community Fridge by developing recipe cards and



The project will be co-ordinated by Annie Chalmers, who has been running the Community Fridge since it was set up more than a year ago.

ing polytunnels, allotments or orchards and 294 people wanted this for individuals.

During lockdown, the interest in Lochalsh in growing and processing food locally was made clear. Six growing/foraging/cooking digital events during lockdown attracted up to 100 attendees per event.

The project will also reduce loneliness and increase well-being and physical fitness.

Maggie Byrne, chairperson of Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust, said: 'We are delighted this funding will secure the Community Fridge for another year. The project will address food waste, train people about how to reduce food waste and how to grow, cook and preserve their own food, reducing food miles, increasing local food resilience and making the area more healthy and more sustainable.'

'This funding commitment is already demonstrating how important our community survey will be in demonstrating to funders what our community wants and needs. The next step is to write our community action plan.'

cookery classes throughout Lochalsh; researching and securing permanent premises and setting up community food growing projects in three areas of Lochalsh where land can be identified.

One of the community growing projects will be in Kyle and organisers are talking to another potential partner, but if your community can identify land and is interested in developing a community growing project, please get in touch with the trust through social media or the website.

Funding to buy equipment

and three community polytunnels is being applied for from other funders. This is the first project developed as a result of the Lochalsh Community Survey, part of the Lochalsh Collaborates project led by Community Development Officer Susan Walker and funded by the Scottish Government.

Almost 600 survey responses from an adult population of 2,000 showed that 72 per cent wanted action on waste reduction; 299 people wanted improved access to land for community growing, includ-

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# Not all plain sailing but plenty to celebrate

Members of Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) came together at the end of October to celebrate all that was good with their 2021 season.

And the general consensus was that after a challenging time for the club due to Covid it was fantastic to see sailing return to Loch Linnhe.

LYC worked hard to ensure Covid protocols were in place to enable members to sail safely, take part in events and enjoy being back on the water.

The club benefited from new members joining and achieving their RYA qualifications, members participating in the club regatta plus a number of dinghy and keelboat races taking place throughout the season.

Club members also took part in West Highland Yachting week, the Soling Nationals and represented LYC at dinghy championships around the UK.

All this hard work culminated in the annual prizegiving evening and annual general meeting. The event was well-attended by members



Hamish Loudon, right, presents the Commodore's burgee to Vince Dean.

with the trophies presented by outgoing Commodore Hamish Loudon and Cheryl Allan.

The club thanks Sharon at Slainte Mhath for her help engraving the trophies.

After the prizegiving, it

was time for Hamish to be thanked for his long service and dedication to the club. He was presented with the Ancient Mariners award in recognition of his years spent volunteering at LYC.



Keith Falconer, Tim Sims and Kenny Clark at Lochaber Yacht Club's prizegiving and annual general meeting.

New Commodore Vince Dean was presented with the Commodore's burgee and chaired a short meeting to discuss the future season and members thoughts on what the club's focus should be for

2022. The new committee will continue to meet monthly during the winter to plan the 2022 programme.

For more information on joining the club, learning to sail or getting involved



Stephanie James presenting Hamish Loudon with the Ancient Mariners trophy for long service and dedication.



Robbie Thurlow and Cheryl Allan.

in other ways contact sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk or go to the website Lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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

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You will also receive a £500 Perth gift card to spend in a huge array of independent shops, attractions, and eateries. Update your wardrobe, treat yourself to a delicious meal out, or book in for a pamper after a long day of shopping. Why not click over to our beautifully curated Christmas Gift Guide for a sneak preview of all that's on offer for our lucky Scottish Field winner? Perfect for festive inspiration and dropping little clues.

The Prize:

- Two nights B&B in the award-winning Parklands Hotel.
- A £500 Perth Gift Card to spend in over 150 independent shops, eateries, and attractions throughout the region.
- A Best of Perthshire Gift Basket featuring a host of treats.

What beautiful park does Parklands Hotel overlook?

To enter, send entries with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 December 2021. **Entries from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Crossbill Gin.**

T&C: Overnight stay for 2 people at Parklands Boutique Hotel is for 2 nights bed and breakfast. Subject to availability. Must be taken by 31st March 2022. Gift card and basket will be presented to the winner on arrival at the hotel. Cannot be exchanged for monetary value

## SCOTTISH FIELD

December



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### The Christmas Issue...

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Marie-Claire Kerr art and design... Birds nests...  
Aberdeenshire photographer Dan Christie...

# Skye salmon farmer sends greenhouse gases packing

As the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow starts to wind up, Scotland's newest organic salmon farming start-up is launching new greener packaging.

The fully-compostable packaging will contain less than half the amount of CO2 than normal packaging, reduce the need for energy at the packing stage and eliminate microplastics, while still ensuring food safety and storage time.

The Organic Sea Harvest organic salmon portions in the new packaging will be available early next year.

Called CF422, the packaging will be sourced from CELNOR Eco Packaging Limited, a company offering plastic-free, compostable biomaterial packaging purpose-grown and sourced in the EU.

Organic Sea Harvest has been searching for packaging in keeping with their organic



Salmon portions in the new packaging.

with environmentally-friendly packaging that helps contribute to global net zero.

Ove Thu, Organic Sea Harvest chief executive, said: 'As people all over the globe work together to overcome climate change, it is important for us that we take every opportunity to safeguard the planet. Today's packaging and transportation of food must change to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. As an ever-changing company, we have been invested in finding a better way to package our frozen salmon portions.'

'This is a small, yet not insignificant step, towards securing net zero – a goal we all have a responsibility to work towards.'

ethos. CF422 will reduce the use of plastics and, therefore, eliminate the danger of microplastics in the environment, unlike current, widely-used industry packaging. Once the

salmon has been removed and enjoyed, the packaging can be composted.

The packaging is partly composed of calcium carbonate, the same material found in

eggshells, so will leave nothing behind except compost.

As Organic Sea Harvest works toward its goal of becoming the world's leading organic salmon farmer, it will move forward

## Council confirms plan to close Uig Primary School on Skye

The Highland Council has confirmed it has implemented its proposal to formally close the mothballed Uig Primary School on Skye.

Between 2019 and 2021, the local authority undertook extensive consultation on a proposal to close the school.

As with all school closures, the proposal was referred to Scottish ministers who can decide to 'call-in' a school closure proposal for further investigation.

On November 2, Ministers confirmed the closure proposal will not be called in and that Highland Council can implement the closure.

The Highland Council says it will work with the community to explore how to make best use of the former Uig Primary School building.

### GETINTOUCH

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telephone 01397 703003

## Blas festival 2021

Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council  
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November 19-27 Samhain

Saturday 20 November - Astley Hall, Arisaig @ 7.30pm  
Tim Edey & Ross Ainslie and WHYTE in concert

Saturday 20 November - Caol Community Centre @ 7.30pm  
Cèilidh-Dance with Monach Isles Cèilidh Band and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

Monday 22 November - Roybridge Memorial Hall @ 7.30pm  
Buaidh nam Ban featuring Kim Carnie, Megan Henderson, James MacIntosh, Sorren Maclean & Brian McAlpine and Brìghde Chaimbeul & Aidan O' Rourke

Friday 26 November - Glengarry Community Hall @ 7.30pm  
Aonghas Grannd aig 90 - marking the significant birthday of the celebrated fiddler with former pupils including Allan Henderson, Ingrid Henderson, Sarah Jayne Shankland, Eilidh Shaw & Kevin Cameron

Saturday 27 November - Highland Cinema, Fort William  
6pm (with dinner) & 9pm (no dinner)  
Gary Innes and Ewen Henderson + Special Guest

Fiosrachadh [www.blas.scot](http://www.blas.scot) for details of events

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LT

# Lochaber Ideas Week returns

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce the return of Lochaber Ideas Week, its flagship week of events to inspire, educate and motivate the business and wider community of Lochaber and the Highlands, from Monday November 15 to Friday November 19.

The seventh outing of this popular fixture in the annual business and community calendar, slimmed-down and Covid-safe for 2021, will bring the local business community together to focus on and celebrate the power of ideas and to inspire and inform.

In partnering with West Highland College UHI's Advancing Manufacturing Centre, Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre, Ben Nevis Distillery, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland and BSW Timber, Lochaber Ideas Week will offer exclusive opportunities to promote business growth, while encouraging the community back into the swing of sociable, safe in-person business focused



Frazer Coupland.

events. Frazer Coupland, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'We can't wait to immerse ourselves once again in a week of events that brings the business community together in a Covid-safe way. I am delighted the base for our events this year will be Ben Nevis Distillery and we look forward to welcoming our members and community along to a great week of inspiration and insight, culminating in our grand finale gala dinner on Friday night.'

Lochaber Ideas Week 2021 events are mostly free-to-attend. They include:

Monday November 15, 3pm to 7pm: Lochaber Chamber Premium Members Event at Advancing Manufacturing Centre, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

In celebration of the official opening of West Highland College UHI's Advancing Manufacturing Centre (AMC), Premium Members are being invited to the new centre where they can speak to the experts about ways this facility can help improve and enhance their business.

Tuesday November 16: Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) West Highland Schools Event at AMC, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

At this exclusive event, young people will have the opportunity to learn about the future of manufacturing and what Lochaber has to offer.

Wednesday November 17: Aquaculture Day at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort



Lisa Wharton and Mark Gibbings, from Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, immerse themselves in the finer details of the Lochaber Ideas Week programme.

Photograph: Brodie Hood.

William. The Aquaculture Day celebrates innovation in this key growth industry for Lochaber and is targeted towards sector professionals interested in aquaculture innovations for sustainability, training and recruiting for tomorrow's aquaculture sector.

The event is presented in collaboration with the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre.

Thursday November 18: Tourism Day at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort William.

The Tourism Day offers the opportunity to celebrate the resilience and inspiration of Lochaber's biggest industry. Sustainability is the key to the future of tourism and delegates will reflect on what they have learned from the chal-

lenges of the last 18 months and what future trends will shape the visitor economy of tomorrow to make sure the local tourism industry is ready for the future.

Friday November 19, BSW Timber Tours, 9am and 1pm, at BSW Timber, K2 Sawmill, Corpach, Fort William.

An exclusive tour behind the scenes at BSW Timber. BSW Timber is one of Lochaber's biggest and busiest local employers, one of seven UK sawmills in the largest integrated forestry business in the UK. This is a fantastic and rare opportunity for businesses and the general public to go behind the scenes of the operation that manufactures and supplies a wide range of quality, FSC\*-certified sawn products and co-products for an array of

industries and is committed to supporting sustainable forestry. Tours at 9am and 1pm last approximately 1.5 to two hours. Only 30 places available on each tour.

AMC Open Day, 11am to 3pm, at AMC, Ocean Frontier, Marine Walk, Fort William.

The AMC will be throwing open its doors all day for a special 'behind the scenes' look around the centre as it plans ahead to becoming a drop-in hub for anyone hoping to bring their business ideas to life. The open day will include a on-the-hour centre tours so you can see all the machinery and software on offer. Find out what it could do for you and all at zero cost. To book a tour contact Margaret Weir or Andy Harpur on [amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk).

## Get in touch.

Find out from DYW West Highland how **your business** will benefit from the drive, energy and diversity that **young people** bring to the workplace

Visit [www.dywwesthighland.org](http://www.dywwesthighland.org) or email [info@dywwesthighland.org](mailto:info@dywwesthighland.org)

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Young Workforce

## Tourism is everyone's

Tourism Day is always a big part of Lochaber Ideas Week and this year is no different.

The pandemic and the climate emergency are both having a major impact on the way people go on holiday and what they want to do at their destination.

Sustainability will be key to the future of tourism and during Lochaber Ideas Week's Tourism Day on Thursday November 18, we will consider what we can all do now to make sure we are ready for the future.

This all-day event at Ben Nevis Distillery is open to everyone in the community with an interest in the future of our tourism industry.

You don't need to be a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to join in Lochaber Ideas Week events – everyone's welcome.

Hosted by Laurence Young,

of the award-winning local tourism business Woodlands Glencoe, the Tourism Day on Thursday November 18, will give participants a chance to hear an illuminating mix of insights on areas like sustainable development, environmental management and tourism investment.

We're pleased to benefit from an international perspective on sustainable tourism from sustainability and tourism expert Keith Sproule.

Keith will join us on live video link from his base in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA.

Keith is an accomplished tourism professional and advisor on sustainable development. His professional background includes serving as an advisor to governments on three continents and operations consulting with hotel and tourism companies globally.

We'll gain a more local perspective on sustainable tourism and environmental management from the Highland Council Rangers, who have worked hard over this last year to inform and advise visitors on taking care of our unique environment as they enjoy their holiday.

What have been the main issues they have encountered and what are the priorities for 2022 and beyond?

We'll hear about the exciting new plans for marketing Lochaber to UK visitors under the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK' brand and the investment plans of key local tourism businesses.

Find out how your tourism business could benefit from the increasing interest in active travel and all things two-wheeled. The Highland Bike Plan offers real opportunities for sustainable tourism,

# to Fort William

Meet the equipment makers who will give demonstrations so you can see the equipment in action.

WHC business team will be there to discuss all your training and funding support needs.

Samples of products designed and created by AMC will be on display to showcase the art of the possible.

■ Ideas Week Gala Dinner at Ben Nevis Distillery, Lochy Bridge, Fort William.

It's time to get dressed up again and join the celebrations with fellow Chamber members and your friends from work at the Lochaber Ideas Week Gala Dinner 2021, featuring fabulous local food and drink in a delicious seven-course taster menu.

For everyone's comfort and safety, numbers are limited to 96 attendees. Don't miss your chance to enjoy a black-tie night.

Bookings for all events are now open.

To find out more about all the events taking place during Lochaber Ideas Week 2021 and to book tickets, go to [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events/lochaber-ideas-week-2021](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events/lochaber-ideas-week-2021)

You can also email [membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk](mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk) or call 01397 705 765 to chat to a member of the team.

All events are free to attend, with the exception of the Ideas Week Gala Dinner, and are open to non-chamber members.

# business

plus how can you make the most of the return of the UCI Mountain Biking World Cup in May next year after a two-year hiatus.

And don't forget the big one...the World Championships in 2023.

We're looking forward to a varied and insightful day looking at the challenges and opportunities for our unique tourism industry in Lochaber. We hope to see you there.

The event starts at 9.30am and includes a light lunch and valuable networking opportunities.

Places are limited due to Covid-safe protocols so get in quick to guarantee your place.

Booking is essential. Book your free place by visiting the events section on the [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) website or call Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on 01397 705765.

## Explore the possibilities on offer at the Advancing Manufacturing Centre

On Friday November 19, the new Advancing Manufacturing Centre at Marine Walk, Fort William, will be throwing open its doors all day for a special 'behind the scenes' Open Day to allow businesses and interested members of the public to look around the centre.

The Advancing Manufacturing Centre is a unique facility in the Highlands allowing businesses in remote and rural communities to compete on a global level using all of the advantages that advanced technology can bring but at zero cost.

The centre's aim is to be a drop-in hub for anyone looking to bring their business ideas to life.

AMC project manager Margaret Weir told the Lochaber Times: 'We want to encourage companies of all sizes to come and find out about the free support and expertise we can offer across a wide range of sectors, including food and drink, marine, construction, renewables, aquaculture and hospitality.'

'Our open day is a chance to see how specialist advice and equipment can transform even the smallest business by bringing ideas for products to life, exploring diversification options for resilience and providing access to some of our suppliers to explore the art of what could be possible.'

'We will have demonstrations of 3D scanning and

printing, CNC machining, including Mazak CV5-500 – the first Mazak model of its kind in Scotland, and access to our advancing manufacturing lab.'

Come along on Friday November 19, from 11am to 3pm, to find out more about how the centre could help your business.

There will be on-the-hour centre tours so you can see all the machinery and software on offer. Find out what it could do for you – you might not even realise the ways that advanced manufacturing could benefit your business. The team is here to help and it's all completely free.

Meet the equipment makers, who will give demonstrations so you can see the equipment in action, plus have a look at samples of products designed and created by AMC that showcase the art of the possible.

The West Highland College Business team will also be there to discuss all your training and funding support needs.

To keep guests Covid-safe, the centre team advises booking onto a tour, which will be held every hour from 11am, with the last one starting at 2pm, to help

maintain safe social distancing. If you'd like to book a space on a tour – or can't make it on the day but would like to find out more – contact Margaret Weir or Andy Harpur on [amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk).



Advanced Manufacturing Centre's team of Margaret Weir and Andy Harpur with Industry 4.0 equipment.

## Take a peek behind the scenes at BSW Timber

BSW Timber is one of our biggest and busiest local employers and a major UK business.

We all know it is there, but how many of us have ever been able to go in and look around at how the sawmill works? Now is your chance.

BSW Timber is kindly inviting two tour groups on Friday November 19, to see their operations in action. The first tour starts at 9am and a later one runs at 1pm, with a maximum of 30 people on each tour.

This tour is open to all local people, aged over 18, and you do not have to be a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to attend. The tour will last approximately one-and-a-half to two hours.

Mill manager Oliver Stephen said: 'I'm really pleased that Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has allowed me the opportunity during Ideas Week to open



BSW Timber is one of Lochaber's biggest and busiest local employers and a major UK business.

up the doors of BSW Timber's largest and most advanced site in the UK to the wider Lochaber community.

'It's always a pleasure to show people what we do here and there are very few people that aren't surprised with how much activity goes on behind the big green walls and the scale of the operation.'

'Employing 209 people on site, we are the largest single operation in the town,

and with our new owners Binderholz on board, and some exciting plans afoot, we intend to grow the workforce and capabilities of the site further.'

Booking is essential. Book your free place today by visiting the events section on the [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) website, or call 01397 705765. This invite is extended to everyone in our community.



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Get a behind the scenes look at the new  
**Advancing Manufacturing Centre**  
at our **Open Day** event

- Meet our team, who can help bring your ideas to life
- Book a tour to see how we can help businesses at zero cost
- Watch expert demonstrations of the tech available

**Friday 19th November from 11 am to 3pm**

To keep our guests covid-safe we advise booking a tour (held every hour last tour at 2pm) by email:

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Or please get intouch to visit on a different date

[whc.uhi.ac.uk/amc](http://whc.uhi.ac.uk/amc)

**AMC**  
Advancing Manufacturing Centre



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LT

# TRIBUTE LACHLAN RODERICK EWEN ROBERTSON – 29/8/59 – 24/06/21

Here's a health to the fishermen  
who plough the lonely sea

And battle with the ocean  
where it's in their blood to be.

Dear the fruitful bounty of the  
blind and savage foam.

They're the last of the hunters,  
and they're proudly sailing  
home.

The sea is beautiful, powerful,  
heartless, enchanting, cruel  
and kind in equal measure.

On the evening of June 24  
this year it dealt a devastating  
blow to the west coast of  
Scotland when it took the life  
of well-known Mallaig fisher-  
man, musician and renowned  
character and gentleman  
Lachie Robertson.

I wrote about my friend,  
Lachie, in August 2019 in an  
article for The Oban Times to  
mark his 60th birthday. It is  
a very strange feeling to put  
pen to paper again about this  
legendary man in such a trag-  
ically different context.

Here are the opening  
paragraphs from that piece:  
'For nearly four years now, I  
have been shooting away my  
weekly articles to The Oban  
Times and, as regular readers  
will know, the subject matters  
hold certain common themes.  
Among the foremost-featured



areas have been music, boats, fishing, anniversaries and birthdays, providential coincidence, Highland hospi-  
tality, the Mod, music festivals, Gaelic language and culture, good ceilidhs and well-known characters of the west coast.

**'The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.'**

This week's offering covers a man who encapsulates all of the above.

I have known Lachie Robertson from Mallaig for 20 years and many a good escapade we have had together. This Thursday, Lachie will turn 60, as too - if my memory serves me correctly - will his Danish-built fishing boat Reul a' Chuain (Star of the Sea). As this paper will be published that day, I thought it fitting to celebrate the aligning of dates and stars and write about this well-known west coast character, piper, fisherman, expert host and ceilidh maker.'

The contrast in the emotion felt in writing his obituary compared to that happy article two years ago to celebrate his birthday is vast and the change of circumstance is difficult to comprehend.

Lachie had a positive effect on the lives of many people and was as widely liked and revered a human being as one could ever meet.

Known for both his hard work as a fisherman and a fulfilling social, musical and home life, he was someone whose company was always sought out and always enjoyed. For Lachie, there was an open door, a welcome and a bed in houses across the country, the islands and across many walks of life. Likewise, his own door was always open to welcome others.

Lachie's early years were spent in the Scottish borders with primary school days at Canonbie, then secondary at Langholm Academy, with most holidays spent in Elgol on the Isle of Skye where his father was from. His natural attributes and abilities were evident during his school years and as well as being the athletics champion, he was selected as the school's head boy.

From knowing Lachie and from hearing of his earlier years, it is clear he would have excelled in whatever area of work-life he chose to follow, but it was the call of the sea that would give Lachie his life-long vocation.

After leaving school, he took what was to be a temporary holiday job working on the Olive Branch, fishing out of Mallaig with Jock Summers.

Fishing and the enchantment of the sea gripped him and after some time working on other boats including the Solon with Alex 'Baitch' MacDonald, and getting his skipper's ticket, Lachie had his first boat, the Elizabeth Anne, built. The Danish-built Nighean Donn and his last boat, Reul a' Chuain, were to follow.

Lachie also spent a few years running sea trips on the fast, rigid inflatable Brightwater. My uncle and I bought Brightwater from him before he went back to fishing full time and the night Lachie delivered her down to Oban for us was the setting for a great night of drams and celebration.

Between fishing and running the Brightwater, Lachie also studied for and obtained a degree in Gaelic from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

It is difficult to convey fully just how special a human being was Lachie, and various attempts at writing this obituary, I have felt, were just not hitting the right resonance and giving a true picture of the man he was. With that in mind, I have reverted to verse to try to create a more vivid picture of this unique and wonderful man.

## Lachie

*Some walk the earth and have little effect, and pass like a ship in the night*

*But some have the gift of love to collect, and the beam of a magical light.*

*From a Cardinal Buoy guiding all who came near, from the North, East, South and from West*

*Came Lachie's bright beam telling, 'Deep water here', of friendship from one of the best.*

*A hard-working man whose world was the sea, of long days and nights at the wheel*

*Of shoot, tow and haul and born to be, a skipper of strength and of steel;*

*Steaming for home at the end of the trip, and the peace of being tied at the pier*

*The landing ashore, and hose down the ship, and mending and sorting the gear.*

*Then the Lachie most knew, Lachie ashore, a man of family and home -*

*Warmth and love to the depth of his core when not fishing the merciless foam*

*Or a pint with the boys and a toast to the sea, some drams and a verse of a song*

*And the wondering lust for a tune and spree, in a blink the session was on!*

*To Mods he would travel on the pull of the tide, festivals, parties or fèis.*

*His passion for music he spread far and wide, as the nights moved into the days.*

*His pipes striking up and hitting the notes of richness and wonder of life*

*He played them on piers, at parties, or boats, and blessed many a husband and wife!*

*His nature was kind and always to give, and always the good he would see.*

*With a wonderful mind, he knew how to live, his company easy and free.*

*He emitted a warmth of goodness and trust, of decency, mischief and fun*

*And tomorrow could wait till next week if it must, if the tunes they welcomed the sun.*

*His magic would spread to all who he'd know, and the better for knowing him we are*

*Like his own Reul a' Chuain eternal the glow, of the gift of Lachie's bright star.*

*Now he's moved on but his spirit's not gone, he'll be here long into the years*

*And with laughter and song and tunes all night long, here's to Lachie with joy in our tears.*

The night Lachie was lost, I was sitting in the Heathbank Hotel in Northbay, Barra, with my friend and partner in fishing, Donald Uileam MacLeod (Copper Top). Word had reached Donald that there had been an incident on Reul a' Chuain and that Lachie had been in the water. A short while later the dreadful news came that, as Donald put it at the time, 'he didn't make it'.

The shock we felt that night would have been felt far and wide as the news spread. The sea is a callous and dangerous place and fishing its rich bounty comes too often at the ultimate cost. That someone as fit, able, experienced and careful as Lachie can be taken in the blink of an eye is a cruel reminder of the toll the sea takes on those who work upon it.

Lachie is survived by his daughters Kenna and Rachael and their mother Niki, his partner Fiona, his brother Donald and his sister Catriona.

**Angus MacPhail,  
Skipinnish.**



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## PLOCKTON

### Disappointing turnout for sailing club's annual meeting

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club held its annual general meeting in the boatshed.

There was a disappointing attendance of 12 members, with 11 apologies.

Martin Clark handed out the audited accounts which showed the club was in a fairly healthy position, thanks to many donations, and 82 members.

The following office-bearers were elected: Commodore – no nominations; vice commodore – David Hay; timekeeper – no nominations; secretary and membership secretary – Neil MacRae; sailing secretary – Michael Hay; treasurer – Julia Mackenzie; principal instructor – Alexander Mackenzie; welfare officer – Lauren Glasgow; committee – Ian Hay and Graham Sharp.

Young Duncan Sweeney played the pipes for the visit of small cruise ships when they visited Plockton and raised £85.50 which he kindly donated to the sailing club.

## BALLACHULISH

### Respected European artist leads inspiring workshop

Artists from across the UK gathered in Ballachulish during the weekend of October 30/31 for a masterclass led by respected European artist Peter Monaghan.

The residential workshop, entitled Loosening the Line, challenged each of the eight participants to drop established styles and 'explore a bit of wildness'. The west highland location on a blowy weekend was certainly encouraging for this.

Peter has studios in West Ireland and Germany and his inspirational teaching style makes him a much sought-after instructor.

Event organiser Morag Young of Woodlands Glencoe said: 'We've been working on attracting Peter Monaghan here for three years and the workshop exceeded all our expectations. He's such a relaxed, warm and skilful teacher and over the weekend, the delegates created brilliant work.'

Morag runs her business The Art Circle from studios on the Woodlands estate and each of



### Fancy dress fun as hotel team marks end of season

The team at Glenfinnan House Hotel marked the end of a busy season with a dip in nearby Loch Shiel, followed by Hallowe'en fancy dress fun at a party.

the residential delegates stayed in one of the RiverBeds Luxury Lodges complete with hot tubs.

Penny Lordan, an artist from York, commented: 'After a day out sketching in the rain, it was wonderful to sink into the hot waters of a jacuzzi. The autumn colours were amazing, but that blue, bubbling water seemed even better.'

The Art Circle plans to hold three workshops a year in Lochaber and will continue to draw world-class tutors to run them, attracting local, Scottish and UK artists.

Morag Young is currently finalising paintings for her next exhibition to be staged at the Dundas Gallery, Edinburgh, from November 18-27.



Peter Monaghan, right, with York artist Penny Lordan.

## ARISAIG AND MORAR

### Council to produce 2022 plan for Arisaig and Morar

Plans to protect Highland tourist hotspots, including beaches at Morar and Arisaig, are being drawn up.

The move was confirmed last week when it was announced the team of seven Highland Council access rangers will continue to patrol and carry out countryside, core path and visitor preparation work throughout winter.

During summer 2021, the rangers patrolled much of the council area and helped reduce the impact of thousands of visitors on the environment and communities. They welcomed and engaged with nearly 20,000 people, informed them about the area and services and stressed the importance of responsible behaviour.

They encountered 8,600 tents and 24,500 motorhomes and identified and removed the remains of 3,500 fires, 4,200 toileting sites and more than 2,000 bags of litter.

There has been extensive positive feedback from communities and visitors regarding the rangers' work, with calls for the service to be continued in 2022.

Council members recognised the benefits the rangers provide and agreed to extend visitor management plan funding into 2022 by a one-off investment of £1.5m. Consultations will be held with council services to determine specific funding allocations.

Funding allocated to the outdoor access team for the remainder of this financial year will allow five rangers to continue working until April 2022.

They will help access officers carry out countryside site and core path improvements. Details are to be confirmed, but paths in Fort William are likely to be included.

A further two access rangers will continue working until April 2022 thanks to other funding. One, in partnership with Visit Inverness Loch Ness and SSE, will continue to work in the Loch Ness area, and the other will help identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and community food growing on council-managed land.

Plans for hotspots, including Morar/Arisaig, Durness and Glen Brittle, will be produced in preparation for the 2022 season. Other maintenance work will likely take place at Ardvreck, Strathy, Duntelchaig, Duntulm and Gruinard, with other areas to be confirmed.



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OBAN & LORN – TUESDAY, LOCHABER – TUESDAY, MULL – WEDNESDAY



Ballachulish Wellbeing Volunteers were inundated with stunning photographs.

## Volunteers gather stunning images for calendar

Ballachulish Wellbeing Volunteers had the idea to launch a community calendar as a fundraising activity.

In September, they advertised locally asking for local images from local people who were happy to let them make money from their submissions.

The group was inundated with beautiful images and had to enlist the help of a professional

photographer to help choose the final line-up.

'We honestly had so many great shots we could have done with a 25-month year and still had some spare,' said a spokesperson.

The final A3-sized calendar is on sale for £10 each or three for £25 from Ruth Sime at 58 Loanfern or Chaz and Eileen at 3 Railway Cottages. They are supplied with cardboard envelopes for easy wrapping/postage.



One of the beautiful images for the fundraising calendar.



## Bonfire Night goes with a bang at Strontian

After being cancelled due to Covid last year, Strontian's bonfire and fireworks event was back with a bang this year.

On Friday November 5, socially-distanced crowds gathered to watch the magnificent display in the Strontian showground and enjoy the warmth from the towering bonfire.

A selection of food was on offer including soup and marshmallows to toast around log candles.

The event, which is a community

effort organised and supported by Sunart Community Council and local businesses, collected donations for Strontian Beaver and Cub Scouts.

Cub Scout leader Jamie Tait said: 'We're still tallying up, but more than £520 was raised for the scouts. Huge thanks to Sunart Community Council, Kate Campbell from the Ariundle Centre, Alasdair Maclean from Strontian Stores and the Strontian firefighters.'



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LT

## LETTERS

**Time for government to intervene in housing crisis**

This week's call by Dr Michael Foxley for the Scottish Government and Highland Council to take urgent action to help local young people and families wanting to access housing – whether to rent or buy – in rural areas and the islands, has been a long time coming.

The Lochaber Times has in recent months highlighted the growing crisis and we would back Dr Foxley's call that a firm decision needs to be taken urgently.

Hebridean Housing Partnership on South Uist has already taken steps to block holiday home hunters from buying one of its surplus homes. And other parts of the UK and Europe already have formidable policies protecting local people in the rural housing market. It is time such restrictions were put in place here to protect our fragile communities.

For too long now young people and families have been priced out of the market and out of the communities they want to remain in or move into to live on a permanent basis.

We desperately need this new blood, so we add our voice to those calling for change.

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

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

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**Covid jag fiasco**

My 91-year-old mother was one of the 'uninvited' who you report attended the Corran Halls vaccine clinic on October 27.

We were there because my mother was 28 weeks past her second vaccine dose and every time we turned on the TV we were exhorted by politicians and health experts to get a booster shot as soon as we were eligible.

We tried to find out when that might be but the NHS Highland website held no clues and the Vaccination Enquiry Hub took nearly an hour to answer and was unable to give definitive information.

Having had no blue envelope and becoming increasingly anxious, when a friend told us that the Corran Halls clinic was giving booster jabs, we set off because we thought it might be her only chance to get a booster.

If the appointment letters had come out in a timely fashion we would have been happy to wait patiently for a jab.

I wonder what would have happened to the vaccine doses unused if those uninvited people had not turned up?

**K Davidson, Ardfern.**

**War memorial omission**

It is a historical oddity that no First World War Mercantile Marine casualties appear on the Oban war memorial, possibly due to then prevailing social attitudes.

Their names are commemorated in bronze letters at the Memorial at Tower Hill in London, but I wondered if they are remembered anywhere within the town.

Two probable local men were Second Officer John McNeil whose mother lived at Airds Crescent and Trimmer Donald Stewart, born in Oban. Further afield are Neil Campbell of Easdale, Barra men Donald McNeil and John MacDonald, Neil Cameron from Mull, John MacMillan, Tiree, and John MacLean, Coll.

Their memory deserves to be respected with honour.

The contribution of civilian seamen to the war effort was recognised by the King granting the title 'Merchant Navy' after the peace was won.

**Norman Martin, by email.**

**Royal Mail woes**

I was interested to find out that the people of Oban are having issues with Royal Mail deliveries. The people of Oban are not alone.

## YOUR PICTURES

This photograph was sent in by Tom Harrigan MBE who last month spent some time in Oban.

He told us: 'On my list of places we must visit was the poignant War Memorial on the north headland.

'I am 73 years of age and the War Memorial holds lasting memories of an old friend and former colleague I once took to the Memorial, an experience he always recalled once back home in India.

'Whilst making my way around the memorial, reading the names on the Role of Honour, I caught sight of the CalMac Ferry about to approach and pass the opposite side of the memorial. I immediately took the opportunity and 'snapped' the ferry with my little point-and-shoot camera just as its bow was about to enter behind the seaward side of the memorial.

'Here is the resultant image.

'When I returned home, I viewed the photograph and was moved by the content.

The empty benches, where minutes before sat adults and children having a snack. The 'ship' heading out of Oban and the section of the memorial with names of those brave individuals who never returned to their homeland.

'No doubt many of these brave souls may have departed Oban by sea, heading for unknown destinations, with their friends and relatives standing off the very headland where their memorial stands to this day.



'I then thought of the title 'No one to wave goodbye'. To the outgoing ship, no one waving, and no doubt there would have been no one to say goodbye to the brave souls as they perished.

'However, I realise this is my personal

I am a postal subscriber to The Oban Times and I live in central Edinburgh. For a period of 11 days I had no Royal Mail deliveries. In effect, some important mail I was expecting had gone missing. While things have subsequently, to an extent, settled down, confidence in the Royal Mail has diminished considerably.

At the time, I put a complaint in writing to the relevant Edinburgh sorting office and have not had as much as an acknowledgement. Having spoken to Royal Mail staff locally, it seems, as in Oban, there is a serious lack of delivery staff.

This sort of thing tends to be looked upon as a local issue, though my suspicion is that the issue is much more widespread. I haven't seen anything in the national press, or on the BBC, though their involvement may not be at all inappropriate.

**George Knight, Edinburgh.**

**Achnacloich Bridge**

Clearly there are significant concerns over the (relatively) new road markings at Achnacloich Bridge. On August 16, I wrote to Mr Hugh

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interpretation of the content and that it may not convey the same message to others.'

If you have a photograph you would like to share with our readers. Please email the jpeg (1MB) to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Gillies, director of Roads at Transport Scotland, imploring him to take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

Within a few days I received a reply (signed by MiCase?!) giving me a reference number and telling me a response would be provided within the timescale stated on the gov.scot website, or at least, that was their aim.

The stated timescale lapsed on September 5 but I waited until October 28 before I chased things up. A few days later I received a reply (signed by MiCase - again!). It was exactly the same

letter, the only change being a different reference number.

On October 29, I wrote to Ms Jenni Minto MSP, with a copy to Brendan O'Hara, and forwarded copies of both replies from Transport Scotland. I asked her to investigate and let me know what the outcome was, assuming she got a reply.

It's now November 5 and so far there has been nothing from the MSP or MP and, not surprisingly, nothing from Transport Scotland.

It's little wonder people can't be bothered to complain.

Les Stewart, Connel.

## Road markings do not comply

Further to my wife Annie's letter to you regarding the road markings at Achnacloch, I read the article in The Oban Times, October 28, with interest.

Contrary to Mr Ross's assertion that the markings comply with the Traffic Signs Manual, the markings at Achnacloch Bridge do not include the important centre line which separates the two lanes of normal road traffic as specified in Section 11.3 of the manual. This may be confirmed by Googling traffic signs manual gov.uk chapter five and turning to Section 11.3. That said, it is clear to me that this system of markings is far more suited to an urban environment with slow moving vehicles. Frankly, on a fast trunk road, its use beggars belief.

Most modern car safety systems such as lane assist automatically de-activate below 10mph so would be unlikely to try to steer the vehicle into the 'high vehicle lane' in towns but, at anything over that speed, drivers would need to be quite alert to keep their cars from steering themselves directly into a head-on collision.

However, many of these safety systems, which can cost up to £2,000 as an optional extra on new cars, can be de-activated by the driver so perhaps Bear should erect 'De-Activate Lane Assist' signs well before the bridge to prevent too many head-on collisions. For a region that used to emphasise the well-meaning, if ungrammatical, slogan 'Drive Safe', this would seem like a somewhat ridiculous, backward step though.

Jackson F Wheeler, Dingwall.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



Leis a' Bheachd seo a' nochdadh air ceann-latha cuimhneachaidh cho sòlaime tha e iomchaidh aithne agus spèis mhaireann a' chomharrachadh dha laoch a dh'ìobair am beatha anns an dà Chogadh Mhòr, agus anns gach blàr fuilteach eile bhon àm. Ged a tha fios is cinnt gun deach iomadh neach gu cath an aghaidh an toil, agus aig amannan le ceist fiù 's carson a bha am blàr ga chur, choilean iad an dleastanas a chaidh orra agus ro thrì chailleadh òigridh ghinealaichean. Gu ìre tha lot nam blàr sin fhathast ga fhulang is ri fhaicinn, gu h-àraid ann an coimhearsnachdan iomail na dùthcha, far an tug e buaidh leantainneach air àireamhan sluaigh, is neart eaconamach, agus far na dh'fhàg crìonadh sluaigh cuideachd crìonadh ann an t-iomall dol a chall roimhe 's às a dhèidh ri linn 's cho màirnealach 's a tha adhartas a ghleidheas òigridh agus dòchas anns na coimhearsnachdan dùthchail sin.

Thàinig an t-sith sa Chogadh Mhòr is dìreach uair a thide samhlauchail air fhàgail mus cuireadh an cinne-daonna às don t-saoghal, agus dh'aontach ceannardan na cruinne gun ionnsaichte, agus nach tachradh a leithid a-rithist. Ach mar a tha mòr-thinneas Covid air a dhearbhadh tha iomad-

ach seòrsa blàir a dh'fhaodas buaidh a thoirt air an t-saoghal, agus na òraid aig fosgladh co-labhairt eadar-nàiseanta COP26 ann an Glaschu air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, thuir am Prìomhaire Boris Johnson gum bheil gànrachadh àrainneachd na cruinne air ar toirt gu beagan mhionaidean bho dhà uair dheug agus sgrìos an t-saoghal! Ged nach robh for ann fad bhliadhnaichean gun robh uimhir de chon ga dhèanamh air an àrainneachd tha co-dhiù caogad bliadhna a-nise bho thòisich rabhaidhean air nochdadh bho eòlaichean, ach tha cumhachd ionmhais air bacadh a chumail air adhartas gus dìon a dhèanamh air a' ghnàth-aimsir! Cha robhas ga thuigsinn mar chogadh ach gun fhiosa dhuinn tha sinn air a bhith a' cur às dhan t-saoghal agus ar n-àite-còmhnaidh.

Ged a thug na cogaidhean a bh' ann droch bhuaidh air na h-iomail cha do chuir iad às dhan tìr, ach sin an dearbh chunnart anns am bheil uimhir de na coimhearsnachdan iomallach feadh an t-saoghail an-diugh. Tha at na mara a' sìor bhleith nan cladaichean, agus far am bheil tìr ìosal thathas a' cur air mhanadh dha gum faodadh sin a dhol à sealladh fon t-sàl ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean. Chan e a-mhàin gun caillear tìr ach falbhaidh sluaigh, cànan, cultar, agus dualchas aig an aon àm. Abair adhbhar iomagain dhan t-saoghal agus chan iongnadh gum bheil uimhir de spàirn ga dhèanamh gus aontachaidhean sheasmhach eadar-nàiseanta a choileanadh gus cor a' ghnàth-thide a ghleidheadh ron dà uair dheug!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty, Psalm 84:1

Psalm 84 is credited to the Sons of Korah, Levites, faithful servants of the temple in Jerusalem. They locked and unlocked the temple, they kept an eye on all the precious vessels and utensils used in worship, they kept charge of the money and the collecting boxes and they offered praise to God in the temple choir and orchestra.

The writer of this psalm makes it clear that the temple's eternal purpose is to glorify its occupant, the Lord Almighty, and the writer thanks God for the opportunity of being His humble servant - I would rather be a doorkeeper in the

House of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked, Psalm 84:10.

Do we thank God for our opportunities to humbly serve Him in the humdrum duties of our everyday lives? If we lift our eyes to see the eternal consequences of our mundane labours done for His glory, we will never cease to thank Him.

The servant's master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21.

David James, Glencruitten House.

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# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



It was great last Tuesday evening to play an acoustic set with my Tide Lines band mate, Alasdair Turner, for the Extreme Hangout at COP26.

For the fortnight of COP, Extreme have taken over the Renfrew Ferry and turned it into a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet. The two other artists performing that evening were Raine Stern, from Madison, Wisconsin, and AY Young, from Kansas City. Those guys are incredible musicians and their collaboration was musically outstanding.

For them, though, their environmental activism is equally as important as their music. AY uses his voice all over the world to promote his message and Raine always donates a percentage of her ticket money to environmental causes.

They are committed activists but many more that evening, like us, were simply trying to make small changes in our lives that we hope will have a positive effect.

Tide Lines recently made a decision to invest in Earth Positive merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags) made from 100% organic and ethically-sourced materials. We also stock our own stainless steel water bottles which we use ourselves at gigs to avoid relying on single-use plastic bottles.



**Extreme Hangout at the Renfrew Ferry is hosting a youth-focused hub of like-minded people passionate about the preservation of the planet**

We're hardly Coldplay (who are cutting their carbon footprint by 50 per cent on their next world tour and planting a tree for every ticket they sell), but we're trying in our own small way.

The lyrics of our songs speak so often about the natural environment among which all four of us were brought up and, while we in Scotland are concerned for the future of our natural heritage, there are communities throughout the world that are seeing devastating effects very much

in the present. For a lot of the countries attending COP, this is an immediate problem and not a future one.

As a result of our Extreme Hangout gig, I was asked to speak live on Sky News' Instagram account about sustainability in the music industry. I thought I had put my points across as eloquently as I could; until I saw a comment from a viewer down south saying 'What is this guy saying?!' Clearly my Highland accent was providing a challenge for some viewers!

A reminder, before I go, that the 121st Tiree Association annual gathering concert takes place on Thursday November 18 at 7.30pm at Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary and features a fine line up, including Mary Ann Kennedy, Jamie MacDonald, Kaitlin Ross, John Joe MacNeil, and Kathryn Callender. The gathering dance, as usual, takes place the following evening (Friday November 19) at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union to the music of Gunna Sound. Due to venue policy, a vaccine passport is required to attend the dance and – for both dance and concert – the committee ask that anyone attending takes a lateral flow test.

Tickets must be pre-booked by contacting the association via Facebook, phone (07763 126309), or email: thireeassociation@gmail.com

# Storytelling fun as One Button Benny and friends visit Waterstones Oban

Waterstones in Oban is hosting a special storytelling morning as part of Book Week Scotland on Saturday November 20 starting at 10am till around 11.30am. The event is free to all.

Kilchrenan-based author Alan Windram, who is also a director with children's publisher Little Door Books, will read from his own One Button Benny picture books, as well as reading other stories published by Little Door Books. These include Scaredy Bat by Jonathan Meres and Anders Frang, Pinkie and Boo by Chae Strathie and Francis Martin; The Girl Who Stole The Stars by Corrina Campbell, and A Dragon Story by Madeline Pinkerton.

He said this week: 'I am absolutely thrilled to be taking part in this fun, interactive picture book event at Waterstones in Oban as part of Book Week Scotland. It is great to get back to real live events with an actual audience. I will be reading



both of my One Button Benny books plus other stories from some of our recently published Little Door Books.

'There will be songs, stories and even some robot dancing.

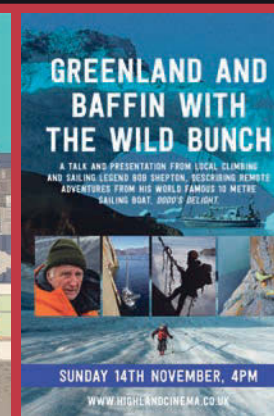
Adults are very welcome to join in the fun too.'

The event is suitable for children ages three to six years old.

Book Week Scotland runs from November 15-21.

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

**FRI 12TH - THUR 18TH NOV**



**FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**  
 Dune (12a) 10:15am. The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:30am.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 1pm. Eternals (12a) 1:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:15pm.  
 The French Dispatch (15) 4:45pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:50pm.

**SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:30am + 1:10pm. The French Dispatch (15) 10:15am. Eternals (12a) 12:45pm, 4:15pm + 7:15pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 3:45pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:45pm.

**SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:15am + 1pm. Eternals (12a) 10:30am, 3:35pm + 7:05pm. Scotland: Our Climate Journey (PG) 2pm.  
 Bob Shepton: Greenland & Baffin with the Wild Bunch Talk (U) 4pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 6:45pm.

**MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) Bairns At The Box Office 10:45am.  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. Eternals (12a) 12:10pm, 3:50pm + 7:15pm. The French Dispatch (15) 1:15pm. Dune (12a) 3:30pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 7pm.

**TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER**  
 Eternals (12a) 12pm, 3:30pm + 7pm. The French Dispatch (15) 12:30pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 3:15pm. Dune (12a) 7:15pm.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:45am. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:15am. Dune (12a) 12:30pm. Eternals (12a) 1:10pm, 3:45pm + 7:15pm.  
 No Time To Die (12a) 4:30pm. Last Night In Soho (18) 7:50pm.

**THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**  
 The Boss Baby 2: Family Business (PG) 10:45am.  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 11:30am. Eternals (12a) 12:45pm, 4:15pm + 7:15pm. No Time To Die (12a) 1:15pm. The French Dispatch (15) 4:45pm.  
 Ghostbusters: Afterlife (12a) 7:45pm.

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QUALITY CARE SINCE 1923



The Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club 'team' which took part in the Home Show, back row, left to right, Lee Bruce, Kevin Aitchison, Farquhar MacRae, John Hutton and Siobhan Duncan. Front row, left to right, Jamie Douglas, Toby Jackson, Noah Johnston, Callum MacLean and Josh Dieguno. Photograph: iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Boxing returns with a belter of a home show

Boxing was back in big way when Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club held its first Home Show in two years in a packed Caol Community Centre on Saturday, writes Iain Ferguson.

The club normally hosts two shows a year, giving boxers the chance to perform in front of a local audience, while raising the money needed to keep them operating.

Unfortunately Covid prevented these from taking place and the club's Corpach gym was closed for an extended period, although training continued online.

When personal contact was allowed, sessions began outdoors, gradually moving back inside under strict control and with limited numbers, building up to an almost 'normal' schedule at present.

Covid also meant Lochaber boxers missed out on regular competitions and visits to other gyms. But dedicated work by coaches and boxers meant Saturday's Home Show offered an exciting action packed programme of 14 bouts, 11 of which featured Lochaber boxers.

Young members making their ring debut, Toby Jackson, Callum Maclean - exhibition bout as it was difficult to find a match for him - Jamie Douglas and Noah Johnston, appeared in the first half and gave excellent performances showing great skill, determination and courage. While they recorded no wins, each found their bouts a tremendous learning curve. After the interval, six Lochaber boxers appeared in succession, each stirring loud and enthusiastic support from the

audience. With two Scottish Championships under his belt, local teenager Josh Dieguno won by a split decision after an outstanding performance against a formidable opponent from Newarthill Boxing Club in Wishaw.

He was followed in the ring by Siobhan Duncan, appearing for the club in only her second bout, working tirelessly, following instructions from the coaches at the ringside and stopping her Dundee opponent in the second of what would have been three rounds after two counts from the referee.

Former novice champion, Lee Bruce, made a return to the ring after an absence of four years having moved away from the area.

Working tremendously hard throughout what was his 12th bout, against a more experienced opponent from Cambusnethan Boxing Club, Bruce dealt with everything that was thrown at him, giving a fantastic display of skill, despite the judges decision going against him.

Tall, lean and powerful, former Northern District Champion Kevin Aitchison also gave a thrilling performance of skill in attack and defence throughout his bout, losing narrowly on points.

Glenfinnan's Farquhar MacRae was next in the ring against Glasgow Boxing Academy's Israel Erinolua. Due to Covid, this was only MacRae's second bout but he put in great work throughout each of the three rounds and only lost narrowly on points.

The final bout saw 'big' John Hutton making his ring debut

and he lived up to being top of the bill, turning in an amazing performance which had the crowd on their feet for most of the bout. Definitely a debut to be proud of and a great experience for him, losing on points by the narrowest of margins.

Earlier in the year, pro boxing champion and multi-title holder Lee Selby visited Lochaber Phoenix and spent three days in the gym working with members. He also joined the crowds in Caol and picked the 'Boxer of the Night' - Siobhan Duncan. He also donated items of his personal boxing kit which were auctioned to raise funds.

Other awards went to Callum MacLean as Most Improved Junior Boxer, receiving the John Donnelly Trophy, presented by DMD Construction, while Farquhar MacRae took the Most Improved Senior Boxer presented by Alistair Sim of the club's main sponsor, Caley Timber and Building Supplies.

Head coach Vince Lopez said: "There were some hard bouts for our boxers who gave everything, with some outstanding performances on the night. They all stuck with training through Covid and hopefully, with restrictions easing, we will be able to get them away to other clubs to gain experience against other boxers. This has been a great learning curve for them and we are proud of how confident they were in stepping into the ring. We will be entering all of them into the Northern Districts championship in Montrose at the end of this month."

More photographs from the Home Show at [www.lochabertimes.co.uk](http://www.lochabertimes.co.uk)

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LT

# Positive message as manager reflects on Kilmallie's season

'We showed at times this season just how good we can be, competing with top sides in certain games whilst at the same time boosting the size of our first team squad.'

That was the positive message from Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart when reflecting on the 2021 shinty season.

2019 ended with former manager John Stewart keeping Kilmallie in the Mowi Premiership, securing an eighth-place finish to beat the drop by three points. However, he stepped down before the start of the following season to be replaced by his brother Martin Stewart.

2020 began with a 6-0 humbling at Lovat with Greg Matheson scoring four times. It didn't count though as less than a week later, covid concerns led to a suspension of all shinty activity until further notice.

When shinty eventually restarted in June 2021, Kilmallie got off to a false start, as Martin Stewart recalls. 'Five of our players had covid and opposing teams called games off too, meaning we missed the first month of the season.'

A season low-point followed as Kilmallie's first game was a 6-1 defeat to fierce rivals Fort William.

'You never want to lose to your local rivals but we just didn't apply ourselves. It is difficult to get all the boys on board at the start and to get them to trust me and back me, but we all worked hard to turn things around.'

Kilmallie bounced back with a much-improved performance the following week, twice taking the lead before eventually going down 4-2 at Kinlochshiel. 'We pushed Kinlochshiel all the way and they went on to lift the Camanachd Cup and the MacTavish Cup.'

With two tough encounters out of the way, Kilmallie went on to play six more matches with a heavy defeat at Kingussie in the Tulloch Homes quarter-finals puncturing a winning run against Bute, Glenurquhart, Skye twice and Lochaber.

'Kingussie exploited our lack of pace at the back. We just have to hold our hands up as far as that game goes. What a squad they have though. They were just so good and they seem to have cover for every position, whether on the bench or in their second team. Even their substitutes would start for just about every other team.'

The victories are proof there



**Kilmallie manager Martin Stewart watches his side play Kingussie in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup quarter final, played at The Dell.**  
Photograph: Neil Paterson.

**'Winning is a great feeling. We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore'**

is plenty to build on. 'Winning is a great feeling,' said Martin. 'We beat Skye home and away and they won the Balliemore. We have rarely had a full squad to choose from and the away game in Skye was particularly testing in that respect. We played really well in the first

half against Glenurquhart and in the derby against Lochaber. It was also nice to win the Thomas Ferguson Memorial Cup on Skye and the BSW Cup against Lochaber. These days help bring everyone together.'

During the season Kilmallie introduced 11 new players into their first team with Dylan Monk, Martyn Cameron, Shane O'Rua, Stuart Ross, Kale Lacey, Aidan Love, Finlay Ireland, Jordan Campbell, Cam Ross and Phil Fyfe and new signing Stuart Callison from Lochaber all making their debuts. 'It's a boost for

next season. We also have a lot of good youngsters who just need game time to make the next step. Ben MacKinnon can be great player and is still only 16. Dylan Monk and Aidan Love are also under 17 players and they too have great futures.

'I thanked the players for their efforts at the end of the season. Take Robbie MacFadyen, for example. He stepped in as captain when Innes Blackhall was suspended and he has been solid in every game with his 'never-say-die' attitude. He'd be our player of the year if we had awards for the season.'

Martin has a keen interest in all things Kilmallie and has a clear desire for the club to do well. 'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter within the squad is unbelievable and reminds me of the first team a few years back. I believe they could win a

**'I'm so impressed with the spirit within our second team. Their mentality and the banter is unbelievable.'**

cup next season.' As far Martin Stewart's own position as manager is concerned, Kilmallie usually has its annual general meeting in mid-January. 'I'd love to keep doing it,' he said, 'but there are changes at my work and that has to come first so I will have to see how that works out. I'd also like to get some help on the touchline as I'd really like to get back playing next season and I must say Craig MacDougall has been a big help this year.'

There will be issues to address ahead of the 2022 shinty season. Steven Stewart has

relocated to London and is a significant loss. There are also the inevitable injuries. 'We've had more than our fair share of injuries of late,' said Martin.

Suspensions are a particular bugbear with bans for Innes Blackhall and Stuart Callison stretching into next season.

Stewart said: 'I'm not a fan of the current points system. We have only played eight matches this season so how do players serve their suspensions. I know players need to be more disciplined and some of our boys need to work on that. However Innes Blackhall was sent off last July and with three games still to serve, he probably won't play again until April 2022. That's an awful long time not to be playing, especially following a year with no shinty. There is a real danger guys will go off and find something else to do on a Saturday. The club is going to speak to the Camanachd Association about it.'

To make matters worse, Michael Rodger has a suspension which carries forward from the end of the 2019 season.

Despite the loss of Blackhall, Callison, MacIsaac, Rodger and MacDougall for the start of next season, Martin Stewart prefers to focus on additions to his squad.

'Kevin Toye has stepped down as second team manager so the club is looking to replace him. Kevin featured in the first team this season and is keen to try and win a place in the side permanently so he will compete with Shane Gillies. That's great for me as we will have two quality keepers competing for a place in the first team. We haven't had that for around 30 years.

'It would also be great to get Jordan MacPhee back playing in midfield and I'm looking to play myself. I also think we have a forward line that will do well and score goals in the premiership with Michael Rodger, Daniel Stewart and Craig MacIsaac, whilst Stuart Callison will add pace.'

The season might be over but Stewart has lost none of his enthusiasm adding: 'Our training takes place on the astro at Lochaber High School. It has been really competitive and the ball moves at pace. We have been getting 17 players at training each week and we'll keep that going into December, then have a break. We'll get back to training in the New Year, build on our fitness, play some friendlies in February and maybe organise an away trip. We will be ready to go by the time the new season comes around, there's no doubt about that.'



**Kilmallie shinty players marked the end of the season with a celebration in Caol Community Centre.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos.

## Kilmallie Shinty Club marks end of broken season

Kilmallie Shinty Club players, officials, supporters, friends and families came together on Saturday to mark the end of the season with a celebration in Caol Community Centre.

The first team were due to play their final game against Glenurquhart on Saturday but this was called off. However, many of the players went along to join in the festivities, alongside the second and junior sides, some also taking advantage

of the large bouncy castle and slide with the youngsters.

Team manager Martin Stewart said: 'I am disappointed the match didn't go ahead but it has often been difficult to avoid this season, with games being called off all the time.'

'However, we all enjoyed what we had of the season. We played nine games and won six which is definitely moving in the right direction.'

'We had 11 players making their first team debut, which is great for them and shows the depth of the club and what can be achieved when we all pull together.'

'This evening we hope to relax and celebrate with our families, who are often the 'quiet' supporters of the club, and thank everyone involved for their dedication.'

'Here's hoping we can have a 'proper' year of shinty in 2022. We'll be ready for it!'



# Jags net place in cup fourth round

SLT 6  
Insch FC  
Scottish AFA Cup

South Lochaber Thistle booked their place in the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur FA Cup with a powerful demolition of Aberdeenshire side Insch AFC, writes Peter Newman.

It was the home side which opened the strongest. Insch moved the ball comfortably and retained position with some slick movement.

However, veteran founding father David Forbes was determined to keep his house in order this week and marauded forward after snapping into an early challenge. Looking up, the home grown Methuselah took aim from outside the box and fired the Jags into a 1-0 lead.

## Heavy defeat for Fort William away to Brora

### FOOTBALL

**Brora 10-1 Fort William FC**  
Fort William travelled to Dudgeon park to face Brora Rangers in the Highland League cup preliminary round on Wednesday November 3 after the match was rescheduled for the weekend before.

The first half was a lively encounter, with both teams having chances, but Brora took theirs better than the visitors.

The home side went into the interval leading 3-1 with goals from Andrew MacRae in the 21st and 24th minute, then Dale Gillespie in the 31st minute. Blessings Tshibikubula replied for Fort William on the 44th minute.

The second half was a far more one-sided affair, unfortunately, as Brora scored seven more goals to give Fort William an evening to forget.

Brora scorers included a hat-trick from Jordan Macrae and an excellent free kick from Dale Gillespie.

Fort William looked to bounce back from the poor result against Keith at the weekend but the game was cancelled due to a failed pitch inspection at Kynoch Park.

## Amendment

In last week's photograph of the South Lochaber Thistle U15s girls team, we mistakenly used the wrong surname for team coach Roman Kondziela. Apologies to Roman.

### FOOTBALL

This encouraged SLT to further endeavours. With a quarter of an hour gone, the visitors won a corner. Forbes turned provider and slipped the ball to youthful centre half Stevie Neil who dipped his shoulder to wrong foot his opposite number before slamming the ball into the bottom corner for 2-0. His knee slide celebration was his first goal for the club as almost as much a thing of beauty as his goal.

Ten minutes later, Forbes' midfield partner and protégé Andrew Mclean was the next to turn provider. Driving forward, he nosed past the defender and slipped a ball to Keir Kennedy who made no mistake with the finish.

That made it 3-0 at the interval but Thistle had to reshuffle the pack when reserve full back Sean Noble was forced from the field with a sore toe, Lewis Murphy coming into midfield.

The second half began on a knife edge and things looked like they were about to take a turn for the worse for the Jags.



Stevie Neil celebrates his first goal for South Lochaber Thistle.

Driving into the box and getting his shot away, an Insch striker cannoned the ball off Neil's hand for an unavoidable penalty.

Stepping up and dispatching the ball towards Ryan Boomer's bottom corner, the youngster went full stretch to his left and clawed the ball away which allowed SLT to scramble the ball away to safety.

Murphy had been making an impact since coming on. First, he had a goal chalked off for offside, before Thistle capitalised on the penalty save and broke up the other end of the field. Murphy pressed the

defence and gobbled up an under hit back pass to round the Insch's keeper to make the score 4-0.

Things went from good to better as Murphy fed the ball to last week's hat trick hero Logan Barker who unleashed a chip worthy of his mentor for 5-0.

SLT were managing the game as well as they have ever done and looking to see out the victory in as professional manner as possible. Boomer was called on to save another penalty after Kieron Lopez was adjudged to have pulled the striker down in the box. High on confidence

after his last save, the keeper was more than a match and secured his clean sheet.

With the clock ticking down, skipper Martin Munro stepped up behind a free kick 25 yards from goal. With the minimum of fuss, the pint-sized winger steered the ball around the wall to conclude the scoring for an emphatic 6-0 victory.

Manager Alan Gray said: 'This was such an exciting victory. Insch are a good team but we just blew them away. We won the crucial moments and we owe a huge amount to Ryan Boomer in goal with two outstanding saves from the penalties. Logan Barker was outstanding going forward and holding the ball and Marty terrorised their full back.'

'But it is almost impossible to pick out individuals from such a comprehensive team performance.'

'It was also great to see young Kyle Dignan making his debut for the club. It's incredibly exciting to see how far this team can push themselves in this competition. To be in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup is overwhelming.'

## Pitch perfect? Not according to Highland League

**Continued from page 40.**  
in a hotel in Keith, but they were asked to leave the room when the issue came up.

'We will have to wait until the minutes come out before we find out the reasoning behind it. In the meantime we have a perfectly good pitch which is in far better condition than many of the grounds we have played at recently.'

When asked by the Lochaber Times for the reason behind this latest decision, Highland League secretary Rod Houston sent the following statement:

'Having given the matter some consideration and following a submission by Fort William FC, the meeting decided to uphold the decision of July 25 and that's where matters currently stand.'

Thanks mainly to donations from supporters, the club has spent around £40,000 on ground improvements including the installation of draining tubes. A spectator rail will be built around the pitch once permission is granted by Highland Council and a new clubhouse, hopefully to be completed by the start of next season, will be funded by a grant, donations and a directors' loan.

The current timber frame clubhouse will be demolished following the friendly against South Lochaber Thistle in December.

Mr Trew added that the club faces a loss in revenue of around £25,000 through not being allowed to play home games.

The next Highland League management meeting is in mid-December when the minutes from the October meeting, currently in draft form, can be approved and shared.



Members of the Fort William FC Committee getting stuck in to drainage works at Claggan Park in July 2020.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

# Lochaber up to third in table

### Lochaber 51 Isle of Mull RFC 17

Lochaber hosted Mull on Saturday before the break for international fixtures.

Unfortunately Mull were not able to field a full team so Lochaber agreed to a development game which would get the fixture fulfilled and give Lochaber a 28-0 bonus point win.

The game would also be played to the new 'game on' rules. Instead of the usual 80 minutes, it was agreed the game would be played in three, 20-minute sections. Lochaber gave two players to Mull for the start of the game meaning both teams played with 13 players. The game also started with uncontested scrums with Mull not having a front row.

Lochaber broke the deadlock when a training ground move came off for the backs with Koni Johnson shrugging off several tackles to run in to score by the posts with Ryan Davies converting.

From the restart, Conor Taylor took the ball and set off swatting aside would be tacklers before eventually being dragged down by three defenders.

The ball was then passed to Callum Boyd who dummied

### RUGBY

before giving the ball to Euan Larter who first used his pace to run free before showing his strength to get the ball down after being tackled on the try line.

Lochaber were almost in for their third try minutes later when Boyd made a looping pass out to Christopher Simpson to score but the referee deemed the pass had drifted forward and brought the play back.

Lochaber got their third after a scrum when they spread the ball wide and after a few phases Jonathan McCook found himself in space out wide to run it in under the posts, with Davies converting.

In the second third, from the re-start captain Callum MacDonald and Conor Taylor dragged Ally Weir, who was playing for Mull, into touch.

MacDonald took a quick line-out and some quick hands put Larter in space and he made around 35m before being tackled five metres out, but Jack Hamilton was there in support and got the pass from Larter to run it in and score with Davies converting.

From the restart, Lochaber worked the ball out wide,

stretching the Mull defence. The ball came out to captain MacDonald and Simpson was calling for a kick ahead to chase with no defenders back.

MacDonald chipped the ball over the top and Simpson got there first ahead of the Mull defender with Hamilton in support.

He kicked the ball onwards over the goal line then touched it down to score.

Mull came back into the third with two tries of their own, with the same player scoring from close range before breaking free and running it in for his second.

Lochaber responded to that second try with Simpson in for his second try, running it in before spinning out of the tackle of Lewis Morrison who was playing for Mull at the time.

In the final third, Mull were first to score, after Lochaber cleared the ball from their own goal line with a kick.

Hamilton, now playing for Mull, found himself in space and ran into score his second of the match making him the only player to score one try for each team.

Lochaber won a turnover to regain possession. Calum Sandison almost scored after

breaking free but was tackled five metres out but Larter was there in support to score.

Captain MacDonald was then in after a quick tap penalty seven metres out. The Mull defender stepped to the side as MacDonald ran at him to go through and score unchallenged.

Lochaber worked it up the pitch just over the half way line and MacDonald found a hole in Mull's defence to run in to score under the posts from almost 50m out.

Hamilton chased hard and got the tackle in, but MacDonald was already crossing the line.

MacDonald then converted his own try with a drop kick and the referee brought the game to an end.

With the score 51-17, the win moves Lochaber up to third in the table with three games in hand over Cumbernauld who are seven points ahead and one game in hand over Glasgow University Medics who are eight points ahead.

Lochaber are scheduled to host old rivals Ross Sutherland this Saturday for a friendly game before getting back into league action on November 27 away to Bishopton. Kick-off, 2pm.

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# There's life in the old sticks yet, says maker

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A caman maker who was brought up in Ardnamurchan is encouraging shinty players to try the craft themselves.

George Mead, 31, moved to London after studying woodwork in Buckinghamshire and since 2018 has been supplying handmade shinty sticks to players from both north and south from his workshop in the UK capital.

Most of his business comes from Scotland, however, and tends to be individuals looking for sticks for themselves or their children. George also does the odd team order and has sent camans to the USA and New Zealand.

George says he has seen the demand for camans rise since the end of lockdown and realises there is a need to attract others to take up the trade.

'The sense I get from my customers is that they have been struggling to get hold of sticks from their usual suppliers, so they are turning to outlying makers with shorter lead times,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'The pandemic had a big impact on the sport and consequently the craft.'

'It's a sad fact that caman making is barely a viable business on its own and better money can be had using woodworking skills in more conventional ways.'



**Caman maker George Mead inspects his workmanship.**

Photograph by Flavio Bosi.

## 'Nothing beat the feeling of scoring a goal with a stick you've made yourself'

'During lockdown I took on work doing site joinery which was comparatively well paid but not nearly as fulfilling.'

'I'm sure other makers did similar things and I think that when the pandemic eased and shinty picked up again they

were slow to come back to the craft.

'Couple that with the recent supply chain issues, the rising cost of materials and sudden influx of demand when the sport kicked off again, it's no surprise there is now a shortage.'

Excluding the caman he made from some architrave and plywood in high school, George didn't make his first proper stick until 2018 – and he has never looked back. He is now encouraging other

shinty players to try it or help alleviate a possible shortage by repairing old and damaged sticks to give them a second life.

'If you don't have the ability yourself, a carpenter or joiner might be able to help,' he said.

'If the stick is too far gone, it can often be cut down and given to a child. If you're feeling adventurous, making a shinty stick for yourself is a great thing to do. The earliest and simplest camans were just curved tree branches carved

into shape. This can be done in a garden shed with basic tools and with time and patience it's an achievable and rewarding process.

'Nothing beats the feeling of scoring a goal with a stick you've made yourself.'

Born in Somerset, George and his family moved to the peninsula when he was five. He went to Ardnamurchan High School where he first set foot on a shinty field and since moving to the metropolis has played with London Camanachd.

## Pitch perfect? Not according to Highland League

Fort William Football Club's Claggan Park pitch will hear the pitter patter of booted feet for the first time in more than four months when amateur league side South Lochaber Thistle visit for a friendly on Saturday December 1.

But the club is still being denied home league and cup games after the Highland Football League management committee decided not to reverse the initial decision at its last meeting on October 14.

Fort William Football Club chairman John Trew is at a loss as to how league members came to that conclusion.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'It belies belief that after all the hard work that has gone into improving our playing surface, not to mention the money spent, we are still being told we can't play our league games at home.'

'We weren't even given a reason why. Marie Macmillan and Matthew MacDonald went up to represent the club at the meeting which was held

Continued on page 39.

**MORE SPORT ON PAGES 37, 38, 39**



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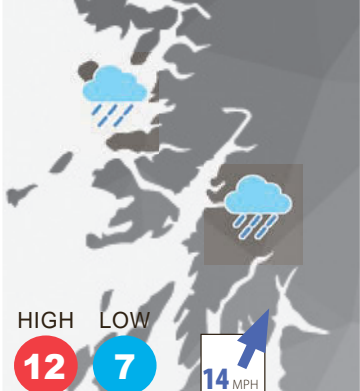
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<b>12</b>	0537 1.6 1246 3.2 F 1839 1.8	<b>14</b>	0302 3.0 0822 1.5 SU 1457 3.5 2110 1.6	<b>16</b>	0353 3.3 1004 1.2 TU 1604 3.8 2224 1.3	<b>18</b>	0447 3.7 1118 1.1 TH 1706 4.0 2325 1.1

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Drizzle and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.	<b>Friday</b> Heavy rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.
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