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# Oban Airport bosses are landed with fuel dilemma

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Aviation bosses are running out of time to ensure fuel is available at Oban Airport after the existing provider cut short its contract.

Having no fuel on site could make 'life very expensive' for the council's subsidised flights through Hebridean Air Services Limited (HASL), forcing planes to fly to other airports first to fill up.

Private company TLC (Total Logistics Concepts) has announced it will only supply the public service flights with aviation fuel until October 17. Sales to private pilots stopped last week.

HASL's flights are a lifeline service connecting the mainland with island communities and pupils travelling to Oban High School and back home at weekends are among regular passengers.

Extra miles and additional wear and tear on HASL's planes journeying further to fuel up could potentially see

the already cash-strapped council having to bear some of that cost.

Questions are being asked why Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport, has left finding a new supplier so late, but The Oban Times understands TLC only gave notice of its intentions to quit about two weeks ago, despite having nine months left on a lease secured with the former Strathclyde Regional Council.

**'We are working to identify an interim fuelling solution'**

TLC's owner Paul Keegan did not want to comment at this time.

Oban Airport has long been a regular fuel stop for light aircraft visiting the West Coast from all over the UK and Europe.

Last year the council agreed options to boost its airport income, including selling aviation fuel itself to regular

users and private flyers. However, at that time Mr Keegan said he would legally challenge the council if it went ahead with those plans.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said this week: 'We are working to identify an interim alternative fuelling solution, while our plans for a council-owned and operated fuel supply at Oban Airport also continue to progress.'

Oban Airport broke the no fuel news to pilots on its Facebook page last week.

HASL's Public Service Obligation Contract manager Martin McWilliam told The Oban Times: 'TLC have confirmed they can continue to supply fuel until October 17, after that time they will stop selling it. Both ourselves and Argyll and Bute Council are actively seeking an alternative means of getting fuel to the airport.'

At the moment TLC has a large bowser of fuel that comes alongside aircraft to fill them. It gets its supplies

Continued on page two.

## Skimmers jockey for position



The theme at this year's World Stone Skimming Championships in Easdale was Hot to Trot, with everyone getting into the spirit. For full story, turn to pages 12 and 13.

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## Airport bosses landed with fuel dilemma

Continued from page one.

from Air BP. In a fully operational week, HASL alone uses about 500 litres but it can be more depending on demand for other charters.

Mr McWilliam said there had been 'a fair bit of correspondence' on the matter, adding: 'If it's not resolved by October 17 there will be no fuel at the airport on October 18. That will be the worst case scenario.'

Mr McWilliam said in the case of no fuel, Oban-based aircraft might have to fly to other airports to fill up – including Islay Airport, Cumbernauld, which is 35 minutes away, or Glasgow, adding: 'It would make life difficult and certainly very expensive for us.'

Earlier this year there were



Oban Airport.

concerns that public service flights between Oban and the islands would be interrupted because of lack of council funds after an initial procurement process for a four-year contract failed to attract an acceptable bid. In July, existing flight provider Hebridean Air won the contract back, continuing the service with an amended timetable.

## 'Irreplaceable' sculpture damaged

Police are investigating the theft of a piece of 'irreplaceable piece of art' from the Portsonachan Hotel in Loch Awe. The head of a bronze table sculpture shaped like a Labrador disappeared between September 29 and September 30. The hotel's night porter noticed the head had been removed.

A spokesperson for the hotel said: 'This is an irreplaceable piece of art and only one of two bronzes of a Labrador in



existence by internationally renowned Scottish artist Mark Stoddard.

'We would very much hope that whoever has removed this will have a conscience and return it so that it can be enjoyed and appreciated by our many guests in the future.'

Police Scotland said inquiries were ongoing and anyone with information can contact the police on 101 and quoting incident number 1438 of 29/9.

# Smooth sailing hopes for ferry slipway work

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ferry passengers relying on the Lochaline to Fishnish route over to Mull are hoping upgrading work on the Morvern side's slipway will be 'smooth sailing'.

Six youngsters who travel daily to Tobermory High School and four adults who cross to get to work are among those having to change their journey routine so essential work can be carried out.

CalMac has just announced alternative travel arrangements for the route and will be running a passenger only service from October 21 to December 1 using the wood pier about half a mile away. Shiel Buses will take passengers from the existing slipway to the temporary embarkation point.

Bicycles will not be allowed on the crossing because of risks carrying them up stairs to the top deck and people with reduced mobility issues are being warned to check suitability first because the replacement vessel does not have a lift.

Morvern Community Council chairman Martin Sampson said: 'Resignation is what most people are feeling



**'We realise the closure will be an inconvenience but it is unfortunately necessary for the long-term resilience of the service'**

about it. It will be inconvenient for a lot of people but the work has to be done. They gave us plenty of notice and all we can hope for now is that it will go fairly smoothly, with no delays to work and no troublesome weather disruptions but there's always a risk.'

CalMac's head of service delivery, Robert Morrison, has already apologised for the 'inconvenience' but says it is a long-term necessity.

'We realise this closure will be an inconvenience, but it is unfortunately necessary for the long-term resilience of the service,' he said.

Any vehicles crossing to the island will be diverted via Oban/Craignure and Kilchoan/Tobermory while the work by port owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) takes place.

To ease the burden for local businesses, commercial vehicles will be charged the

**Essential work is being carried out at Lochaline Ferry Terminal slipway.**

cheaper Lochaline/Fishnish rate for the longer crossing from Oban to Craignure and there will be extra help available from other ferries to move any dangerous goods such as fuel supplies from Oban to the island while the slipway is shut, said Mr Morrison, who has pledged to keep people up-to-date as the project progresses.

The work includes the removal of the old structure and the construction of a new one, as well as improving the overnight ferry berth at the terminal. Extra marshalling space will be created to help traffic flow, the existing slipway will be widened and lengthened and the berth area deepened.

As well as the temporary timetable, there will be an early and late-night request sailing and two request sailings on Sundays that need to be booked by 4pm the day before.

To see more about the changes go to [calmac.co.uk/service-changes/lochaline-slipway-closure](http://calmac.co.uk/service-changes/lochaline-slipway-closure)

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## POLICE FILES

About 3am on September 24 an attempt was allegedly made to enter a property in the Lochandhu Road, Taynuilt. The householder was woken by the noise of items falling from a window sill and the person responsible left without gaining entry.

Between 8pm on September 23 and midnight on September 24 a Citroen car was damaged in the Castle Road, Oban.

About 2pm on September 25, a Mercedes van was stopped by police on George Street, Oban. Checks revealed the driver allegedly did not possess a driving licence and there was no insurance in force. The 27-year-old driver was charged and the vehicle was seized.

About 11.40pm on September 25, police were called to Shore Street where a man was allegedly causing a disturbance. On arrival, police arrested a 45-year-old man and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

In the early hours of September 27, entry was forced to a drinks storeroom at The Claredon Hotel, Shore Street, Oban, and a quantity of alcohol was stolen. Police attended and a 41-year-old man who had been staying at the hotel was arrested and charged with the offence.

Between September 15 and 28, a wooden collection box and money was allegedly stolen from Kilchattan Church, Bonawe.

About 11pm on September 28, a 39-year-old man was stopped in Albany Street, Oban, and allegedly found to be in possession of cannabis.

About 2.15am on September 28, following a report of a man assaulting another man in Station Square, Oban, a 24-year-old man was arrested. The man was later charged with assault.

About 10.15pm on September 28 a man allegedly damaged a room door within The Queen's Hotel, Oban. A 48-year-old man was traced and subsequently arrested, and later release on an undertaking to appear at court on a later date.

**If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local Police Station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**

# Residents concerns over 'prison wall' in Dunbeg

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A retaining wall that has been described as something from a prison has sparked concern among Dunbeg residents.

Work is under way to build 300 affordable homes in the village, but the new addition of a large 'looming' wall on one side of MacVicar Court is having an impact on the residents living there.

Richard Brown said he has handed in a transfer notice to move because of it.

'I would never have moved in if I knew about the wall,' the 47-year-old said. 'It is not only the size, it is the look of it. It looks like a prison wall.'

Mr Brown said he had watched workers erecting the wall, but he had no idea how big it would be.

He said his eight-year-old son, who has a heart condition, 'burst out in tears' when he came home from school



and saw the wall. 'That was the final straw,' Mr Brown added. 'We chose this house because of the beautiful views and they have taken that away.'

'This was such a beautiful spot, full of wildlife and stunning views from my windows, now all we're left with is this huge wall. It's utterly ridiculous that we weren't told how high this wall was going to be, only that early plans suggested that some sort of wall was going to be built.'

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Julie McKenzie went to view it herself.

She said: 'I have a great deal of sympathy for the residents at MacVicar Court and, like them, I'm pretty shocked by the sheer scale of this imposing wall and its close proximity to their homes. I also have concerns around the apparent lack of consultation with tenants.'

Councillor McKenzie said she was heartened by the res-

**The retaining wall that has been erected at the bottom of Mr Brown's garden.**

ponse from the contractor for the development, which wants to work with the community.

'While affordable housing is an absolute priority in the Oban area,' she added. 'We must make sure its development and integration with our existing communities is sympathetic and in line with the local development plan.'

'Large-scale development like we see in Dunbeg, should also never be to the detriment of the community.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Our local planning enforcement officer is currently investigating this matter.'

A spokesperson for Link Housing, which is overseeing the development, said: 'The retaining wall structures in phase three are highlighted in the planning approved

drawings which were subject to a consultation process, although the detail of the wall design was not prescribed at that stage.

'While we acknowledge the height of the walls, they have been designed to minimise their impact as much as possible by using a construction method angled to reduce the vertical face; with the potential of further planting to soften the wall face to be agreed.'

'The housing platform the retaining wall contains will be shrouded by a fence to prevent access to the wall head.'

A spokesperson for West Highland Housing Association said: 'Councillor McKenzie has approached us on behalf of three of her constituents and we are grateful to her for letting us know of the concerns.'

'We will be speaking directly with the people who have raised the issue.'

## Oban fireworks given £6,000 cash boost

November 5 celebrations will have added sparkle in Oban this year thanks to a £6,000 cash boost from Scottish Sea Farms.

BID4Oban has received a Heart of the Communities award towards the cost of running the annual fireworks display.

The town centre event attracts thousands of people and this year's display promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

Andrew Spence of BID4Oban commented: 'We are delighted with this award from Scottish Sea Farms. We have worked with them for several years to ensure Oban can have a safe family-friendly fireworks display.'

The display will be set off from the Northern Lighthouse Board Pier and will be best viewed from George Street and the Esplanade.

'We would like to involve some local charities this year who may want to sell merchandise or set up stalls,' added Mr Spence.

Further information is available from BID4Oban Ltd.

Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community coordinator, Georgie Mackenzie added: 'Being good neighbours is hugely important to us, from employing locally and ensuring we're doing everything we can to protect the environment, to supporting local projects and events.'

'Some of these are small in size but make a huge difference to those involved. Others, like the annual fireworks display across Oban, bring the whole community together for a fun night for all ages, something we're delighted to be a part of again this year.'

'Our careers team will be on standby at our stall in Station Square to answer any questions about the range of roles we have available.'

'In addition, the first 250 people to come along to the stall will get a free ECO cup made from naturally grown organic bamboo fibre - just one of the ways we're supporting the Oban Plastic Reduction Initiative and reducing the use of unnecessary plastic at work and in life.'

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## New date for playpark work to start

Work is anticipated to start on Oban's currently closed playpark on October 14.

The park for five- to 15-year-olds has been closed since March 2018 after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

Work to reopen the area has stalled on a number of occasions.

In July this year, the council appointed George MacNaughton and Sons Ltd, Lochgilphead, to carry out the contract.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark recently posted an update online from the council which read: 'I can advise that the procurement contract for the works is now finalised and that the anticipated start date of the works will be October 14.'

'The contractors cannot commence the works before that date due to their prior commitments. The works will be completed within four to five weeks of the start date.'

# Last cruise ship of season sails into Oban sun set

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Seabourn Ovation glided away from Oban last Thursday evening, signalling the end of a highly successful 2019 cruise ship season for the town.

A total of 30 cruise ships visited between March and September with an estimated 21,000 passengers and crew on board.

On Thursday, a small party travelled out to the luxury liner in order to mark the occasion with a presentation of quaiach and a specially-engraved bottle of Oban whisky. The same presentation was made to the Astoria back on March 3 to mark the first visit of the season.

Andrew Spence, BID4Oban chief executive officer, made the presentation to Seabourn Ovation captain Andrew Pedder. 'The Port of Oban Cruise Group and BID4Oban are working tirelessly with Cruise Scotland and the



A special presentation took place aboard the Seabourn Ovation last week. Pictured are, from left, Olivia Stearman, assistant cruise director, Richard Robson, assistant harbour master, Andrew Pedder, captain, Andrew Spence, BID4Oban, Linda Battison, OLTA, and David Winchcole, Denholm Port Services.

Economic Development department of Argyll and Bute Council to ensure these visits grow and continue,' said Mr Spence.

'Oban is recognised by cruise operators as a must-visit destination, given the easy access to the town centre and hospitality on offer, and the vast majority of passengers stayed in the

town contrary to local myths that they all leave to visit other destinations.

'By engaging with individual cruise ships and providing a special welcome, the town is receiving great feedback.'

Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA) and BID4Oban attended a VisitScotland Expo to show-

case the town to potential tour operators in April 2019 and are planning to do the same in 2020. Rab Black, chairman of the Port of Oban Cruise Group, said: 'By engaging and offering a great onshore experience for passengers, Oban will continue to appear on the itineraries of many of the major cruise ship operators.'

'Along with our own tour guides and the work of the Port of Oban, we will have even more visits in future years.'

The following were thanked for their commitment to welcoming passengers from the cruise ships: Oban High School pipers - Jamie MacGregor, Emma Hill, Jenny MacLean, Gregor MacDonald, Innis Munro; Oban Community Council, in particular Marri Malloy and Lilius Grant; Councillor Elaine Robertson; BID4Oban town ambassadors Kay McDonald and Joe Reich; Oban Walking Tours guide Nan MacLachlan; Ann Murray Fraser and Deirdre Henderson of Oban Distillery; Gillian Campbell of Dunollie Castle and Museum; Linda Battison of OLTA who visited most cruise ships to speak to passengers and hand out information; Oban harbour master Vickie MacKenzie; and Oban deputy harbour master Richard Dobson.

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## Barcaldine beach clean sees tonnes of waste removed from coastline

Scottish Sea Farms' colleagues at its Barcaldine freshwater hatchery teamed up with workers from neighbouring businesses to clean up nearby Teithil Beach as part of the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean 2019, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Joined by staff at Gael Force Fusion, which manufactures salmon pens, and some of the Robertson Construction team, they removed almost three tonnes of man-made waste and litter at the clean-up last month. Members of the public were also invited to take part.

Old rope, chains and scrap metal, paper, empty packets, plastic and glass bottles and clothing were among the haul. The most unusual item was an old metal mattress frame.

Every item collected was recorded as part of the Great British Beach Clean 2019 survey. The data will be held in a national database to help inform reports on the condition of UK beaches.

Ewen Leslie, who is a freshwater engineer with Scottish Sea Farms and organiser of



Volunteers of all ages joined the beach clean.

the Barcaldine team beach clean, said: 'This was our first beach clean as a team and our first as part of the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean, and I think we've all well and truly caught the bug.'

'It was really quite something to see the difference that can be made in just a few hours by a small determined group like ours. That said, we're already thinking ahead to next year's event and how to encourage even more people out to join us.'

## Argyll College at graduation

More than 300 graduating students and guests assembled in the spectacular setting of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, last Friday for Argyll College UHI's annual graduation ceremony.

New principal Martin Jones welcome the students and their guests, and he, UHI vice-principal Gary Campbell, college chairman Andrew Campbell and the academic staff were led into the ceremony by piper Emma Hill, a pupil at Oban High School.

Guest speaker at the event was David Duke MBE, the founder and chief executive of Street Soccer Scotland, which is a non-profit social enterprise that uses football to help create positive change in the lives of socially disadvantaged adults and young people. He is also global ambassador for the Homeless World Cup organisation.

More recently, David set up Change Centre Scotland, a social enterprise aimed at tackling homelessness by creating personal development and self-management centres. He was awarded an

## Seil venue for wildfire talk

The UK's authority on wildfire will be on Seil next week giving a talk to Lorn Natural History Group.

Local firefighters have also been told about the event coming up at Seil Island Hall on Tuesday October 8 at 7.30pm by Simon Thorp who leads the development of UK-wide policy for wildfire management and is a national adviser on the issue.

Worldwide, wildfire is a major environmental threat, and the spate of incidents that took place during 2018 and 2019 highlights the need to improve planning for wildfire control and how effective measures can be integrated into the management of open land.

Mr Thorp, a chartered surveyor specialising in rural management, leads the development of fire-control best practice for moorland management for the UK via the Uplands Management Group in England and Wales and the Principles of Moorland Management project in Scotland.

Admission for members is free and £2 for non-members.

# Canine care comes first for dog groomer Nikki

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Dog lovers keen to learn more about the health and wellbeing of their beloved pooches and how to react in an emergency are being given the opportunity to attend sessions over the next two months.

Barcaldine groomer Nikki MacGillivray will be at the Rockfield Centre on Thursday October 17 for her canine health and wellbeing evening, and again on Wednesday November 20 to deliver her canine first aid course.

Having been a groomer for the past three years, Nikki comes across a lot of conditions and ailments in dogs in the course of her work due to working on areas that are not always visible or easily seen, and is keen to pass on her knowledge.

'As groomers, we are in no



way veterinary trained or qualified and neither do we claim to be,' she said.

'We always refer into Oban Vets, and/or advise the owner take them to be checked when we have any concerns.

'However, there are some preventive measures that can

sometimes be taken. Spotting certain conditions or ailments early is often key. We are therefore going to be delivering an information session that will cover topics such as worming, neutering, parasites, vaccinations, common conditions and how to spot them.'

**Nikki MacGillivray demonstrates her bandaging skills on Mac the Australian labradoodle while owner Stan Evans pays close attention.**

15\_T40\_NikkiMacGillivray\_DoggyFirstAid

The first aid course will cover basic measures such as bandaging, choking, fits/seizures, types of bleeding and how to stem it, broken bones, tail injuries as well as how to perform CPR on your dog if the need arises.

Nikki is in the process of publishing her own booklet which she hopes will be ready in time for her to hand out to each participant to take home for future reference.

While there are no licensing requirements to be a professional dog groomer, Nikki has been bucking the trend. She has achieved three City and

Guilts diplomas in various aspects of her work and is currently working towards her Masters.

There are currently only seven UK International Certified Master Groomers (ICMG) and she is committed to becoming number eight.

She said: 'Dog grooming isn't regulated at the moment but I feel that it is really important to promote good practice within the industry and to ensure the welfare, health and safety of the dogs is a priority.

'This includes how to carry out daily health checks, as well as information on worming and good routines. This is all about prevention of illness and disease, and common signs and symptoms.'

For more information or to sign up to any of the classes, contact Nikki through her Nikki's Canine Sassoon Facebook page.

## College students celebrate graduation ceremony in Oban



The Oban students are all smiles at their graduation at the Argylshire Gathering Halls.

MBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours List.

David gave an inspirational address, recounting his own story and the importance of his own college education, an HNC in community work, in part for helping him turn his life around.

More than a third of the students graduating studied in the college's Oban centre, and local student Kerry Anne Wallace received the Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for Hairdressing.

Kerry Ann is hard-working mum of two who, in her tutor's words, 'put 100 per cent into her college work. She's

a great team worker.' Kerry Anne has been a student at the Oban centre for three years and now that she has completed her SVQ level 3 in Hairdressing, she is employed in the salon where she undertook her work placement.

Oban-based tutor Rachael Hathaway picked up the Highlands and Islands Student Award for Most Engaging Video Conference Tutor.

This award is voted for by students throughout the Highlands and Islands and recognises tutors who demonstrate an exceptional use of video-conferencing

technology to enhance the student experience.

Rachael said: 'I'm delighted to receive this accolade as there are so many inspiring tutors in the university. Argyll College is one of the most prolific exponents of video conference in the university partnership so it's fantastic for us to be recognised with this award.'

Argyll College UHI has also recently been shortlisted in the national College Development Network Awards for Innovation and Digital Learning.

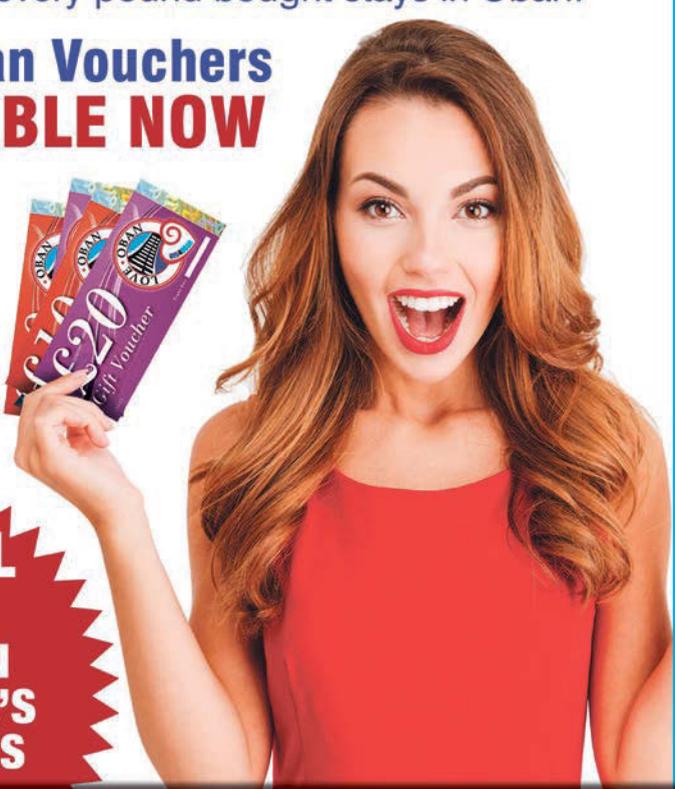
For more photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

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## Marking 50 years with Kilmore SWI

Kilmore and District Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) members have celebrated Margaret Whitton's 50 years of membership.

Mrs Whitton joined the group shortly after she married and came to live in the area and has held many offices in the Kilmore group as well as in Argyll and nationally.

'A gifted and skilled craftsperson, she is a popular and well respected member of the SWI with many friends in all sections of the organisation,' said president Fiona Dickie who thanked Mrs Whitton for her invaluable contribution and wished her many more happy years of friendship within the group.



Margaret Whitton with members of Kilmore SWI.

# School pupils lead the way to world of work

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Oban High School pupils have been preparing for the world of work by being interviewed and taking on leadership roles within their clan system.

Each set of clan captains and their clan chiefs interviewed pupils who were interested in a leadership role within school, with 16 successful applicants being made clan vice captains.

Depute head Jemma Playfair said: 'At Oban High School, we understand the importance of pupils being at the centre of school improvements and having a say in what happens at their school.'

'We decided to introduce leadership opportunities for S1 to S3 pupils to have a stronger leadership role and to ensure their voices were being heard.'



New vice clan captains with teachers, above left: Ossian – Miss Potts, Matthew Houston, Daniel Craik, Finlay Brown, Owen Moran, Megan Day, Maria Clark and Mr Donald. Above right: Fingal: Skye McCloskey, Kate Macleod, Morne Bootsma, James MacColl, Amanda MacEachen, Hope Graham and Miss Morrison.

To prepare pupils for the world of work, the application process mirrored what the school would do when recruiting teachers.

'Pupils filled in an application form and were interviewed by a panel of at least four people.'

'Our pupils excelled them-

selves and made it very difficult for the panels to decide who would gain a role,' added Miss Playfair.

'We are pleased we now have 16 vice clan captains who will work alongside our senior pupil leadership team to work with our school community to drive forward improvements. Working with such enthusiastic young people is a joy and our pupils at Oban High School are ready and raring to go in their new roles.'

Each clan – Ossian, Somerled, Diarmid and Fingal – now has three new vice captains.

Right: Diarmid: Paige Scott, Thomas Thomson, John George Ketchion, Mr Hamilton, Eva Bonnetti, Molly Dougal and Duncan Fothergill.



Somerled: Mr MacLean, Erin Byars, David Simpson, Archie Malloch, Rachel Carre, Olivia Gage, Miss Anderson and Francis Mwangi.



## Enjoyable weekend of glitter and cake

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

### WHERE IS THIS?



Thank you to the organisers of the Glitter Ball which took place on Saturday night.

It is years since I have had the chance to wear a long dress and sparkly jewellery and they did a magnificent job entertaining everyone.

It was a miracle the dress fitted after all the cake on Friday, with everyone doing their bit for Macmillan Cancer Support. There was some fabulous homebaking around the town and who can resist that – especially the lemon drizzle cake provided by my boss Andy Spence?

It is heading into that season now where the thought of tea and a nice bit of cake

to be in Oban. I even got a hug from one couple as they made their way back to the ship, promising to return in the near future.

It has been a great summer for the ships calling. I think Joe and I only ended up like drowned rats twice as we stood at the pontoons welcoming everyone ashore and the feedback from the ships and the companies that support them has been fantastic. I'm looking forward to next season already as there are some beautiful ships due in – some new and some old favourites such as the Queen Mary II hopefully returning.

The photograph last week was of the lamp outside Julie's Coffee Shop in Stafford Street.

This week's means looking up, so try not to trip.

or a nice bowl of soup keeps you going. If that takes your fancy, head along to Glencruitten Church Centre this Saturday from noon to 2pm where Friends of Oban Hospice are having a soup lunch with home baking.

We have also come to the end of the cruise ship season with the visit of Seabourn Ovation last Thursday. What a successful day it was.

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## Contribute by becoming a LiveArgyll volunteer

Opportunities have arisen for people to volunteer and make a positive contribution to their communities, writes *Fiona Scott*.

LiveArgyll, the charitable trust charged with the management of Argyll and Bute's health and well-being, is looking for volunteers and is holding an information session in the Corran Halls today, Thursday, from 1.15pm to 2.15pm. The organisation has vacancies across all operations including sports, library events, technological assistance and visiting household neighbours.

Nicola Hackett, business development manager for Live Argyll, said: 'Volunteering is a fun way to improve your self-confidence and learn new skills, make friends and provide a real boost to your community. It can offer an invaluable lifeline and the benefits of volunteering at a young age can last a lifetime.'

From October, LiveArgyll will have a new system online and in person at their halls, gyms and libraries to handle

applications for any volunteer post.

While applicants will go through a series of protocols, the number of positions available means there is something to suit every personality.

Volunteering can boost self-esteem and well-being, as well as looking great on CVs and other job applications and the tangible results volunteering brings to communities is undeniable.

While many of the roles require a level of responsibility more suited to adults, there are a number of positions ideal for those aged 14 to 18, such as helping with fitness, swimming, reading, technology and coaching.

Volunteers will work alongside paid LiveArgyll staff in most instances. Depending on which role applied for, time commitments range from weekly to one-off, and many require only 30 minutes per instance.

Contact LiveArgyll by emailing [volunteering@liveargyll.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@liveargyll.co.uk) for more information.

# Make a date to support charity

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



The photographer dad of an Oban man who took his own life is launching a new wildlife calendar raising funds for Martyn's Monday Club.

Robert Cruickshanks has had 1,000 of his second Ootmahoosewindae calendar printed and wants to sell them all in memory of his son Martyn and the peer support group set up in his name.

Keen amateur photographer Mr Cruickshanks raised more than £12,000 for Oban hospital's Macmillan day care unit with his first calendar for 2018, co-created with Janice Alexander, of Oban, who lost her long battle with cancer in 2017.

He took a break producing a 2019 calendar after his own son's death but on Friday he will be launching the 2020



Robert Cruickshanks with his 2020 calendar in aid of Martyn's Monday Club.

16\_T40\_RobertCruickshanks01-calendar

Mr Cruickshanks hopes people will buy the calendar on Friday, priced at £15, and take extra copies away to sell.

The evening will include a talk and slide show explaining how some of the photographs were taken.

The calendars will also be for sale soon in shops around town and surrounding area and be available from [ootmahoosewindae.com](http://ootmahoosewindae.com)

Martyn's Monday Club received another fund boost on Sunday when Karen MacCorquodale, Irene MacCorquodale and Caroline Brady ran the Bank of Scotland 10k Great Scottish Run in Glasgow raising more than £1,300.

edition at the Masonic Lodge in Albany Street from 8pm.

Entry is free and Finn Falconry will be going along taking Stanley the horned owl and Freya the falcon to welcome people.

Calendar images include otters, a fox cub, pine martens and a cuckoo, some of which have been taken by Mr Cruickshanks at his home

in Glencruitten, with the remaining images provided by other photographers who have visited him. Each month also has a motivational saying on the page.

The back of the calendar tells Martyn's story, gives information about Martyn's Monday Club and has testimonials from people who have received help.



Katherine MacKenzie of Taste of Argyll and Catriona Petit of Hope Kitchen. 15\_T40\_Greenshoots01

## More people enjoy Green Shoots' goodies

Everything is looking rosy for a community garden in Oban, writes *David McPhee*.

Green Shoots, a community garden at Glencruitten, is now supplying fresh fruit and vegetables to a two AA Rosette restaurant and a community shop.

Every Wednesday, volunteers pick fruit and vegetables from the four poly-tunnels, with some going to Etime Restaurant, some to the Taste of Argyll shop, with the remainder used at Hope Kitchen, which took over the one acre community garden in October last year.

Catriona Petit, interim manager at Hope, said: 'We have loads of different people who come up to the garden to

help. A lot of people who come in here [Hope Kitchen] also volunteer at Greenshoots.

'It gives them life and employment skills or if they have mental health problems, they can have a peaceful time in the garden. Every Wednesday we have a pick-your-own day.

'We quite often get families with small children and it is a nice thing for people to do with their toddlers.'

In exchange for the produce, Etime Restaurant and Taste of Argyll donate to Green Shoots. Catriona added: '[Etime] get things as we pick it and they will cook with that that day, so it is fresh and local. It is good for us as we get a regular source of income.'

The largest of the garden's four poly-tunnels was bought thanks to Tesco's Bags for Help campaign.

'Growing stuff outside is really hard,' Catriona said. 'But growing stuff in a poly-tunnel is manageable.'

While volunteers help out at the garden, the garden can also aid them. Catriona said one man who volunteers has dementia: 'Even though he can't remember your name, he knows how to garden and he is contributing.'

Katherine MacKenzie, who runs Taste of Argyll on Combie Street, said she is happy to pay a donation for the produce and that it was about helping each other in the community.

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OT

# High school pupils rock through retail nightmare

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



School dinners traditionally get a raw deal but the fare served up at Oban High School last week really took the biscuit.

Blood, guts and body parts were on the macabre menu as a domineering man-eating plant grows stronger with every meal, and the fate of the human race is thrown into jeopardy in Oban High School's alluring production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Written by Alan Menken (music) and Howard Ashman (book and lyrics), *Little Shop of Horrors* is based on the 1960 black comedy film of the same name.

Interspersed with catchy doo-wop and Motown-style tunes, beautifully delivered by Chiffon (Maria Clark), Crystal (Megan Day) and



Ronette (Erin Byars), the musical takes place in the urban Skid Row and chronicles the life of Seymour, a poor young employee at Mr Mushnik's Skid Row Florists.

His love for co-worker Audrey is challenged by his

thoughts of worthlessness at his uneventful and mediocre life.

Having recently obtained a mysterious talking Venus flytrap-like plant, Seymour quickly gains notoriety and business at Mushnik's flour-

**Audrey and Seymour, with the blood-sucking plant.**

Photograph: Stephen Day

ishes. However, Seymour's life soon spins out of control as the plant hungers for blood and increasingly gains more power.

The orchestra, though, made up of only three musicians – Simon Robertson, Tierney Dornan and Anna Tait Westwall – produced a powerful, resonating sound and kept the show moving at an appropriate pace under the expert guidance of musical director Susan Forrest, while both soloists and ensemble members showcased excellent vocal talent with a pleasant blending of harmonies.

Heading the cast were Bethany Dunlop as Audrey and Matthew Houston as Seymour.

Dunlop displayed a thorough understanding of her nervy character as well as delivering a fine vocal performance in her songs.

Houston also sang with aplomb and effectively captured the adorably awkward and self-conscious personality of Seymour. Together, the two connected believably as a couple, the song *Suddenly*, Seymour held the audience spellbound.

Josh Thomson portrayed one of the most memorable characters of the show – Audrey's boyfriend and evil dentist Orin Scrivello.

With sassy swagger and attitude, the evil plant Versos's colourful singing and signature sinister laugh captured the audience's attention. Decked out in a full-on plant suit, Versos made the most of hand gestures and body rolls, giving

an entertaining performance. Liam Campbell shone as Mushnik with his rich, deep vocals and mature aura.

Credit must also go to the back stage crew who worked tirelessly to put this excellent show together.

Overall, the cast and crew of *Little Shop of Horrors* delivered a stunning performance filled with memorable melodies, compelling scenes and fluent dance performances.

The pacing of the show never lagged and cast members handled the interesting style of music admirably, with the final chord resonating with the cast's plea to the audience ringing loud and clear: 'Don't feed the plants!'

**MOREPHOTOS**  
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Advertorial

## LiveArgyll call for volunteers

### Find out how you can make a difference in your community

LiveArgyll, the charitable trust charged with the management of Argyll and Bute's health and wellbeing, has put out a call for new volunteers. This is an opportunity to volunteer in a rewarding position and make a positive contribution. There are volunteer vacancies across all of LiveArgyll's operations, including within sports, swimming, library events, technological assistance and even visiting housebound neighbours.

From October, LiveArgyll will have a new system in place both online and in person at our halls, gyms and libraries to facilitate applications for any volunteer post. While applicants will go through a series of protocols, the number of positions available means that there really is something to suit every personality. Volunteering can boost self-esteem and wellbeing, as well as looking great on CVs and other job applications, and the tangible results volunteering brings to communities is undeniable.

The positions include: sports coach and assistant sports coach, which will see volunteers working with children and young people for half an hour at a time; swimming and fitness programme volunteers, which helps foster a lifelong skill and love of fitness and swimming; Reading Buddies, who will help both children and adults fall in love with books; Tech Buddies will teach PC and internet skills to those less technologically confident; Bookbug volunteers to deliver the national programme of song and rhyme to the youngest members of our communities; homebound volunteers bring the joy of reading to someone who cannot leave the house; events, halls and theatres volunteers can build valuable experience and gain technical knowledge that translates directly to careers in creative industries; and museums and archives assistants, who will be responsible for preserving the history and culture of Argyll and Bute.

While many of the roles require a level of responsibility more suited to adult volunteers, there are still a number of positions that are ideal for those aged 14 to 18. In particular, assisting with fitness, swimming, reading, technology and



sports coaching are great opportunities for adolescent heroes to make a difference.

Volunteers will work alongside paid LiveArgyll staff in most instances, being sure of a guiding hand and someone available to provide solutions to more complex demands. Depending on which role applied for, time commitments range from weekly to one-off, and many require only 30 minutes per instance.

Volunteering is a fun way to improve your own self-con-

fidence and learn new skills, to make friends and provide a real boost to your community. It can offer an invaluable lifeline, especially to those in more vulnerable positions, and the benefits of volunteering at a young age can last a lifetime. Contact LiveArgyll by emailing [volunteering@liveargyll.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@liveargyll.co.uk), or pop in to one of our libraries or leisure facilities to see each of the roles in more depth and find out how you can apply to make a difference.



# BUSINESSES

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OT

## MacPhail

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I am stepping back in time this week to an age when the skills and knowledge of finding food on the shorelines of coastal villages and islands could mean survival or starvation.

From the harsh times of famine and destitution in the mid-1800s, through bare periods of much of the last century into the present days of relative luxury and food security, the importance of that knowledge has changed vastly.

Through the years, the skills of the shoreline and how to reap its rich bounty have gone from an ability that could mean life or death, to being an essential means of providing a staple diet, to almost totally lost and irrelevant in the present day. It is much easier now to head to the supermarket for fish fingers than head down to the shore to pick limpets, winkles or find a crab or a lobster at low tide.

A conversation with a good friend a couple of weeks ago sparked a long held interest

about a particular aspect of shoreline hunting – that of catching a lobster at the ‘faicheanan’ or ‘crevices’ in English.

This once common means of finding and catching a giomach has, as far as I know, died out completely on Tiree. I say ‘as far as I know’ because the knowledge was so valuable that it was held secretly by generations of experts in certain families and some of their descendants might have the knowledge yet but in keeping with tradition, may not be quick to share it, and rightly so.

As a small boy, I remember my father showing my brother and I a faiche that had been known in our family and some others for many years. On that day, when I was around 11 or 12, the faiche was bare. However, my mum recalls dad getting a huge lobster from that location at a low tide during the early years of their courtship. With the big spring tides of the September equinox upon us, I have decided to head

for home on the St Olave. I am writing this as we pass Lismore Lighthouse bound for Tiree where I will try my luck for the first time at catching a lobster by walking out to certain spots at low water and enticing one from its crevice and into a pot.

I remember vividly on the day that dad took us to his preferred spot, even at low-water, the sea was lapping at the grey rim round the top of his three-quarter length black Bullseye waders.

Accordingly, on Saturday I bought a full-length pair of waders. If we don’t get a giomach, at least my feet might be dry!

Over the last week, I have spoken to a few people who still have some knowledge of other faicheanan and although I am only armed with rough guidelines for where to find these, I am excited to be heading for Tiree to see if a lobster still can be caught in this age-old manner at these once important and secret places. Next week, I may report on my endeavours.

# Youngsters set example at football festival

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The sun shone on the North Connel pitch on Saturday as Lochnell Football Club welcomed visiting teams from Argyll and beyond to its fourth annual festival.

More than 50 teams representing 11 clubs, spread across seven sections throughout the day, fought out keenly contested matches with the outcome of many games in doubt right up to the final whistle.

Players from Fort William to Campbeltown travelled to the North Connel venue where regular fly-pasts from aircraft leaving Oban Airport provided an extra attraction.

A highlight for participants was the newly extended playing surface, which was in splendid condition thanks to Argyll and Bute Council groundsman Ian Hay and his team. The club also acknowledges the generous support of the festival’s first sponsors, Anderson Banks Solicitors



and Estate Agents, which provided a commemorative medal for each of the 400 players.

Another first for the festival was the presence of referees who all gave generously of their time, and a mark of the sporting spirit and fair play displayed by the young play-

ers was that in the course of an incredible 145 games, not one yellow card was issued!

The club appreciates the support of all participating teams, some of whom travelled several hours to be at the festival, and are hoping to welcome them all back next year.



These youngsters made sure the crowds were entertained. Top: two players discuss tactics.

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Above: Lochnell Football Club players with Gordon Seaton of Anderson Banks who presented medals to all participants and, left, action from the successful day which saw more than 50 teams representing 11 clubs from Argyll and Lochaber competing.

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OT

# Peter retains his skimming world title

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Sporting visitors from as far afield as New Zealand and the USA travelled to the tiny island of Easdale on Sunday to compete in the 23rd World Stone Skimming Championships.

Growing in popularity year on year, the event attracts people of all ages and from all walks of life, as well as putting the island in the national media spotlight.

Having run the competition for more than two decades, the organising committee has the staging of the event down to a fine art and declared the 2019 cham-

pionship an overwhelming success for everyone involved.

Committee member Keren Cafferty told The Oban Times: 'Once again there were well over 300 entries for the stone skimming with hundreds more coming to support the event.'

'The weather stayed dry for us and everyone we spoke to seemed to have a fantastic time.'

'Numbers were slightly down for people travelling over on the ferry on Sunday, but more people are now coming over on the Saturday for the dance and staying the night.'

'It has been another tremendous success. Long may it last!' This year a total of 11 competitors were involved in a cumulative three-skin Toss Off having all hit the back wall during the main competition.

Peter Szep from Hungary retained the title he won last year with a back wall (BW) hit and a cumulative score of 189 metres with his other two stones.

Dougie Isaac, Scotland, and George Fraser, Shetland, tied for second place on BW/178m with Paul Crabtree, UK, third with BW/160m.



Left: overall champion Peter Szep retained his title.

Photograph: Jordan Young of LoveLiveRun.

Below: a young spectator and his dog enjoy the stone skimming.



In the ladies section, it was the UK's Christina Bowen-Bravery who took top spot with a throw of 41m. Lynsay McGeachy, 40m, was second and Lucy Wood, UK, third.

Scotsman Ron Long won the Old Tosser, male, competition, with Barbara Waltham, UK, taking the equivalent female title with a throw of 14m.

The Bertie trophy, named after event founder Bertie Baker, for the best Easdale islander went to Jamie Melville

who skimmed his stone 50m.

**Other results:** Junior boys (10-15 incl): 1 Connor Fraser (Shetland) 55m; 2 Fin Dower (Belgium/Scotland) 37m; 3 Tristan Spurway (Scotland) 34m.

Junior girls: 1 Anya Gray (Scotland) 18m; 2 Nina McClure (Scotland) 14m; 3 Maia Lev (Scotland) 13m.

Under 10 boys: 1 Izen Bird (Scotland) 33m; 2 MacKenzie Wolfson (Scotland) 32m; 3 Eliaz Gicquel (France) 25m.

Under 10 Girls: 1 Elizabeth Marshall (Scotland) 12m; 2 Lana Ley (Scotland) 11m; 3 Heidi Matyszak (Scotland) 8m. Team winner: In It 2 Skim It.

All proceeds from the stone-skimming championships will go to Eilean Eisdale, the island charity and community development organisation, with parking money going towards the Seil Island Hall Development Fund.



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## Stoneskimming – an islander's point of view

Of all the events that all the inhabited islands put on for various reasons, stoneskimming is a perfect example of how an event that starts out about a simple contest can go far beyond for those who come along, writes *Britt Doughty-Godchaux*.

For some of my neighbours, and this is understandable, stoneskimming is a nuisance. It is jarring, and worse, to have a lot of people where normally there are few or none. There is the noise and, yes, you might end up with some lost drunk people in your garden. It is one of the few times when some of us need to find our house keys to lock up, to keep the honest people honest and the drinkers in the garden.

For many of us though, Stoneskimming is a chance to welcome fascinating visitors from everywhere.

Working my annual bar shift on Saturday, I met the Swedish National stoneskimming Team, who went around bedecked in patriotic colours, but had not won an actual Swedish stoneskimming competition – because it doesn't exist,

they just made t-shirts. I overheard more than seven languages spoken and accents that crossed the globe, as well as discussing the overcast, but gentle weather with locals. Perfect by west coast standards.

I witnessed some local girls make new friends with visitors, exchanging contact details and cheering each other on at the awards ceremony.

Stoneskimming gives us the excuse to be just that much more generous and philosophical than we might be otherwise.

I happily joined the crowds that clapped for every toss, no matter the distance, heard stories of homes shared and assistance given.

I discussed with people whose names I never learned, that with the current state of the world, events like ours can act as a bit of a balm against disconnection and disillusionment.

I sat on the judges wall discussing the physics of the stones, admiring the consistency of past champions such as Dougie Roberts as he again hit the back wall

64 metres away – his second throw, according to the judges, hit an unlucky fish and plopped down at about the half-way mark.

We sat admiring skims. A perfect skim is a thing of beauty: the way a stone doesn't go too fast as finesse not brute strength makes the difference, but that – miraculously – a stone can patter on and its distance can often surprise. Eleven people hit the back wall, a record achievement.

The winners were from France, Hungary, Israel and, yes, Easdale.

They were familiar and new, young and old and there was hilarity and celebration enough to go around.

Like many other island events, Easdale's stone-skimming is many things to many people.

These stories may sound similar to those from other island communities, but with the unique nature of every different one, this is our home to share.

So that's another year done, with the stories and anecdotes to be layered on in our collective memory.



Ladies champion Christina Bowen-Bravery receives her prize from category sponsor Margaret Temlett of Northern Retail. Photograph: Jordan Young of LoveLiveRun.



This year's championships was another resounding success, with hundreds, including TV camera crews, travelling to the island for the event.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## £228k investment in food and drink

An ambitious new programme of activities is being developed for the food and drink industry to raise awareness of innovation and opportunities presented by new technologies.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has approved a £228,000 investment in the initiative, which will be open to all food and drink firms in the Highland Council area.

The agency has commissioned consultancy firm Rural Matters LLP to create a Highland food and drink innovation network. This will be industry-led and focused on improving productivity, the adoption of new technologies and nurturing businesses of the future.

It will explore themes including premium products, a sustainable supply chain, the circular economy, digitisation, robotics and automation.

It will also feature extensive consultation with the industry and supply chain to develop HIE's plans to create a new food and drink technology hub in Highland.

The new network, which will also be open to social and community enterprises, will run for two years, promoting collaboration within and beyond the sector.

It will form part of the HIE-led Northern Innovation Hub (NIH), a project that received £11m from the UK Government and £1.7m ERDF support as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal. The deal is a joint £315 million initiative supported by the UK and Scottish governments.

Food and drink is one of four key growth sectors the NIH will support, with the common themes of technology and young people.

Claire Munro, HIE's senior project manager, said: 'The food and drink industry is one of the Highlands' most important sectors and has significant potential for growth so it is logical it is one of the four key sectors prioritised. This project will encourage and support food and drink companies to embrace technology.'

# Tourism businesses shortlisted for awards

A boutique B&B offering views of Loch Long and the strategic destination management organisations for Argyll and the Isles are among the nominees representing Argyll and Bute as the shortlist for this year's Scottish Thistle Awards regional finals are unveiled.

Ashfield House and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) have made it through to the west regional final of the Scottish Thistle Awards, alongside the Helensburgh-based Scottish Submarine Trust. They will represent the region at the west regional final at Oran Mor, Glasgow, on Thursday November 28.

Ashfield House at Arrochar has been shortlisted in the Most Hospitable B&B/Guest House category, sponsored by Abbey UK. AITC Ltd is a regional finalist in the Working Together for Tourism category and the Scottish Submarine Trust has been shortlisted in the Innovation in Tourism category, sponsored by Geotourist.

The Scottish Thistle Awards, now in their 27th year, help shine the spotlight on individuals and businesses going above and beyond to create a destination and visitor experience worth talking about. They champion the best of the Scottish tourism industry, celebrating innovation, success and excellence in the sector.

This year saw almost 600 entries submitted, including more than 1,000 nominations from members of the public keen to give hotels, restaurants, B&Bs, visitor attractions and individuals the opportunity to earn the recognition they deserve from their industry peers.

Rebecca Brooks, chairwoman of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, said: 'Once again, the Scottish Thistle Awards have attracted entries from across the country, with the regional winners earning their place at the prestigious national final in March, where they will join the country's tourism elite to be honoured with the highest accolade in the Scottish hospitality and tourism sector.'

'Tourism is more than a holiday experience. It is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy and touches every community, generating



Cristina Sanchez-Navarro, owner of Ashfield House, and David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director.

income, jobs and social change. The Scottish Thistle Awards offer a chance to celebrate those people and businesses responsible for offering the warmest of welcomes that our country is famous for.

'On behalf of the panel, I would like to congratulate all shortlisted entrants and wish each and every one of them the best of luck at the regional finals.'

The Scottish Thistle Awards are led by Scotland's national tourism organisation, VisitScotland, and are supported by a panel of industry representatives including the Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Awards, Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards, the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions, the

Hospitality Industry Trust Scotland, Scotland Food and Drink, Scottish Tourism Alliance, the Scottish Licensed Trade Association, sportsScotland and Wild Scotland.

VisitScotland regional director David Adams McGilp said: 'I am delighted to see such a strong representation from Argyll and Bute at the Scottish Thistle Awards west regional final. These entries show the strength and depth of the tourism industry in the region, from high quality accommodation and the organisations going the extra mile to put the region on the map. Those individuals and businesses should feel proud to have been shortlisted in the regional final and I wish them the best of luck.'



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# New owners take over Kilchrenan Inn

The Kilchrenan Inn has been acquired by hotel firm MTM Hospitality, thanks to a five-figure finance package from Royal Bank of Scotland.

The rural inn, close to the shores of Loch Awe, has been taken over by business duo Philip Carr and Philippa Pedley who together have significant experience in the hospitality sector.

Once an 18th-century trading post, the inn was recently extensively refurbished to offer guests modern amenities while remaining true to its traditional features.

Under Philip and Pip's new leadership, the inn will create five jobs, with the aim of significantly growing the business and its turnover and offering high-quality food, drinks and accommodation.

The funding package, which was secured by Alan McNair, relationship manager at RBS, has not only allowed MTM



The Kilchrenan Inn is under new ownership.

Hospitality to acquire the business, but will also help with financing start-up, lease and stock costs.

Philip, director and owner-operator at the Kilchrenan Inn, said: 'We were looking to move

to Argyll and Bute and found the Kilchrenan Inn to be an ideal business venture for us.

'Not only is it located within a picturesque rural location, offering stunning views of the countryside, but it had huge po-

tential to be a go-to destination for tourists and locals to enjoy, with quality food, drinks and a relaxing place to stay.

'We have exciting growth plans for the business, including the creation of new jobs and look forward to the future of the Kilchrenan Inn, all of which has been made possible via the fantastic support we've received from Royal Bank of Scotland.'

Mr McNair added: 'Royal Bank of Scotland is delighted to have supported MTM Hospitality throughout the acquisition of the Kilchrenan Inn.'

'Philip and Pip have a real drive to succeed and their track record in the hospitality industry will have a positive impact not only on running and operating the inn, but on the surrounding community, via job creation and offering a high-quality service to residents and visitors.'

'We wish Philip and Pip every success.'

## Tyndrum cafe launches gluten-free fortnight

The Real Food Cafe at Tyndrum has achieved a Coeliac UK Accredited Caterer A grade for the fifth consecutive year.

The cafe has been serving gluten-free dishes, including their popular fish and chips, for the past decade.

From October 13 to 27, the cafe will hold its inaugural gluten-free fortnight. During this event, it will launch a new gluten-free batter mix, made in Glasgow by Goldensheaf Batter Mixes, which makes the regular batter mix the cafe has used since it opened almost 15 years ago.

And every customer who orders a standard or large gluten-free fish and chips during the fortnight will be offered a free tub of curry sauce.

Other gluten-free items will be trialed including haggis, tofu in chipotle Tabasco and smoked sausage and chips.

There will also be a range of puddings and cakes such as sticky toffee pudding with ice-cream and a raspberry and lemon yogurt loaf cake.

As this is the cafe's first gluten-free fortnight, it will ask customers for feedback. All customers who complete a questionnaire will be entered into a prize draw for a hamper of Real Food Cafe favourites.



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## Monumental work charts nation's history

Monuments are all around us. We walk or drive past them every day, yet we are often only vaguely aware of their existence.

They are in cemeteries and parks, on busy streets and in lonely places. They stand by the sea or on the top of hills. Some are obvious, such as the Wallace Monument in Stirling, but others are obscure and hidden.

They commemorate many things, often the dead of wars at home and abroad

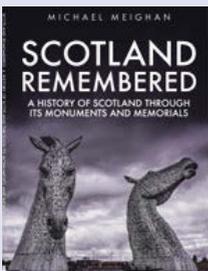
and disasters, both recent and long past, but they also honour the achievements of our inventors, writers and explorers and our kings, queens, saints and martyrs. They appear as statues, as windows, as sculptures, as plaques and sometimes as buildings.

They can take centre stage in the middle of city squares or on the summit of lonely mountains.

In his new book 'Scotland Remembered: A History of Scotland Through its Monuments and Memorials' author Michael Meighan examines the stories behind the monuments and memorials of Scotland and what they reveal about the history of the country.

The monuments range from famous landmarks such as the Wallace statue in Aberdeen, the Scott Monument in Edinburgh, to memorials to Robert Burns, Mary Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite Risings at Glenfinnan, Prestonpans and Culloden which represent the shaping of Scotland. Other monuments range from Greyfriars Bobby, memorials to Saint Margaret of Scotland and the Commando Memorial in Lochaber and more.

Michael Meighan is a Glaswegian writer with a commitment to recording Glasgow life, culture and humour.



# Journey to Ardnamu

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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From 1796 to 1802, a strange figure riding on a white horse and wearing a leather cap trimmed with brown fur and dressed from head to foot in tartan was to be seen wandering around the west Highlands and Islands.

Her name was the Honourable Mrs Murray from Kensington, London, and she was in search of material for a book she called *A Companion and Useful Guide to The Beauties of Scotland*, which was published in 1803 in two volumes.

The summer of 1801 found her in Appin and from Ballachulish she wrote: 'I determined to visit the district of Aird-na-murchan, Loch Sunart and Loch Shiell, that I might myself collect from the lead mines at Strontian some of the newly discovered earth called Strontianite.'

'Mr Stewart [the laird of Appin] lent me his boat to convey me to Inversandie [Inversanda], the beginning of a glen leading from the sea running to Fort William to the head of Loch Sunart, near which the small town of Strontian is built.'

It would seem that even in those days there was a holiday cottage trade in the area, as Mrs Murray was accompanied by an Englishman in search of a summer residence in Sunart.

By prior arrangement, they were met at Inversanda by an Angus Cameron who was to convey them by cart to Strontian. The road must have been extremely rough because after a few miles the Englishman decided he would be more comfortable walking the nine or so miles to Strontian.

Mrs Murray described Ardnamurchan as being a large rugged peninsula formerly covered by a thick forest being cut down for timber for export, building and fuelling the smelters for the huge lead mining activities going on above Strontian at the time. She remarked: 'After these woods were cut down, the landlords neglected to inclose the ground on which the felled timber and birch woods grew, by which means, sheep and cattle having free access to it, the young shoots were successively crot, consequently many glens and sides of mountains are now bare, that in former times were thickly covered with fine trees.'

'When I arrived at Strontian, I could hire no



horse fit to carry me over the shoulder of Ben Risiepol to Glen Heurich. I was therefore under the necessity of sending Angus Cameron to my friend Mr Hope, of Glen Heurich, for one to come over to Strontian, to fetch me to his house, to which the English gentleman took a walk in order to view Loch Shiell and to learn if there was in that quarter a house to let. He was unsuccessful and called at Strontian on his way back to Bailiechoalish. He very gravely enquired if I had made a will, because, he said, 'If you intend to ride to Glen Heurich, it is 10 to one that you but break your neck.'

'The horse came and, notwithstanding the gentleman's prognostication, I mounted, and a difficult task indeed I found it to climb the ascent, and scramble amongst the rocks,

some loose and some firm, all the way up the mountain. Once I was nearly accomplishing the gentleman's prediction, for a crumbling sheep track on a precipice gave way when I was on it, and had not Angus Cameron, who was leading the horse, been on the precipice side, and Atlas-like, supported the animal with his shoulder, we would all three, mistress, servant and beast, have rolled to the bottom.'

They rested on the summit where Mrs Murray drank from a well of 'exceedingly fine spring water', before arriving at Glen Hurich where she passed the night with Mr and Mrs Hope. The following day her hosts rowed her down Loch Shiel, presumably from Polloch, to visit the MacDonalds at Dalilea.

During the journey she was told of a large



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# urchan in 1801



**Loch Sunart with the village of Strontian beyond.** Photograph: Iain Thornber

her journey over the hill to Glenhurich, she decided to return to Dalilea and cross back into Sunart by way of Acharacle and Loch Sunartside. From there, she was escorted by Mr MacDonald of Dalilea and his brother-in-law to the foot of Loch Shiel. At Acharacle she wrote: 'We perceived a boat steering east; it contained a gentleman and his wife, who had carried an infant from the head of the loch, where there was a doctor inoculating with the vaccine or cow pox. I was surprised that this inoculation should be so generally adopted as it was in 1801, in such remote regions as Airdna-muchan and Moidart.

'When we arrived at the foot of Loch Sheil we could not gain a dry landing, but Highlanders are never at a loss on such occasions, for they either wade to shore or, if a gentleman's dress does not permit it, he jumps upon the back of a dependent, and thus rides to dry ground. A chair formed by the united arms of two men was soon constructed for my use.'

At Kentra, the intrepid wanderer gazed wistfully at the distant hills of Rum and Skye before taking the road, or track, along the shores of Loch Sunart, likening the scenery to the Trossachs near Loch Katrine, and so to Strontian. There she felt compelled to ask Mr Jeffrey, factor to Sir James Riddell, owner of the estate, for lodgings 'for the only house of public entertainment is too bad to sleep at'.

'This inn,' she wrote, 'was constructed of wood in London from where it was shipped and landed at Strontian. On its arrival it was put together, erected and called the London House. I expected great things from its name, and in fact it might be a tolerable house of reception if it were well kept, but that cannot be expected from the slender profits arising from the custom of miners, the chief frequenters of the London House.'

Her caustic remarks must have been noted, for not long afterwards the London House, now the Strontian Hotel, was described in another travel guide as, 'affording excellent accommodation for the stranger except at fairs and other public occasions'.

Mrs Murray's description of Strontianite is of great interest. Although it was discovered around 1790, it was Dr T C Hope of Edinburgh, probably related to her friends in Glenhurich, who named it after the nearby village making it famous throughout the world.

monster which had been seen in the loch. 'It's skin,' she heard, 'resembled that of an eel, and it lay in waves. The length of each wave was a sailor's measure, namely that of a boat, but when it floundered, it extended its body to a very great length, agitating the water exceedingly, so much so, that the fishermen made their escape from the monster, and never dared to approach it sufficiently, to be able to give any correct account of it.'

Mrs Murray spent most of the day sightseeing, walking over to Loch Moidart where she obtained: 'A view down the lake closed by the Scur on the island of Eigg, forming altogether one of the finest and richest landscapes of mountains, wood and water I ever beheld.'

Somewhat daunted by the experience of

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



With Hallowe'en just around the corner, this week we go back to our 1996 archive where we found this photograph of Jamie and Eilidh McColl from Oban looking 'spooktacular'.



This great photograph from the Roamer archive shows Fort William High Street and the Caledonian Hotel. But what was the year?

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## LETTERS

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## Solution to airport fuel crisis needs to be found urgently

The prospect of Oban Airport running out of fuel to supply to aircraft is imminent and very real.

It is also very serious for Oban, the islands serviced by their airport and wider Argyll area economy.

Oban is, as we report this week, a regular fuel stop for light aircraft visiting the West Coast from all over the UK and Europe, and is also home to Argyll and Bute Council's public service subsidised flights connecting the mainland to islands, including Tiree and Islay.

It is very far from merely accommodating private pilots and their light aircraft but is relied upon by, among others, children who travel weekly to attend Oban High School.

The impact of an end to fuel supplies will be hard-hitting and widespread.

Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport, needs to come up with a workable solution – and quickly.

## Patience is required during slipway work

There is understandable disappointment among users of the ferry between Lochaline and Fishnish at the prospect of upgrading work to the slipway on the Morvern side.

There is no escaping the fact, however, that the repair work is necessary and unavoidable, a point accepted by residents. As Morvern Community Council chairman Martin Sampson said: 'Resignation is what most people are feeling about it. It will be inconvenient for a lot of people but the work has to be done.'

Mr Sampson is correct, and added that everyone affected is hoping the work goes smoothly and as quickly as possible. In this case, everyone will have to be patient.

## More specific details requested on recycling

I was pleased to read that Councillor Kieron Green has said to The Oban Times (September 19) that 'everything recyclable was recycled apart from a small percentage of items contaminated because they had not been washed out'.

I think it would be very useful for us to have a few specifics. In order to recycle plastics, the operator needs to separate the stream into plastics of the same composition. This can be done using spectroscopic techniques, but does this work with brown or black plastic? What about white or coloured plastic?

We would all be grateful if Councillor Green could tell us exactly which plastics are 'recyclable' and which plastics are not.

Also, I read that 12 million tons of the UK's washed plastic were sent abroad last year, presumably for recycling. Does any of Argyll and Bute's plastic go abroad in this way? If so, did we have to pay for this, or did the receiving body pay us for the scrap? If we pay them, how can we be sure it is actually recycled and not just dumped or burned?

Julian Overnell, Kilmore.

## General election is two-horse race in Argyll and Bute

The Lib Dems do not want to listen to the result of referendums.

They are playing a dangerous game, saying we don't have to listen to the result of referendums but can simply ignore them altogether.

Whether you voted remain or leave, this simply plays into Nicola Sturgeon's hands.

Only the Scottish Conservatives want to get us all back to the things that matter, including schools, police and quality jobs.

Here in Argyll and Bute it is a clear two-horse race between the Scottish Conservatives and the SNP. Only the Scottish Conservatives can beat the SNP in Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and Islands ward.

## Huge costs to take back control of our fisheries

The United Kingdoms fishing industry is worth only 0.5 per cent of our GDP and yet the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is central to the Brexit debate.

## 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

Many who voted to leave the European Union despise their policy in setting quotas within member states EEZ waters (Exclusive Economic Zone; an area up to 200 nautical miles from a nation's coast). Yet the irony is that the UK, not the EU, has done more to internationalise our territorial waters.

Unlike other member states of the EU, the UK has permitted our fisherman to either sell or lease their share of fish quotas to foreigners.

One example being that a single Dutch vessel now takes 23 per cent of the English catch.

Currently, the European Union Council of Ministers sets the tonnage of specific fish, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), which can be caught in EU waters and then divides this between each member state.

What could be considered, upon exit of the EU, would be to allocate a far larger share to our small boats fleet (10m and under in

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photograph was sent by Colin MacInnes, who said: 'This was taken at the Oude dam on the A816 just north of Kilmelford. It shows how clear the loch is and the beautiful reflection of the trees on the far side in the water.'

length). They make up 77 per cent of the UK's fishing fleet, employ almost all of our 12,000 fishermen and yet the small boats fleet presently only get four per cent of the UK quota share.

So proposals and petitions from within the United Kingdom have been made. The government is presently considering other methods of dividing fish stocks but the House of Commons Library, when asked about a new

domestic fisheries bill, has said 'the system is unlikely to change'.

It reads, we cannot simply 'take back control' as some of our politicians would have us believe, without first paying vast sums in compensation.

**Tommy Macpherson, Saddell, Kintyre.**

## Time to abandon airy fairy thinking about tunnel vision

Here we go again with proposition of the future tunnel visions. What is it that Angus MacNeil and other think of in their dreams?

What we islanders really need are leaders who 'stick with it' and the essence of the day job, and to that end get the dual track roads from Port of Ness to Vatersay completed especially as it is getting close on 40 years since that scheme was started. This airy fairy talking is not what's needed.

This kind of half-baked thinking goes on all the time.

Now is the time to finish projects that were never completed because who of us is going to be around if a tunnel ever gets built?

Those ideas are fine to be dreaming of, but we are nowhere in that vicinity right now or for a long time.

The only thing I find useful is to be prepared for my demise and eternity. It is a certainty for everyone, so I don't have vain dreams and tunnels are not in my plans.

**Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir, Uibhist a Deas.**

## Why it is safer and healthier to buy British food products

Listeria is a nasty bacteria that can cause serious illnesses and can thrive in contaminated frozen foods and salads. It causes a handful of fatalities in the UK each year but is predicted to rise.

As these products containing the listeria bacteria have been known to be sourced from foreign countries, it is much better and safer to pick a home-sourced Scottish or British food, as generally welfare is of a higher standard and frozen transportation times are much less for any nasty bugs to breed.

With unprecedented fluctuations in our weather and temperatures expected, this is another area of concerns for the future.

Good advice is to always wash salad products stick to the sell by or use by dates – it is safer and better.

**Stephen Jones, Oban.**

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Tha mise agus iomadh neach eile air a bhith a' sgrìobhadh bho chionn bhliadhnaichean mun dùbhlán a th' aig Comhairlean na dùthcha ann a bhith a' feuchainn ris na rathaidean a chumail air dòigh. Cha leig duine leas astar mòr a shiubhal gus tuigsinn nach eil a' dol leotha leis an iomairt sin agus tha e fìor a ràdh gum bheil cuid de rathaidean mar gum biodh duine a falbh sa chladach!

Mar as fhaide a thèid neach chun an iomaill 's ann as mì-osa a tha cùisean a' dol, agus ged a thuigear ann an dòigh gum bheil èiginn ann na prìomh shlighean a chumail aig ìre, tha argamaid eile ann gum bheil coimhearsnachdan an iomaill gu tur an eisimeil nan slighean thuca is bhuapa cuideachd.

Ach dè 's urrainn dha na Comhairlean a dhèanamh is na sporain aca gam fàsgadh bliadhna an dèidh bliadhna, cha ghabh obair-càraidh rathaidean na gu dearbh obair-leasachaidh sam bith cumail a' dol gun mhaoin. Aig coinneamh de Chomataidh Eaconamaidh agus Cheangalan Dùthchail Phàrlamaid na h-Alba air an t-seachdain seo chaidh thuirteòlaichean gum bheil suid-

heachadh càradh rathaidean na dùthcha aig ìre èiginneach agus gum feumar dòigh a lorg gus tuilleadh ionmhais a chur ris. 'S ann an cois na fianais sin a nochd molaidhean bho dhithis de na proifeiseantaich a bha an làthair gum bu choir beachdachadh air cis a chur air carbadan a rèir an astair a bhios iad a' siubhal. Bhiodh seo car mar a tha cuid de dh'arachas chàraichean air obrachadh.

Gu h-iongantach, aig àm sgrìobhaidh seo co-dhiù, chan eil mi air an seòrsa tuil ghearan ris am bithinn an dùil a chluinntinn! 'S neònach gum bheil raon eile de chomhearsnachd Bhreatainn a tha fulang an ìre de pheanas chisean de gach seòrsa 's a tha luchd-cleachdaidh carbadan. Eadar cosgais conaidh, VAT air a h-uile dad co-cheangailte ris an inneal, àrachas, agus cis rathaid, tha luchd nan carbadan a' giùlan eallach chosgaisean agus cha b' iongnadh ged a bhiodh iad a' sùileachadh gun d' rachadh co-dhiù pàirt de na cìsean sin a chomharrachadh gus na rathaidean a ghleidheadh ann an staid rianail.

Cò chuireadh coire orra uile seasamh an aghaidh cis a bharrachd mar a thathas a'

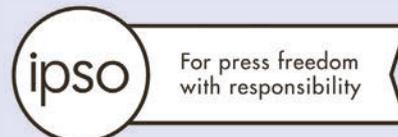
moladh? Chan e sin a-mhàin ach feumar faighneachd ciamar a ghabhadh leithid de chis obrachadh, ciamar a bhithte dol a thomhas irean siubhail charbadan fa leth? Agus le làraidhean agus bhanaichean mòra a' dèanamh an damaist as motha air rathaidean, ach aig an aon àm deatamach ann am frithealadh gach coimhearsnachd, tha fhios gun toireadh leithid de chis buaidh air cosgaisean bith-beò san fharsaingeachd.

Saoilidh mi fhìn gur còir a' bheachd seo a thilgeil ann an toll air choreigin, agus tha taghadh gu leòr dhiubh air na rathaidean!

Experts may be correct in stating that Scotland's road maintenance is at crisis point, but the suggestion that road-users should be further taxed to fund repairs seems grossly unfair given the tax burden already borne by vehicle owners.

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

**Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gaidhealach and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.**



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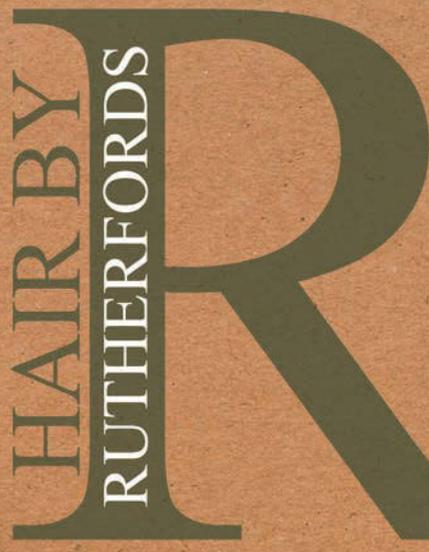
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# DISTRICT NEWS



These smiling youngsters were unfortunately missed from our primary one supplement last week but to ensure no-one is disappointed we are delighted to publish the photographs here. Above: Crianlarich Primary School's new intake and, right, Jack Grant from Kilchrenan Primary School. We apologise to Jack in particular who was missed out of the supplement because of an administrative error.



## APPIN

Appin SWI had the 'most enjoyable and informative evening' at the life-boat station, followed by a 'delicious' meal in the Lochnell Arms Hotel.

On September 19, Marlyn Turbitt and David Croucher from Taynuilt took the group through the stages in their respective projects; from clearing the rubble and rubbish to the amazing sites today.

Marlyn and her group have six polytunnels, giving growing plots to more and more enthusiastic gardeners.

An abundance of healthy vegetables is testament to the Lorn Organic Growers. David's enthusiastic persistence is resulting in many young plants being nurtured

in the Old Garden Nursery. This month's competition winners were: Photographic design in nature: Gold - Janet Fairbairn; silver - Doreen Evans. Sewing a Farmyard Character: Gold - Brenda MacLeod.

## CRIANLARICH

Three sections of the A82 between Tarbet and Crianlarich are to be upgraded in a £370,000 project.

The work, which will see more than two kilometres of the route re-surfaced, was scheduled to start on Sunday September 29 and is expected to take two weeks to complete.

The improvements will take place between 7pm and 7am each night with the project scheduled to be

completed by 7am on Friday October 11. No work is due to take place tomorrow night, Friday October 4, or Saturday October 5.

Due to the narrow widths throughout the three locations, the A82 will be closed in both directions during working hours to ensure the safety of road workers and motorists. A signed diversion route will be in place via the A82, A85, A819 and A83.

The A82 will remain open during the day to keep disruption to a minimum, however, to ensure the safety of motorists a speed restriction of 30mph will remain in place as traffic will be running on a temporary surface. Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times, with access for residents,

businesses and scheduled bus services maintained when it is safe. Motorists heading southbound from Crianlarich will still be able to reach hotels and businesses before Pulpit Rock without any impact.

## SEIL

Lorn Natural History Group (LNHG) is hosting a Wildfire and Muirburn talk on Tuesday October 8.

The 'manage the fuel, reduce the risk' event will be conducted by Simon Thorp, a chartered surveyor specialising in rural management.

It will take place in Seil Island Hall from 7.30pm. Entry is free for LNHG members and £2 for non-members.

The event poster reads: 'Wildfire is a major environmental threat to the natural environment and human settlements.

'The spate of incidents that took place during 2018 and 2019 makes clear the nature and extent of the threat it poses in the UK and highlights the need to improve our planning for wildfire control and how effective measures can be integrated into the management of our open land.'

LNHG promotes enjoyment and understanding of the environment.

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## MULL

The Global Climate Strike was a day of positive action for the children of Dervaig Primary School.

They were inspired after listening to the story about The Man who Planted Trees to become The Children Who Planted Trees.

During the afternoon, they learned about Mull native trees and their seeds from Caroline Wood and Kirsty and Mike Shilson from Dervaig Community Orchard.

They planted their own saplings and seeds in recycled cartons and took them home so they will be ready to plant next year.

Stuart Findlay from Forest and Land Scotland is keen to support the children to establish a tree nursery.

The message from the pupils is clear: every positive climate control action counts, however seemingly small. In a video featuring George Monbiot with Greta Thunberg, it was said: 'There is a magic machine that sucks carbon out of the air, costs very little and builds itself. It's called a tree.'



**Dervaig Primary School children planted trees instead of taking part in the climate change strike.**

## INVERARAY

Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club's new season starts on Wednesday October 9 at The Inveraray Inn at a new starting time of 7.30pm.

Guest artistes are accordion maestro Gordon Pattullo from Coupar Angus, with Malcolm Ross on drums. The club also welcomes supporting players to come along for a tune.

# Port Charlotte pupils learn resilience through robot fun

A robotics club in Port Ellen Primary School on Islay has been hailed as a great example of what schools can do to equip the next generation with tech and interpersonal skills.

Resilient Robotics was launched at the school in January by teacher Jo Clark. The club, for children aged between eight and 12 years, teaches children how to code, create apps and build robots. Among other resources, the club uses Marty the Robot, built by Scottish firm Robotical as an educational tool for children.

Jo Clark, who submitted the school's grant application to the Digital Xtra Fund, which was impressed with the plan, explained the idea behind Resilient Robotics was to create a robotics club where the children not only learn new technical skills, but also develop resilience, improve self-confidence and, most importantly, have fun.

### Self-confidence

She said: 'Developing children's resilience and self-confidence is a key aim. Learning programming and building robots requires skills such as investigating, debugging and perseverance. There is a lot of trial and error when it comes to programming. Children need to know failure is part of the design process. Overcoming difficulties while creating robots develops resilience and, once they are successful, is also rewarding.'

'Lots of children don't understand the outcomes of being able to code, but once they see what they can achieve, they are hooked. They follow instructions, generate algorithms and use their skills creatively,

**Youngsters learn while having fun with Resilient Robotics.**



developing progressively more complex ways of working as they go on. We are very pleased with the success of the programme and are especially delighted it is being adopted in neighbouring primary schools and now at Islay High School. You can see how much the children are getting from it and how much they are going to benefit from developing these skills at an early age.'

Kraig Brown, partnerships and development manager at Digital Xtra Fund, said: 'It is essential we equip children with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a technology-driven world, no matter what career or industry they may become interested in.'

'What is especially fantastic about Resilient Robotics is the success it has achieved in terms of sustainability. The original grant from Digital Xtra Fund supported the pilot programme at Port Ellen Primary School, however, it was quickly realised there was an excellent opportunity to expand this initiative across the island, including at the high school, as

well as on Mull and Jura. The fact that some of the resources are also being translated into Gaelic will only add to the project's legacy. It's a fantastic programme which will make a real difference to the lives of young people from the islands.'

Mr Brown added: 'Resilient Robotics is a shining example of the kind of initiative Digital Xtra Fund is looking to support. As a grant awarding charity, it is always the goal to see supported initiatives take root and grow and we hope other organisations and schools can take inspiration from its success.'

Digital Xtra Fund is currently accepting applications for the next round of grants.

Awards of up to £5,000 will be given to organisations delivering extracurricular activities that teach young people skills such as coding, data analysis and cybersecurity, helping inspire Scotland's next generation of technologists, developers and digital leaders.

For further information visit <http://www.digitalxtrafund.scot/>

## At random

MARTIN LAING

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### Mixed messages

We reported last week two stories that seemed to me to contradict each other.

One was the excellent Global Climate Strike which saw hundreds of people demonstrating in Oban for urgent action to halt climate change and protect the environment. Among the countless protesters were many young people who took time out of school to make their voices heard.

The other story was a much shorter account of the admirable souls from Keep Oban Beautiful who organised a clean-up among the Hydro ruins which resulted in around a dozen bin bags being filled with the detritus left by boozy litter louts.

Therein lies the confusion for me. On the one hand, youngsters rightly demand proactive measures to save the natural world while on the other they are carelessly dumping non-biodegradable rubbish.

I am sure the vast majority of young people are genuinely concerned for their future and that of the planet and have nothing to do with littering yet there is a cohort that persistently continues to scatter their waste with abandon.

Well done to the protesters and the Keep Oban Beautiful activists for their actions, but I would urge anyone who sees littering to report it. In this day and age, it is entirely unacceptable.

### Brilliant show

I was unfortunate last week not to be able to attend Oban High School's Little Shop of Horrors show, photographs and a report of which we have on page eight.

By all accounts it was a fantastic production. From the photos I've seen, it certainly looks like a colourful, brilliant performance.

It is to the great credit of the high school that our talented young people are encouraged to be involved in such extra-curricular activities.

We are lucky to have a high school in the town that puts such emphasis on the performing arts, sport and music in addition to the usual academic courses.

### What do you think?

Write to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

We think Fridays are for dramming...

Iain McAlister, Glen Scotia Distillery Manager is joining us for our tasting this weekend.

As usual we will be tasting 6 drams really looking forwards to this one as it is sure to be a memorable night.

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# OUTDOORS

## Celebration of trees returns

Some of Scotland's most beautiful and unusual trees will be celebrated again when the Scottish Tree Festival returns to Argyll for its second year.

Organised by national garden tourism group Discover Scottish Gardens and supported by VisitScotland, the festival aims to inspire people to take a trip outdoors and enjoy Scotland's spectacular array of diverse woodlands and gardens.

More than 70 nationwide events will be held up to December 1, including several in Argyll and the Isles, to showcase the region's rich tree life.

The festival returns after a successful first year with continued participation from the National Trust for Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

In Argyll and the Isles, Ardmaddy Castle Gardens, south of Oban, Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute, Ardkinglas Woodland Garden - home to the recently measured 'tallest grand fir in Britain' at 63.85m or 209 feet six inches - and stunning Benmore Botanic Garden in Cowal will be part of the festival.

Each will be showcasing magnificent displays or hosting activities for all the family.

Ann Steele, head of heritage gardening (policy) at National Trust for Scotland, said: 'The Scottish Tree Festival is a great way to reflect on and acknowledge the important role trees play in our everyday lives.'

'The benefits of trees extend beyond their beauty, from social and communal to economic, health and environmental benefits. Scotland is lucky to have some of the most extraordinary species, rich in heritage and diversity.'

'We are thrilled our involvement in this year's festival has grown with an increased number of sites taking part and we look forward to welcoming visitors of all ages to our events.'

For more information, visit the Discover Scottish Gardens website.

# Becoming a victim of Tiree's fake news

## Notes from a windy island

STEPHANIE COPE

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Tiree is traditionally at its most beguiling when I need to leave.

My last view from the ferry window frames her draped in cool green sward, dabbing a sparkling turquoise eye and fluttering tasteful white-cloud handkerchiefs.

Each time, I look away with a pang of regret. But today, as I queue with my belongings packed carefully into the boot, vengeful tears are hammering down.

The Doc and I exchange a sodden cheerio. Familiar faces smile behind steamed-up windows. I retreat to the car, revving the demisters up to warp speed.

When chapters in our lives close, it is tempting to lean back and dwell fondly on our successes. Instead, departing my role as Tiree Ranger, I'd like to salute the times when things did not go according to plan.

It started with the 'cornfake'. Our RSPB officer was on holiday and having enjoyed a modest run of birding triumphs, confidence was high. For 'those in the know', each wildlife watching location is laced with its own booby traps.

On Mull, should an island guest extol the virtues of the eagles they've seen perched on fence posts, it is customary for the local birder to adopt an air of studied hesitancy, before gently explaining they were most likely buzzards.

On Tiree, it's the starlings that stunt-double - mimicking the corncrake's call weeks before these rare migrants arrive.

April 1 2017 was dazzlingly bright. Ponies munched contentedly, drooling out chop and maintenance mix, reed buntings skittered between their half-empty buckets. The sun threw out palpable heat and the wind-scoured fields shone golden.

No surprise, then, the distant rasp of a corn-



Tiree is home to approximately one-third of the UK's corncrake population.

crake. Another win - and naturally - one for the ranger service Twitter account. Later, at my office, a bird was reported crossing the road in Cornaig. This was welcome corroboration and I enthused graciously. But it was still nice to have snagged the first record of the year.

Lamentably, it turned out to be the first record from anywhere and doubtless caused some head scratching among the birding 'Twitterati'.

Corncrakes don't arrive on Tiree until mid-April. They also follow a regular and reliable pattern of dispersal - to which my record did not conform.

Tragically, humiliateingly, my corncrake was in fact a 'cornfake'. I'd been had by the blasted starlings and John's air of studied hesitancy said it all.

The second sighting was probably a water rail, a similar looking species that often shows

well in April. In an excruciating climbdown, corrective Tweets and emails were duly dispatched.

I nursed the shame of the cornfake like a broken rib. For weeks, I was indisposed to birdwatch. Luckily, other sources of toe-curling embarrassment were close at hand.

On Tiree, the Hebridean tradition of keeping the same names within families thrives. Being unfamiliar with the monikers used to dodge confusion, lifting the telephone was akin to being the rat in an electric maze and I got zapped frequently.

During one such call, I was informed that the gentleman I wished to speak with had passed away two weeks earlier. A lengthy, agonising silence followed.

This news, delivered by his widow, came as a terrible shock, not least because he'd given me a jolly wave from his pickup that morning.

The harder I tried, the more spectacularly my efforts backfired. During my final guided walk, I happened upon a large family group picnicking at the furthest end of Traigh Bhi.

There were boogie boards, hampers, blankets and a variety of children. It was a majestic gathering.

As my guests and I turned into the dunes, several 4x4 vehicles slid into view - parked on heavily protected machair, and well away from the approved area.

Tiree Ranger Service's raison d'être is to promote and uphold the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. I eyed the family irritably. I had mere days left in post and no-one likes a jobsworth. Sighing, I dropped the telescope and waded in, radiating what I hoped was an air of authority, and poised to quote chapter and verse on responsible access.

I had only delivered a short snippet of my speech before the Duke of Argyll made himself known. The Duke still owns the majority of Tiree and, as such, can pretty much park where he likes.

With a sniff, I scraped up the ruins of my dignity and fled.

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## This week's walks

Professor Tom Seeley from  
Cornell University visited  
Colonsay's black bee reserve.



### Colonsay bee reserve wins international acclaim

World-leading honeybee researcher Professor Tom Seeley from Cornell University in the United States recently honoured Colonsay's black bee reserve with a two-day visit to study the behaviour of the native honeybee – *Apis mellifera mellifera*.

Professor Seeley also wanted to learn about the conservation work, breeding and management systems being carried out by island beekeeper Andrew Abrahams.

Professor Seeley is no stranger to small, remote islands as for many years he used the island of Appledore, distant from the Maine coast, to carry out his groundbreaking research work. This research has helped tell many more of the secrets of the honeybee community and how their scouts seek out and choose suitable

new nesting sites in the wild. Importantly, there is clear debate and democratic decision-making among the bees as to the final choice and suitability of nest sites. The scouts then have the onerous

#### 'I applaud you for establishing the Colonsay and Oronsay black bee reserve'

task of directing and leading the swarm, many of which have never left the confines of their nest, to their new home.

Professor Seeley has followed in the footsteps of Nobel prizewinner von Frisch, who decoded the wonderful honeybee dance language that allows nectar gatherers to communicate good forage sources.

Years of researching honeybees in the wild has convinced Professor Seeley that honeybees become highly adapted to their environment and are perfectly able to control the pests and diseases that are so damaging to worldwide managed populations. They have, after all, been around for nearly 50 million years. He is a great advocate of using and conserving honeybees. In a letter of appreciation of his visit to Colonsay he wrote: 'The Isle of Colonsay is certainly important for its human history and culture, but to biologists it is even more important as a unique population of honeybees that are native to Scotland. I applaud you in establishing and maintaining the Colonsay and Oronsay black bee reserve.'

#### 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.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk)  
**Sunday October 6, Beinn Fhada and Stob Coire Sgreabhach, Glencoe.**  
An interesting approach, up the nose and along the crest of the first of the "Three Sisters" of Glencoe, leads to a shapely Munro at the head of the Hidden Valley.

Start from the car park off the A82 at the foot of the Lairig Eilde at NN187562. Take the path SW and cross the Allt Lairig Eilde (stepping stones). Head W up the slope towards the series of rock buttresses that form the flank of the nose of Beinn Fhada. Pass to the right of the first buttress, turn left and climb up steeply SSW on a ramp below the foot of the second buttress. At the top of the ramp, easier ground leads W up to the crest of the ridge. Follow the ridge SW over several summits to reach the first Top, 931m, then the second Top, Beinn Fhada, 952m. Descend SW to reach a narrow col at 902m, the foot of the NE ridge of Stob Coire Sgreabhach. Direct onward progress is obstructed by a vertical rock pillar. Pass to the left along the base of the pillar for a few metres to reach a groove slanting back rightwards up the rock. Climb the groove to reach easier ground on the crest of the ridge and scramble to the summit of Stob Coire Sgreabhach, 1072m. Descend the SE ridge to a col at 741m alt, just before a small summit. Turn NE and descend steep slopes to the floor of the Lairig Eilde and follow the path back to the start.

Grade: S. Distance: 11Km. Height to climb: 1000m. Map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at: Glencoe Car Park 09.00. Start of walk: 09.30. Leader: Ian Moir 07973836498.

#### Thursday October 10, Arieniskill to Meoble, Lochailort.

A walk to a remote estate passing Prince Charlie's Cave and the hidden Loch Beoraid. The Lodge at Meoble was used by the S.O.E. to train agents sent into Europe during the 2nd World War.

Start near Arieniskill on the A830 at NM785831, where limited roadside parking is available. Follow the Arieniskill Burn under the railway. Pick up the path heading up ENE by the Allt na Criche. Take the right fork at the junction and continue N, crossing some fairly level ground before descending into natural woodland. Look out for Prince Charlie's Cave at NM796849. Cross the Allt a' Churn Mhoir in a steep-sided gorge and continue to follow the path up a narrow ledge before emerging on to more open hillside with views of Loch Beoraid. Follow the path down to footbridges and

a power house at the foot of the loch. Cross to a track and follow it N to the settlement at Meoble and continue to the piers at Loch Morar. Retrace steps until S of the estate buildings and cross the river Meoble on the bridge at NM799866. Follow the path SSW gradually climbing up to a high point at NM792849. Cross the fence-line, descend to re-join the outward route at the junction and follow the path back to the start

Grade: M. Distance: 16Km. Height to climb: 560m. Map(s): LR40, EX398. Meet at: Fort William Woollen Mill 0900. Start of walk 0930. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

#### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevis.hillwalking.club](http://www.nevis.hillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevis.hillwalking.club

#### Saturday October 5, Stob Ban (977m, Munro), Stob Coire Claurigh (1177m, Munro), Stob Coire na Ceannain (1123m, Munro Top), Stob Coire Gaibhre (958m, Munro Top)

A fine traverse from S to N, starting with a \*scramble on white quartzite leading to a shapely peak overlooking the wilderness. Continue over the highest of the Grey Corries peaks for stunning panoramic views. \*Route #15 – 'Scrambles in Lochaber' by Noel Williams.

Start at the Scout Hut at NN253806, where restricted parking is available, (or 2Km further S at NN255788, but the track is rough). Follow the track S for 6km to the Lairg Leacach Bothy. Locate a boggy path and follow it along the N side of the Alt a' Chuil Choirean through picturesque wooded gorge. \*Make for the lowest point of the white quartzite slabs forming the headwall of the corrie. Climb the slabs in three huge sections, the 'steps' of the Giant's Staircase, to reach the col, 800m alt, between the two Munros. Turn S and climb to the summit of Stob Ban on a steep and loose path up the slope mainly composed of scree. Return to the col, head N past a small lochan and climb to the summit of Stob Coire Claurigh. Descend N then up to a small summit, 1121m.

Turn NE and scramble easily along a narrow rocky ridge to the summit of Stob Coire na Ceannain. Return to the main ridge and descend gradually N along the rim of Coire na Ceannain, rising a little to the summit of Stob Coire Gaibhre. Continue down N along the rim of Coire na Gaibhre and head down the broad shoulder to rejoin the outward route on the Lairg Leacach track. \*To avoid scrambling on the Giant's Staircase, climb up to the col on the path up its S side. This may be preferable in wet weather.

16km, 1545m ascent Suggested by Toril Frantzen, co-ordinated by Willie Gunn.

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Cultural heritage counts

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



More than 70 delegates from cultural and heritage groups across Argyll and the islands gathered in Oban this week to share stories and experiences.

Tuesday's conference, hosted by Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum at the Corran Halls, was such a success that it plans to be back next year, said event chairwoman Anne Cleave.

The free event included the announcement of a new Argyll ancestral tourism initiative, heritage presentations, speeches about why cultural heritage counts and a question time about how to get support and keep museums, groups and organisations running.

There was also plenty of time for networking and browsing displays and information stands from Wild

About Argyll, Taynuilt-based The Wee Crows Theatre Company, Dalmally Station, Dunollie and Ardchattan Archives to name but a few who were taking part.

Speakers on the day included Moray Finch, Mull and Iona Community Trust general manager, and Devon McHugh, senior partnerships manager for Museums Galleries Scotland, the national development body for Scotland's 404 museums and galleries.

### Group

Delegates also heard from former keeper of the Records of Scotland George Mackenzie, who is currently the ancestral lead on the Scottish Clan and Ancestry Forum and serves on the Heritage Tourism Group.

Kathleen O'Neill, interim development manager for CHArts, a growing network of artists, makers, producers and venues in Argyll and the isles, also gave a presentation



Conference delegates included David Brown from St Conan's Kirk, Heather MacLean from Glencoe and Lorn Folk Museum, Jill Bowis from Ardchattan Parish Archive and Graham Swanson, also from Loch Awe's St Conan's Kirk. 16\_T40\_CHARTSconference

about its work as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation supporting and growing the region's culture, heritage and arts locally,

nationally and internationally. It now has 350 members and rising, 74 organisations linked to it and has recently advertised 105 events nation-

ally. Pilot projects run by it so far include working with school children on Islay and Lismore's Gaelic Heritage Centre.

### One more tune?

Organisers of popular Benderloch Palladium gigs are asking if concert-goers fancy one more tune this year.

Campbell and Joy Cameron have hailed this season's concerts a rousing success, so much so they are considering putting on one extra gig before November is out.

Campbell said: 'We have had some folk asking if we can have something in November. They have suggested Hollow Mountain String Band, Mudslide and others. We have had offers from the away bands too. Yarrow, for example, offered a gig around St Andrew's Day. So let us know and tell us who you want to see next year too. So over to The Oban Times' readers who have regularly attended. We get great support from the OT so let's hear what the readers have to say.'

Get in touch by finding Victory Hall Gigs on Facebook.



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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



With Mòd Ghlaschu just a week away and an abundance of great fundraising events now past, the event's emblem adorns the lampposts of the city centre.

## Pre-Mòd dance

If your Mòd fever has not yet kicked in, get yourself down to Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School) on Friday night and rectify that by dancing to Gunna Sound for the official pre-Mòd Cèilidh Dance. The dance begins at 7.30pm with tickets £10. Free entry for children. Bring your own bottle.

## Care for a Cèilidh

As in previous years, Donald 'Maroot' MacLeod's Care for a Cèilidh will be hosting a series of cèilidhs throughout Mòd week.

This year, Care for a Cèilidh is teaming up with the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and kicking things off on October 6 with performers including Glasgow Mòd 2019 convener Donald-Iain Brown and An Comunn Gaidhealach Mòd officer James Graham.



Both D-I and James are Mòd Gold Medal winners and will get the cèilidhs off to the perfect start.

I'm sure as the week goes on, patients in the hospital will hear plenty of great Gaelic singers thanks to this tremendous scheme. Apparently there are 25,000 people at the hospital so I suppose that requires an awful lot of Gaelic songs.

## Children's Mòd

Friday October 11, 8pm: opening cèilidh, George Square. Free entry.

Saturday October 12, 11am and 2pm: children's fun and games at Glasgow Green

Football Centre with athletics, yoga, netball, shinty and football. Free.

Saturday October 12, 10am and 2pm: family foraging walk in Pollok Country Park. Free.

Sunday October 13, 3pm: family welcome session at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Free.

Monday October 14 - Thursday October 17, 11am: Clann 's Cluich - fun activities for young people aged five to 12 years at the Royal Concert Hall. Free.

Monday October 14 - Thursday October 17, 10.30am: Gaelic Bookbug in the Royal Concert Hall.

Monday October 14, 6.30pm - 8pm: family cèilidh in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Free.

Tuesday October 15, 6.30pm - 8.30pm: competitors' dance, Royal Concert Hall. Free.

Wednesday October 16, 2pm: Gaelic Literature Day. Free.

## What's on

Friday October 11, 8.30pm: Glasgow Mòd 2019 public

launch - open air cèilidh at George Square.

Saturday October 12, from 11am: super Saturday of sport at Glasgow Green Football Centre.

Saturday October 12, 7.30pm: Our Language, Our Music - Our Glasgow concert, featuring young, talented Glasgow musicians, in the City Halls, Albion Street.

Sunday October 13, 2.30pm: ecumenical Gaelic service led by Father Ross Crichton and the Rev Donald Michael MacInnes in St Andrew's Cathedral, Broomielaw.

Sunday October 13, 7.30pm: Celtic praise featuring Gaelic and English choirs in Princes Square, Buchanan Street.

Tuesday October 15, 7.30pm: Glasgow Gold concert in the main auditorium of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Friday October 18, 7pm: The Final Fling featuring Skerryvore and Trail West in the Barrowland Ballroom.

Saturday October 19: massed choirs, 10.30am, from the steps of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

# The Drift comes to Mull for Black History Month

The National Theatre of Scotland is bringing The Drift to Tobermory, Mull, tomorrow, Friday October 4.

The Drift is a journey through history, through Scottishness, through belonging and through grief.

Written and performed by Hannah Lavery, directed by Eve Nicol and designed by Kirstie Currie, the tour is part of Black History Month, supported by Flint & Pitch and The Workers Theatre with the Coalition of Racial Equality and Rights.

Writer and performer Hannah Lavery's poetic and powerful spoken-word show is a journey through history, through Scottishness, through belonging, and through grief.

The autobiographical performance-poetry sees Lavery exploring her legacy of being "mixed" in Scotland, left to her by her father and his mother, and their respective journeys. The Drift is a beautiful story of love, loss and bereavement, as well as a searingly honest portrayal of growing up mixed-race in Scotland.

Hannah Lavery's won-

derful performance-poetry monologue The Drift asks the most challenging questions of the western world - and in this case of Scotland - about our real views on race and belonging.' The Scotsman

Hannah has had stories, poems and blogs published by Gutter Magazine, The Scottish Book Trust, 404 ink, Postbox Press and other publications, and has had two short plays read at the Traverse Theatre as part of Words, Words, Words.

Poetry from The Drift has been collected in Finding Sea Glass: Poems from The Drift, published by Stewed Rhubarb Press in 2019.

Hannah founded CoastWord in 2012 and has been its creative director ever since. She is a former Secondary School English teacher and is currently Scottish Poetry Library's Learning and Engagement Coordinator.

The performance is being staged at Druimfin, Tobermory, tomorrow, Friday October 4.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com)



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**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**  
**OCTOBER HOLIDAYS**  
NEW EVERY FILMS FRIDAY  
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CINEMA

	<b>FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER</b>	Downton Abbey   PG	12:00/19:45
	The Angry Birds Movie 2   U	15:00	
	Toy Story 4   U	15:15	
	Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion   PG	17:30	
	The Lion King   PG	17:30	
	<b>SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER</b>	Dora & The Lost City of Gold   PG	11:30★
	The Angry Birds Movie 2   U	11:45/14:00	
	Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion   PG	13:30/16:15	
	Toy Story 4   U	15:45	
	The Lion King   PG	18:00	
	<b>SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER</b>	The Sun Is Also A Star   12A	18:15
	Downton Abbey   PG	20:30	
	IT: Chapter 2   15	20:30	
	<b>MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER</b>	Toy Story 4   U	12:15
	The Angry Birds Movie 2   U	12:30/14:30	
	<b>TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER</b>	Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion   PG	15:00★
	The Lion King   PG	16:45	
	The Sun Is Also A Star   12A	17:15	
	IT: Chapter 2   15	19:30	
	Downton Abbey   PG	19:45	
	<b>WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER</b>	Toy Story 4   U	12:15
	The Angry Birds Movie 2   U	12:30★/14:30	
	Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion   PG	15:00	
	The Lion King   PG	16:45	
	The Sun Is Also A Star   12A	17:15	
	<b>THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER</b>	The Art of Racing In The Rain   PG	14:30★
	Downton Abbey   PG	16:15	
	The Lion King   PG	17:00	
	Billy Connolly: The Sex Life of Bandages   18	19:00	
	IT: Chapter 2   15	19:30	

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**BILLY CONNOLLY**  
**THE SEX LIFE OF BANDAGES**  
THU 10TH OCTOBER AT 7PM 18

Prior to retiring in 2016 following his diagnosis with Parkinson's Disease, Connolly toured worldwide continuously for 50 years, performing to an audience of over 10 million. The Sex Life of Bandages is a big screen tribute to an iconic funny-man whose sharp wit and anarchic storytelling is still as hilarious as ever.

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**Disney MALEFICENT**  
**MISTRESS OF EVIL**  
OCTOBER 18

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# Words not enough to describe great Bookends Festival

With BookBug for babes in arms to historical novels on the edge of some of the more mature visitor's memories, there was something for everyone at the fourth annual Bookends book festival at Benderloch.

From humble beginnings, the week-long festival has grown in participation and popularity with events to suit everyone.

Bookends convener Joy Cameron said: 'It has been a fantastic week with a range of visitors coming to the hall.

'There was something for everyone, from poetry to storytelling, broadcasters to journalists and even a man who is an expert on astronauts.

'We have had some great feedback from visitors and authors who all complimented the diverse and informal feel of the festival.'

Following an entertaining opening weekend, the second

half of the programme kicked off with Finish What You Started Day last Thursday which saw people pop in to complete a variety of tasks that for one reason or other had been sidelined.

A quiz on Friday night with Craig Munro was closely fought, resulting in places for teams from Oban, Taynuilt and Benderloch.

Prizes were kindly provided by The World Famous Pink Shop and Waterstones of Oban.

The final day on Saturday was a treat with highly entertaining talks from Ken MacTaggart, Tales from the Moon, Oban Times journalist Kathie Griffiths, A Tale of Two Tabloids, and Angus Peter Campbell, who gave an engaging talk on identity and what it means to be human.

His novel Memory and Straw which searches these ideas in truth is a must read.

Elsewhere, the Bookends

outreach programme expanded again to include author and poet visits to Lochnell Primary School, Oban High School and New Hope in Oban.

Mrs Cameron paid tribute to the dedication of the 'money faeries' - treasurers and trustees - who made everything happen with unbridled enthusiasm.

'Bookends is delighted with the continued support for our outreach community events from Aggregate Industries (Glensanda) and Taynuilt Medical Practice Trust,' she added.

There will be a pop-up day tomorrow, Friday October 4, in the Reading Room in the Victory Hall, Benderloch, open to everyone from 11am until 6pm.

This is a post-festival book peruse, a cuppa and a chance to give the Bookends team feedback on Bookends 2019 and ideas for Bookends 2020.



Left: Joy Cameron, left, and Eileen McCallum catch up with some needlework on Finish What you Started Day.



Ann Dalgaty and Sue Burden welcomed Bookbug to Benderloch Bookends Festival where he entertained the toddlers' group.



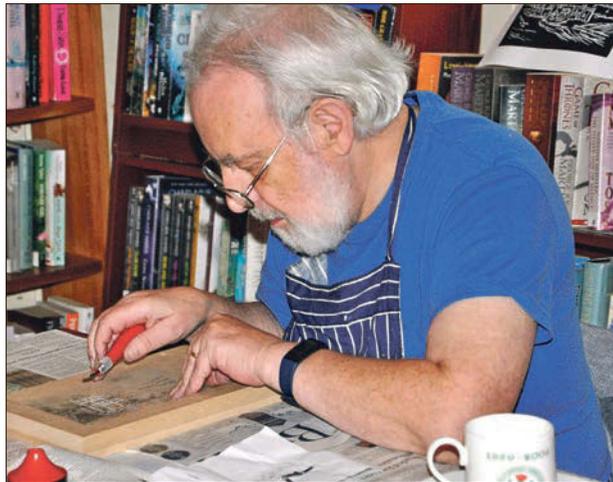
Oban Times journalist Kathie Griffiths entertained a young audience with A Tale of Two Tabloids.



The Bookends Famous Pink Shop Quiz, hosted by Craig Munro, drew a big crowd.



Above: singer-songwriter and playwright Mairi Campbell popped in to try the Benderloch Bookends Blanket on her way back from Taproot festival on Lismore.



Steve Eccles made inroads with his linoprints.

Below: Bookends ambassadors Lily Kill, left, and Elizabeth Needham.



Stuart A Paterson and Bookends stalwart Joy Blakeney.



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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 3 AN An Dàmhair / THURSDAY 3rd October

19:00 Air an Smuid (rpt)  
17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An La - News  
20:30 An Lot S3 (rpt)  
21:00 An Lan - A' beartachadh an Lain/ Tide - Harnessing the Tide (rpt)  
22:00 ÙR/NEW: Na Milenni-Gaels  
22:30 ÙR/NEW: Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail  
23:20 ÙR/NEW: Dhan Uisge  
23:30 FUNC (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 4 AN An Dàmhair / FRIDAY 4th October

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's Programming  
18:35 Machair (rpt)  
19:00 An La - News  
19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19:30 Alba: 1978 (rpt)  
20:00 Co-Sheirm (rpt)  
20:30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo S6 (rpt)  
21:00 Third Lanark (rpt)  
22:00 Grace Heart (rpt)  
22:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23:00 Seirm (rpt)  
22:15 ÙR/NEW: The Flatey Enigma  
23:05 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23:15 Manran aig Barrowland (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 5 AN An Dàmhair / SATURDAY 5th October

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's Programming  
17:45 An La - News  
18:00 BEÒ/LIVE: Scottish Premiership – Heart of Midlothian v Kilmarnock  
20:00 Machair (rpt)  
20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

20:30 Fuine S6 (rpt)  
21:00 Seirm (rpt)  
22:00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)  
22:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23:00 Scottish Premiership - Heart of Midlothian v Kilmarnock (rpt)

### DIDÒMHAICH 6 AN Dàmhair / SUNDAY 6th October

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18:15 An La - News  
18:30 Seachd Là - News Review  
19:30 Siubhal nan Salm (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Lot S3 (rpt)  
20:30 Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh (rpt)  
20:55 Binneas - Na Trads - Seamus O' Sullivan (rpt)  
21:00 Call air Cladach Ile (rpt)  
22:00 Seirm (rpt)  
23:00 Grace Harte (rpt)  
23:50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

### DILÙAIN 7 AN Dàmhair / MONDAY 7th October

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Innean an Iar - Hebrides (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An La - News  
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Vets: Gach Creutair Beo S6  
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Bannan  
21:30 Trusadh - Bogha - Froise (pride) (rpt)  
22:30 Bruadar a' Bhais (rpt)  
23:30 Na Milenni-Gaels (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 8 AN Dàmhair / TUESDAY 8th October

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Air an Smuid (rpt)

19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An La - News  
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh  
20:55 Binneas - Na Trads - The Shee (rpt)  
21:00 Sar Sgeoil: Macbeth (rpt)  
22:00 Trusadh S11 - Bogha - froise (Pride) (rpt)  
23:00 Co-Sheirm (rpt)  
23:30 Siubhal nan Salm (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 9 AN Dàmhair / WEDNESDAY 9th October

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:00 Innean an Iar - Hebrides (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An La - News  
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Fuine  
21:00 Gaol is Call/Labour of love (rpt)  
22:00 Mach a seo (rpt)  
22:30 Bannan (rpt)  
23:00 An Lan - A beartachadh an Lain/ Tide - Harnessing the tide (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 10 AN An Dàmhair / THURSDAY 10th October

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An La - News  
20:30 An Lot S3 (rpt)  
21:00 Gaidhlig Obair Dheathain (Aberdeen, Gaelic & the Gaels) (rpt)  
22:00 ÙR/NEW: Na Milenni-Gaels  
22:30 ÙR/NEW: Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail  
23:20 Dhan Uisge  
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)



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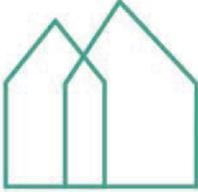
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## OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES • 2019 / 20

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1 Tue	1 Fri	1 Sun
2 Wed	2 Sat	2 Mon
3 Thu	3 Sun	3 Tue
4 Fri	4 Mon	4 Wed
5 Sat	5 Tue	5 Thu
6 Sun	6 Wed	6 Fri
7 Mon	7 Thu	7 Sat
8 Tue	8 Fri	8 Sun
9 Wed	9 Sat	9 Mon
10 Thu	10 Sun	10 Tue
11 Fri	11 Mon	11 Wed
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28 Mon	28 Thu	28 Sat
29 Tue	29 Fri	29 Sun
30 Wed	30 Sat	30 Mon
31 Thu		31 Tue

# er for school holidays in your area

## 20 SCHOOL TERM PLANNER

■ Schools closed
 ■ Regional variations

While every effort has been made to ensure the information is correct we advise that you check with your local authority at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/school-holidays-oban-lorn-and-isles-2019-2020](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/school-holidays-oban-lorn-and-isles-2019-2020)

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 Wed	1 Sat	1 Sun	1 Wed	1 Fri	1 Mon
2 Thu	2 Sun	2 Mon	2 Thu	2 Sat	2 Tue
3 Fri	3 Mon	3 Tue	3 Fri	3 Sun	3 Wed
4 Sat	4 Tue	4 Wed	4 Sat	4 Mon	4 Thu
5 Sun	5 Wed	5 Thu	5 Sun	5 Tue	5 Fri
6 Mon	6 Thu	6 Fri	6 Mon	6 Wed	6 Sat
7 Tue	7 Fri	7 Sat	7 Tue	7 Thu	7 Sun
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15 Wed	15 Sat	15 Sun	15 Wed	15 Fri	15 Mon
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17 Fri	17 Mon	17 Tue	17 Fri	17 Sun	17 Wed
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19 Sun	19 Wed	19 Thu	19 Sun	19 Tue	19 Fri
20 Mon	20 Thu	20 Fri	20 Mon	20 Wed	20 Sat
21 Tue	21 Fri	21 Sat	21 Tue	21 Thu <small>Islay and Jura schools closed</small>	21 Sun
22 Wed	22 Sat	22 Sun	22 Wed	22 Fri	22 Mon
23 Thu	23 Sun	23 Mon	23 Thu	23 Sat	23 Tue
24 Fri	24 Mon	24 Tue	24 Fri	24 Sun	24 Wed
25 Sat	25 Tue	25 Wed	25 Sat	25 Mon	25 Thu
26 Sun	26 Wed	26 Thu	26 Sun	26 Tue	26 Fri
27 Mon	27 Thu	27 Fri	27 Mon	27 Wed	27 Sat
28 Tue	28 Fri	28 Sat	28 Tue	28 Thu	28 Sun
29 Wed	29 Sat	29 Sun	29 Wed	29 Fri	29 Mon
30 Thu		30 Mon	30 Thu	30 Sat	30 Tue
31 Fri		31 Tue		31 Sun	<b>Summer break</b>

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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 Rainnie 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 MacKechnie, 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.

# Gaelic singers to showcase work at Canadian event

Six young Gaelic singers from across Scotland have been invited to perform at the renowned Celtic music festival, Celtic Colours, in Canada next month.

They will showcase the second phase of the Fuaran project, which aims to inspire young Gaelic speakers to engage with the wealth of Gaelic culture in their communities.

The singers and researchers are part of this year's Fuaran group, a heritage initiative established by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to encourage a new generation of Gaelic speakers and singers to engage in the research and collection of Gaelic songs from their area.

The singers in Fuaran 2019 include Anna MacDonald, 24, Tiree; Ruairidh Cormack, 24, Skye; Claire Frances MacNeill, 19, Barra; Chloë Bryce, 22, Tain; Alix Aburn, 16, Inverness; Catriona Nicolson, 23, Inverness; and Duncan MacLeod, 19, Bonar Bridge.

The group has been invited to perform at the prestigious Celtic festival on October 12 and 13, which will also see Scottish folk groups Breabach, Talisk and SAY Award-nominated Kinnaris Quintet perform, while also visiting schools to do workshops and present their work.

Fuaran will join forces with similar Gaelic mentorship



Participants and mentors AJ MacDonald, Mairhead Stewart and Màiri McFadyen.

youth group from Cape Breton, Na Gaisgich Òga which means The Young Heroes, for two collaborative concerts at the Gaelic College in St Ann's, Cape Breton and Christmas Island.

Anna Macdonald from Tiree said: 'I'm really excited to be involved in Fuaran as it is allowing me to bring together and develop my research skills from a musician's perspective, as well as my insight into the Gaelic culture that forms part of my identity.'

'One stand-out message I took from this project is the importance of respect within the research process - respect for the contributors, the material they are providing and how they wish it to be used, and respect for the material

itself as a piece of history and heritage.

'I'm really looking forward to sharing the songs and their stories with audiences in Canada.'

Earlier this year, Fuaran recorded some of the songs they collected from communities across Scotland. This recording, accompanied by translations, background information and videos of the recording process, will be available on the Fuaran website, bringing the total number of songs collected since the beginning of the Fuaran project to 32.

During the process, the researchers discovered many interesting stories and songs, some of which are relatively unknown.

Claire Frances MacNeill re-

searched and collected a song called Coitearan Bhatarsaigh, a song in praise of the Raiders in their struggle to win over the land rights to Watersay in 1908. Claire Frances came across it in a collection of Dòmhnall Mac na Ceàrdaich songs, a relatively unknown Gaelic author who died aged 46.

Karen Oakley, Fèisean nan Gàidheal development officer, said: 'We are delighted our Fuaran participants have been invited to perform at the internationally renowned Celtic Colours festival. They are excited to be showcasing the songs they have researched over the past several months, especially as the shows they are involved in have already sold out.'

'The trip is also a brilliant opportunity for our young people to meet like-minded Gaelic speakers from the other side of the Atlantic. Programmes like Na Gaisgich Òga are well-established and I'm sure both groups will gain a lot from this shared experience.'

## Gaelic radio live from Ireland

Folk music fans can look forward to a special radio broadcast this weekend, with a concert live from Ennis in Ireland to celebrate 25 years of the Gaelic and Irish radio programme Sruth na Maoile.

Heading up the Scottish contingent will be Karen Matheson, of Capercaillie, with Manus Lunny.

Young guns Eabhal, winners of the Tradfest Battle of the Folk Bands 2018, will perform a blend of energetic instrumental sets and soulful songs and talented singer and accordion player Ruairidh Gray from

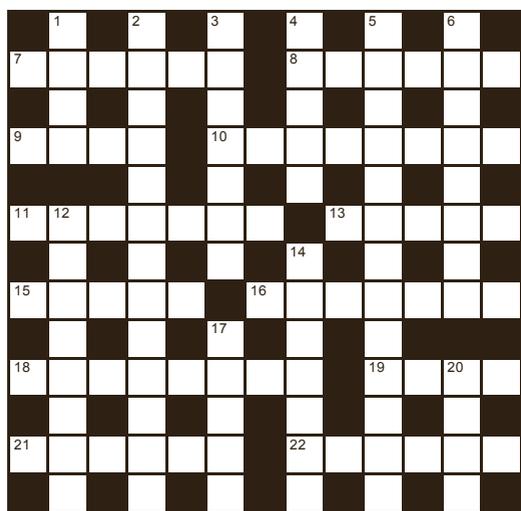
the Western Isles will be the youngest performer on the night.

Mairi Anna Nic Ualraig and Seán Ó hÉanaigh have been presenting the unique bi-lingual music show, a co-production with RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta in Ireland and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, for a quarter of a

century, showcasing some of the best folk and trad music in both countries.

Sruth na Maoile @ 25 will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal from 8pm on Saturday October 5. Audiences can also view a live stream of the concert on the BBC Radio nan Gàidheal Facebook page.

## Crossword



**Across**

- 7 Gnawing animal (6)
- 8 Women's trousers (6)
- 9 Hooligan (4)
- 10 Bamboozle (8)
- 11 Type of lens (7)
- 13 Company of eight (5)
- 15 Towering (5)
- 16 Biological process outside the body (2,5)
- 18 Homelessness (8)
- 19 Verge (4)
- 21 Armed forces (6)
- 22 Chewy sweet (6)

**Down**

- 1 Two out of two (4)
- 2 A period of the French Revolution (5,2,6)
- 3 A Turkish empire (7)
- 4 Nitrogen (5)
- 5 Automatic weapon (10,3)
- 6 Eavesdrop (8)
- 12 Excessive devotion (8)
- 14 Eternal (7)
- 17 Worry (5)
- 20 Cheese source (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Inveraray & District  
Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Wednesday 9th October  
Inveraray Inn  
at 7.30pm  
[NB - new starting time]  
Guest Artistes  
Gordon Pattullo & Malcolm Ross  
Supporting players  
most welcome

An Comunn Gàidhealach Meur Chruachain - (Cruachan Branch)

**Taynuilt Pre-Mòd Ceilidh**  
Local Children and Adults, Singers and Choirs competing  
At the Royal National Mod in Glasgow

Taynuilt Village Hall  
Saturday 5th October \*7:00pm  
Admission £4 Children £2  
Come and support our local entrants  
A warm welcome is extended to all



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



Skipinnish, celebrating 20 years together, will headline this year's Dileab showcase.

# Skipinnish to headline Dileab 2019 in Lewis

Skipinnish, who are celebrating their 20th year, will headline the 2019 Dileab showcase event in Lewis Sports Centre on Friday November 29, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's education department has announced.

They will be joined on the evening by The Tumbling Souls and Face the West along with local bands including Fèis group Dual, The Lewis and Harris Youth Band, Sir E Scott School Choir and The Nicolson Institute Choir.

Tickets for the event will be available on Eventbrite from 9am on Monday October 7. Tickets are £25 for adults and £15 for U18s. Everyone under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Each adult may only bring three people aged under 18 into the event.

Skipinnish said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be performing on Lewis as part of Dileab. Since Skipinnish began, the people of Lewis and Harris have given us huge support and we are delighted to be playing for them during our 20th anniversary year.'

'It is always magical to see our lead singer Norrie MacIver perform on home turf. Keyboard player Alasdair Iain Patterson also has strong family links to Lewis and these island connections will be felt strongly on the night.'

'This will be a concert we will all remember for years to come.'

Evelyn Coull Macleod, multimedia manager, said: 'We are delighted to have secured Skipinnish, the Tumbling Souls and Face the West. Following on from the success of Dileab (Legacy) in 2018 it was decided the project would continue in

different forms and those fortunate enough to secure tickets for this one-off event are guaranteed a fantastic evening of music.'

'What is really special about this is the opportunity our young people are getting to perform alongside some of Scotland's leading musicians and we hope it will be an unforgettable evening.'

## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Jura** Thu 3 - Fri 4 Oct  
**Gigha** Sat 5 - Sun 6 Oct  
**Tarbert Loch Fyne** Mon 7 Oct

**Blinded by the Light** (12A) 117 mins  
A coming-of-age tale featuring the music of Bruce Springsteen.  
03/10 at 5.30pm, 06/10 at 8.30pm

**Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood** (18) 161 mins  
Black comedy drama set in 1969 Los Angeles. Expect Violence!  
03/10 at 8.30pm, 05/10 at 8.30pm

**The Lion King** (PG) 118 mins  
The much-loved tale of Simba the lion cub trying to live up to his late father's legacy. "Gorgeous, star-studded story." Empire  
04/10 at 5.30pm, 06/10 at 2pm, 07/10 at 5.30pm

**Downton Abbey** (PG) 122 mins  
It's 1927 and the Crawleys and their servants prepare for a visit from King George V and Queen Mary.  
04/10 at 8.30pm, 05/10 at 5.30pm, 07/10 at 8.30pm

**Eating Up Easter** (8+) 75 mins  
Stunning documentary about life on Easter Island. Supported by Take One Action Film Festival. 06/10 at 5.30pm

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



# WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

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



## THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

**Slimming World**  
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William  
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall, 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Oban Health Walks**  
Oban Congregational Church  
10:00am - 12:00pm

**Recovery Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen, 12:30pm

**Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Royal Hotel, Oban, 7:30pm

**Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER

**Reminiscence Group**  
Oban Library, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Hope Kitchen Music Group**  
Salvation Army Hall, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Parsley's Cat Cafe**  
New Hope Kitchen, 2:00pm

**Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Gregor Coleman, Open till 2:00am

## SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER

**Hill Walk**  
Spean Bridge, Spean Bridge, All day

## Community Cafe

Salvation Army Hall, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**Reminiscence Group**  
Oban Library, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

**Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Tritones, Open till 2:00am

**Pre-Mod Ceilidh**  
Taynuilt Village Hall, 7:00pm

## SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

**Morning Service** - Refreshments follow  
Salvation Army Hall, 11:00am - 12:00pm

**Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall, 9:00am - 12:00pm

**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 Mens**  
New Hope Kitchen, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

## TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall, 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Carers Coffee Morning**  
North Argyll Carers Centre, 10:30am - 12:00pm

**AA Open Session**  
Salvation Army Hall, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**Knitting Group**  
New Hope Kitchen, 2:00pm

**A1 Anon**  
Salvation Army Hall, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Martyn's Monday Club Ladies**  
New Hope Kitchen, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

## WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

**Oban Men's Shed**  
Salvation Army Hall, 9:00am - 12:00pm

**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

**Inveraray Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Inveraray Inn, 7:30pm

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



Tower Burgers, Meat Feast Pasta, Beef Koftas, Vanilla Ice Cream, Overnight Oats, Pancakes

That's my kind of "diet"!  
**live happy!**  
with Slimming World

**OBAN**  
Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
Wednesday 9.30am,  
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

**LOCHGILPHEAD**  
Lochgilphead  
Baptist Church  
Union Street/ Argyll Street  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

**FORT WILLIAM**  
Salvation Army Hall  
16 Belford Road, Fort William  
Thursday 9.30am, 11.30am,  
3pm, 5pm & 7pm  
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

**CAMPBELTOWN**  
Masonic Recreational  
Lodge, St John Street  
Tuesdays 1pm,  
5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

# INVERARAY JAIL & COUNTY COURT

**30** years ago the jail  
opened to visitors

**130** years ago  
the jail closed



Aerial view of Inveraray  
showing the jail  
overlooking Loch Fyne

## Enjoying doing time

Come and meet the 'inmates' during the October holidays

All members of the staff who work with the public are in costume; historically accurate for the guides and a 'prison uniform' of a striped shirt and long flannel skirt or trousers for the front of house team. They talked about what they like best about their jobs.

History comes to life at Inveraray Jail, a building which has played a major role in the life of Argyll.

The courthouse and jail opened in 1820. Hard to believe today as you see the conditions in which people were imprisoned and the sentences handed down that this was a 'model' prison for its time.

Once closed, this A-listed building, which is so important historically, socially and architecturally, was brought back to life and still provides a valuable service to Argyll for its tourism industry. It is one of the finest year-round, all-weather attractions in Scotland and has won just about every honour it is possible to win in tourist destination awards.

Jock Munro, one of the guides is a retired plumber and heating engineer who worked on the renovation of the building in the 1980s.

'What saved the jail, I believe, is that it was kept wind and water tight.

The police continued to use the cells after the court closed, and so the cells on the ground floor had heating.

'The GPO, which ran post and telephones before they were privatised, used another part as a sorting office, stores and garage. That was back when Hughie Bain and John Stewart were the phone engineers and Malky and Archie were the posties.'

Visitors to the courtroom today see it set out as if the Circuit Court was in session and tour the jail meeting warders and prisoners.

People come from around the world, some to trace their ancestors. This is where Inveraray Jail excels; every story told be it heard in the court room, or recounted by the costume guides is based on true stories. All the court records are available to make this an incredibly authentic experience.

'People are fascinated by the macabre, by 'dark tourism' like the jail and Edinburgh dungeons, or Chernobyl,' said Gavin Dick today's prison governor.



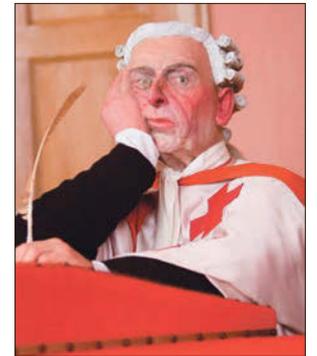
**Robert Irons, the chief guide and warder;** 'For me it is the old prison, the whole sense of atmosphere you get as you walk in.' He also supervises the paranormal nights where the jail is opened to groups of researchers; he advises on history and covers the health and safety aspects of setting up their equipment within the building. Is it haunted? 'Yes!'



**Laura Best** is one of the front of house staff who welcomes people to the jail at the reception desk and works in the shop. Her favourite part of the jail is the old prison because of the history. 'In the shop my favourite products are in our Scottish section; I like to buy these as gifts for friends.'



**Jock Munro, costume guide:** 'My favourite part of the building has to be the indoor exercise yard on the top floor. You can imagine the prisoners gazing out at the sea and hills knowing they were only yards away but they couldn't get to them.' Jock is prisoner 417 and like all prisoners doing time today, the guide's character is based on a true story. 'Donald McVicar was from Lochgoilhead and was sentenced to 25 days for being drunk and disorderly,' said Jock. 'I like to say he was celebrating the harvest festival, the whisky harvest, but the judge didn't see it that way.'



**Jude Crawford** works as one of the members of the front of house team. 'My favourite part of the jail is the courtroom, I like to sit and listen to the trials.' Her favourite things to sell in the shop are the children's books. 'The Wonky Donkey is a permanent favourite, and so is the picture story book in Scots, The Tale O the Wee Mowdie that wantit tae ken wha keeched on his heid'.



**Marion McKinlay**, shop manager and Sam Potts assistant manager. Marion, left, said: 'What I love about the Jail most is the building; the architecture, the front facade of the building in particular.' Sam said: 'For me it is the old prison, there is something about the building and its atmosphere.'

## Join the 30th celebrations this October at Inveraray Jail **AND SAVE 30% ONLINE**

One of the most popular tourist attractions in Scotland and one of the finest and best preserved jails and courtroom complexes in the world is turning 30. To celebrate this mile stone year save 30% on tickets bought online using discount code code OT30.

# INVERARAY JAIL

"A superb experience!"

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# Here come the Highlanders!

## The Highland Cattle Society autumn show and sale takes place in Oban

The Highland Cattle Society's 122nd annual autumn show and sale takes place on Sunday and Monday, October 13 and 14.

With entries from all over Scotland and the north of England, it is the premier sale of Highland cattle, which at Oban Livestock Market, Upper Soroba, Oban.

The October sale is of predominantly females consisting of heifers, cows in calf or calves at foot with a small selection of males. There will also be a dispersal of the Jedderfield

fold with 26 animals on offer.

Traditionally, the sale of females has been held in the autumn, with the sale of males in February before the bulls are put out with the females.

The Highlander has been synonymous with Oban for a great number of years.

New folds, as herds of Highlanders are known, are founded every year both at home and abroad, and in recent years Highland cattle societies have been set up in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland,

France, Switzerland and Norway and there are also Highlanders in Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Faroe Islands.

In the British Isles, folds are found from the furthest south to the extreme north on many different types of ground, varying from the slopes of the Sussex Downs, the fenlands of East Anglia, to the wind-swept machair of the Outer Hebrides.

But it is on the vast areas of poor mountain land with high annual rainfall and bitter winds that



## S&S SERVICES

Full stock list available on our website  
[www.sandsservices.co.uk](http://www.sandsservices.co.uk)  
T 07831 808702 or 01292 880080  
Finance packages available.

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discount Scheme call John Spicer at S&S Services on 07831 808702 or 01292 880080



Highland cattle thrive and breed where no other cattle could exist, making the most of poor forage, calving outside and seldom, if ever, housed, Highland cattle make a real economic contribution to hill and upland areas.

The breed is exceptionally hardy and has a natural and unique ability to convert poor grazing efficiently.

They are remarkable for their longevity: many Highland cows continue to breed to ages in excess of 18 years having borne 15 calves. They are great mothers.

The versatility of the Highlander led to a great

upsurge in exports to the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Austria, Holland and South America.

'Guaranteed Pure Highland Beef TM' comes wholly and exclusively from 100 per cent pure pedigree Highland cattle and commands a significant premium in specialist retail butchery outlets.

The Highland Cattle Society, representing breeders, is firmly in the 21st century, with fully computerised records, and able to authenticate the complete traceability of this unique product.

Highland cattle are naturally reared, thriving in the hills and uplands of our country without the need for intensive farming practices, producing an excellent modern beef carcass with the lean, well-marbled, flesh that ensures tenderness and succulence with a very distinctive flavour.

Highland beef is healthy and nutritious with lower levels of fat and cholesterol and a higher protein and iron content than other beef.

The society is looking forward to welcoming all friends old and new to this year's autumn show and sale.



### TRACTORS

New Zetor Major 80 CL new style .....	£29500
New Hurlimann XA 100 premium spec.....	£41000
New Solis RX 26 & RX 50 in stock .....	£POA
17 reg Zetor Crystal 160, front links & PTO.....	£51000
02 reg New Holland TM 125, front links .....	£23500
04 reg Same Silver 105.....	£18700
05 reg Hurlimann XT 105 turbo .....	£19200
60 reg Hurlimann XB Max 110, loader.....	£29000
05 reg MF 5455, power shuttle, loader.....	£25000
S reg Renault 80.14.....	£7200
53 reg Zetor 6341 Major, very clean .....	£14000
15 reg Deutz Fahr 5090D, loader.....	£27500
P reg Same Silver 100.6, air con .....	£12800

### MACHINERY

New Malone disc mower 7 & 8ft from.....	£4800
New Galfre 320/10 single rota rake.....	£3800
New Fleming TR12 twin axle trailer with silage sides.....	£12500
Krone 4 rota tedder.....	£3800
New Malone post knocker.....	£2650
New Blaney bale unrollers from .....	£3800
New Agrional 1 bag fert spreader.....	£980
New Metal Fach round baler, only 1 left.....	£13500

All Prices are plus VAT

View all our stock on line at: [www.tunstalltractors.com](http://www.tunstalltractors.com)



**122nd Annual Autumn  
Pedigree Show & Sale  
Sunday 13th & Monday 14th  
October 2019 at  
Oban Livestock Centre, PA34 4SD**



**All enquiries to Anne-Marie Thomson,  
Breed Secretary 01786 446866  
Anne-Marie@highlandcattlesociety.com  
or Raymond Kennedy UA 01786 473055**

[www.highlandcattlesociety.com](http://www.highlandcattlesociety.com)

## Record entry of Angus bulls at Stirling sales

United Auctions is set to welcome a record entry of Aberdeen-Angus bulls for a second consecutive year at Stirling Bull Sales in October.

Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers will also see entries of Beef Shorthorn, Limousin and Simmental bulls up on the year.

The Autumn Bull Sales run from October 20-22, with 698 pedigree bulls and females across nine breeds on show and sale at Stirling Agricultural Centre.

The Stirling Bull Sales is supported by independent property consultancy Galbraith.

Sunday judging on October 20 will include Aberdeen-Angus, Beef Shorthorn and Limousin cattle, with their sales taking place the following day along with the sale of Maine Anjou, Lincoln Red, Salers and British Blond bulls.

The pre-sale shows of Charolais bulls and Simmental cattle will take place on Monday October 21 and they will then go under

the hammer on Tuesday October 22.

A highlight of this year's national event will be three major dispersals of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus and Charolais.

On Monday, Aberdeen-Angus breeders will have the opportunity to secure great bloodlines from two successful and well-established herds.

First through the ring is the total sale of Ben Marsden's Liley herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle from Penistone, South Yorkshire. It includes the sale of multiple show champion Liley Kinannie and senior stock bull Shadwell Earl P773.

Next will be the complete sale of the autumn calving portion of the Forfar-based Wolfaw herd from D & P Murray, comprising 20 cows with calves at foot.

Meanwhile, the complete sale of the Lesliepark herd of pedigree Charolais from Denny-based breeder G Russell will take place on Tuesday morning. The sale

comprises 15 cows with calves at foot, four maiden heifers and stock bull and offers excellent genetics from a successful herd with a selection of female lines from some of the breed's well-known herds. Included in this sale will be this year's junior female and overall junior champion at the Charolais National Show, Lesliepark Nora.

John Roberts, United Auctions' group sales director, said: 'It's great to see a record entry of 109 Angus bulls this year and the increase of Beef Shorthorn, Limousin and Simmental bulls forward.'

'This year's busy programme of high-quality bulls and females has something for every buyer.'

'The set of sales will be led by a dynamic team headed up by sales director David Brown with Ross Forthingham, Raymond Kennedy and Murray Rainnie who will be sure to keep the buzz going from the first day to the last.'

## Around the markets

**Dalmally, Friday September 27:** United Auctions ends their week of sales in the West of Scotland with another successful Breeding Sheep Sale when they sold 7008 head at Dalmally Auction Mart.

Cross Bred Gimmers including Mules sold to £142 for Mules from Achalic and averaged £96.19 (+ £8.71). Blackface Gimmers sold to £980 from High Staward and averaged £100.72 (+ £16.83). Swale Cross Blackface Gimmers sold to £98 from Orchilmore and averaged £88.72 (+ £19.09). Cross Bred Ewes sold to £82 for Lleyen Crosses from Steall, Fort William and averaged £64.07 (- £0.73). Blackface Warranted Ewes sold to £270 from Tay & Torridon Estates and averaged £59.90 (+ £13.50). Cross Bred Ewe Lambs sold to £90 for Mules from Ashburn Cottage, Ardeonaig and averaged £66.36 (+ £5.79). Blackface Ewe Lambs sold to £78 from Crammie and averaged £41.14 (- £4.68). Overall, a very satisfactory level of trade was obtained throughout the day and further stamps this event as a premier one for Breeding Sheep in the

West of Scotland which is being patronised by record crowds, both selling and buying customers from near and far.

**PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES**

**EWE LAMBS**

MULE: £90.00 - Ashburn

Cottage: £75.00 - Colluska House.

**CHEV**

£58.00 - Braefoot: £55.00 - Cad-

dleton Farms: £53.00 - Curacao.

BF: £78.00 & £75.00 - Crammie

: £72.00 - Acharonich:

£72.00 - Dullator Farm: £68.00

- Lergie: £64.00 - Ceannacroic

(Islay): £62.00 - Lergie: £62.00

- Tearmann: £62.00 - Lurgan

: £62.00 - Millpark: £61.00 -

Bragleenmore: £60.00 - Millpark

: £60.00 - Invermahyle: £60.00

- Low Tirfergus.

SWALE: £46.00 - Craig Farm.

**GIMMERS**

LLEYN: £128 - Craig Farm.

CHEV: £120 - Cour Graings:

£105 - Caddleton Farms.

MULE: £142, £128, £122 & £120 -

Achalic Farm.

BF: £980 - High Staward: £450 -

Achnamara: £400 - Lephinchapel:

£400, £250 & £240 - Pole Farm

: £170 - Lephinchapel: £170 -

Arnburn: £160 - Achnamara: £155 - Arnburn: £135 - Tay & Torridon Estate: £132 - Pole Farm: £130 - Lephinchapel: £128 - Tay & Torridon Estates: £128 - Tayvallich Estate: £125 - Achnamara: £122 - Laigh Balernock: £120 - Littleport: £120 - Achnamara: £120 - Lephinchapel.

SWALE: £98 - Orchilmore.

WARRANTED EWES

LLEYN: £82 - Steall.

CHEV: £70 & £68 - Maam:

£68 - Caddleton Farms: £66 -

Rhynachulaig: £60 - Kilchoan

Management Ltd.

CROSS: £70 & £65 - Craig Farm:

£60 - Brackley

MULE: £72 - Barnakill

BF: £270 - Tay & Torridon Estate

: £230 - Pole Farm: £160 - Cram-

mie: £150 - Tay & Torridon: £120

- Balliemeanoch: £82 - Ensay:

£80 - Luss Estate: £78 - Littleport

: £75 & £72 - Ensay: £72 - Maam

: £70 - Tayvallich Estate: £70 -

Balliemeanoch: £70 - Tayvallich

Estate: £68 - Littleport: £68

- Maam: £68 - Bragleenmore:

£68 - Glenbeg: £68 - Luss Estate

: £68 - Roromore: £68 - Eden

Taggart: £66 - Bragleenbeg.

## Good turnout for Islay Beef Herd competition

Islay Beef Herd competition was held last Saturday, September 28. The judge was Mathew Ralston, who had the hard task of having to judge the 20 herds.

### RESULTS

**Individual cow** - 1. Neriby, 2. Brybruich, 3. Octofad.

**Team of cows** - 1. Neriby, 2. Ardnave, 3. Brybruich, Equal Craigens.

**Individual autumn calf** - 1. Ardnave

**Individual spring calf** - 1. Ardnave, 2. Neriby, 3. Craigens.

**Best Individual calf** - Ardnave.

**Team of autumn calves**

- Ardnave.

**Team of spring calves** -

Ardnave, 2. Neriby, 3. Kilbride

**Best team of calves**

- Ardnave.

Highland herd - 1. Easter

Ellister, A Wiggins; 2. Easter

Ellister, L Dawson.

**Small herd** - 1. Brybruich, 2.

Cruach, 3. Torrandarroch.

Native breed herd - 1.

Mulindry @ Balole,

2. Ballymeanach, 3.

Ballymeanach.

**Best overall herd** - 1. Neriby,

2. Ardnave, 3. Brybruich.

Organisers would like to

thank all who entered the

competition, to judge Mathew

Ralston, the sponsors, as well

as the highland dancers for the lunch and tea, and all who helped and donated.

**Sponsors:** United Auctions, Stewart Agricultural, Gleaner Oils, Tarff Valley, Glenside Tractors, Caledonian Marts, Hamilton Bros, Jim Martin Farm Supplies, Scottish Farmer, Garry MacLean, Mactaggart Uiskentuie, Wood Bros, F Woodrow Haulage, Vet Surgery, Callum Semple, Ronnie Irvine, Robinsons Scotland, Islay Estates, Harbro, Bruichladdich Distillery, Islay Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Associations, and Gream Waste Solutions.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## CROFTING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING

The Crofting Commission will be holding a public meeting on  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 19:30hrs in the Falls of Lora Hotel, Connel.**

The Commission will also hold its Board meeting on

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 09:00hrs in the Taynuilt Sports Hub Pavilion, Taynuilt.**

These are public meetings and everyone is welcome to attend either or both, to meet our Commissioners and Senior Management Team.

## COINNEAMH PHOBLACH COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

Bidh Coimisean na Croitearachd a' cumail coinneamh phoblach air

**Diluain 7<sup>mh</sup> Dàmhair aig 7.30f ann an Taigh-òsta Falls of Lora sa Chonghaile**

Bidh an Coimisean cuideachd a' cumail coinneamh Bùird air

**Dimàirt 8<sup>mh</sup> Dàmhair aig 9m anns an Talla Spòrs, Taigh an Uillt**

Is e coinneamhan poblach a tha seo, agus mar sin tha a h-uile neach d-beathte a bhith an làthair aca, gus coinneachadh ri ar Coimiseanairean agus ar n-Àrd-Sgioba Stiùiridh

[info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)  
[www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

## WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

### APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION DUNSTAFFNAGE, FIRTH OF LORN, MARINE PEN FISH FARM

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Limited for authorisation to vary a controlled activity at, near or in connection with, namely: Dunstaffnage, Firth of Lorn, Marine Pen Fish Farm.

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
The discharge to the water environment of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances resulting from the operation of a marine pen fish farm.	Firth of Lorn	NM 8654 3418

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1009031

**Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB**

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

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

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

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

Hugh Robert MacCallum is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 66 Ormsaigbeg, Glashlen, Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart (Register Number A0290) to Peter Holmes of Glas Eilean, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan, Acharacle. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of this advert.

## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

JS Adam  
19 Kilvaree, Ardchattan & Muckairn  
0.20ha – Site for a dwelling house  
101020

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 01/11/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW – [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

Our privacy notice is available at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/privacy-policy) or on request.

## DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

JM Clark  
3 Glenshellach, Kilmore & Kilbride  
91009  
0.20 ha  
Reason – Existing house site  
Condition – With fencing conditions

G Grant  
Sligneach, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
92581

0.023 ha  
Reason – amenity ground  
No Conditions

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

[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
19/04203/PIP	Land 75M SW Of Tigh Ard Blaich	Erection of house, formation of vehicular access and installation of treatment plan (renewal of planning permission 16/03228/PIP)
19/04077/FUL	Eakie House Wades Road, Kinlochleven	Formation of parking area (in retrospect)
19/04193/FUL	6 Glenmallie Road Caol, Fort William	Siting of holiday letting pod
19/04147/FUL	18 Lanark Place Upper Achintore, Fort William	Removal of existing garage and erection of letting unit with external storage
19/04081/FUL	Site 90M North West Of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan	Erection of house
19/04200/PIP	Lochwood House Onich, Fort William	Erection of house
19/03994/FUL	Allta-Bhruais Spean Bridge	Erection of building to accommodate charcuterie food processing operations, storage and dispatch
19/04199/PIP	Land 60M West Of Allt-Nan-Ros Apartments Onich	Erection of house
19/04237/FUL	Land 325M SE Of River Coe House Glencoe	Relocation of access point on A82
19/04049/FUL	Achaderry Steading Roy Bridge	Change of use from agricultural land to clay pigeon shooting range
19/04202/FUL	Land 75M SW Of Tigh Ard Blaich, Fort William	Erection of 2 houses, formation of section of access road and installation of treatment plant (renewal of 16/03229/FUL)
19/03525/FUL	Glencoe Independent Hostel Glencoe, Ballachulish	Alteration to widen windows on North Elevation and install new window units
19/03083/FUL	Inverloch Mains North Road, Fort William	RE-NOTIFICATION - Demolition of existing building and erection of a new building to create production facility with ancillary shop and cafe, associated access, parking, infrastructure and landscaping

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [elanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elanning@highland.gov.uk)

## First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Elizabeth Anne Fraser has registered the croft known as Pt 45/46 Banavie (Share), Banavie, Kilmallie 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 13th 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 C6280.

## Proposed Let of a Croft

Ardfin Lodge Limited are applying to the Crofting Commission to let Croft 1, Loch a Mhuilinn, Jura to Ronald McDonald of Clearnan Place, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, and Croft 2, Loch a Mhuilinn, Jura to Robert Henry of 3 Woodside, Craighouse, Isle of Jura.

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

Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES

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**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
19/01953/PP	Alterations, extension and change of use of detached garage to residential annexe and installation of sewage treatment plant	Garden Ground Of Rowanlea, Port Appin, Appin, Argyll And Bute, PA38 4DE
19/01976/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/02188/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse and the installation of a septic tank)	Plot 3 Deerview, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1HP
19/01858/PP	Alterations to existing offices and funeral facilities at ground floor level and alterations and change of use of first and second floor workshops and stores to create 4 flats	37 - 39 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5NA
19/01857/LIB	Alterations to existing offices and funeral facilities at ground floor level and alterations and change of use of first and second floor workshops and stores to create 4 flats	37 - 39 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5NA
19/01937/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Croft 15 Kilvaree, Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/01899/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of Cnoc Na Creag, Vaul, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/01747/PP	Repairs to roof and erection of fence (part retrospective)	2 King Street, Portnahaven, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA47 7SP

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 Council's 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



**Argyll and Bute Council**

**Councillor Jim Lynch**  
(E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Lynch will be holding surgeries during the month of **OCTOBER 2019** as follows:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday 11th October	Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 15th October	Soroba Community Centre, 8A Scalpay Terrace, Soroba	6.00pm - 8.00pm

He can be contacted by email - [Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567893

**Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor**  
(E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on **Friday 25th October 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 10.00am - 12 Noon.**

He can be contacted by email - [Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567853

**Councillor Kieron Green**  
(E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on **Friday 18th October 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.**

He can be contacted by email - [Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 562 444

**Councillor Elaine Robertson** (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on **Friday 25th October 2019** in the **Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.**

Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email - [Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**First Registration of a Croft**

Duncan William Maitland Maclellan has registered their croft Gortanmortlinga, Glenelg 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 May 29, 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 C6311.

**Oban Times**  
PUBLIC NOTICES

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**Oban Times**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**NEW MOORING**  
**GLENMORE BAY, LOCH SUNART**

Notice is hereby given that Mowi Scotland Limited has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a new mooring at:

Cost	£2500	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 ° 41.067 'N	05 ° 56.223 'W

**(WGS84)**

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilchoan Community Centre, Pier Road, Acharacle, PH36 4LJ.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

Within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to:  
[MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Quoting reference: **07095** and **MOWI Scotland Ltd.**

Fair Processing Notice

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

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

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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 advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

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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 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.

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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.

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# RECRUITMENT

## IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS



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

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence. As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels. In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

**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)**



**Accounts Assistant  
Full-time**

We require an individual with a pleasant and professional manner experienced in accounts preparation to join our accounts production department. The role would involve full preparation of accounts for a varied portfolio of clients. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will experience in a similar role. Being qualified or part qualified as AAT, ACCA, CA or similar would be advantageous. Salary offered will depend on level of experience and qualifications.

Please send CV and a covering letter by 28 October 2019 to: The Staff Partner at Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL or by e mail to [mail@simmers.co.uk](mailto:mail@simmers.co.uk) [www.simmers.co.uk](http://www.simmers.co.uk)

### North Argyll House

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Full and part-time permanent positions.  
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For an application form contact manager  
**Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168**  
Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)

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Required - £9.00 per hour

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Required - £9.50 - £10.50 per hour

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



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This is a fascinating opportunity to start or further develop a career in aquaculture to a senior level whilst achieving further personal development. An attractive remuneration package in line with experience is available.

The successful candidate is likely to be practical, meticulous and enjoy working as part of a small team.

Applications in writing with CV  
[C.hempleman@otterferry.com](mailto:C.hempleman@otterferry.com)



PMG Engineering Services are looking for a **full time workshop supervisor** for Campbeltown depot.

PMG Engineering Services is a rapidly growing successful local company currently supplying skilled tradesmen, parts and servicing to the local area, Mid Argyll and the West Coast of Scotland.

Must have a minimum qualification level 3 on plant machinery. Very competitive wage, company vehicle and fuel provided.

Hourly rate dependent on experience.

Please send all CVs to **Peter Macgregor**  
[info@pmg-services.com](mailto:info@pmg-services.com)  
Tel : 07766513585

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### Advertising Sales Manager

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The right person for the job will have considerable sales experience, ideally within a media or digital background. They will have a track record of delivering results both from a personal and team perspective. They will be confident, articulate and target driven and above all they will be able to motivate and inspire their team.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car (you will require a full driving licence) and the chance to work in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland.

**If this sounds like you and you are up for the challenge send your CV and current salary to Nicky Murphy, [nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk) by 8th October.**

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### HIJOBS



# Going for gold with Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally



*'We have no intention of letting the golden anniversary of Britain's foremost closed-road rally pass without celebration.'*

One of Scotland's most iconic motorsport events and Britain's first ever closed-road rally is back in time to celebrate its 50th anniversary from October 11 to 13.

Fifty years after the first event, the Isle of Mull Rally is back and all the organisers, entrants and spectators are making sure it is going to be a golden one.

Clerk of the course Andy Jardine said: 'The

island has missed the event over the past two years, but the sport has missed it as well. Mull is such a special rally for lots of people. Our thanks go to everyone at Transport Scotland for pursuing this legislation and for enabling the event to come back in time for the 50th anniversary.'

And the motorsport world was just waiting for the good news. Less than one hour after the Beatson's Mull Rally opened for entries, the list was full.

Organisers were forced to cancel the 2017 and 2018 events for insurance-related reasons. The new law has clarified the position and potential liability to the satisfaction of the Mull Rally team.

'We have to express our thanks to Duncan Brown and the Saltire

Rally Club for all they have done on the Targa Rally and Gravel Sprint over the past two years to keep motorsport alive on Mull,' said Andy.

Thanks to that diligence and determination of the organising team working hard behind the scenes, the route was approved by Police



All images courtesy of www.lindsayphotosport.co.uk

## 50 years of Mull Rally 'Fever'



**Mull swept by rally fever**  
**ISLAND PREPARES FOR WEEKEND EVENT**

Rally fever swept Mull yesterday as islanders prepared to welcome the 75 teams who are to compete in this weekend's round Mull 24-hour rally—the first ever to take place in the Hebrides.

Among entrants from all over Britain is Scotland's top rallyist, Andrew Cowan, winner of the London to Sydney marathon.

The arrival of the competitors and their supporters will mean a full house on Mull where much of the available accommodation is already occupied by the Winkast Film Company's production team currently shooting Alastair Maclean's "When Eight Bells Toll" on the island.

The first competitors will be flagged away from Tobermory's Clock Tower at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday and drivers will battle it out until 7.45 a.m. the following morning.

A BBC film unit is due on Mull that day to record Winkast's activities and it is believed they might also cover part of the rally.



Rally winners George Hill and Keith Wood cross the finishing line (above) and receive their trophies from Miss Nathalie Delon.

**Mull rally goes off without hitch**

"The Tour of Mull Rally", held in perfect conditions on island roads on Saturday night/Sunday morning, seems to have been an unqualified success.

Though several cars left the road, no one was injured, and with the exception of a pole cat no animals were hurt, and both local people and the rally organisers have expressed their delight at the outcome.

At this stage it is almost certain that the experiment will be repeated next year.

Drivers and officials after the rally were full of praise for the farmers, hoteliers, police, MacBrayne, the county road squad, and all who helped in any way.

**Two "S" Wins**

An Oldham pair, George Hill and Keith Wood, won the rally in a Cooper "S". Another "S" was in second place, driven by Will Sparrow and Nigel Rae, with Norman Wares and Colin Francis, Whitechurch, in a Lotus Cortina.

Many people made a night of the rally, and among the many local enthusiasts a big talking-point was the success of Oban pair Alex Kennedy and Norman a banker, who were competing in their first major event.

In an Imp Sports they came 19th out of the 57 starters, only three places behind the top Scots, David Stewart and Alastair Murray (Lotus Cortina) from Perth. Alex is a television engineer and Norman a banker.

Of the other Oban entries, Stuart Walker and Hugh Moulds in a Renault 1100 finished the course. Ian McKay Cleaver and Thomas Coffield were less fortunate, their Cooper "S" being one of the casualties.

Film star Nathalie Delon presented the prizes. In a speech at the prize-giving ceremony, Provost Bobby MacLeod, who had acted as starter, expressed the hope that the organisers, Mullard's 2300 Club from Blackburn, would return to Mull each autumn.

**In 1968, while on a family holiday at Glengorm Castle near Tobermory, the late Brian Molyneux, chairman of the Mullard Motor Cycle and Car Club in Blackburn, had the brilliant idea of holding a road rally on the Island.**

**Brian and his team convinced the islanders that this was a good idea and the first Tour of Mull was planned for October 18, 1969. That one-night event started in Tobermory at 10.30pm, with the cars**

**flagged off by Tobermory Provost and rally supporter Bobby MacLeod, of the Mishnish Hotel. There were 72 entries, of which 57 started. The communications centre was the telephone kiosk at Gruline crossroads.**

Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council. Additional support for the rally has been applied for and granted by Events Scotland.

Over the past 50 years the rally has provided some memorable moments in Scottish motorsport history and it has also provided the sport with 50 years of expertise.

Mull Car Club Ltd has grown into one of the leading UK motor clubs. It provides senior officials, stage commanders, radio controllers and marshals to all rounds of the Scottish Rally Championship (SRC) as well as many other events across the UK. Club members include many experienced timekeepers, a radio group of 32 including four controllers, four clerks of the course and a fully-qualified scrutineer, who is resident on the island.

### Golden anniversary merchandise

T-shirts, hoodies, hats and mugs, all sporting the new Golden Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally logo, are now available at various outlets around the island, or from the suppliers Caledonian Clothing.

### NO drones

There is a strict no-fly zone in place for drones throughout the rally.

Their use is expressly prohibited over or near any part of the event, the stages or service area. Any reports of a drone flying during the event will be reported to the police and if required the stage itself will be stopped.

### Please be patient

Spectators should always remember that as they leave a rally stage there may be recovery operations under way that block the road so please be patient.

### Extra ferries

In the run up to the rally, Caledonian MacBrayne announced extra ferries. Additional sailings which will operate on Sunday October 13 are: depart Oban 7.30am and arrive Craignure 8.20am; depart Craignure, 8.40am and arrive Oban 9.30am.

### Full in under an hour with reserve list

It took only 53 minutes to register an unprecedented 174 entries in this year's rally.

Deputy clerk of the course Iain Campbell said: 'We've seen down the years that not everybody who gets an entry takes it up. There will be some entries lost to broken engines, broken wallets, marriages...'

And for every entry which is not taken up there are plenty of hopefuls on the reserves list to take their place.

### Advice to spectators: please co-operate with marshals and officials.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** The roads that form the special stages of the rally are closed by a road closure order for a five-hour window. This means that it is an offence to be on the road between the road closure start and finish times. Wait until you see the vehicle marked 'Road open' before using the road.

Allow plenty of time to find a location and park safely.

Parking in lay-bys is strictly forbidden and vehicles parked too near the road could jeopardise the running of the stage.



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Wishing Ruaridh Allan and all the competitors every success at the 2019 Mull Rally

In the hour before the competitors are live on the stage various safety cars, including the spectator safety vehicle and the MSA safety delegate will come through the stage to check its readiness.

If anyone is in an unsafe position or continuing to ignore the marshals' instructions, the MSA safety delegate has the authority to delay the stage or, in extreme situations, cancel it.

- Respect the marshals and follow their instructions.
- Observe the colour coded tape and all signs.
- Use the natural environment to protect yourself.
- Don't walk on the rally stage.
- Stay standing and remain alert.

## The stages

### Leg 1 - Friday October 11

**SS1 Mishnish Lochs 1**  
B8073 From Rockfield, Tobermory, to Dervaig; closed 1809-2309hrs

**SS2 Hill Road/Loch Tuath**  
C45 Hill Road & B8073 from Dervaig to Gruline via Torloisk; closed 1826-2326hrs

**SS3 Loch Kinloch 1**  
B8035 from A849 at Kinloch Junction to Balevulin; closed 2107-0207hrs

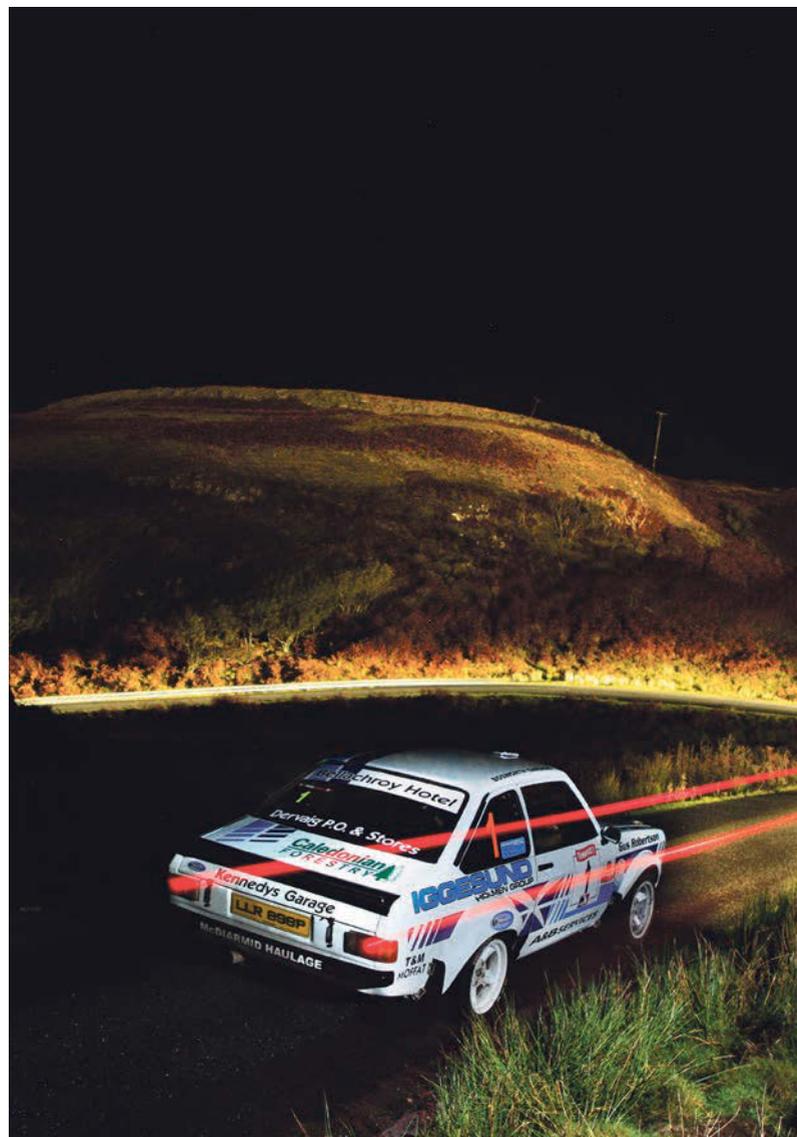
**SS4 Knock 1**  
B8035 from Balmeanach Road to Knock Farm; closed 2131-0231hrs

**SS5 Glen Aros/Calgary Bay**  
C46 & B8073 from Aros Bridge to Torloisk via Dervaig; closed 2200-0300hrs

### Leg 2 Saturday October 12

**SS6 Loch Kinloch 2**  
B8035 from A849 at Kinloch to Balevulin; closed 1047-1547hrs

**SS7 Knock 2**  
B8035 from Balmeanach Road to Knock Farm; closed 1110-1610hrs



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We would like to wish all competitors and spectators a safe and successful Mull Rally 2019

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**SS8/11**  
Mishnish Lochs 2/3  
B8073 from Tobermory to Dervaig; closed 1212-1712hrs

**SS9/12**  
Penmore 1/2  
B8073 Dervaig to Ensay via Calgary; closed 1229-1729hrs

**SS10/13**  
Ensay/Hill Road 1/2  
B8073 & C45 Ensay to Dervaig via Torloisk and Hill Road; closed 1243-1743hrs

**Leg 3 Saturday October 12**

**SS14 Calgary Bay/Loch Tuath**  
B8073 Dervaig to Killiechronan via Calgary; closed 2039-0139hrs

**SS15 Ben More**  
B8035 from Balemeanach Road to Knock Farm; closed 2115-0215hrs

**SS16 Scridain**  
B8035 from Balevulin to A849 at Kinloch; closed 2139-0239hrs

**SS17 Glen Aros/Achnadrish**  
C46 & B8073 from Aros Bridge to Rockfield, Tobermory via Dervaig; closed 2353-0453

**Plenty of local entries**

There is nothing like having 50 years of some of the best rallying in Scotland on your doorstep to inspire competitors.

There are drivers and co-drivers here who have grown up with the Mull Rally.

Among those expected to enter from around Argyll are drivers and co-drivers:

John MacCrone, Dervaig, & Stuart Loudon, Bothwell, Ford Escort Mk2; Paul Mackinnon, Tobermory, & Paul Beaton, Inverness, Ford Fiesta R5; James MacGillivray, Salen, & Kerrie MacGillivray, Salen, Ford Fiesta R2T; Eddie O'Donnell, Salen, & Steven Brown, Onich, Ford Escort Mk2; Gordon Morrison, Kilbarchan, & Calum Macpherson, Taynuilt, Ford Fiesta R5; Stewart Morrison, Oban, & Jason MacPhail, Oban, Ford Escort Mk2; Alasdair Currie, Tobermory, & Grant MacNiven, Oban, Ford Fiesta R2; , John Paterson, Salen, & Paul Macfadyen, Salen, Ford Fiesta R2; Robert Mathieson, Salen, & Billy Dalgleish, Salen, Subaru Impreza;

Darren Thompson, Tobermory, & Kyle Livingstone, Tobermory, Honda Civic; Geoffrey Gallagher, Tobermory, & Lee Gallagher, Tobermory, Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 8; Allan Cameron, Salen, & Angus Williams, Tobermory, Subaru Impreza;

John MacNiven, Oban, & Graeme Kermod, Oban, Subaru Impreza; Alister Macarthur, Lochgilphead, & Claire Tilley, Craignure, Talbot Sunbeam; Ruaridh Allan, Salen, & Jamie Maclean, Salen, Vauxhall Nova; Jim Slater, Mull, & Chris Slater, Skipton, Ford Focus; Iain Noble, Tobermory, & Alan Noble, Salen, Citroen C2; Graham MacDonald, Conon Bridge, & Angus Macneil, Oban, Audi TT;

Alasdair Ingram, Tobermory, & Bernard McSweeney, Garryhesta, Honda, Civic VTI.

All images courtesy of [www.lindsayphotosport.co.uk](http://www.lindsayphotosport.co.uk)



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**Best of luck to all competitors at the 2019 Mull Rally**

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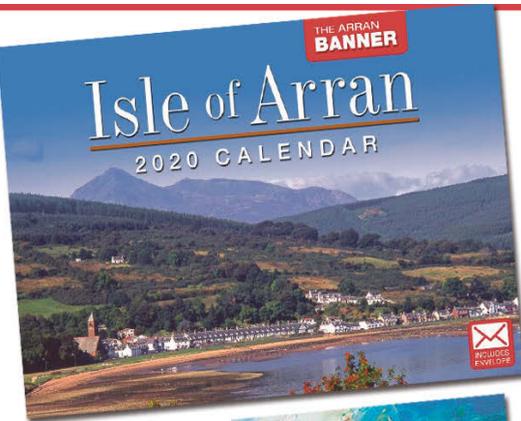
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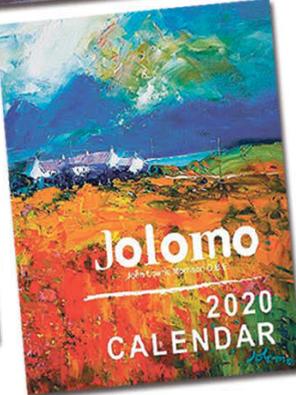



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### PERSONAL NOTICES



## THANK YOU!

Nance Sinclair would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their cards, visits, phone calls and good wishes received while in hospital and since coming home. Thanks also to the ambulance teams and staff at both the Lorn and Islands and Mid Argyll hospitals for their excellent care. Your kindness is much appreciated.

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## MARRIAGES

**MACKENZIE - CATHRO** - Catriona (Isle of Seil) and Ben (Oban) were married at Comrie Croft, Perthshire, on September 24, 2019, a happy start to married life in Pitlochry.

## DEATHS

**BROWN** - Peacefully at his home, with his family by his side, on September 24, 2019, James (Jim) Brown, in his 85th year, of Innishail, Ford, by Lochgilphead, formerly of Drimvore, and the Island of Luing, retired postman and church officer, beloved husband of Violet and loving father of Lorraine and Morven, and a much loved and adored grandpa of Iona, Duncan, Rowan, Douglas, Roshan, Digby and Nisha. Brother of Mary-Margaret and respected father-in-law of Angus and Robin. Funeral service will be held at Lochgilphead Parish Church, today, Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 10.00am, thereafter to Kilchattan Cemetery, Isle of Luing at 1.45pm. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Neil Iain MacCorquodale left us suddenly but tragically on September 26, 2019 in Appin. Loving husband and best friend to Gillian, much loved precious dad to Craig, Katie, Abi and Ben. Dear son to Alex and the late Jeanette, brother to Alison, Kirstene and Sandy, son-in-law to Wylie and Sandra, brother-in-law to Grant and Spiff, Gordon and Julie, bestest uncle to Emma, Holly, Ewan, Freya and Rosie. We will miss your cheeky smile but you will always be in our hearts xx. Funeral arrangements to follow.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS  
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**MACKINTOSH** - Peacefully in Abbeyfield Care Home on Thursday, September 26, Joan Margaret MacKintosh aged 82 years (Retired Lochaber Teacher), fifth daughter of James and Maryann MacKintosh formerly of Nether Lochaber Hotel, Corran. Requiem Mass will take place on Monday, October 7 at 10.15am from St. Mary's R.C. Fort William thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery, Roy Bridge. Family flowers only please donations if desired for Cancer Research U.K.

**MACLEAN** - David (Tiger), Ballachulish. Peacefully at home after enduring a long illness with courage and dignity. David's funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday, October 8 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel 01397 702128.

**WHITEFIELD** - Peacefully at Ardfenaig Residential Home on September 26, 2019 with his family by his side, John in his 84th year. Loving husband of the late Nan, much loved dad to Graham, Joyce, Janice and Irene, dear father-in-law to Alison, Keith, Robert and Donald. Adored Grandpa to Craig, Ross, Lewis, Ashleigh, Rebecca, Keir, Aaron, Caitlin, Eoghan and Isla and Great Grandpa to Harper, Daisy and Heidi. A dear brother, uncle and friend to many. Funeral service will take place on Friday, October 4 at Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Parish Church, Kilmartin at 12noon. Donations if desired to Alzheimer Scotland and Ardfenaig Residential Home comfort fund.

## SERVICE OF INTERMENT

**MACFARLANE** - The family of the late Lies MacFarlane would like to invite you to a service at Cille Choirill Cemetery on Saturday, October 19 at 12 noon where her ashes will be laid to rest with her husband Donald Peter MacFarlane.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**FLANNINGAN** - The family of Gerry would like to thank everyone for kindness, support, messages and cards received over recent weeks. Many thanks to all who attended the funeral and gave so generously to the collection. The sum of £1048.91 has been passed to the Dove Centre. Thanks also to Catriona MacFarlane and the team at Hoey's for their expert handling of the funeral. Our hearts are broken but you all helped us to continue.

**JOHNSTON** - The family of the late Vivienne Johnston (formerly of Tiree) wish to thank all relatives, former neighbours and friends for help and sympathy shown to them in their recent bereavement. Donations to the amount of £202.50 were collected for the Highland Hospice and the British Heart Foundation at the funeral service. Thank you to John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness for their excellent funeral arrangements, and likewise to the Co-operative Funeral Directors in Tiree at the interment.

**MACNEIL** - The family of the late Archie MacNeil wish to thank most sincerely all friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them on their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the Rev Fr John Paul MacKinnon, staff of St Brendan's Hospital and Home, Sandra and all his carers. For help with funeral arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at the Requiem Mass and at the graveside.

## MEMORIAMs

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

**KIRSOP** - In loving memory of our darling daughter Joanna, who passed away October 1, 2015.

Forever in our thoughts. Sadly missed.

- Mum, Dad and Thomas xxx  
**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my dear fiancé Ian, who died on October 1, 2014.

In my heart you will always stay  
Loved and remembered every day.

- Love Jessie xxx  
**MACKECHNIE** - In loving memory of John, our dearly loved son, brother and uncle, who died on September 27, 1992.

Treasured memories keep you always in our thoughts and in our hearts.

- Mum, David, Agnes, Marina, nephews and nieces xx

**MACLEAN** - Treasured memories of our dear mother, Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007. Also, our dear father, Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Always in our thoughts, loved and remembered every day.

- Teen, Angela and Alexander.  
**MILLS** - Treasured memories of a loving husband, dad, father-in-law and granda, Billy, who passed away on October 6, 2008.

To us he was so special,  
Someone set apart,  
His memory will live forever,  
Engraved within our hearts.  
- Your loving wife Helen and family xx

**NICHOLSON** - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993.

Twenty six years have passed  
Since I saw you last  
I shared with you such happy days  
I miss you in so many ways  
You left a place no one can fill  
I miss you now and always will.

- Every loving husband Bryan.

**NICHOLSON** - In loving memory of our beloved mum and granny, who died October 4, 1993.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered every day.

Sadly missed  
- Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and grandchildren.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear mum Ann, granny and great granny, who died October 5, 2006.

Thank you for the years we shared  
The love you gave  
The way you cared  
In our hearts you will always stay  
Loved and remembered every day.

- Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990.

Sadly missed.  
- Inserted by her loving son Archie.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of Marybell, our mother and grandmother, who passed away October 4, 1990.

Always in our thoughts.  
- Allan and family.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of our mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990.

Loved and remembered always  
- Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

**WHITE** - John K. White. We can't believe a whole year has passed since you were suddenly taken from us on October 1, 2018, dear brother, uncle and great-uncle. Missed and loved by all the family in Dunbeg, Norfolk and Australia.



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## DIAMOND WEDDING

### Huge congratulations to Margaret and Islay Campbell

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In the Round Church they married on a crisp autumn day

Friday 2nd October 'I DO' they did say!

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The register then they both had to sign

And so their love for each other started back in '59!

They then strolled down the Main Street hand in hand to the hall

Where they celebrated with friends and family, all having a ball!

With dancing and singing they all then let loose

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When told that their wedding was an occasion very dry

We thought it was the weather until we then questioned why!

Drink was not something they needed to be social

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So today we all celebrate an achievement so great

Sixty years of married bliss, it really is a special date!

Mum and Dad, Nana and Granda we are very proud of you both today

And all our love and best wishes we are sending your way!

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*Lots and lots of love from all the family xxxxxx*



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## Glasgow choir is on song during tour of Highlands

On Sunday afternoon, Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William welcomed members of the Glasgow Phoenix, one of Scotland's best-known choirs.

The choir, led by their

new conductor Cameron Murdoch, came to Fort William as part of an Argyll and Lochaber tour.

Around 60 choir members and musicians took part in the event with a mixed programme of classics, sacred

music, Scots songs and songs from the shows.

The 150-strong audience thoroughly enjoyed the event and it is hoped the choir will return on future autumn tours to share their special mix of music.

The event raised more than £1,000 for the High and Dry Fund, which meets the cost of keeping the church building and fabric in good condition for events like this to take place frequently in the years ahead.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The signs of autumn are all around. The reality of Keats's well-loved description – 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' – is clearly visible.

At this season of fullness before gradual withering, and alongside the current environmental wake-up call from young people to the gathered nations, comes the challenge to us about our lifestyles, about our individual responses to help protect the environment.

In recent years, we have become far more aware of the problems of global warming, shrinking glaciers, air and water pollution, waste disposal, the need to reduce CO2 emissions and provide clean water for everyone.

Caring concern about these aspects of everyday living grows from an attitude of thankfulness for the ordinary things of life and not to misuse or take them for granted.

The psalmist's perspective

provides a platform to value God's creation and our part in it. In Psalm 24, we read: 'The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the Earth and all who live on it are His.' At the heart of creation is God's desire that people would be partners with Him in caring for it.

The hymn writer Frederick Pratt Green expresses this most helpfully:

*'God in such love for us lent us this planet gave it a purpose in time and in space – Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty life that sustains us in body and mind; plenty for all if we learn how to share it, riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.'*

May we, this autumn, take up our personal stewardship for God, to curb our greed and help care for our Earth with gratitude for all His gifts to us.

Rev Carol Leech.

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# Revenge is sweet for the red and blacks

## Mowi Premiership

Newtonmore 1  
Oban Camanachd 5

Oban Camanachd recorded a stunning 5-1 victory over Newtonmore in their noon throw-up at the Eilan only seven days after losing by the same scoreline to their opponents in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final.

This was the third meeting between the sides over successive Saturdays.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh was forced to make three changes from the previous week with Iain Richardson and Ewen Fraser unavailable and Steven MacDonald suffering a shoulder injury. Iain Robinson was still out with a broken thumb but Glen MacKintosh was able to play. Owen Fraser, Duncan Gorman and David Fraser made up the bench.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss revamped his starting line-up with Daniel Cameron going to full back and Andrew MacCuish on the wing behind a speedy forward line of Daniel Sloss, Daniel MacVicar, Daniel MacCuish and Malcolm Clark. Craig Easton and Chrissie MacMillan came into the side. Sloss was again without the injured Willie Neilson and the suspended Scott MacMillan, whilst Gary McKerracher and Aidan MacIntyre were also missing.

The red and blacks got off to a great start when Lorne Dickie gave them the lead within the opening minute. Andrew MacCuish stepped into the centre for the throw-up and when the ball broke out to Lorne Dickie on the wing, he floated the ball in on goal and it deceived Newtonmore keeper Kenny Ross and ended up in the net.

Camanachd hit their hosts with a goal blitz late in the first half. They doubled their lead on 38 minutes when the excellent Lorne Dickie

played a high ball forward and Chrissie MacMillan let it drop for Daniel MacVicar whose shot went low and hard into the goal.

Clever play from Daniel MacCuish on the left created Oban Camanachd's third goal on 42 minutes and Chrissie MacMillan lashed the ball goalwards with his effort beating the keeper at his near post.

A couple of minutes later, the ball was played up to Daniel MacVicar who cut back to Malcolm Clark and his powerful low shot made it 4-0 at the interval.

Newtonmore's Drew MacDonald pulled a goal back on 75 minutes but it was only to be a consolation effort.

Daniel MacVicar went on a mazy run with a minute remaining and although he was initially dispossessed, the Newtonmore defender slipped and MacVicar reacted first to score.

Newtonmore keeper Kenny Ross made a number of terrific saves in the match, keeping out a good strike from Daniel MacCuish, tipping a top corner effort from Daniel MacVicar over the bar and stopping another from Daniel Madej who had by this time been pushed up front.

The result means Oban Camanachd now trail leaders Kingussie by seven points, but they have played two games fewer.

The Oban side are back in action this Saturday. They will be without the suspended Daniel Cameron when Inveraray visit Mossfield, whilst Newtonmore host Kyles Athletic.

Speaking after the match, Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'It's been a tough week for the club but the boys responded well. Not many teams will go to the Eilan and score five goals against Newtonmore.'

'We could have frozen against a side pushing for the league but we scored four goals without reply in



Fort William with the Strathdearn Cup. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

## Fort William win Strathdearn Cup

### Strathdearn Cup Final

Newtonmore 0 Fort William 4

The Fort William seconds beat holders Newtonmore seconds 4-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Spean Bridge to claim the Strathdearn Cup.

This was a repeat of the 2018 final which Newtonmore won 4-0 with Calum Stewart scoring twice. He was suspended for this one, as was defender Cameron McNiven.

Fort William took the lead on 15 minutes following a Donnie Walker hit-in when Scott Knox blasted the ball low into the corner of the net from the angle, just outside the box.

There was a flashpoint for referee Steven MacLachlan to deal with shortly after following an off-the-ball incident which left Fort William's Duncan Stevenson on the ground. Newtonmore's Declan Brannan was shown a red card.

Fort William doubled their lead on 57 minutes when

Neil Clark found Grant Disher around the penalty spot and he pinged the ball home.

When substitute Alan Knox made it 3-0 on 67 minutes, with a fine volley from just outside the D which went mid-height to the keeper's right, Fort William had one hand on the trophy.

Scott Knox put gloss on the win when he found space 10 minutes from time and his 20-yard shot went high into the net, giving the keeper no chance, to claim his second goal of the final which made it 4-0 with three minutes remaining.

After the final whistle, Fort William captain David Wright stepped forward to receive the Strathdearn Cup from Camanachd Association president Keith Loades.

Speaking after the match, two-goal Scott Knox said: 'The whole team played extremely well and there wasn't one player that didn't give 100 per cent. It was a great performance from everyone and I think we can be proud of ourselves with that win.'

the first half. We went for a speedy forward line and it paid off. The result means we've taken away a bit of the soreness from the previous week and we'll keep going.

'People will ask why we couldn't have done this last week and it was important for us to bounce back and we'll learn from the few games that have gone against us this season.'

'We've won the Celtic Society Cup, reached all the other finals, getting the better of Kyles who were the dominant team in the south, and still have five games to play, so it's been a positive season.'

'We might have fallen short in a couple of matches but we got a great reaction from all the boys today and Stephen and I are proud of every single one of them.'

'We still have a glimmer of hope in the league, although we need Kingussie to slip up and they probably have the easier run in.'

### Caberfeidh 4 Kingussie 5

Kingussie took a giant step towards a first Mowi Premiership success since 2009 when they beat Caberfeidh 5-4 at Castle Leod.

Craig Morrison continued his prolific scoring run on nine minutes as he netted for the 21st successive match this season. Kevin Bartlett picked out Morrison who turned and hit the ball first time. Kingussie

keeper Rory MacGregor tried to keep the ball out with his foot but it went in.

Referee Graham Cameron awarded Kingussie a penalty on 19 minutes when Iain McCall brought down Roddy Young and Kieran MacPherson made it 1-1 from the spot.

Roddy Young scored the goal of the match on 23 minutes. Fraser Munro and Ruaridh Anderson were involved in great build-up play and Young finished well to put Kingussie in front.

Savio Genini fired home a great shot from distance, after running onto Ruaridh Anderson's pass to the right, to make it 3-1 on 26 minutes.

When Kevin Bartlett turned his man and saw his shot come back off the post, Craig Morrison got to the

re-bound to make it 3-2 on the half hour mark and, following a first half during which they had the better chances, Kingussie had to settle for a one-goal cushion at the break.

Caberfeidh came much more into it in the second half and Craig Morrison pulled them level straight from the re-start. Caberfeidh won the throw-up and Kevin Bartlett passed the possession on to Craig Morrison who tried to dummy it and the ball bounced in his favour and the Premiership's top scorer slotted the ball home.

Kingussie made changes at the back with Calum Grant now marking Craig Morrison and Robert Mabon moving to pick up Kevin Bartlett.

Savio Genini got his second on 65 minutes, finishing well after a mazy

## Fixtures

### Saturday October 5 Mowi Premiership

Kingussie v Kinlochshiel  
Calum Girvan - noon  
Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic  
John Angus Gillies - noon  
Oban Camanachd v Inveraray  
Ross Brown

### Mowi National Division

Bute v Glenurquhart  
Robert Baxter  
Skye v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Deek Cameron

### Mowi North Division One

Glengarry v Newtonmore  
Graham Cameron

Fort William v Caberfeidh  
Graham Fisher  
Glenurquhart v Aberdeen Uni  
Steven MacLachlan  
Kinlochshiel v Inverness  
Andy MacLean  
Kingussie v Skye  
John Wood

### Mowi South Division One

Lochside Rovers v Taynuilt  
David Mitchell  
Kyles Athletic v Ballachulish  
Des McNulty

### Mowie North Division Two

Kilmallie v Strathspey  
Callum Duff

Throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated,

### Mowi Premiership

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Kingussie	15	11	3	1	45	22	25
2 Lovat	17	9	5	3	46	22	23
3 Newtonmore	14	9	2	3	44	20	20
4 Oban Camanachd	13	8	2	3	37	19	18
5 Kyles Athletic	13	8	1	4	32	23	17
6 Kinlochshiel	15	7	2	6	38	35	16
7 Caberfeidh	17	6	0	11	49	62	12
8 Kilmallie	16	4	1	11	20	36	9
9 Inveraray	17	3	1	13	19	50	7
10 Lochaber	17	3	1	13	24	65	7

## Results

### Saturday September 28 Stathdearn Cup

Newtonmore 0 v 4 Fort William

### Mowi Premiership

Newtonmore 1 v 5 Oban Caman  
Caberfeidh 4 v 5 Kingussie

### Mowi National Division

Oban Celtic 3 v 3 Glenurquhart  
Strathglass 0 v 3 Glasgow MA

### Mowi North Division One

Kinlochshiel 5 v 2 Glenurquhart  
Aberdeen Uni P v P Kingussie  
Unplayable field  
Lovat 8 v 2 Inverness  
Glengarry 2 v 3 Skye

### Mowi South Division One

Taynuilt 5 v 1 Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Kyles Ath 3 v 0 Lochside Rovers

### Mowi North Division One

Beauly 3 v 0 Kilmallie

dribble forward from Roddy Young. Savio Genini completed his hat-trick five minutes later with another fine strike, thumping the ball past the keeper on his forehand, and the ball went into the top left corner of the net.

Craig Morrison took his tally to 36 goals this season when he made it 5-4 with 10 minutes remaining. Blair Morrison lofted a trademark free-hit forward. There was a bit of a melee around the 'D' but Craig Morrison kept his composure to tap the ball home.

Kingussie had chances to extend their lead but Caberfeidh keeper Iain McCall made a number of good saves in the game.

## Mowi National Division

### Oban Celtic 3 Glenurquhart 3

Oban Celtic signed off for the season with a creditable 3-3 draw with Glenurquhart at Mossfield.

Oban Celtic were quicker out of the traps and Daniel MacMillan opened the scoring after just three minutes. Neil Carmichael played the ball wide to half forward Jamie Anderson who carried possession 20 yards upfield before finding Daniel MacMillan whose pace took him away from his marker and MacMillan sent a 25-yard shot low into the corner of the net from the angle on the right.

Referee Archie Ritchie awarded Oban Celtic a penalty on eight minutes. Dylan Cooke played in Daniel MacMillan who found Ross MacMillan and he got past his marker but was brought down just inside the 'D'. Ross MacMillan picked himself up to make it 2-0 with a clean, knee-high strike into the side of the net from the spot.

Oban Celtic's Daniel MacMillan went off felling unwell on 15 minutes.

The lively Ross MacMillan ran through and rattled the post on 21 minutes before Lennon Campbell made it 3-0 three minutes later. Ross MacMillan was taken down 25 yards out on the left. Jamie Anderson took the free-hit and Lennon Campbell made a great run round the back of the defence before firing the ball into the roof of the net from 25 yards.

Neale Reid pulled a goal back on the half-hour from a twice taken free-hit. Celtic keeper Iain MacFarlane saved from the initial take, putting the ball out for a corner, but referee Archie Ritchie ordered a retake as players weren't five yards back. This time Neale Reid made a clever run and hit the ball first-time into the side of the net on the angle.

Oban Celtic's Neil Carmichael took a heavy knock on 40 minutes and although he continued, he had to succumb to injury 10 minutes into the second half. This prompted a major reshuffle with Scott Mossman coming to full centre,

Continued on page 52



Kingussie's Roddy Young shields the ball from Caberfeidh's Kenneth Mackenzie during last Saturday's Mowi Premiership match.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!

THIS WEEK'S  
JACKPOT  
£3600

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.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### 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:

**K Elder**  
Oban  
**W Goode**  
Fort William

Continued from page 51

Lennon Campbell moving deeper and Keegan McPhee introduced at full forward.

Glenurquhart's Cameron Bremner was sent off on 65 minutes for flicking his caman at Ross MacMillan, catching the Oban Celtic attacker on the visor.

Oban Celtic played their spare man at the back but despite being a man down, Glenurquhart pressed hard during the closing third of the match, showing good movement and clever play.

They got their reward when Neale Reid took a long ball forward to the side and scored from 25 yards on the angle to make it 3-2 with 10 minutes remaining.

Glenurquhart went all out for a leveller and Ali MacKintosh salvaged a point with a goal a minute from time. Iain MacFarlane saved a rasping Neale Reid shot with his feet and a melee on the goal-line followed with Ali MacKintosh eventually forcing the ball over the line to make it 3-3.

There was a late chance for Oban Celtic to win it but Ross MacMillan blazed an effort over the bar with Daniel MacMillan, now back on the field, in space at the front of the 'D'.

Oban Celtic had John Hill back in defence and he made a big impact, turning in a very solid performance in what was only his second match of the season.

The draw completes Oban Celtic's season and they finish fifth in the league.

Glenurquhart are on the road for a third successive Saturday, this time heading for Bute.

Speaking after the game, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'Glenurquhart are a good team and we just wanted to give them a game after taking a beating against them earlier in the season. We scored some good goals but Glenurquhart finished the match strongly. Their experience and fitness showed and we were under the cosh during the last 15 minutes. We set out to finish above Bute, Strathglass and Beaully this season, and not only have we achieved that but we have secured a point more than last season.'

**Strathglass 0  
Glasgow Mid Argyll 3**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll moved into the division's second promotion spot after beating Strathglass 3-0 at Cannich.

GMA took the lead through

Iain Luke on eight minutes.

Jamie McFadyen added a second on 11 minutes and Calum McLay made it 3-0 on 17 minutes.

## Mowi North Division 1

**Glengarry 2  
Skye Camanachd 3**  
League leaders Glengarry's title chances suffered a blow when they surrendered a two-goal lead to go down 3-2 to the Skye Camanachd second team at Craighard.

John MacKinnon put Glengarry ahead on eight minutes and Steven Cameron made it 2-0 on 32 minutes.

A quick-fire double from Skye's Iain Nicolson on 63 and 66 minutes brought the score back to 2-2 and Skye's Ross Gordon grabbed the winner with 15 minutes remaining.

Glengarry now face the Newtonmore seconds home and away in their final two league fixtures, with the first of these at Craighard this Saturday.

Newtonmore trail Glengarry by seven points but have five games in hand.

But Glengarry know they will take the title if they win their final two games.

## Lovat 8 Inverness 2

Raymond Rennie scored five times and Jamie Matheson grabbed a hat-trick as the Lovat second team came from two goals down at the interval to beat the Inverness first team 8-2 at Balgate.

## Kinlochshiel 5 Glenurquhart 2

Duncan Matheson grabbed a hat-trick as the Kinlochshiel colts beat the Glenurquhart colts 5-2 at a Reraig.

## Mowi South Division 1

**Kyles Athletic 3  
Lochside Rovers 0**  
Lochside Rovers were back in action after an absence of four weeks, losing 3-0 against the Kyles Athletic first team at Tighnabraich.

George Easton took charge of Lochside Rovers and whilst he was without the suspended Scott Robertson, Blair MacFarlane and Ross Campbell played and Easton gave valuable game time to 13-year-old Calum MacMillan, 14-year-old Louis MacFarlane and 14-year-old Innes Jackson who all gathered great experience ahead of next season. They all played very well but Louis MacFarlane at half back was probably Lochside's top performer.

The match had an end of season feel to it. Kyles took

the lead on 15 minutes when a defensive slip allowed former Skye Camanachd player Stewart Taylor a shot on the angle from the right and he made no mistake.

Luke Thornton made it 2-0 on 40 minutes when he slipped his marker and with Lochside keeper Brian MacCallum coming out to narrow the angle, Thornton tucked the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

David MacMillan turned the clock back as he replaced his son Calum MacMillan for the final third of the match.

Ewen Mitchell turned his marker to add a third on 65 minutes, slotting the ball low to the keeper's right.

The match marked a final game in charge for one of shinty's top Grade 1 referees, Lachie Wood, who hasn't claimed a match fee for the last three seasons.

Both sides thanked him for his dedication to the game of shinty at the end of the match.

## Taynuilt 5 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

Taynuilt go sixth in the division after beating the Glasgow Mid Argyll colts 5-1 on a heavy Taynuilt Sports Field.

GMA made the journey north by train which was a throw-back to the past.

Taynuilt welcomed back Billy Irving and it only took him five minutes to open the scoring.

A quick double from Zander Kilmurray on 10 and 20 minutes had the hosts 3-0 ahead, although veteran Angus MacInnes reduced the deficit on 25 minutes.

Taynuilt took a deserved 3-1 lead into the break but the next goal was always going to be important and it was the home team who got it thanks to a long-range strike from David Campbell with 15 minutes remaining.

Taynuilt's Ali Cameron rounded off the scoring with an effort a minute from time.

GMA put up a spirited showing, with Jamie Macleod catching the eye.

Taynuilt's final match is at Lochside Rovers this Saturday.

## Mowi North Division 2

**Beaully 3  
Kilmallie 0**  
The Beaully reserves go second in North 2 after beating the Kilmallie reserves 3-0 at Braeview Park.

Finlay MacLennan put the hosts ahead on 15 minutes with what would be the only goal of the first half.

Duncan Anderson made it 2-0 on the hour whilst he got his second and Beaully's third a minute from time.



The winning Blue Area senior team. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.

# WCA representative matches

The Women's Camanachd Association representative matches, sponsored by the Macaulay Association, took place at Mossfield on Sunday September 29.

The dividing split between the North and South squad selection was again the Commando Monument at Spean Bridge and there were games at different age groups between the North (Blues) and the South (Reds) throughout the afternoon.

## Reds 0 Blues 13

The North senior squad were 13-0 winners against their South counterparts in their 2.30pm throw-up.

Skye's Sarah Corrigan struck twice on 7 and 10 minutes and Badenoch's Kirsty Deans added a third on 16 minutes.

Lovat's Laura Gallacher added her name to the scoresheet on 23 minutes, with Skye's Lorna MacRae making it 6-0 with a double on 31 and 40 minutes.

Kirsty Deans got her second five minutes later before Lorna MacRae took her tally to four goals with efforts on 52 and 55 minutes. The North now



Blue Area senior team captain Rhona McIntyre receives the trophy from the Macaulay Association's David Hamilton.

led 9-0. Sarah Corrigan completed her hat-trick on 66 minutes to take the North into double figures.

An own goal on 70 minutes and another from Laura Gallacher five minutes later made it a dozen with a fifth Lorna MacRae strike a minute from time rounding off the scoring.

Skye's Caitlin MacLean was named player of the match.

Davie Hamilton of the MacAuley Association presented the cup to captain Rhona McIntyre.

## Red U14 1 Blue U14 11

North U14 ran out 11-1 winners against South U14 in their 1pm throw-up.

Glenurquhart's Freya Gault scored on six and nine min-

utes to put the North 2-0 ahead.

An own goal on 23 minutes made it 3-0 before Dunadd's Eilidh Cameron pulled a goal back on the half hour.

Badenoch's Hope Borthwick made it 4-1 on 35 minutes before Skye's Megan Campbell added two more on 46 and 49 minutes.

Morven McCallum from Strathglass netted on 59 minutes before Megan Campbell completed her hat-trick on 63 minutes.

Skye's Leah MacLeod hit the back of the net a couple of minutes later to make it 9-1.

Morven McCallum got her second on 68 minutes and Freya Gault, who started it all off, completed the scoring with a hat-trick goal on 70 minutes.



Under 14's player of the match Katie Slimon is presented with her award by David Hamilton.



The Blue Area under-14 team defeated the Red team. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.

**GETINTOUCH**

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telephone 01631 568000

# Evans and Bradbury make their mark on distant shores

Oban international rugby stars Abi Evans and Magnus Bradbury have made a huge impact on their respective current overseas debuts.

It was a historic day for Scotland Women on Monday as they not only played their first match in the Southern Hemisphere, but also recorded one of their biggest victories in a decade.

Starting the first of two test matches against the Springboks in Cape Town on the bench, 23-year-old Abi brought fresh legs to the game in the 60th minute and made her presence felt immediately.

With the Scots leading 37-5, the former Oban High School pupil was pulled into touch one metre shy of the line as she dove for the corner. It was to be second time lucky for Abi though as she crossed the whitewash two minutes later following a break and offload by teammate Konkel.

With the match drawing to a close, Abi doubled her try tally by going over in the final

play of the game to take the final score to 47-5.

Speaking to The Oban Times before she left for South Africa last Friday, Abi said: 'I am really excited to be heading out to South Africa this weekend.

'They are going to be tough matches as South Africa are just one spot above us in the rankings, but we are all ready for the challenge and excited by the opportunity.

'The tour will also allow us to spend plenty time together as a team.

'This season we have a new coach and that has brought with it a new energy. We have had a couple of full squad training sessions with Philip Doyle and I am looking forward to getting to the pitch in South Africa.'

Now living in Newcastle, Abi has just started studying sports science at Northumbria University and plays club rugby with Tyrrells Premier League team Darlington at Mowden Park.



Abi Evans.



Magnus Bradbury

Glencoe's Helen Nelson is captaining the squad in South Africa following a successful season as captain of the Scotland Women 7s squad earlier this year.

The second test is on Saturday October 5 at 2pm (BST).

Also on Monday, Magnus Bradbury impressed during Scotland's second World Cup match against Samoa in Kobe, Japan.

Replacing Hamish Watson

## INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

as blindside flanker, Magnus played a key defensive role in the national side's 34-0 victory which puts Gregor Townsend's men back in with a fighting chance of making the quarter finals.

Scotland play Russia on Wednesday October 9 and then pool leaders Japan on Sunday October 13.

## Bowlers enjoy final fling as curtain falls on 150th season

Oban Bowling Club held its last competitive match of the 2019 season on Saturday in the form of a presidents v vice presidents match.

President Iain Boyle officially closed the green following five months of celebration for the Dalriach Road club which marked its 150th anniversary by hosting special events.

'It really has been a special season and I have been especially honoured to have been part of that,' said Mr Boyle.

'Our celebration events took extra effort from our committee and 150th anniversary sub-committee and I can't thank everyone who contributed enough.

'I would also like to thank all our sponsors. Their contribution is much appreciated by everyone at the club.'

Teams led by Mr Boyle and vice president Margaret MacAlpine played a triples match, with the latter winning on the day.

## BOWLING

Highest up rink was Richard Baldwin, skip, Paul Mulligan and Janet Campbell. John McLaren won the Spider with Janet Church in second place.

The green will remain open, at the greenkeeper's discretion, for any bowling club members who wish to play for a while longer.



Bowling club members ready for their final match of the season. 15\_T40\_BowlingClubClosingDay

## SCHOOL RUGBY



Billie Kirkham from MacPhee and Partners presents one of the gum shields to head of PE Murray Hamilton while members of the OHS School of Rugby model theirs under the watchful eye of PE instructor Greg Fairbairn. 15\_T40\_SchoolOfRugby

## Law firm pitch in at school of rugby

Oban High School (OHS) rugby players are more likely to keep their dazzling smiles thanks to a generous donation from law firm MacPhee and Partners.

More than 50 green and black protective mouthguards were issued to OHS School of Rugby members last week, with the S1-S3 players delighted to try them out.

The School of Rugby was launched in 2009 by Scottish Rugby which, through working with clubs and secondary schools, help to fund the initiative.

Funding was cut earlier this year, however, which was when MacPhee and Partners stepped in to help.

Murray Hamilton, OHS's head of PE, said: 'MacPhee and Partners approached us and asked if there was anything we needed and immediately the gum shields came to mind.

'Not all our players can afford to buy these and they are an essential part of the kit so MacPhee's kindly agreed to supply them.'

McPhee associate Billie Kirkham presented members of the team and their coaches with the gumshields last week and said: 'We are always looking for local causes to support.

'We were more than happy to focus on the safety element to make sure there are no chipped teeth or worse as a result of funding difficulties or financial circumstances within families.

'Murray and Greg Fairbairn from the Oban High School PE department have done a fantastic job bringing the school of rugby up to the standard it is at and we're proud to support them.'

The School of Rugby focuses on the development of social, physical and academic skills of young boys and girls from S1 to S3. It does this by developing these skills in a rugby environment and by monitoring the progress of students in their school, sporting and social life.

'The skills and attributes essential for all good rugby players, including communication, ability to follow instruction, focus and concentration, teamwork, creativity and problem solving, can be equally applied to situations in the classroom, the playground, at home or in the street,' added Mr Hamilton, who alongside Mr Fairbairn, also play an integral role at Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club.

## FOOTBALL

### Saints players selected

Oban Saints players Lewis Cameron and Matty Kelly have been picked to play for the Central Scottish AFL in a friendly match against Petershill Juniors at Petershill Park on Monday October 7, kicking off at 7.15pm.

The boys will be hoping to be picked for the Central Scottish AFL against the Strathclyde Saturday Morning AFL in the Inter League Trophy first round match to be played at New Tinto Park, home of Benburb Juniors, on Sunday November 17, kicking off a 2pm.

OT

## HUNTER TRIALS



Argyll prize-winners from the Adult Novice class (L-R) Kate Moody, Roanna Clark, Jenny Livingstone and Karen Dixon.

## Argyll success at Autumn Hunter Trials in Perthshire

Seventeen riders from Argyll were among over 170 entries at Strathearn Eventing in Perthshire recently, competing in the Autumn Hunter Trials. Riders from Oban, Appin, Mull, Inveraray, Ardfern and Lochgilphead all took part in the cross country event which tests riders' endurance and bravery over solidly-built fences and natural obstacles including ditches, drops, streams, logs and rustic fences to achieve an optimum time – and they brought lots of success back home with them.

In the Adult Novice class, Jenny Livingstone came 1st in section 1 riding Llanidan Jubilee. In section 2, it was an Argyll 2, 4, 5, 6 with Karen Dixon taking 2nd on Into the Red IV, Roanna Clark was 4th on Best of News, Kate Moody took 5th on Ballymountain West Coast and Jenny Livingstone was 6th riding Quinn.

In the Nursery Novice class, Alyssa Dowell took home 3rd place in the adult section with her horse Malin Chester while in the junior section, Rebecca Baillie was 4th riding Breagh The Senator and Iona Dunlop was 6th on Cruan Benjamin Bunny.

## SHINTY



The young shinty players resplendent in their new strips.

## Shinty and salmon

Inveraray Shinty Club has been boosted by a donation from the Scottish Salmon Company's community fund.

The money will allow the club's junior team to invest in new training kit and goalposts, enhancing their ability to compete in games and tournaments. New portable goals will be used during outdoor training sessions and competitions.

The young Inveraray team was nominated by Barbara Burden, canteen supervisor at the Scottish Salmon Company.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

## Results and fixtures

Last weekend's results: Park Villa 8, Under 13s 8. Scoring for Saints were Rhys Millar (5), James Muir (3); Under 14s 0, Knightswood 8; Under 15s, no game; Under 17s 4 Greenock 0. On target for Saints were Ross Higgins (2), Innes MacDonald (2).

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s, no game; Milton Rovers v Under 14s; Under 15s v Rossvale; Under 17s, no game.

# Buchanan's babes Busby Complex



Blantyre RGM	2
Oban Saints	5
Central Scottish 1B	

Oban Saints bounced back from their West of Scotland Cup exit with a convincing Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1B away win against closest challengers Blantyre RGM in Bellshill last Saturday afternoon. At a sunny Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex a Lewis Cameron hat-trick and a goal each from James Ford and Donald Campbell gave Saints the points and the luxury of some valuable game time for babes Gavin Forgive and Aaron McKay.

With co-manager Willie

Gemmell unavailable, the double headache of Cammy Hill withdrawing from the travelling party at the eleventh hour and Kerr Newbigging failing a pre-match fitness test rested on the shoulders of Donald Campbell, ably assisted by coach Peter MacCallum and secretary David Buchanan. Campbell promoted himself from the bench to take the number nine shirt and gave Matt Rippon the nod to partner Myles McAuley in midfield.

Also making a rare start, and producing a typically assured performance, was Thomas MacCulloch deputising in goal for the unavailable Graham Douglas.



Gavin Forgive.



Aaron McKay.



Playing into the sun, Saints made a bright start and took the lead after just four minutes. Captain Dene Cassells carried the ball out from the back and threaded a pass through for the run of Lewis Cameron. As the home defence appealed in vain for an offside decision from referee Gunning, Cameron rounded the advancing keeper and, from an acute angle, slotted the ball into the unguarded net to open the scoring.

Saints doubled their advantage on the quarter-hour mark with a sweeping move from back to front. Myles McAuley's ball up to Donald Campbell was laid off perfectly for Lewis Cameron who held his run well before lifting over Adam McKay for his second goal of the afternoon.

On the half-hour mark, Matt Rippon was unlucky to see a net-bound shot from a Cameron lay-off cannon off a Blantyre defender and fly be-

hind for a corner kick. Saints kept the pressure on, winning a corner kick on the right which Craig MacEwan was inches away from connecting with at the front post.

The second half was only 30 seconds old when Saints further stretched their advantage. Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell combined well to send James Ford through one-on-one with Adam McKay with the Saints man keeping his nerve to slot the ball past the hopelessly exposed keeper for Saints' third goal.

Lewis Cameron completed his hat-trick in the 57th minute with Donald Campbell making it a trio of assists. After a strong run on the left, Scott Maitland picked out Donald Campbell on the edge of the box who in turn laid the ball off perfectly for Lewis Cameron to run in goal number four.

The hosts reduced the deficit on the hour mark. Myles McAuley was penalised on the edge of the Saints' box for a hotly disputed accidental handball. The Saints' defensive wall stood up well to block the initial effort but the follow up effort found its way through to Scott Black who side-footed past Thomas MacCulloch.

Craig MacEwan wanted a little too much time to meas-

# Challenging times ahead for J



Daniel Broderick scores the first try of the game. Photographs: Stephen Lawson

Oban Lorne RFC get back to league business this weekend having been narrowly beaten in their West Regional Shield fixture at Cambuslang last Saturday.

Fielding a mostly development squad for the game, Oban went down 27-19 to the Rutherglen outfit, who ply their trade in West League Division One.

There were quite a few changes in the squad with work and injuries depriving them of key players in Owen McDonald, Lorne Sinclair and Mitch Smith, while Ferg McCoss, Finlay Carmichael and David McLaughlin were also missing in the backline.

Nevertheless, a youthful Oban side gave a very good account of themselves with

# shine at Sir Matt



James Ford is congratulated on his goal.

Match report and photographs: Derek Black

ure his finish after a good move up the left wing by Scott Maitland and Lewis Cameron set him up 10 yards out only for James Clark to make a vital block.

Lewis Cameron almost bagged a fourth goal when he charged down an Adam McKay clearance but was unable to find the net from a tight angle with the relieved keeper getting back to gather safely on his goal-line.

Matt Rippon's good shift in the middle of the park came to an end when he was replaced by teenager Gavin Forgive in the 67th minute.

With 20 minutes remaining on the clock, Donald Campbell rounded off an excellent performance with a measured finish into the bottom corner from 18 yards out after more good work on the left from Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron.

Before the restart, Saints introduced another youngster when Aaron McKay replaced James Ford wide on the right.

Shortly afterwards Saints made their final change when Lewis Cameron took a well-earned rest to give Daniel Croarkin his first run out after a five-week lay off.

Blantyre kept plugging away and got their reward in the 76th minute when Scott Black notched his second goal of the afternoon with a peach of a volleyed finish. Black showed excellent technique to connect with a spinning ball which he sent flying past Thomas MacCulloch after a long free-kick had come off a Saints head on the 18-yard line.

Chances were at a premium as the defences took control for the closing stages with the major positives for Saints being the performance of



Hat-trick hero Lewis Cameron is marked by Grant Kelly.

## FOOTBALL

youngsters Forgive and McKay in considerably more experienced company and a first full 90 minutes of the season for Donald Campbell.

Saints were due to be at home on Saturday in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup, but on going to press it looks as though they won't have a game as the fixture between Vale of Earn and Forfar West End in the last round was unfulfilled and has to go in front of the North of Tay Executive Committee to determine the reasons.

It now looks like Saints will be playing Vale of Earn in the cup on Saturday October 12.

Saints GG team travel to play Rannoch on Saturday in a league fixture. They played a friendly game among themselves last Sunday with the whites defeating the blues 4-3.



Familiar goal celebration from Donald Campbell.

# ohnston's men

tries coming from Daniel Broderick, Lorne MacLachan and Calum MacLachlan.

With Oban now out of the Shield competition, the sole focus is now on winning the West Division 2 league.

This weekend sees Oban make the trip to Helensburgh for the Argyll derby. With both teams having a decent start to the season this will be a close game to call but Oban are hopeful of putting on another good performance.

Head coach Andrew Johnston will welcome back some players but is still missing key personnel in Craig Wright, Ferg McCoss and captain Iwan Roberts, who is off to experience the World Cup in Japan.

'Our main focus is the

## RUGBY

league with a big month ahead,' said Johnston.

'The local derby this weekend will be the start of a challenging spell.'

On Sunday, Oban Lorne Women make the long journey to Dumfries and Galloway to play a National Division One fixture against Annan.

Calum MacLachlan takes on the Cambuslang defence.



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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Cloudy with light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
11°C to 14°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
11°C to 14°C.

### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze

**Sunday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
9°C to 14°C.



## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 3, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.36	0.9	08.20	3.7
<b>Thur</b>	14.54	0.9	20.31	3.6
<b>Fri</b>	03.20	1.2	09.01	3.4
	15.41	1.2	21.11	3.2
<b>Sat</b>	04.10	1.5	09.51	3.2
	16.36	1.6	21.59	2.9
<b>Sun</b>	05.12	1.7	11.27	2.9
	17.44	1.9	** ** *	1.9
<b>Mon</b>	00.35	2.6	06.32	1.9
	13.44	3.0	19.21	2.0
<b>Tues</b>	03.21	2.7	08.18	1.8
	14.55	3.1	21.10	1.9
<b>Wed</b>	04.02	2.9	09.23	1.6
	15.32	3.4	21.57	1.7

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

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Challenging times ahead for Johnston's men

Buchanan's babes shine at Sir Matt Busby Complex

# Bob nets three birdies at Dunhill Championship

It's been one roller-coaster of year for Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre, who has gone from just wanting to simply secure his European Tour card to putting himself in contention to win the Race to Dubai.

After a fantastic year for the Oban youngster, MacIntyre has broken into the top 100 in the world, currently sitting in 96th, while he's also in a fantastic position in the Race to Dubai, in 11th.

MacIntyre was among a strong Scottish contingent at last week's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship held at St Andrews, Kingsbarns and Carnoustie, looking to become the fourth winner from the home of golf since the successes of Colin Montgomerie (2005), Stephen Gallacher (2004) and Paul Lawrie (2001).

The usual band of celebrities descended on the east coast of Scotland to enjoy a few days of links golf with Justin Timberlake, Bill Murray, Ronan Keating and Piers Morgan all taking part in the pro-am event.

But there was no shortage of galleries following MacIntyre, although the 23-year-old is still getting accustomed to the increased attention he is receiving in light of his stellar season on the tour.

'I don't mind a bit of Justin Timberlake. I'm a fan - but I won't be going up for a selfie!' he said.

Bob partnered former world number one Martin Kaymer from Germany in round one, played at Carnoustie, and carded a one under par 71 which featured a double bogey, three bogeys, two birdies and two superb eagles.

## GOLF

Round two was played at Kingsbarns and the Oban left-hander, playing with Sweden's Alex Noran, carded a superb round of 66 which is six under par.

Bob emulated his previous round with another superb 66 in the third round featuring two bogeys, six birdies and an eagle at the ninth.

In the final round, the 23-year-old carded a two under par 70 with two bogeys and four birdies to finish with a four-round total of 273, 15 under par and finish in joint 26th place.

A sign of MacIntyre's growing profile came at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth recently when one of England's most successful footballers stopped the Glencruitten golfer for a chat.

Bob said: 'Paul Scholes came up to me and introduced himself and we had a nice chat.'

MacIntyre said he was flattered when European Ryder Cup captain Pádraig Harrington talked up his chances of making next year's team but admitted making the final 12 may be a step too far at this stage of his career.

He added: 'I played with Pádraig for the first time in Crans-sur-Sierre. He's obviously captain of the Ryder Cup team, which is obviously a goal of mine - maybe not this year, but definitely in the future.'



Bob powers a drive down the third at St Andrews.



A relaxed Bob MacIntyre sitting on the Swilken Bridge on the 18th hole at the Old Course, St Andrews. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



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# index

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# Redundant Fort Tesco staff hold early Christmas party

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More than a dozen workers at Tesco's Metro store in Fort William who, were made redundant at the end of last week, cheered themselves up by holding their staff Christmas party three months early.

Complete with Santa, presents and a cake emblazoned with the iced wording 'Surplus To Requirements', the party was held in the NUPE Club in the town's Claggan area.

When contacted both Tesco and the shop workers' union Usdaw were unable to comment on the Fort William situation, saying the processes were still being worked through around the UK.

This will come as a surprise to the staff who have already lost their jobs in Fort William, many of whom had worked there for decades, stretching back to when the premises was a William Low store, with some being employed straight from school.



**Some of the 14 workers from the Tesco store in Fort William who were made redundant on Friday cheered themselves up by bringing forward their staff Christmas night out to last Saturday night.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

The best Tesco could do in the way of making a comment was to refer us to its statement from more than two months ago in which said it had 'begun conversations with colleagues about some operational changes to the way we run our Metro stores in the UK'. The press release issued

on August 9 continued: 'We will simplify and reduce processes and administrative tasks across all of our 153 Tesco Metro stores.

'These changes will allow us to serve shoppers better and to run our business more sustainably, in an increasingly competitive and chal-

lenging retail environment. Importantly, they will also allow us to better align the way we run our stores to the way customers are shopping in them.

'The changes in our Metro stores will be focused on better tailoring them to how our customers shop. The

Metro format was originally designed for larger, weekly shops, but today nearly 70 per cent of customers use them as convenience stores, buying food for that day.'

Tesco added it expected the changes will eventually lead to an overall reduction of around 4,500 staff.

That was little solace for the affected staff at the Fort William Tesco Metro.

One woman, who had been employed at the premises for several decades, said it had been like losing a family.

'We were like a wee family there and they split up that family,' said the woman, who did not wish to be named as she and the others who lost their jobs do not receive their final wages until the end of this month.

But she told the Lochaber Times that between 12 and 14 staff out of a total of 41 were affected and all were compulsory redundancies.

'There were no voluntary redundancies. It was all long-serving staff who were picked to go - they obviously

had some kind of system for selecting who was going to be affected,' she explained.

'It wasn't unexpected that there would be job losses in Fort William because of all the press coverage of the situation with Tesco.'

Commenting on the Christmas party, the woman said it had been a 'brilliant' night.

She added: 'We had a Santa, a cake and even wee gifts for everybody. Everyone who worked in the branch was invited - we didn't distinguish between those who were leaving and those staying, and there were one or two of those who have been kept on who came along, which was nice.'

'We just thought we were going to miss out on our traditional staff Christmas party so thought we'd have it early and combined with a leavers' do!

'We had a lovely buffet and there was a DJ as well. We were determined we'd finish with something nice to enjoy.'

**Opinion - page 18.**

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# FW2040 public event shows a bright future

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William residents got the chance to see progress and make suggestions on 20 connected projects aimed at adding longevity and value to the town at a public event.

The individual projects in FW2040 collectively represent a £500 million investment in the area.

A joint enterprise between the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council, the update on September 25 allowed project leads to interact and consult with residents.

Interaction between projects will hopefully reduce costs. Chairman of Highland Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee Councillor Allan Henderson said: 'The workshops and other interactions through the event created a real buzz which was great to see and feedback has been very positive.'

'FW2040 is all about delivering a shared vision for the future of Fort William and Lochaber and the collaborative approach is about working together to turn aspirations into reality.'

Alastair Nicolson, HIE's



Left to right: Eric Dawson, Scottish Government, Scott Delgarno, The Highland Council, Alsitair Nicolson, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Nicole Wallace, The Highland Council.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

programme manager for Lochaber, thinks this project could bring thousands more people to the town. He said: 'Fort William is a town that has been desperate to grow for many years now.'

'Some of the individual FW2040 projects were ideas for a long time, but now they have the ability to move forward as part of a collective vision.'

The Scottish Government recognises this project as a great example of their 'place principle'.

Chief planner Eric Dawson said: 'The local community can influence how projects

are taken forward and how added value can be generated through joining up projects and investments to achieve more than just the sum of their parts.'

#### A great place to live

Hundreds of homes are to be built in the next few years and there will be new training and job opportunities for people.

Two phases of housing construction will take place in Blar Mor, next to the new hospital and the University for the Highlands and Islands' centre for science, technology, health and engineering.

The centre will be working

closely with the new Belford Hospital and other employers to ensure they get the best trained staff. Business development manager Nigel Patterson said: 'The construction sector is vibrant in Highlands and they want to take on apprentices that they don't lose to Inverness or Glasgow for half the year. These and other courses will have a view to local employment and development.'

It is hoped The Highland Cinema – due to be completed early 2020 – will create a hub for entertainment in the town centre.

#### A connected place

Improvements to main roads and the addition of active travel options should ease congestion in the town, while fibre broadband will provide a digital boost.

Alastair Nicolson from HIE said: 'Transport Scotland confirmed they are progressing the next stage of the STAG to identify the best solution to deal with the town's congestion and resilience problem.'

'We should also have all of our main public buildings connected directly to the fibre broadband network – improving connectivity and education provision around the town, and the scope for extensions to serve businesses and domestic properties.'

As part of its active travel masterplan, HITRANS is also consulting on where best to make improvements to walking and cycling routes.

Lochaber Environmental Group is developing a publicly available electric bike hire scheme to make it easier to get around without a car.

Loch Linnhe connects all the communities and to date has been under-used but will now be put to good use with two marinas, tourism opportunities and haulage links.

The marinas in Corpach and Fort William are looking to increase the benefits from marine tourism with closer links to the canals and the ability to receive cruise ships safely and easily.

To get more trucks off the roads, Ferguson Transport and Boyd Bros will be using the loch to transport bulk cargo when they can.

Most projects are in the initial phases so care is being taken to minimise their environmental impact and this annual event will continue to provide updates.

If you could not make it to the event or have more to say, there is an online questionnaire available until Friday October 18 via [www.highland.gov.uk/FW2040](http://www.highland.gov.uk/FW2040) to give your thoughts and find out more.

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Local History Society welcomes back John McGregor tonight (Thursday) to talk about 'The Lost Esplanade – Fort William and the West Highland Line' at 8pm in Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William. Admission £3 or £15 for the season.

The Italian string quartet, Quartetto Nous, from Milan, perform in Kilmallie Hall tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm. Tickets at the door.

Lochaber Rural Education Trust is hosting a quiz night on Saturday October 5 at 7pm at An Clachan, Lochaber Rural Complex, Aonach Mhor Road. Teams of four. Price £5 per person includes buffet. Prizes, raffle and bring your own bottle.

Breast Cancer Care, in partnership with NHS Highland, is running a free course in Fort William to help women adjust to life after breast cancer. The event will include talks from counsellors and breast care nurses and will take place on Friday October 4 from 10am to 4pm in The Moorings Hotel, Banavie.

Lochaber Women's Aid will host its annual general meeting from 5.30pm on Wednesday October 9 at Fort William Fire Station, Camanachd Crescent. Find out about the group's work over the past year and hopes and actions for a future free from domestic abuse. Refreshments on arrival.

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# Striking workers picket Fort William rail station

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Striking rail workers mounted a picket line outside the railway station in Fort William on Sunday and Monday nights in the continuing dispute over Caledonian Sleeper Service working conditions.

Rail union RMT says its members in Fort William and elsewhere have been put under 'intolerable personal stress' as a result of what it alleges is Caledonian Sleeper operator Serco's mis-management of the service.

Picket lines could be found at rail stations across Scotland and elsewhere in the UK as part of a package of strike action and action short of a strike on the Caledonian Sleeper itself.

Sleeper service staff were told not to book on for any shifts between noon on Sunday

and midnight on Tuesday. Additionally, members were instructed not to work any overtime or rest days, not to perform higher grade duties and to work to their original job description from 00.01 hours yesterday (Wednesday) until further notice.

The union has accused Serco of stringing staff along in talks while effectively slamming the door on any settlement.

RMT representatives have had a number of meetings with the company and further talks at an Avoidance of Disputes meeting with the company this week but claim these failed to produce serious movement from Serco.

RMT regional organiser Gordon Martin told the Lochaber Times this week he was delighted with the show of strength from members on the Fort William picket line, given the small number of local staff employed by the sleeper ser-



The picket line at Fort William railway station on Tuesday night. Photograph: Ian Ferguson, alba.photos

vice. He warned there would be further disruption, including in Fort William, if Serco failed to address concerns from the RMT and its members in meetings scheduled for tomorrow (Friday).

'Fort William is a small depot so the number of staff who turned out, while small, was

excellent,' he said. 'We have a meeting with the company on Friday and we're hoping, now that we have the company's undivided attention, that they will take our concerns more seriously.'

'If they fail to do that, there will be further industrial action and our members, in-

cluding those in Fort William, are committed to standing firm and seeing this through.'

Ryan Flaherty, managing director of the Caledonian Sleeper, said: 'We are deeply disappointed and frustrated at this industrial action by the RMT, but most of all we are bemused as they have been un-

able to explain what will bring this dispute to a resolution.'

'We have met the RMT and company council on many occasions and the changes they have requested have either been completed or are under way, including the recruitment of more staff at Edinburgh, Glasgow and London for six months while the new Mark 5 carriages settle in.'

'We recognise that the problems we had introducing the Lowland Sleeper were challenging for everyone involved and we are grateful to all our staff for their efforts and the way they rose to meet the challenge, but we are pleased that in the past weeks the situation has been steadily improving.'

'This action is completely unnecessary and we urge the RMT to come back and tell us what they want.'

'We are ready to go to mediation and hold further discussions.'

## Baxter slams 'rotten' council for 'killing' accountability

Senior Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter has slammed what he called Highland Council's 'rotten administration' claiming it has killed local accountability in the Highlands and says the local authority should now be broken up.

Mr Baxter, Independent, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, who also chairs the council's Lochaber Area Committee, called a special meeting last week after discovering the Inverness-based authority was going to make key decisions on nearly £200,000 of funding in Lochaber without it being discussed in public locally. The day after the meeting, Mr Baxter said: 'Will Highland Council ever learn? It's a nonsense that £200,000 funding that can only be spent in Lochaber can't be decided by Lochaber councillors alone.'

'The council wanted us to rank our preferences at a closed meeting. They told me there wasn't time for it to be discussed in public at a Lochaber Committee.'

'That's why I called yesterday's special meeting so our



Allan Henderson.

decision was made in public. And Lochaber councillors aren't allowed to make the final decision. It has to be approved by a panel in Inverness.

'We aren't trusted to make our own decisions.'

'What a waste of money getting local councillors to give their opinion and then for another set in Inverness to have the final say. This rotten administration has killed localism in the Highlands.'

Asked if this issue underlined the need for Lochaber to have its own regional authority and break free from the Inverness-headquartered local authority set-up, Mr

Baxter replied: 'I would put it another way. It's time we broke up the Highland Council. It's clear it isn't working.'

'The power dynamics are skewed in the wrong direction. Whether that is a Lochaber council or something somewhat larger, I have an open mind.'

Councillor Allan Henderson, Independent, Caol and Mallaig, said Highland Council is moving towards localism, but the pace of that might not be as quick as some people such as Mr Baxter want to see.

'What people have to remember is that we are in the middle of moving more towards that approach.'

'There will be a complete change with eight people, who are already filling senior roles such as director of education, infrastructure, etc, being appointed as chief executives for each specific area.'

'That is one of the many ways we are moving towards greater localism. We need someone in each area who takes on the accountability for it.'

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# Ben climber cleared of killing friend

A climber has been cleared of killing a friend hours after they scaled Ben Nevis.

John McLean, 43, was accused of attacking Mark Maguire, 44, outside the Cruachan Hotel in Fort William in May last year.

The pair were part of a group of friends who had travelled from Glasgow to tackle the UK's highest mountain.

McLean was accused of punching the dad-of-three on the neck, leaving him so severely injured that he died in hospital the next day.

Mr Maguire passed away after suffering a 'traumatic' brain injury.

McLean, of the city's Milton area, had denied a culpable homicide charge during a

trial at the High Court in Glasgow. Jurors last week returned a not proven verdict.

The trial heard McLean and Mr Maguire had been long-time friends. The group had gone for an Indian meal and drinks after the successful climb.

But, in the early hours, Mr Maguire became annoyed about something and McLean's son Ross – a trainee teacher – tried to act as peacemaker.

It was claimed Mr Maguire swung a punch at Ross, leading to McLean himself stepping in.

In a police interview, McLean said he then threw a punch, but was not certain it connected with Mr Maguire.

Mr Maguire eventually ended up on the ground unconscious.

Despite attempts to save him, the dad, from Bishopbriggs, East Dunbartonshire, never recovered.

Pathologists stated the cause of death was a rare injury caused by the hit on the neck and it then being forced to the side.

In his closing speech to jurors, defence QC Donald Findlay said: 'The Crown has not led a single scrap of evidence that shows anyone punched Mr Maguire on the side of the neck.'

He also told how McLean had gone to visit the Maguire family after the death to offer 'comfort and solace'.



How the monument would look once sited in the landscape on Skye.

## Final funding push to mark Skye mountaineering history

Skye MSP Kate Forbes is urging well-wishers to get behind a community heritage group's final fundraising push to mark mountaineering history and create a new tourism attraction on the island.

Having raised £93,500 so far, the Collie Mackenzie Heritage Group is only £23,500 short of its final stage target – which would build a bronze sculpture at Sligachan, against the backdrop of the Cuillin Mountains, paying tribute to two renowned mountaineering figures – Professor Norman Collie and John Mackenzie.

The pair are credited with creating many of the routes across the Cuillin range and are held locally as pioneers.

John Mackenzie was from the crofting village of Sconser and began climbing the Cuillin range at the age of 10. He went on to become the first native Scot to become a professional mountain guide.

Mackenzie met Professor Collie, an internationally renowned scientist and mountain expert, on Skye and the pair formed a climbing partnership and friendship that spanned more than half a century.

The heritage group has already raised £200,000 to complete the first stage of the project, which included the formation of a car park, information panels, stone seating and the removal of an unsightly overhead power system.

They now hope to meet their final target by 2020,



Artist Stephen Tinney with his maquette of how the finished work will look.

and are already planning a Skye celebration of the Cuillin to mark the historic occasion of the unveiling.

Ms Forbes commented: 'I've met with the Collie Mackenzie Heritage Group several times about their exciting plans to commemorate John Mackenzie and Professor Norman Collie.'

'I know they have put in a lot of hard work and have made significant progress over that time.'

'There is still a way to go, but I know there is a lot of goodwill and hope that the heritage group will

reach their goals. The most pressing issue is, of course, funding and I'd like to commend all the individuals and groups who have backed this project.'

### Supporters

Morag Nicolson, chairwoman of the Collie Mackenzie Heritage Group, added: 'The lengthy climb from base camp to summit sees us now on the final ascent thanks to supporters from all over the world.'

'We are now so close to placing this iconic sculpture in the landscape at Sligachan.'

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# Bakkafrost wants entire Scottish Salmon Company

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Bakkafrost, the Faroe Islands' largest salmon farming business, says it plans to bid for the entire shareholding of the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), according to its chief executive.

Last week, Bakkafrost announced it had acquired a 68.6 per cent stake in SSC - which has a freshwater hatchery site at Kinlochmoidart in Lochaber as part of its 60 sites in the Highlands and islands - from Northern Link in a deal worth £517 million.

But chief executive Regin Jacobsen said in a presentation at the company's Faroese headquarters last Thursday that he intended to 'trigger a mandatory tender offer for the remaining 31.4 per cent free float in SSC'.

He added: '[This acqui-

sition] creates a combined differentiated global leader in premium salmon with dual exposure to Faroe Islands and Scottish premium salmon.

'It creates positive synergies and it also diverges Bakkafrost from a purely Faroe Islands farming company into a company with a presence in two attractive salmon farming markets.'

The priorities now were to improve SSC's profitability over the next five years and create positive synergies, along with transferring best practices from the Faroe Islands, including those around feed and the use of larger smolts.

Mr Jacobsen also said that as SSC was particularly dominant in the UK - 33 per cent of sales - and Europe - 48 per cent - and as Bakkafrost's main markets were in North America, China and other



Craig Anderson, chief executive officer of the Scottish Salmon Company. Photograph: Angus Blackburn.

parts of Asia, the deal would give the combined company a stronger presence on the global stage.

One of SSC's successes has been the development

of its premium brands and he made it clear Bakkafrost plans to continue to focus and grow this brand strategy. It also fitted with its mission of delivering healthy and sus-

tainable salmon to the world. Bakkafrost had been on a long journey in the Faroe Islands to improve its operations and Mr Jacobsen said he planned to bring the same policy to its

new acquisition. 'We believe that experience will be good for SSC and that the investment we have carried out in the Faroe Islands should be replicated in Scotland. We can learn from each other,' he added.

SSC boss Craig Anderson commented: 'I am proud of the way the SSC team has conducted itself under my tenure. They have all contributed to building a highly successful business that has ultimately become a compelling investment opportunity for Bakkafrost. The management team will work closely with the new owners to understand its strategic vision and implications for all SSC stakeholders.'

Edinburgh-headquartered SSC produced 29,913 tonnes of salmon in 2018 and 18,463 tonnes in the first half of this year.

## Local decisions needed for £1.2m Highland coast cash

Coastal communities are to benefit from £1.2 million generated from the Scottish Crown Estate's marine assets in the first year of devolved management.

The cash comes from a £7.5 million windfall shared nationwide between 26 local authorities based on their share of the sea area the estate covers.

Highland Council got the biggest share of revenue as it has the largest amount of workable coastline in Scotland.

Announcing the Highland's allocation, Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'I believe strongly in maximising the benefits of the Scottish Crown Estate for the Highlands and our communities across the country.'

'The allocation of £1.2 million as part of a wider £7.5 million package to support coastal communities the length and breadth of Scotland is the latest step in achieving this.'

'The new funding arrangement will see coastal communities receive 100 per cent of revenue generated from the



Andrew Baxter.

estate's marine assets out to 12 nautical miles, enabling them to better fund and support local projects and initiatives.'

The Scottish Government wants more important decisions to be taken at a local level, something echoed by senior Lochaber councillor and head of the Lochaber Area committee Andrew Baxter.

The full Highland Council will get to decide how the money is used but Councillor Baxter thinks this decision should be made by area committees.

In a post on his Lochaber Voice Facebook page, Mr

Baxter said: 'I am determined that this money is used to benefit projects that will make a difference in our coastal communities. A good start would be addressing some of the infrastructure problems caused by increased tourist numbers.'

Lochaber councillors have been struggling to get more control of changes to local services such as updating charges on the Corran Ferry.

A special meeting of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee of the Highland Council will also decide whether local committees will decide how parking charges are spent.

Mr Baxter continued: 'We need decisions to be made locally between councillors and their local communities. We don't need another secret panel meeting in Inverness.'

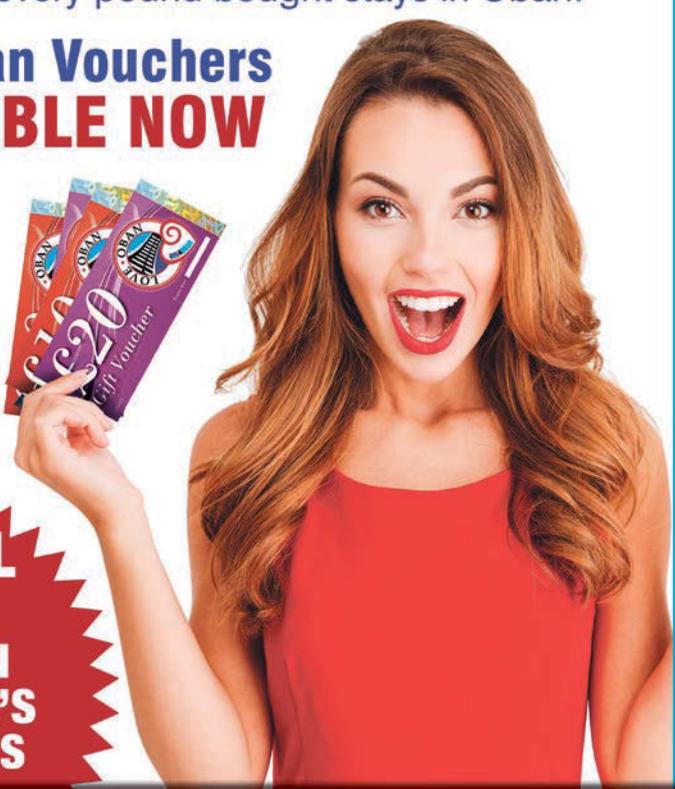
'I've written to the leader of the council asking for a meeting to discuss how the money will be allocated to each area and how area committees will make the final decision. Money destined for projects in Lochaber must be decided in Lochaber.'

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Join us for a lively debate on the hot topics in Lochaber.

Hosted by Laurence Young of Glencoe Activities, Question Time on Tuesday November 19 from 7pm to 9pm at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, will this year focus on the Future of Lochaber Business.

Has there ever been a more turbulent time in modern politics? It is hard to know what to make of the changes on the horizon and what it means for everyone in Lochaber.

This event is the perfect opportunity to discuss what the future might look like in the area.

What are the big issues you think need addressing? This is your chance to discuss those questions you have always wanted raised about issues in Lochaber that matter to you.

We are delighted to introduce a varied panel of



contributors from the worlds of politics, local government and business: Craig Harrow, Liberal Democrat MP candidate; Donna Manson, chief executive at Highland Council; Angus MacDonald, serial entrepreneur and local business owner; plus Stewart Graham, group managing director, Gael Force Marine, with more panel members to be announced soon.

For the first time during Lochaber Ideas Week, we've moved Question Time from the afternoon to an evening slot to allow as many people as possible to attend.

Question Time is free to attend but we ask that you book ahead either online at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) or call us on 01397 705765.

You can submit your questions in advance.

Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for more details, all events and to book.

# Council must do more to help 'at risk' schools

by Richard Mason  
[rmason@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:rmason@obantimes.co.uk)

Parents in Duror are optimistic for the future of their school, but feel there should be a greater focus on building up 'at risk' schools.

They still feel more can be done for their primary school after the damning report at the start of term gave Duror low marks, but the parent council is confident the current teachers can improve the school's standard.

Head of Duror Parent Council, Natasha McCallum Millar, said: 'I have had kids at the school for a very long time and it used to be one of the best in the area, teaching wise.

'It became rundown and having teacher after teacher in the last year did not help.

'Because it failed so miserably, Highland Council really should be throwing everything they can at it to

get it back up to where it should be.'

Last year there were eight different teachers for the school's one composite class of 10 pupils and this created a bad atmosphere within the school.

This term, though, they have a consistent teacher until the original one returns from maternity leave.

But the parent council believes there is more Highland Council could be doing, Ms McCallum Millar said: 'Changes in the school are not going to happen overnight. We all understand that.

'If we had more resources

put into the school, such as a teaching assistant due to it being a composite class, that would help the teachers sort out the problems.'

They believe Highland Council has promised a lot to the school without following through.

It is not just the parents who want the primary school to do well, the whole community supports it.

Chairman of Duror and Kentallen Community Council Sandy Stoddart said: 'It is good to be able to welcome young families into the community and a good primary school may be the

deciding factor to whether they choose us over somewhere else.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes has been trying to help the school, but her emails to Highland Council are yet to receive a reply.

Highland Council recognises areas for development in the school as noted in the report and a spokesperson said: 'The council has fully supported the school and will continue to do so, through the appointment of an experienced head teacher, to take forward the recommendations of the report.'

## GETINTOUCH

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## New map helps people plan safe active travel

A new Active Travel Map has been launched for Fort William, aimed at making it easier for residents and visitors to plan safer cycle and walking routes for everyday journeys.

The map has been developed by HITRANS, the Highland and Islands Transport Partnership, which was established to strengthen the planning and delivery of regional transport to better serve the needs of people and businesses.

Cycling can be a cheap, clean and sustainable mode of transport and a move towards the use of bikes benefits the environment and the health and pocket of cyclists.

The Active Travel map is designed to support and encourage cycle use in Fort William by showing the key cycle routes available.

HITRANS acknowledges that aspects of the Highland area are not conducive to active travel, as there can be long distances between origins and destinations, while the weather and limited hours of daylight in the winter can be discouraging.

Despite this, they say the proportion of people either walking or cycling to work in the area is above the Scottish average.

Lochaber Transport Forum was one of the groups consulted in the development of the map, as cycling and walking are frequently on their



agenda. Forum secretary Benny MacDonald said: 'The map shows people the possibilities there are for walking and cycling.'

However, there are still gaps in the network. Kate Willis, environmental development officer with the Lochaber Environmental Group, told the Lochaber Times: 'The cycle network in Fort William is pretty shameful. There are key points within the small network that need some serious work done on them.

'If the will was there, there could be a cycle path to Spean Bridge, there could be one to connect up with Onich that goes down to Oban and the way out to Glenfinnan is flat, so a cycle path to Glenfinnan would be fantastic.

'You can't keep putting

bigger and bigger car parks into places because it doesn't solve the problem. You just get more cars. It's not just tourists, though, it's commuting too. There are people commuting in and out all along the Road to the Isles.'

Lochaber Environmental Group is currently working on a proposal to develop an e-bike share scheme that would support use of an improved network.

'If the bid is successful, e-bike rentals would have bike docking stations around Fort William, making cycling a more viable option.'

Ms Willis added: 'If we have a bike share scheme in Fort William, we've started the process.

'If a bike path is put in, we've got that basis so more people can use the paths.'

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# Sea tourism brings in almost a million pounds for Lochaber

by Richard Mason  
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William's pontoon has generated approximately £924,000 for Lochaber since it was installed.

This figure was generated by Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company (FWMSC) whose volunteers have welcomed 29 cruise ships to Lochaber since the pontoons were introduced in May 2016.

Money comes from passengers, crew, their activities while ashore and use of the pontoon by cruise ships, yachts and small boats.

Company secretary for FWMSC Sarah Kennedy told the Lochaber Times that the money benefits a much wider



The Fort pontoon has been a fixture since May 2016.

area than just Fort William. She said: 'Passengers spend an average of £30 per person in the town. Some will spend a great deal of money, going to local restaurants and buying gifts, some people may not spend anything.

Money is also generated from hiring the pontoon and the 208 yachts and small boats we have had who also spend money locally.

'A big proportion of the money goes towards tours and guides for trips around

Lochaber. Passengers and crew will take trips to castles and up the Caledonian Canal. Some will go on bike tours with Off Beat bikes and bus tours up Glen Nevis.'

Owner of the House of Clan Jamfrie Drew Purdon said: 'It is difficult to determine who is from a cruise ship or a coach tour or an individual visitor.

'However, we have found that when the smaller, more exclusive ships are in, people spend much more money than those on the larger ones. It is unfortunate so many passengers go out of town on coaches, but having cruise ships here is a benefit for the town.'

In the next two years, FWMSC already has 23



Councillor Denis Rixson presents a maiden visit plaque to the Captain of the MV Bremen.

cruise ships booked in to use the pontoon and experience Lochaber. They expect this will generate at least a further £600,000 in revenue.

Plans for an expanded marina have been included in the FW2040 project to increase the capacity of the pontoons to include shoreside berths for yachts, toilets and showers.

Mrs Kennedy said: 'People will be able to come to Fort William by water instead of by car and even stay the night here with these new berths that allow people to leave their yachts or boats there. We have had a lot of interest

from people who want to do this. The ultimate goal is to extend the West End car park into a full pier that would allow cruise ships to dock right next to it.

'This would transform our town, Lochaber and the west coast of Scotland as we have been told by cruise ship captains they would be queuing up to use this.'

The group hopes the pontoons have a bright future and with current chief executive Donna Manson of Highland Council also excited about the idea of a pier, they are working through the paperwork to put it into action.

## Stramash wins two UK awards

Stramash Social Enterprise, which has a branch in Fort William, attended the prestigious Nursery World awards ceremony this weekend as finalists in three categories.

As the only Scottish nursery at the awards, Stramash brought two awards back from the glittering prize-giving at The Brewery in central London.

The group received the Highly Commended award for UK Nursery Group of the Year and Tessa Winters won practitioner of the year for her work at Elgin and Tornagrain.

Nursery World commented: 'The judges were impressed by the way it [Stramash] is fulfilling its vision to inspire children's play and development outdoors. Parent testimonials highlight how each nursery maximises the use of its outdoor environment.'

Stramash Fort William occupies a central location, led by team leader Cameron Sprague.

On winning the prestigious award, Mr Sprague said: 'Winning a highly commended award for nursery group of the year is incredible. The whole team is buzzing as we are doing our part for Scotland at these UK wide awards.'



Stramash team with their Highly Commended award for Nursery of the Year, at the event.

The Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare Expansion team said on Twitter the awards were 'thoroughly deserved' and that they were proud of Stramash.

The ball gowns and kilt were swapped for the usual wellies and waterproofs on Monday as the Fort William team returned to work, connecting children with the great Scottish outdoors.

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## HI-Scot credit union joins in worldwide annual celebrations

This month, HI-Scot, the credit union for the Highlands and Islands, will take part in a worldwide celebration of credit unions.

Thursday October 17 is International Credit Union Day 2019, a day which highlights the history and achievements of the movement, as well as raising the profile of the work of credit unions in local communities, reflected in this year's theme: Local Service, Global Reach.

HI-Scot general manager David Mackay said: 'HI-Scot has been working across the Highlands and Islands for 13 years and, in 2019, we have over 3,000 members.

'In that time, we have

approved more than 4,000 loans. That's a lot of money benefiting people in our communities.'

From its base in Stornoway, HI-Scot serves one of the largest geographical areas of any credit union in the UK. Membership is open to anyone living or working within the area.

Mr Mackay said that this month's International Credit Union Day offered people throughout the Highlands and Islands a unique opportunity.

He said: 'It's a good chance to get in touch or look us up online and see for yourself what HI-Scot, your local credit union, can do for you.'



**Local Service.  
Global Reach.**

# Offering transport solutions for these challenging times

**Kate Willis, Active Travel Environmental Development Officer for Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG), explores transport solutions for the challenges that lie ahead.**

Everything about our present-day life is focused on the car. Our towns, cities and housing suburbs are designed around cars.

But perhaps it is time for this to change as we are, after all, facing imminent climate and ecological breakdown.

Transport emissions account for a third of Scotland's carbon output. If the government is serious about meeting its goals to reduce carbon emissions, it needs to start promoting and encouraging environmentally friendly transportation as a viable alternative to cars, especially short, single-occupant car journeys.



In the past decade, the bulk of transport spending has gone into new roads. It is time to start investing in cycle paths, bike racks and fit-for-purpose shelters.

With 63 per cent of residents in Fort William living within 5km of their workplace, the current daily short car journeys could easily be done on a bicycle, helping to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

Electric bikes are an environmentally friendly, easy and fun way to get around. E-bikes have an integrated

motor to ease the burden of pedalling when you choose, with different levels of assistance making it easier to cycle uphill or into a headwind.

The assistance from the motor will help you travel further but with less effort than on a regular bike. In addition to helping you on your daily commute, e-bikes can open up a world of new adventures, even for those who are not 100 per cent physically fit, enabling you to reach places that would otherwise require a strenuous hike or a car ride. You can plan longer and

more ambitious rides, choosing to use your own pedal power on the easy bits if you wish, knowing you can cruise home with more support if you need it.

Lochaber Environmental Group has a new Trek e-bike, funded by the Energy Savings Trust, available for loan for a few days. If you are thinking of buying an e-bike, or would just like to try one out, you can borrow the LEG e-bike to see if how it fits into your daily routine.

If you are an individual, business, community group or third sector organisation considering buying an e-bike, funding is available through the Energy Saving Trust and Transport Scotland.

Grants are also available to support the delivery of e-bike pools, public hire and loan schemes.

Contact LEG for more information or if you would like to try out an e-bike.

## LOCHABER IDEAS WEEK



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### Saddle-Sore and Solo!

**Monday 18th November, 7-9pm, £10**

What does it take to complete a 4,267 mile bike race across the USA without any help?

Find out from Russell Jones, who went from celebrated Kingussie shinty player to globe-crossing unsupported endurance bike racer! Russell's humour, attitude and tales of adventure around the world guarantee an entertaining and inspiring evening of sporting achievement.



Venue:  
The Moorings Hotel

### Question Time

**Tuesday 19th November, 7-9pm, FREE**

**This event is kindly sponsored by ScaleAQ**

Join us for a lively debate on the hot topics in Lochaber today!

This is your chance to ask those questions you've always wanted to about the issues in Lochaber that matter to you. This event has moved to an evening slot to make sure as many people as possible can come along. Book your free place today and make sure your voice is heard!

Our panel includes Craig Harrow, Liberal Democrat MP Candidate; Donna Manson, Chief Executive at Highland Council; Angus MacDonald, serial entrepreneur and local business owner, with more panel members to be announced soon.

About our event sponsor

ScaleAQ has extensive experience in delivering quality products to the aquaculture industry around the world as a global supplier of camera and feeding-related products.



Venue:  
The Moorings Hotel

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## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I am stepping back in time this week to an age when the skills and knowledge of finding food on the shorelines of coastal villages and islands could mean survival or starvation.

From the harsh times of famine and destitution in the mid-1800s, through bare periods of much of the past century into the present days of relative luxury and food security, the importance of that knowledge has changed vastly.

Through the years, the skills of the shoreline and how to reap its rich bounty have gone from an ability that could mean life or death, to being an essential means of providing a staple diet, to almost totally lost and irrelevant in the present day. It is much easier now to head to the supermarket for fish fingers than head down to the shore to pick limpets, winkles or find a crab or a lobster at low tide.

A conversation with a good friend a couple of weeks ago sparked a long-held interest

about a particular aspect of shoreline hunting – that of catching a lobster at the 'faicheanan' or 'crevices' in English.

This once common means of finding and catching a giomach has, as far as I know, died out completely on Tìree. I say as far as I know because the knowledge was so valuable that it was held secretly by generations of experts in certain families and some of their descendants might have the knowledge yet but, in keeping with tradition, may not be quick to share it, and rightly so.

As a small boy, I remember my father showing my brother and I a faiche that had been known in our family and some others for many years. On that day, when I was around 11 or 12, the faiche was bare. However, my mum recalls dad getting a huge lobster from that location at a low tide during the early years of their courtship.

With the big spring tides of the September equinox upon us, I have decided to head

for home on the St Olave. I am writing this as we pass Lismore Lighthouse bound for Tìree, where I will try my luck for the first time at catching a lobster by walking out to certain spots at low water and enticing one from its crevice and into a pot.

I remember vividly on the day dad took us to his preferred spot, even at low-water, the sea was lapping at the grey rim round the top of his three-quarter length black Bullseye waders.

Accordingly, on Saturday, I bought a full-length pair of waders. If we don't get a giomach, at least my feet might be dry!

Over the past week, I have spoken to a few people who still have some knowledge of other faicheanan and although I am only armed with rough guidelines for where to find these, I am excited to be heading for Tìree to see if a lobster can still be caught in this age-old manner at these once important and secret places. Next week, I may report on my endeavours.



Alice Goode celebrated her 104th birthday this week. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Congratulations Alice – 104 years young!

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

When Alice Lawrie was born in the September 1915, British troops were engaged in bloody fighting in the Battle of Loos on the Western Front and it was just three brief years since the sinking of the Titanic and the doomed South Pole expedition of Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

More than a century later, Inverloch resident Alice, whose married name is

Goode, has just this week celebrated her 104th birthday.

Monday was the big day and was marked with birthday messages from her large family comprising three children, 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Alice also enjoyed a beautiful specially-made cake and a large pile of cards – some of which had to be specially commissioned in order to reflect her amazing age.

It was during the Second

World War that Alice moved from Poolewe to Fort William to work in what was then the British Aluminium factory, and it was here she met her now late husband, William Goode, and set up home. The couple went on to have four children – Billy, Kenneth, Mairi and the late Roselyn.

Now, still in Inverloch, Alice said she had no special secret to enjoying such a long life, but told wellwishers that 'good health is the most important thing for everyone'.

## Lego buildathon in Fort William Library

The recent in-service days were exciting days in Fort William's library, where the team run a regular Lego Club on Thursdays and Saturdays every week, writes Lucy Tedham.

With the high level of interest, they decided to make the most of the in-service days by hosting an all-day 'buildathon', inviting children and their parents to pop into the library and build, with the aim to use as many bricks throughout the day as possible.

Librarian Sally Hughes told us: 'The buildathon was based on the theme of libraries of the future, in line with an upcoming competition within the Chartered Institute of Librarians. We had some wonderful builds with some libraries being staffed by astronauts, which was fun.'

The event ran from 10am until 5.30pm, allowing for people to drop in and build for as long or short periods as they liked and was held in the community room so that

ordinary library life could continue.

There was a definite buzz in the air with a range of children, mainly of primary age and some younger ones taking part.

The models made are on display throughout the library as there were so many they quickly outgrew the regular cabinet in the entrance way.

Events like this are a great way to open the library up to more children and some who have not been to the library

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# Lapsed nurses offered chance to return to work in Fort

Nurses with lapsed registration are being offered an opportunity to work at the Belford Hospital in Fort William while they complete a return to practice course, writes Mark Entwistle.

Under the Scottish Government's Return to Practice Funding Scheme, returnees will be able to apply to have their university programme fees (£1,500) at the four Scottish providers fully paid.

In return, course participants must take up employment as a first level registered nurse in Scotland within three months of completing the course, or provide evidence that demonstrates they are actively seeking employment.

Lesley Pow, senior charge nurse in the Combined Assessment Unit at Belford Hospital, explained it has become increasingly challenging to recruit nurses to the more rural hospitals and they have been looking at ways in which to overcome this.

'We know there are nurses out there who have left nursing perhaps to bring up a young family or for other reasons and they have let their registration lapse.

'The return to practice is an opportunity to come back into nursing and we will also offer employment to those



SCN Lesley Pow (centre) with some of the team from the Combined Assessment Unit at the Belford Hospital.

who are looking to re-register,' she said.

'The course contains both theory and practice. We will help with transport and accommodation costs to attend the taught elements of the programme and, in recognition of the fact that some people may have to give up current employment in order to complete this, we will also be paying a wage (band two) to those participating.

'Once the course is complete and they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), they will be given a contract for a band five position.

'We hope this is an attractive option to nurses who, for whatever reason, may have previously thought that a return to the profession

was not an option available to them. The Combined Assessment Unit in Fort William is a multi-speciality unit dealing with both medical and surgical patients. It is an excellent learning environment and this would be a fantastic opportunity for those looking to come back into the profession.'

For those interested in returning to practice, the courses are run by Robert Gordon's University, Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Stirling and the University of Dundee.

For those looking to see what job opportunities there are for nursing in Belford Hospital, vacancies for registered and non-registered staff are available on the NHS Highland website.

for a long time. It is free to become a member and to borrow books. Many children stayed after the Lego building to explore the children's area which houses an array of books for children in both English and Gaelic.

The toys are also very popular and although the Lego is only available during Lego Club, the Duplo is always in the children's area.

There are events planned for further in-service days with the next ones in November when there will be a children's tea party with food and crafts based on much loved children's books.

Every year High Life Highland libraries host the summer reading challenge and encourage children to take to the library and read a number of books, and in doing so, they are rewarded with stickers and activities.

This year the theme was Space Chase which saw children collect stickers which they added to their mission file to discover who had 'stolen' all the space books.

Those who completed the challenge received a few activities at the time and then a certificate and medal at the end of the holidays.

Fort William town library

held a celebration evening and presented medals to those who had attended followed by a picnic and crafts.

Caol librarian Moira Murphy attended school assemblies to present the certificates.

Both Caol and St Columba primary schools had a number of happy students collecting their medals, with one child having read more than 40 library books throughout the holidays.

Overall the event had been the best attended year so far, both libraries run regular groups and activities free of charge.

## Ben Nevis walkers light up the darkness for charities

The paths of Ben Nevis are trod daily by walkers and enthusiasts keen to conquer the mountain.

For many, it is a long day and, if they are lucky, they will get a glimpse of the outstanding views of Lochaber.

For a recent group of walkers, the aim was quite different. Organised and led by mountain guide Mike Pescod of Abacus Mountain Guides and his team, a group of about 30 people took on the mountain in the dark, for Light up Ben Nevis, which is aimed at raising money and awareness of the mountain and those who work to maintain and help those using it.

The group walked up the path to the summit, reaching it at around 8pm and then used lights to descend. It was a spectacle in itself with people in the town enjoying the views of the lights on the path.

Mr Pescod said it had been a brilliant event and had helped raise funds to maintain paths, as well as for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and



About 30 people took part in the sponsored night walk up Ben Nevis.

other charities chosen by walkers.

'Charities use Ben Nevis for fundraising regularly, and this event recognises the impact on the environment and the people who work on it,' he said.

'The charities are suggested and people often split their totals between them. Numbers were up again this year and the weather was excellent so we are expecting word to spread for next year.'

Those on the summit were treated to spectacular views of the stars and the Milky

Way, and, with the good weather and the warm night, it was a very successful event.

The event was a combination of Nevis at Night and Light up Ben Nevis, walking either up Ben Nevis or using the all-abilities path near the visitors' centre.

Mr Pescod spoke of plans to expand this family-friendly walk to become an event similar to that at Pitlochry, which includes lights, music and art, and he explained he needs to find someone who could be part of the team to help make this happen.

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# Tarbert ferry terminal work welcomed

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited has awarded a £14.3 million contract to civil engineering and building contractor R J McLeod Limited to upgrade Tarbert Ferry Terminal in Harris.

The work is part of the Skye Triangle Infrastructure Project, which involves significant harbour improvements at Tarbert, Lochmaddy and Uig.

The work is designed to improve and modernise the harbours and prepare the way for new vessels.

Uisdean Robertson, chairman of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Transportation and

Infrastructure Committee, said the news was welcome. "This will complement the construction work at Lochmaddy, scheduled for January 2020. While ferry services in the islands face many challenges, it is good to see that, as well as improving facilities and infrastructure which will benefit the travelling public, this development should also provide much needed employment directly and indirectly through engagement with the local supply chain," he said.

RJ McLeod will be responsible for completing all civil engineering works for the initial phase of the harbour upgrade project, including pier reconstruction and ex-

ension, land reclamation and seabed dredging.

"The work will start this month and is expected to be completed in spring 2021. CalMac will continue to operate ferries during the work.

A new terminal building will be built after the completion of the civil engineering works.

This will be procured separately, at a later date.

Tenders for the construction work at Lochmaddy were due by Tuesday last week and it is hoped the comhairle will be in a position to award the contract by the beginning of November, with a start on site currently scheduled for January 2020 and completion expected in January 2021.



Representatives of the four energy companies, from left, Angus Campbell of Melbost Branahuie, Donnie MacDonald of Aignish, Rhoda Mackenzie of Sandwick North and Calum Buchanan of Sandwick East. Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos.

## Windfarm auction failure prompts reaction

Four community energy companies seeking to develop renewables on their common grazings on Lewis have responded to last week's announcement that Stornoway windfarm was unsuccessful in the 2019 Contracts for Difference auction.

Rhoda Mackenzie made the statement on behalf of Sandwick North, Sandwick East, Melbost Branahuie and Aignish Community Energy companies, calling for 'a new approach' in developing renewables on Lewis – one that

puts community energy at its heart. The four companies, which have been locked in a legal battle with Stornoway windfarm developer Lewis Wind Power (LWP) for the right to develop the common grazings, said it was time for a 'plan B'.

Ms Mackenzie said: "Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Stornoway Trust have always argued the LWP windfarm was essential to get a new interconnector to the Western Isles. The logic of that argument is the inter-

connector cannot now happen, given LWP's failure in the subsidy auction. It is time for a new approach. There is still plenty scope to develop renewables on the islands but we need to do so in a way that puts community-owned energy front and centre.

"The right way forward is to increase the capacity of the existing grid via new demand through electrification and hydrogen, install new storage via battery and start working on an upgrade of the existing Skye connector."



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## MSP pledges to keep fighting for reduction in Sconser speed limit

The fight continues to get Transport Scotland to lower the speed limit at the Sconser ferry junction after the roads authority said it wants to see the outcome of improvements to the A87.

In response to growing concerns over road safety, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes wrote to Transport Scotland earlier this year to ask them to conduct a speed survey on what is presently a 60mph limit and this summer met a delegation from the organisation in Portree to discuss the matter.

In a letter to Ms Forbes, Hugh Gillies, director of roads, said the traffic survey revealed that the 85th percentile speed of vehicles driving past the Sconser ferry junction was 50.6mph.

He added that given the site is not of 'known road safety concern' to Police Scotland, the 60mph limit will remain in place for the time being to allow recent improvement works to settle.

Ms Forbes said: 'I can understand why Transport Scotland would like to see the impact of the recent road safety works. These improvements are helpful, but



MSP Kate Forbes recently visited the Sconser junction.

**'Given the popularity of Skye, it's unlikely to be an issue that will disappear soon.'**

I remain of the opinion the speed limit needs to be kept under review.

'It must be quite daunting for those coming off the ferry, as drivers are going uphill and then trying to join

a 60mph stretch of road. I will continue to represent constituents who have asked for a lower speed limit at Sconser and have asked that Transport Scotland undertake a further review after the recent improvements have had sufficient time to settle.

'Given the continued popularity of Skye, which will inevitably result in an increase in the number of vehicles passing this point on the A87, it's unlikely to be an issue that will disappear anytime soon.'

# MSP celebrates Isles lifesavers

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The number of potential stem cell donors in the Western Isles has been recognised at a Holyrood reception.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan attended the event, held to mark September's Blood Cancer Awareness Month.

In the Western Isles, 217 potential stem cell donors are registered with Anthony Nolan, a charity which makes life-saving connections between people with blood cancer and strangers ready to donate their stem cells to help.

This achievement was also marked by Anthony Nolan as part of its Communities vs Blood Cancer campaign, which shines a spotlight the vital work being done to ensure every patient in need of a stem cell transplant



MSP Alasdair Allan.

can find a lifesaving donor. More than 760,000 people in the UK are on the Anthony Nolan register, any of whom could be a match for someone with blood cancer and asked to donate their stem cells to give a patient a second chance of life.

Mr Allan is encouraging more people from the islands, particularly men aged 16-30

and people from black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, to register as stem cell donors and make sure a match is available for everyone in need of a transplant.

At the Holyrood gathering, Mr Allan also met representatives of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) including Ally Boyle, who initiated a groundbreaking partnership with Anthony Nolan in 2009, while he was area commander of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, after being diagnosed with myelodysplasia, a type of blood cancer.

They have recruited thousands of lifesavers to the register, predominantly through the innovative SFRS Education Programme, which sees SFRS volunteers deliver inspiring presentations about stem cell, blood and organ donation to 16-to 18-year-olds across Scotland, including the Nicolson Institute and Sir

E Scott School. Mr Allan said: 'I am very proud the Western Isles has 217 donors on the register, any one of whom could offer the only chance of giving someone a second chance at life.

'Donating stem cells is straightforward but it could make an enormous difference to someone with no other chance of a cure.

'I would especially like to commend the great work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in engaging communities, particularly secondary schools across Scotland.'

Henny Braund, chief executive of Anthony Nolan, added: 'In the past year, 12 selfless people from the Western Isles joined the Anthony Nolan register.

'Each one of these people represents hope for patients with blood cancer and blood disorders in need of matching stem cell donors.'

## Tribute paid to former councillor Mairi Bremner

Tribute has been paid to former South Uist councillor Mairi Bremner, who has died following an accident in Glasgow.

She represented the Iochdar ward in South Uist from 1979 to 2003 and was chairwoman of social work from 1986 until she stood down as a councillor.

In addition, Mrs Bremner served as vice chairwoman of the Policy and Resources Committee as well as many other prominent positions, including chairwoman of HR and as a comhairle representative on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

She was also a representative on the local health council and latterly on the Western Isles Health Board.

Mrs Bremner was a passionate advocate for the Gaelic language and culture, serving for many years on Comunn na Gaidhlig and the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages.

Convener of the comhairle Norman A Macdonald paid tribute, saying: 'Mairi was a tremendous voice for

**'She was full of compassion and had concern for the most vulnerable in our community. She was also a leading figure in health and care issues'**

her community, serving in distinguished roles on the comhairle, most notably as chairwoman of social work.

'Mairi was a robust campaigner for her community and for the islands. She was full of compassion and had concern for the most vulnerable in our community. She was also a leading figure locally and nationally in health and care issues.'

'Our thoughts are with Mairi's husband of more than 50 years, Robert, her family and her many friends.'

The comhairle flags at offices in Balivanich and Stornoway were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect.

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## LETTERS

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

## Tesco staff deserve commendation for reaction to sacking

You have to take your hat off to the staff made redundant from Tesco's Metro store in Fort William.

Rather than bemoaning the treatment meted out to them, they responded to losing their jobs by holding a distinctly unseasonal Christmas party.

Being made compulsorily redundant is a bitter blow for many people but these now former Tesco employees – some of whom worked for the business for decades – have refused to allow it to get the better of them.

Tesco had very little to say about the Fort William sackings other than to refer the Lochaber Times to a previous statement which went on about having to reflect changes in the retail market place and 'simplify and reduce processes and administrative tasks across all of our 153 Tesco Metro stores'.

One of the staff who has lost her job told us that all those made redundant had long-service. If that is correct, it is a shabby way to be treated.

## E-bikes are certainly worth giving a trial

We publish this week a piece by Kate Willis, Active Travel Environmental Development Officer for Lochaber Environmental Group, exploring transport solutions for the challenges that lie ahead.

Among Kate's suggestions is an appeal for more people to use electric bicycles. Kate informs us that 63 per cent of residents in Fort William live within 5km of their workplace.

This would appear to be a simple, obvious and effective place to start. We are doing serious damage to the environment so why not give e-bikes a go?

## More specific details requested on recycling

I was pleased to read that Councillor Kieron Green has said to The Oban Times (September 19) that 'everything recyclable was recycled apart from a small percentage of items contaminated because they had not been washed out'.

I think it would be very useful for us to have a few specifics. In order to recycle plastics, the operator needs to separate the stream into plastics of the same composition. This can be done using spectroscopic techniques, but does this work with brown or black plastic? What about white or coloured plastic?

We would all be grateful if Councillor Green could tell us exactly which plastics are 'recyclable' and which plastics are not.

Also, I read that 12 million tons of the UK's washed plastic were sent abroad last year, presumably for recycling. Does any of Argyll and Bute's plastic go abroad in this way? If so, did we have to pay for this, or did the receiving body pay us for the scrap? If we pay them, how can we be sure it is actually recycled and not just dumped or burned?

Julian Overnell, Kilmore.

## General election is two-horse race in Argyll and Bute

The Lib Dems do not want to listen to the result of referendums.

They are playing a dangerous game, saying we don't have to listen to the result of referendums but can simply ignore them altogether.

Whether you voted remain or leave, this simply plays into Nicola Sturgeon's hands.

Only the Scottish Conservatives want to get us all back to the things that matter, including schools, police and quality jobs.

Here in Argyll and Bute it is a clear two-horse race between the Scottish Conservatives and the SNP. Only the Scottish Conservatives can beat the SNP in Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and Islands ward.

## Huge costs to take back control of our fisheries

The United Kingdoms fishing industry is worth only 0.5 per cent of our GDP and yet the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is central to the Brexit debate.

## 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

Many who voted to leave the European Union despise their policy in setting quotas within member states EEZ waters (Exclusive Economic Zone; an area up to 200 nautical miles from a nation's coast). Yet the irony is that the UK, not the EU, has done more to internationalise our territorial waters.

Unlike other member states of the EU, the UK has permitted our fisherman to either sell or lease their share of fish quotas to foreigners.

One example being that a single Dutch vessel now takes 23 per cent of the English catch.

Currently, the European Union Council of Ministers sets the tonnage of specific fish, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), which can be caught in EU waters and then divides this between each member state.

What could be considered, upon exit of the EU, would be to allocate a far larger share to our small boats fleet (10m and under in

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William's Town Team committee is five-strong again following a meeting of volunteers early last month.

The committee also appointed Mark Drayton as information officer, which was approved by volunteers, with his remit to publicise the team's work.

'We're all volunteers, of course, and we all get our hands dirty out there.

'But when I understood how much time it takes to find sponsors and volunteers for projects, I wanted to help more,' he said.

This year, the Town Team is organising the Christmas Gathering in Fort William's High Street. The centrepiece will be the traditional Christmas tree in The Parade, although in previous years, four or five smaller decorated trees were placed in locations including Cameron Square.

This year Christmas will be different as the lights and trees will not automatically be provided by Highland Council.

Following discussions and funding applications being submitted, the council has agreed to cover a substantial amount of the cost to light up the town for the last time, but the Town Team will be responsible for the cost of all of the trees, which still amounts to more than £2,000.

Town Team secretary Karen Dean commented: 'We currently have £900 pledged from businesses which will cover the cost of the tree in The Parade and the lights switch-on but if we can raise at least another £1,100 we could place a tree near Sore Feet and perhaps stretch to a tree in Cameron Square too.

'If we can't raise the extra funds, then sadly these areas will not be decorated.'

If any businesses feel they can help by donating towards the trees, please get in touch with the Town Team.

'We would need to ensure we had the funds available by the middle of October so please get in touch with

## Caol coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Caol Community Centre held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday.

Staff from the M&S store in Fort William gave up their time to wait on tables and sell raffle tickets and those attending the event were entertained by two choirs made up of youngsters from St Columba's and Caol primary schools.

**Right: staff of Fort William's M&S store joined Caol Community Centre operators and choirs from Caol and St Columba's primary schools for a busy Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning.**

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Caol Primary School pupils entertained guests.



St Columba's Primary School pupils sang songs for visitors to the coffee morning in Caol Community Centre.

us if you can help,' added Ms Dean.

Contact the Town Team via its Facebook page or email secretary@fortwilliamtownteam.co.uk.

## WESTERN ISLES

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has voted in favour of the Climate Change Bill, meaning Scotland will now have the most ambitious statutory targets in the world and its contribution to climate change will end, definitively, within a generation.

The landmark legislation commits Scotland to becoming a net-zero society by 2045 – five years before the rest of the UK and in line with the advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change.

The Scottish Government also adopted an ambitious new target to reduce emissions by 75 per cent by 2030 – the toughest statutory target of any country in the world.

Mr Allan said: 'Scotland is rightly recognised as a world-leader in tackling climate change.

'We were one of the first countries

to declare a climate emergency and the SNP is now leading by example by making a commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

'Ending our contribution to climate change will enable us to grow our economy and productivity and improve the well-being of everyone who lives here.

'We only have to look at the real threat presented by rising sea levels to communities in Uist to see just how important this issue is.

'While Westminster is consumed

by chaos and the Tories have abandoned any pretence of a domestic agenda, the SNP government is ready and willing to take necessary steps to improve people's lives and take the action scientists tell us is necessary.

'Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity and the defining political issue for all of us.

'We have a moral duty to future generations to tackle climate change now and the forthcoming Climate Change Bill delivers on that commitment.'

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## Plockton stalwart Charlie 'marches off parade'

After more than 30 years' service as secretary of the Royal British Legion Scotland branch in Plockton, Charlie MacRae 'marched off the parade ground' into a well-deserved retirement at the branch's annual general meeting last year.

As a tribute to his long service, a special presentation service was held at the war memorial in August, which saw Mr MacRae receive a framed certificate from the Highlands and Islands area council of the RBLS in recognition of his valuable and worthy service to the legion, as well as an inscribed quaiach.

Mr MacRae joined the branch in 1963, two years after leaving the army, when annual membership cost one shilling. It is now £15.

He joined the committee in 1970, becoming secretary in 1987, which saw him travelling

to Kyle for the meetings - and he never missed one.

The presentations were made by branch president Andy Will and chairwoman Linda Raby.

■ Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held its annual show in August, when 419 entries made what many said was one of the best shows in recent years.

Suzanne Hazeldine, new owner of Duncraig Castle who has moved to live here recently, presented the cups and prizes.

Star of the vegetable section was Julie MacLennan, who won all three vegetable trophies.

■ Communion was held in Kyle Free Church on Sunday September 8 when the visiting minister was the Rev Alasdair MacAulay of Tain and Fearn Free Church.



Charlie MacRae.

## Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ The Corpach lady waiting to inject a pound or two into the Pulp Mill Club coin-only fruit machine, had to hang on a bit longer than anticipated. To hold her place in the queue, she had asked one of the younger punters to go to the bar to get change of a tenner. This he did. But he came back with a fiver and five £1 notes courtesy of the new barmaid who shall remain nameless!

■ Charlie was sitting patiently in the Grand on Tuesday evening, waiting for the start of the umpteenth annual meeting of the Ben Nevis Race Association. Come 9pm and no sign of any of Charlie's committee colleagues. So Charlie headed east along the High Street. Called in at the Masonic and found Wattie in there. Wattie had just returned from the Ben Race annual meeting which had been held in the Alexandra Hotel.

■ In the Alexandra on Saturday, Willie was called to the bar when a lady wedding guest found herself short of 20p for a round of drinks. Willie gallantly found enough change to make up 20p. And then, wait for it - and a lot of people have - he bought the bride and groom a dram apiece. The more knowing of the guests rushed to the Alex windows to check if there was a blue moon in the sky. Hearts won that day. So there probably was!

■ More football now. Some of my contemporaries will remember Wigtown and Bladnoch FC getting the occasional crack at the Scottish Cup first round. They were playing in a south qualifier last Saturday and their team name came over on BBC Scotland Radio as Wigtown and Badenoch!

■ John MacLennan's golfing footwear is being blamed by his fellow howkers for handicapping

their eyesight. The glare from his brilliant white golf shoes is very off putting - if you'll pardon the pun. The gowfers' latest away day was to Grantown where they lost. The 19th hole, however, was at a hotel. Came the raffle and Bill Kelly reckoned he had salvaged some pride from the outing. 'Number 391!' shouted the Grantown captain. His next words, 'a white ticket', were lost on Bill as he jumped up and yelled 'No 391! That's me!' Bill proffered his ticket, a blue one, at the precise moment one of the Grantown golfers was handing over 'No 391 - white!'

■ Down Viewforth way comes news of the demise - after half a century - of MacLennan's Sheds. Well remembered were these ready-made play areas of our youth. Aye, we used to climb up onto the corrugated roofing, practicing all our Durango Kid and Tarzan moves. One shed houses 'The Boss's Car' which Congie tended lovingly. On the inside walls of this shed were dozens of pictures of past and present Rangers stars.

■ I note Fort William Community Council has achieved 'interim success' by finding a High Street location for notices. This had disappeared following the demise of the Kennedy Monument and its surrounding railings. Hopefully, the almighty mess of the 'Bill Stickers' variety which we've had to endure in and around the doors and windows of the High Street shops will no longer be the means of publicising concerts and meetings, sales and shows.

■ Thirty five years ago, Yeoman MacLeod from Kinlochleven, serving on the Royal Yacht Britannia, handed over a gift from the Provost of Fort William to the Mayor of Fort William/Thunder Bay in Ontario. The Britannia was

there on a goodwill visit. And it was bucketing rain at the time. 'I see it rains in your Fort William too,' said the wry if not dry Yeoman MacLeod to Mayor Pow.

■ I hear Councillor Drew McFarlane Slack is trying to put the tick back into the once noisy timepiece on the front of the former Ballachulish Village Hall. The clock has remained silent for several years after complaints that the mechanism and chimes were so loud they were keeping villagers awake at night. Now the local member is asking Lochaber District Council to allocate funds to 'soundproof the noisebox' and bring the clock forward once more.

■ 'Has anyone ever had health problems because of chiming clocks?' That was the question posed to Bailie Dr Charles Connochie by a town council colleague after the town hall clock went wonky in the late 1950s. 'The only cases I know,' the good doctor responded, 'were of people who woke up in the night because their chiming clocks had stopped.'

■ Smokin' Simon MacDonald was on an 'alligator hunt' on the Blar Mhor Industrial Estate on Monday - trying to track down a consignment of alligator meat which he was due to process in his Glenuig smokehouse. You can imagine the looks he had to put up with as he went from unit to unit asking if anyone had seen a long, flattish box with the wording 'Alligator - this side up'. Finally, Simon tracked it down at the Road to the Isles Filling Station where the carrier had mistakenly left it. Here, too, Simon created a bit of a furore. 'I've lost an alligator,' he announced to the girls at the till. And that caused a tourist, about to pay for his petrol, to drop all his money on the floor.

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## SHINTY

## Fort win Strathdearn Cup



Fort William captain David Wright receives the Strathdearn Cup from Camanachd Association president Keith Loades. For match report, see shinty pages.

Photograph: Abrishtside Photography

## BOWLS

## Davie Matheson pairs



Winners of the Davie Matheson nominated pairs competition held at the Fort William Railway Bowling Green at Inverloch. The pairs winners were, left to right, Peter Johnston and Colin MacDonald with runners-up Suzanne Williamson and Alan Lawrie.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography

## MacD balloted rinks



Pictured are the winners of the MacD balloted rinks – the only rinks competition in the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's season – from left, Wilson Thain and Agnes Boyle, with runners-up Liz Kennedy and David Weir. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

## Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Ballachulish shinty lottery (29/9) numbers were 13, 16 and 17. No winners this week, so it's a £400 draw next week.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club lotto numbers (29/9) were 3, 11 and 17. One winner Shirley. £100 next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers (26/9) were 5, 7 and 16. No winners. Next draw, 3/10/19. Jackpot £400.

Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers (26/9) were 13, 15 and 16. No winner so £700 available for draw on 3/10.

## Lochaber powerlifter continues medal haul

Powerlifting has, in the fitness world, seen an increase in uptake in the past few years, and one Lochaber woman has now taken home another trophy to add to her growing collection, writes Lucy Tedham.

Emma Hebborn of Wolfhouse Gym has been powerlifting for four years and now has won a number of titles after specialising in the bench press event two years ago.

Last month, she added to her already impressive collection of Scottish Championship, British Championship and World Championship titles and came home with the European Championship for the bench press in the under 80kg weight for the World Drug Free Powerlifting Federation.

An impressive feat for someone who only began powerlifting to help out a friend who needed more competitors for an event held for navy personnel.

Hebborn explained: 'I had no idea what I was



Emma Hebborn of Wolfhouse Gym has been powerlifting for four years.

doing but it turned out it was something I was quite good at.'

Over the years she has gone from competing in all three disciplines to special-

ising in bench press due to needing knee surgery for a previous injury.

Hebborn says she faced a tough decision of how and what to continue and de-

## POWERLIFTING

ecided to focus on the bench press, since when she has literally gone from strength to strength, winning competitions and breaking the world record at the recent Scottish Championship.

Hebborn works as a personal trainer and is looking forward to opening Wolfhouse Gym in December this year. Through her personal training she has been helping three other women in powerlifting and has seen them enter the Scottish Championships and return with medals of their own.

Hebborn told us she has seen a big increase in popularity in the past two to three years, especially among middle-aged women because of its associated benefits with bone health.

It looks like there is no stopping this inspiring Lochaber athlete who is keen to share the benefits of the sport as well as encouraging and training others in what motivates them.

## Stuffy Fort side go down to Wick



Fort were looking to make it three wins on the trot with this home league clash against Wick at a sunny Claggan Park on Saturday.

The visitors dominated the early exchanges but were denied getting on the scoreline thanks to the hard working Fort defence and it was the home side who were first to find the back of the net.



Fort goalscorer Harry Nicolson in control of the ball.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## FOOTBALL

A fine effort from Harry Nicolson from a corner in the 17th minute made it 1-0.

It took another 17 minutes before the scoreboard turned over again and it was Wick with Jack Halliday getting the equaliser.

Despite a valiant effort from the home players, Wick were not to be denied and further goals from Craig Gunn, Dave Allan and Jonah Martens put the result beyond doubt.

The wins sees Wick climb to eighth place in the league. Next league match for Fort is Saturday's home fixture at Claggan Park against Turriff United. Kick-off 3pm.

Meanwhile, Fort William FC U17s netted eight goals against Rothes, with none in reply, in a match played at Lochaber High School on Sunday.

# Boyd making his international experience pay

As Scotland's Rugby World Cup campaign got under way in harsh fashion, there is at least one young Lochaber man with positive international experience to draw upon, writes Peter Newman.

Lochaber Rugby Club's Callum Boyd, 22, spent last winter in the hard-hitting world of New Zealand rugby.

Boyd travelled to the south island with a few friends from Fort William and ended up playing for a provincial rugby club, Darfield, approximately 30 miles away from Christchurch.

## Taster

Asked how he ended up there, Boyd explained: 'I went before with my family and went out for a wee taster and thought it was great. I came back to some of the boys and was saying to everyone we should go. There was lots of humming and hawing. Then we had a few drinks and just thought, "Let's do it! May as well." Then four of us booked it and just went.

'I started working at a place called Darfield and one of the boys was an ex-player. They've got three or four teams and it's a wee place no bigger than, say, Strontian, but there's four teams.

'The first team were Division 1 on South Island, second team were Division 2 and the thirds were just your social rugby, old boys and boys just starting. And then there was a colts team, too, so there was just so much competition.'



Lochaber RFC player Callum Boyd loved his time playing in New Zealand. Picture Abrightside Photography

## RUGBY

Boyd found a welcoming and hospitable environment. 'The boys were just friendly as anything. "Where you from?" "Oh, Scotland, great!" and you basically get a ripping if you were English or Scottish. And it just made it more welcoming. You know you fit in if you're getting a ripping.'

Despite learning a new rugby culture, Boyd found that he fitted in well with the level. 'I managed to start training with the first team and ... see the different level? It was so quick, so intense and before you know it the ball is on you or there's a guy on you. Just no time to think.'

## Mentality

'It's a totally different mentality and I'd love to bring that to here. They train twice a week and then have a tune-up game on a Saturday too. Full squads.

'But they were so professional and yet so chilled out about it at the same time - that was what I loved about it. We would be training for, like, two hours solid and then one of the boys would pull out a crate of beer. I just had to say, I can't drink that, I need water!'

As Lochaber RFC recorded another victory this weekend, this time running out 0-50 winners away to Cowal RFC, it looks as if Boyd's experience in the crucible of world rugby is paying off on the field here too.

# Lochaber RFC U14s hosts special training session

Lochaber Rugby Club U14s usually train at their Banavie pitch each Saturday morning.

However, in recognition of the number of players from Acharacle, Mallaig, and Knoydart who regularly attend, a special training session took place at Arisaig's Community Trust pitch on Saturday.

Everything - including the weather - was organised perfectly by Emma Moss and Morag Fothergill, and, as can be seen from the at-

## YOUTH RUGBY

tached photograph, the boys finished tired but definitely in good spirits.

**Pictured are, back row, from left: Freddie Fulford (assisting), Seth Bennett, Archie and Robbie Gray, Ruairidh Fothergill, Ronnie Fulford (assisting), Zach Alexander, J-J Blackley. Front: Robert Gosling, Arran MacLennan, Callum McCaig, Anton Bodkin, Stuaie MacLennan, Callan Griffin.**





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## WEATHER

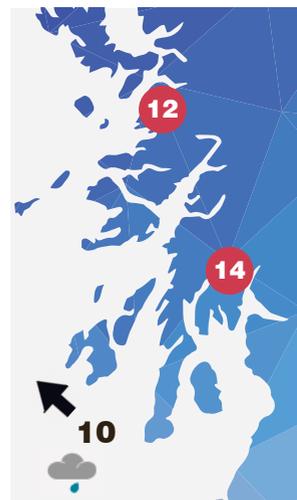
**Thursday**  
Cloudy with light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
11°C to 14°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures  
11°C to 14°C.

## Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Heavy rain and a moderate breeze

**Sunday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
9°C to 14°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 3, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.36	0.9	08.20	3.7
<b>Thur</b>	14.54	0.9	20.31	3.6
<b>Fri</b>	03.20	1.2	09.01	3.4
	15.41	1.2	21.11	3.2
<b>Sat</b>	04.10	1.5	09.51	3.2
	16.36	1.6	21.59	2.9
<b>Sun</b>	05.12	1.7	11.27	2.9
	17.44	1.9	** ** *	1.9
<b>Mon</b>	00.35	2.6	06.32	1.9
	13.44	3.0	19.21	2.0
<b>Tues</b>	03.21	2.7	08.18	1.8
	14.55	3.1	21.10	1.9
<b>Wed</b>	04.02	2.9	09.23	1.6
	15.32	3.4	21.57	1.7

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  
powerlifter's  
medal haul

Boyd making  
his international  
experience pay

# Thistle Ladies gain valuable experience

South Lochaber Thistle Ladies gained huge experience by taking part in the latest North of Scotland SFA Development Day in Inverness at the weekend, writes Peter Newman.

The Kinlochleven-based outfit travelled north to take on opposition from Buckie, Nairn, Golspie Sutherland, Shetland, Caithness and Inverness Caledonian Thistle's Development Squad.

Held at Bught Park, Inverness, games lasted 15 minutes and saw footballers spanning a large age and experience range take part.

The Jags played their opening game against Caithness and could not have hoped for a better start. Within 30 seconds of the kick off, striker Lauren Doherty had steamed into the box and planted a comfortable finish to open the scoring.

Doherty wasted no time in doubling the advantage, to push SLT into a 2-0 lead with 11 minutes on the clock. Shortly afterwards, flying winger Natalie MacDonald chased a ball into the box and slid home a brave finish, receiving a gashed thigh in the process to create an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Doherty completed her hat-trick – and the first for the ladies' team – in the dying moments to seal the win 4-0 over the young Caithness outfit.

Buoyed with confidence, Thistle's next game was against Golspie Sutherland



The SLT Ladies squad gained valuable experience from the tournament.

– the team who had beaten them 9-6 in the club's first ever match. This time out, the Jags were determined to show their improved experience and fitness had paid dividends.

Unfortunately, Sutherland took the lead after five minutes, against the run of play. In response, SLT dug in and Doherty stepped up to score what the SFA representative called the goal of the tournament.

Gathering a clipped ball through from elfin midfield maestro Kirsty Delaney on her chest, Doherty swivelled and hit a fearsome drive with her left foot which swooped into the net off the underside of the bar to level the score. Michaela Horne was playing in her usual intelligent fashion and bringing the ball out from the back with style.

Sadly, Sutherland were not to be thwarted and, just as a point looked secure, the Golspie girls showed their experience to sneak a winner, slipping the ball passed Linda Shimmons in goal.

### Spectacular

The next game was against Nairn and Delaney made sure that the Jags got off to a flyer by punching the ball in from the edge of the 18-yard box for a spectacular goal.

Doherty bagged her fifth goal of the day soon after with a thunderbolt of a finish which might have taken the keeper into the net with it if she hadn't got out of the way.

Next, MacDonald made another trademark surge into the box and was hauled down as she tried to round the keeper. As the referee played advantage, Charlotte Adam Prosser followed up

and planted a firm finish for 3-0 as Nairn wilted.

Delaney bagged the fourth before MacDonald got her just reward with a smartly taken finish. In was in this game that Hannah MacFtridge, winger Katrin Kristensen and pint-sized Kirsty Campbell in midfield really showed touches of class, grit and determination.

As the day wore on, fitness definitely became an issue for the squad of 14. Buckie took the fight to the girls, opening the scoring before Delaney shimmied into the box and was floored by the keeper. She showed a calm head to plant the penalty but eventually SLT lost out 2-1.

The penultimate game was against Inverness Caledonian Thistle's development squad. Although young, the players were experienced and the Jags

## WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

did well to adapt to a more defensive 4-5-1 formation.

The final score of 2-0 somewhat flattered the ICT squad but newer players such as Shanu Jodhie Kaur and Lillijana Alexander acquitted themselves with aplomb.

The final game against Shetland could have gone either way. Rebecca Small playing wide on the left made several barnstorming runs, Ann Cameron at the back put in some tough challenges and Debbie Davidson was trying to move the defence further forward but the islanders managed to look fresher and took away a 2-0 win despite several good chances.

First team coach Albie Robertson said: 'I'm really proud of the girls. Today wasn't about winning, it was about seeing the level that we need to compete at and the fitness we need to compete. I think the girls played brilliantly, we scored some great goals – including goal of the tournament – and it just shows us what we can achieve if we keep going.'

Squad: Linda Shimmons, Shanu Jodhie Kaur, Lillijana Alexander, Kirsty Campbell, Natalie MacDonald, Katrin Kristensen, Debbie Davidson (Cpt), Kirsty Delaney, Rebecca Small, Hannah MacFtridge, Charlotte Adam Prosser, Ann Cameron, Lauren Doherty, Michaela Horne.

## Lochaber hammer Cowal in West bowl try fest

Cowal	0
Lochaber	50
West Regional Bowl	

Lochaber racked up a half-century scoreline when they travelled away to Dunoon on Saturday for a Regional Bowl game against Cowal.

The visitors, fielding a very young team, took an early lead through Conor Taylor, and at half-time were 0-19 up with additional tries coming from upcoming youngsters Lewis Morrison and Jack Hamilton.

Lochaber started the second half where they left off, with Taylor getting his second try of the day.

This was followed almost from the restart with a kick and chase from Callum Boyd, who collected his kick and ran under the posts to score. Tries followed from Callum MacDonald, Ryan Davies and Angus Jenkins. Five tries were converted making the final score 0-50.

Lochaber have a tough match this Saturday when they welcome local rivals Isle of Mull to their Banavie ground, with the islanders also going well at present. Kick-off 2pm.



Lochaber No 8 Conor Taylor on the charge against Cowal on Saturday.



**FREE**  
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