



## Sun shines on Salen for this year's show



Find out how  
on pages 32-35

# Shop worker threatened with 'gun' in M&S raid

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A 17-year-old shop assistant at Marks & Spencer was left 'extremely traumatised' after an armed robbery on Tuesday.

At around 3.20pm, a man walked into the food hall at Oban Retail Park and approached the checkout where the teenager was working, threatening the assistant with what appeared to be a firearm and demanding money.

The suspect, believed to be aged between 45 and 50, then walked out of the shop with a three-figure sum of cash in an unknown direction.

No firearm was discharged in the incident, said police, but the shop assistant was left extremely traumatised.

The attacker is described as white, around 6ft tall, of slim to medium build, wearing a green khaki-coloured jacket, outdoor boots and a black beanie style hat with a green and red stripe.

Detective Inspector Scott Hamilton described the robbery as 'very frightening'.

He said: 'This was a very frightening experience for the young shop assistant and anyone else who was within the shop at the time and thankfully no one was physically hurt.'

'We are currently making inquiries in the area to establish where the culprit went to when he walked out of the shop.'

'Anyone who recognises the description of the suspect or thinks they may have seen him hanging around the area either before or after the robbery took place is asked to contact police at Clydebank immediately via 101 quoting incident number 2303 of 13 August 2019.'

Alternatively, calls can be made anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

An M&S spokesperson, said: 'We take the security of our stores and safety of our colleagues very seriously. We are fully supporting the police with their investigation.'

The store was open again by 6pm.

## Cutie paws: Lois and Gertie are festival favourites



Little Lois Llewellyn and pet dog Gertie looked blooming lovely with flowers in their hair at Luing Horticultural Show. Judges awarded Lois top prize for the best floral headdress. For more show pictures and a full report, turn to pages 10 and 11.

## Harris Tweed furniture in Oban



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OT

# Lifeboat day is wizard!

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Tobermory Lifeboat had a bit of Harry Potter help at the weekend to conjure up around £4,500 for saving lives at sea.

The wizard-themed weekend kicked off on Friday with a cocktail night at the Tobermory Gallery Cafe where Alexandra Stevens and her team transformed the eatery into Hogwarts dining hall, served up Polyjuice and Butter Beer, donating part of the sales to the town's RNLI.

On Saturday night, the Mishnish Hotel hosted a party with a singing Gandalf the Grey, aka Robert Farrell, belting out some disco tunes with a raffle in aid of the charity.

Despite heavy rain on Sunday and a cold northerly wind, islanders and visitors turned out to support the lifeboat day, the highlight of Tobermory RNLI's fundraising year.

The event was opened by a foot-stomping performance from the Tobermory Seahawks cheerleaders, who paraded down the Main Street led by Tobermory Womble.

The Harry Potter theme continued with the teenage wizard's owl Hedwig, courtesy of Kintail Birds of Prey, putting in a starring appearance.

There was also a fancy dress parade for adults and children, Loch Fyne Oysters donating all of their proceeds from selling seafood to the good cause. There were also prawn cocktails and lobsters donated



RNLI volunteer Kirsty Blackhall and crew member Rose Skelton preparing prawn cocktails.



Alex Stevens and a dementor at the Harry Potter night.

by local fishermen, Tobermory High School pupil and fisherman Rio Brown selling crabs, lobsters, prawns and squats, as well as some smoked fish delights from the Tobermory Fish Company.

The barbecue sold 320 burgers, raising £1,120, and visitors were able to take a peek at the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's research vessel Silurian.

Alastair Satchel compered

the day and musical entertainment was provided by a homegrown band Flora.

There was a tribute and a minute's applause for the much-missed Anne Cookie Flavell, who volunteered as a deputy launching authority and lifeboat treasurer at Tobermory for more than 21 years and sadly died this year.

And there was an auction for a leather journal beautifully crafted by John Boyle



Tobermory's lifeboat welcomed about 400 visitors on board as part of the weekend events. All photographs: Sam Jones/RNLI



Raft racers brave the wind and rain.

in memory of Cookie which was auctioned raising £30 for one of her favourite charities, Mary's Meals.

The main attraction of the day, of course, was Tobermory's Severn-class all-weather lifeboat, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsey, with more than 400 people taking the opportunity to go aboard and meet the crew.

'This will help us to continue to help others at sea. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped out on the day, particularly our hardworking volunteer fundraisers who made the day such an outstanding success.'

Tobermory RNLI coxswain David McHaffie thanked everyone who turned out despite the dreich weather, saying £4,500 was a tremendous sum showing the generosity of the community and visitors.

Between 5.30pm on Saturday August 10 and 9am on Monday August 12, at Gordons Chemists, George Street, Oban, two of the windows were smashed.

## POLICE FILES

At about 8.15pm on Tuesday August 6, following a report of a person behaving in an abusive manner at Miller Road, Oban, a man, 33, was arrested, charged and held in custody for court.

At about 6.10pm on Wednesday August 7, in Alma Crescent, Oban, someone repeatedly kicked a door and shouted threats.

At about 9.45pm on Friday August 9, at licensed premises in Oban, a member of staff was assaulted.

A man aged 27 was traced and arrested. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

At about 3.20pm on Wednesday August 7, in Connel, a woman aged 46 was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner, resisting arrest and assaulting police officers. The woman was charged and held for court.

At about 11.20pm on Friday August 9, near Pennyfuir, Oban, a man aged 26 was stopped, searched and found in possession of a small amount of heroin. The man was charged and a report sent to the fiscal.

Between 5.30pm on Saturday August 10 and 9am on Monday August 12, at Gordons Chemists, George Street, Oban, two of the windows were smashed.

If anyone has information in relation to any incident, they can contact police on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Travelling with your Dog**

**MAKE A STOP**

Make lots of stops along the way to let your dog stretch their legs, have a drink and some fresh air. Always ensure your dog is on a lead when out of the car!

Road trips in the car can be fun for the whole family including your pet. Check out our travel tips for keeping your dog happy during car journeys.

**MOTION SICKNESS**

This can be caused by the anxiety of travelling in the car, which is why it is important to practice travelling in the car and always making journeys fun. If appropriate avoid feeding your dog at least 2 hours before you journey... This will reduce nausea when travelling.

**STAY SAFE**

NEVER leave your dog in a vehicle if you are making a stop during the journey. Temperatures inside cars can rise extremely quickly and cause heat stress, dehydration and even death.

# Crash victim put at risk by paramedic's 'misconduct'

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

A former paramedic who left an inexperienced student technician in the back of an ambulance with a critically-ill crash patient three years ago has been suspended from the profession for 12 months.

It means if Daniel Lauder, currently working as an ambulance technician, wants to work as a paramedic again, he will have to retrain but it does not stop him from keeping his current role in Oban.

The Scottish Ambulance Service does not discuss individual members of staff but said technicians were essential and it needed more in the Oban area.

A disciplinary panel at the Health and Care Professions Tribunal Service (HCPTS) this month heard Mr Lauder was working as a paramedic



when he failed to make sure a full primary trauma survey was carried out on a woman hurt in a high-speed crash.

On June 2, 2016, he radioed Lorn and Islands Hospital saying the patient's blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rates were 'stable' when she was in fact deteriorating. He also failed to drive the ambulance in emergency conditions.

Because of concerns about the service given to the crash victim, an internal investigation was conducted

by the Scottish Ambulance Service. He was dismissed as a paramedic at a disciplinary hearing but, following an appeal, was re-hired as an ambulance technician.

On December 22, 2016, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) received an anonymous tip-off about Mr Lauder's treatment of the crash patient.

During a six-day tribunal ending on August 1 this year, a conduct and competence panel heard there had been another internal investigation

by the Scottish Ambulance Service before the 2016 incident.

In 2014, a nurse with more than 40 years' experience complained that when she was 'obviously gasping for breath and clearly very ill', she was not given oxygen in a timely manner. Lauder was also found by this month's HCPC panel to have told her GP surgery that she did not want to go to hospital when that was not the case.

The panel found that Mr Lauder telephoned the woman's GP because he and his colleague had not carried out a full assessment and assumed she had a stomach bug, although it recognised Lauder was not the lead clinician.

The panel decided it had not had enough sight of Lauder's work to make a finding of lack of competence, but by putting the crash victim at real risk

of harm was serious and amounted to misconduct. His actions had also meant the appropriate resources were not waiting for the woman when she arrived at hospital.

In terms of the other proven allegations involving the former nurse, whose oxygen saturation levels had decreased to a dangerous level, it was found his failure was again serious and amounted to misconduct.

The panel received two positive testimonials from Mr Lauder's colleagues and noted he had attended a three-hour trauma course since the 2016 incident – but that was not until 2018.

Lauder admitted his continuing professional development training was not up-to-date in the past two years because shift patterns meant he missed a number of courses. He also accepted he would

need to undergo considerable retraining before being able to practise as a paramedic again.

Mitigating factors taken into account by the panel included Lauder experiencing personal difficulties at the time of the 2016 incident which are now being resolved, that he expressed remorse for his actions, fully engaged with the tribunal proceedings, appreciated the gravity of his behaviour, had a supportive employer and, before 2014, had 'a lengthy unblemished career'. There have been no further issues since 2016.

In the end, the panel found Lauder's misconduct impaired his current fitness to practise as a paramedic. The HCPC only regulates paramedics so he is still able to practise as a technician. Mr Lauder's suspension for 12 months starts on August 29.

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OT

# Concern over giant hogweed in Oban

by David McPhee  
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk



Concern has been raised about giant hogweed in Oban after a man injured his hand in Soroba.

The incident was highlighted at the monthly Soroba residents' meeting last week.

Secretary of Oban Community Enterprise, which runs Soroba Community Centre, Nicola Wilson, said one of the area's residents, who wished to remain anonymous, asked the council to cut the grass, but was told no because it was common ground.

'He decided to cut the overgrown grass. Unknown to him, one of the weeds was hogweed,' Ms Wilson said.

The man then suffered an injury to his hand and had to get treatment.

'He sent me photographs of the injuries and you can see it



Giant hogweed in Oban has raised concerns.

is blistered,' Ms Wilson added. 'The pharmacist could not give him anything because he needed a prescribed antibiotic.'

'I don't know how you can eradicate it. Children play in the grass.'

After news spread about the species, other sightings were reported at McCaig's Tower and Lonan Drive.

A representative from

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) stated at the meeting that there was a problem with giant hogweed throughout Argyll.

Maurice Wilkins, from Keep Oban Beautiful, said: 'Giant hogweed, Heracleum mantegazzianum, is a pretty but unpleasant plant.'

It was introduced in the 19th century from Asia as an ornamental and in certain locations has become well established.

'You tend to find it in damp, untended places where it can grow eight to 10 feet tall, with a huge head of tiny white flowers like a gigantic cow parsley. The problem is with the sap.'

'When it comes in contact with the skin, it causes it to become extremely sensitive to sunlight, causing sometimes severe burning which can last for a long time, even years apparently.'

'It shouldn't be confused with our native hogweed, which grows less than half the height and looks quite different, though apparently it can produce a similar sap though far less of a problem.'

Councillor Jim Lynch urged the committee to put the word out so people avoid it.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We ensure we continually adopt best practice in dealing with harmful and invasive plants such as giant hogweed.'

'It is the responsibility of landowners to treat. However, our amenity services team is happy to provide people with advice on how to address the problem.'

'More information about the plant, such as how to identify it, can be found at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/invasive-and-harmful-plants](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/invasive-and-harmful-plants)'

## Break-in at Loch Awe beauty spot shop

A break-in at a tiny souvenir shop near Kilchurn Castle is forcing its owners to turn it into a fortress.

Heartbroken Krissy and Kenny Gray, who have been trading at the tourist spot near Loch Awe for three seasons, said about £1,000-worth of handmade products – all unique to them – had been stolen, from photography work on acrylic to coasters and fridge magnets. An expensive pair of binoculars and a small amount of cash left in the till were also among the haul.

The shop has Facebook followers and a video showing samples of stolen stock is now being shared across the UK in the hope the culprit or culprits will be discovered.

'We try to keep the shop looking as insignificant as possible because of its remote setting but we're being forced to make it look like a fortress, upping our security,' said Krissy. 'We will reopen as soon as police allow us. We will not be beaten.'

The thieves scaled barbed



Kilchurn Castle.

wire fencing, forced open the door and meddled with security lighting and cameras.

It happened between 11pm on Monday August 12 and 9am on Tuesday August 13.

During the same time, a cable between a catering van and a generator was damaged by being cut.

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Dunlossit provides a lift for air a

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance's lifesaving support to the people of Islay and neighbouring islands has been recognised by a significant multi-year grant from Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust, the charitable arm of Dunlossit Estate on Islay.

The helicopter air ambulance is a regular sight on the islands, delivering expert paramedic care to the scene of serious illness or accident and airlifting patients rapidly to mainland hospital care.

Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust is helping to sustain that vital lifeline with an important grant over the next five years.

At the Islay Show, Leonie Schroder, charity trustee and owner of Dunlossit Estate, said: 'The Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust is proud to support the vital lifesaving service provided by Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.'

'Island communities like ours rely on this service and we hope that, over the next five years, our commitment will help the charity to save even more lives, both on Islay and across Scotland.'

The Islay Show played host to a visit from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance



(SCAA) last week, while a stand-in air ambulance, kindly supported by Babcock, flew operational cover for the day.

David Craig, SCAA chief executive, said the helicopter, crew and charity staff of the air ambulance had made the trip to the Islay Show to engage with the community and recognise the 'amazing support' the air ambulance receives from the islands.

'Last winter alone, SCAA flew seven emergency

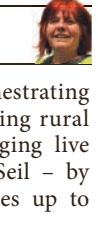
missions to Islay and Jura, quickly airlifting patients to mainland care in under half an hour – a journey which would have taken hours by road and ferry in often challenging weather.'

'This generous support from Dunlossit and Islay Community Trust will help ensure we are there for others on Islay and the surrounding islands who are in greatest need.'

'We are extremely grateful for this significant contribu-

# Islanders invite top classical musicians to come and stay

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islanders are orchestrating a new way of boosting rural wellbeing and bringing live classical music to Seil – by opening their houses up to musicians.

Homes across the island have already signed up to the new scheme that will bring some of the country's most brilliant, professionally-trained musicians to their doorstep.

The Netherlorn Music Scheme will be trading free accommodation over week-long residencies in return for community involvement and a performance at the end.

Musicians will have the time and space to develop new projects while enjoying all the advantages of the peaceful island.

It is also just what the doctor ordered. Easdale Surgery

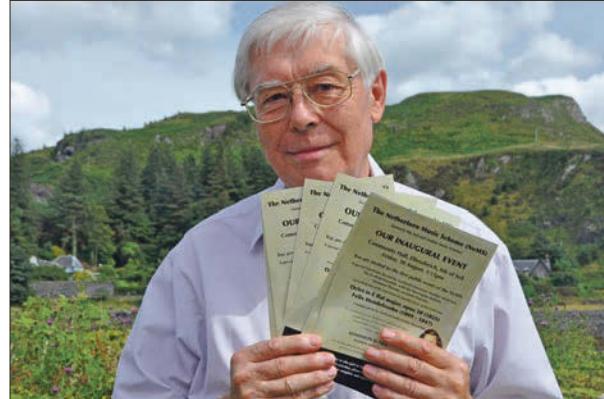
has given listening to live music the all-clear as a great way to improve wellbeing and to overcome social isolation.

It is hoped the musicians will also work out in the area's three primary schools during their stay and share their talents with music groups such as Seil Sound singers.

A relationship has already been struck up between the scheme and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, inviting its post-graduate specialists in chamber music to come and enjoy Seil hospitality.

It is hoped in the next academic year that there will be two residencies in the spring and summer.

The scheme will also be reaching out to other professional chamber music groups and hopes to cover other parts of Netherlorn in the future. The first year of op-



Professor Stephen Arnold, chairman of the Netherlorn Music Scheme.

eration has been guaranteed against financial loss by Seil residents themselves.

Netherlorn Music Scheme chairman Stephen Arnold said: 'We are just trying to get live classical concerts here on our doorstep in Seil and then into the rest of Netherlorn.

'The area does well for traditional and folk music but we don't have so much access to classical music, except via the loudspeakers in our homes. Having direct contact with live music makes all the difference. Hearing it that way is a lot of fun, but also impacts

on people both emotionally and spiritually.

'As a community, the bit we can contribute to this partnership is what people come to Seil for anyway. We have a stunning marine environment and beautiful countryside. We have built up a pool of rooms, self-catering and B&B-style, which owners are prepared to offer to musicians so that the overall costs are kept to a minimum – and we're open to offers of more. As far as we're aware, there's no other community doing anything quite like this.'

On Friday August 30, the scheme will present its first public event, hoping to pack Seil Hall for a free lunchtime recital at 1.15pm by Scotland's foremost chamber musicians, The Scottish Ensemble with Norwegian violinist Marianne Thorsen as guest director.

Donations only will be invited to help the scheme's development. Future concerts will be charged for but at affordable prices.

This time, the ensemble's visit will be fleeting as the members have to catch a ferry for a later recital, but they will be performing one of Mendelssohn's most loved chamber music works – his Octet, opus 20 (1825).

The ensemble will also be calling in to perform at North Argyll House, a residential care home in Oban.

'There are some people from Seil who are residents. Had they been able to, they would definitely have come to the hall. We wouldn't want them to miss out,' added Professor Arnold.

To find out more about supporting The Netherlorn Music Scheme, email nems2019@btinternet.com

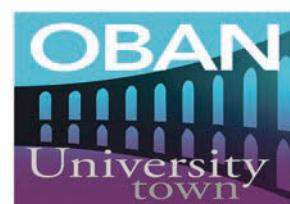
## ambulance



Leonie Schroder, charity trustee and owner of Dunlossit Estate, second from left, and trustee David Gillies, centre, right, greet SCAA chief executive David Craig, left, and helicopter pilot Captain Richard Applegarth at Islay Show.

tion to our service which will help us continue to impact positively on the lives of people on the islands.'

## Oban poised to be on the crest of a wave



Apprenticeship in boat building and repair.

The programme has been developed by the science, engineering and manufacturing technologies alliance (SEMTA), in collaboration with industry partners and is now available to Argyll employers.

The trade association British Marine reports that 31 per cent of Scottish companies have hard-to-fill vacancies and this apprenticeship aims to address a shortage of qualified adults and young people entering Scotland's boat building and repair industry.

'Argyll has abundant natural resources, strong marine heritage, excellent science and innovation foundations, and a skilled workforce spanning global scientific research, aquaculture, marine leisure, engineering and boat building,' says Don Mitchell, head of curriculum at Argyll College.

In August last year, we wrote about the exciting changes happening in marine/maritime training in Argyll through partners in the Oban a University Town (OaUT) programme, writes Iain Gatward.

The past 12 months have been incredibly busy in this area with colleagues in Argyll College UHI and SAMS UHI both developing new courses and opportunities with industry in Scotland. There will be more to follow on this in coming months, with exciting new initiatives being confirmed, but we wanted to update readers on current developments as there is so much happening.

With a staggering 80 per cent of Argyll's population living within 1km of its 3,700km coastline, Argyll is ideally placed to take full advantage of the growth in marine tourism and aquaculture, and for Oban to become a centre for educating Scotland's next generation of maritime workers.

The University of the Highlands and Islands, through Argyll College UHI, is one of the first institutions in Scotland to offer a newly developed Modern

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OT

# Soroba is on track to improve sports pitch

by David McPhee  
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

Discussions to improve the sports field in Soroba have been ongoing for decades, but the campaign received a boost last week.

Stacey Holloway, a community sports hub officer with Live Argyll, attended this month's Soroba residents' meeting and offered to help the group to find funding routes.

She explained that there was going to be a get-together at the end of this month with all the sports hubs in Oban, where they will discuss future projects, including which pitches can be developed.

'If you are not able to come, it is okay,' she said. 'We will then set up groups for the projects.'

'We are looking at the community as a whole and seeing where there are groups and pitches.'

Chairwoman of Soroba



The grass pitch at Soroba is susceptible to flooding and has only one set of goalposts.

Community Centre Marri Malloy said: 'This scheme has about 2,000 people in it, but there are no facilities. We don't have a community centre or a dedicated sports facility for the kids.'

Secretary Nicola Wilson said if the project was able to secure funding, she would love to astro-turf the area and enclose it with a fence.

Vice-chairwoman Christine Smith said: 'There is enough

ground on there to have a football pitch and a MUGA [multi-use games area].

A MUGA is an all-weather surface, which allows various games and sports to be played.

The grass pitch in Soroba,

which currently only has one set of goalposts up, has been neglected over the years.

The surface has a history of flooding and, without a barrier or netting behind the goals, there is nothing to stop the ball from flying into the car park adjacent to the pitch.

However, in order for the pitch to be a success, the group needs the support of the community.

It issued a plea earlier this year asking for residents to get involved.

'Our focus now is tidying up the play area and to try to make it into a sports field,' Ms Malloy said at the AGM in April.

'If we can get the community park up and running, it might raise our profile and we might get support from the community.'

'Considering the amount of houses we have here, we don't know what we can do to get support.'

## Owner of Sea Life Sanctuary hosts open day

New owners of Barcaldine's Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary are hosting a drop-in day in October for the public.

Gael Force Fusion will be at the Victory Hall in Benderloch from 3pm to 8pm on Thursday October 3.

Members of the public are invited to go along to ask questions and find out more about future plans for the site.

In May, salmon pen manufacturer Gael Force Fusion announced it hoped to create eight new jobs after successfully bidding for the former Sea Life Sanctuary premises.

It planned to move from its current base at Barcaldine, leased from Scottish Sea Farms, into the nearby new premises.

The company's owner, Inverness-based Gael Force Group, said in a press release that the new base would enable Gael Force Fusion to continue with its plans to invest in innovative fish farm pen systems, research and development, technical design and manufacturing.

It added that by committing to an investment at the site, Gael Force was supporting its 22 skilled workers in the Oban area and, subject to necessary planning consents, would be seeking to create a further eight jobs.

## Final call to nominate your care heroes

The Scottish Health Awards 2019 are on the hunt to find Scotland's most dedicated healthcare professionals. NHS Scotland, the Scottish Government and Daily Record are urging people across Argyll and Bute to submit their nominations before Thursday August 29. To nominate, go to [www.scottishhealthawards.com](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com).

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## Such a kind act reduced me to tears

### Around Oban

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

The past week has been one of tears and laughter and sometimes both together, which wasn't a pretty sight.

Tears of happiness when my wee girl came home on holiday and then I was reduced to tears again by a very kind act by the ladies of The Rockfield Centre and I don't think I was alone.

They had been handed proofs from a photographer called Laird Parker and, while keeping those of cultural and historical interest, had divided up others to be given to those they thought might appreciate them.

I was lucky enough to be given the proofs of my parents' wedding photos. Many of them I had never seen before and they captured some of the more relaxed moments between the wedding party such as my mum

and granda getting out of the car.

I can't begin to say how grateful I am for the thoughtfulness of these ladies taking time to pass on things that would mean nothing to anyone else but mean so much to the people receiving them.

Again it captures what it is to be part of a caring wee community, that they would take time to do this and put the effort in to identify who to give the pictures to.

On a completely different note, we have a very active weekend coming up with the third birthday of Ganavan Sands Parkrun on Saturday and a big shiny cup final with the Artemis Macaulay Cup taking place at Mossfield between Oban Camanachd and Kingussie at 4pm.

And the younger shiny players are getting the chance to show their skills beforehand with the inau-

## WHERE IS THIS?



gural Artemis Macaulay Junior Cup final between Oban High School and Lochaber High School.

It's fantastic that Oban has a team in each of these finals and I really hope the town turns up to show support.

Last week's photo was of the paintbrushes outside Alba on Albany Street – I love them – but this week's might be a wee bit harder to spot.





Iain MacKay from Torloisk shows his three-year-old heifer, which won the overall cattle competition. 15\_t32\_SalenShow20



Andrew Bartel, 10, won the boys' race and Evie Bellett, 12, from Aros, won the girls' race. 15\_t32\_SalenShow11

# Sun shines on Salen

by David McPhee

dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

The sun was shining last Thursday as hundreds of people enjoyed this year's Salen Show on the Isle of Mull.

This traditional agricultural show, which was established in 1831, has something for everyone.

The livestock competition boasts classes of Highland cattle, Blackface, Cheviot, cross and primitive sheep breeds, horse riding and dog competitions.

The 2019 Salen Show will go down as a win for the sheep, with Emma MacDougall's Cheviot being crowned the champion of champions.

The 17-year-old, from Wood Cottage Croft, was delighted when her Cheviot won the overall sheep champion, seeing off a successful Blackface sheep from Torr Na Faire.

This was Emma's first time getting her hands on the trophy for her own breed. In previous years, she had finished as reserve champion, with her dad taking home the title.



Emma MacDougall with the champion of champions – her champion Cheviot. 15\_t32\_SalenShow03

However, this time it was the opposite. Emma pipped dad Robert at the post.

'Everyone wants to win the Salen Show,' she said. 'I am so glad to do it and I am still young enough to win it again.'

She did not have to wait long before winning her next piece of silverware though.

Her one-crop ewe was then crowned the champion of champions later in the day, beating a heifer, horse, chicken and a spaniel.

Emma, who also won the young farmers' championship, said: 'It is amazing. This is the first time I have won the overall champion of champions. When you put a sheep against a cow and a horse, it is hard to see her winning.'

'This is my own sheep and I would like to thank my dad and my sister, Robert and Laura, for putting up with me and checking my sheep.'

Emma works on a farm elsewhere on the island. She

said: 'When I am not doing that [tending to sheep] at work, I am doing it in my own in my spare time.'

It is not just about the animals though. The show also features a very impressive produce tent, the contents of which are auctioned off at the end of the day.

Show secretary Jo Weston said: 'It was a brilliant show. The weather was lovely – that makes a big difference as people stay and enjoy themselves. All the stall holders seemed to do well. Lots of food stalls sold out. I was very pleased as this is my last one and you always want your last one to be a success.'

Jo thanked the show's sponsors, AGL Architect, Gleaner, Anna Bhan and CalMac.

She added: 'Thanks to all the committee members who work so hard to set the show up and help. Thank you to Colum Scott who is standing down as president.'

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# for this year's show



Hundreds of people crowded round the ring to watch the dog show. 15\_t32\_SalenShow14



Tobermory High School Pipe Band played on the day.

15\_t32\_SalenShow06



Lily Reade from Tobermory and Flossy won best ridden horse at the Salen Show. 15\_t32\_SalenShow10

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## Eye to eye with John Wallace Myopia and teenagers

The teens are an amazing time of life both for children and for parents. I have watched my young son grow physically from 'four foot nothing' when he started high school, going through the non-communicative 'grunt' period to now being articulate and well over six feet tall as he finishes school. In the process he has developed into a very thoughtful and sometimes thought-provoking young man, who is well able converse with both his peers and much older adults.

Despite a very rapid growth spurt in the last year, David's eyesight has not changed. He has been lucky. Rapid growth as a teenager is almost always reflected in teenagers becoming myopic (short sighted). Combined with studying for exams and the constant use of



smartphones and computers it is, frankly, a miracle they are not all myopic. One of my professional passions is myopia control. As parents we cannot prevent our children becoming myopic. But, we can do lots to minimise the risk. Likewise as an optometrist I cannot stop myopia developing but I can dramatically limit the rate of increase in myopia.

As parents we should be encouraging our children

and teenagers to spent time outdoors, preferably involved in sport. We should also be trying to limit their use of smartphones and computers. That may well be asking the impossible but we can only try. As an optometrist specialising in myopia control I have a wide variety of tools at my disposal, including glasses, exercises and a variety of specially designed contact lenses. The secret of successful myopia control is early intervention. Even teenagers who are significantly myopic can benefit but any myopia already developed cannot be reversed.

All teenagers should have annual eye examinations. They are funded by NHS Scotland, and will highlight any developing myopia or reading problems.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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OT

## Appin Show set for weekend

Feathers are being preened, sheep and cattle are getting show ready and bees are buzzing for Appin this Saturday.

Organisers are keeping fingers crossed for dry weather as they get the field ready for the village's 62nd agricultural show, starting at 10am.

Argyll horsebox bar will be back this year, face-painting, balloon modelling and a glitter bar are among other attractions, as well as the livestock and produce competitions and hill race.

Lochaber Beekeepers Association will be there and new to the show this year is a honey class. Also new to the 2019 handicrafts section is Teddies for Tragedies – entries, intended to bring comfort and hope to children around the world, will be donated at the end.

## Kilmore 100

The Kilmore 100 monthly draw took place recently.

The July winner was C Groat and the August winner was L Clunie.

Congratulations to both.

# Best of Luing's garden produce goes on show

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Flowers, herbs, cakes, preserves and even vegetable monsters packed Cullipool's Village Hall for Luing Horticultural Show at the weekend.

Saturday's show attracted a good turnout of islanders and visitors bidding at the produce auction at the end of the afternoon raising cash for Cancer Research UK and the Luing Shopper Club Bus that runs people weekly to the local store and the ferry.

Organisers are still totting up the takings from the day but are hoping the final count will run into hundreds of pounds.

John Blackwell, who declared the show open and organises the island's



annual sponsored walks for Cancer Research UK, thanked everyone for their support and announced since fundraising for the cancer charity began in 2003, Luing's efforts have raised £51,000 to date.

He also praised organisers for making sure the show continued and added: 'Luing

Horticultural Show is one of the longest running events and should not be allowed to fall in to decline again.'

Display tables were packed with exhibits, and with cups galore to be won a thrilled Gemma Wells took home 12 first prizes and six second prizes for her flowers and vegetables – includ-



Far left, Gemma Wells with her tiny turnip and big broadbean, won an armful of trophies for her exhibits 16\_T33\_luing02\_Gemma; and left, cakes were making mouths water at Luing Horticultural Show at the weekend.

16\_T33\_luingshow10-cakes

ing an inch-high turnip. Denise Wrigley's delicious Victoria Sponge was a winner with the judges and mini-baker Zoe Moir, nine, got a first for her chocolate bites.

Lois Llewellyn, nine, from Scammondale, whose granny Fiona Rogers is one of the show organisers, got a prize for her floral headdress – even pet dog Gertie had flowers in her hair.

Gordon Robbie was in charge of the gavel at the auction which stripped the tables bare, with Jacqueline McDonald having to go home to get her trike to carry home her bountiful haul of flowers and tasty goodies.

A box of mixed home-grown vegetables and salad went under the hammer for £40, with the final bid coming from John Marinko for Edna Whyte.

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Top, John Blackwell with a line-up of winners from Luing Horticultural Show 16\_T33\_luingshow04-winners; Jacqueline McDonald needed her trusty trike to take home all her successful bids from the auction. 16\_T33\_luingshow5-Jacqueline

Right: 16\_T33\_luingshow07-vegbox; 16\_T33\_luingshow09-preserves; 16\_T33\_luingshow08-flowers



Clockwise from above centre, Zoe Moir won first prize for her no-bake chocolate bites 16\_T33\_luingshow06-ZoeMoir; auctioneer Gordon Robbie with John Marinko 16\_T33\_luingshow03\_auction; Denise Wrigley got top prize for her Victoria Sponge 16\_T33\_luingshow07-DeniseWrigley; and Ann MacQueen and Zoe Fleming with their jam and jelly. 16\_T33\_luingshow11-preservewinners

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



As happens on occasion, I awoke this morning with no clue what to write about for this week's article!

Tuesday is deadline day at The Oban Times and the gentle wrath of the editor can be warmed if submission is not received in the OT headquarters at Lochavullin Industrial Estate by 9am.

However, sipping an espresso while looking west as the morning mist cleared over the Kilsyth Hills followed by a 7am tune on the bagpipes and a cold shower have woken the mind up and a subject has been arrived upon. The Great Highland Bagpipe!

I have not played the pipes regularly for about 10 years and not at all in the last two.

Since about 2009 they have only made it out the box for the sombre occasions of piping at two funerals, with their only other airings were, when no other pipers were available, the marching of the backpacker tour groups down George Street like the children of Hamelin to the Ceilidh House on a Thursday night.

When I played this morning, every day of every year

of not practising was felt.

Bagpipes are like no other instrument I have knowledge of. They are like a wild unruly animal that needs constant attention if they are to behave in a reasonable manner. If they are neglected for any period of time, it is a battle to bring them back to a playable state.

Further to the various issues of the pipes themselves when they have not been played regularly, are the problems of the player's ability to meet the physical demands of the instrument when out of practise.

As Norman MacLean once said: 'Playing the pipes is like going 10 rounds with Mike Tyson.'

The physical strain on the lungs, stomach muscles, the lips, the left arm and the fingers is considerable.

The bagpipe is very much in contrast to the accordion in the attention it requires. An accordion can be left for 20 years without being touched and works instantly as well as it had the last time it was picked up. Similarly, the player will have nothing more to worry about than being a bit out of practise.

Last week when I took the pipes out of the box for the first time, they were in a sorry state. The bag was leaking, the reeds had clogged up with old seasoning, the hemp on the chanter and drone stalks had rotted and barely a sound could be had from them. After some hours of work on the reeds and hemp, a different chanter installed and a new bag tied in at short notice by Keith Bowes, the pipes are now in working order, but as my early morning tune today showed, I am not.

The dedication it takes to play the pipes to a high level is greater than what is required for any other instrument I know of and my experience of the last few days battling with the pipes has reminded me of that.

When I next see a pipe band, solo player or even a Skipinnish piper play, I will view them with renewed admiration and respect for all they have to endure to perform their art.

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# Milestone Killin Highland Games is a crowd pleaser

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Killin's 25th Highland Games will go down in history as one of its best despite a wet weather forecast and a crash blocking the main Loch Tay route to get there.

Heavy showers held off until 4pm and most of the games were over except for the caber tossing and weight over the bar. Crowds dashed for cover as skies darkened but soon came back when the clouds cleared, said games chairman Charlie Grant.

More than 70 hardy souls took on the challenge of the hill race and there was a good turnout of athletes for the heavies section on August 8, including the Perthshire League and its juniors.

Wet grass underfoot meant

the wee games for the mini-heavies, aged five to 12, had to be cancelled due to slip risks, but it means young competitors have the whole

year ahead to get ready for the next games, said Mr Grant.

He added: 'First and foremost I'd like to thank the committee behind me who



Douglas Petrie, above and right, has his long locks chopped off by hairdresser Lorraine. Douglas is donating his hair to the Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children going through cancer treatment, and all cash raised is being donated to the TCT.



organised it and on the day, as well as the volunteers who helped set up and clean up afterwards. The Dowling family, who help with trans-

porting all the equipment to the show field, are a great asset to the games. I'd also like to thank all the competitors and visitors who came. I hope they enjoyed the day – I'm sure they did – including Doune Pipe Band which led the parade and our chieftain Dr Colin MacKenzie.'



Killin teenager Sam Rosendale, 14, has been undergoing cancer treatment for the last three months, supported by the Teenage Cancer Trust (TCT). All photographs: Ron Allner

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Doune Pipe Band led the parade to Killin Highland Games field.



The heavens opened just in time for the caber tossing competition.



Left and above, there was plenty to keep everyone entertained, from young games enthusiasts to the older visitors.

**MOREPHOTOS**  
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Right, Chieftain Dr Colin MacKenzie was in fighting spirits on the day...



More than 70 athletes took on the challenge of the hill race, above; and right, a young piper tunes up for the games.



The traditional competitions like Highland dancing saw a good turnout.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE? Chicken, ham and vegetable pasta

Serves 4

Syns per serving: FREE

Ingredients

- 350g dried strozzapreti or other pasta shapes
- 1 small leek, chopped
- 150g frozen peas
- 150g baby leaf spinach
- 200g pulled ham (5% fat or less) or lean ham, visible fat removed, chopped into small chunks
- 2 cooked skinless and boneless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips

For the sauce:

- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained
- 100g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1 medium potato, peeled and roughly chopped
- ½ tbsp Marmite
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 4 large garlic cloves, peeled
- ½ tbsp chopped fresh rosemary (or ½ tsp dried rosemary)
- 120g plain quark



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Line two baking trays with baking paper. Whizz the bread in a food processor until crumbed, then transfer to a plate.
2. Boil the chips in lightly salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, then drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up the chips' edges, then arrange on one of the baking trays in a single layer. Spray with low calorie cooking spray, season and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden.
3. Meanwhile, season the cod. In a shallow bowl, beat together the eggs and beer. Dip the fish in the egg mixture, then coat with the breadcrumbs. Transfer to the second baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fillets and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cooked through and lightly browned.
4. Sprinkle the parsley over the fish and serve with the chips, plenty of mushy peas, plus lemon wedges for squeezing over.

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# Pupils enjoy 'best two days of summer'

by David McPhee  
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



Soon-to-be Oban High School pupils were treated to the 'best two days of summer' last week.

More than 150 youngsters attended Summer Sensations, which is two days of activities at Atlantis Leisure and Oban High School.

The entertainment involved football, shinty, rounders, rock climbing, baking, guitar, art, and tennis, to name a few activities.

The aim of the summer camp is to allow pupils going into P7 and S1 to have fun and make friends before going to high school.

It is run with the help of a number of organisations: Active Schools, Atlantis Leisure, youth services, Oban Youth Cafe, sports development officers, Oban High School, and volunteer coaches/deliverers.

A spokesperson said:



'Summer Sensations has been amazing.'

'The partners have worked really hard together to make it 'the best two days of the summer'. It brings all pupils from the islands to outlying schools together to have fun and to form friendships before starting S1.'

**The summer camp was again a huge success with youngsters heading up to Oban High School.**



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If you are the victim of a crime, there are people to help.

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## Sensitive Issues

Sometimes we have problems that aren't easy to talk about with friends or family. There are a number of places you can go to for help or advice in confidence

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[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234**

[www.sdah.info](http://www.sdah.info)

**Childline 0800 1111**

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[www.breathingspace.scot](http://www.breathingspace.scot)

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**Bullying UK 0808 800 2222**  
[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

**Scottish Network for Families Affected by Drugs (SNFAD)**  
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## Some other useful resources

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For others, practical help is the priority. If you've not yet done so and feel it is the right course of action for you, we can help you to report the crime. We can contact people on your behalf such as your doctor, housing association and social services and help you access other sources of support. We can help you to understand how the criminal justice system works and what this might mean for you.



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Tarbert seafood company nets gains from China

Loch Fyne Langoustines have only just begun exporting west coast shellfish directly to China but can scarcely keep up with demand from their new customers.

The prospects for managing director Jamie McMillan and operational manager Jonathan Scott's forward-thinking look set to be a massive boost to both the business and to the growing world-wide reputation of Argyll and Bute seafood.

In November 2017, Jamie went to Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara's Chinese business summit, combining the efforts of the China British Business Council, Scottish Development International and Highland and Islands Enterprise to bring the Chinese market opportunities to Argyll and Bute companies.

Jamie said: 'This was not an easy undertaking.'

'It has taken months of dedication to get to our first export.'

'We recognised quickly in 2016 that our business might not survive the uncertainty of leaving the EU.'

'We needed to look at our options quickly. The summit came at the right time for us and we seized that opportunity.'

Over the course of two days in November 2017, the MP took the presentation to Oban, Inveraray and Campbeltown, where businesses were introduced to the possibilities of expanding into the Far East.

Jamie added: 'There was a huge demand for Scottish shellfish in China and at the rate we're going, our turnover could nearly double with more demand for staff on the horizon.'

Mr O'Hara added: 'Loch Fyne Langoustines are proof that hard work pays off but, equally, the west coast of Scotland, and particularly Argyll and Bute, has a high quality of produce that will sell the world over.'

# Communities celebrate taking ownership of land

All this week, the length and breadth of Scotland, community groups will be celebrating the steps they took to take ownership of land and assets in their areas.

Community Land Week will also commend the benefits which have been derived by people in their communities as a result.

Some 45 projects will be taking part this year, more than three times as many as in 2018. Community Land Week is organised by Community Land Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government.

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh is holding a showcase event with demonstrations, talks, stands and a chance for the community to come together and share food made from local produce. The event will be in Breasclete Community Centre on Friday August 16 from 5pm to 8pm.

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) is a community land owner on the Isle of Lewis.

Carloway Estate covers 11,500 acres on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with more than 200 crofts spread across the townships of

Callanish, Breasclete, Tolsta Chaolais, Doune Carloway, Kirivick, Knock Carloway and a number of outlying islands.

The trust is busy with two members of staff working on its home energy project Community LED by Energy Champions, a new local development officer working with the community to develop a new community plan and its Peatland ACTION officer just announcing funding for the first Peatland ACTION restoration project in the Outer Hebrides.

Lindsay Chalmers, development manager for Community Land Scotland, said: 'When communities purchase the land on which their people live and work, they have the tools to reinvigorate their areas and improve the prospects of future generations.'

This week of celebration is justly deserved. A huge number of people across diverse areas of Scotland have put in enormous effort to get to this point. Community land acquisition is the start of a long journey, often to reverse many years of decline.

The acquisition quickly stimulates confidence which empowers communities to

develop economic and social opportunities, such as creating jobs and affordable housing or protecting vital community assets.'

Sally Reynolds, development officer at Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh, added: 'We are really excited about our Our Land and Sea event. We have had great responses from businesses and look forward to a wide selection of talks and stands including Islewear Jewellery, Mairi M Martin, Gallery 5, Stornoway Smokehouse, Hebridean Seaweed and a display of croft produce.'

'We will have demonstrations from Gregor Macleod and Sandy Granville (Hebridean Mutton). It is a free, family event and we encourage everyone to pop along and find out more about what Our Land and Sea can offer.'

Community Land Scotland is the membership network for community landowners.

The current membership owns and manages around 560,000 acres between them.

Community Land Scotland represents these existing and aspiring community landowners to reflect their views in promoting changes to legislation to empower communities.

## North Connel apprentice shortlisted for industry award

The UK's most promising apprentices and trainees in the construction plant sector have been recognised at the Construction Plant-hire Association's (CPA) Stars of the Future Awards 2019.

Apprentice Lorne Sinclair, 19, who works with PMG Truck and Plant Engineering Services in North Connel, went all the way through to the finals in the national award's Level 3 Plant Mechanic College Award Winners – Employer and College category.

The youngster's hard work and talent was recognised by the National Construction College Scotland, which put him forward for the award and, by making it on to the final shortlist, the teenager also put PMG on the map, with him running against some of the biggest plant companies in Britain.



Left to right are Lorne Sinclair, Peter MacGregor and manager Connor Kerr.

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## Tattoo now has its own Harris Tweed design

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo now has its own unique design of Harris Tweed – with the inspiration coming from the event's producer and chief executive Brigadier David Allfrey.

As a new Tattoo tweed – named Midnight Blue – was launched, Brigadier Allfrey recalled that when he took up the post, he anticipated the need for 'a proper producer's coat' to protect him from the August chill and 'be smart enough to wear in the Royal Gallery'.

He commissioned the Edinburgh tailoring firm, Walker Slater, to design and produce the coat which was so much admired that the idea of the Tattoo having its own bespoke Harris Tweed took hold.

Brigadier Allfrey said: 'I was entranced by the colours.'

'The tweed seemed to embody the landscape, always in sight of the sea, the weather, the traditions and the dignity of Hebridean communities with



their music and their craft. After much careful work with Harris Tweed Hebrides in Shawbost and Walker Slater, we have come up with a special blend called Midnight Blue which contains flecks of gold, blue and red.

'These are the fine colours found in an island's sunset and also the crests of our armed forces and of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It is a beautiful tweed, backed up with a great story and perfect practicality.'

Former UK Trade Minister Brian Wilson, who chairs Harris Tweed Hebrides, said: 'This is an inspired collaboration between iconic Scottish brands. David Allfrey's respect for the process

and traditions behind Harris Tweed have made it a particular pleasure to work with him and his team.'

'The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo continues to grow as a vast international event and this partnership can only benefit the profile of Harris Tweed, the weavers, mill-workers and communities which depend upon it.'

Paul Walker, managing director of Walker Slater, added: 'With our flagship store on Victoria Street in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle – the great stage of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – this was a natural partnership for us.'

'We have truly enjoyed every minute of this project – from meeting David and designing his bespoke coat to working with Harris Tweed Hebrides on developing the design of the fabric.'

'We hope our customers enjoy the collection and its subtle beauty.'

## Loganair bids Tiree bon appetit for pop-up food event

Loganair is to support the Croft and City Tiree Food Pop-Up event for the second year running.

Loganair will transport three guest chefs and a photographer to the event, which takes place on September 20 and 21 on the Inner Hebrides' most westerly isle.

BBC Saturday Kitchen and Channel 4 Sunday Brunch regular Olia Hercules, Pakistani cuisine expert Sumayya Usmani and classically trained pastry chef Henrietta Inman will be flown to take part in the pop-up.

The weekend will include two supper clubs, with the guest chefs collaborating to create a menu designed to showcase Tiree's produce, and their own respective heritages along with a film screening of archive footage of women in agriculture in Scotland, in partnership with Screen Argyll's Sea Change event.

Loganair operates daily services from Tiree on its 16-seat Twin Otter aircraft. For more information on the event, visit [www.croftandcity.com](http://www.croftandcity.com).

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## Waverley appeal reaches milestone

Donations to save the Paddle Steamer Waverley have now exceed £500,000 following the iconic steamship's withdrawal from service earlier this summer.

The major appeal which was officially launched in June aims to raise the £2.3 million needed to reboiler the Waverley and return her to service in 2020.

Waverley general manager Paul Semple said: 'Thanks to the fantastic public response to our Save The Waverley Boiler Refit Appeal, we have reached a key milestone in our fundraising campaign.'

'More than 4,000 individuals have donated with some of our core supporters giving a once-in-a-lifetime donation, knowing we urgently need funds to secure Waverley's future. In addition, we have received offers of help from several organisations and companies, but we will need further help to get Waverley's paddles turning again.'

Mr Semple added: 'With the new boilers already on order we must increase our efforts to secure further funding to allow our plans to progress which will see Waverley undergo major surgery commencing in January.'

'I am exceptionally grateful to everyone who has come forward to help us save the Waverley and with continued support she will sail again. We simply can't allow her to remain static. She is the sole survivor and I know so many people are willing her to succeed.'

The Waverley is berthed in Glasgow where preparation works are ongoing.

Donations to the Boiler Refit Appeal can be made online at [waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://waverleyexcursions.co.uk) or by calling 0141 243 2224 or by texting STEAM £20 to 70085. All donations made to Waverley Excursions will be recorded on a donor wall aboard.



The PS Waverley.



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# For whom the bell

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

[iain.thornber@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.thornber@btinternet.com)

Scotland has not so many early bells still in their original place of use that the theft of one, dating back to distant antiquity, cannot fail to stir emotion and condemnation on a national scale.

St Finan's Isle, sepulchre of the dead for thousands of years, lies at the western end of Loch Shiel some 11 miles from Glenfinnan between the wild and remote districts of Sunart and Moidart. It is named after St Finan, an Irish leper from Leinster, who is said to have landed at Kilchoan in his coracle from Iona in the sixth century.

From Ardnamurchan, he travelled slowly northwards, carrying a small Celtic bronze hand-bell, introducing Christianity to the pagans of the area until he established a little island sanctuary and church on Loch Shiel. The bell was the last relic of the patron saint to be preserved on the site of his labours.

Little or nothing is known of his ministry, but St Finan left behind a gracious memorial, and his name is associated especially with the long romantic loch along part of which Prince Charles Edward Stuart travelled to raise his standard at Glenfinnan in 1745. St Finan's well is on the eastern side of Ben Resipole, the guardian mountain of St Finan's Isle and a flat rock with an indelible footprint on the summit of Beinn Bhreac, above Kentra, is known in Gaelic as 'Suidhe Fhianain' – St Finan's Seat.

Shortly after the death of St Finan at Kilmennan near Invergarry, his relic, held in deep veneration, was entrusted, not to the clergy who carried on his work, but to laymen living in Moidart. As these custodians succeeded each other over the generations they were given a free grant of land from the Crown and later the chiefs of Clanranald, in virtue of their office.

Custodians of such relics were called in Gaelic 'deoradh', a word whose original meaning was stranger, wanderer or exile – a term which came to be applied not only to the keeper but to the relic itself, as it was carried about the countryside for special purposes.

St Finan's bell was held to have healing powers; an oath sworn on it was specially binding. More curiously still, if property or cattle were stolen from the loch-side, the cus-



todians could be called on to recover it, using the bell to help his search. In this manner the bell came to serve important public functions long after it had ceased to be of ecclesiastical importance, or even to express any particular religious ideas.

For years it was always brought down from the ruined church to the boat-landing place to await the arrival of funeral parties, and carried 'deisal' [sunwise] round the island in front of the cortège before the burial.

When the hereditary line of its custodians failed, the bell stood unguarded on the large flat stone altar of the ruined church from which it was stolen in 1715 by a soldier in the Hanoverian army on his way from Castle Tioram to Fort William with several

colleagues who must have regarded it as a fine piece of loot. Fortunately, a Moidart man witnessed the theft and gave chase. He overtook the party and, getting hold of the culprit, took the bell from him and returned it to St Finan's Isle although during the struggle the tongue, or clapper, was lost and had to be replaced by an iron copy.

There are two types of Celtic bells: iron and bronze. The former is older, though both were in use at the same time. Of the bronze, there were four known to be in Scotland. They were quadrangular in shape and cast in one piece unlike some of their Irish contemporaries which were of sheet metal and riveted down one or both sides.

St Finan's measured about eight inches high

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# 1 tolls



The altar inside the ruined church on St Finan's Isle showing the bell and crucifix and, below, the later bell. Photograph: Iain Thornber

noticed that the bell inside the ruined church had disappeared.

At this point we have to ask how old was this bell? According to experts, it belongs to a much later period, which, if they are correct, means it could not possibly have been brought to the island by St Finan. That shift in time does not, and should not, alter the importance of this relic. What became of the original we will never know.

Until its sacrilegious theft, the bell we know was attached to the wall of the church by a chain and protected from the elements inside a little stone alcove with a weather-worn crucifix for company. It survived secured by the deep reverence which Roman Catholics and Protestants alike held for the place and, according to local tradition, by a maledictory prayer cursing the thief with misfortune and death which would be handed down through his or her descendants.

The only other occasion on which it is recorded that the later bell was taken from the island was in 1911 when it was lent by the Very Reverend Donald Mackintosh, priest in Moidart, for a Scottish Exhibition of Natural History, Art and Industry in Glasgow. There is actually another bell on St Finan's Isle. It appears on a late medieval grave slab to a female on the collar of a small dog standing on its hind legs in the act of licking her left hand.

When Bannockburn was won and Flodden lost, when the Spanish fleet was defeated and the Highland charge at Culloden ended in chaos, this bell was sounding its clear tones of old, half-remembered things across still Shiel waters. Until it comes home, not even the dead or the deer which swim across to the island to graze hear it now.

It would be good to believe that the thief's conscience will be struck and that it will be quietly returned so that we may hear its voice again, reminding us of our beliefs and our ancient heritage. Prayers for its recovery and for the perpetrator have been said in Inverness cathedral, in the Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness, and at the altar in St Margaret of Scotland Episcopal church in Aberdeen during the celebration of the Blessed Sacrament.



and six inches by five inches at the mouth. It was a rich pastel green in colour and thickly patinated. Although it did not appear to have had an inscription, a large capital letter had been etched on one side.

Several weeks ago two volunteers who, at their own expense, have spent the past five years systematically removing an impenetrable jungle of rampant azaleas, black-thorn, gorse and brambles that had overwhelmed most of the gravestones and damaged some,

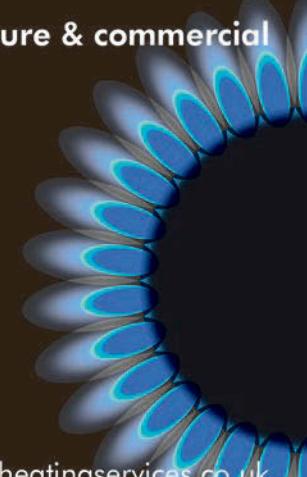
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## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Our archive this week produces a lovely summer's day photograph. The actual date is August 10, 1995, but there is no other information. If anyone knows who is in the photo, please email editor@obantimes.co.uk.



Fort William's Achintore Road Shelter. From the Roamer archive.

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# LETTERS

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

## Please support appeal to restore iconic window

It is perhaps something of an overused phrase to describe any building as a gem in an architectural crown but it certainly applies to St Conan's Kirk in the village of Lochawe.

The church is regularly listed as one of the country's most treasured structures and it draws countless people to Argyll to visit it.

Now, as we report this week, a new appeal has been started to help with the restoration of the iconic Rose Window, for which some £10,000 is required.

The Friends of St Conan's Kirk work constantly to maintain the building, raising many thousands of pounds each year to do so.

Argyll people have been exceedingly generous to date – and we applaud them – but we would ask anyone in a position to do so to dig deep once more to help preserve this iconic kirk.

## Charity initiative will help many children

The growth and now reach of Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals has become quite staggering.

From its humble beginnings in a shed in the village, the charity now feeds more than 1.5 million children in schools in developing nations, helping them to be educated as well as fed.

Now Mary's Meals has asked Argyll and Bute children to support The Backpack Project by filling their old school bags with notepads, pencils and clothes. The charity then sends them to school children in Malawi – with more than 40,000 bags being donated every year.

This is such a worthwhile cause that we would encourage anyone with spare school bags to support the appeal.

## Devil is in the detail over island flights

While your news story on page 13 of The Oban Times, (August 1), entitled 'Contract awarded for Oban flights to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree', is factually correct, the devil really is in the detail.

Scheduled flights to the islands may have been secured for another four years, but it fails to mention that they have been HALVED: the service is now only running on just one day a week, with scholar flights continuing to run at the weekend.

Although it states council officers have 'worked hard behind the scenes' to secure the contract, it fails to state that this was at a greatly-reduced price tag, understood to be in the region of 25 per cent less. With that cut, the service would always be reduced, as no commercial company could feasibly supply the same at the knocked-down rate.

We are small islands with fragile economies and these lifeline flights play an important part in our survival: the service gives us an opportunity to get away and back in one day for medical treatment (including chemotherapy and emergency dental care) and allows a host of professionals to visit. With winter fast approaching, the plane can provide a viable alternative within the recent unreliability of our ferry service.

Yes, we may be grateful that the service will still be running, but please be honest, it's been slashed to save money. There has been lots of noise about the Islands' Bill helping to protect our communities, but patently in this case it has not.

A concerned islander,  
Name and address supplied.

## Argyll is bucking the trend over rising drugs deaths

I recently had an email exchange with the National Records Scotland on the matter of drug-related deaths in Argyll and Bute. I have no pleasure in writing about the subject but felt I had to write about this as I did last year.

As seen on social media pages recently, the same out-of-touch 'drug politicians' were trying to conflate national drug death figures as local drug death figures and propagating unjustified blame and criticism on our local services.

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week.

If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William.

This week's photograph was sent in by Candida Stewart Sandeman, who said: 'Having seen in last week's OT the stunning photo "the Blue Ridge

Once again Argyll is bucking the high numbers of death increases seen elsewhere in Scotland. From last year 2017-2018 we sadly saw a rise of one death. There had been a drop by two deaths in 2016-2017 from 10 to eight deaths.

We are still below the level of 2016 by one. One death is one too many. It shows again that local awareness is the key.

Through due diligence from the likes of Argyll Community Housing Association, which shows no tolerance to drug dealers, and the support from Oban Addiction

Support Services (OASIS), working together we can keep the deaths down in Argyll.

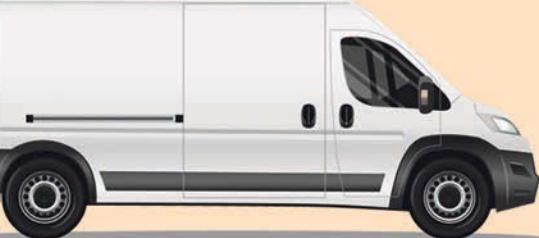
It is a war on drugs that is killing thousands each year and Argyll is holding its own.

Angus Files, Kilmelford.

## Online is not the best way to learn to speak Gaelic

I am very annoyed and alarmed at the proposal to use Duolingo online to learn Gaelic. This is a joke as it's only going to teach words

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## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Mountains of Argyll", I thought you might like this one. I took it from the shore of North Shian, looking towards the Isle of Eriska, with Lismore on the right and Lady Margaret's Point visible on the left. It was taken at the top of a huge spring tide, after torrential rain on Sunday.'

parrot fashion and will have absolutely no living culture behind it.

Gaelic has always been spoken built into a culture of daily activities, that part is the actual heart of the spoken word.

I personally do not want to see my dear language used as a play thing or abused in such ways. It looks very much that this trick is the same idea as football matches on TV broadcast to non speakers in central Scotland.

Stay well away please from this mockery.

Aonghas Eioghainn Mhoir,  
Uibhist a Deas.

### The time has arrived to restrict size of families

I think your correspondent Andrew Green (The Oban Times, August 8) is to be congratulated on his comments on child benefit.

We hear a great deal these days about climate change and the effects of carbon dioxide, but few are prepared to address the fact that these problems are directly related to world population.

The larger the world population, the more fuel we will use and the more carbon dioxide will be produced.

Furthermore, the more problems will arise over food production and water shortage.

It is time for those of us alive today to realise that there is a serious need to control population growth by restricting the size of families. Those who fail to do so should ask themselves what sort of world their children and grandchildren are likely to grow up in if this problem is not tackled.

Professor Colin Davidson,  
Tigh nan Eilean, Ardfern.

### Can readers help in search for Oban footballer?

My friend Ron Parrott is writing the complete history of Hereford United Football Club. He is trying to put together a brief 'pen-pic' of every player that has ever played for Hereford United/Hereford FC.

I am writing to see if your readers could help us trace a player who was born in Oban.

Mick Campbell, born Oban November 19 1966, he signed for United in the summer of 1988. Mick played on the right-wing and turned out in several pre-season friendlies but only made one first-team appearance, in the first game of the 1988/89 season at Scunthorpe.

All I know about Mick is that he was on a month's trial after his release from the army but I would dearly love to know what happened to him after he left Edgar Street. I know that he never played in the football league again but did he go non-league, did he go back to Scotland, or did he simply not play football again at any level?

Any help that can be offered would be greatly appreciated. If people would like to email me at the address below, or call 07581 321472.

Matt Healey,  
matthewhealey@hotmail.com

An robh an t-acras ort fhèin riagh? Seadh acras da-riribh far an saoil thu gun robh an dàrna caolan ag ithe an fhir eile!

Sin an seòrsa acrais a bha sinne a' fulang, agus air m' onair gum faiceadh tu an fheòil a' sileadh dhinn gach latha! Sin an dealbh a thug Murchadh MacCumhais (Murchadh a' Mhachaire) à Malacleit ann an Uibhist a Tuath dhomh mun turas aige fhèin agus na miltean eile a chaidh a ghlacadh aig St Valery anns a' Chèitean 1940, agus a chaidh an dròbhadh chun an ear nam priosanaich cogaidh anns a' Phòlainn.

Ann an 1985, còrr air dà fhichead bliadhna bho chaidh an saoradh, thill cuid de na seann ghaisgich sin air ais dhan dùthach san do chuir iad seachad suas ri còig bliadhna a' fulang brùidealachd agus tràillealachd. Mar a bha fior a thaobh a' mhòr-chuid den fheadhainn a' b' aithne dhomh riagh a bha ri uchdbualaich cogaidh cha robh cus aca deònach mòran a ràdh mun sgrios is an uamhas a chunnaiac iad, ach bha aithrisean gu leòr ann mu dhochann bho na geàird, crudal acais, fuachd, agus ciatalas. Bha beagan spòrs aca

cuideachd a' cuimhneachadh mu cho sgileil 's a bha iad air criomagan bìdh a shiopadh agus a roinn eatarra, agus bha na cothroman sin na bu bhitheanta dhan fheadhainn a bh' air an cur a dh'obair air tuathan den deach fir an àite a thogail gu ruige feachdan na Gearmailt.

Tha e furasta a thug sinn carson a bhiodh daoine a thug am beatha bho gach taobh de chogaidhean a' cur uimhir de luach air an t-sith agus air an t-saorsa is gach sochair a tha na cois, agus biadh gu leòr mar phàirt den sin.

Ach thèid ùine seachad agus siolaidh cuimhne an t-sluaigh agus tha sinn uile dualach fàs neo-ar-thaingeil air na bhuinnig iobairtean cogaidh dhuinn, agus saoiliadh mi gun canadh co-dhiù cuid de na seann laoich nach robh cus ciall neo tuigse aig an fheadhainn a bhiodh a' moladh cuid a sheòrsa bìdh a sheachnadh airson caochladh adhbharan eadar reamhrachd agus tinneas.

Saoilidh mi fhin gur math nach fhaca gaisgich St Valery suidheachadh sam bheilar a-nise a' moladh dhan t-sluaugh sgur a dh'ithe feòil, gu h-àraid mairtsheòil, oir ged is dòcha a thuigeadh iad an

argamaid cha bhiodh anns an fhiosrachadh ach dearbhadh tāmaileach eile air cho beag 's a chaidh ionnsachadh bhon iobairt a rinn uimhir.

Nach math gu sònraichte nach b' fheudar dha na ceatharnaich sin masladh bhancaichean-bìdh fhaincinn agus teaghlaichean le cosnайдhean an eisimeil carthannais airson an cuid theaghlaichean a bhiathadh, ann an tè de na dùthchannan as beartiche san t-saoghal!

There is something almost bizarre about scientific advice for mankind to eat less red meat to help save the planet when simultaneously millions are facing starvation, tons of food are wasted each day, and some working families in one of the wealthiest countries in the world require the support of charity food-banks to feed their families.

Ailean Caimbeul  
(Allan Campbell)  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, organisers of the Royal National Mòd, and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## APPIN

This Saturday, August 17, is the 62nd Appin Agricultural Show hill race starting at 1pm from the showfield at Tynribbie out to Bein Donn and back. Register on the day. Prizes to be won, sponsored by the Scottish Soap Company. The winner will receive The Rowan Cup, donated by Mr and Mrs C Rowan of Rowan Stoneworks.

## HELENSBURGH

Lomond School is celebrating another outstanding SQA performance with more than 90 per cent pass rate at National 5 and Higher, far exceeding the local and national average.

Two new records were set with a 96 per cent pass rate at National 5, and with almost 90 per cent of all National 5 passes at A or B grade. Half of all Advanced Highers were achieved at A grade, with three-quarters at A or B and 91



Johanna Urquhart.

per cent of S6 presented for three Advanced Highers passed them all.

Of those S5 pupils studying five Highers, a third achieved all of these at A grade, with half of the cohort achieving the much-coveted Gold Academic Colours.

Pupils from Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire, alongside boarders from both home and abroad, performed strongly at all levels, demonstrating again the powerful ethos of achievement and support at Lomond School identified by Education Scotland in their most recent inspection visit.



## Sun shines on Islay RNLI open day

Port Askaig's RNLI open day earlier this month was well supported by crowds and sunshine this year, raising funds for the service that keeps seafarers safe.

Almost three quarters of the departing sixth form gained Advanced Higher awards at grade A or B, and almost all are leaving to study at their destination of choice including former Dux of the school, Emma Dunn from Helensburgh, who secured her place at Glasgow University Medical School with three A grades at Advanced Higher.

Principal Johanna Urquhart said: 'I am, once again, thrilled with our results and this is a very special time for us as a school. We have an open presentation policy, and all at Lomond believe in offering

our young people every chance of success.'

## ISLAY

In Port Ellen, Mansfield Road and Lennox Street desperately need some extensive road works including some resurfacing, say residents.

Also, blocked drains on the A846 are continuing to cause flooding issues.

The new pavement work at the corner of Lennox Street is an improvement welcomed by the community but there are still problems with the

cratered concrete pavement sections on Frederick Crescent.

There are also problems with pavements in Bowmore. Island councillor Alastair Redman says he is pressing the council's roads department and Scottish Water to get issues resolved.

There will be a Big Bike Revival at Bruichladdich Distillery on August 17 in a bid to encourage more people to cycle to work.

In partnership with Cycling UK, the distillery is offering a free bike tune-up with Grahame Bauld, along

with basic tips to keep bikes in good condition. The event will run from 9am until 4pm at the courtyard of the distillery.

A puncture repair workshop with Graham Hayes; a led ride up to Port Mor with Brian Palm; a selection of e-bikes on loan from Home Energy Scotland to try on the day; and Ralph Jessop from Cycling UK will be there to answer any questions.

## MULL

If running with dogs races is anyone's thing then head to Glengorm Castle at Tobermory on October 5 and 6 with medals to be won. The event starts at 1pm on Saturday and 10am on the Sunday. Call 07779 041322 or enter online at entrycentral.com/CSS\_Mull\_19

The Coffee Pot at Salen is now signed up as a refill station for people to fill up their water bottles and help reduce the use of single use water bottles.

## TAYNUILT

Villagers are rallying support from the community to help keep Taynuilt tidy through the summer.

The sheer volume of fisher people and campers are causing piles of rubbish problems between the two piers and along the barrage when fishing permits are not needed.

Broken glass, empty cans, cigarette butts, used wipes and other discarded items are among waste regularly being found in the area.

Healthy wood is also being cut from trees to burn for fires, leaving marks on grass, says Taynuilt Community Council chairman David Sloss. It's the sheer volume of people using those areas that causes the problem. It's more fishermen than campers and the worst areas are between the two piers and along the barrage.

'It's admirable that people are picking up other people's rubbish but we'd ask those responsible for it to take care of it themselves. Take it home with you and behave responsibly.'



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## At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



### Better by degrees

A press release dropped in my inbox last week which made me smile, partly because it was utterly pointless.

It began: 'The UK's leading tutoring agency has revealed the top 10 strangest undergraduate university courses available to apply for this year, with Puppetry Design and Performance topping the list, followed by Dairy Herding and Surf Science and Technology.'

The email went on to try to claim relevance because it was timed to coincide with exam results arriving for our young people.

Clearly, the researchers have never looked at our own seat of learning, the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The UHI offers degrees that reflect the changing nature of today's society and which recognise the practical importance of key sectors, including tourism.

There are vocational courses such as the BA (Hons) degrees in Adventure. On the face of it, this doesn't appear to be academic but it is crucial for the Highlands and Islands tourism sector.

In fact, the UHI website explains: 'BA (Hons) Adventure Performance and Coaching brings a unique focus on sports science to the domain of adventure coaching. You will combine the skills and knowledge of the applied sports scientist with those of a modern adventure professional in ever-changing outdoor environments, preparing you to coach and guide the next generation of adventure athletes and participants.'

Indeed, as we report elsewhere this week, Argyll College UHI and SAMS UHI are both working closely with industry to develop new courses. Keeping them relevant will help to maintain economic prosperity we have enjoyed in recent times.

### Parking inequality

We report elsewhere this week on the number of parking tickets issued in Oban and on Mull in recent years, including this one.

While I don't object to paying to park in principle, there is a large degree of unfairness in the way Argyll and Bute Council applies this, with fairly hefty fees in some towns, while others are free.

Can anyone explain why?

### What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.



The BROAR brothers visited Oban Distillery last Tuesday evening, together with their father, Charles MacLean, right, and managing director of Feedback Madagascar, Jamie Spencer, second from left.

## Trio row into Oban to 'pillage' water of life

Three brothers swapped water for whisky on Tuesday when they rowed into Oban to collect bottles of the spirit in aid of charity.

As part of their training for the 2019 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, the 'world's toughest row', the BROAR team – Scottish brothers Ewan, Jamie and Lachlan MacLean – are rowing up the west coast, 'pillaging' whisky from many distilleries. They are raising money

for Feedback Madagascar, which helps to improve the lives of poorest communities in Madagascar.

The brothers visited Oban Distillery on Tuesday with their father, Charles MacLean, and managing director of Feedback Madagascar, Jamie Spencer.

This was part of a number of planned stops, including Lochranza on Arran to Talisker on Skye, Islay, Jura, Oban, Mull and Ardnamurchan.

The 300-mile route will help prepare the brothers for their 3,000-mile trans-Atlantic challenge at the end of the year, when they hope to become the first three brothers and youngest trio to row any ocean.

The donated whisky will be blended by a team of experts, led by their father, reknowned whisky writer and star of the film, The Angels' Share, Charles MacLean, to create the unique and limited edition 'BROAR

Blend' which will be sold to fund life-saving fresh water boreholes.

Jamie said: 'We all take clean water for granted, but only 14 per cent of the rural population of Madagascar has access to it.'

'We are delighted to have the boys on side for this lifesaving adventure and for just £10 – the price of a couple of drams – you can give the gift of clean water for a lifetime by texting W4WATER to 70191.'

We provide a full range of services dealing with charitable organisations, and are happy to provide advice and ongoing compliance work as appropriate

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# OUTDOORS

## New interpretation posts to quiz Reelig Glen's visitors

Forestry and Land Scotland has installed a set of new family-friendly interpretation posts in Reelig Glen which will quiz visitors on some of the tall trees, features and wildlife found in the popular woodland.

Ten posts have been installed on the Tall Trees Trail which takes visitors around the atmospheric woodland, full of different majestic trees, mosses, burns and bustling wildlife.

Each post identifies a feature along the trail and asks a quick 'true or false' question.

Sandra Reid of Forestry and Land Scotland said: 'Reelig Glen is a magical woodland which is very popular.

'It is famous for having some of the tallest trees in the UK, including the Dughall Mor and now taller Douglas fir which was previously measured at nearly 66.5 metres in height.

'We also have the tallest European larch along with a number of very impressive trees which are worth a visit to see. Our new interpretation helps visitors learn a bit more about the woodland and its history, whilst being fun for families.'

Reelig Glen is often known locally as 'the Fairy Glen' due to its secluded and atmospheric glades, high sides narrow gorges, running water and mosses. It's located around seven miles west from Inverness on the A862.



The new posts in Reelig Glen.

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# Secret lives of sharks near Coll and Tiree

An autonomous 'sharkcam' has been used in the UK for the first time to observe the behaviour of basking sharks in the Inner Hebrides.

The ground-breaking technology is set to reveal the secret lives of the world's second largest fish – a species that little is known about, despite being prevalent in the waters off the west coast of Scotland.

Scientists hope the stunning images captured by the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) will reinforce the case for creating the world's first protected area for basking sharks in this part of the sea.

The REMUS SharkCam technology is owned and operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).

The project is funded by WWF/Sky Ocean Rescue, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), WHOI and the University of Exeter.

The team used the AUV to follow basking sharks below the surface of the water and collect high-quality oceanographic data and wide-angle high-definition video of their behaviour from a distance.

Initial footage from the innovative REMUS-100 metre rated SharkCam Robot deployed off the coast of Coll and Tiree last month shows the sharks moving through the water column, potentially searching for food, feeding near the surface and swimming close to the seabed.

It is hoped that further analysis of the many hours of video footage from the AUV, as well as visuals from towed camera tags attached to the sharks and the deployment of advanced sonar imaging, will uncover more about the underwater behaviour, social interactions, group behaviour and courtship of the species.

Fieldwork for the project took place in July in the proposed Sea of the Hebrides Marine Protected Area (MPA) – one of four possible MPAs currently under consultation by the Scottish Government. MPAs are specially designated and managed to protect marine ecosystems, habitats and species, which can help restore the area for people and wildlife.



Basking sharks were filmed feeding in the Hebridean waters. Photograph Alex Mustard/2020VISION

The area is one of only a few worldwide where large numbers of basking sharks are found feeding in the surface waters each year.

It is suspected that basking sharks may even breed in Scottish waters – an event that has never before been captured on film.

Dr Jenny Oates, WWF SEAS programme manager, said: 'Our seas and coasts are home to some incredible wildlife. As our oceans come under increasing pressure, innovative technology like the REMUS SharkCam Robot can reveal our underwater world like never before and help to show why it must be protected. It is essential that we safeguard our seas, not just to enable magnificent species like basking sharks to thrive, but because all life on earth depends on our oceans.'

Dr Suzanne Henderson, marine policy and advice officer at SNH, who has worked on the basking shark tagging and research project run by SNH and the University of Exeter since

2012, said: 'These giant fish are spectacular and watching them feed gracefully at the sea surface is such a special and memorable experience.'

'This year's collaboration has allowed us to use a combination of camera technologies and given us a glimpse of basking sharks' underwater behaviour – a real first and very exciting. The footage has already made us reassess their behaviour, with the sharks appearing to spend much more time swimming just above the seabed than we previously thought.'

'It really brings home why it's so important that the species and its habitat are protected by designating the Sea of the Hebrides as a Marine Protected Area.'

Footage gathered by the REMUS SharkCam technology will help support and promote basking shark conservation work by demonstrating how important this area is for the life cycle of the species.

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Left to right are Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail members Beth Llewellyn, Duncan Ritchie, Grace Stewart-Skinner, Finlay Clarke performing at Trees for Life's Dundreggan estate. Photograph Alex Baxter - Trees for Life

## Family fun at wildlife-rich 'lost world'

Trees for Life hosted a family fun day last month at Dundreggan – the conservation charity's acclaimed rewilding estate in Glenmoriston.

The day was packed full of activities. Highlights included performances from the Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail, and by actors from Eden Court in Inverness. Children were able to discover all about Dundreggan's wonderful wildlife, and to get their hands dirty by making clay red squirrels.

Visitors were also able to view the ancient and globally-important Caledonian Forest through Trees for Life's new virtual reality film, which has been produced in collaboration with the Northern Film School.

Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive, said: 'Dundreggan is the perfect place to come and discover the Caledonian

Forest and all the stunning trees and wildlife that live there. We were delighted to be joined by Fèis Rois and Eden Court to provide a day full of fun activities and excellent performances for people living locally.'

Dundreggan is 10,000 acres of land being rewilded by Trees for Life. The charity protects fragments of the Caledonian Forest that have survived there after centuries of grazing, and is creating a new wild forest on land that has been without trees for centuries.

The estate is a biodiversity-rich 'lost world'. More than 4,000 plant and animal species are found there, with discoveries including unusual species such as the strawberry spider and a midge that doesn't bite. Several species had never been recorded in the UK before, or were feared extinct in Scotland.

People are encouraged to visit

and explore Dundreggan, which is located off the A887 Invermoriston to Skye road, seven miles from Invermoriston.

From the small car park, marked trails lead through a spectacular natural grove of juniper and into an attractive area of ancient semi-natural woodland – while for the more adventurous, an old pony track leads to wild open moorland.

Trees for Life is a conservation charity dedicated to rewilding the Scottish Highlands.

So far its volunteers have established nearly two million native trees, and the charity is also successfully reintroducing red squirrels to suitable woodlands across the Highlands.

People can support Trees for Life by becoming members, volunteering, and by funding their own dedicated trees and groves.

See [www.treesforlife.org.uk](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk).

## This week's walks

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaber-and-lorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaber-and-lorn-ramblers.org.uk)

#### Saturday August 17, Kinlochleven to Fort William, Kinlochleven.

A walk along the last section of the West Highland Way. The path skirts to the south and west of the western most Munros of the Mamores.

Start at the Grey Mare's Tail car park head west out of the village and join the sign posted route.

Walk up through woods then pass above the new hydro scheme. Follow the track passing ruins to pass Lochan Lunn da Bhra and through Blair a Chaorainn through the forestry passed Blarmacfoldach into Glen Nevis. Finish at the Woollen Mill.

Grade: M. Distance: 22km. Height to climb: 700m. Maps LR41 EX384/392. Start of walk: 0930. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831437454.

#### Thursday August 22: Beinn a Chorainn and Ben Teallach, Laggan.

The route up the first Munro includes a grade 1, two-star scramble. The second sneaks in as the lowest of all of them.

Start from the A86 just E of the bridge over the Allt na h-Uamha at NN400818, where parking is available. Follow the W bank of the river N up through the conifer plantation to its boundary fence.

Turn W for 200m to reach a track and follow it N to emerge on to the open hillside at NN398850. Turn W and head for the toe of the E Ridge at altitude 695m, on the N side of the Allt Ban where it issues from a rocky corrie.

Scramble up the ridge, which leads directly to the summit of Beinn a'Chorainn, 1,052m. Visit S top 1,049m. Then head north to the N Top, 1,043m, descend north down ridge to bealach at 614m.

Climb the north east ridge of Beinn Teallach to reach summit 915m.

Descend S and cross burn at edge of wood. Cross foot bridge and follow track through wood to reach road A86 at NN377 813.

Transport required, five minutes from start.

Grade: S. Distance: 17km. Height to climb: 1,300m. Map(s): LR41/42, EX400/401

Meet at: Fort William WM NN112742 at 0845. Start of walk at 0930. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club). Sunday August 18, Sgurr a' Mhaim, Glen Nevis.

An unconventional ascent of this prominent hill, which occupies a commanding position in Glen Nevis. \*Option to explore the seldom-visited Coire a' Mhail.

Start from the Upper Falls car park at the end of the public road in Glen Nevis at NN167691. Head E on the footpath through the Nevis Gorge and continue to the Wire Bridge. Cross the bridge and head WNW up through deciduous woodland to reach a spur above the tree line at NN174685.

Head SW up the spur, turning S up steeper and rockier ground to the summit of Creag nan Eun, 483m. Continue S up a steep rocky slope to the tip of a NE orientated spur at 740m alt, NN171677. Head SW along the spur, almost level at first, curving S and rising steeply on rocky ground between Coire Sgorachex to the W and Coire nan Cnamh to the E. The spur terminates on a ring contour, 960m alt, NN167670, overlooking the vast expanse of the magnificent Coire a' Mhail. The summit of Sgurr a' Mhaim lies 450m SW of here, a climb of 150m up a steep rocky ridge. Descend W at first, soon curving N around the rim of Coire Sgorach. A rough path may be found, which facilitates a sustained, steep descent NW to Achriabhach.

Transport required. Six mins from start.

\*To return via Coire a' Mhail: From the summit of Sgurr a' Mhaim, return NE down the ridge to a shallow col, alt 956m, just SW of the aforementioned ring contour. Locate the stalkers' path and follow it S, contouring along the headwall below the rim of the corrie. After about 700m, the gradient of the slope below the path eases, facilitating a descent E to the floor of the corrie. Follow the main burn N downstream until it enters a gorge at the foot of the spur of Cnoc Reamhar.

Climb E up the spur and head E up to reach the crest of the NW ridge of An Gearanach at a level spur below the crags, NN184677. Locate the stalkers' path and follow it down to Glen Nevis. Cross the foot of the Steall Falls, regain the outward route at the Wire Bridge and follow it back to the start. 8km, 1000m ascent. \*12km, 1160m ascent.

From an original suggestion by Gavin Theobald. Co-ordinated by Fiona Wild.

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Murderous true tales are riotous read

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Murder, riot and theft sets the scene for a Kilmore author's third book on true historical crime in Old Argyll.

Lindsay Campbell was at Oban Library signing copies of *Accused and Persewed* on Saturday.

The new book, only recommended as bedtime reading for the brave, follows her other previous tales of Ane Compact of Villany and Now Prisoner Within.

Only out on bookshelves for a month and Lindsay has already started work on her fourth dark offering, Blood and Battery – the title gives its gory content away.

It can take Lindsay up to two years to work on each book, spending long and gripping days at the National Archives in Edinburgh seeking out stories that would make the blood curdle.

'It's all scribbling, scribbling down notes. There's tons

and tons of material. I could research every day til the day I die and there'd still be lots more left,' said Lindsay, who promises yet more tragic stories and spine-chilling reads to come.

'Some stories just jump out at me as I start to uncover them and others grab me because there's a bit of mystery about them. It's the human nature, the behaviour of criminals that I find so fascinating,' she added.

It was 19 years ago when she first started work on Ane Compact of Villany and popularity of her books so far show the public hungers for more.

'With a title like Blood and Battery, there's no guessing what my next book is going to be about. Readers had better brace themselves,' said Lindsay.

But people will have to wait for that book. In the meantime the third in her series, *Accused and Persewed*, is on sale now for £9.99, published

by Matador. *Accused and Persewed* tells the stories of 12 historic crimes; stories from the second half of the 17th century and largely untold until now.

Spanning Dalavich to Appin and Kintyre, and, to give a taste of what to expect, there is the brutally murdered sea captain, the tragedy of a young girl's baby, the dempster (an officer whose duty it was to pronounce the doom of the court) hanged on his own gallows, an acquitted murderer exposed as guilty after 350 years, and revelations behind a gang of witch-fairies. Lock your doors before you start reading.

**Kilmore author of Accused and Persewed, Lindsay Campbell at Saturday's Oban Library book signing.**



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# Muckle Spree 'intimate' gig raises the roof at Resipole

On a recent Wednesday evening against the amazing backdrop of an enormous oil painting, Ollie Rigg and Michael Muir, collectively known as Muckle Spree, played an intimate gig at Resipole studios, between Strontian and Acharacle.

The studio is hosting exhibitions of art and sculpture through the summer and has events including book launches and music sessions too. Muckle Spree are on a summer tour taking in venues across the Highlands and islands bringing their music out on the road – and ferry.

Seeing two chairs and a couple of microphones set up suggested a fairly stripped back evening but it was far from it.

Michael plays guitar and fiddle, frequently at the same time operated by his feet thanks to masterful use of a loop pedal and tech-

nological wizardry. While Ollie moved seamlessly between an astonishing array of pipes and whistles, again using two or even three in the same set.

The result is a wall of rich, complex and beautiful music, often accompanied by their mellow vocals too.

As if that were not enough, Michael's wife Rachel jumped up at the front and treated everyone to step dancing for several of the more rousing numbers too.

During the interval Michael and Ollie told me about this tour which had included a trip to Rum earlier in the week and they were heading back to Muck the following day, saying: 'We are having the best time playing in all these different venues. We might need to think harder about the logistics of our tour dates next time though as the travel has not been

as well planned as it could have been.'

I suspect this might just give them more material for their next song-writing session though.

As a self-labelled progressive folk band, Muckle Spree are bringing traditional folk music and instruments into modern times.

Every song was introduced with the story of the instruments, the music or the inspiration behind the self-penned songs.

Weaved in to the evening were tales of musicians before who have influenced and inspired them, events and encounters that have provided a muse for each tune.

Finally having checked that 'no one is scared of the Highland pipes' Ollie ducked out and reappeared with a set, to raise the roof.

Nic Goddard



Michael and Ollie during their gig at Resipole studios, near Strontian.

## Unique show comes to Skye

Oceanalover is a troop of performance artists who are on a mission to bring the audience into the landscape.

The recent visit to Skye saw members perform Orographic, a piece written by the group's director, Alex Rigg, who describes it as 'an ongoing discussion about the emotional impact of the landscape on people and how it effects our lives'.

Much of the work created by this troop is based outside and encourages the audience to move in, with the actors often following them through the story.

In Portree, Rigg explained that using the beach at low tide created a natural amphitheatre which was ideal; in some areas the performance has moved further asking the audience to follow them through wooded areas and to different locations.

A truly unique experience is created, the costumes themselves are a work of art.

The performance of Orographic on Skye was watched by a good number of locals and tourists; some who watched from the beach, others from above.

Designed and created by Rigg, this performance includes work by artist Sarah Keast who has links with Room 13, teaching various printing workshops over recent years.

Keast has used sketches made by Rigg for this show and printed them on fabric which is then used to make the costumes.

There really is something to see and experience in every aspect of the performance. The troop will continue to take its shows to rural locations to share these stories and thoughts with remote areas.

## WHAT'S ON

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Toy Story 4   U	12:15
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	14:15
The Lion King   PG	14:45
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:15/20:15
The Current War   12A	17:30
Vita & Virginia   12A	20:00

**SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST**

Horrible Histories: The Movie - Rotten Romans   PG	11:30 ★
Toy Story 4   U	12:00/16:00
The Lion King   PG	13:30
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	14:30
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:30/20:30
The Current War   12A	18:15
Vita & Virginia   12A	20:45

**SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST**

Horrible Histories: The Movie - Rotten Romans   PG	12:00
Toy Story 4   U	12:15
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12, Yesterday   12A	14:15
The Lion King   PG	14:45
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:15/20:15
The Current War   12A	17:30
Vita & Virginia   12A	20:00

**MONDAY 19TH AUGUST**

Toy Story 4   U	12:00
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	13:00
The Lion King   PG	14:15
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	16:00
The Current War   12A	17:00
Vita & Virginia   12A	19:30

**TUESDAY 20TH AUGUST**

Horrible Histories: The Movie - Rotten Romans   PG	12:00
Toy Story 4   U	12:15
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	14:15 ★
The Lion King   PG	14:45
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:15/20:15
The Current War   12A	17:30
Vita & Virginia   12A	20:00

**WEDNESDAY 21ST AUGUST**

Horrible Histories: The Movie - Rotten Romans   PG	12:00 ★
Toy Story 4   U	12:15
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	14:15
The Lion King   PG	14:45
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:15/20:15
The Current War   12A	17:30
Vita & Virginia   12A	20:00

**THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST**

Toy Story 4   U	12:00
Horrible Histories: The Movie - Rotten Romans   PG	12:15
Robert The Bruce   15	14:30 ★
Spider-Man: Far From Home   12A	14:30
The Current War   12A	17:15
Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw   12A	17:30/20:30
Vita & Virginia   12A	19:45

### CINEMA NEWS



### OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA AGM 2019

MONDAY 19TH AUGUST 7PM

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## EVENTS AT OBAN PHOENIX



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## MONTHLY MUSICAL

Annie Get Your Gun  
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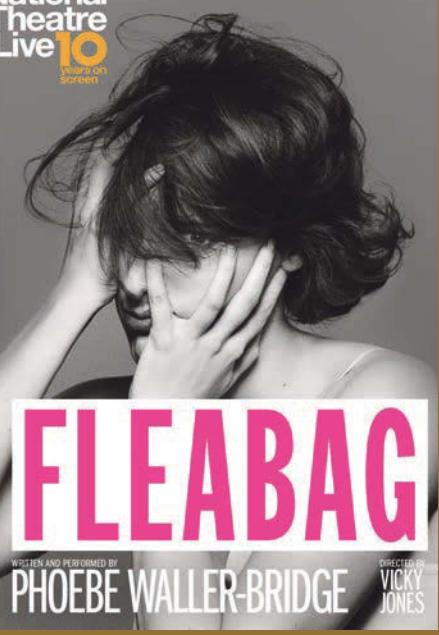
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# M' ALBA

## MY ALBA

**DIARDAOIN 15 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**THURSDAY 15th AUGUST**

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoch (rpt)
- 21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)
- 21.45 ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge
- 21.50 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 22.00 FUNC (rpt)
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghal (rpt)
- 23.20 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 16 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**FRIDAY 16th AUGUST**

- 17.00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 ALBA: 1971 (rpt)
- 20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)
- 20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.30 Dreach Ùr (rpt)
- 21.00 So Here I Am: 100 Years of Crofting (rpt)
- 21.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Adam Sutherland (rpt)
- 22.00 ÙR/NEW: Black Lake S2
- 22.45 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 23.00 Opry an Luir (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 17 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**SATURDAY 17th AUGUST**

- 16.00 BEÒ/LIVE: Camanachd Beò – Macaulay Cup Final
- 18.00 An Là – News
- 18.15 My Life as a Courgette (rpt)
- 19.20 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)
- 19.30 Machair (rpt)
- 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

**DILUAIN 19 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**MONDAY 19th AUGUST**

- 17.00 Pròograman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)
- 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Robyn Stapleton (rpt)

**DIARDAOIN 22 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**THURSDAY 22nd AUGUST**

- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Adam Sutherland (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Dreach Ùr (rpt)
- 21.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)
- 21.30 ÙR/NEW: Trusadh – Leabhrachean Gàidhlig
- 22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
- 23.00 FUNC (rpt)

**DIAMART 20 AN LÙNASTAL**  
**TUESDAY 20th AUGUST**

- 17.00 Pròograman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)
- 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Feeder (rpt)

**BBC ALBA**

[BBC.CO.UK/ALBA](http://BBC.CO.UK/ALBA) | [BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER](http://BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER)

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David Wilson of the Lime Tree Gallery discusses his painting of Loch Linne light with Nicola MacCallum, who has a dual exhibition Another Dimension at her gallery on Fort William Parade. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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# Another dimension to two Fort William art exhibitions

Two art galleries at either end of Fort William High Street have come together to curate a shared exhibition showcasing 20 artists who have a unique connection to the Scottish Highlands.

The McCallum Art House, which was opened last year by Jim and Nicola McCallum at Parade House, will be hosting one foot-square pieces from each artist, while The Lime Tree Gallery will be displaying their one metre-square counterparts.

The exhibition, titled Another Dimension, was launched on August 2 and will run until September 15.

Lochaber artist Ali Berardelli created a beautiful cyanotype with silver leaf detail, called Shearing the Water, which explores the Manx Shearwater's twists and turns in the Sound of Rum.

She said: 'Preparing artwork for the two exhibitions has encouraged me to think about working with scale and



the medium I chose to work in, cyanotype (sun-printing) lends itself to this.'

'The cyanotypes I created use sunlight to expose the positive image which was inspired by Shearwaters, the ground burrowing seabirds, a raft of which we sailed past recently in the Sound of Rum. Silver leaf was added to highlight the movement of the birds as they twist and turn,' shearing the water'.

The exhibition is open to all and entry is free.

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

### Glasgow set for Piping Live!

The road closure signs have been spotted on Gray Street, outside the Park Bar, which can only mean one thing... the road will soon be one big beer garden for the Sunday of the annual World Pipe Band Championships.

This weekend, the world's best pipers and drummers will descend on Glasgow Green as they do every year and wow the crowds with first class pipe band displays.

As usual, Piping Live! is hosting dozens of fringe events over the weekend – some of which are set to be spectacular.

If you are in the city centre on an afternoon, you surely won't miss the numerous pipe bands performing daily up and down Buchanan Street, with stops at the steps of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Fiveways at TGI Fridays, and St Enoch Square. Thursday's bands are Celtic Pipe Band, New Zealand, Belgian Blend Pipe Band, and Sri Damesh



The Brazen Heid in the Gorbals.

### Surprising reminder

On a Tide Lines trip to Switzerland last weekend, myself and a couple of the boys were sitting outside a café having our lunch and watching the world go by – relaxing before our gig later on that evening.

It was 31°C and we were sitting in a quiet street having just witnessed the bustling heart of the festival – seemingly the whole town was out in the sweltering heat, with the streets having been turned into stages, markets, and bars.

I commented that you would never see something quite like it in Glasgow. 'No,' answered one of the boys, 'but you would see that...', pointing to the building opposite us.

Above the door was written Brazen Heid. This surely means something different in Swiss; but to us it was the name of a well-known Gorbals drinking establishment which was recently voted Glasgow's hardest pub!

Pipe Band, Malaysia. I think this programme alone gives a real flavour of the international nature of the event.

The now much-anticipated, Pipe Idol solo competitions have been taking place each day in the Street Cafe at the National Piping Centre; with the Grand Final hosted on Thursday evening in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 5.15pm.

In the street café, there are a number of sessions taking place with various musicians throughout the weekend as well as, in the piping centre itself, some Come and Try

Gaelic events with librarian James Beaton, who will be talking specifically about how the language relates to piping.

The Piping Centre also plays host to come and try bagpipes events. On the last day of the festival, Sunday at 7.30pm, Dougie MacLean will make his first appearance at Piping Live! in an evening entitled The Gael – Dougie MacLean and Piping Friends.

For more details on the myriad of exciting events taking place as part of Piping Live!, and also for details of the championships themselves, visit pipinglive.co.uk.

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**MONDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2.

**TUESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon MacIntyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.

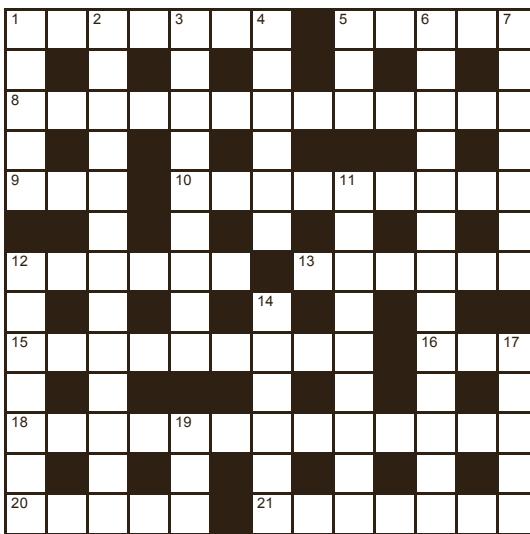
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.

**FRIDAY:** 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rannnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.

**SATURDAY:** 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee, 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view – Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.

**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKenzie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show – David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

**Crossword****Across**

- 1 Climbing plant (7)
- 5 Inmate who isn't ever getting out (5)
- 8 In a way that only affects the surface (13)
- 9 Bring an action against (3)

10 Sponge circle with jam (5,4)

12 A very desirable residence (3,3)

13 Oppressively hot and close (6)

15 Cold wintry shower (9)

16 Scandinavian rug (3)

18 Children's party game (9,4)

20 Scrumptious (5)

21 Intoxicant (7)

**Down**

1 Charges (5)

2 Type of painting (13)

3 Cartoon strip published by the Daily Mirror (9)

4 Dried grape (6)

5 Wreath (3)

6 To carry out fully (6-7)

7 Nobility (7)

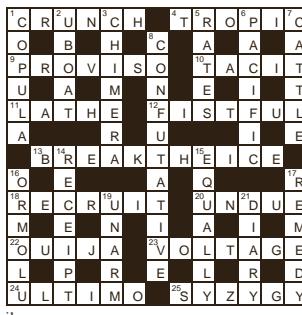
11 Sounds from 1950s (4,5)

12 Do not do as one's told (7)

14 Series of movements (6)

17 Terrible (5)

19 Time of light (3)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION****COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD****North Connel & District Horticultural Show 2019**

Victory Hall, Benderloch  
Saturday, 24 August

Please note

Show Opens 2.00pm

Admission - Adults £3,

Children £1

Prizes, Raffle, Sale of Produce from 3.15pm

**An Comunn Gàidhealach Meur Chruachain - (Cruehan Branch)****Taynuilt Summer Ceilidhs**

A family friendly evening of Music, Song and Dance

Taynuilt Village Hall

Thursdays 15th August, 7.30pm

Admission £4 Children £2

A warm welcome is extended to all

**Scottish Ensemble at Crear**

Kilberry, by Tarbert PA29 6YD

Thursday 29 August at 6:30pm

**Chamber Notes with Marianne Thorsen with guest director Marianne Thorsen (violin)**

Advance tickets include

refreshments £20

School children free places

**T 01880 369770**

**www.crear.co.uk**

**Offers & competitions**

The Oban Times & Lochaber Times  
Thursday 15 August 2019

**Want to know about astronaut? Head for**

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

Bookends organisers are over the moon with their line-up of authors this year, including the Inveraray man responsible for the Haynes Manual on Astronauts.

Ken MacTaggart, who is just old enough to remember watching the first moon landing 240,000 miles away from where he was watching TV 50 years ago, will be at the Benderloch book festival next month telling stories from the moon, including NASA's biggest embarrassment – this is your chance to find out all there is to know about being an astronaut and getting a glimpse of what the west Coast looks like from space.

Ken was hooked on science as a teenager and followed that interest through into his career as a journalist. He has also worked for NASA, editing transcripts from the Apollo 11 flight, launch to splashdown and co-authoring it as a journal.

So it was not surprising that when Haynes wanted to add to its space series of manuals they came knocking at his door.

Ken said: 'Haynes used to be about repairing cars, but cars are too complicated for people to fix themselves nowadays, so they branched out into other topics. They have a series on space and they asked me to write the astronaut one.'

It includes chapters on how to apply to be an astronaut,



Ken MacTaggart with the Haynes manual he wrote.

getting through the selection process, the training. Then there is a section on spacecraft, entering space and life in orbit, and, of course, the return to Earth. Illustrated, and with mainly colour photos, it ends with a useful

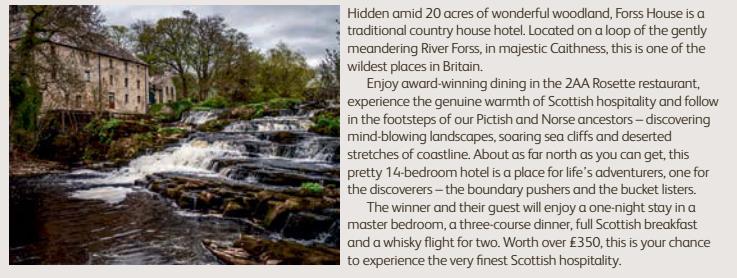
glossary and helpful index. It has sold several thousand copies since it was published in 2017 and has found itself on many an astronaut's bookshelf: 'Some have told me they've even learned something from it,' said Ken.

**WIN****A LUXURY COUNTRY HOUSE STAY IN THE HIDDEN HIGHLANDS**

Hidden amid 20 acres of wonderful woodland, Fors House is a traditional country house hotel. Located on a loop of the gently meandering River Fors, in majestic Caithness, this is one of the wildest places in Britain.

Enjoy award-winning dining in the 2AA Rosette restaurant, experience the genuine warmth of Scottish hospitality and follow in the footsteps of our Pictish and Norse ancestors – discovering mind-blowing landscapes, soaring sea cliffs and deserted stretches of coastline. About as far north as you can get, this pretty 14-bedroom hotel is a place for life's adventurers, one for the discoverers – the boundary pushers and the bucket listers.

The winner and their guest will enjoy a one-night stay in a master bedroom, a three-course dinner, full Scottish breakfast and a whisky flight for two. Worth over £350, this is your chance to experience the very finest Scottish hospitality.



If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**Which river runs alongside the hotel?**

Must be redeemed within six months of the draw date. Cannot be redeemed between or on 23rd December - 2 January.

Bank Holidays 14th - 16th February

**WIN****A STRANRAER OYSTER FESTIVAL BREAK AT NORTH WEST CASTLE**

Enjoy a fantastic foodie experience with a two night Stranraer Oyster Festival package at North West Castle Hotel. Stranraer Oyster Festival is packed with fun and flavour. Celebrating the wild, native oysters of Loch Ryan this food festival includes celebrity chef demonstrations, the Scottish Shucking Championships, foodie workshops, dining experiences, an artisan market, family friendly activities, street food, live music and more.

Your Stranraer Oyster Festival package, worth £30 must be taken on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September, includes dinner, bed and breakfast, plus room upgrade and wine. As well as weekend tickets to Stranraer Oyster Festival and to one celebrity chef demonstration, and two tickets to the Saturday evening Big Oyster Bash.



If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**What national chef competition takes place at Stranraer Oyster Festival?**

NB: The closing date for this competition is Friday 30th August

T&Cs – the prize is for the Stranraer Oyster Festival Package, plus upgrades, at the North West Castle Hotel, plus Stranraer Oyster Festival tickets. The prize must be taken on 13th and 14th September 2019. The prize is for 2 adults sharing a room. The winner will be sent a voucher for their prize. The room and Big Bash tickets have already been reserved and allocated. The North West Castle Hotel is a member of the Stranraer Development Trust, which organises Stranraer Oyster Festival. We will use any data received from this competition for the purposes of sending email marketing about Stranraer Oyster Festival, including details of programmes and ticket offers. It will not be sold or given to any third parties, and will not be used for any other purpose.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) 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 30 September 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

Entries must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition – your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be entered into each competition. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyevex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

# ut being an or Benderloch

'The bit I enjoyed writing for the manual most was what happened after space. For some astronauts, it proved a bit of a crisis. Some could not cope with the fame, they were never trained for that.'

'Others went into politics, others became artists. To you and me, the moon is a little sphere up in the sky but those who have been up there have looked down on earth as a little ball – they have seen the dark browns and reds of the desert and the brilliant blue of the ocean, and some of them wanted to come back and paint it.'

'It's been fascinating speaking with so many of them, hearing their stories about orbiting Earth, travelling to the moon and

to those who've walked on it. I don't think I would go into space myself, but it's been interesting to learn about it from other people's amazing experiences. These astronauts often turn out to be very ordinary, down-to-earth people who have done extraordinary things. No one has been back to the moon since the 1970s.'

Ken will be making his Bookends appearance at 2pm in the Victory Hall on Saturday September 28 telling anecdotes from space about what it is like to travel there and walk on the moon.

He will also be showing colourful NASA images from orbit, including the west coast and Benderloch.

The Friday before, he

hopes to take his stories, moon globe and toy spacecraft into Lochneil Primary School as part of the festival's outreach programme.

'Whatever your age, young and old, people are fascinated by space. I'll probably tell the curious story about why NASA never got a photo of the first man on the moon,' said Ken.

Ken still writes articles on space and, given most of the astronauts are now in their 80s and 90s, writes their obituaries for the Daily Telegraph.

Bookends Festival runs from September 1-28, with a preview night on Friday September 20.

Visit [bookends.scot](http://bookends.scot) or visit the festival's Facebook page.

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## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [BID4oban.co.uk](http://BID4oban.co.uk)



### THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST

#### Slimming World

Salvation Army Hall, Fort William  
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm  
& 7:00pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

#### Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church  
10:00am - 12:00pm

#### Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen. 12:30pm

#### Creative Writing Group

New Hope Kitchen

2:30pm - 4:00pm

#### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

### FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST

#### Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall

1:00pm - 4:00pm

#### Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

#### Twilight Walk

Victory Hall, Benderloch. 8:30pm

#### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

Calum MacPhail

Open till 2am

### SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST

#### Fire Station Open Day

Oban Community Fire Station, Oban  
12:00pm - 4:00pm

#### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

Tritones. Open till 2am

### SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST

#### Hill Walk

Glen Nevis, Fort William

Open till 2am

#### Live Music & Entertainment @

#### Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

### MONDAY 19TH AUGUST

#### Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

#### Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,

Lochgilphead

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

#### Drumming and Music Making

Taynuilt Sports Pavilion

6:30pm - 7:30pm

#### Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen

7:00pm - 9:00pm

### TUESDAY 20TH AUGUST

#### Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre, Oban

10:30am - 12:00pm

#### Hope Kitchen - Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

#### Martyn's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen

7:00pm - 9:00pm

### WEDNESDAY 21ST AUGUST

#### Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

#### Hope Kitchen Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street

10:30am - 12:00pm

#### Open Day

Greenshoots Garden

10:30am - 3:30pm

#### Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen

2:00pm

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk)

for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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And suddenly, all this taking care of the pennies means the pounds are taking care of themselves, the bills are falling, the family budget has a little more wiggle-room at the end of the month and you are no longer huddled together for warmth.

What's more you know that you are doing your bit to help reduce carbon emissions so everyone is a winner, including mother earth.

## So what are you waiting for?

The exciting news is that the Scottish Government is offering a free home energy audit through Changeworks, an environmental charity working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and Home Energy Scotland – you can read more about that in this feature.

ADVERTORIAL

## Radiant Heat .... better than a lot of hot air!

What does the heat from the sun, a woodburning stove, and an open fire all have in common? It's all radiant heat. Many traditional heaters rely on hot air as a means of heating, even the old-fashioned storage heater is mainly producing warm air out of a grill at the top. Most of the hot air from your fire goes straight up the chimney, so it is the radiant heat that gives you that nice cosy warmth.

Heaters that produce radiant heat need less energy to warm a room than those that work by heating air; also hot air rises to the ceiling where it is wasted, radiant heat, tending to heat objects, stays more where you need it.



A typical living room might need a 3.4 kilowatt storage heater to heat the room, German clay core heaters (mainly radiant), might need two kilowatts and the latest in heating technology, far infrared heaters (totally radiant), might need less than 1.5 kilowatts.

Far Infrared (FIR) heaters are very thin and are supplied as a panel for fixing to the ceiling or wall with options on looking like mirrors or pictures.

Heaters producing radiant heat can save on space, reduce those heating bills, and give a quality of heat not found with many older systems.

Oil and gas supplies are diminishing, while new methods of producing electricity such as wind and solar are becoming more common. Radiant heaters with low running costs and no maintenance due to lack of moving parts are the future of sustainable heating.

Finally, remember you buy heating once, you pay to run it forever, so it is important to get it right.

Elsco Heating supply German Clay core heaters and Far Infrared heaters across Scotland from Elgin and Glasgow. More info [www.elsco.co.uk](http://www.elsco.co.uk). Phone 01343 819676

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## Get up to £17,500 interest-free when you install home renewables with the Home Energy Scotland Loan.

### How can Home Energy Scotland help?

Home Energy Scotland will help you decide what's best for you

Their team of specialist advisors can visit your home to discuss your property and recommend the very best options for generating your own energy. They will create a written report just for you with all of the relevant information you need. Plus, the good news is, it's all completely free and impartial. Visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/home-energy-scotland/go-green-and-save](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/home-energy-scotland/go-green-and-save)

Home Energy Scotland will help you with the initial costs

Their dream is to make it easy and affordable to switch to renewable energy. They are committed to helping you access any and all of the financial support available, including interest-free loans of up to £17,500 to cover the cost of installation and setup.

Visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans/home-energy-scotland-loan](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans/home-energy-scotland-loan)



ADVERTORIAL

## It's time to move to renewables

By 2030, it's expected that 50 per cent of all Scotland's energy will come from renewable sources. Change is happening right across the country and you can be one of those leading the way. By exploring and installing home renewables, you can make sure that your house is the smartest in your area.

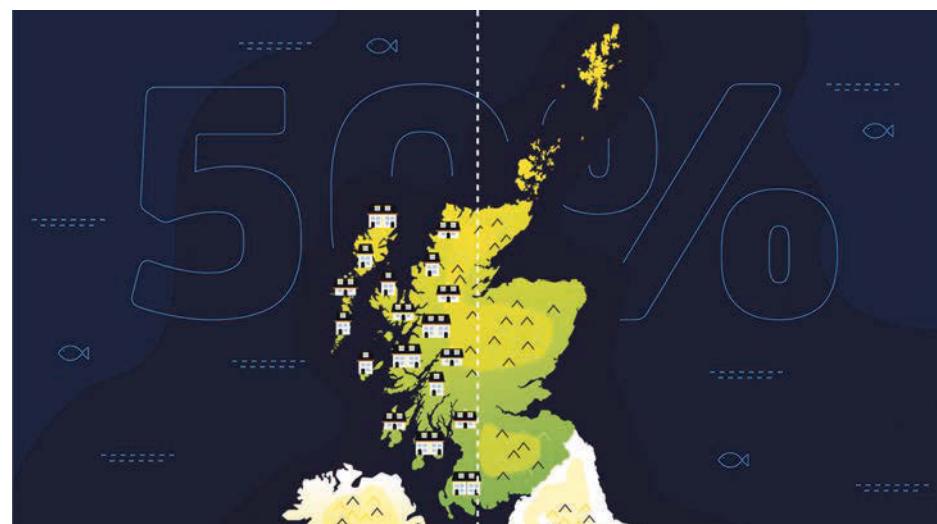
The best way to understand the benefits of home renewables is to go and see them for yourself. Home Energy Scotland's Green Homes Network is made up of people across Scotland who have already been through the process. Home Energy Scotland can arrange for you to visit a home in your area, where the owner can talk you through all the advantages, the actual costs and their own installation journey.

Following this, Home Energy Scotland's team of specialist advisors can visit your home to discuss your property and recommend the

very best options for generating your own energy. They will create a written report just for you with all the relevant information you need. It's completely free and impartial – and funded by the Scottish Government.

In most cases switching to a renewables system will save you money on your fuel bills; however, Home Energy Scotland also help to make sure you receive available incentive payments for the renewable energy your system produces. Visit [discoverrenewables.org.uk](http://discoverrenewables.org.uk) or call Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to an advisor.

Home Energy Scotland, from the Scottish Government, offers free clear and impartial advice on making homes easier to heat. Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by the Energy Saving Trust.



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## What are solar panels?

Solar panel electricity systems, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy using photovoltaic cells.

These cells don't need direct sunlight to work – they can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day. The cells convert the sunlight into electricity, which can be used to run household appliances and lighting.

## How do solar panels (PV) cells work?

PV cells are made from layers of semi-conducting material, usually silicon.

When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced.

Groups of cells are mounted together in panels or modules that can either be mounted on your roof or on the ground. The power of a PV cell is measured in kilowatts peak (kWp). That's the rate at which it generates energy at peak performance in full direct sunlight during the summer.

PV cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most PV systems are made up of panels that fit on top of an existing roof, but you can also fit solar tiles.

For more information visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or contact your local installer.

### Cut your carbon footprint

Solar electricity is green renewable energy and doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants. A typical home solar PV system could save around 1.3 to 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year (depending where you are within the UK).



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## FACT:

Did you know that the Scottish Government defines fuel poverty as a household having to spend more than 10 per cent of its income on all household fuel use – there are more than 600,000 households in Scotland in this situation.



Alienergy, Argyll Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency, has become a well-known face across the area since 2009 as its affordable warmth team has, amongst its other work, been helping people combat fuel poverty with advice, support and mentoring.



Alienergy's Education and Skills Development Programme is funded by ScottishPower Renewables' Beinn an Tuirc 2 Windfarm Community Benefit Fund and Michael Wall and Katie Evamy have been taking a pop-up STEM stand to shows around the area during the summer months. That stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and Mike and Katie have all kinds of tests and challenges to join in, from riding a dynamo bike to charge a mobile phone to winning a science kit. Katie is seen here at Kintyre Show.

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## Around the markets

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, **August 9:** An excellent entry on offer for quality and numbers met a strong trade from start to finish.

Sold: 8,082 store lambs.

Beltex (1,098) averaged £58.22 and sold to £77 gross from Lower Geanies, Fearn.

Texel (2,301) averaged £58.86 and sold to £84 gross from Auchmore, Muir of Ord.

Charollais (600) averaged £59.07 and sold to £69.50 gross from Guidebest, Latheron.

Suffolk (3,013) averaged £60.54 and sold to £98 gross from 91/92 Achvaich, Dornoch.

Mule (350) averaged £55.55 and sold to £61.50 gross from Milton Farm, Aberarder.

Bleu Du Maine (55) averaged £72.85 and sold to £81 gross from Rhifail Farms.

Cheviot (611) averaged £54.77 and sold to £65 gross from Rowanbarn, Plockton.

Other breeds (54) averaged £55.60 and sold to £63.50 gross from Lower Geanies.

Other leading prices per head:

Lambs: TexX – Carnich, Gruids, £81.50, Wester Craiglands, Fortrose, £77, Drummond Farm, Evanton, £76; BeltX – Dulsie Farm, Glenferness, £75.50, 13 Kirkton Gardens, Lochcarron, £73.50, Taldale, Forss, £71.50; BDM – Rhifail Farms, £74; SuffX – Kirkfield, Olrig and Bruach Mills, Kiltarney, £74, Bluebell Cottage, Dornoch and Higher Tullochgrubban, Dulnain Bridge, £73, Wester Craiglands, £72.50; CharX – Dunlichity Farm, Farr, £68, Fairview, Nethybridge, £64; Chev – Isle of Muck Farm, Isle of Muck, £64.50; Cross – Dunlichity Farm, £62.50.

United Auctions Stirling, **Thursday August 8:** sold 7,390 prime sheep comprising of 5,577 prime lambs selling to

an average of 177.80p and 1,813 ewes and rams.

New Season Lambs (5,577) – Newmill Rathven (BTex) £100; Little Raith (Tex) £98; Little Raith (Suf) £95.50; Shanry (Cha) £91; Hartfield (Cross) £85; Sauchrie Mains (Mule) £80; Powblack (Hamp) £78; Tulchan Croft (Chev) £77; Duncanziemere (Chev/Mule) £64; Inch (BF) £62.

New Season Lambs (5,577) – Oatfield (BTex) 216ppk; Drumheldric (Tex) 205ppk; Neukfoot (Suf) 198ppk; Shanry (Cha) 194ppk; Tulchan Croft (Chev) 182ppk; Powblack (Hamp) 180ppk; Auchenriovoch (Mule) 175ppk; Rhoine (Cross) 174ppk; Inch (BF) 167.00ppk; Dumcanziemere (Chev/Mule) 160ppk.

Ewes (1813) – Nether Pratis (Tex) £141; Berrydyke (BTex) £96; Nether Pratis (Suf) £87; Wester Bowhouse (BFL) £80; West Park (Mule) £73; Hill of Errol (Chev/mule) £71.50; Fliskmillan (Rom) £71; Sauchrie Mains (BF) £60.

Tups- Drumoider (Suf) £80; Fliskmillan (Suf) £80; Wormiston (Cross) £78; Drumoider (Tex) £72.

Caledonian Marts Ltd, **Thursday August 8:** sold 154 cattle comprising of 73 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 69 OTM cattle and 12 calves.

Prime bullocks sold to 238p per kg for a Limousin from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, Muthill purchased by G Kirk & Son, Butchers, Denny and to £1,422 for a Limousin from W Dandie & Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn purchased by T Johnston Butchers, Falkirk.

Prime heifers sold to 232p on two occasions from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, Muthill purchased by D Campbell, Butchers, Callander and R Alexander, Butcher, Port Glasgow respectively.

And to £1,472 for a Limousin from M Jack, Carriston, Star of Markinch.

Bulls sold to £1,602 for a Limousin from W Dick and Sons, Mains of Throsk and to 170p from WI & AW Callion, Bolforought Farm, Stirling. Other leading prices:

Bullocks per head:  
 £1,418 Dullomuir;  
 £1,376, £1,365 and £1,348 Meadowend;

£1,324 Learielaw;  
 £1,314 Easter Ochtermuthill;  
 £1,309 Lammerview. Heifers per head:

£1,434, £1,418 and £1,389 Meadowend;

£1,364 Carriston;  
 £1,352 Mains of Burnbank.

Bullocks per kg:  
 228p Dullomuir;  
 225p Easter Ochtermuthill, Learielaw and Dullomuir;

222p Lammerview;  
 220p Learielaw. Heifers per kg:

230p Easter Ochtermuthill;  
 228p Carriston;  
 225p Learielaw and Mains of Cultmalundie;

222p Learielaw, West Mains and Faskine; Bulls per head:

£1,361 Mid Cambushinnie;  
 £1,279 Luckenburn;  
 £1,267 Mains of Throsk;  
 £1,243 Easterton.

With a larger show of dairy cows forward and mainly feeding beef OTMs on offer, the average of fleshed OTMs was 137p selling to 168p for a Limousin from J R Hunter, Luckenburn, Slamannan, and to £1,100 from the same home.

The overall average for all the beef OTMs levelled out at 126p.

Dairy cows sold to 114p from T Greer & Sons, Wharlawhill, Fossoway and to £990 from the same home.

The average was 94p.

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# Cost of countryside crime up 62 per cent

The cost of rural theft in the UK has hit a seven-year peak, with the biggest percentage increase – 62 per cent – seen in Scotland.

In its 2019 Rural Crime Report, published last week (August 5), leading rural insurer NFU Mutual's claims figures reveal that rural crime cost the UK £50million in 2018, an increase of 12 per cent on the previous year, making it the highest cost in seven years.

Although the biggest percentage increase was seen in Scotland, its rural crime cost remains below the UK average. According to NFU Mutual, the sharp rises are being driven mainly by high

value thefts of tractors, quad bikes and other farm vehicles – up 26 per cent to £7.4million in 2018.

Chairman of NFU Scotland's legal and technical committee, Jamie Smart, who farms at Linlithgow, said: 'All aspects of rural crime remain a blight on those who live and work in Scotland's countryside.'

'The long list of rural crimes being committed on a weekly, if not daily, basis extends to vehicle and machinery theft, fly tipping, livestock worrying, livestock rustling, hare coursing, metal and fuel theft, arson and vandalism. The impact of crime, and the threat posed by criminal

activity takes a huge toll on the health of those who live in rural areas.'

'Huge strides are being taken to address rural crime in Scotland and the work of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC), of which NFU Scotland is a founding member, is tackling much of this head on.'

'Regional SPARC initiatives are now in place across much of Scotland and regular farm-based meetings involving Police Scotland and other stakeholders have been held in recent times, providing farmers and crofters with information and tips on how to combat crime at a farm level, keeping property, goods and

livestock safe.'

'Regardless of whether the crime is organised or opportunistic, almost all will involve transport of some kind. We repeat Police Scotland's plea that should you spot a strange vehicle in an unusual place or unexpected activity in the countryside, please take time to report the registration number and any details to 101 and allow Police Scotland to take the matter further. Even small details may allow Police Scotland to gain a better perspective of the issues happening in and around our farms.'

The report is available at: [www.nfumutual.co.uk/farming/ruralcrime/](http://www.nfumutual.co.uk/farming/ruralcrime/)

## Smallholding Scotland seeks contractors

Smallholding Scotland, the organisation recently established to support and promote smallholders in Scotland, is looking for contractors to join its list of those wanting to provide services to small-scale farmers.

A list of shearers is already on the website [www.smallholding.scot](http://www.smallholding.scot) but the organisation would like to have a list of scanners and a list of other service providers up and running before the end of the summer.

'The trustees of the organisation are all smallholders ourselves, so we know the problems,' said Rosemary Champion. 'Not all contractors want to take on wee jobs, but some positively welcome them and the jobs need to be done, so as a service to our community and those contractors, we thought it would be a good idea to bring

the two together.'

'Listing is free. We need contact details, a link to a website or social media page, a brief description of services offered and area covered,' explained Rosemary. 'These should be emailed to [enquiries@smallholding.scot](mailto:enquiries@smallholding.scot) and we'll get them added to the list.'

'As a new organisation, we're looking for ways to help our members – and we're looking for folk to join up too, so that when we talk to the Scottish Government and other organisations, we are properly representative. It's only £20 a year, and folk can join via the website.'

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Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

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568001

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Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

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## WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

T: 07885 203020 or  
E: [gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk)

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

Tel: 07546 788945

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ask for Robert

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# West Coast PROPERTY

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PRESS RELEASE

## Scottish rental values rising faster than UK average

*HomeLet's Rental Index figures for July 2019 have been released.*

The headlines from this month's report are:

- The average rent in the UK is now £959, up 2.3 per cent on the same time last year.
- When London is excluded, the average rent in the UK is now £794, this is up 2.2 per cent on last year.
- The rental growth recorded in July 2019 is in line with inflation, recorded at two per cent in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) in June 2019.
- Average rents in London are now £1,665, up by 3.1 per cent on last year.
- The region with the largest year-on-year increase is the south west, showing a 4.5 per cent increase between July 2018 and July 2019.
- All 12 of the regions monitored by HomeLet showed an increase in rental values between July 2018 and July 2019.

Region	Jul-2019	Jul-2018	Annual Var
South West	£855	£818	4.5%
Scotland	£679	£651	4.3%
Wales	£637	£611	4.3%
Greater London	£1,665	£1,615	3.1%
Northern Ireland	£671	£653	2.8%
East Midlands	£646	£631	2.4%
North West	£726	£712	2.0%
East of England	£925	£909	1.8%
West Midlands	£709	£701	1.1%
South East	£1,053	£1,041	1.2%
Yorkshire & Humber	£641	£635	0.9%
North East	£529	£525	0.8%

As the UK's largest tenant referencing firm, HomeLet references more than 500,000 tenants every year. The HomeLet Rental Index provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date data on rental values in the UK.

The trends reported within the HomeLet Rental Index are brand new tenancies, which were arranged in the most recent period, providing an in-depth insight into the lettings market.

Head to <https://homelet.co.uk/homelet-rental-index/> for more information.

## Fort William High Street - Retail/Office space to let

Flexible retail & office space on High Street with shop frontage from 1000 Sq Feet - 4000 Sq Feet

Email [recruit2049@outlook.com](mailto:recruit2049@outlook.com) for more details.

1346

## Dailuaine, Ford, By Lochgilphead



This generously proportioned 4/5 bedroom detached house, sits on a large plot with county and woodland views. Located less than 0.5 miles to the popular Loch Awe for fantastic fishing, and set within beautiful countryside with lots of woodland walks. The spacious accommodation comprises of 4 double bedrooms (1 en-suite), Lounge, Kitchen, Orangery, Office, Family Bathroom and upstairs sitting Room/5th bedroom. The Property further benefits from downstairs underfloor heating, a detached garage, and large wrap around garden.

Home Report Available.

Offers Over: £390,000

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**Interested parties please contact**  
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## WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

West Highland Housing Association is a charitable organisation working in the Oban and Lorn area. We are recruiting for 2 full time posts within our office based in Oban.

### Housing Assistant - Starting Salary £24,454

You will be part of a team of 6 and we would expect our ideal candidate to have customer service and IT experience. We would want you to demonstrate that you have excellent interpersonal skills and can communicate effectively with people on the phone, face to face and via email.

### Property Officer - Starting Salary £32,850

The postholder will be primarily responsible for the delivery and management of our Reactive Repairs Contract and Void Management which requires a mix of technical knowledge and experience linked with excellent IT, communication and analytical skills.

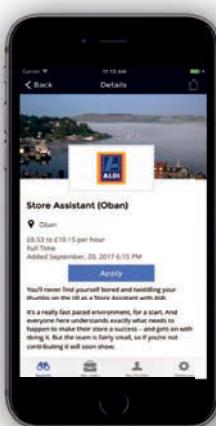
Additionally, the postholder will support the Asset Management Team with aspects of site delivery and supervision of our Cyclical, Planned and Investment programmes including the supervision of our In-House Service Engineer. As the postholder will be a member of our Senior Management Team, we expect applicants to demonstrate leadership skills and have 5 years' experience within construction or another relevant field.

For both posts we want people who understand high quality customer service and want to improve services for our tenants and owners.

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

If you want to speak to us about either post, please contact Iona Smith/Moira MacVicar for the Housing Assistant post and Graeme Bruce for the Property Officer post on 01631 566451. We will be delighted to talk further about our work and our expectations.

A full job pack can be downloaded from our website at [www.westhighlandha.co.uk](http://www.westhighlandha.co.uk) (no CVs). Applications should be received by noon 2nd September. Interviews are planned for week commencing 9th September at our office at Crannog Lane.



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## YEOMAN GLENSANDA

Glensanda is the flagship site of construction materials producer and supplier Aggregate Industries, and the largest granite quarry in Europe, exporting to markets all across Northern Europe. It has an annual production capacity in excess of 9 million tonnes and a massive 760 million tonnes reserve of granite.

We have the following opportunities available to the right candidates:

### 2 Mechanical Apprenticeships 1 Electrical Apprenticeship

Starting Salary £14,500 - £15,000 per year.

Throughout the apprenticeship you will be given the opportunity to expand your skill set by attending various courses organised by the Company's central Learning and Development Team.

Whilst on site you will be given a tailored training plan to work through and will be supported by both your allocated Mentor and your Manager. On a day to day basis you will be given greater exposure to your division and the roles of your team members. Our overarching Company value is Health and Safety and to assist you in understanding the underlying concepts of this value, we will require our apprentices to complete a number of Health and Safety related courses.

As an employer we are fully committed to developing young people through our business. We currently have over 150 apprentices and graduates, working towards their ultimate career goals and achieving great success.

At the end of your Modern Apprenticeship you will have gained a SVQ in Engineering Level 6.

You will be trained in both mechanical and electrical engineering and specialise throughout the apprenticeship.

#### Desired Skills:

Good standard of English Language and numerical skills  
Ability to communicate at all levels and good interpersonal skills  
Ability to create innovative solutions to problems that may arise on a daily basis  
Strong organisation and time management skills  
Ability to work as part of a team using own initiative.

To apply please send your CV and covering letter to Mr Paul Kersley,  
Glensanda Quarry, Morvern, Oban PA34 5 QB  
Closing Date for Applications: 20th August 2019.

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# RECRUITMENT

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## Mechanic - Glensanda Quarry

This is an exciting opportunity to join the leading global construction materials and solutions company – LafargeHolcim / Aggregate Industries. You will work at Glensanda quarry on the west coast of Scotland. Glensanda is a dynamic fast-paced environment where no 2 days are the same. It is operational 24 hours a day and is the largest granite quarry in Europe.

As a Mechanic, you will be expected and encouraged to work to the very highest safety standards. Performing planned and reactive maintenance will form a large part of your day-to-day duties. You will also be involved in restoration projects and carry out various other mechanical duties as required. You will join the light transport department who look after the light vehicle fleet across the site.

This is a day shift position; the shift pattern is as follows: Monday to Friday for the first week, Monday to Thursday for the second week (5/2, 4/3).

We are looking for a time served Mechanic. It would be desirable if you have had previous experience of an industrial environment and plant. Knowledge and the ability to maintain HGVs would also be beneficial; however, this is not essential as training will be provided as part of ongoing personal development. The key aspect is that you are motivated and willing to learn. A full UK driving licence is necessary for this position.

If successful in your application, you will enjoy a competitive salary and stakeholders pension package with employer's contribution. You will also enjoy the attractive shift pattern with 33 days holiday per annum. A high standard of accommodation is available free of charge should you meet the criteria. Other benefits include an extensive employees UK wide discount scheme and childcare voucher scheme.

To apply for this position please email a copy of your CV and a covering letter to: Alastair Anderson, Engineering Manager – quoting REF: 2019M email: [alastair.anderson@aggregate.com](mailto:alastair.anderson@aggregate.com)  
Closing date 30/09/19

### Career opportunities

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CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

**BRICKLAYERS**  
**ROOFERS**  
**SITE MANAGERS + TRAINEES**  
**MASTIC/SEALANT APPLICATOR**

### Full time/Permanent positions

Please send CV to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk) or call 01546602989 for further info.



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The Campbeltown Courier has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team.

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Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to Susan Windram: [swindram@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:swindram@obantimes.co.uk)

**Etive House**  
CARE HOME

### Full time Housekeeping/ Laundry Assistant Required

37 hours per week (2 x 0730-1930 shifts, 2 x 0730-1530 shifts per week)

For more information or application pack  
please contact Megan MacLeod  
on 01631 720278 or  
[admin@etivehousecare.com](mailto:admin@etivehousecare.com)



**ARGYLL ESTATES**  
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**GROUNDSMAN**

Argyll Estates seeks an enthusiastic Groundsman.

This is a full-time position.

A full job description and further details can be obtained from Argyll Estates Office by contacting [secretary@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:secretary@inveraray-castle.com) or telephoning 01499 302203.

Applications in writing, should be sent to [secretary@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:secretary@inveraray-castle.com) to arrive no later than Monday 19th August 2019.

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## Argyll and Bute Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING, OBAN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2019  
On Monday 12th August 2019, Argyll and Bute Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, made the above named Order the effect of which will be that for a temporary period, for the purpose of facilitating a free flow of traffic for the duration of the Argyllshire Gathering, Oban Games, no person shall cause or permit a vehicle to wait on any of the lengths of road indicated in the schedule below. The restrictions imposed by this Order, which are desirable because of considerations of public safety and convenience during the event, will be in operation between 0800 and 1800 hours on the 22nd August 2019.

#### Schedule – No Waiting at Any Time/No Loading at Any Time

##### Name of Road Extent of Restriction in Oban

Glencruitten Road	On both sides between Soroba Road and the access road to the Golf Club
Mossfield Avenue	On both sides between Glencruitten Road and Glencruitten Drive
Quarry Road	On both sides from Glencruitten Road for a distance of 30 metres or thereby.
Mossfield Drive	On both sides from Glencruitten Road for a distance of 30 metres or thereby.

Contravention of the Order, which may be inspected at the Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, could result in a penalty of up to £500.

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

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

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

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

John Cameron has registered their croft 10 Dalnabreck (share), Dalnabrecki, Arisaig and Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by July 26, 2020. 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 C6221.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

JH Kinross  
AG Kinross  
Lorgbaw, Kilchoman  
87556  
0.251 ha  
Reason – Existing house site  
Condition – No conditions  
Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**  
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.  
1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.  
2 The Publisher does

not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an

advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make a reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be

made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other

charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge

late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

#### 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
19/01529/PP	Erection of restaurant, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Scoor Cottage Ulva Ferry Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA73 6LX
19/01559/PP	Revised drainage position relative to Planning Permission 19/00057/PP (Erection of 2 No. dwellings and formation of access)	Land Adjacent To Ben Hiant View Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6QA
19/01530/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and agricultural barn, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land South West Of Scoor Cottage Ulva Ferry Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
19/01557/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank (amended house position to planning permission 18/01008/PP)	Plot 3 Former Sawmills Site Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
19/01649/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and air source heat pump	Former Pine Cottage Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute PA35 1HE
19/01552/PP	Erection of log cabin for bed and breakfast owners accommodation	Faile Rockfield Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DQ
19/01173/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 15 metre high mast and associated works	Land Approximately 1800 Metres South West Of Ishriff Glen More Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
19/01554/PP	Erection of building with associated yard (Class 4), installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Glenview Glenegedale Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DD
19/01561/PP	Erection of building with associated yard (Class 4), installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Sealladh A Chuanil Glenegedale Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications-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 at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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

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

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

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
19/03466/FUL	Land 110M NE Of Alt-Na-Slat Invergarry	Amendment to 17/02695/FUL, erection of 3 holiday cottages.
19/03540/FUL	High Falls Car Park Glen Nevis Fort William	Erection of 20m high lattice mast and ancillary development within fenced compound
19/03524/FUL	Land Adjacent To A861, Glenugie, Lochailort	Proposal to install 20m lattice mast fenced compound with ancillary equipment and access track.
19/02865/FUL	Land 45M SW Of Farm Cottage Arisaig	Extension to house to form self contained accommodation; re-alignment of existing access to Traigh House

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

### Proposed Apportionment of a Common Grazings

Donald Cameron is applying for an apportionment of part of the Common Grazing of Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael and Lochyside extending to 2.52ha for the purpose of stock management and planting trees/use as woodland. Written comments from any shareholder or owner of the said common grazings (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW - [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 12/09/19.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

John Cameron has registered their croft 12 Dalnabreck (share), Dalnabrecki, Arisaig and Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by July 26, 2020. 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 C6223.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Hazel Claire MacCormick has registered the croft known as Croic Ur, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 9th May 2020. 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 C6266.

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 12th September 2019

New members welcome

For further details contact: (01389) 726543

**CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETIES ACT 2014**  
*Notice of Cancellation pursuant to section 5 of the Act*  
Notice is hereby given that the Authority has pursuant to the above mentioned section this day cancelled the registration of GigaPlus Argyl Limited (Register No. 7050) the registered office of which is at An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY at its request.  
The society ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.

Date: 22 July 2019

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Niall MacLeod has registered their croft 2 Ballimore, Kilchrenan and Dalavich on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by April 26, 2020. 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 C6225.

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### DOMESTIC PETS

JACKAPOO PUPPIES 4 dogs, 1 bitch, all black, father a Miniature Poodle, mother a Jack Russell. For further details, Telephone 07703183105

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MORRIS DISPLAY CABINET In good condition for age, all lights are in working order.

Length 157cm Base Unit/150cm Top Unit. Height 188cm Width 42cm Base Unit/32cm Top Unit, £50.00 Telephone 01546 606639 or 07879 826560

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### HEALTH AND FITNESS

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### HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

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### GRADUATIONS



JENNIFER FOTHERGILL

Jennifer Fothergill, former pupil of Luing Primary and Oban High School, graduated from Glasgow University with an M.A. (first class honours) in English Literature and Spanish.



GRANT MACCOLL PHILLIPS

Graduated from the University of Strathclyde with BEng First Class Honours in Product Design Engineering. Son of Brian and Mary Phillips. Grandson of Janet and Iain MacColl, Isle of Seil. Grant is a former pupil of Easdale Primary and Oban High School.



REBEKAH STEPHENSON

Graduated from University of Glasgow with Master of Arts (Education) with Honours and Teaching Qualification, daughter of Drew and Fiona Stephenson, Balvicar. Rebekah is a former pupil of Easdale Primary and Oban High School.

### PERSONAL NOTICE

### Thank you

Graham and Ann Campbell would like to thank family and friends for their good wishes, cards, presents and generous donations at the celebration of their golden wedding. £1040 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

### CONNELL - REBANKS

- On August 16, 1969 at Craigrownie Parish Church, Cove, Iain Connell to Esther Rebanks, both of Kilmeggan and still at Kilmeggan.

## DEATHS

**ANDERSON** - Peacefully at home surrounded by her family, on Sunday, August 11, 2019, aged 54 years, Shona Elizabeth Anderson (née Donaldson), much loved wife of Graham, loving mum of Ailsa, Rona and Matthew. Sorely missed by all who knew her.

**LAYCOCK** - Peacefully at home on August 11, 2019. Adrian Laycock, a much loved husband, father, stepfather, brother and uncle. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Main Street, Cardross on Tuesday, August 20 at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for Cancer Research UK. Adrian requested bright colours should be worn please.

**MACKECHNIE** - Peacefully at home after a short illness, on Sunday, August 11, 2019, aged 67 years, Isobel MacKchnie, loving wife to Malky, beloved mum to Marissa, Malcolm and the late Allan, mother-in-law to Ruth, a devoted Gaga and great-granny, loving sister, aunt and friend to many.

**PARKINSON** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on August 11, 2019 in her 91st year, Jane Elizabeth (Jean), beloved wife of the late Arthur Parkinson, dear mother of Peggy and Jay and mother-in-law of Alistair and Frances, much loved nannie of Marie, Alison, Alan, Lisa-Marie and Samantha. R.I.P.

**Oban Times**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Oban Times**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### MACLENNAN (Spean Bridge)

- Anne and family are very grateful for the support of our neighbours, friends and relatives at the time of Ronnie's death, for the marvellous care he received from the doctors at Tweeddale, for Jennifer's sensitive playing at the church and for Canon Gerald Kaye's comforting and uplifting service. Thanks also to McDonald Bros Florist, and we are most appreciative of the caring services of Linnie and John at McLellan, Funeral Directors.

**MACLEOD** - Following the sudden, unexpected death of Ruth the family would like to thank most sincerely all friends and neighbours for their kindness and support. We would like to express our appreciation to all who paid their respects at the church and the cemetery. Our special thanks go to Rev. Amanda Fairclough for conducting the service. We greatly appreciated the excellent care Ruth received at the Belford Hospital Accident and Emergency Department and also at The Queen Elizabeth University Trust Hospital in Glasgow. We would also like to thank McFall Funeral Directors for their kind assistance with funeral arrangements, Loch Leven Hotel for catering and Kim at Glencoe Florist for her beautiful flowers.

## MEMORIAMS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of Jean, Dalnabreac who passed away August 18, 2018. Sadly missed.

- From all the family.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Tootsie, (Sarah), who died August 16, 1989.

Silent thoughts of times together

Hold memories that will last forever.

- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**CRUICKSHANK** - In loving memory of Flora, August 22, 2013 and Duncan, August 15, 2015.

Missed, loved and always in our thoughts.

- Catherine, Duncan and families xx

**MACCALLUM** - Remembering our dad, brother and uncle Allan, tragically taken on August 18, 2018.

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane

I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again.

- Inserted by Sean, Darren, Bradley, Cathy, Wilma and all nieces and nephews xxx

**MACCOLL** - Annie (Nan), Kilmonivaig.

Tha gaol māthair sonraichte  
Tha mi à tort taing do Dhia  
gu robh sibh Leamsa.

- June Anne xx

Love and miss you granny.

- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie xxxx

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Katherine.

Mum, five years have passed since you left

Miss you and think about you every day

You've left me with so much love and care

That will last forever  
You will always be by my side.

- Paul MacGillivray.

**MACINNES** - 3rd anniversary. Precious memories of our beloved mum, granny and great-granny, Peggy, who sadly died on August 13, 2016.

Thank you for the years we shared,

The love you gave, the way you cared,

Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,

Too dearly loved to ever forget.

Love and miss you always.

- Your loving family Eriskay and Oban.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Elizabeth (Betty), devoted wife to Donald and much loved mother to Kenneth and Catriona.

Deeply missed.

**MACKAY** - Cherished memories of Donnie, who passed away on August 18, 2018. Much loved Dad, Papa and devoted husband of the late Christine. Remembered with love every day.

- Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

**OWEN** - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great-gran, who passed away on August 18, 2016, and our dear dad and grandpa, who passed away on August 25, 1997.

Forever in our thoughts and prayers.

- Tom, Lily Elizabeth and families.

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of a dear husband, father and Danda, Thomas Potter, who died at An Airigh, Dalmally on August 15, 1980.

Loved and remembered always by his wife Catherine and family in Scotland and Australia.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of my wife Heather.

Memories of you are fondly kept

Someone too special to ever forget

Always in my thoughts.

- Donald.

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# Harry Clyne – model builder and engineer

Harry Clyne died recently at his home in Lochailort and leaves us without a historian who was also an accomplished engineer.

Well-known to many people in Moidart and Morar, Harry hailed from Peterhead and, even after his family moved to Inverness, he retained the Bloo Tooner accent all of his life, occasionally, and sometimes mischievously, to the confusion of people with 'English ears'.

He had a complex career, starting with a five-year apprenticeship with quantity surveyors Souter and Jaffrey.

He then joined the RAF for 12 years as a radar engineer on Vulcan bombers at RAF Scampton, in Lincolnshire.

He was a lifelong biker and travelled round Europe as part of the RAF Trials Riding team, opening a motorbike repair business in Ingham, Lincolnshire, after he left the Royal Air Force. Was it coincidence that he settled in Glenfinnan, on the route of the Six Days Trial, when he decided to come home to Scotland?

He built his own house at Lochailort on the site of a wartime indoor small-arms range,



Harry Clyne and his famous scale model steam traction engine.

doing much of the work himself; even 30 years ago, it had under-floor heating.

His interests were changing and he became one of the UK's leading model engineers, building models, especially trains, of many sizes – and many readers will remember his one-third scale steam traction engine, every single part manufactured in his workshop,

steaming along Fort William High Street with children as passengers in open carts.

He became an expert at researching and building complex and sometimes eccentric models; he was building Highland Railway stock when he left us.

In 1980, Marine Harvest opened Britain's first fish farm in Loch Ailort and he was the first

employee, acting as designer, engineer and diver.

The Lochailort TV Club was his spare-time project, climbing the hills above the loch to install and maintain the equipment relaying a signal from Mull until satellite technology arrived.

Harry was a well-respected founder member of the Moidart History Group and his 'Clyne Alidades' have made a very significant contribution to the group's funds.

An alidade is a Victorian surveying tool, quite like a rifle sight; no batteries, lightweight and very accurate, no-one in the world nowadays makes them except Harry, whose alidades are being used by archaeologists in the UK, Canada, the USA, Ireland, Australia and even by US forces in Iraq.

I liked Harry as soon as I met him; a shared background as RAF radar engineers brought us together and he introduced me to his other fascination, archaeology, although more recently his declining health prevented him from digging.

He is sorely missed.

Ken Bowker, Roshven.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When 'to label or not to label'? Decluttering is a 'buzz' word. Living in a tidy ordered world will make us all happier, healthier wiser. Honestly, when I get things tidy, labelled and inside the appropriate box, I do feel calmer and there is no real danger in doing this with 'things'. Mostly it doesn't damage them to be put in the appropriate box and labelled.

However what about us as people? Does it help or does it not?

The name David means beloved. A being, an individual who is present in the moment and who is loved, cared for, accepted for who they really are. If we look in the Old testament the Character David could be labelled many things, including child molester, king, polygamous, polyamorous, cheat, adulterer, murderer, madman, terrorist, traitor, exhibitionist. Some of these would make excellent headlines for today's tabloids. In the New Testament, he is known as 'a man after God's own heart' a prophet, speaker of truth, a fore father of the awaited Saviour of the people of God.

Somehow, David is an example of someone who didn't allow a label to stick after it had served its purpose. Sometimes those labels help – they give us a handle on how to put safeguards in place, to provide a healthy space for community. However if a label starts defining and controlling a person's behaviour and stopping them from moving forward as an individual, is that not when the label that is no longer serving a positive purpose should be stripped off? Could taking the label off empower them, as a fundamental human being, to turn the label around to bring their own contribution to the community we live in?

Jeanette Sheldrick, Salvation Army.

## Argyll youngsters have bags of potential

Pupils in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to celebrate the new term by donating their old backpacks to children living more than 7,000 miles away in Malawi.

Children can take part in The Backpack Project, run by Mary's Meals, by filling their old bags with notepads, pencils and clothes. The charity then sends them to schoolchildren in Malawi – with more than 40,000 bags being donated every year.

Mary's Meals, which was founded in Dalmally by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, feeds more than 1.5 million children in 18 of the world's poorest countries every school day. The food attracts hungry children to the classroom, filling their empty stomachs and giving them the energy to learn.

Daniel Adams, executive director of Mary's Meals UK, said: 'I hope pupils in Argyll and Bute will celebrate the new term by joining in The Backpack Project and donating their old bags to children who eat Mary's Meals in Malawi.'

'A bag filled with school essentials is a wonderful gift



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow founded Mary's Meals.

because it ensures these children can get the most out of their education, giving them a ladder out of poverty and the chance of a better future.'

Since the launch of The Backpack Project in 2005, UK supporters of the charity have donated more than 500,000 school bags to children in Malawi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, facing huge challenges in educa-

tion, access to healthcare and widespread childhood malnutrition. It is home to Mary's Meals' largest school feeding programme, which reaches 32 per cent of primary school-aged children across the country.

Mary's Meals can collect donations of backpacks from schools, workplaces and groups across the UK. To find out more, visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk).



SCOTTISH FIELD'S SEPTEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

Autumn Breaks special

Autumn breaks for foodies...  
Emeli Sande talks guilty pleasures...  
The Scottish Jane Austen... Native oysters... Working man's field sports... Stunning Angus interiors...

# Red and blacks in Camanachd

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – semi-final

**Kyles Athletic 0  
Oban Camanachd 3**

Oban Camanachd are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final following their 3-0 win over Kyles Athletic in their 4.05pm throw up at Mossfield.

Much of the pre-match discussion surrounded Strachurmore's suitability as a semi-final venue for shinty's blue riband event. Oban Camanachd put their displeasure on record whilst Kyles seemed content with the choice.

However, matters took a midweek twist as, following the early week rainfall, and weather warnings for the days to come, the Strachurmore committee judged that their pitch was unlikely to be playable.

The Camanachd Association explored alternative venues for the televised match. Their criteria included; a playable pitch, space and facilities to accommodate partners from BBC, MG ALBA and Nemeton, parking availability, distance of travel for both teams and supporters as well as the capacity to host a gate.

This ultimately left three options; to play the tie at Bught Park, Inverness or Mossfield, Oban or to postpone the match which would present numerable clashes and challenges for all involved.

Taking all these factors into account, it was agreed by all parties that the semi-final would go ahead at Mossfield.

It was a fine day in Oban and Donald Irvine and Grant Irvine both returned for Kyles whilst Neil MacVicar shrugged off an injury to start in defence. Callum Millar returned from injury to take a place on the bench where he was joined by captain Colin MacDonald, Innes

Macdonald, Conor Kennedy and player/manager Dunky Kerr.

Scott MacMillan returned to the Oban Camanachd starting line up where he made up a midfield trio with Lorne Dickie and Keith MacMillan. Aidan MacIntyre, Gary McKerracher, Willie Neilson, Blair MacFarlane and Craig Easton were held in reserve.

The sides had met on four previous occasions this season with Oban Camanachd winning the last three clashes.

The red and blacks pinned Kyles back from the throw-up, forcing four early corners, but the closest they came in the opening 10 minutes was an Andrew MacCuish shot which went wide following a good, one-touch passing move.

Daniel Cameron had made a lively start and he swept the ball into the goal area from the right where John Whyte saved with his legs and Neil MacVicar cleared for a corner.

Kyles made some positional changes and they responded well, going on to enjoy a period of pressure and Malcolm Clark did well to sweep away a low ball into the D from Paul MacArthur before Thomas Whyte fired over from a wide angle and Rupert William's strike from a MacArthur free-hit went a fraction outside the post.

With 10 first half minutes remaining, Scott Macdonald gathered a Thomas Whyte ball forward before going on a run to the left and his shot goalwards looped off Ross MacRae's club and Cameron Sutherland in the Oban goal saw his first real action as he did really well, at full stretch, to turn the dropping ball away from just under his crossbar.

Cameron Sutherland turned away a fierce Thomas Whyte shot from the right before the Oban Camanachd custodian then had to look lively to clear Robbie MacLeod's ball into the D, getting it away before Scott



**Oban Camanachd will now meet Newtonmore in the final of the Camanachd Cup at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday September 14.** Photo: Neil Paterson

Macdonald could benefit.

As the first half moved into two minutes' stoppage time, Rupert Williamson flicked Paul MacArthur's chip forward into the D but Sutherland was again equal to it.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss made a change at half-time as Aidan MacIntyre came on at wing centre for Keith MacMillan and MacIntyre made an immediate impact as, from the restart, he played the ball into the goal area from the right. With Andrew MacCuish and Daniel Cameron getting touches,

John Whyte cleared for a corner on the Oban left which was initially taken by Scott MacMillan and then cleared for a second corner. This time Daniel Cameron ran across the D and, not for the first time this season, he showed the greater desire to dive forward and steer the ball home to give Camanachd the lead with only 77 seconds played.

Kyles needed a goal and Grant Irvine pulled a shot wide after Rupert Williamson fed Andrew King's ball forward back to him. Kyles were knocking on the door and when the ball broke to Scott Macdonald following a corner, he skewed his low shot wide of the keeper's left post.

However, the Kyles goal had a scare on 61 minutes when Andrew MacCuish ghosted forward to take down a ball from Daniel MacCuish and his deft flick came off keeper

Whyte before bouncing off the post.

Cameron Sutherland made good use of his hand to parry a dangerous high ball from Robbie MacLeod before getting the ball away for a corner.

Kyles continued in search of a leveller and it took a superb Daniel Sloss block to prevent Grant Irvine getting a shot on goal from the right of the D.

The next goal was going to be crucial and it came from another Oban Camanachd corner on the left. Aidan MacIntyre played the ball in and when it broke off Neil MacVicar's stick, Daniel Cameron was again first to react as he swept the ball low into the net from inside the D to make it 2-0 with 71 minutes played.

Kyles immediately pushed Roddy Macdonald into attack with Callum Millar going to full back and Conor Kennedy got under a shot at goal but he sent the ball well over the top.

Oban Camanachd freshened things up as Willie Neilson was introduced for Daniel MacCuish just three minutes later.

Both sides were hit by injury as Scott Macdonald went off holding his arm and Willie Neilson's stay was brief as he hobbled away with a knee injury after an accidental coming together with Andrew King.

Kyles continued to press and Grant Irvine fired wide from the left, Roddy Macdonald's snap-shot, following Paul MacArthur's hit-in from the right, went over and Paul MacArthur's shot deflected wide through a crowded goal area.

The Kyles goal just wouldn't come though and the only missing ingredient from an Oban Camanachd perspective was an Andrew MacCuish goal but it duly arrived a minute from time. MacCuish took the ball to his left side before driving low into the net with the effort deceiving keeper John Whyte.

It was Andrew MacCuish's eighth goal in four matches against Kyles this season.

There was still time for Gary McKerracher to come on in stoppage time and Oban Camanachd skipper Daniel Cameron's two goals and his overall contribution earned him the BBC ALBA man of the match

accolade. Andy MacLean was the match referee and his final saw Oban Camanachd through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final where they will play Newtonmore at An Aird in a repeat of the 2016 final.

This is a third cup final of the season for Oban Camanachd and, speaking after the match, manager Stephen Sloss said: 'We've played better but a win's a win and it's another final and we want to keep winning. We've shown that we've been the better team against Kyles over the course of this season and that's important.'

Kyles kept making changes in the game to try and make things happen but our defenders dealt with that. The back five did very well, especially Garry Lord who covers for everyone at the back when required.

Willie Neilson's injury is a concern. We'll monitor him this week but if he doesn't make it, it will create an opportunity for one of the younger players to come into the squad.'

Camanachd captain Daniel Cameron added: 'We got our goals at vital times and we managed to kill their attacks. We are looking forward to the finals but we have been in this position before and it's not a successful season until you win them. We are in the Camanachd Cup final and we are happy with that but we've got to go on and win it now.'

Next up for Oban Camanachd is the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final against Mowi league leaders Kingussie at Mossfield this Saturday.

Throw up is at 4pm and Archie Ritchie is the match referee.

## Mowi Premiership

**Kilmallie 1  
Caberfeidh 2**

Caberfeidh beat Kilmallie 2-1 on a sun-kissed afternoon at the Canal Parks to gather two hard-fought points.

Both teams knew they needed to take something from this one and Kilmallie almost took the lead when Daniel Stewart found space on the left but his shot went into the side-netting.

However, it was Cabers who took



**Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron celebrates his second goal in the Camanachd Cup semi-final.** Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Fixtures

**Friday August 13**

**Mowi North Division Two**  
Beauly v Boleskine  
John MacRitchie - 6.30pm

**Artemis Macaulay Cup Final**  
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie  
at Mossfield Stadium, Oban  
Archie Ritchie - 4pm

**Mowi Premiership**  
Kyles Athletic v Lochaber  
Robert Baxter  
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh  
Deek Cameron  
Kilmallie v Lovat  
Andy MacLean

**Mowi National Division**  
Strathglass v Fort William  
John Angus Gillies  
Beauly v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Graham Cameron - 3pm  
Bute v Skye  
Ross Brown

### Mowi North Division One

Fort William v Caberfeidh  
Ewan MacDonald  
Glenurquhart v Lovat  
Iain Kennedy  
Inverness v Glengarry  
Brian MacKay  
Kinlochshiel v Aberdeen Uni  
Steven MacLachlan  
Skye v Newtonmore  
Calum Girvan - 3pm

### Mowi South Division One

Taynuilt v Tayforth  
Alex MacVicar - 1pm  
Ballachulish v Aberdour  
Graham Fisher

### Mowi South Division Two

Ardnamurchan v Bute  
TBC

(all throw-ups 2pm unless stated)

# Cup final



## Results

**Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi final**  
Kyles Athletic 0 v 3 Oban Caman

**Strathdearn Cup semi finals**  
Newtonmore 2 v 1 Glenurquhart  
Fort William 7 v 0 Kilmallie

**Mowi Premiership**  
Kilmallie 1 v 2 Caberfeidh  
Kingussie P v P Kinlochshiel  
Pitch unplayable  
Inveraray 2 v 2 Lovat  
Newtonmore 5 v 1 Lochaber

**Mowi National Division**  
Beaul 1 v 2 Skye  
Fort William 7 v 1 Glenurquhart  
Glasgow MA 4 v 0 Oban Celtic

**Mowi North Division 1**  
Inverness 4 v 0 Aberdeen Uni  
Kinlochshiel 1 v 3 Kingussie  
Skye 0 v 2 Glengarry  
Lovat 4 v 2 Caberfeidh

**Mowi South Division 1**  
Aberdour 2 v 0 Col Glen  
Glasgow MA P v P Kyles Athletic  
Pitch unplayable  
Lochside Rovers 4 v 0 Ballachulish  
Tayforth 3 v 3 Inveraray

**Mowi South Division 2**  
Ardnamurchan 0 v 8 Kilmory  
Glenorchy 10 v 0 Bute

the lead on 11 minutes and it was a 27th goal of the season for Craig Morrison.

The goal came following a Jamie MacKintosh corner on the right and when the ball was only half-cleared to the in-form Morrison, he made no mistake, netting from 15 yards and scoring for the 16th match in a row.

Kilmallie thought they had pulled a goal back when a corner from the left found Craig MacIsaac in the D and he volleyed home only for referee John Angus Gillies to correctly award a free-hit to Cabers.

The game was opening up and Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies pulled off a good save on 17 minutes, keeping out Kevin Bartlett's 20-yard shot.

Kilmallie equalised on 20 minutes following a neat move. Martin Stewart played a good ball forward to Daniel Stewart, who cut by his marker before slamming the ball inside the keeper's left-hand post

to make it 1-1. Cabers keeper Ewan Pilcher had to look smart to save from Liam MacDonald as Kilmallie threatened to go in front.

Caberfeidh restored their lead following a corner on the right. Jamie MacKintosh played the ball perfectly across to the on-rushing Robbie Brindle and beat keeper Gillies, sending the ball inside the post.

There were no goals in the second half although Kilmallie tested the Caberfeidh back-five on a number of occasions.

### Newtonmore 5 Lochaber 1

Evan Menzies scored four times as Newtonmore go third in shinty's top flight after beating Lochaber 5-1 in their 3pm throw up at the Eilan.

Ewen Fraser got the other for 'More with Findlay MacDonald countering for Lochaber.

Continued on page 52



Oban Camanachd's 'Papa' MacCuish celebrates scoring his team's third goal with Scott MacMillan on his back during the Camanachd Cup semi final against Kyles Athletic at Mossfield Stadium. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!  
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3250

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

#### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

#### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Tel No.....

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

#### RECENT WINNERS:

**T Campbell** Sept '18 £2500  
**S Campbell** Sept '18 £2550  
**L Currie** Nov '18 £800  
**L Nicolson** Dec '18 £3900

#### LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

**H Hope, Lochgilphead**  
&  
**A Cameron, Spean Bridge**

Continued from page 51

### Inveraray 2

#### Lovat 2

Inveraray moved off the bottom of the table after drawing 2-2 with Lovat at the Winterton.

Garry MacPherson and Connor Howe twice had Inveraray ahead but Greg Matheson pegged them back both times.

### Kingussie P Kinlochshiel P

The match between Kingussie and Kinlochshiel at the Dell was postponed because of the adverse weather conditions.

## Mowi National Division

### Fort William 7

#### Glenurquhart 1

Fort William clinched the Mowi National Division title, and promotion to shinty's top flight, in emphatic style after they beat second placed Glenurquhart 7-1 in their 3pm throw up at An Aird.

The Fort set their intentions out early on, taking a six-minute lead. Lachie Shaw found space from a well-worked free-hit and he struck a bouncing ball really well, sending it into the bottom corner of the goal from about 20 yards range.

Alexander MacMillan made it 2-0 on 22 minutes. Arran MacPhee was fouled by Lachie Smith on the penalty spot and from the free-hit, the ball was played to MacMillan at the edge of the box and he turned and hit the ball home.

Lewis Morrison made it 3-0 just three minutes later. The ball was played in to Morrison but he left it for Calum Shepherd, who shot goalwards. Stuart MacKintosh made the save but Morrison was quickly in to pounce on the rebound to score.

Alexander MacMillan got his second a couple of

minutes before the interval. Arran MacPhee's shot was saved by Stuart MacKintosh but MacMillan produced a great finish from a tight angle.

When the ball dropped for Arran MacPhee from a corner on 57 minutes, he hit it low into the net from the edge of the D to make it 5-0.

John Barr pulled a goal back for the Glen a minute later but Victor Smith got the sixth Fort goal on 66 minutes when he turned his man really well before striking the ball perfectly into the bottom corner.

Arran MacPhee got his second on 71 minutes to round off the scoring. Jack Fraser shyed the ball and it came in just outside the penalty area where MacPhee hit it on the half-volley and it went bouncing into the net.

Glen's Andrew Corrigan was sent off by referee Des McNulty following a display of dissent late in the match.

It was a 12th straight league win for Fort William and they are worthy champions with second place Glenurquhart the best of the rest, a massive 10 points behind.

### Glasgow Mid Argyll 4 Oban Celtic 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll kept their promotion push going by beating Oban Celtic 4-0 at Yoker.

The early exchanges were even with Oban Celtic creating the first clear opening when Ross MacMillan turned his marker and attempted a lob goalwards but GMA keeper Robert Dunnings was quickly off his line to keep the ball out.

However it was GMA who made the most of their first chance on nine minutes when Oliver MacRae launched the ball forward and Jamie McFadyen stole in to score with his effort sneaking past the keeper.

Play switched to the other end and Robert Dunnings

made a brilliant save with his stick to keep out Lennon Campbell's drive from around the penalty spot.

It was GMA who were proving the more clinical in front of goal and they doubled their lead on 13 minutes. The visitors didn't clear their line properly and Oliver MacRae was again the provider as he played a perfect pass to Jamie McFadyen, who blasted the ball on the run past Iain MacFarlane in the Oban Celtic goal.

It took another terrific Dunnings save to keep out Lennon Campbell's high shot on the turn, deflecting the ball by the post.

GMA added a third goal on 22 minutes with Oliver MacRae driving the ball low into the bottom corner of the net.

It remained 3-0 until a minute before the break but they had a great chance to pull a goal back when Ross MacMillan was brought down after bursting into the D and referee Ross Brown pointed to the spot. MacMillan dusted himself down before taking responsibility from the penalty spot but he sent his effort the wrong side of the post.

The host's 3-0 interval cushion was harsh on Oban Celtic and worse was to follow as GMA added a fourth a minute after the restart when Calum McLay shot, through a crowded goal area from the penalty spot, deflected off Lewis McPhee's stick and wrong-footed the keeper with the ball going inside the post.

The goal effectively ended the match as a contest although Oban Celtic tried hard with Robert Dunnings twice denying Lennon Campbell with low saves.

It says a lot about Oban Celtic's efforts throughout that GMA keeper Robert Dunnings was the man of the match.

With Fort William taking the first promotion spot as champions, GMA are now just one point behind second placed Glenurquhart with two games in hand.

Sixth placed Oban Celtic remain a point behind Beauly with a game fewer played.

### Beauly 1 Skye Camanachd 2

Skye Camanachd came from behind to beat Beauly 2-1 at Braeview Park.

## Strathdearn Cup – semi-finals

### Fort William 7 Kilmallie 0

The Fort William seconds beat the Kilmallie seconds 7-0 in their noon throw up at An Aird to reach the Strathdearn Cup final.

Greig Kelly gave the Fort a 24-minute lead and Scott



Glenurquhart's Lachlan Smith and Fort William's Lachie Shaw in a race for the ball during last Saturday's Mowi National Division match at An Aird. Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Knox added a second on the strike of half-time.

Scott Knox got his second on 65 minutes with Greig MacInnes who played in Daniel Morrison but 'Garry' keeper Gordon MacDonald made a good save with his hand.

Dean Williamson made it 5-0 on 71 minutes with Scott Knox completing his hat-trick on 82 minutes.

Donald Walker completed the scoring a minute from time as Fort William proved too strong for their lower league opponents.

The Fort William and Newtonmore second teams will meet in the final on Saturday 31 August 2019 after 'More edged out the Glenurquhart seconds 2-1 in their semi-final.

## Mowi North Division 1

### Skye Camanachd 0 Glengarry 2

League leaders Glengarry stay four points clear at the top of the table after beating the Skye Camanachd reserves 2-0 in their 2.30pm throw up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Glengarry played with the wind in the first half and it took a superb Murphy Henderson save, tipping a Raymond Robertson pile-driver over the bar with his caman, to prevent 'Garry' going in front.

However, Robertson was not to be denied and he gathered a Steven Cameron pass in a central position on 18 minutes before turning and shooting low into the net.

Finlay Nicolson, who started at wing centre before being pushed up front, made it 2-0 on 34 minutes. Finlay Fraser flicked the ball inside from the left and Nicolson lifted the ball past the keeper to score.

Skye came more into it in

the Jubilee Park side 4-0 at Ganavan.

Jamie MacGillivray gave Lochside a 23-minute lead when he ran down the left and sent a low shot past the keeper from 20 yards.

And it was MacGillivray again on 27 minutes with an effort that deceived the keeper to make it 2-0.

Two fine strikes from Lewis Buchanan on 61 and 75 minutes completed the 4-0 victory.

The only downside for Lochside was a nasty knock above the eye which is likely to sideline the influential Michael MacQueen.

Elsewhere in the division, league leaders Aberdour beat Col Glen 2-0 at Silversands and the Inveraray second team came from two goals down to draw 3-3 with Tayforth at Peffermill.

## Mowi North Division 2

### Lochcarron P Strathspey P

The crucial North Division 2 title clash between league leaders Lochcarron and second placed Strathspey Camanachd at Battery Park was postponed as there was no available referee.

## Mowi South Division 2

### Glenorchy 10 Bute 0

Glenorchy were too strong for the Bute seconds, winning 10-0 at Mart Park.

Conor Sartain and Murray MacKay grabbed hat-tricks; Kieran McKay scored twice and Robbie Brown and Toby McFarlane-Barrow got the others.

### Ardnamurchan 0 Kilmory 8

Kilmory stay in the title hunt after winning 8-0 at Ardnamurchan.

Hal Jones was their top scorer with four goals whilst Alex Cunningham scored twice and Nairn Jackson and Euan Gilmour got the other.



Fort William's hat-trick hero Scott Knox tackles Kilmallie's Leigh Dunning during the Fort's 7-0 win over their near neighbours in the Strathdearn Cup semi-final.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Artemis Macaulay Cup Final

Mossfield Stadium, Oban  
Saturday August 17  
Throw-up 4pm



# Currie drives Martyn's Monday Club forward

Mull rally driver Alasdair Currie is set to return to the stages for his first outing of the year competing in his home rally – the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally.

Regular co-driver Grant MacNiven from Oban will assist Currie on the assault for a top result on home ground.

The duo hope to capitalise on the success they shared during the 2018 Scottish Rally Championship, where they were one of the front running two-wheel drive crews.

'There was no way we were sitting this one out,' the 21-year-old driver told The Oban Times as he gets geared up for a dream drive in a top Ford Fiesta R2 to tackle the demanding three-day event.

The 50th anniversary of the prestigious Mull Rally also sees Currie and MacNiven use the event to raise awareness of mental health issues. The car will be sporting Martyn's Monday Club (MMC) colours to help raise the profile of this great charity.

MMC promotes peer-to-peer self-help for those that or have suffered with any mental health illness, or other issues which make them feel down, sad or isolated. The Tobermory driver said: 'It's a privilege to help everyone



Mull rally driver Alasdair Currie and co-driver Grant MacNiven with members of Martyn's Monday Club.

involved at Martyn's Monday Club; this is a cause very close to my heart and I look forward to working with Robert, Diarmid and Billy in promoting this extremely important group.'

Currie's main aim is to elevate the profile of Martyn's Monday Club. The team will be raffling off a once-in-a-life-time opportunity of a high-speed ride in his rally car on a closed road before the start of the 2019 Mull

Rally. With more details coming shortly, he urges everyone to look out on social media for more information and how to enter this exciting competition with all profits going to MMC.

Martyn's Monday Club is delighted to be involved with Alasdair Currie Rallying for this up-coming rally. We are trying to reach out to men and women from different organisations to make them aware that we are here, and

## RALLYING

are looking to help anyone in need,' said a spokesperson.

Alasdair thanks Aquatiq Hygiene Systems, Pier Café, Aquasky Under Water Surveys, Markie Dans, Café Fish, T Barbour Marine Fuels and Aquatiq Food Safety for support on his home come back in October, and asks everyone to get involved with the fundraiser.

# Sporting blues for SAMS students

A University of the Highlands and Islands student, who needs regular health checks following major heart surgery as a three-year-old, has been recognised as one of the university's outstanding athletes.

Iain Walsingham, 20, an undergraduate student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI in Dunbeg has been awarded a Sporting Blues Colour after captaining the university's sailing team, part of the Wind and Wave Club, to its best ever season.

There was a double celebration for the university's Wind and Wave Club as founder and fellow SAMS UHI student Joe Penhaul-Smith was also awarded a Half Blue.

The accolades were presented by the university's Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA). Introduced in 2017, the Sporting Blues Awards

acknowledge the excellence of the university's students and alumni.

Iain, from Cheltenham, had an operation to repair two holes in his heart at the age of three. He requires continuous monitoring of his health throughout his adult life but has pursued a diverse sporting career. His sporting achievements show the extent of his determination not to let his condition affect his abilities.

He said: 'Despite the operation when I was three and having periodic check-ups afterwards, my condition has a limited impact on my day-to-day life due to the fact that I maintain a healthy lifestyle and the excellent support I received when I was younger. I consider myself a normal athlete and not handicapped in any way from it, but it is a cool story to tell people.'

Joe, 25, has been a prolific

yacht racer since moving to Scotland from Derbyshire to pursue his PhD. Outside of university competition success, he has won many competitions including West Highland Week, Kip Regatta and the overall RC35 series in 2018.

Joe is the founding commodore of the Wind and Wave Club and has played a crucial



Iain Walsingham

## SAILING

part in the club's success at the Scottish Student Sailing (SSS) Leagues and the SSS yachting championships.

The club's success at events, plus the quality of training offered at the university, has resulted in Iain being elected commodore of the club for the next year as they look to build on their past success.

Throughout the year, as captain of the sailing team and a regular for the yachting team, he has helped the club achieve its best results in both disciplines.

The Sporting Blues awards scheme is a joint initiative between the university and HISA, with the Blues being awarded at graduation ceremonies to winners.

Both Joe and Iain are set to be presented their awards at the SAMS graduation ceremony in early September.

## Martial arts

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



## Kyokushinkai Karate

The club's next event will be the beach training session which will be at Kilmory beach on August 24 and will be followed by the club barbecue. The event is open to all clubs.

The next local event in planning is the junior competition which will be in November.

Beginners are welcome up until the end of September after which the next intake will be in January.

For details about the Kyokushinkai Karate classes: contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email using [iain@ikku.co.uk](mailto:iain@ikku.co.uk)

The club can also be found on Facebook under Caledonia Kyokushin.

## Kickboxing

Senshi Do Kick Boxing is a great way for kids or adults to get fit and learn how to look after themselves. Beginners are always welcome from age five upwards.

Find the club on Facebook Senshi Do Kickboxing or email [shihanwill@gmail.com](mailto:shihanwill@gmail.com)

## Shukokai Karate

The clubs start back training after the holiday break on the following dates: Oban on August the 15 at 6.30pm, Inveraray on August 16 at 6.30pm and Dalmally on August 16 at 7pm. Beginners are welcome until the middle of September.

Anyone interested in joining those clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905.

## BJJ & MMA

Head coach Coogie travelled to Iceland at the beginning of August to train at Mjolner MMA gym in Reykjavik, home to UFC fighter Gunnar Nelson and is one of the top gyms in the world. Coogie will be learning BJJ and MMA techniques to take back to Oban to continue the growth and expansion of his students.

A full report will be in the next article.

If anyone would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email using [coogiepots@gmail.com](mailto:coogiepots@gmail.com)

## Wado Kai Karate

The Park School class closed until after the school summer holidays. These sessions, for children aged 7-10 years at the school will resume on August 26 at 3.15pm. Contact Mike Faulkner – [m.faulkner6@btinternet.com](mailto:m.faulkner6@btinternet.com) for more details.

Normal training will resume once the August term begins. For more details contact Chris Bruce - [crb999@btinternet.com](mailto:crb999@btinternet.com) for more details of how to join Wado karate.

## Saints Player of the Year

The Oban Saints Player of the Year award for 2018 - 19 went, unsurprisingly, to Lewis Cameron, who also scooped the top goalscorer award.

Even less of a surprise was that, when the trophy was presented on the players' night out in Inverness recently, nobody was sober enough to take a picture of the presentation.

In last Wednesday's Scottish Amateur Cup first round draw Saints were one of 26 West Region clubs to receive a bye into the second round.



Lewis Cameron

OT

## GOLF



Brien Dickey, club treasurer, presents winner John Taylor with the Burns Crystal Trophy.

## Taylor wins Highland Arts Burns Crystal Open at Isle of Seil

The Highland Arts Annual Burns Crystal Open Competition was held for the 18th year on Sunday August 11 at the Isle of Seil Golf Club.

Conditions were rather wet and breezy. After the game competitors enjoyed refreshments and the prize giving in the club house.

The overall winner was John Taylor with a net score of 60. Second was Gordon Mackenzie on 65; third Geo Adam, 66; and fourth Joe MacVicar, 68.

Ladies' winner was Liz Mudie with a net score of 75.

Longest drive: Geo Adam. Red tees: Joe MacVicar. Nearest pin: Gordon MacKenzie. Least puts: Geo Adam, Liz Mudie. Birdie Putts: Gordon MacKenzie, Geo Adam.

A special prize was awarded for the smartest dressed golfer which also went to Geo Adam.



Highland Arts Annual Burns Crystal Open Competition competitors assembling before the shot gun start.

## Murphy wins Glencruitten Open

Phillip Murphy won the Glencruitten Open on Saturday with a score of 63. Martin Rae was second with a score of 66 (bih), and Allan MacPhee was third, also with a score of 66.

Steven McCuish won Division 1 with a score of 69 - 9 = 60 (bih). Runner-Up was Malcolm Cullen with a score of 70 - 10 = 60 (bih), and in third place Allan MacPhee with a score of 66 - 6 = 60.

Cameron MacCallum won Division 2 with a score of 82 - 24 = 58. Runner-up was John Gibb with a score of 71 - 11 = 60, and in third place Alfie MacKenzie with a score of 76 - 14 = 62.

On Saturday a par three competition takes place.

The previous week Scott Jordan won the Britannia Cup with a score of 69 - 10 = 59. Martin Tait won the Wilson Cup with a score of 67 - 7 = 60.

Alistair MacLean won the Championship with scores of 63, 62, 59, 68 = 252. Sean Dunstaffnage won the Handicap Championship with scores of 62, 55, 63, 67 = 247.

## Captain's day at Craignure

Sunday August 18 is Captain's Day at Craignure Golf Club.

Starting at the slightly earlier than usual time of noon, it will be an 18-hole Stableford full handicap open competition for the Craignure Challenge Trophy.

# Saints put first po

Craignek	0
Oban Saints	1
Central Scottish 1B	

Several spurned opportunities and a red card left Oban Saints clinging on to record an opening day victory as the club made its eagerly awaited debut in the Central Scottish Amateur Football League at Dalziel Park, Motherwell last Saturday afternoon.

Craig MacEwan bagged the honour of scoring Saints' first goal in their new league set-up while Paul Carmichael has the slightly less prestigious distinction of picking up the first red card in a tight Division 1B encounter with Craignek.

Co-manager Donald Campbell was on holiday leaving other half Willie Gemmell in sole charge for the club's first competitive outing of

the season. Already without the injured James Ford and suspended Steven MacLeod, Gemmell was dealt a further blow when work commitments forced Cammy Hill to withdraw from the travelling party on the eve of the match.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway line end of Dalziel Park and after an even opening spell created the first chance of the match in the seventh minute.

David Beaton won a header from a Craignek throw-in on the left which Dean Smith was able to latch on to. Smith fed Lewis Cameron, who darted into the box and cut the ball back for Craig MacEwan who unfortunately lifted his effort over the crossbar.

There was little between the teams as Paul Carmichael headed a Lewis Cameron free-kick wide of target before Craignek reprised

an earlier corner kick routine with skipper Thomson this time sending a shot well wide of Graham Douglas' left hand post.

Craignek keeper Ralf Semrua was unable to deal with a 24-minute Myles McAuley right wing cross, however, Lewis Cameron failed to take advantage of the chance sending the loose ball into the side net from a tight angle.

### Rampaging

Paul Carmichael made a rampaging run forward from his central defensive position but his right foot shot from 25 yards flew wide of Ralf Semrua's left hand post.

Two chances in as many minutes fell the way of Dean Smith, who was firstly denied by a fine Ralf Semrua save on his six-yard line after a good build up on the left before stabbing a 34th minute Lewis



There were no takers for this Lewis Cameron corner kick which flashed across the Craignek goalmouth.

## £600 raised for 'My Name's Doddie'

Continued from page 56

Throughout the day Oban Lorne Ladies played Hillhead/Jordanhill. With some young and inexperienced players facing up against Scottish Internationalists, it was always going to be a tough test, but the ladies stuck to their game plan and made it very difficult for the Premiership outfit to break them down. Hillhead/Jordanhill won all three matches on the day but the Oban Ladies provided a tough test for them and scored some great tries.

Two pools of teams played out the fixtures with some entertaining rugby on display. The Men's Tens Shield final ended up as Inverness versus OHS Former Pupils, and the young team led by Allan Wright were too much for the Highlanders in the final and the FPs went away with the Shield.

The main competition ended up an all-west-coast affair



Tower Tens winners were Oban Lorne. Photos: Stephen Lawson

with Oban v Lochaber in one semi-final and Cowal v Mull in the other. Oban were looking the strong favourites after a 28-0 victory over Lochaber but meeting Mull in the final was going to be a tough test.

In the end Oban ran away with the final and won 34-0, which allowed the Green Machine to keep a clean sheet

throughout the tournament.

Captain Iwan Roberts and vice captain Owen MacDonald were both very pleased with how the team performed: 'We are delighted to have kept a clean sheet, our defence is something we have been working on,' said MacDonald.

'Great win on the day and

Cameron pass inches wide of target.

Saints got their noses in front five minutes before the interval from a free-kick on the edge of the Craignek box after a promising Matthew Kelly run had been brought to a premature end by Greig Williams. The home defence couldn't deal with Lewis Cameron's delivery and Craig MacEwan pounced on the loose ball to open Saints Central Scottish Amateur Football League account.

The half-time interval seemed to disrupt the Saints momentum and it was the home side who made the better start to the second period.

Saints registered their first attempt of the second half in the 53d minute with Ralf Semrua palming a Matty Kelly shot from 20 yards into the path of David Beaton, who was unable to get high enough over the bouncing ball and lifted his effort over the crossbar.

Saints received a big let-off when, after relinquishing set piece duties, Scott Thomson ghosted in completely unmarked to head a long straight Paul Rooney free-kick inches wide of Graham Douglas' right hand post.

With 20 minutes remaining manager Willie Gemmell made his first change of the afternoon when young Aaron McKay replaced David Beaton on Saints' right.

happy with our level of fitness. Next week will be a big test for us away to Cartha,' said Roberts, who already has the challenge of a national team clearly in his sights.

Oban Lorne RFC are proud of all the teams who competed this weekend and a big thank you was given to the clubs who travelled to participate.

# ints on the board



Craig MacEwan wheels away after scoring what turned out to be the only goal of the game. Photos and match report Derek Black

Last season's top scorer Lewis Cameron passed up a glorious opportunity to open his account for this season when he pulled a 73rd minute shot wide of Ralf Semrua's right hand post after a patient Saints build up on the right.

Craignek keeper Semrua produced an incredible 80th minute triple save to keep his side in contention. After pushing out a Lewis Cameron shot from 20 yards Semrua was quickly back on his feet to deny firstly Matty Kelly and then Dean Smith on the rebound much to the disbelief of the Saints bench.

Saints continued to look the more likely to add to the scoring at this stage and Lewis Cameron's 81st minute free-kick was helped on agonisingly wide of Semrua's right hand post by the left

boot of Craig MacEwan. Daniel Croarkin replaced Dean Smith before an enforced personnel change saw Paul Carmichael earn the distinction of picking up Saints first Central Scottish Amateur Football League red card.

A straight ball over the top saw Taylor Lawrence winning the foot race with Carmichael and, with Graham Douglas well off his line, the big centre half elected to tug back the Craignek striker giving referee Sean Murdoch, who had a good game, an easy decision to make.

Kerr Newbigging was then brought on to add height to the defence at the expense of Matty Kelly.

As Craignek tried to capitalise on their numerical advantage Greig Williams

was left unmarked at the back post and the Saints defence were relieved to see the big full back's header from a right wing corner kick hit Dean Murdoch and deflect wide of target.

The Saints defence, well marshalled throughout by skipper Dene Cassells, survived what remained of the Craignek onslaught to get their Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B campaign off to a hard-fought winning start.

Co-manager Willie Gemmell said: 'I was pleased with the result and the way we played at times, but we must be more clinical in front of goals. We created a number of excellent chances but failed to take them and when the score is just 1-0 the other team are still in with a chance.'

This coming Saturday the Glencruitten faithful will have their first glimpse of Saints in competitive action since April 6 when Lesmahagow visit Oban for the first time. The game will be played at Glen 2 with a 2pm kick-off.

The Oban Saints GG team beat South Lochaber Thistle 4-3 in a friendly on Saturday at Glen 2 thanks to goals from Ross Maitland, Fraser MacFarlane, Keir MacLean and Rory Dowd.

They start their Greater Glasgow AFL campaign on Saturday with a home game against Langcraigs in the League Cup. The match will take place at Oban High School 3G with a 2pm kick-off.



Mull were Tower Tens runners-up.

'We are delighted to welcome everyone to Oban, especially on such a nice day. We are a growing club and I would urge anyone who can help us in any capacity to get in touch with the club as we really need more volunteers.'

'It was fantastic to see so many former players here today and the young players coming through in both the ladies' and the men's teams.'

Oban Lorne have a number of youth teams playing in the west regional leagues and SRU Galant B conference

as well as National Ladies' teams and the Men's team in West Regional 2.

If anyone can help and volunteer then please get in touch with Oban Lorne RFC direct: obanlornerfc@gmail.com

Oban's Scottish international Abi Evans, playing for Hillhead Jordanhill, escapes the clutches of Eilidh Shearer.



Shield winners Oban High School FPs



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze  
**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday August 15, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	05.40	3.5	12.02	1.0
	17.56	3.9	**	**
<b>Fri</b>	00.22	1.1	06.12	3.7
	12.36	0.9	18.30	4.0
<b>Sat</b>	00.56	1.1	06.44	3.8
	13.09	0.9	19.03	4.0
<b>Sun</b>	01.29	1.1	07.14	3.8
	13.40	1.0	19.35	3.9
<b>Mon</b>	02.02	1.2	07.43	3.7
	14.09	1.1	20.05	3.8
<b>Tues</b>	02.32	1.3	08.10	3.6
	14.34	1.3	20.34	3.7
<b>Wed</b>	03.01	1.4	08.38	3.4
	15.00	1.4	21.04	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	<b>-5.35</b>	Mallaig	<b>+0.25</b>
Campbeltown	<b>-5.30</b>	Portree	<b>+0.55</b>
Crinan	<b>-0.47</b>	Tobermory	<b>+0.16</b>
Islay Port Ellen	<b>2.00</b>	Dover	<b>+5.30</b>
Lochboisdale	<b>+0.30</b>		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.**

## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Saints put first points on the board

£600 raised for 'My Name's Doddie'

**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS  
SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55



John McPhee celebrates his third place finish at the Austrian Grand Prix with his PETRONAS Sprinta Racing team. Photo: PETRONAS Sprinta Racing

# Podium place for John in Austrian Grand Prix

Oban's John McPhee has secured his second Moto3 podium of the year at the Austrian Grand Prix, after a measured ride at the Red Bull Ring to secure third place by a mere 0.008secs.

### Pole position

John started the race from pole position after a series of riders were penalised following the qualifying sessions,

and was able to make a break along with two other riders as soon as the lights went out.

In the podium battle for the entire 23 laps, despite mixed conditions, John set himself up for third by setting the fastest lap of the race on the final lap to win the slipstream battle over the line and take the spot by a mere 0.008secs.

John and teammate Sasaki will return to action in two weeks' time when they head to Silverstone for the British Grand Prix, with practise commencing on Friday August 23 before the race on Sunday August 25.

### Too comfortable

After the race John said: 'It was tough at the end, because I was almost a little too comfortable at the start when we stretched out the lead to four seconds.'

'I just wasn't able to chase down Romano Fenati as he was escaping, and I could see the guys closing me down from behind as well. I knew that my only hope on the last lap was to get a good exit out of the last corner and get the drive, and that's exactly what I did.'

### MOTO3

'I was actually a little disappointed on the slowing down lap because I didn't realise until I entered the pit lane that I was third. We've worked hard for the last few races and it was nice to be able to reward the team with a podium.'

## Oban Lorne win Tower Tens

### RUGBY

Oban Lorne hosted their third annual Tens Rugby tournament on Saturday.

This year saw the addition of ladies' rugby with Premier club Hillhead Jordanhill Ladies making the journey north to Challenge Oban Lorne ladies.

The weather cleared and helped to make a great day for running rugby. With plenty of west coast teams on display; Mull RFC, Bute RFC, Cowal RFC, Lochaber RFC and Highland friends Inverness Craig Dunain. Oban Lorne were able to field two teams on the day, one being made up of Oban High former pupils.

The day was kick started by a charity veterans' match between Oban and Garnock; this was all done in aid of 'My Name's Doddie' foundation to help raise awareness of Motor Neuron Disease which is championed by former internationalist Doddie Weir.

On the day more than £600 was raised, which will be donated by Oban Lorne RFC to the charity. Many thanks to former captain Peter Campbell for arranging this match which set the tone for the day and raised funds for a worthy cause.

A quick count saw nearly 10 former Oban Lorne RFC captains grace the pitch one more time which was a crowd pleaser for the spectators who turned up on the day.

Continued on pages 54/55



**The Argyllshire Gathering**  
**OBAN**  
HIGHLAND GAMES  
Mossfield Park, Oban

Thursday 22nd August 2019

Admission £12  
Child (under 14) £6  
Family Ticket £30  
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre

March to Games  
Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND  
12noon from Station Square

Highland Dancing  
Track & Field Events  
Traditional Heavy Events  
Piping

TUG O' WAR • FUN RACES  
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PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN

Wednesday 21st August 2019  
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal  
MacGregor Memorial Competition  
Senior Piobaireachd  
LIGHT MUSIC:  
March, Strathspey & Reel  
(former winners)



# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8472

Thursday 15 August, 2019

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

95p



## Sunshine draws crowds to Sunart Agricultural Show



# Police warn of traffic crack down at Glenfinnan games

by Mark Entwistle  
[markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

With just days to go until the world famous Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games, police are warning they will have an increased number of patrols in the local area and will crack down on any drivers causing obstructions.

The warning comes amid increasing tensions caused by the huge boom in tourist numbers flocking to the tiny hamlet on the shores of Loch Shiel.

Around 350,000 visitors descend on Glenfinnan each year, many attracted by the area's links with filming of the Harry Potter movies, the Jacobite steam train, the hit television series Outlander and the historical connection to Bonnie Prince Charlie.

With limited car parking until a new community car park is complete, the shortage of space has seen visitors, desperate not to miss the steam train crossing the viaduct, simply abandoning their cars

and motorhomes in road ends and blocking verges and pavements along the A830 trunk road.

And on Saturday, with the holding of one of Scotland's most iconic Highland games, there is the potential for further congestion and disruption.

**'I am sympathetic to residents coping with hundreds of visitors every day in summer'**

But this week Police Scotland warned: 'It is important that all road users show due care and consideration for other road users and do not allow their vehicle to obstruct the road.'

'This advice stands year round but is particularly relevant during the summer months when visitor numbers and traffic volume increase.'

'The public is urged to report incidents of obstruction at the time of the offence

so that officers can take the necessary action.'

'Officers are increasing patrols in the Glenfinnan area and robust enforcement will be taken against drivers of offending vehicles. Visitors to the area should be respectful to the local community and environment.'

MSP Kate Forbes told the Lochaber Times she intends speaking to Police Scotland about enforcement actions against offending drivers at Glenfinnan.

'Having seen footage of some of the parking at Glenfinnan, I am very sympathetic to the residents who have been coping with hundreds of visitors every day during the summer,' she told us.

'There are clearly actions that need to be taken about enforcement while plans for the car park progress.'

'The community council has worked hard to pull together a plan and secure funding towards making it happen. I will speak to the police about enforcement actions.'



## Lochaber crofter collective is keeping it local

Banavie crofter Stephen McDonach heads up a group of Lochaber crofters in the development of a collective of local growers and producers supplying the local area. **Full story, page four.** Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



**Ian Blackford MP**  
**Ross, Skye & Lochaber**

I will be holding the following Surgeries

22 August 10am-10.45am Highland Council Service Point Broadford  
22 August 11.15am-12pm Highland Council Service Point Kyle  
22 August 2pm-2.45pm Lochcarron Village Hall  
22 August 4pm-4.45pm Applecross Community Hall

A: 29 High Street, Dingwall IV15 9RU   T: 01349 866397  
E: [ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk)   W: [ian.blackford.scot](http://ian.blackford.scot)

23 August 10am-10.45am Cromarty Victoria Hall  
23 August 11.30am-12.15pm North Kessock Village Hall  
23 August 2pm-3pm Ian Blackford's Office Dingwall

28 August 12pm-12.45pm Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Hall  
28 August 3pm-4pm Ian Blackford's Office Fort William

29 August 10am-10.45am Leven Center Kinlochleven  
29 August 12pm-12.45pm Ballachulish Village Hall

**"Working for You"**



LT

## Council appeals for information on effects of climate change

Communities and businesses across Lochaber and the rest of the Highlands are being asked to share their experiences of severe weather over the past few years as part of a new initiative on climate change, writes Mark Entwistle.

The survey has been launched by Highland Council, in partnership with Adaptation Scotland.

While the impacts of climate change and extreme weather are already being felt across the Highlands, from damage to infrastructure to disruption of vital services and a shift in growing seasons, more information is needed about how communities and businesses are being affected.

Following the council's recent declaration of a climate and ecological emergency, work in the Highlands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will continue to contribute to limiting the extent of future climate change.

However, past and present day emissions mean the rate of climate change will intensify over the coming decades and there is therefore a need to adapt now.

The council, along with community planning partners, believes there could be significant benefits to establishing a Highland-wide

climate change adaptation partnership to coordinate and deliver a joined-up approach to managing the impacts of the climate crisis in Highland.

Adaptation Scotland, a programme funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity Sniffer, has already seen similar schemes set up in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and the Glasgow City region. The schemes have shown adapting is easier, cheaper, and more effective through partnership working.

Leader of The Highland Council, Councillor Margaret Davidson, commented: 'We are well aware of the challenge facing the region. To that end, taking a proactive, Highland-wide partnership approach to the risks climate change is going to bring to Highland seems a sensible way forward.'

The views of Highland communities and businesses will help us better understand the challenges as well as shaping how we can best address this in a collaborative way.'

Anna Beswick, Adaptation Scotland programme manager at Sniffer, added: 'It is crucial we listen and understand how people are being affected. Any new partnership must respond to local concerns.'

The survey is available until September 6, 2019.

# Former pupils earn their gold awards

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Three former Kinlochleven High School pupils have become the first from the school to achieve the coveted Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Robbie Heriot and Calum Maclean, who completed their awards while still at the school, were presented with their certificates at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh by comedian Mary Louise Stone – better known as Maggie le Beau from the BBC's Scot Squad. They also met Prince Edward, Earl of Forfar.

For the last four years, Kinlochleven High School has run Duke of Edinburgh at Bronze, Silver and Gold free at the point of delivery for all pupils. The money is raised by a combined fundraising effort between the high school, social enterprise Kinlochlovin' and the high school's parent council.

These fundraising activities subsidise registration, training and expeditions at around £100 for a Bronze, £150 for Silver and £250 for Gold and is open to every child, at every level.

Robbie, from Kinlochleven, said: 'After completing bronze and silver DofE I knew I wanted to aim higher. The Gold



Duke of Edinburgh award was the perfect balance of being adventurous and pushing me out my comfort zone. The time I spent volunteering and learning new skills also really helped set me up for the real world. It's an opportunity I continue to look back on and wish I could experience again even to this day. The people I met and things I saw are encounters I will never forget.'

Calum, from Bunree, concurred, saying: 'Having completed all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh, I have taken many benefits from learning new skills with teamworking, leading groups and working with kids being the main skills.'

'Not only has the DofE award given me countless great mem-

ories but has kick-started my passion for being outside, such as hillwalking and encouraging me to pursue a career in forestry.'

'Even if you aren't outdoor orientated the DofE award works wonders in interviews as it has been my go-to answer due to the award giving me a wide range of skills that employers crave.'

'A big feature of the award is that it makes you go out there and experience new things and more importantly meet lots of new people.'

'Which, in itself, is a great skill to be better at especially in interview scenarios where it could be the difference between you and another person.'

Head teacher Rebecca

Machin added: 'This is an absolutely fabulous achievement showing long-term determination, commitment and true grit.'

'This is why this award is so well valued and understood by employers. It shows a young person's tenacity and flexibility.'

'To show what an exceptional body of work this represents, our three youngsters are among only four per cent of young people who sign up for Duke of Edinburgh who make it to the end of Gold.'

'As a school we are very proud of these three young adults and their achievements, and will continue to enjoy hearing about their successes as members of our alumni community.'

Pictured from left at Holyrood with their Gold Awards are Jo Shepton, Robbie Heriot and Calum Maclean.

### Travelling with your Dog

Road trips in the car can be fun for the whole family including your pet. Check out our travel tips for keeping your dog happy during car journeys.

### MAKE A STOP

Make lots of stops along the way to let your dog stretch their legs, have a drink and some fresh air. Always ensure your dog is on a lead when out of the car!

### MOTION SICKNESS

This can be caused by the anxiety of travelling in the car, which is why it is important to practice travelling in the car and always making journeys fun. If appropriate avoid feeding your dog at least 2 hours before you journey... This will reduce nausea when travelling.

### STAY SAFE

A pet seatbelt or carrier will stop your dog moving around the car, keeping them safe and secure whilst you drive.

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# Caol bridal party reunites for diamond anniversary

When Caol couple Bobby and Isabel Mathers were drawing up plans to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary earlier this month, they decided to make the event extra special by inviting members of the original bridal party from August 5, 1959, writes Mark Entwistle.

Best man Kenny MacRaile from Fort William and their bridesmaid Cath Haldane (nee Stewart) – Isabel's cousin – from near Edinburgh joined more than 100 other guests to help Bobby and Isabel celebrate their 60th anniversary at the Moorings Hotel in Banavie.

Bobby and Isabel (nee McInnes), who were brought up in Lochaber, were married in the Duncansburgh Church in Fort William with the reception afterwards in the Highland Hotel in Fort



William. The cost of the reception for 84 guests back in 1959 was £53 and 15 shillings and the couple, who kept the receipt, had it on display at their anniversary bash along with a receipt from Macrae & Dick for £2 and six shillings for the eight taxi trips to the church and reception.

The Moorings was decorated with banners and

balloons and pictures from the wedding. Bobby worked most of his life in the British Aluminium factory and Isabel worked in Invernevis House, but the pair actually met when Bobby worked on the Great Glen Cattle Ranch and Isabel worked in the estate office and one of her jobs was making up Bobby's wages.

**Bobby and Isabel Mathers, centre, with Kenny MacRaile and Cath Haldane.** Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

The couple, who have two daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, danced the night away with family and friends to the music of Eriskay Lilt, who played at their golden wedding.

Although the couple received many cards – including one from the Queen – and many flowers, they had requested people not to give gifts but instead to donate in aid of Lochaber Macmillan Nurses and raised more than £1,300.

Mr Mathers told the Lochaber Times: 'It was a fantastic day, very enjoyable.'



## Firefighters called to Fort restaurant again

Fire engines were called to a food premises in Fort William's High Street this week for the second time in 21 months.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a fire within the recently opened Italia Express – formerly Nico's – shortly before noon on Monday after clouds of acrid smoke billowed along the High Street from its open doors.

Looking through the open door onlookers could see flames coming from what looked like one of the kitchen appliances.

Two fire engines plus police vehicles were soon on the scene. Asked to comment, a spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'We were alerted at 11.51am on

Monday August 12, to reports of a fire within a restaurant in Fort William.

Operations control mobilised a total of five fire appliances and firefighters worked to extinguish the flames. There were no reported casualties.

'Crews left the scene after thoroughly checking the building for further signs of fire.'

In the autumn of 2017 a fire broke out in what was then Nico's restaurant and takeaway.

Two fire engines and crews wearing breathing apparatus tackled the blaze while a large crowd of onlookers watched the flames through the windows.

It saw the premises closed for refurbishment from October, 2017, until this summer.

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**Fort William FC members get stuck in to helping clean up the high school garden.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Football club lends green hands to high school's additional needs garden clean

A number of players and officials from Fort William Football Club gave up a Sunday recently to help with some garden tidy-up work at Lochaber High School.

They joined other parents and members of the community to help clean up the school's additional support needs garden after an appeal was put out the previous week by the school's parent council.

The football club said: 'We hope we can help the commu-



nity in anyway we can in this new era for Fort William FC and if we can help out with

any community projects or campaigns please just drop us a message.'



Lucy Cooke and Banavie crofter Stephen McDonach show off some of the produce available through Food Lochaber.

# Lochaber crofters launch new food initiative

by Kirsteen Bell  
[fot@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fot@obantimes.co.uk)

As a United Nations panel highlights that one third of food produced globally is lost or wasted, crofters in Lochaber are leading the way in providing more sustainable methods of producing and distributing food.

Banavie crofter Stephen McDonach is leading the group of Lochaber crofters in the development of a collective of local growers and producers that can supply the area.

The Food Lochaber website, which launched last week, allows customers to choose from a range of locally grown and produced food which can then be picked up weekly at the Lochaber Environmental Group's office at An Drochaid in Claggan.

Mr McDonach is joined on the newly formed board by Wallace Hastings as chair man and Catherine Mitchell as secretary.

Produce that has had to travel further to get to the customer has a significantly reduced shelf-life, increasing the possibility of food going off before it can be used.

The Food Lochaber website runs orders in weekly cycles, allowing suppliers to cope with demand as well as

making sure that the food reaching customers is fresh, resulting in a much lower risk of food waste.

Mr McDonach told us: 'After the long journey food takes from the fields to your supermarket basket, it's disappointing, contributes to needless food waste and it's a waste of money. By picking for each individual's order and having a set collection date, we aim to avoid all of these things.'

**'This co-operative aims to encourage production locally'**

The website's launch coincides with the approval of a Special Report on Climate Change and Land from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

The report is the first ever comprehensive look at the whole land-climate system and shows how managing land resources sustainably can help address climate change.

The report highlights that climate change is affecting all four pillars of food security: availability, access, utilisation, and stability – in particular disruptions to availability. Reducing loss

and waste would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve food security.

It was after Mr McDonach, who also works as Environmental Development Officer for the Lochaber Environmental Group, visited a group of producers in Ireland, who use a similar set up, that he felt that it could work for Lochaber.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'The amount produced in this area has decreased by 90 per cent over the past 100 years. This co-operative aims to encourage production locally while increasing the economic benefit for those selling. History tells us it's possible to produce more.'

'Our vision statement is "Bringing food grown and made in Lochaber, to the people of Lochaber" and the primary purpose is to generate increased agricultural output through the creation of a functional market space.'

There are currently 10 producers selling a range of produce including bread, vegetables, ice-cream and jam, and Mr McDonach is hopeful that as the model proves its success there will be more producers taking part.

Visit [www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/food-lochaber/shop](http://www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/food-lochaber/shop) for more information.

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# Claggan tidy up is child's play to local litter pickers

by Kirsteen Bell  
[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

As discarded banana peels and the impact of other litter on Ben Nevis make headline news, Lochaber residents are also working hard at the foot of the UK's highest mountain to keep Claggan clean and tidy for those who live and work there.

Real3Peaks Challenge, which sees teams of volunteers climbing to the summits of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon to clear litter, recently picked up 8kg of litter from Ben Nevis.

However, founder Rich Pyne also commented that over the past six years he had seen a noticeable decrease in the amount of litter left.

He the Lochaber Times: 'I



would put this down to the likes of professionals, trusts and conscientious walkers picking up as they go, also organised litter picks regularly taking place.'

The same ethos is making

a difference in the residential areas around the Ben, as Claggan Residents' Association organised a group litter pick on Monday this week.

Litter is becoming such

Claggan Residents' Association's litter pick on Monday saw these hardy souls don wet weather gear to help make their local area a bit tidier.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

are many residents who do what they can to tackle what can be an overwhelming problem. Leona Jones, who is a member of the Claggan Residents' Association, said: 'The rain started just as we did on Monday but it didn't dampen our spirits.'

'Keeping the area free of litter is something we're increasingly having to take on, because if we want to keep the area clean and tidy, we'll all have to do our bit.'

'It doesn't need to be much to make a difference; we know everyone has busy lives.'

'We have one resident who looks after the flowers. There are just four or five of us on the residents' association, so we are grateful for any little bit of help

that anyone is able to give.'

'The Friends of Nevis do a great job with their annual litter pick so we organised the litter pick to take place on this side before the kids go back to school as we wanted it to be a community event where children and families could get involved.'

The group of adults and children collected four large bags of rubbish between them.

One resident commented that 'you could see immediately' how much cleaner the streets were looking.

The Nevis Landscape Partnership loaned the residents litter picks and gloves, and they are available all week for anyone who was not able to join the group on Monday.

## Fort cycle fatal accident victim from Ireland

Police Scotland have confirmed the identity of the cyclist who died following a road traffic collision in Fort William during the evening of Tuesday, August 6.

He was Eoin Fahey, 33, from Corofin, County Galway in the Republic of Ireland.

The incident happened shortly before 7.35pm on the

A830 in the Blair Mhor area of Fort William and involved a bicycle ridden by Mr Fahey and a HGV. The lorry driver was uninjured.

### Thoughts

Road Policing Sergeant Ewan Calder said: 'Our thoughts remain with Mr Fahey's family and friends at this difficult time.'

'We are continuing to investigate the full circumstances of this collision and I am grateful to everyone who has assisted with these inquiries so far.'

I would continue to ask anyone who has information but has not yet spoken to police to call 101, quoting incident 3677 of August 6.'

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Fort William Bike Kitchen is running repair workshops on Thursday evenings until August 22. The free workshops are from 7-9pm at An Drochaid in Claggan. Email [kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk](mailto:kate@lochaberenviro.org.uk) or call 01397 700090 to book. The events will include basic bike maintenance, dealing with punctures and adjusting and repairing brakes and gears.

■ On Saturday, August 17, Glengarry Heritage Centre will hold a car boot sale at Glengarry Community Hall in aid of the centre. It will hopefully be in the car park, but if the weather is not good it will be tables in the hall. It will be open from 10am-3pm. The Community Cafe will be open as well as the heritage centre. There are a few places still available at £10 each. Contact 01809

501421.

■ On Saturday, August 17, there will be a Strawberry Tea and Family Fun day at An Clachan, Lochaber Rural Complex from 11am-2pm. Family ticket (for four) £10, individuals £3. The museum will be open and there will be a sales table, raffle and competitions for children. Go and see the lovely children's gardens.

■ The Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games takes place on Saturday, August 17, from 11am.

■ Go along to Abbeyfield House in Ballachulish on Monday August 19 from 10.30am until 12.30pm to find out about the free services on offer from Lochaber Sensory Care. Trained staff and volunteers will be available to service and repair NHS hearing aids;

offer support and advice on living with sensory loss and discuss options for equipment designed to help around the home.

■ There will be an extraordinary general meeting of Fort William Photographic Society on Tuesday August 20 at 7pm in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, to discuss how the society can evolve to involve the current membership more and to attract additional members. Members and non-members are being urged to attend as the society needs input and ideas.

■ Féis Locharair is planning to hold an EGM on Wednesday September 4 to help recruit new committee members to organise next year's féis. The EGM is from 6.30pm at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar.

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## ScotRail scraps free toilet plan

ScotRail has scrapped plans to remove the fee for using toilets at Fort William Station.

Network Rail said in December 2018 that charges would be dropped at Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central. The following month other stations were meant to follow suit, including Fort William.

However, following a safety assessment, ScotRail has now confirmed that offering free toilet facilities is 'not viable'. British Transport Police (BTP) had raised concerns that free toilet access could increase anti-social behaviour.

BTP confirmed it had given advice on the matter, however it is understood the decision to keep the toilets paid was a business decision by ScotRail to fund upkeep.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

# New rail trail celebrates 125 years of history

by Kirsteen Bell  
[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

Exactly 125 years to the day since the first train departed from Fort William on August 7, 1894, the friends of the West Highland Community Rail Partnership and others came together to celebrate the special anniversary of this momentous occasion.

The arrival of the train in the closing years of the 19th century was a major victory for the townspeople, who had lobbied fiercely to win approval for a railway to Fort William.

The anniversary event brought together 45 people who take an interest in the West Highland Line's past and present, to reflect on its century and a quarter of history and share thoughts and ideas for its future.

Guests were invited from Friends of the West



Highland Line, Lochaber Local History Society, the West Highland Community Rail Partnership, as well as a number of Lochaber people interested in the railway and in local history.

The steam-powered route from Craigendoran Junction to Fort William was officially opened by the West Highland

Railway on August 11, 1894. Hege Hernæs, Secretary of the West Highland Community Rail Partnership, said: 'We wanted to celebrate the anniversary ahead of the official opening as the first train was very important to local people.'

'We chose to travel to Spean Bridge for the lunch

Brian Murphy, left, and Nick Jones at the start of the trail in Fort William station.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Murphy. Nick Jones, who is a trustee for Glenfinnan Station Museum, developed the walk and gave the first guided tour.

The trail, which starts at today's Fort William rail station, provides interesting facts and pictures of the railway infrastructure that once dominated the centre of town.

The route parallels the original course of the West Highland Railway, passing the site of Fort William's original station which closed in 1975.

The 2.5km self-guided trail takes walkers through 125 years of railway history in Fort William. Historic photographs at each stop show the railway as it used to be in the golden age of steam.

A full guide for the Fort William Rail Trail can be downloaded from [www.glenfinnanstationmuseum.co.uk](http://www.glenfinnanstationmuseum.co.uk)

as in 1894 local people who were interested in the train travelled to Spean from Fort William – it was the cheapest fare.'

The rail partnership further celebrated the anniversary by launching a new Fort William Rail Trail, officiated by the chairman of Lochaber Transport Forum, Brian

## Nevis Centre hosts Fort climate 'conversation'

Fort William's Nevis Centre was the venue for an event entitled The Big Climate Conversation, organised by the Scottish Government.

One of a series of events, the public were invited to give their thoughts on how they feel Scotland is doing and what they think Scotland needs to do to help combat climate change.

People did not need to be experts on climate change as organisers wanted to hear

opinions from everyone.

The views shared at these 'conversations' will help the Scottish Government develop a new public engagement strategy to assist Scotland's transition to a greener and more sustainable society.

Andrew Squire, a founder of the Fort William branch of the Extinction Rebellion climate protest group, attended the event. He said: 'Quite a lot of passionately concerned people spoke up about the need to

decarbonise the Scottish economy rather sooner than 2045.'

'The event was less a conversation between the government and the public – more a conversation between the people attending.'

'The Scottish Government obviously has many conflicting factors to reconcile, but there was frustration at the lack of substantive information from the representative from the Climate Change Policy Unit [Scottish Government].'

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

**Lochaber Chamber of Commerce**  
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The sixth annual Lochaber Ideas Week will take place from Monday to Friday, November 18-22.

This annual celebration of ideas and inspiration has become a firm favourite on the business and community calendar. Events are open to everyone and all are welcome.

Last year's Lochaber Ideas Week was the busiest yet, with more than 1,000 people taking part in a wide range of seminars, workshops and talks over the week.

Frazer Coupland, CEO of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, sees a real community benefit to the whole event: 'As we launch our sixth annual Lochaber Ideas Week, it is exciting to see how the week has grown and evolved to become a cornerstone of the chamber's work that is deeply engaged and owned by our community.'

'We believe that events like this can be a catalyst for positive economic and social change and will therefore help to build a better-connected community.'

One of the most popular events is our lively 'Question Time' debate – a diverse panel from business, community and politics will face

wide-ranging questions from members of the Lochaber public on Tuesday, November 19. This year we've made it easier for working folk to, moving it from Tuesday afternoon to the evening.

Panellists confirmed so far include Donna Manson, new chief executive of the Highland Council; Angus MacDonald, serial entrepreneur and local business owner and Craig Harrow, the new Liberal Democrat MP candidate for the area.

Is there someone you'd really like to see up on the panel? There's still time to get your suggestion in – drop us a line to [membership@lochabercb.com](mailto:membership@lochabercb.com) or call us on 01397 705 765.

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# Fort William charity celebrates milestone

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Volunteers at a Fort William charity shop dedicated to saving lives are celebrating raising £3 million.

The team at the Cancer Research UK shop on the town's High Street were presented with a fundraising award recently during a special ceremony. Current and past supporters, customers and staff marked the milestone which was reached in the shop's 30th year.

Since the shop first opened on November 14, 1989, the £3m raised has been invested in life-saving research.

Manager Sharon Smith, who has worked at the shop for 19 years, knows exactly how vital the power of research is to families.

Her cousin Laura Barr died aged 51 after a four-year battle



with brain cancer in March, 2018. Sharon, 51, said: 'I miss Laura's laughter, her smile and that sparkle which was always in her eyes.'

Hitting the £3m milestone was a really memorable day and we're proud to run a shop with a unique atmosphere.

'But we also took a moment to remember some special people who are no longer with us. Colin Hancock, who

used to volunteer at the Fort William shop but very sadly died from cancer, is missed by all the team.'

I also paid tribute to Anne Thomas, who died recently and had volunteered in the shop every Thursday for years. We owe so much to our volunteers and their contribution will never be forgotten.'

Every day, 88 people are diagnosed with cancer in

Left to right: Ken Donaldson, Sharon Smith, Nigel Colburn and Douglas McPhail with the award.

Scotland and the number of people being diagnosed with cancer has now reached around 32,000 people every year.

Cancer Research UK area manager Ken Donaldson said: 'Cancer Research UK relies on the dedication and enthusiasm of its volunteers as well as the loyalty of its customers. We want to take this opportunity to thank Fort William for all its support to help beat cancer.'

'Cancer Research UK receives no government funding so we are forever grateful to all the wonderful people who support us by shopping with us, making a donation or generously offering their time as volunteers.'



The car was almost completely submerged in the accident.

## RNLI called after car rolls off pier

A family had a lucky escape after their car ran off the side of the pier at Kylerhea on Skye on Sunday, landing in the sea.

Kyle lifeboat The Spirit of Fred Olsen launched at 1.15pm after its volunteer crew were paged by the UK Coastguard and made best speed towards the area, arriving on scene at 1.25pm to find the car partially submerged.

The lifeboat put two crew members ashore to assess the situation and check on the welfare of the car's occupants. Once it was confirmed that nobody was inside the car when it went off the pier and the passengers were all uninjured, the lifeboat stood by until land-based Coastguard units arrived.

Speaking of the incident, the fourth call-out for the Kyle lifeboat in a week, a Kyle RNLI spokesperson said: 'Luckily the car was unoccupied when it rolled half way down the pier and fell off the edge.'

'Due to the rapidly incoming tide, it wouldn't be long before the car was fully submerged. The crew assisted with running lines to the shore to ensure nobody else would have to enter the water during the recovery process.'

### FROM SOIL TO PLATE – TALES FROM A LOCHABER CROFT

Occasional crofting columnist Adam Veitch this week tells how local knowledge helped to ensure hay got made while the sun still shone...



We are new entrants to the crofting world, and over the last six years have built up a small fold of pedigree Dexter cattle.

They eat grass and heather on the hill during summer overlooking Ben Nevis, and during winter chew through stored hay and haylage.

Our small croft does not have enough ground to fully support our fodder needs, so we rely on buying this in each year. So when the opportunity came along to harvest hay from a neighbour's field we jumped at the chance.

As the youngest (and most inexperienced crofters) we first did some door knocking and consulted the local wisdom on how to produce hay in this part of the world.

Filled with theoretical know-how and equipped with borrowed gear, we entered the field of knee high meadow grass swaying in the Friday midday shine.

The weather forecast was as good as Lochaber could muster, and it was time to make some hay.

We hitched the old drum mower to our 1964 David Brown tractor, and with a



following morning, it was time to bale. All was looking good, but just as we were getting started the baler broke. We were in trouble.

Head scratching and general tinkering ensued but after two hours we had only achieved five creatively tied bales. The sun was descending and the night time dew was not far away. It was time to call in help.

A neighbouring crofter who had that afternoon safely tucked his own hay into his barn, shovelled his tea and with a Highland smile arrived 20 minutes later to bail us out of trouble.

Perhaps drawn by the increasing sputter of tractor late into the evening, fellow crofters arrived to lend muscle, tyres and trailers to the task of gathering in the bales.

Not long after, perhaps spurred on by tractor peer pressure, the original baler revived itself and got stuck into its share of work.

We baled and heaved 'til the trailer was suitably stacked high, and with relief sat victoriously atop the wobbling hay as it trundled into the barn to unload.



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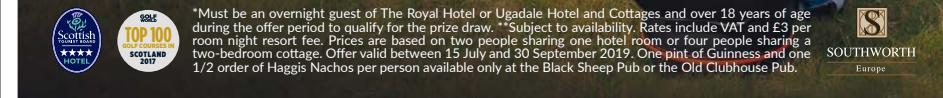
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SOUTHWORTH  
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## Lochaber artist shortlisted for national prize

Jamie Hageman is an artist who has worked for years in Lochaber creating beautiful ultra-realistic paintings of the mountains that surround the area and further afield.

For the second year running this talented artist has been shortlisted for a national prize run by Ken Bromley art supplies, a national art supplies store.

The competition is run annually and following selection the finalists are put out to public vote which closes on August 18.

The winner has their artwork printed on the cover of the shop's catalogue which is distributed throughout the UK and further afield.

To vote go to Jamie's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)) and follow the link.

## YOUR STORY

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# Youngsters from across Lochaber join in fèis

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

One of the Highlands' most revered musicians, Aonghas Grant, aka The Left-Handed Fiddler of Lochaber, has hailed the fèis movement as the most important thing to happen for the culture of the area.

Mr Grant was speaking during last week's Fèis Lochabair, with which he has been involved for nearly three decades.

Children from across Lochaber had joined together at Bun-sgoil Loch Abar in Caol last week for the event.

Participants came from the hosting school as well as from Banavie, Lundavra, Spean Bridge, Invergarry, St Columba's, Caol, Lady Lovat in Morar and Ardgour.



Also joining the music classes this year were three

visiting French students, who were lucky enough to be in the area at the right time.

The fèis is all about the Gaelic language and culture, keeping musical traditions

alive in the Highlands.

Children could choose from a wide range of classes – clarsach, chanter and pipes, keyboard, guitar, fiddle, whistle, accordion, button box, drums, singing, art, drama, step dancing,

**The event attracted youngsters from across Lochaber.**

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

and shinty. New this year was music technology, in which Alan Thompson led a group of students through the process of recording a traditional tune.

Numbers had increased this year, with 143 participants involved.

As well as Fèis Mhor, for primaries three to seven, there was Fèis Bheag for primaries one and two, as well as songs from the Pàrant is Pàiste (Parent and Child) group, Cròileagan (play-group), and Sgoil Àraich (nursery).

Fiddle tutor and committee member Mr Grant com-

mented: 'It's going very well indeed. The children are so interested in all the different things we're doing.'

'When I was a boy it was only families keeping the music tradition alive. The fèis movement is the greatest thing that's happened to the Highlands.'

Angela MacIsaac, this year's chairperson, also said it had been a wonderful week.

'We had a lovely committee and everyone has done a little bit, so everything was really well planned,' she said.

Karen Oakley from Feisean nan Gàidheal, which aims to support the various feisean across the Highlands, added: 'The strength in feisean lies in the people, the volunteers who run them.'

'Who better to provide



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opportunities for kids in Lochaber than the people who live in Lochaber and who know the community best?

And Ann-Marie MacRae, also on the Feis Lochaber Committee, agreed: 'Everything was really well organised. The kids have been so well behaved, and the talent and the dedication of the tutors has been brilliant. They've really made an impact on the students.'

Feis Lochabair is currently looking to expand the number of people involved in the organisation and will be holding an extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday September 4, 6.30pm, at Bun-sgoil Loch Abar. Anyone interested in the feis is invited to attend.



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## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Myopia and teenagers

The teens are an amazing time of life both for children and for parents. I have watched my young son grow physically from 'four foot nothing' when he started high school, going through the non-communicative 'grunt' period to now being articulate and well over six feet tall as he finishes school. In the process he has developed into a very thoughtful and sometimes thought-provoking young man, who is well able converse with both his peers and much older adults.

Despite a very rapid growth spurt in the last year, David's eyesight has not changed. He has been lucky. Rapid growth as a teenager is almost always reflected in teenagers becoming myopic (short sighted). Combined with studying for exams and the constant use of



smartphones and computers it is, frankly, a miracle they are not all myopic. One of my professional passions is myopia control. As parents we cannot prevent our children becoming myopic. But, we can do lots to minimise the risk. Likewise as an optometrist I cannot stop myopia developing but I can dramatically limit the rate of increase in myopia.

As parents we should be encouraging our children

and teenagers to spent time outdoors, preferably involved in sport. We should also be trying to limit their use of smartphones and computers. That may well be asking the impossible but we can only try. As an optometrist specialising in myopia control I have a wide variety of tools at my disposal, including glasses, exercises and a variety of specially designed contact lenses. The secret of successful myopia control is early intervention. Even teenagers who are significantly myopic can benefit but any myopia already developed cannot be reversed.

All teenagers should have annual eye examinations. They are funded by NHS Scotland, and will highlight any developing myopia or reading problems.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Sunshine draws crowds to Sunart Agricultural Show

by Nic Goddard  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Crossed fingers and probably quite a few silent prayers obviously paid off at the weekend when the 69th annual Sunart and District Agricultural Society show at Strontian enjoyed some sunny summer weather.

Contrary to weather forecasts and worst fears, Saturday dawned bright and sunny with just enough breeze to keep the midges away.

Strontian was bustling with people enjoying the weather and all of the many things to do and see at the showground.

The main arena was busy all day, with horse and pony events in the morning followed by the dog show,



which offered plenty of opportunities for the crowd to join in, bringing their most handsome dog or child's best four-legged friend into

the ring. Livestock judging of cattle, sheep and poultry took place throughout the day.

The Champion of

**Emma MacDougall from Tobermory, whose home-bred one crop Cheviot ewe took the Champion of Champions title.**

Photograph: Kevin Laurie.

Champions title went to 17-year-old Emma MacDougall from Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory on Mull with her home-bred one crop Cheviot ewe.

She takes the title from her father, Robbie, who won last year. It was a double delight for Emma, who also beat her father to the champion of champions spot at the Salen Show on Thursday.

David Ogg of Bright Productions was in charge of the microphone, acting as MC for the day and providing a running com-

mentary of the events as they unfolded.

A delighted society treasurer Liz McLure told the Lochaber Times: 'It's been a great success, with gate sales up on last year and plenty of locals in attendance as well as visitors to the area.'

Ardgour farrier Niall Turnbull was on hand demonstrating shoeing horses and ponies, and there was sheep shearing and rural crafts including spinning on display too.

Chainsaw sculpting, beat the firefighter competition and bouncy castles were also on offer, along with a plant exhibition, face painting and an ice cream van, which did a roaring trade.

Bubbles the clown was entertaining old and young with his balloon animals,

magic tricks and general clowning about.

Towards the end of a very busy day, show secretary Nikki Robertson added: 'It's been a fantastic day. The committee and volunteers put so much hard work into making the show happen each year and it really pays off.'

'We've had great attendance, such a range of stalls, and the craft and produce tent this year has been super.'

'We'd like to thank all our sponsors and supporters, volunteers and committee members.'

The craft and produce tent had a huge array of locally produced items for sale and was busy all day long. The adjacent judging tent of produce and handicrafts was

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packed, with many entries giving stiff competition for prize winners and a difficult task for the judging panel.

Steward Chrissy Morgan commented: 'It's been a lovely turn out of such high quality crafts and produce.'

'The kids' categories were particularly strong this year and the flower arrangements were just fantastic.'

'I think every single visitor to the show has passed through the tent to look at the entries; hopefully we'll have even more people joining in next year.'

It is worth mentioning that next year the event will be celebrating its 70th anniversary, so the committee is looking for any old photographs or programmes from years gone by for exhibiting, and they are always looking for more committee members. Contact Nikki Robertson via email at: sunartshow@yahoo.com



All other photographs: Nic Goddard.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

As happens on occasion, I awoke this morning with no clue what to write about for this week's article.

Tuesday is deadline day at The Oban Times and the gentle wrath of the editor can be warmed if submission is not received in the OT headquarters at Lochavullin Industrial Estate by 9am.

However, sipping an espresso while looking West as the morning mist cleared over the Kilsyth Hills followed by a 7am tune on the bagpipes and a cold shower have woken the mind up and a subject has been arrived upon. The Great Highland Bagpipe.

I have not played the pipes regularly for about 10 years and not at all in the last two.

Since about 2009 they have only made it out the box for the sombre occasions of piping at two funerals, with their only other airings were, when no other pipers were available, the marching of the backpacker tour groups down George Street like the children of Hamelin to the Ceilidh House on a Thursday night.

When I played this morning, every day of every year of not practising was felt.

Bagpipes are like no other instrument I have knowledge of. They are like a wild unruly animal that needs constant attention if they are to behave in a reasonable manner. If they are neglected for any period of time, it is a battle to bring them back to a playable state.

The bag was leaking, the reeds had clogged up with old seasoning, the hemp on the chanter and drone stalks had rotted and barely a sound could be had from them.

Further to the various issues of the pipes themselves when they have not been played regularly, are the problems of the player's ability to meet the physical demands of the instrument when out of practise.

As Norman MacLean once said: 'Playing the pipes is like going 10 rounds with Mike Tyson.'

The physical strain on the lungs, stomach muscles, the lips, the left arm and the fingers is considerable.

The bagpipe is very much in contrast to the accordion in the attention it requires.

An accordion can be left for 20 years without being touched and works instantly as well as it had the last time it was picked up.

Similarly, the player will have nothing more to worry about than being a bit out of practise.

Last week when I took the

pipes out of the box for the first time, they were in a sorry state.

After some hours of work on the reeds and hemp, a different chanter installed and a new bag tied in at short notice by Keith Bowes, the pipes are now in working order, but as my early morning tune today showed, I am not.

The dedication it takes to play the pipes to a high level is greater than what is required for any other instrument I know of and my experience of the last few days battling with the pipes has reminded me of that.

When I next see a pipe band, solo player or even a Skipinnish piper play, I will view them with renewed admiration and respect for all they have to endure to perform their art.

When I played this morning, every day of every year of not practising was felt.

Last week when I took the



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Supreme on the day Champion went to Neil Montgomery with his gimmer Cheviot.



Cattle winner: Angus Beaton and Marjory.

# Sunshine draws crowds at Skye Show

Glorious sunshine heralded the return of the annual Skye Agricultural Show on Saturday August 3, attracting a fantastic attendance of more than 1,000 people to enjoy the day's events and activities.

As well as many trade stalls and charities, the fire service was in attendance promoting safety and the ambulance service was run-

ning a recruitment drive for community first responders, while Lucky2BHere provided first aid.

There was a lot on offer for the youngsters with a climbing wall, inflatables, trampolining and an obstacle course, and the RNLI, along with the show committee, were on hand with its festival food.

Competition was stiff in all classes, with a good display of both cattle and sheep.

Supreme on the day Champion and Champion Sheep went to Neil Montgomery of Ose with his home bred gimmer Cheviot, which took second place at Black Isle show earlier in the week. Reserve Supreme and Horse Champion went to

William Gordon of Portree for his horse Glenhaultin Charlie. Cattle Winner was Angus Beaton of Gesto with Marjory, a bought-in eight-year-old Simmental cross cow. The Donald Hen Cup for best Bird in Show went to 10-year-old Callum MacDonald for his female bantam.

Entertainment in the main

ring kicked off with the Isle of Skye Pipe Band, which started proceedings with a procession from Portree's Somerled Square and later accompanied the Highland dancers. The Ore County Terriers made a welcome return to the ring, drawing a large crowd.

There was a Crofters' Olympics which pitched

teams consisting of one younger and one older member against each other in a series of challenges.

There was the always popular sheep shearing demonstration and Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) organised a giant pass the parcel with 100 parcels and three main prizes.

## MSP calls for action on Lewis Broch closure

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has called on the Scottish Government to resolve the closure of the Dun Carloway Broch on Lewis.

Mr Cameron has acted as public concern in the Western Isles continues to grow at the impact the prolonged closure is having on the island's tourism industry.

The regional MSP pointed out that some coach operators were considering pulling out of the Western Isles because of the continued uncertainty.

The ancient landmark, believed to have been built in the 1st century AD, has been closed to the public since early July due to the discovery of dangerous loose masonry.

Mr Cameron said: 'The Broch, which is the direct responsibility of the Scottish Government through its agency Historic Environment Scotland, is a major part of the tourist offering on Lewis. Its prolonged closure, combined with a failure to adequately consult with local stakeholders, is causing consternation in the area.'

'This follows a summer when ministers have failed to get to grips with a series of



Donald Cameron MSP.

transport disruptions affecting ferries and flights to and from the Western Isles.

I am very concerned that these continued problems could drain confidence from the business community and unsettle people who are considering investing in the islands. That would make it even harder for us to retain our young people here.'

Historic Environment Scotland said that the Broch would be closed until further notice and until more detailed assessments and repairs have been undertaken.

## Lewis Pipe Band prepares to take on the Worlds

Lewis Pipe Band will be hoping the sun shines on it again for its last competition of the season – the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow on August 16 and 17 – after a weather washout at the European Championships in Inverness contributed to disappointing results.

The band was a highlight at the recent Lewis Carnival, where it led the parade, accompanied by youngsters from the Lewis and Harris Youth Band and visiting pipers from the St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band in Tasmania.

It was an opportunity for an enjoyable public practise ahead of the excitement next weekend at Glasgow Green.

Lewis Pipe Band attends only two championships each year due to the high costs involved but is being sponsored for the third year by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust, which has donated £1,000 towards the costs of travel and accommodation.

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# Work starts on new Broadford hospital 'hub'

An official turf-cutting ceremony took place last week to mark the start of construction on the new £20million community hospital at Broadford, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

On Friday, stakeholders gathered at the site, located between the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital and the Broadford Health Centre, to mark the beginning of work on the 24-bed hospital 'hub'.

The new building is expected to be completed in 2021 and is part of a redesign of health and social care services on Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross (SLSWR) that will include alterations or refurbishment to the Portree Hospital building, the Broadford and Kyle Health Centres, and the strengthening of palliative and end-of-life care in the area.

NHS Highland's interim chairman Professor Boyd Robertson said: 'The new hospital will be a pivotal part of our programme of modernisation and transformation of the delivery of



The turf-cutting ceremony in Broadford.

healthcare in the area which has already seen substantial progress towards implementation of the Sir Lewis Ritchie recommendations for north Skye, Raasay and Glenelg.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution that local communities across SLSWR have made in helping to develop the wider health and social care redesign for the region over the past few years.'

Also attending the ceremony were the board's chief

operating officer David Park, and Michael Padzinski, chief executive of hub North Scotland Ltd, the driving force behind the project.

The constituency MSP for Skye and Lochalsh Kate Forbes was also in attendance. She said: 'This is a very important day for Skye and Lochalsh. I was delighted to meet Mary Macpherson (104 years old) and baby Hugo (four weeks old), who reminded me how important local healthcare provision is for all generations.'

## Motorbike training scheme to be held in Western Isles for first time

A training scheme to help reduce the number of collisions involving motorcyclists is to be run for the first time in the Western Isles.

The Rider Refinement North course will take place in Stornoway on Friday August 30 and is part paid for by Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund.

The initiative was first held during 2018 with courses in Tayside, Aberdeenshire, Moray and the Highlands. It was first held off the Scottish mainland in July this year with a course in Orkney.

Led by police motorcyclists, the one-day course looks at key risk factors particular to the local area as well as

demonstration rides with feedback from officers afterwards. The cost of the course will be £40 per rider this year, including lunch.

Road Policing Sergeant Alan Henderson said he was delighted to be able to deliver the course in the Western Isles for the first time later this month with the support of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

'The feedback we have received for the course has been overwhelmingly positive and many riders tell us about how it helped them and how they have changed their riding style as a result of the advice,' he said.

'On our course we want to promote safe riding messages

and encourage riders to think about their riding style and riding behaviour, and take advantage of the expert tuition and advice that we will be providing.'

A comhairle spokesperson said: 'The promotion of safe riding is a vital part of any road safety campaign and this excellent police-led training course affords motorcyclists the opportunity to obtain expert tuition, including area-specific risk assessment, thus enabling them to make more informed decisions about their riding style.'

Anyone interested in attending the course should email operationriderrefinement@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

## Walker found as team heads for 40th call-out

A walker was reported missing overnight after failing to make their way to their planned destination.

Skye Mountain Rescue

Team members had an early start on the morning of Tuesday August 6 as they embarked on Mallaig lifeboat to search for the walker.

The walker was located safe and well close to Loch Coruisk. Skye Mountain Rescue Team say they are fast approaching their 40th call-out of the year.

## Thousands enjoy Skye Highland Games in Portree

Around 4,000 spectators gathered throughout the day at The Lump in Portree on Wednesday August 7, for the annual Isle of Skye Highland Games.

The weather held up on the day, despite some showers early in the morning, and visitors were treated to a fine day of competition and Highland celebrations.

There were nine heavies entries, with the best all round heavy athlete being Vlad Tulacek from the Czech Republic. The ground record for 56lb weight over the bar was broken by Colin Dunbar from California with a new record of 16'6". This year had



The highest number of entrants in recent years took part this summer; and, below, the popular caber toss

the best turnout of dancing competitors for years, which delighted the committee.

As the dust settled after a busy day, the committee said:



'We can't thank everyone enough for making our 2019 Isle of Skye Highland Games such a success. Thanks to everyone who took part, of all ages, from athletics, dancing, piping and heavy events. Both local and open participants, you all put on a great show. Biggest thanks must go to the thousands of spectators though who clapped, cheered and "oohhed" all day. You are what the games are for and you are what makes the games.'

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE? Chicken, ham and vegetable pasta

Serves 4

Syns per serving: FREE

Ingredients

- 350g dried strozzapreti or other pasta shapes
- 1 small leek, chopped
- 150g frozen peas
- 150g baby leaf spinach
- 200g pulled ham (5% fat or less) or lean ham, visible fat removed, chopped into small chunks
- 2 cooked skinless and boneless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips

For the sauce:

- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- ½ x 400g can cannellini beans, drained
- 100g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1 medium potato, peeled and roughly chopped
- ½ tbsp Marmite
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 4 large garlic cloves, peeled
- ½ tbsp chopped fresh rosemary (or ½ tsp dried rosemary)
- 120g plain quark



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Line two baking trays with baking paper. Whizz the bread in a food processor until crumbed, then transfer to a plate.
2. Boil the chips in lightly salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, then drain well, return to the pan and cover. Lightly shake to roughen up the chips' edges, then arrange on one of the baking trays in a single layer. Spray with low calorie cooking spray, season and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden.
3. Meanwhile, season the cod. In a shallow bowl, beat together the eggs and beer. Dip the fish in the egg mixture, then coat with the breadcrumbs. Transfer to the second baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fillets and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cooked through and lightly browned.
4. Sprinkle the parsley over the fish and serve with the chips, plenty of mushy peas, plus lemon wedges for squeezing over.

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## Fort Rocks sees children brightening up Lochaber

Fort has really rocked this summer with plenty of youngsters taking part in a variety of fun activities.

The Fort Rocks Facebook group has been painting and hiding rocks throughout the area since 2018 to 'show everyone exactly how much Fort William Rocks!', and is always keen to welcome more members.

It is simple: when you find a painted rock you share it on the Facebook page 'Fort Rocks - Painting, Hiding and Finding', then 're-hide the rock leaving a cryptic clue on the page, or take it home to treasure.'

The group is going strong and the rocks have travelled far and wide. Various activities have been run by Sunday schools to the local library.

It is simple and can take as long or short time as

needed; there is no need to be an artist people simply draw what they love. The whole idea behind it is to spread a smile.

Rock decorating can be done with paints or permanent pens – it's recommended to avoid embellishments such as glitter or jewels which may be eaten by wildlife – other than that it is over to the artist.

Fort William library will be running a rock painting evening for one of the monthly craft meetings, so if anyone need tips there will be people there with ideas.

Everyone can their eyes open for hidden rocks and share what they find; it's a great way to encourage kids to get outside and active.

Who knows, a rock might travel to far-away places over the summer.

## Mallaig pool's plastic bottle ban

As of this month, Mallaig pool is no longer selling single-use plastic bottles.

The move to become more environmentally conscious

encourages people using the facility to bring their own bottle, which, if refills are needed, pool staff will be able to help with.

# Lochaber Geopark inspires youngsters

Lochaber Geopark in Fort William has been inspiring young explorers this summer, writes Lucy Joy.

In an Earth Explorers workshop led by staff geologist Isla MacKay, 23, a group of eager explorers were taught the basics of maps, where and why they are used and different types available.

Each child made their own map and learned the importance of and how to use and make a working key.

Isla said: 'Each child made a map unique to their point of view and shared it with the group. These activities are a great alternative activity for kids who are interested in the scientific subjects and this is a really accessible way to them.'

Activities were not confined to the geopark visitors centre, as the children donned high vis jackets and collected maps from the tourist information centre, which they then used



to explore the town, developing some of the skills they had learned earlier.

The children, from six to nine years old, working well together throughout and they left the event with their own maps and ideas for what to do next.

These activities are run by Lochaber Geopark which

asks only for a donation towards materials used and each session takes place in the geopark visitors centre.

This is not the first time

activities like this have taken place, as there were similar events in the Easter holidays and Geocaching at the beginning of the summer holidays.

They are shared on the

Facebook page and on its website, where there is also the opportunity to become a member of the geopark and get further information on walks and activities which take place throughout the year for all ages.

The Lochaber Geopark is a charity which depends on donations and is staffed mainly by volunteers with an interest in the area.

The Geopark encourages both locals and visitors to come in and gain a better understanding of the amazing landscape in which Lochaber is situated.

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# LETTERS

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

## Crofters' initiative is deserving of the widest support

In this world of plenty, we in the developed nations squander a great deal of food without a second thought.

So we are delighted to report this week the Lochaber crofters' initiative to provide more sustainable methods of producing and distributing food.

The Food Lochaber website, which was launched last week, allows customers to choose from a range of locally grown and produced food which can then be picked up weekly at the Lochaber Environmental Group's office at An Drochaid in Claggan.

The Food Lochaber website runs orders in weekly cycles, allowing suppliers to cope with demand as well as making sure that the food reaching customers is fresh, resulting in a much lower risk of food waste.

Stephen McDonach, who is leading the group of Lochaber crofters, said: 'Our vision statement is "Bringing food grown and made in Lochaber, to the people of Lochaber".'

This is a brilliant initiative and is deserving of widespread support and we commend it.

## Staggering amount raised by charity shop

The sum of money raised by the Cancer Research UK shop on Fort William's High Street – £3 million – is staggering.

Since the shop first opened its doors on November 14, 1989, the £3 million raised has been invested in life-saving research to develop gentler and more effective treatments for cancer.

It is testament to the unwavering efforts of the team involved down the 30 years as well as the generosity of the Lochaber people who have supported the charity. Very well done to all involved.

## Devil is in the detail over island flights

While your news story on page 13 of The Oban Times, (August 1), entitled 'Contract awarded for Oban flights to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree', is factually correct, the devil really is in the detail.

Scheduled flights to the islands may have been secured for another four years, but it fails to mention that they have been HALVED: the service is now only running on just one day a week, with scholar flights continuing to run at the weekend.

Although it states council officers have 'worked hard behind the scenes' to secure the contract, it fails to state that this was at a greatly-reduced price tag, understood to be in the region of 25 per cent less. With that cut, the service would always be reduced, as no commercial company could feasibly supply the same at the knocked-down rate.

We are small islands with fragile economies and these lifeline flights play an important part in our survival: the service gives us an opportunity to get away and back in one day for medical treatment (including chemotherapy and emergency dental care) and allows a host of professionals to visit. With winter fast approaching, the plane can provide a viable alternative within the recent unreliability of our ferry service.

Yes, we may be grateful that the service will still be running, but please be honest, it's been slashed to save money. There has been lots of noise about the Islands' Bill helping to protect our communities, but patently in this case it has not.

A concerned islander,  
Name and address supplied.

## Argyll is bucking the trend over rising drugs deaths

I recently had an email exchange with the National Records Scotland on the matter of drug-related deaths in Argyll and Bute. I have no pleasure in writing about the subject but felt I had to write about this as I did last year.

As seen on social media pages recently, the same out-of-touch 'drug politicians' were trying to conflate national drug death figures as local drug death figures and propagating unjustified blame and criticism on our local services.

## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week.

If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William.

This week's photograph was sent in by Candida Stewart Sandeman, who said: 'Having seen in last week's OT the stunning photo "the Blue Ridge

Once again Argyll is bucking the high numbers of death increases seen elsewhere in Scotland. From last year 2017-2018 we sadly saw a rise of one death. There had been a drop by two deaths in 2016-2017 from 10 to eight deaths.

We are still below the level of 2016 by one. One death is one too many. It shows again that local awareness is the key.

Through due diligence from the likes of Argyll Community Housing Association, which shows no tolerance to drug dealers, and the support from Oban Addiction

Support Services (OASIS), working together we can keep the deaths down in Argyll.

It is a war on drugs that is killing thousands each year and Argyll is holding its own.

Angus Files, Kilmelford.

## Online is not the best way to learn to speak Gaelic

I am very annoyed and alarmed at the proposal to use Duolingo online to learn Gaelic. This is a joke as it's only going to teach words

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## PLOCKTON

This was widely regarded as one of the best first weeks of the regatta for many years with warm weather and no rain.

All races were completed on time and commodore Kevin Baird, a surgeon at Raigmore, was delighted although winds were mainly light.

### Results:

On Saturday morning, July 27, the annual yacht race for the Frithard Trophy was held in rain and very little wind. Ten yachts started but only two managed to complete the shortened course with David Hay in Bragar winning.

In the afternoon, the fourth and final Moore Bowl for local boats was held, again in very calm conditions with the three boats completing only one leg of the race. The race was also a combined race in aid of the RNLI and two centreboards also competed so Hay also won the RNLI Pennant.

On Monday July 29, the annual regatta fortnight began with the ladies' local boat race in the afternoon. Six ladies entered on a lovely warm day with a nice breeze but Alanna Rowe ultimately came out as the winner.

In the evening, the first race for the Plockton Trophy (local boats) had 10 starters, one fewer than last year, as Ian Hay took victory. Also held was the first Ulluva Cup for centreboards with five starters. James Smith from Hexham took the win.

On Tuesday afternoon, the first race for the Pelly Cup (centreboards) had seven starters and was also won by James Smith.

In the evening, the race for the Douglas Mackenzie Challenge Quaich (local boats) had 10 starters. Joy MacKenn became the first woman to win this cup and do so with an eight-second margin. After the race, Joy announced her retirement and has put the Searanger up for sale.

On Wednesday afternoon the race for the Consett Championship Cup (no handicaps) and the Alastair MacKenzie Memorial Cup (handicaps) was held for local boats. David Hay won both trophies.

# Community company aims to build and run Corpach marina building

Plans are in place for new community-run marina facilities to be built to service the proposed Thomas Telford Corpach Marina.

Charitable organisation Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) has submitted plans to Highland Council to construct an all-year round marina building at Corpach Sea Lock on the Caledonian Canal to provide services such as the marina office, toilets, showers, laundry, as well as the cafe, shop and visitor centre.

The initial plan was to refurbish the existing Scottish Canals (SC) buildings to provide marina facilities. However, a recent change in SC policy at board level has seen the offer to use these buildings withdrawn and replaced with an offer to lease the necessary land for construction of a new build on SC land to the rear of the existing buildings. These facilities will now be run by the community through the CRC.

Proposals have been prepared for a single-storey building to house facilities and storage for users and

staff of the proposed marina, while there is scope for the building to be used for small community events.

Highland Council, on behalf of CRC, was awarded £1,465,000 to build a marina on Loch Linnhe at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal at Corpach last year as part of a major community project.

The aim of the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina project is to stimulate regeneration within the communities of Caol and Corpach, and the wider Lochaber area, while also generating significant economic and social benefits.

Once completed, the marina will also comprise 40 yacht and marine vessel berths, a public slipway and 40 car and trailer parking spaces.



An artist's impression of the proposed new community building to the left, behind the existing Scottish Canals buildings in Corpach.

The second Ulluva Cup for centreboards was also held and won by James Smith again.

There were eight starters in the boys' race in the evening, with Calum Hay taking victory. There were four starters in the girls' race, which was won by Christina MacInnes.

On Thursday evening, only two toppers raced for Commodore's Cup, with Robbie Baird winning.

Later on, nine local boats raced in the second Plockton Trophy race in very calm conditions. Ian Hay in Seolta once again took the win. Also held on Saturday was the third Ulluva Cup, which was won by James Smith, who also got the Ardrishaig Cup.

The second Sir Kenneth Pelly

Cup race (centreboards) had eight starters but it was Robin Smith who claimed victory.

On Friday afternoon, Smith also won the third and final Pelly Cup race, beating his four competitors. However, it was James Smith who claimed the overall victory in the Pelly Cup.

It was another lovely sunny day on Saturday August 3, when seven local boats sailed for the Matheson Cup. Ian Hay in Seolta once again took the win. Also held on Saturday was the third Ulluva Cup, which was won by James Smith, who also got the Ardrishaig Cup.

## RUM

Kinloch Castle Friends' Association has renewed its appeal to get involved with its recycling fundraising campaign.

The group registered with recycle4charity to raise funds for the historic Isle of Rum castle by offering £1 for every used printer cartridge sent to it and 50 per cent of the market value of old mobile phones.

Cartridges can be recycled by sending them to recycle4charity in a recycling bag and phones can be recycled through the use of recycling boxes. Bags and boxes can

be obtained through the KCFA. In a new appeal, the association said: 'About a year ago we asked KCFA members and supporters to send their used inkjet cartridges to the charity which gives us £1 for every suitable cartridge.'

We have received £137.10 from just five people – three of whom are members of the committee. Surely we can do better!'

There are no postal charges. All anyone needs is a little bit of computer know-how and a few used cartridges to put into the envelopes which can be ordered online.

Please contact [treas@kinlochcastlefriends.org](mailto:treas@kinlochcastlefriends.org) for more information.



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## Summer fun

Many youngsters enjoyed taking part in outdoor activities during the week-long Highland Highlife Summer Playscheme at Lochaber High School.



## Town team to fundraise for Christmas Gathering 2019



Lochaber Schools' pipers Reinis Cameron, left, and Jordan Currie helped to fill last year's Christmas parade with music and light.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos. NO F33 FWTT Xmas

It may only be August but some in the Lochaber area already preparing for Christmas.

Now that the Fort William Town Team (FWTT) volunteers have brightened up the High Street with the colourful hanging baskets and adopt-a-plots this summer, they have turned their thoughts to the end of the year and welcoming Santa to town.

Nevis Radio did a fabulous job of organising the event in 2018 and the team's thanks go to it for everything it did in organising a fantastic night. This year it's the turn of FWTT, which has some wonderful ideas for the evening. The team is hoping to bring all of the community together, give all the children a special evening

and help local shops by encouraging everyone to shop local this Christmas.

Karen Dean from the FWTT said: "This year is going to be a little different for us. As well as arranging the gathering, we will have to fund the cost of the installation and removal of the Christmas lights, if we want the High Street to look the same as it has in previous years.

"Our plan is to fundraise for the £8,000, and we would ask you all to like and follow our Facebook page for more details. We have already received offers of donations from local businesses we have contacted, and also submitted funding applications to help cover some of the cost.

"We are hoping to receive enough

donations to pay for this year and anything left over will go towards a future Christmas event or Christmas lights installation.

"It would be such a shame to stage the event without the twinkly lights of Christmas brightening up the High Street and the tree in The Parade."

At the moment the team is still in the planning stages, but Karen said they would love for anyone locally who wants to take part to get in touch with them and they will see if they can include them into the evening.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Christmas Gathering Facebook page for more news.

Contact Karen on [karen@fortwilliamtownteam.co.uk](mailto:karen@fortwilliamtownteam.co.uk).

We provide a full range of services dealing with charitable organisations, and are happy to provide advice and ongoing compliance work as appropriate

To make an enquiry call David Ross CA on 01631 294160 or email [info@mackayandco.net](mailto:info@mackayandco.net)  
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## FOOTBALL



The SLT award winners. Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Jags celebrate end of season with awards night

South Lochaber Thistle players, management and volunteers came together in Sunny's Sports Bar on Saturday evening to celebrate a successful season and present their annual awards.

The club has had a fantastic year, winning the Greater Glasgow Premier Amateur Football League (GGPAFL) Division 2 trophy as well as adding a women's team and children's football sessions in Kinlochleven.

The award winners this season were as follows:

Player of the Year: Darren Duncan; Young Player of the Year: Barna Tot; Most Improved Player: Kieran Lopez; President's Trophy: Rebecca Small; Clubman of the Year: Albie Robertson Snr; Top Goalscorer: Martin Munro.

The club would like to say thank you to all who came and took part in the celebrations and a massive thank you to the one and only Iain Rodger for his kind hospitality and for sponsoring all the awards.



## Mallaig unveil new strips

Mallaig FC unveiled their new away strips ahead of their match against Kyle on Saturday. New sponsor Mowi Scotland is delighted to be supporting the club this season.

Pictured are Allan MacDonald, Mowi fish hatchery manager, presenting a new away strip to Neil Cameron, manager of Mallaig FC, on behalf of the company.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## BOWLS



## Lyn wins in all-women final

Women bowlers came to the fore on Saturday as Lyn Donald and Suzanne Williamson reached the final of the John Rogan Singles held at the Fort William Bowling Green in Inverlochy on Saturday. Lyn Donald, left, pulled off a win and received the trophy from John Rogan with Suzanne Williamson runner-up.

Photo: Anthony MacMillan Photography

# Mallaig thrash Kyle to keep 100 per cent record

Mallaig	8
Kyle	0
William Wilson League	

Mallaig hosted Kyle on Saturday as the defending Skye and Lochalsh league champions looked to maintain their 100 per cent league record and make it 12 wins from 12, writes David Buick Jnr.

Saturday's game also saw the debut of Mallaig's new second kit, sponsored by Mowi Scotland.

From the start it was clear that Mallaig were going to dominate possession, with the league's bottom side, Kyle, having almost everyone behind the ball trying to prevent Mallaig from breaking the deadlock.

However, this effort was in vain as it didn't take long for Mallaig to get their first of the afternoon when David Currie continued his great form by finishing well with a chest and volley in to the bottom corner from an Andrew Sneddon cross.

The home side continued to dominate the ball and create chances and it was not long after that Ryan MacDonald, this time the scorer, got on the end of a Brett Macmillan through ball to finish low past



Mallaig's Ryan MacDonald, who scored one of his team's eight goals in Saturday's victory over Kyle.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

the keeper. Mallaig managed to find a third before half time as Andrew Sneddon, with a fine low drive from the edge of the box, struck into the bottom corner.

### Half time: Mallaig 3-0 Kyle

Mallaig came out for the second half with the game pretty much over as a contest, however, the defending champions maintained a good intensity and continued to be on the front foot.

Goal number four was a second for Andrew Sneddon, who tapped in at the back post after a low cross from Brett Macmillan.

Substitute Gordy Jamieson was next to get in on the action; a well-worked goal this as a good-through ball from Ryan MacDonald found Gordy, who made himself a bit of space inside the box to get his shot away which was just too powerful for the



Mallaig's Scott MacLean tackles a Kyle opponent.



Mallaig's David Currie in action during the 8-0 win over Kyle.

## FOOTBALL

young Kyle keeper to keep out.

The chances were coming thick and fast at this point, and so were the goals. Aaron Mclean made it six with a smart low finish from an Andy Cunningham assist.

Naturally Cunningham himself made it on to the scoresheet, with a delightful diving header in to the far corner which made it seven.

The scoring was rounded off by Tom Benfield, who arguably scored the pick of the bunch; Benfield received the ball on the right hand side of the box, lifted the ball over the defender's head before unleashing a powerful drive in to the bottom left corner.

Great performances all over the pitch this week, with everyone playing their part in a super performance.

Man of the match went to Ryan MacDonald, who was super throughout in a number of different positions.

A convincing result and performance by Mallaig, who once again go three points clear at the top of the table with only four games to play.

The business end of the season has been reached and it's sure to be exciting.

# Fort rue missed chances in defeat to Strathspey

Strathspey Thistle	2
Fort William	0
Highland League	

The wait for a first Highland League win since April 2017 continues for Fort William as they came up short against an experienced Strathspey side on Saturday.

In what was a close-fought encounter from beginning to end, the Fort will rue their missed chances, particularly a first half missed penalty which would have given them an early lead against last season's fifth bottom club.

Hopes were high when the referee pointed to the spot just a few minutes into the first half, however, Roddy Kennedy was unable to convert the kick and ballooned the penalty high over the bar.

Despite this, the Fort remained in contention and both sides had good chances to open the scoring. The Lochaber side had another claim for a penalty dismissed by the ref, even though it looked a stronger case than the one awarded.



Fort William FC.

Strathy eventually began to dictate the play as the second half progressed as both teams played some good football. Just before the 15-minute mark, James Fraser put the Grantown team 1-0 up much to the disappointment of the Fort bench.

The game continued to ebb and flow and either team could have, and perhaps should have, scored another in the first half.

In the second half, the experience of the home side began to show against the young Fort William side which again featured several teenagers. The visitors still looked

dangerous on the attack but were left frustrated that they could not get the ball into the net.

As the Fort forwards toiled, Strathy doubled their lead with a good header from Craig MacMillan 15 minutes into the second half.

Strathspey were made to work to defend their lead in the last half hour of the match as the Fort pressed for a route back into this game. However, they found no such luck and the game finished 2-0 to the home side.

This second win of the season for Strathspey means they are now eighth in the league

## FOOTBALL

table after three matches. The Fort are in a familiar position at the bottom of the table level with Clachnacuddin, Huntly and Forres, who are all also without a point so far this season.

However, there have been evident improvements on the field for the young side in recent weeks and those that were at Seafield Park on Saturday expect the Fort to start picking up points soon.

They are in action again this Saturday, August 17, when they take on Keith at Claggan Park for a 3pm kick off.

## Third-place finish for Lochaber in Oban

Lochaber Rugby Club got their first taste of competitive action before the new season starts at the end of this month at the Oban Tower 10s on Saturday.

The players have been training hard for the last month

in preparation for the season ahead and this 10-a-side tournament gave the team some good competitive game time.

### Debut

Alan and Jack Hamilton made their debut for the first team after coming through

the youth ranks and they impressed throughout the tournament. The day also saw the return of fly-half Ryan Davis after two years out with a serious knee injury.

The Banavie side made it through to the cup semi-final

## RUGBY

but fell short against Oban who went on to win the tournament. In the third-place playoff, Cowal withdrew from the game due to injuries handing third place to Lochaber.

The team are now back training at Banavie on a Tuesday and Thursday night at 7pm and welcome anyone to go along and join the club even if they have never played before.

The club will also continue with their long term goal to re-establish a women's team and a second team. The club feel that there is a place in rugby for everyone and want to support anyone they can in the sport.

Lochaber will kick off the season away to Loch Lomond on Saturday August 31, 3pm kick off in Alexandria.



Lochaber finished third in the Oban Tower 10-a-side tournament on Saturday.

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## WEATHER

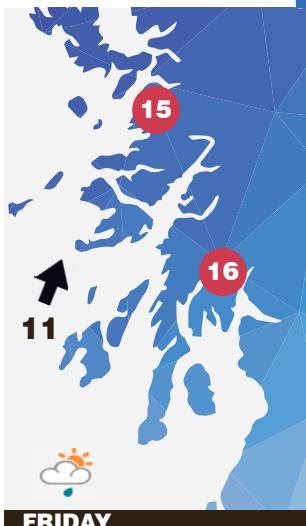
**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze

**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday August 15, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	05.40	3.5	12.02	1.0
	17.56	3.9	** **	**
Fri	00.22	1.1	06.12	3.7
	12.36	0.9	18.30	4.0
Sat	00.56	1.1	06.44	3.8
	13.09	0.9	19.03	4.0
Sun	01.29	1.1	07.14	3.8
	13.40	1.0	19.35	3.9
Mon	02.02	1.2	07.43	3.7
	14.09	1.1	20.05	3.8
Tues	02.32	1.3	08.10	3.6
	14.34	1.3	20.34	3.7
Wed	03.01	1.4	08.38	3.4
	15.00	1.4	21.04	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.**

# LOCHABER TIMES SPORT

## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Mallaig thrash Kyle to keep 100 per cent record

Fort Rue missed chances in defeat to Strathspey



# Three Peaks trio smash their fundraising target

An intrepid trio of friends, who braved wet and wild conditions during a monumental Three Peaks challenge last week, have helped to raise more than £20,000 for James Tangney - cv smashing their original fundraising target.

Bryan Simpson, Craig Forbes and Darren Quigg took on the Three Peaks Challenge for their friend and former Fort William Shinty Club captain James Tangney, 28, who was left temporarily paralysed from the neck down due to a broken neck and spinal cord injury after an accident in India late last year.

He underwent intensive surgery abroad before being flown back to Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth Hospital for rehabilitation.

In an attempt to help cover some of the costs of Tangney's recovery and rehabilitation, the Three Peaks team set out to tackle Britain's three high-



James Tangney with the team who put together and attended a fundraising race night in Fort William Shinty Club clubhouse which raised more than £4,000. Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

est peaks - Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis - in one go and initially set out to raise £3,500.

However, to their surprise, the team obliterated that target and have raised an incredible £22,300 so far, with donations still coming in.



James welcomes the Three Peaks team of, left to right, Darren Quigg, Bryan Simpson, Ross Wilson and Craig Forbes to the fund raising race night in the Fort William Shinty Club clubhouse.

'Donations came from far and wide and the generosity was massively overwhelming and appreciated,' the Three Peaks team said. 'The way the community has all rallied together for such a tremendous cause fills us all with great pride and makes Fort William a very special town.'

The team set out on August 8 and conquered Wales' tallest peak, Snowdon, in an hour and a half, before setting their sights on Scafell Pike in the Lake District which they completed in less than two hours.

As the team began their final ascent up Ben Nevis, heavy rain showers and thunderstorms began to take hold and although they remained hopeful of reaching the summit, the team were forced to turn back just 400ft from the summit.

Despite the setback, the team descended in the small

hours of Friday morning and completed the challenge in a total of 16 hours and 12 minutes.

Ross Wilson, who was the team's driver and chef during the challenge, praised the men for their grit and determination, despite the inclement weather.

He said: 'Huge respect for putting themselves through so much pain and still managing to have a laugh all the way through night up til I dropped them all off at home. The thought of them even getting out of the car and heading up the Ben in those conditions was actually quite worrying.'

After the challenge, the trio were joined by Tangney, along with his friends and family, at the Fort William Shinty Club clubhouse for a fundraising race night.

The team said in a statement: 'Now the dust has settled

## FUNDRAISING

from what was a tremendous couple of days, the Three Peaks team would like to thank a lot of people. Firstly the sponsors who helped to cover the cost of transport and our overnight stay in Wales before we attacked the hills: D Kelly Designs, Sunnys Sports Bar and Fort William McDonald's. Also a big thanks to LEAP for the design of the running tops.

A massive shout out to FWSC and Maggie French for putting on a sensational night on Friday which was orchestrated by the always animated Martyn Cameron.

Finally we cannot thank everyone who donated or helped share the word about our challenge, without your constant support the event wouldn't have been nearly as successful.'

## SLT lose out to Oban Saints

Oban Saints GG	4
South Lochaber Thistle	3
Pre-season friendly	

South Lochaber Thistle travelled to take on Oban Saints' second team in a pre-season friendly at Glencruitten last Saturday. Despite finding themselves 4-1 down at one stage SLT fought back to make the score 4-3, but were unable to find an equaliser with the Oban side winning an entertaining game 4-3.

SLT start their Greater Glasgow AFL campaign on Saturday when they take on FC Baillieston at home in the League Cup.

Saints' Greater Glasgow team are also involved in cup action when they play Langcraigs at home.

## Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lottery numbers last week were 4, 16 and 18. There were no winners this week. The prize for the draw today, Thursday August 15, will be £400.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 1, 7 and 18. There was no winner this week. Next week's jackpot will be £600.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lottery numbers this week were 12, 19 and 20. There were no winners so the prize next week is £500.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 1, 13 and 19. There were no winners. Next week's prize will be £500.



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