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Official probe after drone spotted at Oban airport

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



An official investigation has been launched after reports of drones being flown near Oban and The Isles airport.

Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the airport at North Connel, confirmed a police-led investigation was 'ongoing'.

It follows reports from the airport last week of drones having been operated 'without permission' within an area called the aerodrome traffic zone (ATZ).

'One drone was reported just a short distance from the approach to runway 01,' it said.

The council declined to comment further because of the ongoing investigation.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said it received formal safety reports in confidence, while Police Scotland investigated incidents deemed 'sufficiently serious'.

The penalty for 'endangering the safety of an aircraft' carries custodial sentences of up to five

years and an unlimited fine, the airport has warned.

There has been speculation online that someone inexperienced may have inadvertently flown into the restricted area while capturing aerial footage of the tidal phenomenon at the Falls of Lora.

Others said most drone owners knew the rules and had sufficiently sophisticated models with the proper technology.

The problem may be unregistered drone owners flying inexpensive versions.

The problem may be unregistered drone owners flying inexpensive versions which sell from as little as £19.99.

Shoppers are encouraged to 'pass a drone test' and register with the CAA.

Local councillors said the reports were worrying and encouraged people to do their

research before flying drones. Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Any activity which causes safety issues at Oban Airport is of the gravest concern.'

'The safety zone is there to protect.'

'I appeal to everyone to be mindful of the danger and to respect and observe the drone exclusion zone for the safety of personnel and flights.'

Councillor Kieron Green said drones offered opportunities to improve connectivity in places such as the West Highlands.

'However, clear rules exist to ensure the safety of operators and the public when drones are being flown,' said Councillor Green.

'For recreational use, these include retaining line of sight, keeping below 400ft and not entering restricted spaces around airports,' he said.

Councillor Julie McKenzie said the onus of responsibility was on the drone owner to check where it was safe to fly.

Continued on page two.

Seil friends 'Abba' good go at fundraising



Abba fan Rachel Smith and friends have raised hundreds of pounds for a ground breaking mental health and animal welfare project in Uganda, which pairs war trauma survivors – often children – with dogs to reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. The pals put on their Abba best to run from Balvicar Stores to Clachan Bridge and back on Sunday and have so far raised more than £400 for the Comfort Dog Project and Big Fix Hospital in Northern Uganda. For full story visit www.obantimes.co.uk



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OT

Official probe after drone spotted at airport

Continued from page one. Councillor McKenzie said: 'I would appeal to anyone who is going to be flying drones to make sure they are doing the proper risk assessments and paying attention to the legislation before they even leave the house.'

'That would make sure they are not endangering anyone's life by going out with a drone.' The airport has warned operators of drones must seek permission from the airport before attempting any flight within the ATZ, otherwise it is illegal.

The council said the ATZ is for the protection of aerodrome traffic.

At Oban the ATZ is two miles and 2,000 feet. Anyone wishing to enter the ATZ must get permission from the Flight Information Services Officer.

The airport receives a number

of such enquiries every few months – often from companies using drones to carry out aerial survey work on roads or bridges.

Drone registration legislation came into effect in the UK on November 30 2019 and is mandatory for drone owners and operators with drones weighing between 250g and 20kg. Registration costs £9 and can be completed online at register-drones.caa.co.uk

The Civil Aviation Authority say those who do not register risk a £1,000 fine.

The UK Airprox Board, based at RAF Northolt in Middlesex, maintains logs of 'near accidents' at airports.

In the 10 years of its logs, drones account for the overwhelming majority of incidents, although there has never been a logged incident at Oban Airport.

Bid to manage overnight parking at Ganavan

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Banning overnight caravans, campervans and works vehicles along Ganavan Road and providing a tap and waste disposal at the beach car park is part of a motion due to be heard by Oban and Lorn councillors this week.

The motion was to be proposed by Councillor Julie McKenzie and seconded by Councillor Kieron Green at yesterday's (September 9) Oban Lorn and The Isles (OLI) Area Committee.

It reads: 'The OLI Area Committee recognises Ganavan is an area of natural beauty and importance in our community, attracting local people and visitors from near and far.'

'In recent months, as a direct consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and the UK and Scottish Government recommendation for staycations, there has been a marked increase in the number of campervans visiting the area and seeking to park overnight.'

'As the current Ganavan car park restrictions prohibit this, campervans are being displaced along Ganavan Road



If the motion is passed at this week's area committee, it could see designated facilities and parking bays for motorhomes at Ganavan.

a place to pay. So the matter can be dealt with as a matter of urgency for decision, officers would also be asked to bring a report and recommendations to a special area committee on October 14 this year.

The motion says the officers' report should also outline steps on how consultation on the proposals can be carried out urgently with residents and the wider community before any of the work is approved by the area committee.

The issue of some overnighters flouting council rules as well as leaving rubbish and human waste at Ganavan was discussed at last week's Oban Community Council meeting on Zoom.

OLI Area Committee chairperson Councillor Elaine Robertson, who was at that meeting, asked the community council to write directly to Argyll and Bute operations and traffic management bosses to say the Ganavan problems were 'a real issue' for Oban.

in even greater numbers than previously which has led to issues of public health and road safety, causing considerable distress to residents.

'The provision of a warm welcome and fit for purpose, managed and chargeable facilities for campervans at Ganavan, in partnership with the introduction of overnight parking restrictions on Ganavan Road would serve to enhance the area in terms of amenity and safety whilst also providing economic benefit.'

If the motion is passed, it would ask the council's roads and infrastructure service

to consider the feasibility of introducing traffic regulations banning campervans, caravans and commercial vehicles from parking overnight, beginning on the section of road directly in front of The Lancaster Hotel, covering all of Ganavan Road up to the entrance to Ganavan car park.

Officers would also be asked to figure out the cost of work needed to provide basic services for overnight campervans at Ganavan.

Those services would include a cold water tap, general and chemical waste disposal, designated campervan bays and

POLICE FILES

■ About midday on August 31, in Albany Street, Oban, a man was stopped and searched by police. The 39-year-old allegedly obstructed the officers, was found with a small quantity of diamorphine and subsequently resisted arrest. The man was charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ About 1pm on August

31, in Albany Street, Oban, a 33-year-old woman was stopped and searched by police. She was allegedly found in illegal possession of Pregablin and Diazepam tablets. She was cautioned and charged and the tablets were sent for analysis.

■ Anyone with information about any incident, should contact their local police station on 101.



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Call to make Covid home test kits available locally

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Confusion reigns over whether home testing kits for coronavirus are available locally.

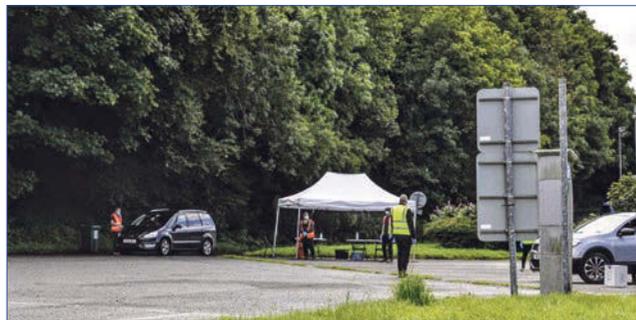
Last week some people reported not being able to get kits locally, while there are reports from others who have managed to obtain them.

Responding to concerns raised in The Oban Times, the Scottish Government confirmed home testing kits are not available in 'some remote areas'.

Now community campaigners involved in the coronavirus battle have called for a better system ahead of winter.

A government spokesperson said: 'Home test kits are available through the UK Expanded Testing Programme and can be booked via the UK online digital portal.'

'These are an option where people seeking a test are unable



to attend a fixed drive-through centre or mobile testing unit.

'In some remote areas, however, home testing kits are not available, because of difficulties with the delivery of self-testing kits in a timely manner.'

Clare Hunt, a co-ordinator with Appin Community Development Trust, said she had heard supplies locally had simply run out due to demand. She said: 'I appreciate everyone is trying to do their best and things like this move so

quickly, but there has been six months now to deal with this and I think it could have been foreseen a little bit better.

'We knew we were going to come out of lockdown so I don't see why it has become an issue now.'

'Amazon can deliver to my house within 24 hours so I don't understand why there is a wait for a test kit.'

One of the other issues for home kits is the turnaround time, she said. Once kits have been ordered, dispatched,

The government admitted kits are not available in 'some remote areas'.

delivered then returned by the person and results processed, the turnaround time was virtually the same as self isolation.

Ms Hunt said supplies should be made available more locally with a requirement to still order them online.

She said: 'I would like to see them placed in GP surgeries, although I wouldn't expect the GP surgeries to have contact with people with suspected Covid.'

'In Appin, we have a large volunteer circle who would be more than willing to collect the test kits, take them out to someone then pick it back up and post it for them.'

'Most rural areas have such good community networks and there would be people in

the community prepared to do it. If we had a port of call locally people could access them or send a friend or a family member that's not having to isolate to collect it for them.'

Uncertainty around home test kits has seen some families visit mobile testing units.

Yet official guidance suggests people get tested in the first three days of symptoms appearing - which sometimes puts people outside the time window for the mobile unit when it visits Oban.

However, instead of visiting on two consecutive days, the MTU's arrival at the Longsdale Car Park next to Atlantis Leisure, has from this week been staggered to help address this, health officials confirmed.

NHS Inform said testing is 'effective until day five'.

The Scottish Government said in response: 'We have been engaging with the UK

Government daily to monitor the situation closely due to the recent high levels of demand on test centres in Scotland and are deploying an increased number of mobile testing units to help meet demand.'

In addition, antibody tests - which can show if you have had the virus - are also not yet 'widely available' including in Argyll and Bute.

Mobile testing units have now been taken over by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

To book a test online go NHS Inform at <https://bit.ly/31r9M57>.

People who can't book online should telephone 08000 282816.

NHS 24 111 should only be used by people who are unwell and not to book a test.

You may have to wait at home and self-isolate for a few days before you can access a test.

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OT

'Marginal' rise in waste going into landfill

More of Argyll and Bute's waste went to landfill last year – despite efforts to get the area's residents and businesses to reuse and recycle, writes Ellis Butcher.

Figures show 51.6 per cent of rubbish across Argyll and Bute was landfilled last year and 48.4 per cent recycled.

That represents a slight increase on 2018 when 51.2 per cent went to landfill and 48.8 per cent was recycled.

Yet the total weight of waste going to landfill fell in 2019 to 18,577 tonnes from 18,671 in 2018.

The Helensburgh and Lomond area bucked the trend with 53 per cent of rubbish being recycled in 2019, compared to 50.2 per cent in 2018.

For island sites, 44.4 per cent was recycled in 2019, compared to 38.7 per cent in 2018 – again an improvement.

The council report will be on the agenda for the area meetings in Oban, Lorn and the Isles in September.

In the report, executive director Kirsty Flanagan said: 'The overall recycling, composting and recovery percentage figures are similar in 2019 to those in 2018.'

'2020 figures are expected to be lower due to recycling service suspension during Covid lockdown.'

'Landfill costs in Landfill Tax alone is around £90 per tonne for every tonne disposed of in landfill.'

'It is interesting to note that during Covid-19, our landfill charges increased significantly but our overall costs remained similar with savings being made on road haulage and gate fees for recycling material being transported to processors.'

'However, it is important to note that the environmental impact of landfilling all material would be significant and the amended collection regime was put in place purely as a reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic.'

Ms Flanagan also gave a brief update on the planned landfill ban, which the Scottish Government had planned to implement from 2021.

She added: 'The landfill ban planned for 2021 has since been rescheduled by the Scottish Government until 2025.'

'This delay has been welcomed by the council and gives more time for alternative solutions and funding to be sought.'

'A waste strategy update report can be found at the September 2020 environment, development and infrastructure (EDI) committee.'

The EDI committee will meet via Skype on Thursday September 10.

Last gasp attempt to save Kilbowie

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A 'last gasp' attempt is still being made to save Kilbowie Outdoor Centre despite a demolition date.

But time is running out as the site is due to be cleared from September 28.

Emails have been sent urging organisations in the town, including Atlantis, to consider a community buyout of the centre at Gallanach or at least expressing an interest in it for now which could postpone North Lanarkshire Council's (NLC) plans to demolish it then sell as a cleared site.

Community council convener Marri Malloy said Kilbowie's demolition was already 'a done deal'.

'It's going to be demolished. It seems there's nothing we can do. There could be a community buy out but we don't even know where we could get the money,' she said.

But community councillor Laura Corbe told the meeting: 'There's a bit of a last gasp effort.'

She said Atlantis putting in a bid for Kilbowie could be one of the options left.

'Even an expression of interest could put demolition



on hold for now,' she said adding there could possibly be some kind of 'community and community enterprise hybrid' formed to keep Kilbowie for Oban.

'But it's early days,' she warned.

Chairman of Atlantis Neil Matheson said an email had been received and the matter would be taken up by board members but it was 'a tricky time' due to Covid.

'As an organisation we would be delighted to see Kilbowie kept as a facility to make Oban a healthier town. Encouraging people outdoors more and to get fitter is

The last ditch attempt to stop the demolition of Kilbowie Outdoor Centre is a longshot, with Covid making it difficult for groups that might otherwise have made a bid.

something we are massively supportive of.'

NLC's plan is to develop residential outdoor experience facilities from its own country parks so most of the equipment which was at Kilbowie will be used here.

Closing the centre sparked a Save Kilbowie Outdoor Centre Facebook group, selling the waterfront location could make NLC about £680,000.

The decision to close the centre and phase out activity during 2020/21 was taken at a meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee in January this year.

A spokesperson for North Lanarkshire Council: 'We carried out an assessment of the marketing options available for the site. This took into consideration the ongoing revenue costs and the additional impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our resources. On that basis, the council has made the decision

to move forward with the demolition. A building warrant for the demolition of the buildings has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.'

And he added: 'A procurement contract for this work will be issued in the coming weeks. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the land will then be marketed for sale.'

A letter has already been sent by Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee chairperson councillor Elaine Robertson to North Lanarkshire Council leader Jim Logue asking for demolition to be reconsidered or delayed.

Oban Community Council has also sent an open letter to Scottish education minister John Swinney asking for his intervention to stop the demolition. The letter also went to other MSPs and councillors at North Lanarkshire and Argyll & Bute Council.

Until Covid struck, primary seven children in North Lanarkshire, about 100 miles from Oban, got the chance to attend Kilbowie every academic year. The outdoor centre also hosted a number of Oban community-based activities at weekends and in the holidays.

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UK Government cash helping Scottish firms to bounce back

The UK Government's support packages are proving just the business for a third of Scotland's workforce and are key to supporting, protecting and creating jobs across the country.

THE UK Government continues to offer Scottish businesses a "firm" commitment.

A considerable cash splash, worth more than £2.3 billion, has allowed employers affected by the pandemic to recover post-lockdown.

The Bounce Back Loan Scheme, providing UK Government guaranteed loans to small and medium-size operations, has supported 65,000 such enterprises in retail, construction and hospitality sectors.

The UK Government has also offered deferred VAT bills and increased support to individuals through Universal Credit.

At the end of July 936,500 jobs – a third of the country's workforce – were being backed by the UK Government's job support schemes, signalling an increase of 45,000 since the end of June.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: "I'm

Protecting jobs

- The UK Government is supporting a third of Scotland's workforce, 936,500 jobs, 45,000 more since June end
- £2.3 billion-plus UK Government loans to 65,000 Scottish firms supports furlough and self-employed schemes
- The UK Government has also deferred VAT bills and increased support to individuals through Universal Credit
- In addition, the UK Government has allocated additional £6.5 billion direct funding to the Scottish Government
- The UK Government cut VAT to 5% to boost tourism
- Eat Out to Help Out adopted by 3,100-plus Scottish sites
- New £1,000 job retention bonus helps retain staff while £2 billion Kickstart scheme aims to create thousands of jobs for young people

proud that we have supported more than 65,000 businesses in Scotland through our loan schemes.

"We are committed to continuing



CASH SPLASH: Chancellor Rishi Sunak has provided UK Government financial support for Scottish firms.

to support them to bounce back and succeed through the measures set out in our Plan for Jobs."

The UK Government allocated to the Scottish Government an additional £6.5 billion direct funding.

The UK Government also launched the Eat Out to Help Out initiative with more than 3,100 restaurants in Scotland signing up, including

independent eateries as well as family favourites such as Pizza Express, Costa Coffee and Nando's.

The scheme saw half price discounts on meals in participating restaurants from Monday to Wednesday throughout August.

Scottish businesses have been able to put employees on furlough – a period of temporary leave – while

applying for a government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers' usual monthly wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month, continuing until October.

September sees the UK Government pay 70 per cent of wages up to a £2,187.50 limit while, in October, the government will pay 60 per cent of wages up to a cap of £1,875.

'Cash support has saved our restaurant chain'



GRATEFUL: Mario Gizzi, DRG group founder, and Tony Conetta say the business would have gone under without UK Government support.

UK GOVERNMENT support has proved a recipe for success for Scotland's largest independently owned restaurant chain.

Di Maggio's Restaurant Group is a family business founded by Joe Conetta and nephew Mario Gizzi in 1983 with the creation of Glasgow institution Di Maggio's. The company operates 18 restaurants in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen

with five food court outlets in Scotland, Belfast and Manchester. Other brands include Café Andaluz, Amarone, Barolo, The Anchor Line, Atlantic and Cadiz, employing overall 1,000 staff.

"We would not have survived without UK Government support," confirms co-manager Tony Conetta. "Without our staff, we would not have a business. Without

the financial support from the government, 100 per cent we would not have survived. The help was generous. We employ 1,000 people, 40 per cent of our income goes on wages. Many of our employees are main breadwinners for their families. If you turn off that income, you cannot pay wages. UK Government support helped people pay their mortgages and food bills.

"The Eat Out to Help Out scheme gave the business a fresh boost providing impetus and opportunity for people to go out." Tony continued: "Many people had got into the mindset that they were going to stay in and ride this out. The scheme helped change that, giving people confidence to eat out again. It gave people a zest for life. Being able to go out was refreshing."

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OT

Inquiry under way after 24 injured in Waverley crash

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The number of people injured when the Waverley paddle steamer crashed into Brodick pier has risen to 24 as a major probe got under way.

Of those injured at least six were airlifted off the island with other casualties taken to hospital on Arran as those described as 'walking wounded' were treated at the scene.

The accident happened as the 70-year-old vessel tried to dock in Brodick after a trip round the island.

Police and paramedics and coastguards rushed to the scene after the alarm was raised around 5.15pm. They were later joined by the fire brigade, the rescue helicopter from Prestwick, two Helimed and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

The Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has launched an inquiry into how the accident



happened and the Waverley remains tied up in Brodick.

In all there were 213 passengers and 26 crew on board, with numbers reduced due to the social distancing.

The Waverley was making only her second visit to Brodick this year and was returning to the harbour after taking passengers on a trip to Pladda and around Holy Isle when she struck the pier.

Other passengers who had

earlier got off at Brodick were waiting on the quayside to return to Largs and Greenock. They were accommodated in the ferry terminal and 138 Waverley passengers finally left Arran on an emergency sailing of the MV Caledonian Isles at 10.35pm after a five-hour wait.

One passenger who was at the front of the boat when it hit the pier said the passengers had 'gone down like little dominoes'. William Windram,

Emergency services on the quay following the accident.

from Melrose, who had been on holiday on Arran was due to disembark in Brodick with friends. He described a 'terrific bang' then the sound of crushing metal.

He said: 'There was a lot of people standing ready to disembark. It looked like the boat was heading to the pier too fast then there was this terrific bang. I was with a group of friends and a couple of us were flung forward and hit the guard rail. My friend may have cracked a rib but I could see others had fallen flat on the deck and I could see people were injured.'

He said there had been no warning announcement as there had been earlier at Pladda to hold on to something if standing on the deck. However, he said that following the crash the crew had been excellent as many of the passengers were

shaken and shocked. They provided teas and coffee, bags of ice to stop injuries swelling and towels and blankets to those who needed them,' he said.

A statement on the MCA website said: 'Along with partner agencies we worked to ensure everyone was taken safely from the vessel, and those who did not require medical treatment were taken to Ardrossan by ferry.'

Professor Hazel Borland, nurse director at NHS Ayrshire and Arran said on Friday: 'A small number of patients were transferred to Arran War Memorial Hospital and University Hospital Crosshouse to receive treatment for a range of injuries, with the majority now being discharged.'

The Waverley only returned to service two weeks ago and made her first visit to Arran last Monday but already their limited season is at an end.

Waverley Excursions Ltd said

in a statement: 'Waverley made heavy contact while berthing at Brodick Pier on Thursday and will be unable to undertake any further sailings this season. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.'

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac, said: 'We were shocked to hear of the situation in Brodick harbour involving the Waverley, and my thoughts and best wishes are with those who were injured.'

'We were more than happy to help return passengers to the mainland and worked closely with agencies including Waverley Excursions, who transported everyone onwards once they landed in Ardrossan.'

'I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the crew on the Caledonian Isles and at Brodick and Ardrossan for their willingness to help out.'

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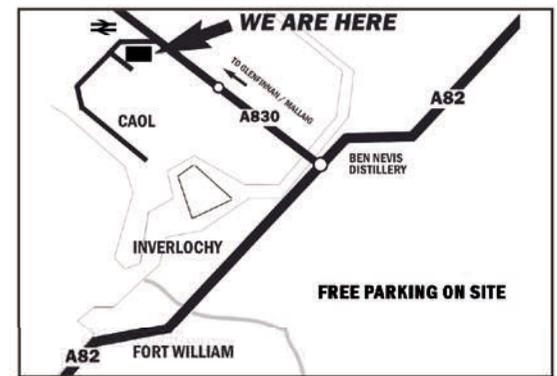
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OT

Eat Out to Help Out scheme is praised

A hotel manager has praised the recent Eat Out to Help Out scheme.

Allan McKie, manager of the Anchor Hotel and Barge at Tarbert, said it had proved 'very successful' during August as an incentive to encourage people out again.

It offered discounts to diners between Mondays and Wednesdays of up to 50 per cent off the cost of their meal during August at participating businesses.

One of the aims was to encourage people to venture back out to eat after the coronavirus lockdown as well as helping hotels, restaurants, and cafes generate income during the quieter, earlier part of the week.

It had proved its worth in making a 'huge difference' in lunchtime trade between Mondays and Wednesdays, said Mr McKie.

'It was a win-win for both parties - the public and the restaurant,' he said. 'The public got up to a maximum of £10 off their meal, or 50 per cent off



The Anchor Hotel, Tarbert

their meal value. If the meal came to £15 they got £7.50 off, if their meal came to £22 the maximum they got £10 off, so they would get a £22 meal for £12 and that was per person so it was quite a saving.

'We gained because it increased our volume and brought people out.'

The Anchor plans to see how September goes and it would consider potentially reintroducing the deal in October in what are traditionally quieter times of the week.

Carol cycles 'Everest' in father's memory

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Cyclist Carol Lawson is taking on an uphill challenge of Everest proportions in memory of her dad.

The 55-year-old who is a member of North Argyll Cycle Club is about to cycle up and down the same hill near Oban enough times to equal the height of Everest.

Carol, who works at Lochgilphead Library and lives in Ardrishaig, is hoping September 13 will be the day when she embarks on the mission that could take up to 18 hours to complete - weather depending.

It will see her cycle up and back down Glensallach Hill about 80 times - the equivalent to 8,848ms and about 130 miles.

Everesting has become a popular pastime with cyclists worldwide in the absence of races and sportive events

during lockdown but the challenge has a more poignant meaning for Carol whose dad John Willis passed away from cancer in July.

She shares her dad's love of cycling, inspired by his tales of 100-mile time trials and races in the 1950s when he once came second to the now legendary Tommy Simpson who was one of Britain's most successful professional cyclists.

As a thank you to the kind nurses who cared for John, Carol has already raised more than £1,250 for Macmillan Cancer Support on her Justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carol-lawson8848

'I won't be beating any world records for Everesting, but I'll give it my best shot for my dad. I'll be happy just to achieve it,' said Carol who is hoping pals from her cycling club will show up to give support.

'They've been brilliant so far,

I've really appreciated their great support and hope some will come along on the day to cycle a few of the hours with me. The mental challenge will be as much as the physical challenge. I didn't imagine it would be so hard.

'I like hilly cycles but going up hill on a bike for as long as this will be out of the range.

'I'm hoping there will be a tail-wind on the day and that it doesn't rain the whole time. If the weather is so bad, I'll have to postpone it for a week but I'm planning for September 13,' she said.

The track that leads from the Bonawe road after Connel Bridge over the top to Barcaldine is single-track and a bit rough but there is not much traffic and all in all is 'pretty good', added Carol who will be fuelling up on her ride with flapjacks and pasties.

'It should be a fun kind of day!' she said.



Carol is planning to cycle Glensallach Hill about 80 times - no easy feat - to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.




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The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengarry.

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Details of the application process and fund criteria can be found at <https://ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/>

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New President for Oban Rotary Club

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Rotary Club now has a new president - the 71st in its history after it was established in 1949.

Douglas Small has officially handed over to Kees Van Rein, originally from Holland.

Mr Van Rein spent a career in the diplomatic service until retiring to Kilchrenan.

Mr Small said he had thoroughly enjoyed his year in office which started in July 2019.

But it was 'tinged' by the fact his duties had been curtailed by the pandemic.

Mr Small said: 'Oban Rotary performs a multitude of good deeds to deserving individuals and organisations in our community.

'We are a thriving and happy organisation who enjoy our meetings and fundraising activities.

'It has been an honour for me to have served as their president. I wish Kees van Rein all the best in his year as president and hope that

he derives as much pleasure from the honour as I have done.'

Mr Van Rein said it was a 'great pleasure' to take over the baton and despite the coronavirus impact on fundraising, he believes 'challenges are there to be overcome'.

He said the 'inventiveness and perseverance' shown by members would prevail.

Recently, the club has welcomed seven new members, including three women.

Mr Small's activities during the last year included the presentation of cheques to Argyll Talking Newspapers, Oban Phoenix Cinema and the Gaelic choir.

Fundraising activities took place in 2019, including the Golf AM AM, a sponsored hill climb, the Duck Race and a Clay Pigeon Shoot.

November and December saw the club celebrate the 70th birthday of the granting of its charter and certificates presented to the winners of its Christmas Card Competition.

The club also assisted in the Reindeer Parade, which

attracted more than 5,000 people to Oban.

More events, help and presentations followed in the early part of 2020 and when the pandemic struck, the Rotary established a Covid Response Group to work with Argyll and Bute Council. It helped

deliver prescriptions and carry out shopping for vulnerable members of the community.

Among the club's gestures to help has been members donating £5 a week each to Hope Kitchen which has helped raised around £2,450 for the charity.



Oban Rotary Club presidential handover between Douglas Small, left, and Kees Van Rein.

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Protective paint job for Creagan Bridge

Painting work to stop steel sections corroding on Creagan Bridge on the A828 has begun.

BEAR says the project will take up to six months to complete but most of the work will be under the bridge deck meaning minimal impact for road users.

The road will stay open while maintenance workers coat the structure with a new protective layer to help stop any deterioration or corrosion.

The process involves removing the existing paintwork and applying a new system which will protect the steelwork from rust and other impacts over the next 20 years.

Temporary traffic lights may be needed on the bridge for up to three weeks when work is taking place at both ends of the bridge simultaneously but the lights will be removed whenever possible to reduce any hold ups.

Specialist scaffolding will be put up so teams can work from a platform hanging beneath the bridge girders.

To allow the scaffolding to be installed safely, a short section of the local road under the south end of the bridge will

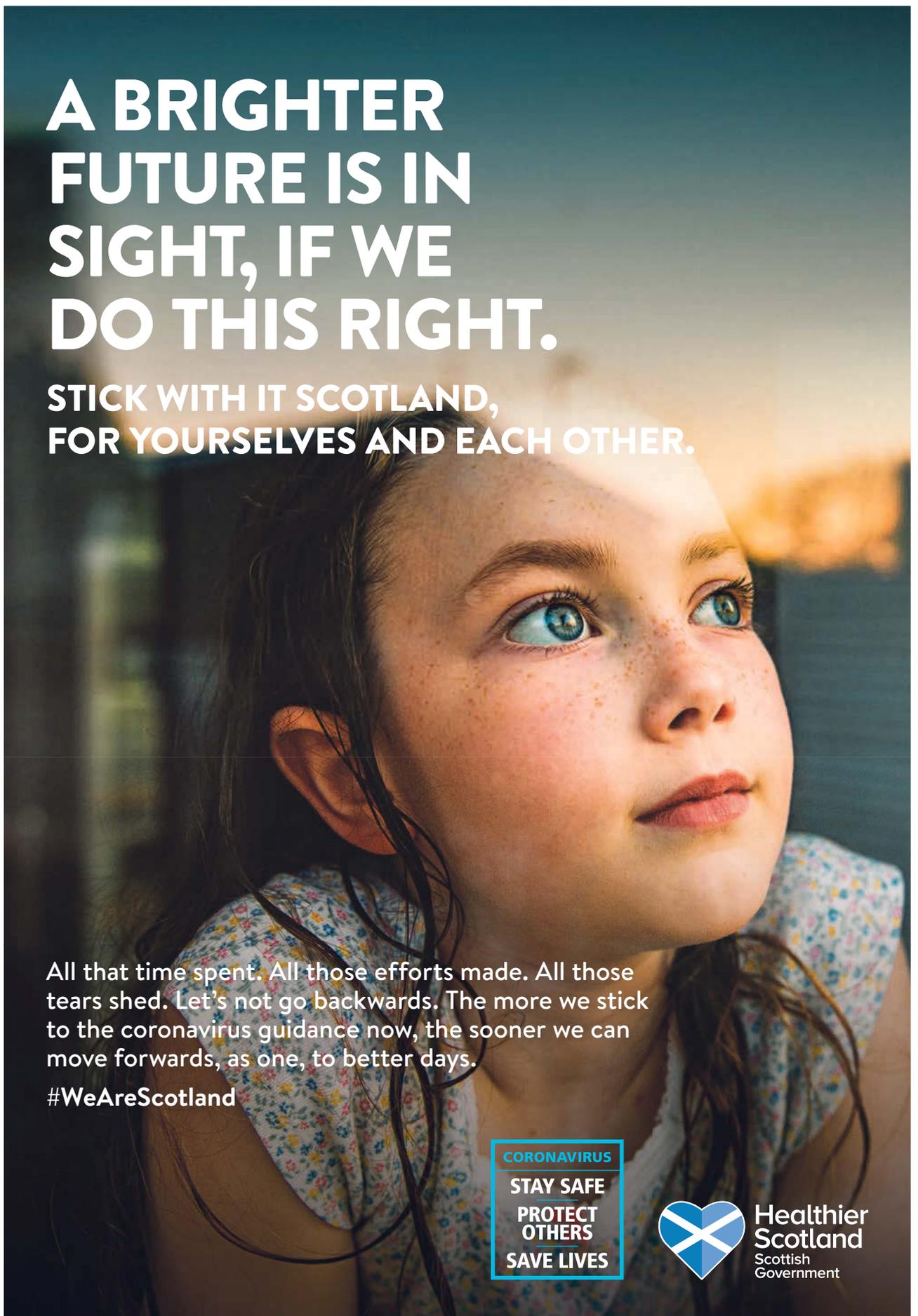
be closed for approximately two weeks. Diversions will be signposted and temporary traffic lights will be in place to ensure the safety of road users.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative said: 'This painting project for the Creagan Bridge on the A828 will allow us to fully recoat the structure helping to ensure it is protected from rust and the elements for years to come.

'We've arranged for the majority of the project to take place beneath the bridge deck meaning minimal impact to trunk road users, however some temporary traffic lights may be in place at certain times to allow safe access to the bridge.

'Teams will do all they can to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible, and we thank motorists and the local community in advance for their patience while we work on these improvements.'

Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland on www.trafficscotland.org, Twitter at [@trafficscotland](https://twitter.com/trafficscotland) or the new mobile site my.trafficscotland.org



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OT

Road safety film features Tyndrum to Appin route

Bikers urged to take extra care when overtaking and approaching bends

The scenic A85 features in the latest instalment of the 'Live Fast Die Old' campaign by Road Safety Scotland.

The fifth film so far is called 'Road to the Isles' and highlights best practice for motorcyclists including overtaking and dealing with bends and unexpected hazards.

The film, featuring the route from Tyndrum along the A85 to Appin on the A828, has been supported by Police Scotland and Scottish biking organisations.

Bends and overtaking continue to be among the riskiest manoeuvres for bikers, according to Road Safety Scotland.

Bends are a factor in more than 20 per cent of reported 'injury accidents' and overtaking accounts for 10 per cent.

Latest figures show a decline in fatalities involving motor-

cyclists compared to previous years.

However, 519 motorcycle casualties were reported in 2019, of which 279, or more than half, suffered serious injuries, while 25 lost their lives.

Michael McDonnell, director of Road Safety Scotland, said: 'The roads are busier at the moment as bikers make the most of what's left of the biking season this year and enjoy the stunning scenery Scotland has to offer.

'We understand the thrill of biking and don't want to take that away, but we want to ensure motorcyclists are practising safe riding habits, especially when overtaking and approaching bends.

'I'd encourage any motorcyclist who is planning to explore Scotland to ride to the conditions and always con-



A scene from motorcycling campaign Live Fast Die Old's latest production Road to the Isles.

sider other roads users. Enjoy the ride, but get home in one piece.'

Live Fast, Die Old ambassador Jayne Tollan said: 'The

Tyndrum to Appin route featured in the new film is absolutely stunning and one of my favourite motorcycling rides.

'I'm delighted to support Live Fast, Die Old and my advice to bikers tackling this route for the first time is to keep an eye out for any unexpected hazards, especially hikers, at this time of year.

'If you're overtaking, ensure your path ahead is clear and check your mirror twice before moving out.

'Finally remember to slow down and take the safest line on the famous bend at Appin.'

Outdoor posters featuring tips for riding bends, overtaking and being prepared for surprises - like sheep - on the road will be displayed at key locations on Scotland's most popular motorcycle routes.

Alternatively, join the conversation about Scotland's breathtaking roads by visiting the Live Fast, Die Old Facebook page.

Warning to watch out for Aiden, Bella, Gavin, Iain...

The Met Office has revealed the list of storm names for the UK, Ireland and Netherlands for winter 2020-21.

First up will be Aiden and the second will be Bella in a list of 21 possible 'storm names' which are designed to warn people before severe weather strikes as it can disrupt property, travel and themselves. Other names include Fleur, Gavin, Iain, Julia and Ravi, along with names provided by Met Eireann, which covers Ireland, and KNMI, the national weather forecaster for the Netherlands.

Will Lang, head of the National Severe Weather Warning Service at the Met Office, said it was now the sixth year of naming storms.

'The impacts from Storm Ciara and Dennis earlier this year are still fresh in many people's minds and although it's too early to anticipate what weather this autumn and winter will bring, we are prepared with a new list of names to help raise awareness of severe weather before it hits.'

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New Oban homes completed

A £15m project delivering 107 new homes in Oban has been completed.

Lockdown and Covid-19 regulations delayed the scheme at Glenshellach opening by four months but it is finished now.

The Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)

development was built in five phases to provide a mixture of flats, semi-detached, detached and terraced houses from big family homes to housing for people with special needs.

It was delivered through a funding partnership of ACHA, the Scottish Government and

Argyll and Bute Council. ACHA's Chief Executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'We are delighted to get over the finishing line with the last 12 properties in our Glenshellach new build completed.'

'This has been ACHA's biggest new build development

in Oban and adds to our housing stock in the town in a way which meets a variety of different needs.'

The new build was completed by MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead and at any one time 70 tradesmen were employed on the project.



ACHA's new homes at Glenshellach.

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Oban is certainly getting its fair share in national press coverage just now, with The Scotsman including a lovely review of Etive Restaurant, while The Telegraph had a piece on The Majestic Line resuming its cruises of the West Coast from Oban.

There have been others over the last few months and it's a great advertisement for the area, promoting the fact that we have fabulous businesses who are open and ready to make people welcome.

One of the best things Oban has to offer, apart from the beauty of the area, is our warm, friendly welcome, we're known for it and with the way things are at the moment I think it's one of the best assets we have.

Covid has meant we have to keep away from everyone and wear masks which hide our expressions and often make it very difficult to read people, so it's important that we try even harder to show people they're both welcome

WHERE IS THIS?



and safe here. This is equally important for locals as many are nervous when the town is so busy, but it is possible to cater for those who want to visit and those who live here with just a little patience.

Joe and I have found that stepping aside to allow people to pass with plenty of room always results in a smile of thanks and it's the same going in and out of shops, people seem to be much more courteous in holding doors and allowing other to enter or leave. Kindness and consideration make a difference. It's not always easy but it's worth remembering that everyone is in the same boat.

The photograph last week was of the beautiful flower baskets at Aulay's Bar and this week's should be easy.

Plans to create more social distancing space in Oban still being discussed

Plans to temporarily move on-street parking in parts of Oban as part of a scheme to introduce one-way traffic and wider pavements across Argyll during Covid are still being discussed, it has been confirmed.

Argyll and Bute Council consulted with residents in July on plans to implement the measures to ensure easier social distancing and encourage cycling in its town centres.

The outcome of that consultation has yet to be made public and the council has yet to announce when - or whether - it intends to put the proposed changes into effect.

As well as for Oban, the proposals put out to public consultation in July includ-

ed temporary changes for Tobermory, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Lochgilphead and Rothesay.

The council received £315,000 from the Spaces for People programme earlier in the summer to implement measures to encourage active travel and to make social distancing easier in town centres.

A council spokesperson said: 'Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Spaces for People consultation. We have analysed the submissions and are now discussing the results with elected members. It's important to do this as quickly as possible, but we also believe it is vital to take the views of residents and businesses into account and get it right.'

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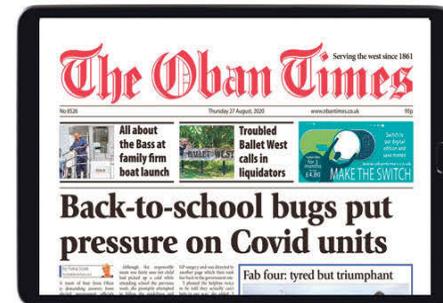
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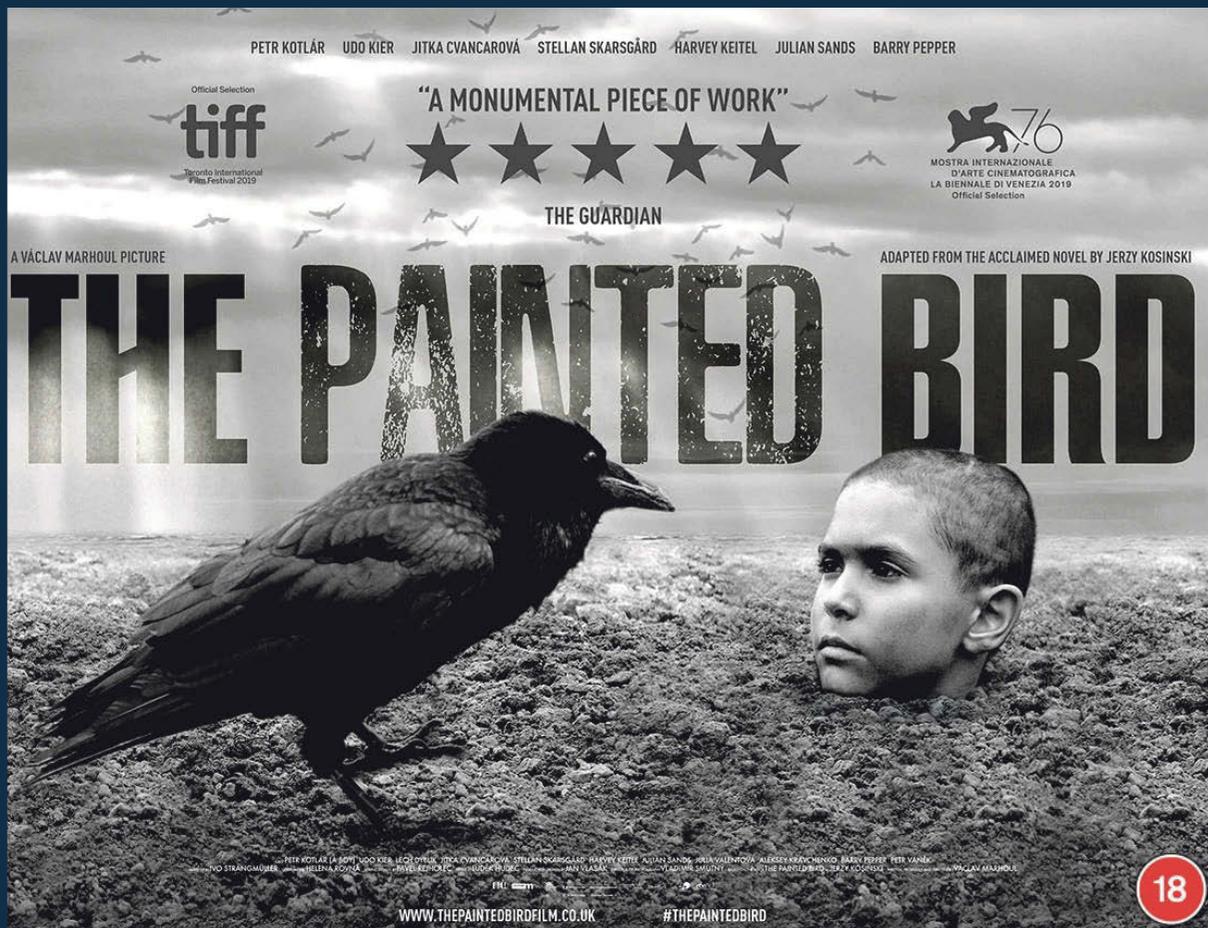


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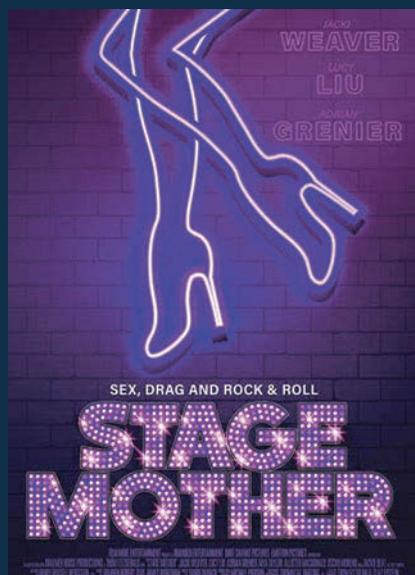


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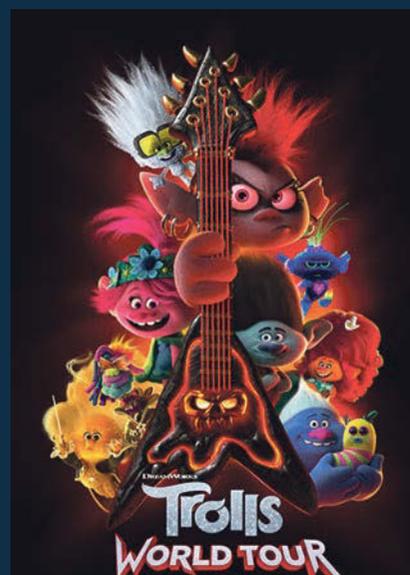
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Landart project goes full circle

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Visitors to Kilmartin's prehistoric landscape can take in a new sight.

Artist Gabi Stuckemeier and friends have painted more than 300 tree stumps to create a large circle in keeping with the rockart from more than 4,000 years ago that makes the area so famous.

The size of the Ormaig Landart Project is 150m x 150m and was well worth the effort climbing up and down the hill with buckets of lime-wash in recent roasting heat, says Gabi whose day job is an occupational therapist at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

The lime whitewash was tinged pink.

'The pink is subtle and will appear almost white when the sun is bright. It will settle the piece nicely back into the green landscape and not jump out,' she said.

While there has been lots of positive feedback, there has been some criticism too.

'It's an outdoor art installation. You can't please everyone. There has been a

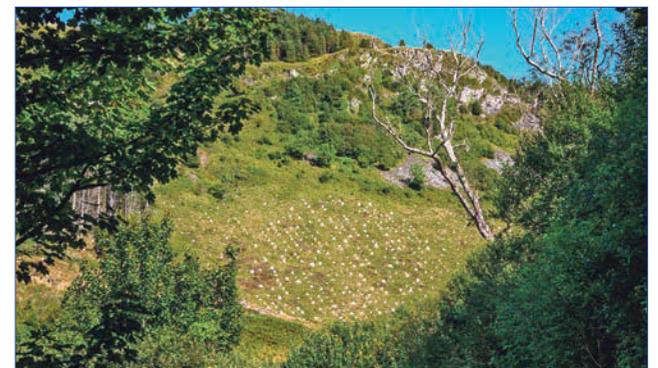


Artist Gabi Stuckemeier limewashing tree stumps as part of the Ormaig Landart Project.

few negative comments about the access road that some have said looks like a scar but that's nothing to do with us. The old access road to the rockart site was slipping into the burn and unsafe so needed replacing.

It's also for deer management. I hope people will come and visit and enjoy seeing the circle and that it will make them smile. The idea is to raise awareness of sites like this one that are a bit out of the way and

not visited as much as other places,' said Gabi. By the end of September, Gabi hopes there will be a short documentary online about the making of the circle. Dr Aaron Watson from Kilmartin Museum is



The full circle of Ormaig Landart Project.

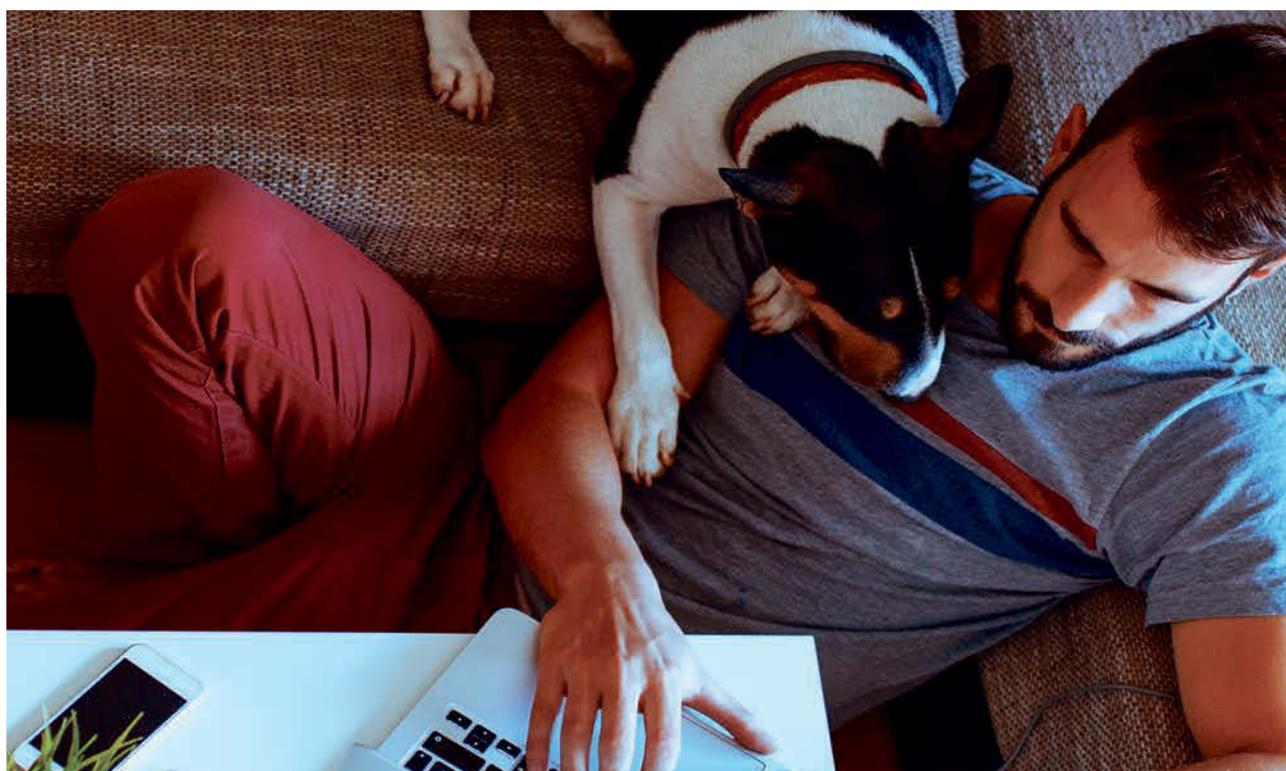
working on it. Bjorn Aaen from Drone Scotland has also taken stunning aerial footage. To see a 360 degree view of the circle go to www.facebook.com/gabriele.stuckemeier

Funding for the project came from Creative Scotland via the National Lottery. There was support from Kilmartin Museum and Forestry and Land Scotland, which owns the land where the trees were already felled.

As visitors walk towards the circle, it will seem like a long stretched oval but once at the rockart site the full circle is revealed, says Gabi. To see the Ormaig Landart

Project, drive along the B816 to Carnasserie Castle car park. Follow the signs towards the castle and cup and ringmark stones. Do not go up to Carnasserie Castle, but leave it to your right and follow the sign posts to Ormaig cup and ring marked stones. Go through the gate across the field, find the footpath and go through another gate. The footpath to Ormaig can be a bit muddy at times so wear sturdy shoes. Make sure you follow Covid 19 guidelines.

To follow Ormaig Landart Project visit links Instagram: [@gstuckemeier](https://www.instagram.com/gstuckemeier) or www.gabrielestuckemeier.com



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Mary's Meals shop in Oban reopens

Oban residents can help feed hungry children around the world by visiting the Mary's Meals shop on Stevenson Street.

The shop has reopened following its temporary closure as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Measures introduced to ensure the safety of customers, volunteers and staff include a 72-hour quarantine period for all donations and clothing which is being steamed.

Mary's Meals was set up to provide nutritious meals at school for children living in some of the world's poorest communities.

Jennifer McMaster, manager of the Oban branch, said: 'By donating unwanted goods and shopping with us in Oban people can make a real difference to the lives of hungry children living around the world.'

'I am so pleased our shop has reopened and look forward to seeing customers again soon.'

To find out more about the work of the charity, visit marysmeals.org.uk

Shinty memory group launches new funding

Shinty Memories Scotland is gearing up to distribute more money to build on work already achieved in shinty-playing areas and offer support for new groups.

Supported by Life Changes Trust, it is hoped this second round of funding will help with the development of the memory groups' work at area level initially but may be specifically linked to individual clubs.

The second round of £5,000 in total, up to a maximum of £1,000 per project, will enable groups to establish their operations, paying for running costs, including transport, venue hire and refreshments, and help them become sustainable.

It can also be used for the production of resources or events to enable Shinty Memories functions to proceed/develop as the Scottish Government allows social interaction to take place following the lifting

of coronavirus restrictions.

The funding cannot be used for what would ordinarily be deemed club running costs. The fund is open to existing memories groups and areas where activities have not yet started. Priority will be given to groups making applications for the first time and those who have not received funding in the previous round.

Previously successful groups may, however, make new applications while being advised of this proviso. Applications to buy large screens will be capped at a maximum of £750.

Applications must be submitted by Thursday October 15 and money must be spent by March 31 2021.

If more than five reasonable applications are made, the awarding committee reserves the right to adjust the maximum available to individual projects. Groups can only make one application in each funding round. The com-



Participants at the inaugural meeting of the Ballachulish shinty memories group.

mittee's decision will be final and successful applicants will be informed of the outcome around November 1 2020. Groups wishing to apply should submit a project plan of no more than one side of A4 paper detailing the aims of the project, method of

delivery, the means of monitoring the project and budget supervision. Submission of a report detailing activities and how the funding was used is a condition of acceptance.

Further information is available from Hugh Dan MacLennan, Secretary, Shinty

Memories Scotland, on 07515 287040 or email hughdan1@hotmail.co.uk. This is also the address to which applications should be made.

Shinty Memories Scotland has been developed under the auspices of Sports Heritage Scotland.



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Lorn Natural History Group zooms in on new way of meeting

Lorn Natural History Group is on the look out for new committee members.

The group has also now replaced all talks and field trips with a series of informal Zoom workshops for paid up members.

LNHG has opened a paid Zoom account that allows it to host online meetings with no time limits, members attending only need a free Zoom account to join in, says the group's chairman Carl Farmer.

The first workshop are likely to be on waxcaps and other fungi of unimproved grasslands. Dates and times are still to be fixed.

'During the workshop we could look at actual fungal specimens, collected by attendees and or by the workshop host. We could also discuss members' photographs. It will

be very experimental as we've never tried anything like this before!' said Mr Farmer.

To help make future plans, members are now being asked to fill out a short questionnaire on the group's Facebook page.

LNHG is also holding its committee meetings on Zoom.

'LNHG members may have been put off joining the committee due to the difficulty of travelling to meetings. With Zoom meetings this is no longer a problem. Even if we do hold a physical meeting, there will be a facility for committee members who cannot attend physically to attend via Zoom.

'With this in mind, if any members would be interested in serving on the committee, please let us know. Committee meetings take place four times a year,' added Mr Farmer.



Air ambulance charity calls for patients' stories

This week the spotlight shines on the UK's 39 helicopter air ambulances as they mark the nationwide Air Ambulance Week (September 7-13).

On average, a charity-funded air ambulance takes to the skies somewhere in the UK every 10 minutes – flying potentially life-saving care to the scene of serious illness or injury.

Here in Scotland, the country's only charity-funded air ambulance service – Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) – has been providing vital emergency pre-hospital care since 2013. Its helicopters, based at Perth and Aberdeen, have responded to thousands of life-threatening emergencies in every corner of Scotland and its many islands, treating patients at scene and rapidly airlifting them to hospital care.

During this week SCAA is reaching out to the patients whose lives the charity has



saved or improved and the many families whose lives have been impacted by the work of the dedicated crews.

The charity's Chief Executive David Craig explained: 'Each and every patient is special to SCAA and their welfare is important to us.

'No one tells of the work we do as powerfully and emotively as our patients. Their often harrowing yet uplifting personal experiences are a testament to the daily life-saving efforts, professionalism and

commitment of our crews as they battle to overcome distance, time constraints, challenging weather, difficult terrain and life-threatening injury and illness.

'These stories are what inspire the people of Scotland to get behind SCAA and fund our flights – their donations are vital to keeping our service in the air and patient stories are key in highlighting why there is that need.'

The theme of this year's UK-wide Air Ambulance Week is

Patients' stories are what inspire the people of Scotland to get behind SCAA.

'because every second counts ...' highlighting the critical impact that the speed of an air ambulance can have on a patient's chances of survival.

In the past year, the service has flown to more serious incidents than ever before and flown more hours to reach those most in need.

'The demands on SCAA's service never go away,' stressed David, 'and the charity's need of funds – particularly in these difficult times – never lessens.

Anyone helped by SCAA in the past who would be willing to consider sharing their story can, as a first step and with no obligation, contact media@scaa.org.uk or telephone SCAA PR on 07778 779888 in confidence.



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OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Drone safety is paramount

With more and more people able to buy relatively inexpensive drones, it is important that the authorities crack down on anyone operating one without permission.

The fact that a drone was spotted just a short distance from the approach to runway one at Oban Airport is of serious concern.

Drones have some fantastic uses, and can be used by operators to take stunning photos of our beautiful scenery, but it is important that everyone operating one does so within the rules and regulations to ensure they are not endangering anyone's safety.

Fundraisers are fab!

The third annual John MacEachen Memorial Trophy golf day was held over Royal Glencruitten Golf Course on Saturday, with local cancer charities again set to benefit from the money raised.

This is a fantastic event played in memory of club member John, and congratulations to the family and golf club for all their hard work to ensure it played off smoothly.

And while we are talking about sporting events for charity, hats off to Ardrishaig cyclist Carol Lawson who is planning to cycle up and back down Glensallach Hill enough times to equal the height of Everest for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of her dad. It sounds like one heck of a challenge, and we wish Carol the best of luck.

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



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

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Good reasons for creating a West Highland Council

There are many reasons to support Councillors Andrew Baxter and Ben Thompson in their calls for smaller local authorities (Lochaber Times 27 August): clearer democratic accountability; policies that better fit the area; flexibility and a more nimble approach to crises.

We see smaller local authorities in other countries working together to gain economies of scale in procurement and these days back-room functions could be shared with staff working from home for more than one employer. Big isn't always better.

Over the decades I have been involved in four campaigns to upgrade the A82. Lochaber councillors have often been unanimous in pressing the Highland Council (and the Highland Regional Council before it) to back action for the A82, only to find the matter on the Roads Committee agenda with their Inverness-based colleagues voting their campaigning priority as: A9 south; A96; A9 north then the A82. The section of the A82 from Tarbet to Fort William also passes through local authorities centred in Stirling and Lochgilphead, so the few local councillors along the length have similarly struggled to gain political backing for campaigns.

By comparison, we see Argyll and Bute Council campaigning vigorously for major improvement at the A83 Rest and be Thankful. We certainly need a West Highland Council.

John C Hutchison, Fort William.

Inverness should have own budget for sake of Highlands

With reference to your lead report in last week's Lochaber Times, I wholeheartedly agree with Councillor Baxter's assertion that the Inverness Council is eating up the finances of the Highlands. For a city expanding at the rate of Inverness not to have its own budget separate from the Highlands seem crazy to me.

Tourism is roughly 10 per cent of Scotland's economy, about £11 billion, in the Highlands it is 30 per cent of our economy and growing, and yet the A9 arterial road to the east is being duelled to Inverness whilst the A82, the main road linking Skye, Kyle, Oban, Fort William, Fort Augustus, and which has some of the most iconic visitor attractions - Loch Lomond, Glencoe and Loch Ness - is a nightmare to travel.

The amount of development in Inverness is truly astounding and we should be pleased about this, but at the same time it hard to see any real development in the rest of the Highlands.

The northern 500 has brought a huge amount

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

'S dòcha gun do mhothaich sibh, air an dàrna latha den t-Sultain, gun robhas a' comharrachadh seachdadh is còig bliadhna bho chaidh crìoch oifigeil air a' chogadh le Iapan a dhainneachadh ann an sgrìobhadh air bòrd an t-soithich-cogaidh Ameireaganach USS Missouri, ann am Bàgh Tokyo. Ged a bha an t-Ìmpire Hirohito air aithris gèillidh a chraoladh air 15 Lùnastal 1945, b' e 2 Sultain an latha air an do chuir riochdairean bho gach dùthaich a bha an dà an aghaidh Iapan an ainmean ris an aonta sìthe.

Bha cogadh na Roinn Eòrpa an aghaidh na Gearmailte air tighinn gu crìch air 8 an Cèitean 1945, agus bha dòchas a-nise air fois feadh an t-saoghail, airson greis co-dhiù. Thòisich a-nise tuigse air nochdadh a thaobh na brùidealachd uabhasach a dh'fhuiling na prìosanaich-cogaidh a bha an grèim, agus air an cleachdadh mar thràillean, aig na Iapanach. Bha an diol a rinneadh air prìosanaich leis a' Ghearmailt agus Iapan borb da-rìribh, agus chailleadh mòran ri linn.

Eadar teaghlaichean mo phàrantan bha sianar fhear aig muir tron chogadh, còignear sa Chabhach Mharsanta agus aon sa Chabhach Rìoghail, agus gu fàbharach thàinig iad uile troimhe beò ged a bha iad tric glè fhaig air an call. Cha robh coimhearsnachd air feadh na dùthcha air nach do dh'fhàg an Dàrna Cogadh

Mòr lot, agus beàrn nach gabhadh leigheas ann am beatha agus eachdraidh ginealaich. Thug a' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan iobairt shònraichte san t-seagh sin, agus sin a dh'fhàg mise cho fortanach gun do thàrr cuideachd m' athar is mo mhàthar às a' bhlàr.

Le maraireachd mar aon de na dreuchdan air an robh Gàidheil agus Eileanaich riamh measail dh'fhàg sin gun robh mòran dhiubh am measg nan 30,248 a chailleadh anns a' Chabhach Mharsanta tron a' chogadh, agus tha cuid den bheachd nach d' fhuair gaisge na seirbheis shìobhalta sin riamh an aithne air an robh i airidh.

Canaidh eòlaichean gu dearbh nach robh Breatann air buannachadh mura b' e na rinn a' Chabhach Mharsanta. Thigeadh dhuinn a bhith moiteil às na maraichean sin uile, ged nach robh iad fhèin idir dualach cus innse mu na chunnaic is na dh'fhuiling iad!

Chunnaic mi cuideachd gur ann air 4 Sultain 1886, a ghèill an ceann-feadhna ainmeil Apache, Geronimo, ris an t-Seanalair Nelson Miles. B' e an cron aig Geronimo gun robh e air ceann an ar-a-mach mòr mu dheireadh aig tùsanaich Ameireagaidh. Nach bu nàdarra gum biodh iad a' stri gus an cuid talmhainn dualach a dhion bho mhèirlich, Ghàidhealach is eile, a bha ga ghoid bhupa!

of new visitors to us but we haven't sufficient budget to give them toilets.

There is something wrong with the balance of funds and for the Highland Council to set up a budget committee that will only meet in private is just wrong.

Ian Sykes, Torcastle, Fort William.

Speeding in Kilmelford

I am writing to the Oban Times, something I rarely do, because I am so concerned about the speeding through the village of Kilmelford.

My letter consists of two parts, both parts applying equally to drivers/riders of motorcycles, cars, motorhomes, vans and trucks.

To the motorists who drive through our village at or about the 30 mph limit I say thank you. To the motorists who persist in driving at speed through our village this part is for you.

There is a large number of you who seem to have difficulty in travelling slowly through

Kilmelford which is actually only 800 metres

long, so from start to finish it would make a difference of about 30 seconds in travel time between driving at either 30 mph or 60 mph.

Whilst very few of you drive at excessive speed through Kilmore, Kilniver, Kilmartin,

Ardfern, Connel, Benderloch or Taynuil, you consider it acceptable to drive at 40, 50, 60 and, on a few occasions, in excess of 60 mph past our homes. You obviously have no regard for the law, our safety, your own safety or that of the many pedestrians on the road or pavement.

You all know the law, and the fact you are breaking it, proven by the occasions when a hi-vis vest is hung in a strategic position or when anyone stands on the pavement in hi-vis you all slow to the limit. You cannot say that you have not seen the signs as, in the 800m of roadway where the speed limit applies, there are 36 road signs, one of which is illuminated, depicting the 30 mph speed limit. If you cannot see that number of signs, to borrow a well know retail phrase, 'you should have gone to Specsavers' and you

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should consider whether you are safe to drive at all. I hope I do not see any replies to this letter trying to justify exceeding the speed limit as there is no justification unless you are a member of a Blue Light service on the way to an incident.

PLEASE STOP SPEEDING THROUGH OUR VILLAGE. Have some consideration for the people in Kilmelford, behave like responsible motorists and abide by the law.

David Millward, Kilmelford.

Closures are so 18th century

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought we lived in the 21st century, not the 18th!

Closing public toilets is a disgusting proposal on so many levels. Oban, and the rest of Argyll, is an all-year-round tourist destination, not just a summer one, and they expect certain facilities, of which toilets are one.

With regards to toilets in 'commutable distance', which ones are nearest the one at Ganavan when it is closed? The nearest to the North Pier if they are closed? If you are on foot, or have young children, or have a medical condition like Chron's disease, this is simply not acceptable.

It wasn't said, but I get the feeling that the council thinks visitors will be able to use the facilities in hotels and businesses. Do they think these businesses would be happy to have people traipsing in, then out again if they don't stay there or purchase items?

The alternative is people either soiling themselves, relieving themselves in public spaces, or stop visiting the area altogether, which would not do the local economy any favours. Instead of closing toilets, more should be provided.

I'm a regular visitor to Oban and I have mobility issues, and yes, when I have to go, I have to go! Oban is wonderful wee town, but it'll become nothing more than an open latrine if these proposals happen.

Mr R Jackson, by email.

Paradox of virus

The paradox of this virus is that many politicians and others with a commercial and monetary interest in opening up our communities to the tourist industry seem to have taken the risk of spreading the virus deep into the rural communities of the Highlands and Islands.

From playing safe for three months, they now see fit for many, many thousands of visitors from areas in the UK to visit.

The virus almost certainly will manifest its presence in communities where the February to July cases were almost non-existent.

Graham Noble, Kinlochail.

DISTRICT NEWS



This street light has been repaired with a rusty panel and tape.



Weedkilling by the council overshot the mark, says councillor Alastair Redman.

Repairs subpar, says Redman

Excessive use of weedkiller by council workers on a grassy patch used by Islay footballers has overshot the goal.

Kintyre and Islands councillor Alastair Redman took the complaint to Argyll and Bute Council's roads department after people living at Cnoc-na-Faire in the village of Port Ellen raised concerns.

Weedkilling has damaged areas of the green area, destroying some of the grass and Councillor Redman said he was disappointed to be told the council has no intention of reseeding it.

Councillor Redman said the area well-maintained and litter free by people living near it was now left with 'messy' edges that were out-of-keeping with the otherwise tidy area.

In a response the council said it was customary for operatives to spray in a band in such an area as it impedes the encroachment of weeds.

'We will not be reseeding this area as we have followed our procedures,' it said.

Councillor Redman also con-

tacted the roads department about 'a great deal of damaged street lighting' he spotted during his visit to Cnoc-na-Faire.

'After contacting our hard-working roads department through member services, I was pleased to hear back from them so promptly. I was also delighted that many repairs had taken place. However I was very disappointed that some of the repairs that had been done were, in the opinion of many of my local constituents, rather subpar.

'One street light that had a missing access panel when I reported the issue now has an access panel that has been attached, however the only problem is that it has a large hole in it with numerous cables exposed to the elements,' he said.

And said he was worried it could be a danger to children.

'While our roads department and it's hardworking front line workers are at times between a rock and hard place when having to deal with an increasing workload with limited resources, I think on this occasion we could do better,' he said.

New funding will help keep Argyll homes warm and cost-savvy

Householders across Oban and Argyll have the chance to be cosier and save money thanks to council funding from the Scottish Government.

Argyll and Bute Council has been awarded £1,673,832 to help residents make energy efficiency improvements to their properties, including external/internal wall insulation, underfloor insulation, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation.

The programme is available to owner occupiers and private rented householders living in properties in Council Tax Bands A, B and C.

Council Tax Band D properties are eligible if they have an energy rating of E, F or G; and householders on islands who live in properties in Council Tax B and E to H can also apply if they have an energy rating of E, F or G.

The 2020/21 programme can also offer an uplifted grant of up to £14,000 to householders who meet certain criteria to be considered in extreme fuel poverty.

People can have your energy ratings estimated by contacting Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

All works are carried out in line with current Covid-19 guidelines as set out by the Scottish Government and guidelines will be continually monitored in line with any future government guidance.

Policy lead for housing, roads and infrastructure services, Councillor Robin Currie, said: 'Many hundreds of people in Argyll and Bute have already taken advantage of these insulation grants to make their homes warmer and save money on fuel costs.

'The scheme will have a long lasting benefit for households, helping to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emission - playing a part in creating a climate friendly Argyll and Bute. I would urge people to make the most of this opportunity and sign up while they can.'

The scheme contributes towards the Scottish Government's targets of alleviating fuel poverty and of achieving net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045.

It also contributes towards the Local Housing Strategy's aim to improve the overall quality and condition of housing.

In order to register for the programme, householders should contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282. Home Energy Scotland is the national advice line for energy advice and has access to all Scottish Government funded energy efficiency programmes.

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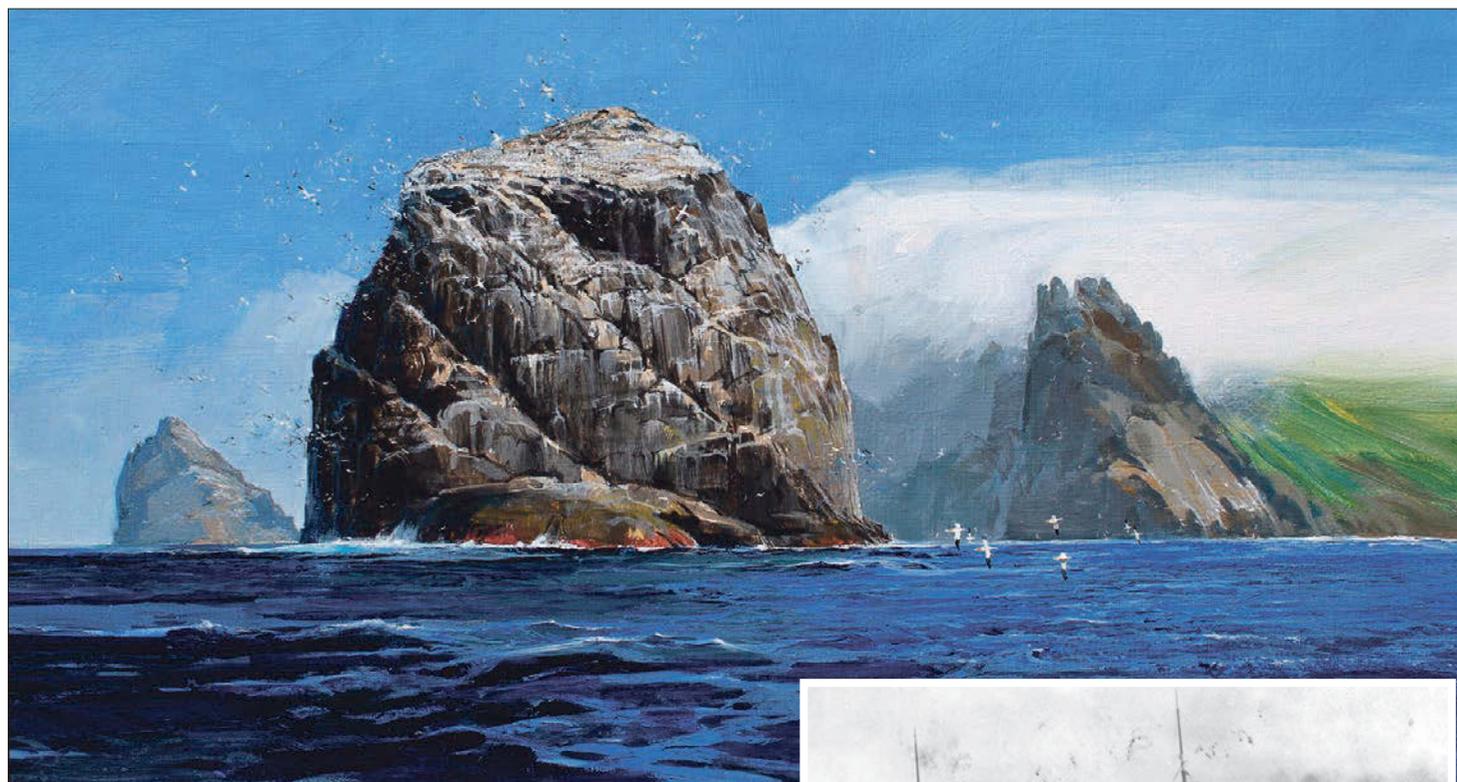
This week we continue Iain Thornber's extracts from the *Oban Times* 1930, throwing new light on St Kilda before and after it was abandoned. This extract is taken from a forthcoming book on the subject.

August 1930: The first stage of the evacuation of St Kilda was undertaken last week.

Six hundred and sixty-six sheep were taken from the island and brought by the SS Dunara Castle to Oban where they will be shortly sold. The public interest in the St Kildans is great. When it was known that the Dunara Castle was bringing sheep – only sheep – from the island, hundreds of Oban people and visitors crowded on the Railway Pier on Wednesday night for the arrival of the strangers. It was pathetic to see the poor creatures hustled off the steamer and passed at once among the strange objects of a railway quay. But the disembarkation was dexterously accomplished, and the sheep were taken to parks outside Oban, where they got the feeding which they required after their voyage, particularly those which had been penned in the field in front of the manse before the steamer arrived.

The Dunara Castle made a record trip in time. She left St Kilda at 7.15 in the morning and reached Oban at 10.10pm. It is seldom that Oban and St Kilda have been both seen in the daylight of one day. But the fact that it can be done should be stated, in view of the somewhat hazy knowledge which exists regarding the so-called isolation of the island.

The flocks which have been first transported were comparatively easy to gather. They were those found about the village and the sides of Connachair and Oiseval. But all the same, the two experienced shepherds, D Clark and A MacLaren, from Messrs Corson, Oban, had to receive assistance from the natives. It has to be borne in mind in regard to manpower that there are very few young and active men left on the island. The St Kilda sheep have ways of their own and did not take kindly to the attention of the collies from the mainland. The sheep could not understand why they should leave the island, and a good deal of force had to be used to get them down the slips and into the



Above, Stac Armin and Boreray from a painting by Alan Hyaman, Morvern (Resipole Galleries, Sunart); right, SS Dunara Castle, which transported the St Kilda sheep and cattle to Oban. Photograph supplied by Iain Thornber; and far right, the Soay sheep on St Kilda are believed to be the direct descendants of the first sheep brought to St Kilda, possibly by Neolithic farmers over 1,000 years ago and are probably the most studied and researched animals in Europe. The yellow tags, which are put on at birth, allows scientists to follow each animal throughout its life. Photograph by William Cameron.



boats, thence into the Dunara Castle. The work was done in the dark, which did not make it easier for shepherd or sheep. The Department of Agriculture, which was represented by Mr Stewart, sent a motor launch with the Dunara Castle which greatly assisted the embarkation. The launch is to remain until the complete clearance is affected.

There still remains some hundreds of sheep on the more inaccessible parts of the little groups of islands which are known to us under the one name, St Kilda. In Boreray it is not a case of rounding up the flock as is done elsewhere. Each sheep is caught separately. The sheep wanted is pointed out to the dog, who runs to it, seizes it by the throat and turns it on its back, where it lies held and inactive until the shepherd arrives.

The method may appear cruel, but the teeth of the St Kilda sheep dogs are filed down, so that there is no wounding, and the dog by training performs the operation speedily. The removal of a sheep from the rocks and precipices is a perilous task, but the danger is as little to the St Kildan.

It is certain that all sheep will not be captured. A number will be left either to revert to a savage state or starve. The Reverend Kenneth Macaulay, who visited the island about the middle of the 18th century, wrote of the difficulty of capturing the sheep then on that isle: The ragged face of Boreray makes it very difficult to catch the sheep, either to shear or bring them to Hirta. To pursue each wild creature through declivities terminated by the deep or into the shelves of

vast rocks, is undoubtedly an adventure, no less perilous than bold. The St Kildans are perhaps the only men in the universe equal to it, and should any one fancy that their amazing intrepidity on such occasions must be resolved into necessity, the rage of hunger or the dread of absolute power, he must permit me to think and affirm, that the love of glory is in many cases the great and only spring of these desperate enterprises. In St Kilda, feats of this kind are deemed heroic actions, and no less so, that to mount a breach, or march up to the mouth of a cannon elsewhere.

I am persuaded there are thousands who would sooner encounter an armed enemy, and face all the dangers and horrors of war, than attack the very sheep of Hirta, in these hideous



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 10, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.43	1.8	09.55	3.1
	16.36	2.0	22.27	2.9
Fri	05.45	2.0	10.58	2.9
	18.09	2.2	** ** *	** *
Sat	01.31	2.8	07.02	1.9
	14.02	2.9	19.47	2.1
Sun	03.00	3.0	08.18	1.8
	15.12	3.1	21.26	1.8
Mon	03.48	3.2	09.21	1.4
	15.55	3.5	22.18	1.4
Tues	04.29	3.5	10.11	1.1
	16.33	3.8	23.00	1.0
Wed	05.05	3.7	10.54	0.7
	17.10	4.1	23.38	0.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriahig	-5.35	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Lochboisdale	+0.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Mallaig	+0.25	Dover	+5.30

WEATHER

THURSDAY

Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.

FRIDAY

Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK

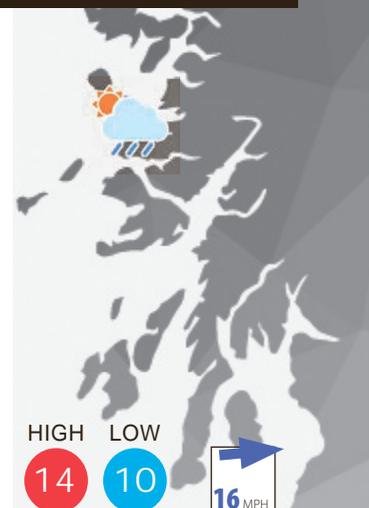
Saturday

Heavy rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Sunday

Light rain and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST



clearance: part 6



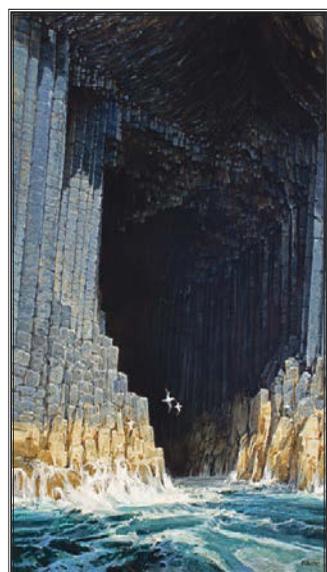
fastnesses into which they very often make their retreat. The old rams, if chased into dangerous positions and heated into a passion, turn sometimes desperately fierce: reduced to the necessity of yielding or tumbling over a precipice into the sea, they face about and attack the pursuers.

'The Fishery Cruiser, Harebell, which has been commissioned to remove the first contingent of the natives of St Kilda, left Aberdeen on Tuesday to proceed to the island. It is said that 15 men, 15 women, and a number of children will be taken by the vessel and landed at Oban.

'It appears now, to be definitely arranged, that the St Kildans are to be settled in Morvern, on the mainland of Argyll. Five families are due to arrive there at the end of August. In the first instance they will be accommodated in five of the empty houses recently purchased by the Forestry Board with the Fiunary (sic) Estate. They will in consequence live at a considerable distance from one another, as the houses mentioned are far apart, viz., Savary, Achnaha, Ardness, Larachbeg and the village of Lochaline. It is believed that this is only a temporary arrangement and that the whole colony will be transferred to Larachbeg at the Martinmas Term, where they

will form one community as before. Readers of Kidnapped will remember that Alan Breck passed a somewhat troubled night in the Change House at Larachbeg [actually Kinlochaline] in the course of his wanderings. The houses destined for the islanders are in one large block of building and are well equipped with modern conveniences – hot and cold water, cooking ranges, etc., There are flower gardens in front and vegetable gardens behind the block, which is flanked by plantations of fir and spruce, and looks down on the valley of the Aline with its green crops and ripening corn. Doubtless the migrants will find everything very bewildering at first, and it is feared that they will not easily adapt themselves to their new and strange surroundings – three miles from the sea.

'There is one more opportunity to see St Kilda before the historic de-peopling. Messrs MacCallum Orme & Co are sending the Hebrides on a final cruise, leaving Glasgow on the 28th of this month. The round fare is £10, and application should be made early to the Oban agent, Captain Duncan MacDougall, Albany Street, or to the Offices of the Company, 45 Union Street, Glasgow.'



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alan b hayman | journey to st kilda

During 2019, Scottish wildlife and landscape artist Alan B Hayman made the long journey by sea to the remote archipelago of St Kilda, forty miles west of the Outer Hebrides. The paintings on display in this solo exhibition are inspired by this voyage, the many hours spent at sea, and the wildlife and breathtaking landscape he witnessed along the way.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Rockfield youngsters learn lessons from the past

Following our photograph a couple of weeks ago, Margaret Glenstruan got in touch to give us details of what was going on.

She said: 'The photo was taken in 1990s and shows P7 children from Rockfield School.

'We had been learning about the Second World War. At the end of the project we arranged to 'evacuate' the children. We were the first school to do this: a few others followed equally successfully.

'The parents were informed but agreed not to tell the children what was happening. We were dressed in appropriate clothes, wore labels and carried our gas masks. We travelled to Connel by bus. While waiting to board the train we said 'The Lord's Prayer and sang God Save the King.

'While on the train the children pretended they were from the city and one asked me, "What ar those white things?" – sheep.

'We were approached by two ladies who were coming to Oban as they had been evacuated here during the war and had remained friends since. One had since emigrated to

Australia, but whenever she came back they both came to Oban. They agreed to come into school and speak to the children.

'When we arrived in Oban we were met by an ARP warden, Mr James Anderson, a well-known local lawyer. He guided us to Rockfield where we were met by the headteacher, Mr Alistair Clark. He told the children he hoped they would behave.

'The children were then given lunch of bread and jam (no butter) and tea (no sugar)!

'After lunch the children were taken to the hall, still carrying their gas masks. First members of the public came and chose an evacuee to house. Then the two ladies came and told the children of their experiences as evacuees in Oban. I am please to say they had positive times.

'The project finished later that week with a VE day party.

'All the children seemed to love the "evacuation".

'The teacher on the right of the photo is Mrs Sheila Gunn and she is standing next to the "ARP Warden". I am on the left.'

BUSINESS NEWS

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£3M to aid tourism recover in Highlands and Islands

Three million pounds is going to be invested across the Highlands and Islands over the next three years to support tourism recovery.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Agency has committed to ring-fencing the money to support 'destination management organisations' or DMOs.

DMOs are formal membership organisations representing local tourism providers, such as the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative. Although 'strategically important' DMOs would be targeted, said HIE, with help towards collaboration projects, member representation and networking, as well as community engagement and support and the responsible management of destinations.

The role of DMOs could prove 'pivotal' going forward yet they regularly faced issues trying to secure operational funding, which has been exacerbated by the loss of commercial revenue, a spokesperson for HIE said.

VisitScotland and the Scottish Government have helped provide funding in the interim.

The HIE funding will help make sure DMOS are 'sufficiently resourced' to help in the recovery of tourism across the Highlands and Islands.

Carroll Buxton, HIE's deputy chief executive, said: 'DMOs provide valuable co-ordinated support for the sector, tailored to the specific needs of their areas. It's clear that the industry will become even more reliant on these groups as we progress through the recovery stages.'

'We look forward to working with all our partners to achieve a successful and sustainable recovery of our tourism sector.'

Tourism secretary Fergus Ewing said a safe and strong recovery would be key to the future success of Scotland and it had worked closely with HIE to minimise the impact of the pandemic, adding: 'Recovery will be slow, but I very much welcome the announcement by HIE, as will, I am sure, those organisations and communities on which our tourism sector depends.'

Rallying cry for Oban business meeting

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Business Club – which was set up virtually during lockdown – is planning its inaugural meeting later this month.

Business leaders have been invited to a summit at The View on George Street on September 17 after informal conversations over the summer.

The free club has managed to draw 65 members so far and the entertainment venue can accommodate up to 80 people with social distancing respected.

Organiser Daniel MacIntyre explained that a decision on the meeting capacity would be made following rulings from the Scottish Government over indoor events.

Mr MacIntyre, of the Little Bay Trading Company, said the first meeting was a big step forward.

He said: 'We are going to have to start coming together to start planning our response to recovery, we have to collaborate and we have to get to know one another.'

As for the agenda, members will be given a chance to introduce themselves, their business and background.

How Oban responds for a winter with many unknowns is likely to take centre stage for discussion.

The platform will also be open for updates from organisations including BID4Oban and Women In Business.

Mr MacIntyre said it was important that the club did not duplicate effort or over-rely or passing responsibility onto established organisations, including the Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance, or Argyll and Bute Council.

He said: 'The meeting will be very open and we will discuss how we can structure this group, how can we all work to support each other because it is not about selling to each other – it's about moving our business com-



Daniel MacIntyre of The View is inviting business leaders to the summit which will take place on September 17.

munity forward and how we market the area, make football busier and reduce unemployment.'

Businesses are well aware that trading tends to tail off between October and March.

Mr MacIntyre said it was the equivalent of 'two winters' and there remained uncertainty around local lockdowns and the impact of lockdowns elsewhere in Scotland nullifying the 'staycation' market who might have headed to Oban.

'Regardless of what people say we are a season-

al town,' he said. 'When you don't have events on and things to do and there's going to be no winter festival and no furlough, we are entering an abyss and there are so many unknowns.'

'We've got good people in the town and have got the capabilities in the town - let's make sure all the effort is aligned and we have the right people doing the right things and not pulling in different directions.'

'We need to be smart because we can't throw money at things. We are all going to have to step up to the plate.'

To sign up to the club, visit www.obanview.com/meetings/oban-business-club/



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BUSINESS NEWS

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Building A Great Business

ANGUS MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

In the final part of our series, Fort William businessman Angus MacDonald offers advice on starting your own company, and why it is quite possible to build a valuable business in the West Highlands.

What can be done to stimulate West Highland economy?

Why do we have so few companies that have reached critical mass and make a real difference to our towns and villages? Why do we not have the clusters of sound, long-standing businesses that generate fantastic well-paid jobs?

My definition of a good company is one with £2million-plus in sales, has been around for a decade, has a high-quality product and employs a dozen people. A great company would be anything over £5 million.

At that scale you should have critical mass, be nicely profitable and making a real difference to the economic state of your community overall. If you have a shop doing well in Oban, then open one in Pitlochry and Fort William. If you have two salespeople, employ another two. Get going, scale pays off.

We are hugely reliant on the tourist industry and 2020 will be remembered as the year when so many of our businesses were nearly wiped out. Only now after a good August and the prospect of staycations over the autumn are our hospitality and retailers starting to smile again. Local shops are doing good business.

Quality pays. We need to raise our game in the hospitality market. Frankly our hotels are too down market, many shops sell Far East made tartan tat that makes me cringe, and our high streets would benefit from a makeover. We need to encourage the higher-spending visitor to come and stay awhile, especially off-season.

The Festival Theatre does a great job for Pitlochry; the Spirit of Whisky Festival on Speyside and Borders Book Festival in Melrose are prime examples of what can be done.

We cannot rely on local or Scottish Government funding, as Gordon Brown's Chief Secretary to the Treasury famously wrote to his successor in 2010, 'There is no money.'



Many young entrepreneurs will launch out on their own having learned valuable skills of an industry from the ground up.

It is our business and community leaders, working alongside Chambers of Commerce, Bid teams, Town Teams etc., that will have to work from the bottom up to improve our offering, build up festivals and events, and stimulate energy and proactivity in our communities. There are people in every community from Campbeltown to Invergarry who can gather folk together and form business hubs, invite guest speakers and help entrepreneurship get going.

People say to me, 'But I've got no time'. The average person in Britain spends three hours 23 minutes per day looking at their phone. You have the time, it's how you choose to use it.

Enterprise should start at a very young age. If your parents or their friends have their own successful business then you are far more likely to become an entrepreneur. Should you have good internet – a big if in the highlands – building a tech company is quite possible from up the glen.

Mark Logan the former Chief Operating Officer of £1billion Scottish company Skyscanner, was given the task by Kate Forbes of finding a way of improving the link from Scotland's economic potential to a reality that could grow the economy. His bruising report displayed the lack of teaching at schools and

universities of computer science and business.

In Scotland there is a £2,000 difference per person between our tax take and expenditure, that is £8,000 per average family. That will change, a smaller public sector and higher taxes are certain.

If we love our communities then we will need to start making things better for others and not waiting for a council employee to do it – everything from helping start a business club to visiting the infirm and volunteering to help keep our towns and villages litter free and beautiful. People power is the answer. I strongly believe if you are successful, in whatever field, you have a responsibility to mentor the young, to invest locally and support local causes.

To make the West Highland wealthier and more vibrant, we need to do the same with business that we do with music. Being a great fiddler or piper is rightly celebrated. Music is in our bones on the west, taught at a young age through school, Feis's, concerts and competitions. If we had business clubs, if there was a real focus on business and computing at school, if business success was celebrated then we could make a real difference to the wealth of our people and communities.

MSP hails new jobs and training plan

A Highlands and Islands MSP has backed the newly-launched Programme for Government.

Maree Todd, SNP, welcomed a package of measures announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Tuesday: 'The SNP government has made it its mission to create new jobs right here in the Highlands and Islands.'

'This is a Programme for Government that protects people's livelihoods, guarantees opportunities for all our young people and points the way to a future with better, greener jobs as Scotland looks to becoming a net-zero country. We can't simply go back to how things were – we have an opportunity to build back a fairer and better Scotland.'

The government published a 139-page document setting out how Scotland makes an economic recovery from the pandemic.

Mrs Sturgeon said: 'This Programme for Government is based on our strong belief that in recovering from this virus it must not be business as usual.'

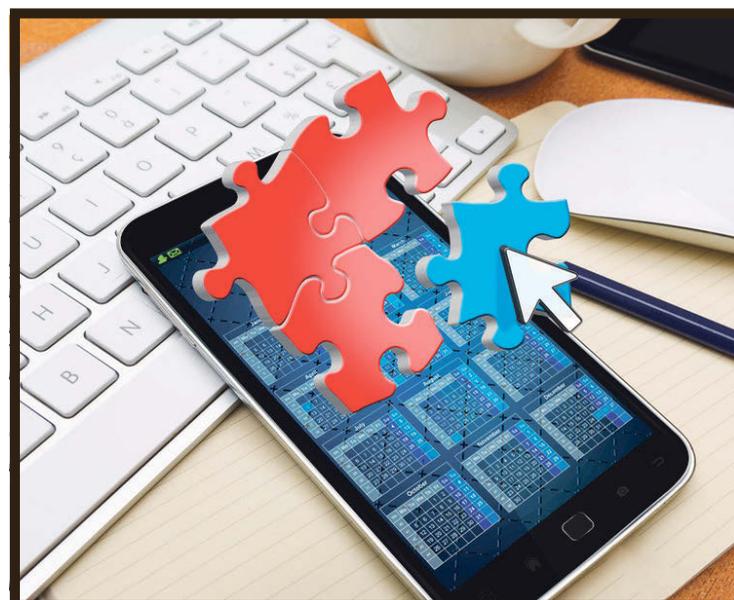
The Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party called it a pitch for independence and also published a 'Power Up Scotland' report that sets out emergency measures for the next 12 months and long-term strategic goals.

Donald Cameron, Conservative MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said: 'At long last we have a series of proposals that recognise that regions like the Highlands and Islands have different needs from the central belt.'

Under the commitments in the programme, all 16-to-24-year-olds will be 'guaranteed' a job, education, apprenticeship or formal training through a new £60 million Youth Guarantee scheme, and by this autumn, a £100 million Green Jobs fund will be launched to help up to 10,000 people of all ages retrain for jobs in growth sectors such as renewables.

Later this year a new £10 million Tenants Hardship Fund will open to offer interest-free loans to those unable to access other forms of support for housing costs. In addition, a comprehensive independent review of adult social care has been promised.

To see the document in full visit www.gov.scot/publications



Wylie & Bisset giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through the Coronavirus post lock down

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Go Naked Veg

The customer is always right and listening to what the great Oban public had to say about what kind of new business would sell well in the area, has seen Go Naked Veg grow and grow since it took root earlier this year.

The healthy response has heartened plastic waste warriors and Dunbeg couple Catriona Currie and Graeme West who are the driving force behind the home grown online delivery business dropping off weekly supplies of organic fruit and veg to doorsteps across Oban and out as far as Bridge of Orchy, Kilmelford and, more recently, over on Mull.

Even Covid did not stunt Go Naked Veg's growth, restrictions saw more people rely on the service for wholesome supplies, establishing a good customer base who are still loyally putting in their orders after lockdown, says Graeme and their support is very much appreciated as the business looks to the future.

Go Naked Veg moves with the seasons and is evolving organically, taking on more ideas of what customers wants to see in their weekly deliveries.

Staying organic is top of the list but Catriona and Graeme are continually seeking out more local producers to cut the produce miles.

Keeping it local and nearer to home is one of the big priorities for the pair who are working hard to see even more Scottish produce on the website.

Many of their customers grow their own produce and when the season is in peak, there might be the possibility of tapping into some of their surplus, says Graeme as part of the grand scheme.

'Going forward a lot of our customers are keen to reduce food mileage. We will



Catriona Currie and Graeme West established a good customer base during restrictions as people wanted deliveries of good wholesome supplies.

always stay organic but we're picking up from customers that the need for organic does not seem to be as important as local produce, most of those local products are organic any way.

'We're hoping maybe next year to introduce surplus for sale from some of those home growers,' he said.

Cheese and biscuits from Mull, bread baked daily from Easdale, honey from bees feeding on Highland heather, milk and luxury ice cream from Gigha, duck eggs from Dalavich and botanical body treatments from Barcaldine are just some of what is available to order, as well as all the plastic-free fruit and veg, includ-

ing Scottish kale and leeks right now. Go Naked Veg is still registered from Graeme and Catriona's home but they have taken on a unit on the Lochavullin estate to run it from with their two recognisable vans.

Pick and mix made-to-order or a choice of set vegetables, salad and fruit boxes come in reusable boxes. Cleaning products in reusable and re-fillable glass bottles are also available and other handy essentials such as bamboo toothbrushes and paper straws as part of Go Naked Veg's commitment to helping heal the planet.

Orders ready to pick up can also be arranged.

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Oban Fish and Chip Shop



Lillian Hutchison is pictured with Linford Christie, left, and Rosemary Shrager, right. Both thoroughly enjoyed tucking into their takeaways at the Oban Fish and Chip Shop.

Oban Fish and Chip Shop is no stranger to celebrities.

The family-run chippy in George Street is as popular with stars of screen and stage as well as the thousands of Obanites and tourists who come through its doors to get a taste of the finest fish the sea can offer.

TV chef Rick Stein visited while he was filming his Food Heroes programme for the BBC in 2002, and said it was the best fish and chips he had ever tasted! Just last month, five more celebrities rocked up to film a new show for Channel 5 to be aired in January.

Among the big known names who tucked into a fish feast for the cameras was comedian Les Dennis, gold medal athlete Linford Christie, British chef Rosemary Shrager and Boyzone singer Shane Lynch.

Lillian Hutchison whose son Lewis heads up the business and is main fishfryer with his uncle Sammy said the hungry celebs ordered lots from the speciality board and managed to enjoy it – only taking a break from forkfuls to sign autographs.

‘We had to do three takes of them coming in and ordering what they wanted before they

could tuck in! They caused quite a stir with our customers. Linford Christie is a giant of man so he was hard to miss. ‘Rosemary was lovely, such a bubbly person. We had great fun,’ said Lillian, whose family have had the shop since 2002.

Fish from the freshest catches comes in daily via Oban fishmongers Watt & Son – specialities on the menu that make the shop stand out from the others include Isle of Mull scallops, local sole, seabass and king prawns. Another firm favourite when available is turbot.

Haddock and cod comes

from a little further away and all the fish is cooked to order, battered or breaded and fried in heart-healthy rapeseed oil. Watch out for the potato fritters that will be coming back on the menu soon.

With customers’ and staff safety a priority during Covid, hopes are to reopen the restaurant at the back of the shop soon.

For now only takeaways are on the menu. Although you can’t sit in, the view across Oban Bay just a short stroll away is definitely one to savour – almost as much as the take-away itself.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Lottery players ensure that Bookends' pages keep turning

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



National Lottery funding has helped secure the next exciting chapter of Benderloch's Bookends Festival.

Covid meant the festival, now in its fifth year and planned across a couple of weeks of September and October, had to be put back on the shelf, but news of new community funding means organisers will be able to carry on with lined-up authors and storytellers' events once it is safe to do so.

Thanks to National Lottery players the £1,825 award means Bookends can also hold even more of its regular pop-up sessions at the Victory Halls to help beat rural isolation, says Bookends co-founder Joy Cameron.

Bookends is one of 257 projects across Scotland to



benefit from the latest round of funding announced this week.

Joy said: 'This will mean we can open The Reading Room in time and welcome back locals and visitors to enjoy the comforts Bookends pop-up days bring to so many. We'll also be able to fund the au-

thors and storytellers we had booked for this year's festival to still come.'

Among those who will be heading for Benderloch, either sometime later this year or next, are storyteller Sally Kohler and author, playwright and performer Alan Bissett

Bookends friends and trustees were forced to cancel the annual festival due to Covid, but thanks to Lottery cash plans are pushing ahead for events throughout the coming year.

with his partner Kirsty Innes, who has just released her new novel Scabby Queen.

'The festival will happen with the same highlights but spread over the year rather than across a couple of weeks,' said Joy.

'Poet and author Ken Steven will also be bringing readings of his marvellous and varied works for adults and children to the Reading Room, and we'll celebrate Marram, an astonishing first book by Leonie Charleton who is a regular visitor with her short stories.'

'As well as these celebrated artists we have a line up of local

writers, you'll be astonished at the skills and creativity within North Argyll, and delighted about what they have to share with you,' Joy added.

Donations of books to Bookends will start up again once the Reading Room opens. The book box at Barcaldine will be out again soon and there are plans to open up points along the Sustrans cycle route that passes through Benderloch.

'We hope that you can still borrow books from the various points where Bookenders strive to leave a varied collection. We are unable to take book donations at the moment but if you can hang onto them until we have access to the Reading Room once more we'll be happy to take them then. Many of our volunteers have been keeping folks bookshelves filled by sharing books

from their own collections during lockdown.'

Bookends Benderloch is partnering up with the Borders Book Festival and Islay Book by sharing links for their digital events on its Facebook page, to spread the word and share online author talks and interviews.

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland chairperson Kate Still said: 'In these uncertain times our priority is to ensure that National Lottery money continues to flow to charities, voluntary sector organisations and grassroots groups. I would like to congratulate Bookends on their award, theirs is an important project and will support people now and in the future when they can physically come back together to make great things happen in their community.'



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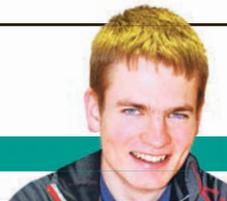
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Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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New Gaelic Virtual Festival Announced

Over the last few months, I have used this column to display some of the different ways musicians and other performers are adapting to the post-covid world.

As the music world gets used to virtual festivals and gatherings, and live performances from living rooms, Hands Up For Trad has announced a new and exciting virtual festival – coming to our screens from September 18-20.

Tional, meaning Gathering, will be presented by Connel's Joy Dunlop. Its unique selling point is that it will be almost entirely in Gaelic. With funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Covid-19 support fund, the festival aims to encourage Gaelic speakers and learners alike to use and celebrate the language.

A whole host of household Gaelic names will take part in live gigs and workshops across YouTube and Facebook. I include the running order at the end of this column.

Virtual Mòd coming up next month

While it's very encouraging to see

brand new events appear in these challenging times, it is also great to see long-standing events going ahead in virtual capacities.

Last week, I wrote about the success of the virtual Cowal Gathering. This week, I'd like to mention the Royal National Mòd – which will happen virtually between October 9-17. Since it's inception in 1891,

An Comunn Gàidhealach will no doubt have had to deal with all sorts of different circumstances through the generations; but I think it's fair to say that 2020 will most certainly be the first virtual Mòd!

While everyone will miss out on the craic and the chance to meet up that we look forward to each year; it is nevertheless brilliant that the Mòd will happen in this capacity. An Comunn should be commended for their hard work and determination to ensure that it happens.

Every year, I report on the Mòd for the OT. This year, I'm looking forward to describing to you what a virtual Mòd is like!

Here is the line up for Hands Up for Trad's Gaelic festival, Tional:

Friday night

8pm: Norrie McIver in concert

9pm: Hands Up For Trad Cèilidh House, featuring Kathleen MacInnes, Ian Smith and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

Saturday

1pm: Noon: Covid Choral Workshop, with Joy Dunlop

1pm: Clàrsach workshop with Calum Macleod

2pm: Lunchtime concert with Marit & Rona

3pm: Scottish Pipes workshop with Alana MacInnes

4pm: Scottish Step dance workshop with Sophie Stevenson

5pm: Hands Up For Trad Cèilidh House, featuring James Graham, Christine Primrose, Pàdruig Moireasdan

7pm: Evening concert, featuring Mary Anne Kennedy, Brìghde Chaimbeul, Brian Oheadhra & Fionnghal NicChoinnich, Ciorstaidh Beaton and Seonaidh MacIntyre & John Alec Mackay

9pm: Fairich audio-visual showcase with Whyte

Sunday

1pm: Lunchtime concert with Iain MacFarlane & Ingrid Henderson

2pm: Fiddle playing for dancing workshop with Shona Masson

3pm: Arthur Cormack

4pm: Gaelic song for Learners workshop with Maevie Mackinnon

5pm: Final Hands Up For Trad Cèilidh House, featuring Misha MacPherson, Robbie Greig and Raymond Bremner

Winners set to be named in Gaelic Book Council awards

The Gaelic Books Council has announced the shortlists for the Gaelic Literature Awards 2020. Prizes are to be awarded in six categories, for titles published between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020, and for unpublished manuscripts.

Best Fiction Book (Highland Society of London Prize)

Air an Oir, John D. Urquhart (Acair)

An Tiortach Beag agus Sgeulachdan Eile, Morag Ann MacNeil (Acair)

Cuibhle an Fhortain, Morag Law (Luath Press)

Dà Shamhradh ann an Raineach, Graham Cooper (Luath Press)

Best Poetry Book (Derick Thomson Prize)

Ceum air Cheum / Step by Step, Christopher Whyte (Acair)

Cluaintean Uaine, George L. Murray and Donald Gillies (Acair)

Dàin nan Dùil, Deborah Moffatt (CLÀR)

Nàdar De / Some Kind Of, Peter Mackay (Acair)

Best Non-fiction Book (Donald Meek Prize)

Às na Freumhan, Timothy Currie Armstrong (Clò Ostaig)

Eadar Dà Shaoghal / Between Two Worlds, Donald MacLeod (Acair)

Seòl mo Bheatha,

Donald E. Meek (CLÀR) The Highest Apple / An Ubhal As Àirde, ed. Wilson McLeod & Michael Newton (Francis Boutle)

Best Book for Children/Young People

Calum agus àirne Mhoire, Flora MacDonald (Flora MacDonald)

Mo Ghraoidh agus an Losgann Mòr, Marie C. Macaulay, (Acair)

Tintin: Ciste Chastafiore, Hergé, trans. Raghnaid Sandilands (Dalen Ltd)

Tintin: Slat-rioghail Rìgh Ottokar, Hergé, trans. Raghnaid Sandilands (Dalen Ltd)

Best Unpublished Manuscript for Children/Young People

Ailig agus an Dalek Gàidhlig, Shelagh Campbell

Cèic airson Màiri, William Murray

Donaidh Dathach, Gwen Bowie

'S toigh leam slug salach, Ceitidh Hutton

Best Unpublished Manuscript for Adults

Àm nan Aisling Àraid, Robbie A. MacLeod

Anns a' Chiaradh, Rody Gorman cruthan, Nathaniel Harrington

Linne Dhomhainn, Alistair Paul

The prizes will be awarded today, Thursday September 17 in an online event to be broadcast on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Fancy the Tayvallich Inn for lunch or dinner? Feel free to mussel in!



but please **BOOK AHEAD**



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The Painted Bird | 18 19:00
Stage Mother | 15 20:15

SATURDAY 12 SEP

The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands | U 13:15
Trolls World Tour | U 16:00
Stage Mother | 15 19:00
Tenet | 12A 19:00

SUNDAY 13 SEP

The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands | U 13:15
Trolls World Tour | U 16:00
Stage Mother | 15 19:00
Tenet | 12A 19:00

MONDAY 14 SEP

Trolls World Tour | U 16:30
Tenet | 12A 19:00

TUESDAY 15 SEP

Trolls World Tour | U 16:30
Tenet | 12A 19:00

WEDNESDAY 16 SEP

Trolls World Tour | 12A 16:30
Tenet | 12A 19:00

THURSDAY 17 SEP

Trolls World Tour | U 16:30
Tenet | 12A 19:00

Please be advised, all films and showtimes are subject to change/availability with little or no notice. Booking is always recommended to avoid disappointment. Please check www.bbfc.co.uk for more information about film certificates.



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MONDAY:	8am-12pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Drive time with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary John McLuckies Show David Cullen Show
TUESDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-3pm 3pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Ken Hunter Macky on FM Mental Musings with Mer & Vicky Drive Times Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron
WEDNESDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Ken & Len Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY:	8am-11am 11am-2pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Laura Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 4pm-6:45pm 6:45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Jay The One with Allan Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry, Janet & Anna Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie Late Show with Jay
SATURDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 3pm-6pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darlin Evening Show with Dave Lewi
SUNDAY:	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham

Band's bon voyage Tobermory fishing

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Skipinnish has paid a special song tribute to an iconic fishing boat leaving Tobermory Harbour for the last time after 32 years.

The Dawn Treader's Farewell was composed by musician Angus MacPhail for well-know fisherman Alasdair 'Steptoe' MacLean, marking the occasion of his boat changing ownership after more than three decades and heading to Orkney.

The boat, which has the reputation of being the most photographed fishing vessel on the West Coast, has featured on the front of Skipinnish's last two albums, in two of its music videos and is on most of its merchandise.

Built by John Gaff of Girvan in 1988 especially for Alasdair, it has become an icon of Tobermory and of successful fishing over the years, said Angus.

The boat went up for sale in June and sold quickly, but after a few delays it only left Tobermory last week bound for her life with new owner Angus Sinclair. The band thought the boat would leave sooner, pushing them to record the fitting tribute during lockdown before the Dawn Treader sailed north.

Norrie Maciver was not able to do the recording at the time but the talented Rachel Walker stepped in to take the lead vocal, with Rory Grindlay putting together the recording and the video.



The Dawn Treader painting that graces the covers of Skipinnish's last two albums, and right, John with his grandchildren in front of the vessel.

'It was meant as a personal tribute to Alasdair and his family. Alasdair is as much a legend as his boat. He is a very hardworking and respected fisherman. He's also spent a lot of time looking after the Dawn Treader keeping her as spic and span as all those years ago. It must be the most photographed fishing boat on the West Coast.

'The massive response we've had to the song has surprised me, it wasn't meant for that, it really was just for Alasdair, but we might do something more with it now,' said Angus who was just nine when he first stepped on board the Dawn Treader.

'I remember clearly my first

time on board. Steptoe was over at Tìree only a few weeks after he had got the boat and on anchor in the corner of Gott Bay. Myself and my father came alongside on the Skipinnish Maid and Steptoe gave us a tour of his new vessel. Dad had always held the MacLean family in the highest regard, and it was obvious on that day how proud he was of his young friend and fellow fisherman for having taken such a huge step forward by having a boat of that calibre and value built brand new. Thirty-two years on and much water under the keel, that day is clear in my mind,' wrote Angus on a Facebook post introducing the song to fans.

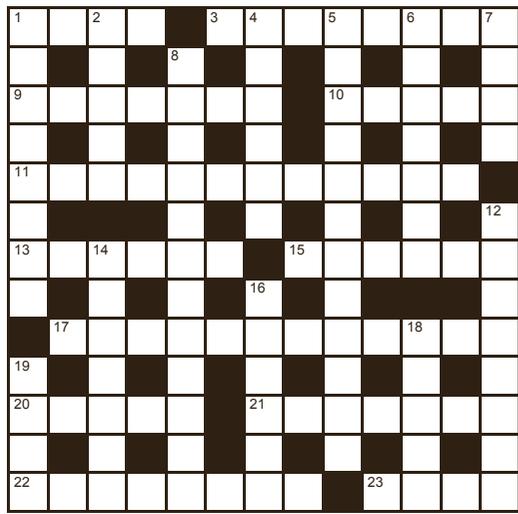
The music video is on Skipinnish's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Skipinnish

The Facebook post had more than 2,000 likes in just hours with more than 300 comments and 900 shares.

In the weeks since the sale went through and the song was written, Alasdair has bought a smaller boat and called it the Skipinnish Lass.

Alasdair 'Steptoe' MacLean's daughter Marion MacLean told The Oban Times: 'We are completely overwhelmed by the response to the song Angus has written in tribute of the Dawn Treader. The words capture perfectly the way we all feel about its departure

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Stare (4)
 - 3 Keep at a distance (8)
 - 9 Freely (7)
 - 10 Seize (5)
 - 11 Ornamented façade (12)
 - 13 Creature with the body of a lion and head of a man (6)
 - 15 Be a busybody (6)
 - 17 Optical device with a prism and lens (12)
 - 20 Send on air (5)
 - 21 Curse (4,3)
 - 22 Suitable (8)
 - 23 Fat from a pig (4)
- Down**
- 1 Kept in a bowl as a pet (8)
 - 2 Advertising (5)
 - 4 Most bashful (6)
 - 5 When property is in the state of being administered by others (12)
 - 6 Saw (7)
 - 7 Sound rebound (4)
 - 8 Resolute (12)
 - 12 Of the clergy (8)
 - 14 Exaggerated (5,2)
 - 16 Situate (6)
 - 18 The end (5)
 - 19 Used as a fertiliser in a powder form (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



The title for the exhibition was chosen because it seems to encompass the notion of uproar and confusion, hinting at the idea of the pandemic and the distress and disruption that it has caused.



An Tobar calls out to a

Artists from Mull, Iona and Argyll are invited to submit new work using the theme Pandemonium.

Derived from Milton's term for the capital city of Hell (Pandemonium) there doesn't seem to be a consensus on the exact meaning or spelling of the modern term Pandemonium.

One definition is: Wild confusion, a place of uproar and chaos. The title for the exhibition at An Tobar in Tobermory, Mull, was chosen because it

seems to encompass the notion of uproar and confusion, hinting at the idea of the pandemic and the distress and disruption that it has caused.

Mike Darling, Comar exhibitions organiser, said: 'One of the most bizarre aspects of the situation has been the way in which we are presented with events being played out on screens, whilst we are contained in our own little Zoom cells, exacerbating a sense of helplessness.

Age to iconic ing boat



from Tobermory. It is truly the end of an era, for dad himself, the family and even the town. 'We've had messages of good luck from all around the world, and I'm sure the Dawn Treader will be in safe harbours and

good hands in its new home in Orkney. Here's to new beginnings and semi-retirement with the Skipinnish Lass!' As for what comes next for Skipinnish, gigs postponed due to Covid are being sched-

uled for next year. 'Lockdown has been a terrible time for so many artists and musicians, lots of things have been put on hold. We'll see what comes next but we're a resilient bunch,' said Angus.

Artists for winter open exhibition

'The mass media has spent much of the time reflecting on the darker side of the events of the year. In reality, people from all walks of life have accomplished amazing things in 2020, despite the continuing and increasing pressure. 'For an artist there is much to consider in these interesting times. Here are some quotations that seem relevant: "Art is the highest form of hope, it is what brings us together", Gerhard Richter; "Art has al-

ways been the raft onto which we climb to save our sanity", Dorothy Tanning. 'This exhibition will be our raft, its name will be Pandemonium.' The theme Pandemonium is open to free interpretation by the artist. Entries are welcomed from artists and craftspeople from Mull and Iona, Argyll and Bute and exhibitors at An Tobar. Work in a variety of media

is acceptable including: painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, textiles, ceramics, jewellery, film, digital and electronic media. The gallery will be closed between October 16-30, with delivery days for work being October 17-23 to allow for social distancing. The exhibition will be open by appointment. For more information email: exhibitions@comar.co.uk or visit www.comar.co.uk

M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 10 an t-Sultain			
THURSDAY 10 September			
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	22.00 Clint Eastwood (rpt)	
19.00	Dileas/ Working Dogs (rpt)	22.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Coruisk) (rpt)	
19.30	Speaking Our Language (rpt)	23.00 Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Hibernian (rpt)	
19.55	Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)	00.45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights) (rpt)	
20.00	An Là – News	DIDÒMHNAICH 13 an t-Sultain	
20.30	An Lot S3 (rpt)	SUNDAY 13 September	
21.00	Jock Stein (rpt)	16.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
22.00	Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)	18.15	An Là – News
22.30	ÙR/NEW: Clint Eastwood (rpt)	18.30	Seachd La – News Review
23.20	Dhan Uisge (Loch Coruisk)	19.30	Alleluia! (rpt)
23.30	Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)	20.00	An Lot S3 (rpt)
DIHAOINE 11 an t-Sultain			
FRIDAY 11 September			
17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	20.30	Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt)
18.35	Machair (rpt)	21.00	Bannan (rpt)
19.00	An Là – News	21.30	Bannan (rpt)
19.25	Fraochy Bay (rpt)	22.00	Birdman of Pollock/Curaidh na Coille (rpt)
19.30	Bonn Comhraidh (rpt)	23.00	The Optimists (rpt)
20.00	Ceolmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)	23.50	Dhan Uisge (Loch Coruisk) (rpt)
20.30	Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)	DILUAIN 14 an t-Sultain	
21.00	Opry Dhoire (rpt)	MONDAY 14 September	
22.00	ÙR/NEW: The Optimists	17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
22.50	Dhan Uisge (Loch Coruisk) (rpt)	19.00	Tir is Teanga/Language and Landscape (rpt)
23.00	Lorient is Alba: Tide Lines (rpt)	19.30	Speaking Our Language (rpt)
DISATHAIRNE 12 an t-Sultain			
SATURDAY 12 September			
16.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming	19.55	Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
17.45	An Là – News	20.00	An Là – News
18.00	ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Hibernian	20.30	Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
19.45	Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)	21.00	Saighdearan Dhe (God's Soldiers) – Trusadh
20.00	Machair (rpt)	22.00	Bannan S5 (rpt)
20.25	Fraochy Bay (rpt)	22.30	Air Toir Manachainn Dheir (The Lost Monastery of Deer) (rpt)
20.30	Puirt-adhair (highland airports) (rpt)	23.30	Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)
21.00	Folk Prom (rpt)	DIMÀIRT 15 an t-Sultain	
		TUESDAY 15 September	
		17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
		19.00	Dileas/Working Horses (rpt)
		19.30	Speaking Our Language (rpt)
		19.55	Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
		20.00	An Là – News
		20.30	An Lot S3 (rpt)
		21.00	Tommy Burns (rpt)
		22.20	Al Capone (rpt)
		23.15	Celtic Connections (rpt)
		23.20	Dhan Uisge (Easdale)
		23.30	Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)
		23.00	Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
		21.00	Bothy Life (rpt)
		21.00	Saighdearan Dhe (God's soldiers) – Trusadh (rpt)
		23.00	Fonn mo Bheatha (rpt)
		23.30	Alleluia! (rpt)
		DICIADAIN 16 an t-Sultain / WEDNESDAY 16 September	
		17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
		19.00	Tir is Teanga/Language and Landscape (rpt)
		19.30	Speaking Our Language (rpt)
		19.55	Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
		20.00	An Là – News
		20.30	Two go to Tolsta – Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie (rpt)
		21.00	Am Fear Cinnidh Og – The Young Clan Commander (rpt)
		22.00	Bannan S5 (rpt)
		22.30	TradFest (rpt)
		23.00	Jock Stein (rpt)
		DIARDAOIN 17 an t-Sultain	
		THURSDAY 17 September	
		17.00	Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
		19.00	Dileas/Working Horses (rpt)
		19.30	Speaking Our Language (rpt)
		19.55	Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
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		23.30	Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)



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Countdown to boat up for the

With the onset of autumn, shorter days and less predictable weather, boat owners are starting to think about laying their craft up, or all-year-round berthing, for the winter.

Most boat owners will already be booked into their boat yard of preference or accommodated in other storage space for the winter.

Whether you choose to store undercover or winter berth, there are essential maintenance tasks to carry out for the winter. If you have newly acquired a boat, book a space soon since many yards are nearly at full capacity.

Yards need to know a lift-out date and whether you wish the mast removed and stowed over the winter and what winter work is required to be done. Some offer undercover storage for varying lengths of time and where available this can be a good option to

carry out work that needs good drying conditions.

Maintenance of all craft, whether it be a yacht, motor boat or RIB is essential to keep boats in a good, safe and seaworthy condition.

As well as essential tasks like engine servicing, a rig check, safety checks etc, there may be other improvement work to be carried out. A planned programme of winter lay-up work will make sure all is good for the next season. Many owners will get essentials carried out by the yard or the relevant independent marine service supplier to make sure work is done.

Depending on whether your craft is sail or motor, some key areas need considered in a laying-up work plan:

- Keel, hull, topsides, deck, cockpit
- Frost damage prevention
- Interior
- Sails and rigging
- Engine/batteries/electrics
- Safety equipment



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Laying your winter season



A lot of owners are fully competent to carry out most winter lay-up tasks themselves. However, if not and the services of the yard or an independent marine service operator are required, contact them early to get booked in.

It's always helpful to compile a basic check list to work through and have a list of equipment needed to carry out tasks.

KEEL/HULL/TOPSIDES/DECK/COCKPIT

Watch out for damage to through hull fittings from hoist strops on lift out and remove and blank as necessary.

Pressure washing on lift out removes a lot of fouling and anti-fouling giving a good preparatory surface for new anti-fouling in spring or other coatings required like epoxy, copper coat etc as well as making it easier to identify any repair work required. When the boat is ashore, check over the hull, keel, skeg and rudder for any damage and effect repairs while the weather and temperature conditions are good. Check keelbolts, any play in the rudder/cutlass bearings and the prop-shaft.

A wash down of the whole boat with the application of a protective wax on the topsides will protect from winter dirt and make polishing a lot easier in the spring.

The cockpit should be cleaned thoroughly paying attention to nooks and crannies that trap dirt. If any paint or woodwork here and on deck needs touched up, carry out now if conditions allow. Temperatures may be higher in the autumn than spring.

A cover over the whole boat or even just the cockpit can pay dividends. However, make sure covers are well secured and allow for ventilation and check for any chafing at regular intervals.

Some yards will shrink wrap but allow an area of access so you can continue to work inside.

Ensure the cradle, trailer or support legs are secure and the trim of the boat is slightly bow up to make sure water doesn't 'puddle' in the cockpit. Regular inspection over the winter is important in case cockpit drains get blocked by leaves/debris and water builds up.

WATER SYSTEMS

Cold temperatures and freezing of fittings can cause a lot of damage so prevent by following a few basic methods. Fully drain anything that holds or carries water – ie pipes and tanks, pumps and strainers. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer first. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate and disconnect hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Pump dry if necessary. Drain down any water heaters or calorifiers. Flush seacocks through to remove salt build up and service and grease. Remove the barrels from traditional style seacocks to prevent them seizing. If in any doubt as to how to do any of the above safely, get the yard or an independent operator to help.

INTERIOR

With boats increasing in size and sophistication the interior needs to be kept clean and pristine. Installing a de-humidifier and heater will keep the saloon and cabins warm and dry.



If not requiring to stay on the boat during winter, it's a good idea to remove as much equipment as possible and take home and store. This has the benefit of seeing if anything needs to be cleaned or replaced. Clear plastic stack boxes are good to allow inspection of contents which should all be cleaned before packing – boxes can be easily brought back to the boat in the spring. Berth cushions and soft furnishings in particular are prone to mould if left on the boat over the winter and will benefit from storage at home in a warm, ventilated and rodent-free space.

Lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets should all be washed down – a weak bleach mixture rubbed over can remove and prevent mould build up. There are a number of good items available for this purpose from all chandleries. Always ventilate the boat well and do any touch up work inside when weather permits. List any items required for the 2020 season.

Check gas systems on board are up to standard with a qualified gas engineer. Also fire extinguishers, fire blankets and other safety equipment in the cabin and replace as necessary to keep up to the correct safety specifications.

SAILS

Check over all your sails and seek advice from your local sail loft on repairs and upgrades. They are the powerhouse of the yacht so deserve good attention. Often a sail cleaning service is offered by sail lofts and even storage which may be a good option for many owners. However if taking home, make sure sails are kept in a dark, warm, well-ventilated area and away from potential rodent damage.

And, if you need new sails have a chat with your local sailmaker and get your order in quickly. There's often a discount period at this time of year.

RIGGING AND DECK GEAR

Wear and tear on both standing and running rigging and deck gear can lead to serious accidents so should be checked overall carefully. Wash everything with fresh water to remove salt and debris build up. Look over sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for any corrosion and replace if suspect. Check standing rigging for any breaks and weakness. Also look over all deck fittings such as sheaves, blocks, winches, cleats etc and if work is needed get it done asap. Servicing winches either now or in the spring is essential.

Many owners remove halyards with messenger lines to aid longevity. Inspect for chafe and wash and dry halyards/sheets before storing in a dry place. If the mast is stored off the boat it's easier to check masthead instrumentation and that rigging blocks are running freely. Grease everything to prevent water ingress. It's always a good idea to remove anchors and chain to look for any damage or wear – these can be stored on a pallet below the boat washing first with fresh water to remove salt and dirt. Service anchor winches and check over chain links and shackles for wear. If the weather is good this is an ideal time to paint out the anchor locker for the spring.

ENGINES, BATTERIES, ELECTRICS

Winterising is essential to good engine maintenance and both inboard and outboard engines need this done. An oil change is standard. New oil prevents internal corrosion and protects the engine standing over the winter. Yard or independent engineers will do this for you if you lack time or confidence to carry out yourself.

The outboard should be flushed through with fresh cooling water and antifreeze/water mix. Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil-soaked rag. Fill fuel tanks to prevent condensation and add a biocide. Change filters as required and bleed system for next season. Change engine and gearbox oil and make a note of the date of change. Minimise condensation by spraying the engine with a moisture repellent and cover with a cloth. Put batteries on a trickle charge and if not needed onboard, take home and sit in a place that won't freeze. Electrics/instrumentation on board should be looked over and any problems checked out by an electronics engineer and repaired or renewed.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Safety gear is vitally important aboard any craft and its maintenance equally important. There is not much point in wearing a lifejacket in a life-saving situation if it fails to inflate.

It's therefore imperative to overhaul everything. Inspect lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear replacing anything that looks suspect. It's advisable to store lifejackets partially inflated over the winter – that way any leaks can be detected and the outer covering won't deteriorate. Check jacket bottles for corrosion and replace as required – kits are available from chandleries. Ensure your flares are in date and replace for next season as necessary. Store flare packs in a dry area and dispose of old flares through official collection depots. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre on their due date. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated.

Seasoned boat owners will go through all the above as routine but for those new to boat owning it's reassuring to know there is plenty of help and advice on hand from a range of sources – boat-yard operators, service engineers, boat builders, chandleries and sail-makers. If there's anything an owner is unsure about these are the experts, so don't hesitate to ask if you need to.

And once your boat is laid up safely with all maintenance in hand, you can relax and look at planning for the boating season in 2021.



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Around the markets

United Auctions, Tieve, Saturday September 5: sold 27 cattle and 1255 feeding and breeding sheep. A strong following of mainland buyers ensured all stock was easily marketed at values well above last year's levels and to seller's advantage. Coupled with the mainland input, a strong local demand resulted in a buoyant breeding trade.

Leading Prices

Store Cattle per head
Blks - £1050 (SimX), Middleton Farm; £935 (LimX), Middleton Farm; £885 (LimX), Vaul; £875 (SalX) Middleton Farm; £865 (LimX) Vaul.
Hfrs - £980(CharX) Middleton Farm; £850(SalX) Hough.
Per Kilo: Bullocks - 254p(LimX) Sorisdale Coll; 231p, 228p, 223p (LimX) Vaul; heifers - 216p(LimX), 209p

(CharX) Sorisdale; cow with calf - £980 (SimX) Middleton Farm; Cast Cows - £960(Sal), Garaphail; £930(Gal), Croish; £880(Lim) Garaphail.

Breeding Sheep

Rams - £350 (Suff), Heylipol Farm; £350(2) (Tex), Ruaig; £320 (Tex), Lochphuill; £200 (Tex), 4 Kilkenneth.

Correct Ewes - £100 (Chev Mule) Ardmay; £93.00 (Chev) Croish.

Gimmers - Mule - £225, £220, £185, 2/15 Balevullin; £175, £170, Greenhill; £165, 2/15 Balevullin. TexX - £120, £110, 5 Kilmoluaig. ChevX - £101, Middleton Farm. Cross - £135, £125, Carrachan. BeltX - £108, Ardmay. SuffX - £210, 2/15 Balevullin; £108, 15 Crossapol.

Ewe Lambs - Mule - £160, Braeside; £145, £140, Mannal. TexX - £150, Mannal. Chev

Mule - £130, Mannal.

Feeding Sheep

Lambs - SuffX - £91.00, 3 Middleton; £86.00, Benview; £75.00, 3 Balevullin; £70.00, Croish. TexX - £85.00, Hillcrest; £82.00, 3 Balevullin; £81.00, 7 Kilkenneth; £75.00, 10 Crossapol; £72.00, 3 Middleton; £70.00, Sandaig. BeltX - £88.00, Heylipol Farm; £72.00, Lochphuill; £71.00, Heylipol Farm. Chev - £69.00, 8 Kilkenneth : £64.50, Vaul; £63.00, Druimasaidh. Cross - £67.50, £67.00, 3 Balevullin; £66.00, 7 Kilkenneth. Mule - £82.00, 3 Balevullin. BF - £57.00, Gordonlea, Coll.

Feeding Ewes

SuffX - £95.00, Druimasaidh; £94.00, Benview; £88.00, 9 Barrapol; £86.00, Hough; £79.00, 10 Crossapol; £75.00, Druimasaidh. HB - £94.00,

£80.00, 3 Middleton. BeltX - £104.00, 95.00, £88.00, £76.00, Heylipol Farm. TexX - £92.00, 6 Balevullin; £90.00, 10 Balevullin; £90.00, Heylipol Farm; £86.00, Ardmay; £84.00, Ruaig; £83.00, Heylipol Farm; £83.00, Lochphuill; £82.00, Ardmay; £75.00, Hillcrest; £72.00, Hough; £71.00, Braeside; £71.00, 6 Barrapol; £71.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £70.00, 1 Kilkenneth. Chev - £95.00, £92.00, 6 Crossapol; £85.00, 4 Heanish; £83.00, 6 Crossapol; £80.00, Druimasaidh; £80.00, Whitehouse; £74.50, Vaul. Cross - £95.00, 6 Crossapol; £83.00, £82.00, Braeside; £82.00, Greenbank; £76.00, 6 Crossapol; £74.50, Ruaig; £73.50, 5 Kilmoluaig; £70.00, Dunbeag. Mule - £72.00, Heylipol Farm; £72.00, 4 Heanish. Chev Mule - £80.00,

Heylipol Farm; £75.00, Garaphail; £70.00, Heylipol Farm. BF - £56.00, 3a Coalis; £49.50, Lochside; £49.00, 3a Coalis; £48.00, 2 Heylipol.

Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, Fort William, September 4: sold 1,913 store sheep of all classes.

Lambs (1,715) sold to £74 gross for a pen of Texel crosses from Old Ardtornish Cottage, Morven.

Ewes (174) sold to £84 gross for a Cheviot Mule from Dalreoch, Roy Bridge.

Feeding sheep (24) sold to £70 gross for a Blackface ram from Ben Talla, Acharacle.

"First sale of the season witnessed a strong trade for all classes."

Other leading prices per

head: Lambs: TexX - Sonas, Kilmoluaig, £68, Ardtornish Farms, Morven, £64.50, Myrtle Moss Croft, Strontian, £64; SuffX - 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £64, Ardtornish Farms, £60.50; Cross - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £61, Mucomir, Spean Bridge, £58.50; Chev - Glengarsk, Arisaig, £60 (twice), Sonas, £60, Kilmory, Achteny, £59; LlyX - Torlundy Farm, Fort William, £57 (twice); Mule - Ardtornish Farms, £56.

Ewes: Chev - Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory, £69; CHM - Dalreoch, £56; HerdX - Rownalea, Fort Augustus, £55; Cross - Camusnacork, Strontian, £54.

Feeding sheep: TexX gmr - 4 muirshearlich, Banavie, £66; Chev ram - Sonas, £60; BF ram - 5 Treslaig, Fort William, £50.

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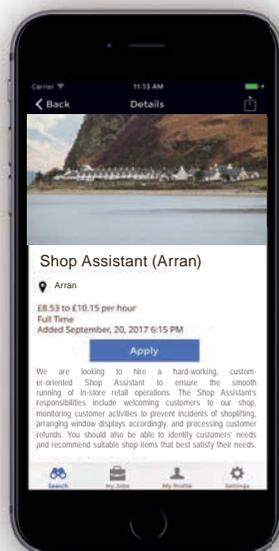


Happy 30th Birthday to Steven Parr!

We hope you enjoy your day!

All our love, Emma, Lilly, Mum, Dad & all the family xx

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ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND HEARING SESSIONS TO BE HELD AS PART OF PUBLIC INQUIRY SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE BLARGHOUR WIND FARM, 7KM NORTH WEST OF INVERARAY & 4KM SOUTH OF PORTSONACHAN.

Scottish Ministers have appointed Ms Allison Coard MA MPhil MRTPI to consider and submit a report to them on an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Blarghour Wind Farm (comprising of 17 Turbines with a ground to blade tip height of 136.5 metres) on land 7km North West of Inveraray & 4km South of Portsonachan.

The Reporter will hold a public inquiry to obtain more information on certain matters before reporting her findings and recommendations to Scottish Ministers on the case. The matters to be considered during the oral sessions of the public inquiry are:

- Landscape and visual impacts
- Impacts on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority habitat.
- Need for the wind farm, national energy policy and benefits, other policy and guidance.

No other matters relevant to this case will be considered at the inquiry and hearing sessions.

The sessions will begin at 10:00am on Monday 12 October 2020 within the Robert Burns Suite of the DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Central Hotel, 36 Cambridge Street, Glasgow, G2 3HN.. The public inquiry is estimated to run for 5 days.

Participating parties should familiarise themselves with the most up to date guidance issued by the Scottish Government on the coronavirus pandemic and the steps they should take to ensure their safety and the safety of others, in particular in relation to physical distancing measures. The reporter will consider adjourning the meeting if parties do not comply with these measures. These can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>. We would further encourage parties to familiarise themselves with the measures that have been put in place at the venue.

Given the current Covid-19 situation and in order to limit the numbers attending the inquiry and hearing sessions, parties who are not directly involved in the inquiry proceedings will not be able to attend. However, DPEA will provide a live webcast of the proceedings and will also record the sessions for viewing outwith the inquiry times.

Documents including inquiry and hearing statements, documents and precognitions will be available to view on the DPEA website at <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk>. On entering the website, type the reference number WIN-130-4 into the "Search by case reference box" to find all documents relating to the case.

DPEA collect information if you take part in the planning process, use DPEA websites, send correspondence to DPEA or attend a webcast. To find out more about what information is collected, how the information is used and managed please read the DPEA's privacy notice - <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/planning-and-environmental-appeals-division-privacy-notice/>.

DAVID HENDERSON
Planning and Environmental Appeals Division
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park,
Callendar Road, FALKIRK FK1 1XR
Our ref: WIN-130-4

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Cameron Gourlay of 14 Kirkton, Appin PA38 4DL is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Knap, Appin, Argyll PA38 4BN and to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailers at HWE Shed, Calart, North Ballahulish, Onich, Fort William PH33 6SA.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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

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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. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/03140/FUL	Site 320M North West of Achmabobane Farmhouse, Spean Bridge	Amendment to 19/01559/MS - Garage and holiday letting unit/additional accommodation to house
20/03026/PIP	Land 60M NE of Glen Cottage 7 Mallaigvaig Road, Mallaig	Erection of 3 houses
20/03238/PIP	Land 65M NW Of Drumbeg Cottage, Kinlochail	Erection of house
20/03038/FUL	West Bay Car Park, Mallaig	Erection of public toilet block with motorhome service facilities (amended design)

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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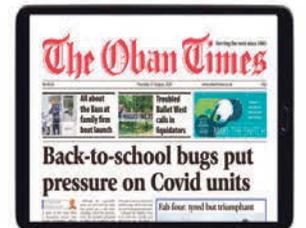
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
A828 CREAGAN BRIDGE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 55A OF
THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984**

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have determined that the project to paint the Creagan Bridge on the A828 is a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and falls within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment, but that having regard to -

- (a) the selection criteria contained in Annex III of that Directive, namely -
 - (i) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
 - (ii) the production of waste;
 - (iii) pollution and nuisances;
 - (iv) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution);
 - (v) areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;

- (vi) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance,
- (b) the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment under section 55A(2) of the 1984 Act and the Assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ("the 1994 Regulations") concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the Loch Creran Special Area of Conservation, Loch Creran Marine Protected Area (Nature Conservation), Glen Creran Woods Special Area of Conservation and Glen Creran Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest,

- (c) the information set out in the Record of Determination dated 12 August 2020, available at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/48063/record-of-determination-a828-creagan-bridge-painting.pdf> the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:

- (a) The works are like-for-like maintenance that will not damage, modify, or alter the character or footprint of A828 Creagan Bridge;
- (b) The 1994 Regulations Assessment determined that with mitigation measures, there would be no likely significant effects on the environmentally sensitive sites;
- (c) Mitigation measures and licences will be in place to ensure no short-term or long-term significant negative impacts on biodiversity, local residents or road users;
- (d) The scheme is not located within a densely populated area.

The features of the project which are envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment are:

- (a) Potential construction effects on local air quality, ecology, water quality, land use and landscape, and noise and vibration will be minimised through best practice working procedures and implementation of appropriate mitigation;
- (b) Encapsulation of the working area will be in place to prevent debris or materials from entering the surrounding environment;
- (c) There will be no excavations or works taking place out with the A828 carriageway or made ground at the site compound location;
- (d) Measures will be in place to ensure appropriate removal and disposal of waste, with the waste hierarchy being applied at all times.

H MCDONALD
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Roads,
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas
Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
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DECROFTING
DIRECTION ISSUED**
1. M & S Hall, 12c Lower
Carnach
0.205ha Existing croft house
site & garden ground
Condition - Fencing
(104327)
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**Spotlight
MTG
AGM**
Thursday 17th
September 7.30pm
Venue to be confirmed.
Please email:
webmaster@spotlightmtg.co.uk
For further information.

First Registration of a Croft
Philip Knight has registered their croft 25 Auchinahard (share), Kilfinichen and Kilvickieon 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 21/05/2021.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7015.

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Argyll and Bute Council
**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
TAXI FARE REVIEW**
Notice is hereby given that there will be no changes to the maximum fares for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council following the recent taxi fare review in accordance with Section 17 and 18 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. These maximum fares will become effective from 22nd October 2020. The fares will be as follows:-

Argyll and Bute Council Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Taxi fares with Effect from 22nd October 2020		
Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm	£3.00 20p
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	£3.60 20p
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof)	
	Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and between 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	£4.20 20p
	Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent Charge (each 120 yards or part thereof)	

Soiling Charge - £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)
Waiting Time - 35 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second
Taxi called by means of telephone - 30 pence additional charge
Large Mini-bus type vehicle (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request)-
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David Logan, Head of Legal & Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT
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Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING
The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01359/PP	Change of use of dwellinghouse to form community centre and office	Lismore Schoolhouse, Achnacroish, Isle Of Lismore, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5UG
20/01435/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular accesses	Plot B Swallow Craig, Glenmore Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01319/PP	Erection of ice plant and associated plant housing (part retrospective)	Scottish Seafarms, South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll And Bute
20/01349/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land West Of Lag An Fhiodhain (Plot 2), North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01162/PP	Alterations and change of use of former bakery building to form dwellinghouse	Former Bakery, Lephain, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6PY
20/01431/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of 8 Fountainhead, Bunessan, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01408/PP	Repair works to conservatory roof	Cul Shuna, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute, PA76 6SJ
20/01456/PP	Change of use of existing ancillary accommodation above garage to use as letting studio apartment and alterations to shared access road	Ptarmigan, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1QX
20/01298/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary building and installation septic tank	Plot 1 Deerview, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
20/01391/PP	Change of use of first floor shop/store to residential flat and associated works	11 John Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5NS
20/01341/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2, Land South East Of Garden Cottages, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01356/PP	Erection of self catering unit and associated works	Freewinds, Shore Street, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7LB

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

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DEATHS

BLACKWOOD - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital after a short illness on September 1, 2020, Jean McIntosh Blackwood, née McNeill, aged 88 years of 3 Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig. Formerly Ard Creagach, Ardrishaig and Ardlamy, Gigha. Beloved wife of the late Bob Blackwood, much loved mother of David, Janette and Robert and loving granny of seven. A dear mother-in-law and auntie. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. A private funeral service will be held at Keil Cemetery, Isle of Gigha on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 12 noon. Donations, if desired, to Ardrishaig Parish Church. Enquiries to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors 01546 602226.

BUDGE - (Newtonmore). Suddenly in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on September 2, 2020. Derek (The Budger) of Strontian, Kingussie Road, Newtonmore,

beloved husband of the late Isobel and a dear friend of many. Private funeral service to take place on Thursday, September 10, 2020. For those wishing to pay their respects, the hearse taking Derek on his final journey will leave the Balavil Hotel at 11.30 a.m., moving slowly down the main street to the Village Hall, before continuing to Banchor Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, are to benefit Chest, Heart & Stroke and may be given directly or via Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors, Unit 17/9 Spey Valley Business Park, Aviemore, PH22 1ST.

CLARK - (Fort William/Fraserburgh). Peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Monday, August 31, 2020, Thelma Rosemary, née Hay, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late James Rutherford Clark, loving Mam of Alison, dear mother-in-law of Gordon, special auntie Thelma of Wendy, Curly, Bairns and grand Bairns, much loved

sister of Billy, and the late Lorna, dear auntie of Lyn and Colin and friend to many. Funeral private due to current guidelines. Will be sadly missed.

KRANENBURG - Robin Kranenburg tragically died on Sunday, August 23, 2020, aged 38 years, may he rest in peace.

MACKAY - Peacefully after a short illness, George of Longsdale, Oban, beloved and loving brother of Maureen and the late Ian, brother-in-law of Jimmy, beloved uncle of Kirsteen and Ailsa and Guggie to Christopher, Caitlin and Heather. Funeral private.

NICOL - Peacefully after a short tough illness at the Beatson Hospital, Glasgow, on August 31, 2020, Christine Margaret MacDonald, in her 50th year, Tombreac, Inveraray, dearly beloved wife of Hugh Andrew Armour Nicol, much loved mum to Cara and Andrew, loving daughter of Donnie and the late Margaret MacDonald, beloved sister of Donald,

and sister-in-law of Wendy, Suzanne and the late Judith.

NICOLSON - Suddenly, on September 3, 2020, Iain Kenneth McKinnon, beloved husband of Jean, dearly loved father of Alastair and Shona, brother to Don, father-in-law and uncle. A dotting grandfather to Oliver and a lovely man who will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Hillview Funeral Services. 01259 725999.

ROGERSON - After a short illness, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on September 3, 2020, Marion Rogerson, née Kerr, in her 82nd year, of 4 Glengilp, Ardrishaig. Retired Health Visitor and District Nurse. Beloved and loving mother of the late Iain Rogerson; dearly loved eldest daughter of the late Phillip and Janet Kerr; and cherished sister of Phillip and the late Billy, Roberta, Mary and Christine. A dear aunt to the extended family. A private funeral service was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRAWFORD - The family of the late George Crawford would like to thank all relatives, friends and his former RM colleagues for messages, cards and flowers following their recent bereavement. Thank you to all those who paid their respects en route to Pennyfuir. Our heartfelt thanks to the Police and Ambulance services, Rev Dugald Cameron for the comforting graveside service, Iain Hurst for piping and Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey & Sons for the efficient funeral arrangements.

MACKINNON - Margaret, John, Rosie and Tricia would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their many sympathy gifts and cards following our sad loss of Donnie. Thanks also to Manson and MacBeath for sensitive handling of funeral arrangements, thanks to Sean Cameron for piping on Donnie's final journey. Thanks to Mr Skene for the comforting

service at graveside and to all the many people who paid their respects on Donnie's final journey.

McCORKINDALE - The family of the late Mary McCorkindale would like to thank everyone for their kind letters, cards and messages of sympathy. A special mention of thanks to the staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital Ward B for their care and to all at Torosay court for making it a wonderful home for her for fifteen years. Thanks also to D&A Munn, the Reverend Dugald Cameron, Piper Jamie Macgregor and Oban Flower House for fulfilling her final wishes at Kilninver Cemetery. Finally, many thanks to all those who turned out along the route to pay their final respects.

IN MEMORIAM

BRIDGES - David.
Nam loidh an cothrom agam,
thuirim dhachaidh
Na mo chridhe gu slorraidh.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

MEMORIALS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- June Anne xx
Love and miss you dad
- Archie, Kate, Freddie, Jessie and baby Unity xxxxx
CRAVEN - In memory of Billy, who passed away on September 3, 2009.
Always remembered, never forgotten.
- Allan and Marleen.
CRAVEN - In memory of our mum and nana, who passed away on September 13, 1971.
Cherished memories last forever.
- Marleen, Allan and family.
MACCUISH - My darling wife Marion, I miss you every day, my world is a sadder place without you.
Love you always.
- Your loving husband Peter.
MACCUISH - A loving mum, granny and great-granny.
You are always in our thoughts and hearts
We love and miss you every day.
- Love Peter, Julie, Jenna, Andrew, Emma and kids.
MACCUISH - Marion. A year has passed since you left us and not a day goes by that you aren't in our thoughts.
Miss you so much Mum.
- Love David, Tia, Daniel, Claire and Mark.
MACCUISH - Precious memories of Marion, a much loved sister and aunt, always

remembered
- Jean, Marion and family.
MACCUISH - In loving memory of our auntie Marion, who passed away September 11, 2019.
A loving auntie and godmother, missed every day.
- Sonny, Sandy, Jayne, Wendy and family.
MACDONALD - Douglas (Dougie). In loving memory of our husband and father, who died September 7, 2019.
Sorely missed.
- Anne and Mairi.
MACDONALD - Kelly.
If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again.
- Love Granny and Graham.
MACLEOD - Precious memories of my mother Mary (mim, Tobermory, Oban) and Gran, who passed away on September 9, 2019, in her 89th year.
I miss you, not a day goes by that I don't think about you.
You are always in my heart, someday we will meet again soon.
For now rest in peace.
- Your son, Donald.
Mother, my mind still talks to you, my heart still looks for you, my soul knows you are at peace.
- Campbell, Tina and Holly,

Falkland Islands.
MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Mary, passed away September 9, 2019.
Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
- Loved always Archie, Anne and family.
McLUCKIE - In loving memory of George and Paul.
Forever in our lives, always in our hearts.
- Jean, Roy, Gillian and Louis.
McQUARRIE - Treasured memories of Donnie, who sadly passed away on September 10, 2019.
Missed every day by loving wife Marjorie. Loving dad of Donna and the late Rhoda.
Always in our hearts.
MENZIES - Treasured memories of Betty, who died September 11, 2018.
Always in our thoughts.
- Love Elizabeth, David and Isla.
MOYES - In loving memory of Ted, a dear dad and grandpa, who died September 9, 2014.
Forever in our thoughts.
- Anne, Caroline, Ted and families.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The prophet Hosea was commissioned by God to "take with him words", as he called him to prayer and penitence.

Throughout history leaders have turned to words to prevent wars. The weight of responsibility placed on 'words' is great indeed. How often have we been in a situation where it has been impossible to stay silent. There are other times, however, when words simply are not enough. Then there are times when we are speechless. Sometimes we say too much too soon or, we let others do the talking for us. These are often times when we might have had something very valuable to say.

Stricken, saddened, sorrowing humanity needs healing words: 'Apt words have

power to assuage the tumours of a troubled mind and are as balm to festered wounds', wrote John Milton in 'Samson Agonistes'.

The right words can remove doubt, inspire profound thoughts, minister to anxiety and bring peace. The words of the Christian vocabulary should always be words of reassurance, encouragement, forgiveness, acceptance-always words of healing.

When our conscience troubles us, it often reminds us where we may have gone wrong. God speaks to us in "in accents clear and long". The voice of conscience is very often God speaking through us. 'Lord speak to me that I may speak'. We all need to know when to

speaking, what to say and, what not to say. We need 'discernment'.

When our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, St. John proclaimed: 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us'. Whenever we meet together as Christians, wherever we are, we call to mind Jesus who was - 'the healing word in action'. All of us as God's children need to take with us 'healing words' on our journey through life.

As we seek rest for our weary souls, whether we manage to go on holiday this year or not - let us remember the powerful words of Jesus: 'Come to Me all you who labour and our heavy laden and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28)

Reverend Anthony M. Jones,
Glengarry Cofs

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Battling Bob bounces back in Spain

Battling Bob MacIntyre bounced back brilliantly from a horrible opening round 80 at the Andalucia Masters at the weekend to finish tied for 24th – his best finish since the restart of the season.

The Oban star did not look like he had a chance of making the cut at the fiendishly difficult Valderrama course after his Thursday round, which include five bogeys as well as a double and triple bogey left him languishing near the bottom of the leaderboard on +9. However, a superb 69 on Friday gave him the faintest glimmer of hope that he might have done enough to make the weekend.

Bob eventually found himself comfortably making the cut. What followed over the weekend was an impressive return to form in the most challenging of conditions, with Bob capping off a superb few days with a stunning eagle three at the 17th hole on Sunday.

The fact that the tournament was eventually won by American John Catlin with a winning score of +2 shows how tough the course was.

While it will not have felt like it on Thursday, the tough conditions could be ideal preparation for Bob's debut US Open appearance on September 17. With all the pundits predicting an over par winning score at Winged Foot, Bob will take huge confidence from the way he eventually passed the sternest of tests at Valderrama.

Oban Inn team again wins John MacEachen Trophy

The third annual John MacEachen Memorial Trophy golf day was held over Royal Glencruitten Golf course on Saturday September 5 in reasonable weather conditions with a brilliant turnout of 45 four-man teams taking part.

The winners were the Oban Inn, so the trophy remains with them for the second consecutive year. Their team of G Carney, D MacMillan, J Napier and D MacMillan returning the fantastic score of 96 points.

Runners-up, and just missing out by one point, were team Scally's Mob with a great first outing of 95 points, their team consisted of I MacMillan, I Roy, D MacMillan and D Smith.

Other prize winners were nearest the pin, Ross Baillie, and the longest drive, Craig Wright.

A couple of points worth mentioning on the golf front are that Neily '3' MacDougall completed the 18 holes, the team from the Oban Times for the second year running



Some of the trophy winners with members of the MacEachen family at the trophy presentation at the end of a very successful golf day. Unfortunately the winners, Oban Inn, could not stay for the prizegiving. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

failed to return a score, and the famous Taynuilt golfer Davy Thomson shanked his tee shot on the 5th with his ball landing under the gin table on the 6th tee – quite an accomplishment.

Thanks to Kathleen and David Lafferty for their continuing sponsorship of the

event, and to all the other local businesses and individuals who contributed to a very successful raffle.

A big thank you goes to Glencruitten Golf Club, the course was in great condition and the clubhouse staff for all their hard work that enabled

the event to go ahead during these very difficult times.

The family would like to thank all the golfers and the people who bought raffle tickets that helped make this a very successful fundraising event – more than £6,700 will be going to local cancer charities.



Alan Campbell was delighted with his win.

Alan gets back into the swing in style

The past week or two has been particularly busy at Dalmally.

To prove that playing golf is like riding a bicycle, Alan Campbell from Loch Awe came back from a few years break from the game to win his first major club trophy, the Dalmally Gents Senior Championship in his first year of playing it.

Alan took the trophy three ahead of his nearest rival, Stephen Ross, himself on a very creditable 65.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Rena Ritchie took the Ladies Simmers Quaich with a two nine-hole round total of 33 Stableford points.

Tuesday September 1 saw a ladies and gents outing to the scenic Kintyre Peninsula and the "wee gem" that is the Carradale Golf Course.

Carradale and Dalmally signed a reciprocal agreement towards the end of last season which affords members of both clubs favourable playing arrangements at each club.

The Dalmally visitors, after an unpromising drizzly start enjoyed a cool but dry day on the course.



Finlay O'Rourke chips on to the 4th green.



Neil MacDougall plays a pitch and run shot.



A delighted Neil Armour celebrates a birdie at the 4th.



Phil Menteith plays to the 18th green.



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Thursday 10 September, 2020

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95p



Skye runner Donnie sets new record for Munros



Christmas festival cancelled due to Covid



Lochaber anger grows over plans for Crown Estate cash

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland Council is sitting on a pot of more than £3million of Crown Estate cash earmarked to help coastal communities with a war of words likely to break out at its meeting today (Thursday) as Lochaber councillors demand their area is not short-changed.

Last year almost £1.3million of the net revenue generated from the Crown Estate marine assets (out to 12 nautical miles) for 2017/18 was allocated to Highland, with £1.7million for 2018/19, giving a total pot of more than £3million.

But this week the Inverness-based local authority stands accused of looking to funnel a chunk of that money away from the rural areas it was intended for and into projects in Inverness and inner Moray Firth areas.

For over a year, Lochaber Area Committee leader Councillor Andrew Baxter, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, has been badgering the council to reveal how and when this money would be released.

He said: 'The Scottish Government allocated the money to councils based on coastal length. You would think Highland Council would do the same. Why would they when Inverness has little coastline compared to Sutherland, Skye or Lochaber? Instead, we have a formula that will take money away from coastal communities.'

'Lo and behold the 'Marvellous

'Mysteriously, we go from having £544,000 down to £430,000.'

Money Magnet' will transform £14,000 Inverness should receive into £60,000. And in Lochaber, mysteriously, we go from having £544,000 down to £430,000.

'On top of that, the council will keep £100,000 for administration costs and another £450,000 for a central pot. That's right £450,000 for those special Inverness controlled projects.'

His fellow ward councillor, Niall McLean, said the funds should be distributed without

further delay, while Councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, said clever use of this cash would help towns and villages take charge of their own destiny through community land buyouts or Community Asset Transfers previously outwith their grasp.

And Councillor Ben Thompson warned: 'The proposal before council in effect takes money away from the smallest fragile coastal communities and sweeps it in to the bigger towns of Inverness, Nairn and Dingwall.'

'I have heard from councillors across the chamber that they are not happy with the proposal. I expect it to be significantly revised on the day.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes said the Highlands has benefited from the significant share of the money because of the coastline in remote and rural areas – not least the Lochaber coastline.

'It is important communities see the benefit of the funding, which has built up over two successive years without being distributed,' she said.

Susan loses locks for good cause



Lochaber MindFit chairperson Susan Archibald went under hairdresser Caitlin Daly's clippers to raise money for the community group which offers peer-to-peer support groups for women and men who need support dealing with mental health issues. For the full story, turn to page 11. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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Home Farm purchase welcomed by councillor who lost father in outbreak

The news NHS Highland (NHS) is to buy Home Farm care home on Skye has been welcomed by local councillor John Gordon, whose father died in the coronavirus outbreak at the home in May.

NHSH has signed an initial agreement with home operator HC-One regarding the purchase of the Portree home.

Ten residents died in the outbreak of Covid-19 and Home Farm ended up subject to court proceedings, with the future of the home under review for several months. The Care Inspectorate has now announced it is no longer pursuing the cancellation of the service's registration through the courts.

NHS Highland will work with HC-One and the Care Inspectorate to establish registration, conclude legal matters and manage the transfer of staff and assets.

Councillor Gordon told the Lochaber Times: 'I welcome the news NHSH has purchased the home. Many in our community are relieved this has happened as there is very little trust and confidence with HC-One continuing to operate Home Farm and it would take a long time for that to return, if ever.'

'The Scottish Government, however, has not given a guarantee who will meet the running costs and the expectation that Highland Council or NHSH will be unfair. It is vital the cabinet secretary for health gives an assurance soon this will be met by government.'

Councillor Gordon, together with fellow Skye members John Finlayson, Calum Munro and Calum MacLeod, has signed a motion which will come before today's (Thursday) meeting of the full Highland Council which calls on the local authority to write to the Scottish Government asking it to agree to underwrite the estimated £1.2million annual revenue costs of the home.

NHS in deal to buy and run care home

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Skye MSP Kate Forbes has welcomed confirmation from Scotland's Health Secretary Jeane Freeman that NHS Highland is to buy and run Home Farm care home in Portree.

Operated by HC-One, Home Farm had been under NHS supervision since May, after the facility suffered a severe outbreak of Covid-19 in which 10 residents of the home died as a result.

While acknowledging the past few months have been 'distressing for every relative and friend of the residents of Home Farm', Ms Forbes added the intervention from NHS Highland - coupled with financial support from the Scottish Government - guaranteed the long-term future of the home.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'The past few months have been distressing for every relative and friend of residents of Home Farm. I understand the Care Inspectorate reports demonstrate why they were right to take swift, robust, legal action against the independent owners of Home Farm, HC-One.'

'Since that point, NHS Highland has effectively been running the home in terms of management, staff and support and the standard



of care has rapidly and significantly increased. I am delighted NHS Highland will be taking over formally with financial support from the Scottish Government.

'I know that nothing will compensate for the distress, grief and agonies of the last few months for those who have lost loved ones or been worried about the health of their friends and family, but I hope this announcement provides the reassurance that care home residents in Skye will receive the highest standard of care in Portree.'

Her SNP colleague, Ian Blackford MP, added: 'This is the best outcome for residents, ensuring that they receive the best care possible with an experienced and efficient management structure in place.'

NHS Highland is to buy and run the Portree care home, guaranteeing the long-term future of the facility on Skye.

not treated with respect, including instances where some residents were said to have been left lying in urine and faeces. Ms Freeman commented: 'Safeguarding the well-being of the current residents at Home Farm in Portree has been a priority for the Scottish Government and I am pleased NHS Highland has negotiated to purchase this care home.'

'Everyone in Scotland has the right to safe, compassionate care which meets their needs and respects their rights and it is good improvements have been made in the quality of care offered with support from the health board, the Care Inspectorate and other partners. This includes practices related to infection prevention and control, use of PPE, staff training, cleaning of premises and the maintenance of adequate staffing levels.'

'The future ownership of this home by NHS Highland also provides an assurance for people on Skye that provision of residential nursing care in their community will continue.'

Paul Hawkins, NHS Highland Chief Executive, said: 'We have worked constructively with HC-One to improve the standards of care within the home. Securing the future of the home under the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership within the NHS will enable us to ensure these standards are maintained.'



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Mystery lingers over responsibility for damage to Kilmallie car park

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Efforts are continuing to identify the company whose lorry is to blame for wrecking features of the car park at Kilmallie Community Centre nearly 18 months ago.

The vehicle was recorded on CCTV but the quality has not been good enough to pinpoint the identity of the company involved.

Although the side of the lorry is branded with the name Stobart, there are several companies that feature Stobart in part of their name.

Kilmallie Community Centre treasurer Sarah Kennedy says the community group has had no response to its communications sent to the Stobart Group.

Mrs Kennedy explained that in February 2019 the driver of



The central grass island at the car park was damaged, above left. An image from the CCTV camera, above right. However, there are doubts whether the lorry shown was responsible for the damage.



the mystery lorry carried out what she described as a 'reckless and irresponsible action' by coming into the car park adjacent to the community

centre then hitting the central grass island.

She continued: 'He lost control, nearly jack-knifed the lorry and destroyed the

grass area and bin stand on entrance and departure to the car park.

'The driver got out the lorry, had a look at the damage and

then got back in and drove off,' added Mrs Kennedy.

'We are a small community centre in a village in the Highlands of Scotland run by

volunteers to try and provide facilities for the local area and we did not have the funds to repair this awful damage.

'One of our contacts very kindly tidied up the damage and it was fixed within a couple of weeks afterwards.'

Mrs Kennedy said it is believed a Stobart Energy lorry is the vehicle involved, but according to the firm the date and time on the video does not correspond to a Stobart Energy lorry being in the area.

A spokesman for Stobart Group told the Lochaber Times: 'We wouldn't want to comment until we have all the credible info that the other side seems to have.'

'If it's a Stobart Group truck, then this is something the company would comment on. However, as it stands, we need to make sure that this is the case.'

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Men's group axes Glencoe trip amid Covid concerns

A men's group which had been planning to host a 62-strong gathering over five days in Glencoe later this month says the event has now been cancelled due to concerns over coronavirus restrictions possibly being breached, writes Mark Entwistle.

Manchester-headquartered charity, OutdoorLads runs a range of sociable outdoor activities for gay, bisexual and trans men. These gatherings are usually based around activities such as hiking, climbing, camping, biking, canoeing, etc, as well as purely social events.

However, after the Lochaber Times was notified of some local concern that members of the group were still planning to travel to Glencoe, despite the event officially being cancelled by organisers, and that coronavirus guidance restricting the number of people who can gather outdoors to members of up to five households and a

maximum of 15 people in total might be breached as a result, we contacted OutdoorLads.

OutdoorLads programme manager, Liam Russell, told us: 'We did have a programme of events planned for later this month, which was arranged well before lockdown started. Since then, we have been monitoring closely the situation.

'With the current situation in mind, we cancelled the programme of events to help keep everyone safe. However, although there were 62 people booked to attend on at least one of the days, it was never intended that all those people are together at any one time.

'Rather, they would be taking part in a variety of different activities each day in far smaller groups and staying at a variety of different accommodation providers. For clarity, there was never any intention of people meeting in groups that would contravene the guidance.'

Missing Kinloch man's body found

Police Scotland has confirmed that a body found in the River Lochy on Saturday is that of missing Kinlochleven man, John Groundwater.

The death is not being treated as suspicious. The 39-year-old was reported missing from Kinlochleven on Thursday

of last week. Formal identification has taken place and Mr Groundwater's family are aware.

Detective Sergeant Andy Bilton said: 'Our thoughts are with John's family and friends at this sad and difficult time. Thank you to everyone who shared our earlier appeal for information and assisted with enquiries.'

Plea to aid outdoor residential centres

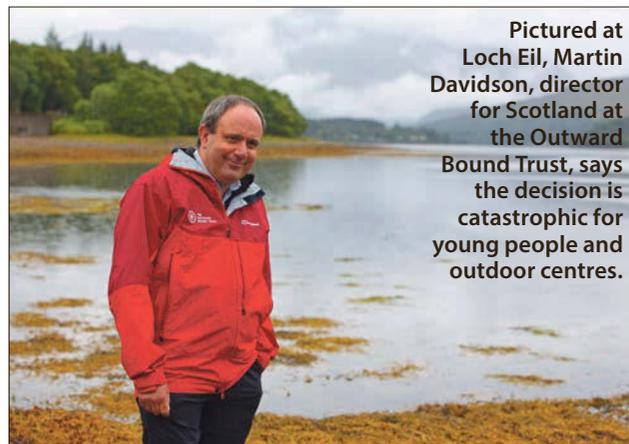
by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Scottish and Westminster Governments have been urged to overturn a decision not to fund outdoor residential centres after warnings facilities such as those in Lochaber enjoyed annually by thousands of young people could close forever.

One of the most famous in Scotland is the Outward Bound Trust's main centre at Loch Eil, which welcomes around 5,000 youngsters from across Scotland through its doors every year, including those from 130 schools for a week-long annual residential.

The plea came from Lochaber councillor Ben Thompson (Caol and Mallaig) after a petition was launched to save the country's outdoor residential centres from closure by groups such as Scouts Scotland, Girlguiding Scotland and the Outward Bound Trust, which have all warned that without urgent help such facilities could be lost forever.

The petition urges the Scottish Government to review the decision not to provide financial support to the outdoor education sector while it remains unable to operate as normal because of



Pictured at Loch Eil, Martin Davidson, director for Scotland at the Outward Bound Trust, says the decision is catastrophic for young people and outdoor centres.

the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Scottish Government has told local authorities that school residential trips should not take place until at least the spring of next year, with no date set to review that stance.

Councillor Thompson called the funding decision by the Scottish and UK governments 'unfathomable' and warned that it could be extremely detrimental to Lochaber.

'Outdoor education is a major part of our economy. How could it not be in the Outdoor Capital? A significant number of jobs will be on the line,' added Councillor Thompson.

'Residential outdoor education is now more important than ever. The social benefits are huge for those

who wouldn't normally have the opportunity. We've just seen a summer where it has been obvious that respect for the outdoors is lacking and understanding why we need to protect our pristine Highland environment isn't universal.

'Outdoor education is one of the most important things we can do to protect our environment. I hope both Scottish and UK governments will reverse this decision immediately.'

Martin Davidson, director for Scotland at the Outward Bound Trust, told us: 'This decision is catastrophic for both young people and for outdoor centres. The school residential has been a feature of Scottish education for years. It is highly valued by teachers, it develops

self-confidence and helps with mental health and wellbeing. It creates memories of a lifetime for millions of young people. These fabulous experiences will come to an end as the Scottish Government has decided not to support outdoor residential centres.

'While the government has supported many sectors to ensure their survival and enable them to adapt, residential centres are unable to operate and remain in lockdown.'

Jane Campbell Morrison MBE, chairperson of the Scottish Adventure Activity Forum, has also called for the Scottish Government to provide support for outdoor residential centres.

Those behind the #SaveYourOutdoorCentres campaign say that, in addition to all the educational benefits, the outdoor residential sector also supports thousands of jobs and has called on people in Scotland who have benefited from a residential experience, as well as teachers, youth workers, support networks for young people with additional needs, and any parents and young participants to write to their MSPs and the government and ask them to save the centres. The petition can be found at www.change.org

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LT

Touch of Jacobite lace to grace museum's reopening

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A strip of 18th-century lace believed to have been a gift from Bonnie Prince Charlie to the family of his wife, Princess Louise of Stolberg-Gedern, is one of the star attractions in the newly reopened West Highland Museum in Fort William.

The museum reopened to visitors on Friday after being closed for almost six months due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The piece of lace is now on display in the museum's newly refurbished Jacobite gallery, alongside a host of other relics and exhibits connected to prince Charles Edward Stuart and the Jacobite risings.

Coronavirus precautions mean visitor numbers are limited, while there is frequent cleaning carried out in high



contact areas; hand sanitiser stations are placed around the museum; there is a one-way system for visitors and face coverings are mandatory for those over the age of five (exceptions accepted in line

with government guidance). Museum curator Vanessa Martin told us: 'We now have all our Jacobite objects in the



The newly refurbished Jacobite Gallery at the West Highland Museum and a dress from the Jacobite display; Bonnie Prince Charlie. Photograph: Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland; and the piece of lace said to have been gifted by the prince to his wife's family.

which gave us £5,000 to help us get back to welcoming visitors, we now have plenty of measures in place and lots of PPE.'

Ms Martin said the hope is that gradually the restrictions on opening hours can be eased. And she revealed: 'One problem has been that quite a few of our volunteers are in the vulnerable over-70 age bracket.'

As far as the piece of lace is concerned, the 102cm length of material was donated to the museum during the lockdown. 'It is said to have belonged

to Bonnie Prince Charlie and was in the possession of his wife's descendants,' added Ms Martin.

Gifted to the museum in July, the lace had sat undisturbed in a desk for more than half a century in the south of Scotland.

It was gifted to the donor's mother by the Countess of Stolberg who wanted the lace to come to Scotland.

The lace is said to have been given to the countess' ancestors by Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who was married to Princess Louise of Stolberg-Gedern.

The museum has allocated 15-minute slots to maintain social distancing and manage the queuing system. To book, please either email info@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk or telephone 01397 702169 or 07985 251335 between 9am and 4pm.

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Lochaber Rotary forced to cancel Christmas festival

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

One of the most popular community events in Fort William, the annual Rotary Christmas Festival and Craft fair, has had to be cancelled this year due to the coronavirus situation.

Along with every other organisation, Lochaber Rotary is having to change direction in the lead up to Christmas.

The Rotary Christmas Festival and Craft Fair, which takes place in the town towards the end of November, has become a popular event in recent years with bustling crowds the norm.

However, with the current restrictions it has become clear that managing activities such as Santa's Grotto, queuing, cash handling and movement around the town's Nevis Centre would prove



Santa's sleigh passes the Lochaber Times office in Fort William High Street during last year's festival.

participants, it was with a 'heavy heart' that the decision has been taken to cancel this year's event.

However, Lochaber Rotary's work continues and it is pleased to announce 'Knitivity' – an ambitious community project to create a 13-foot high Christmas tree made from hand-knitted or crocheted items that will form the decorative cladding to a steel framework. The tree will be on display in the lead up to Christmas.

Organiser Sheana Fraser explained: 'It will take a huge effort to cover the framework currently under construction. The surface area will be around 500 square feet, so

we may need 1,000 items.' People can be involved in several ways; either by knitting or crocheting, by donating yarn or donating money to allow Rotary to buy yarn.

Chunky or double knitting yarns give quick results and Lochaber Rotary is asking folk to choose bright colours. The club is looking for items which will provide warmth such as hats, scarves, wrist warmers, etc. These will then be donated to homeless charities after Christmas.

'We are also looking for handmade twiddle muffs for donation to Alzheimer Scotland and local care homes. Twiddle muffs are knitted muffs with items attached such as buttons, ribbons, etc to keep dementia patients' hands active and busy, and are a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation,' added a club spokesperson.

Yeoman yarns, Woollyknit, Hobbycraft and Togs in Caol have donated yarn for the project so if anyone needs yarn, please get in touch. Woolwarehouse, an online supplier, is offering a 10 per cent discount on orders submitted with a designated code.

If you need more information then please contact either Sheana Fraser

07796 687921 or Jenny Cooper 07880 958698.

Rotary President Richard Baxter added: 'While Covid-19 has given us plenty challenges there are opportunities and scope for some fun too. Please help us by getting behind this imaginative idea.'

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The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengarry.

The fourth funding round is now open for applications until the 2nd October 2020

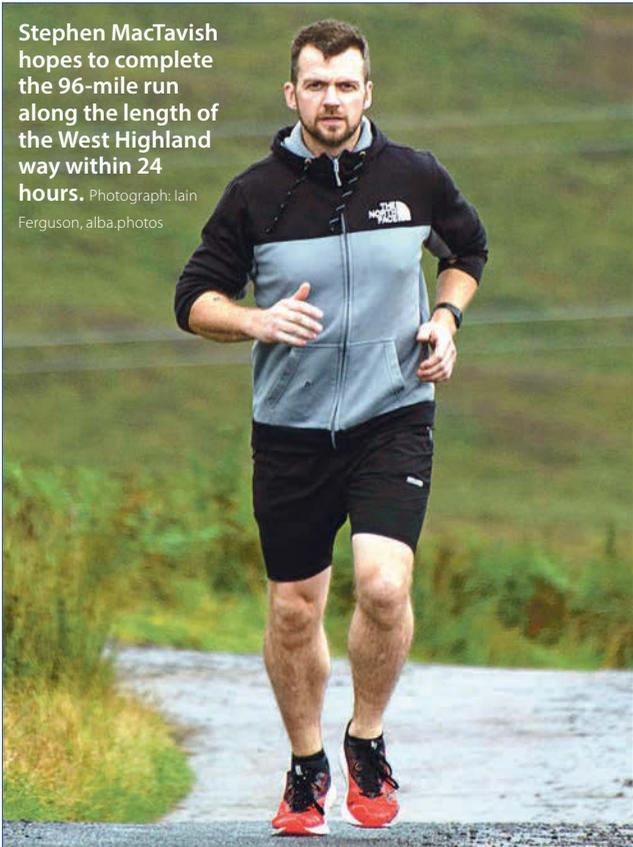
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Stephen MacTavish hopes to complete the 96-mile run along the length of the West Highland way within 24 hours. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



West Highland Way charity run no pipe dream for Fort plumber Stephen

Fort William plumber and heating specialist Stephen MacTavish will be swapping his tools for running shoes when he takes on the 96 miles of the West Highland Way in aid of mental health services, writes Mark Entwistle.

Stephen is currently clocking up the training miles in preparation for the massive effort in aid of charity, Lochaber Hope.

Hoping to raise £5,000 to boost Lochaber Hope's coffers and help the organisation continue its vital work in mental health support, Stephen says it will be the first time he has tackled a run of this magnitude for a considerable period.

'I've not done anything this long running-wise, so it's definitely something new for me,' he told the Lochaber Times this week.

'I wanted to do something focused around mental health, which is a huge issue and particularly so here in Lochaber where it is not taken care of enough. The money will go to Lochaber Hope which is a great organisation.'

Stephen started training back in March for the West Highland Way run, which he starts on October 3 in Milngavie and hopes to cross the finishing line in Fort

William just 24 hours later. He had committed earlier this year to running a 100-mile ultra marathon but due to Covid-19, the event was cancelled.

'After that I decided I'd run my own 'ultra' event and decided to tackle the West Highland Way and raise money for a very worthwhile local organisation - I've raised about £1,000 so far and am hoping more donations will flow in between now and the run itself.'

Stephen will tackle the first 30 miles out of Milngavie by himself, but then expects to get some company for sections of the route along the way.

'Four or five mates have said they will join me for 10-15 mile legs of the run, which will see me running right through the night.'

And despite being fit and raring to go, Stephen expects to feel a bit sore once the run is finished. 'I'll maybe need to take a half day off work afterwards!' he joked.

Anyone wishing to donate to Stephen's run for Lochaber Hope can do so by visiting his crowdfunding page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stephen-mactavish

Ben Nevis reviews generate smiles, but warning too

Local MSP Kate Forbes says while recent media coverage of amusing reviews of Ben Nevis on the TripAdvisor website over recent years made her smile along with many others, she warns that mountains such as Britain's highest need to be respected, writes Mark Entwistle.

The overwhelming bulk of reviews for the 1,345 metre-tall

mountain rate it as 'excellent', but included in the reviews are moans about how steep it is, the poor 4G signal and lack of facilities such as a cafe at the summit.

Jimmy L, writing on the TripAdvisor website in 2016, said the Ben Nevis climb was 'boring and unimaginative,' and he also complained he

couldn't see anything from the top.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, told us: 'It is hard to argue with these reviews - Ben Nevis is high, steep and doesn't have facilities at the top because it is a mountain. It's not a leisure facility.'

'Mountain Rescue will no

doubt testify to how serious this mountain is and how easy it is for hikers and climbers to get into difficulty if they are not prepared.

'Mountains deserve to be respected. As amusing as these reviews are - and they certainly had me in stitches - they remind us that our Highland hills are not for the unprepared.'

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Election set for Harris and South Lochs

Polling will take place next month to elect a councillor for the Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch (Harris and South Lochs) electoral ward.

Voting will take place between 7am and 10pm on Thursday October 8.

The nominees are Grant Fulton, Independent, Annie Macdonald, Independent and Kris O'Donnell, Independent.

Only those registered in the Register of Electors for the Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch electoral ward are entitled to vote.

Walkway closed

The walkway between Springfield Road and Matheson Road in Stornoway is not currently available for public access.

A spokesperson said: 'The walkway is not available for public access due to Covid restrictions and for the safety of pupils and employees at The Nicolson Institute. This will remain the case until the present challenges of Covid are concluded.'

Move to attract more investment to islands

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk



Councillor John Gordon who said investment in infrastructure is vital to the ongoing sustainability of Skye and Raasay.

Work is ongoing to attract more investment to Skye and Raasay to support its vital tourism industry.

Malcolm MacLeod executive chief officer (ECO) for Infrastructure and Environment with Highland Council told its area committee this week that it was vital the authority started thinking about rebuilding and strengthening the island communities as they moves through the recovery from Covid-19.

Mr MacLeod said he recognised the pressures placed on infrastructure in Skye and Raasay during the summer due to the massive influx of staycationers and visitors, and he pin-pointed the winter as an 'excellent opportunity to 'take stock', and build on the visitor facilities which are al-

thinking about rebuilding and strengthening where we are going as an area.

'That will require us to work very closely with communities. We had a good session recently with members about some of the priority areas for recovery in Skye. These are being written up and brought together. But in terms of where we are across the economy as a whole it's about identifying key projects we'll want to take forward.'

Mr MacLeod added: 'It's about focusing on partnership working, digital services and the digital infrastructure that's going to be needed for areas like Skye, which can attract people who will be looking for that new way of working and that new way of living.'

'And obviously low carbon is what we need to be thinking about in terms of how we deliver our infrastructure

across the piece. In terms of positioning ourselves, the next steps are to pull together the Skye and Raasay Plan.

'There's a huge amount of work already under way - sometimes I am amazed at how passionate and organised community groups already are - so it's about trying to pull these together and making the case, positioning ourselves for other funding that might be available.'

Members will next week consider the use of Crown Estate Revenue, which could help with short-term economic recovery, along with the other funding that's been made available.

Mr MacLeod added: 'We have got to think beyond the short term and into that medium and long-term area and how working together, with partners, we can influence where funding might be made

available. I think everyone is fearful of a winter spike (in Covid-19) so it's vital we get this work done in the next couple of months before winter really sets in and try and start pulling together that case and prospectus for investment in Skye and Raasay.'

Chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee, Councillor John Gordon, said: 'It has been one of the priorities for Skye and Raasay councillors and we look forward to the development of this plan.'

'Investment in infrastructure is vital to the ongoing sustainability of our islands and we will continue to work with partners and Government to see this happen.'

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Events are an important part of a Chamber of Commerce's work – and at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we've worked hard to find new ways to get members together, help them access meetings and training and make new business connections during lockdown and beyond.

Just a few short months ago, how many of us had heard of



the online video conferencing software Zoom?

Until we can meet again for real, Lochaber Chamber hosts a weekly informal virtual coffee and cake get-together every

Tuesday morning – this is a simple way to ask questions of the Chamber team, feedback about how business is going and most importantly, have a chat with other local business people that you might not usually have a chance to see.

It's a time to raise topics, share your issues or just share your movie recommendations! We're involved in and host-

ing a lot of exciting online events over the coming month.

We're delighted to host a meeting all about help available to small and micro-businesses to expand with our event on September 16, help people find out about the world of construction career opportunities on September 30, and we'll be taking a virtual stand at the Highland Spotlight Virtual

Exhibition on September 22. You can choose to take a virtual trade stand or come along as a visitor – chamber members get a discount on both ticket types. And, of course, our biggest online event kicks off on September 21, when we begin the week of our first Virtual International Trade Mission to Nova Scotia in Canada.

We're delighted to say that

this online event exploring new international markets has been so popular we're running a second mission in November.

There's lots to get involved in to help promote your business and make new connections, whatever industry you're in.

Visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk to find out how we can help you today.



A new look for Susan Archibald after her sponsored haircut.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Susan's loss is MindFit's gain

Fort William resident Susan Archibald is feeling a lot lighter these days after she went under the hairdresser's clippers in the name of charity at the weekend, writes Mark Entwistle.

The chairperson of the Lochaber MindFit mental health support group had her long locks shaved off by local hairdresser Caitlin Daly to raise funds for Lochaber MindFit which offers peer-to-peer support on mental health issues.

'I love my new hairstyle. It felt a bit weird at first – as if I just had my hair tied up in a pony tail or something,' she told the Lochaber Times this week.

Susan's Go Fund Me page has now seen her clock up £1,235 and the event saw £500 raised from the raffling of a signed Scotland international rugby jersey, as well as £300 in donations on the actual day.

'I am hoping we can reach £2,000. Every penny helps boost mental health support in this area which is vital as mental health services always seem to be the poor relation in health care matters,' she added.

'I lost my own brother to depression 15 years ago so know how important all this is. The good thing is more and more people are talking about mental health issues.

'And this is more important

than ever because the coronavirus lockdown will have made such problems worse for people already struggling to deal with them. Whatever we can do to help we must. We need more facilities.'

Lochaber MindFit groups have now resumed face-to-face sessions with Covid precautions in place.

Meanwhile, mental health issues – in particular suicide – is the theme of a new two-part radio documentary series, to tie in with World Suicide Awareness Day today (Thursday).

Six Men aired last night on BBC Radio Scotland and uses the format of a very personal take from Fort William musician and Take the Floor broadcaster Gary Innes on why the instance of suicide, particularly in men, is so high in the Highlands.

Gary lost six team mates from Fort William shinty team over the years and was inspired to write a song in their memory.

In the series, he speaks to members of their families and also investigates some of the positive projects set up to avoid similar sad incidents in the future.

The programmes will be available on BBC iplayer for a set period after the original transmission dates.

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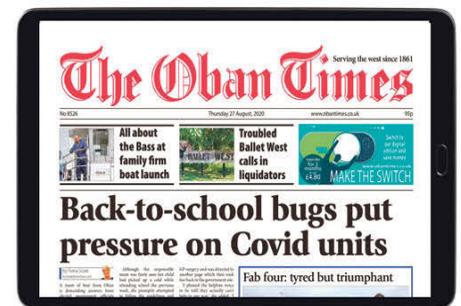
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The Croftless Crofter

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Remember that old showbiz saying about never working with children or animals?

The crofters' version would be 'never work with plants or animals'. If you have crops you inevitably at some point will have failed crops. If you have livestock by definition you also have dead stock too.

The joys of seeds germinating and crops ripening is often balanced by a whole row of bolted lettuces thanks to a hot dry spell or the morning after the night before exposing a decimated bed of brassicas following an all night all you can eat slug party.

Similarly, those fluffy little chicks, frisky lambs and cute piglets can fall prey to disease or predators leaving you heartbroken and out of pocket.

A life alongside nature means taking the hits and accepting the lows along with celebrating the highs. For most of us who grow or rear our own we accept the down sides and know the positives outweigh the negatives most



The raised beds are now uncovered again to allow the chickens to get back in and turn the soil over behind the spent crops.

chickens, keen to munch on any tiny bugs they exposed. Then once the pigs had moved to the next area and the grass had grown back in the sheep kept the area grazed until we were ready to plant crops.

In our fenced off areas to keep deer and sheep away from orchard trees and soft fruit bushes we kept our ducks – masters at Hoovering up slugs, bugs and caterpillars. All the while we were also getting a steady supply of eggs from the birds, fleece from the sheep and meat from the animals offspring.

Here we are working on a much smaller scale and only have chickens of our own. They did a fine job of sifting through the compost in our raised beds when we first built them, although we kept them netted while they had crops to prevent the chickens scratching up the young seedlings. They are now uncovered again to allow the chickens to get back in and turn the soil over behind the spent crops – their

scratching dislodges any weeds at an early stage and while they are not super keen on slugs to eat (and who could blame them?!) they do feast on the little grubs and larvae in the soil.

We have rather too many interesting looking things to let our neighbours sheep roam in our garden these days, but when we first moved here we would regularly leave our gate open so they could come in and 'mow the lawn' for us.

Our little wild patches left in the garden have started to encourage wild creatures to make the space their home too; we have found slow worms and toads in the garden and released some tadpoles into our little wildlife pond. These friendly reptiles and amphibians will hopefully help keep the slug population down a bit.

Now if I could just train the cat and the dog to take on the crop watering I'd have this whole thing fully under control...

of the time. But what about the combination of crops AND animals together though - what are the highs and lows of that as a combination? Again, a setup not without its challenges as you may well have to protect crops from the animals, but on Rum, and

even now in our small garden plot, we aim to have the two work together for us as much as we can.

Our pigs turned over the rough ground for us on our croft, moving from one fenced off area to another on a grid system, gradually working

around most of our eight acres. They rooted up the weeds and reeds, nosed up stones (useful for building projects), aerated the ground with their heavy weight on small trotters and trod in their own manure as they went.

Along behind them came the



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Shinty memory cash to boost new and existing groups

Shinty Memories Scotland is gearing up to distribute more money to build on work already achieved in shinty-playing areas and offer support for new groups.

Supported by Life Changes Trust, it is hoped this second round of funding will help with the development of the memory groups' work at area level initially but may be specifically linked to individual clubs.

The second round of £5,000 in total, up to a maximum of £1,000 per project, will enable groups to establish their operations, paying for running costs, including transport, venue hire and refreshments, and help them become sustainable.

It can also be used for the production of resources or events to enable Shinty Memories functions to proceed/develop as the Scottish Government allows social interaction to take place following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions.

The funding cannot be used



Participants at the inaugural meeting of the Ballachulish shinty memories group.

for what would ordinarily be deemed club running costs. The fund is open to existing memories groups and areas where activities have not yet started. Priority will be given to groups making applications for the first time and those who have not received funding in the previous round.

Previously successful groups may, however, make new ap-

plications while being advised of this proviso. Applications to buy large screens will be capped at a maximum of £750.

Applications must be submitted by Thursday October 15 and money must be spent by March 31 2021.

If more than five reasonable applications are made, the awarding committee reserves the right to adjust the maxi-

mum available to individual projects. Groups can only make one application in each funding round. The committee's decision will be final and successful applicants will be informed of the outcome around November 1 2020. Groups wishing to apply should submit a project plan of no more than one side of A4 paper detailing the aims of the project, method of delivery, the means of monitoring the project and budget supervision. Submission of a report detailing activities and how the funding was used is a condition of acceptance.

Further information is available from Hugh Dan MacLennan, Secretary, Shinty Memories Scotland, on 07515 287040 or email hughdan1@hotmail.co.uk. This is also the address to which applications should be made.

Shinty Memories Scotland has been developed under the auspices of Sports Heritage Scotland.

Blogger ridiculed over Gaelic road signs

Local MSP Kate Forbes has slammed a blogger who blamed road signs also featuring the Gaelic name for Fort William for getting lost.

Effie Deans was ridiculed on social media last week after saying the signs should be in one language, not both English and Gaelic.

She said she had got 'lost endlessly searching for Fort William among all the An Gearasdans' and claimed her concern was because the dual language signs made driving in the Highlands 'dangerous'.

Online magazine Bella Caledonia commented: 'The sublime irony of Effie Deans careering around the Highlands confused by all the garrisons has warmed my heart this Friday.'

'She's like a post-imperial psychotic sat nav gone wrong. I do like her call for signs in one language or the other though. Gaelic it is?'

Others highlighted the fact there were only two main

roads into Fort William so wondered how difficult it actually was to find the town.

Commenting, Ms Forbes, herself a Gaelic speaker, said: 'If the blogger in question got lost, then one might wonder if she's fit to drive at all. Thousands of visitors and locals alike travel these roads and use these road signs without much difficulty.'

'It never ceases to amaze me how exercised people get about road signs. At a time of global crisis, I can think of a long list of issues that are worthy of a blog post - Gaelic road signs isn't one of them.'

'Ironically, of course, there are plenty of Gaelic-speaking, pro-union people in the Highlands and Islands who watch in disbelief as ignorant people like this blogger trying to turn their language into a constitutional issue.'

'I'm sure they'd be delighted if bloggers like this dealt with real issues, rather than tired tropes.'



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Atlantic Views

JOANNE MATHESON

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Inverness has decided that £100,000 is needed to employ project officers to undertake the work of administering the fund, and has decided that those jobs should go to employees in Inverness.

In 2017 Crown Estates in Scotland were devolved to Scottish Government control, and in 2019 Roseanna Cunningham MSP announced that 100 per cent of revenues from those assets would be assigned to local communities using a simple calculation of how much coastline was in their region.

As promised, towards the end of last year Highland Council received its share of the revenues generated in 2017/18, roughly £1.3million, and has recently been advised that it will receive a further £1.74m for 2018/19, bringing a total to work with of just over £3million.

When announcing the distribution of funds, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform stated that: 'The new funding arrangement will see coastal communities receive 100 per cent of revenue generated from the Estate's marine assets...enabling them to

better fund and support local projects and initiatives.'

Unfortunately, as we have come to expect all too frequently, Inverness has different ideas.

Scottish Government started by assigning a minimum amount of £1,000 to every area regardless of whether it has a coastline, which I'm sure Stirling, Dundee and Glasgow were grateful to receive. Inverness has decided

that each area should receive a £50,000 minimum, but not 'Badenoch and Strathspey as it has no sea area'. If I were a B&S resident I'd be asking why not.

Next, Inverness has decided that £100,000 is needed to employ project officers to undertake the work of administering the fund, and has decided that those jobs should go to employees in Inverness who's projects are due to end

soon. Why can't those jobs go to people working in the coastal communities this money is supposed to serve?

Finally, Inverness is retaining 15 per cent of the full starting figure to 'top up support for local area projects where there is over-demand from area allocation' and for 'funding for Highland-wide strategic projects'. In the first case, why would you need to retain 15 per cent of funding

from an area, just so that you can give it to them if there isn't enough in the pot?

Why would you retain 15 per cent from one area in order to give it to another area if they haven't got enough – that's just manipulating the allocation.

But the second reason for retaining this amount gives us all the answer we need – 'Highland-wide strategic projects' we all know too well means projects in Inverness.

At a time when remote rural and coastal communities are struggling to deal with loss of jobs following Covid-19, and at the same time deal with the ongoing increase in visitor numbers, we need as much funding as we can get.

Too many of our areas have seasonal issues due to inadequate tourism infrastructure, and this money should be going directly to address those problems.

Inverness should be in receipt of 0.47 per cent of the

total Crown Estates allocation for the first two years, or possibly as much as 0.5 per cent if they allocate the same minimum to all areas as Scottish Government.

Instead, it has managed to concoct a calculation which means that it is retaining control of 20 per cent of the total amount, and has drafted a policy which ensures that the whole amount can be spent in Inverness if it so chooses.

At a meeting taking place today, (September 10) councillors are being asked to approve this altered formula. If approved this will be yet another example of Inverness applying one rule for them and another for the rest of us, and will be contrary to what Scottish Government intended - for '100 per cent of revenues' to go to local communities.

Once again, Inverness allocates funding to its poor relations after keeping the whole for itself.



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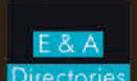
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LETTERS

Coastal cash disgrace

There is understandable anger in Lochaber this week over Inverness-based Highland Council's move to change the goalposts over the percentage of Crown Estates cash to be handed out to the various coastal communities in Highland region.

At a time when remote rural and coastal communities are struggling to deal with loss of jobs following Covid-19, and at the same time deal with the ongoing increase in visitor numbers, we need as much funding as we can get.

Lochaber's councillors are being asked today to approve this altered formula. To them we say, do your duty by those who elected you.

Christmas 'knitvity'

We were saddened to hear this week that the annual Fort William Christmas Festival and Craft Fair have had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

The popular event will be sorely missed by so many, but Lochaber Rotary have instead organised Knitvity – an ambitious community project that will ultimately help homeless charities.

What a brilliant idea! Get out your knitting needles and join in the fun.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. **The views expressed on our letters page are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of The Oban Times.** At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



Good reasons for creating a West Highland Council

There are many reasons to support Councillors Andrew Baxter and Ben Thompson in their calls for smaller local authorities (Lochaber Times 27 August): clearer democratic accountability; policies that better fit the area; flexibility and a more nimble approach to crises.

We see smaller local authorities in other countries working together to gain economies of scale in procurement and these days back-room functions could be shared with staff working from home for more than one employer. Big isn't always better.

Over the decades I have been involved in four campaigns to upgrade the A82. Lochaber councillors have often been unanimous in pressing the Highland Council (and the Highland Regional Council before it) to back action for the A82, only to find the matter on the Roads Committee agenda with their Inverness-based colleagues voting their campaigning priority as: A9 south; A96; A9 north then the A82. The section of the A82 from Tarbet to Fort William also passes through local authorities centred in Stirling and Lochgilphead, so the few local councillors along the length have similarly struggled to gain political backing for campaigns.

By comparison, we see Argyll and Bute Council campaigning vigorously for major improvement at the A83 Rest and be Thankful. We certainly need a West Highland Council.

John C Hutchison, Fort William

Inverness should have own budget for sake of Highlands

With reference to your lead report in last week's Lochaber Times, I wholeheartedly agree with Councillor Baxter's assertion that the Inverness Council is eating up the finances of the Highlands. For a city expanding at the rate of Inverness not to have its own budget separate from the Highlands seem crazy to me.

Tourism is roughly 10 per cent of Scotland's economy, about £11 billion, in the Highlands it is 30 per cent of our economy and growing, and yet the A9 arterial road to the east is being duelled to Inverness whilst the A82, the main road linking Skye, Kyle, Oban, Fort William, Fort Augustus, and which has some of the most iconic visitor attractions – Loch Lomond, Glencoe and Loch Ness – is a nightmare to travel.

The amount of development in Inverness is truly astounding and we should be pleased about this, but at the same time it hard to see any real

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S dòcha gun do mhothaich sibh, air an dàrna latha den t-Sultain, gun robhas a' comharrachadh seachdadh is còig bliadhna bho chaidh crìoch oifigeil air a' chogadh le Iapan a dh'ainneachadh ann an sgrìobhadh air bòrd an t-soithich-cogaidh Ameireaganach USS Missouri, ann am Bàgh Tokyo. Ged a bha an t-Ìmpire Hirohito air aithris gèillidh a chraoladh air 15 Lùnastal 1945, b' e 2 Sultain an latha air an do chuir riochdairean bho gach dùthaich a bha an sàs an aghaidh Iapan an ainmean ris an aonta sìthe.

Bha cogadh na Roinn Eòrpa an aghaidh na Gearmailte air tighinn gu crìch air 8 an Cèitean 1945, agus bha dòchas a-nise air fois feadh an t-saoghail, airson greis co-dhiù. Thòisich a-nise tuigse air nochdadh a thaobh na brùidealachd uabhasach a dh'fhuiling na prìosanaich-cogaidh a bha an grèim, agus air an cleachdadh mar thràillean, aig na Iapanach. Bha an diol a rinneadh air prìosanaich leis a' Ghearmailt agus Iapan borb da-rìribh, agus chailleadh mòran ri linn.

Eadar teaghlaichean mo phàrantan bha sianar fhear aig muir tron chogadh, còignear sa Chabhach Mharsanta agus aon sa Chabhach Rìoghail, agus gu fàbharach thàinig iad uile troimhe beò ged a bha iad tric glè fhaisg air an call. Cha robh coimhearsnachd air feadh na dùthcha air nach do dh'fhàg an Dàrna Cogadh

Mòr lot, agus beàrn nach gabhadh leigheas ann am beatha agus eachdraidh ginealaich. Thug a' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan iobairt shònraichte san t-seagh sin, agus sin a dh'fhàg mise cho fortanach gun do thàrr cuideachd m' athar is mo mhàthar às a' bhàl.

Le maraireachd mar aon de na dreuchdan air an robh Gàidheil agus Eileanaich riamh measail dh'fhàg sin gun robh mòran dhiubh am measg nan 30,248 a chailleadh anns a' Chabhach Mharsanta tron a' chogadh, agus tha cuid den bheachd nach d' fhuair gaisge na seirbheis shìobhalta sin riamh an aithne air an robh i airidh.

Canaidh eòlaichean gu dearbh nach robh Breatann air buannachadh mura b' e na rinn a' Chabhach Mharsanta. Thigeadh dhuinn a bhith moiteil às na maraichean sin uile, ged nach robh iad fhèin idir dualach cus innse mu na chunnaic is na dh'fhuiling iad!

Chunnaic mi cuideachd gur ann air 4 Sultain 1886, a ghèill an ceann-feadhna ainmeil Apache, Geronimo, ris an t-Seanalair Nelson Miles. B' e an cron aig Geronimo gun robh e air ceann an ar-a-mach mòr mu dheireadh aig tùsanaich Ameireagaidh. Nach bu nàdarach gum biodh iad a' stri gus an cuid talmhainn dualach a dhion bho mhèirlich, Ghàidhealach is eile, a bha ga ghoid bhupa!

development in the rest of the Highlands. The northern 500 has brought a huge amount of new visitors to us but we haven't sufficient budget to give them toilets.

There is something wrong with the balance of funds and for the Highland Council to set up a budget committee that will only meet in private is just wrong.

Ian Sykes, Torcastle, Fort William.

Closures are so 18th century

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought we lived in the 21st century, not the 18th!

Closing public toilets is a disgusting proposal on so many levels. Oban, and the rest of Argyll, is an all-year-round tourist destination, not just a summer one, and they expect certain facilities, of which toilets are one.

With regards to toilets in 'commutable distance', which ones are nearest the one at Ganavan when it is closed? The nearest to the North Pier

if they are closed? If you are on foot, or have young children, or have a medical condition like Chrones disease, this is simply not acceptable.

It wasn't said, but I get the feeling that the council thinks visitors will be able to use the facilities in hotels and businesses. Do they think these businesses would be happy to have people traipsing in, then out again if they don't stay there or purchase items?

The alternative is people either soiling themselves, relieving themselves in public spaces, or stop visiting the area altogether, which would not do the local economy any favours. Instead of closing toilets, more should be provided.

I'm a regular visitor to Oban and I have mobility issues, and yes, when I have to go, I have to go! Oban is wonderful wee town, but it'll become nothing more the a open latrine if these proposals happen.

Mr R Jackson, by email

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Resurfacing starts along A87 on Skye

Essential surfacing improvements across three locations on the A87 on the Isle of Skye are set to get under way this week.

The project will see a total of 2.3km of road resurfaced on the A87 between Borve and Uig, creating a smoother and safer road for motorists.

The improvements are scheduled to start on Monday, September 7, and take up to 10 nights to complete. The project will take place between 7pm and 7am each night with surfacing due to be completed by 7am on Saturday September 19. No works are planned for Friday or Saturday nights.

Due to the narrow carriageway widths at these locations of the A87, work will be undertaken using a full road closure to ensure the safety of road workers and motorists.

Works along the stretch of the A87 at South Earlish will take place from Thursday September 10 to Tuesday September 15 (four nights, excluding Friday and Saturday nights). Overnight road closure in place for safety.

Amnesties will be provided at 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 12am, 2am, 4am, and 6am to allow waiting vehicles to be escorted through the site safely under a 10mph convoy system.

Work on the A87 at Kensaleyre will

take place from Wednesday, September 16 to Friday, September 18 (three nights). Overnight road closure in place for safety.

Amnesties will be provided at 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 12am, 2am, 4am, and 6am to allow waiting vehicles to be escorted through the site safely under a 10mph convoy system.

The road will be open outwith working hours to keep disruption to a minimum, however a speed restriction of 30mph will remain in place as traffic will be running over a temporary surface.

Access through the works site for emergency services will be maintained at all times.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative said: 'This surfacing project across these three locations on the A87 on Skye will help address defects and greatly improve the surface for motorists.'

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Work to resurface sections of the A87 will last until Friday September 18.

Western Isles trust invites applications

The Western Isles Development Trust (WIDT) is inviting applications from community groups for funding for projects with a focus on alleviating fuel poverty and promoting renewable energy.

Since April 2016 it has committed more than £352,000 in grant payments and loan funding to promote these objectives.

Recent beneficiaries include: Coll Community Development Trust, Lewis; Uist and Barra Food Bank; Garadh a Bagh a Tuath, Barra and Leverburgh Hall Committee, Harris.

Following the successful uptake of the Small

Grants Scheme in 2019, where £40,000 was distributed to community bodies across the Western Isles, WIDT is now launching the Small Projects Fund for 2020 to distribute a further £40,000 from September 1, 2020.

Applications are invited from community groups for a maximum of £2,000 in grant funding. In order to be eligible the application must meet at least one of the WIDT's objectives (as set out in its Articles of Association and published on the website) and show benefit to the community. Once the fund has been expended it will close until September 2021.

Full details of the fund and the application form can be found at the website. A list of beneficiaries of the 2019 Small Grant Scheme is also available.

Nevis Partnership becomes litter picking hub

Keep Scotland Beautiful is providing the Nevis Landscape Partnership with litter picking kit to help their community clean up its part of Scotland

Environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful is creating 11 litter picking hubs across Scotland by providing free litter picking equipment to support communities to tackle local litter issues.

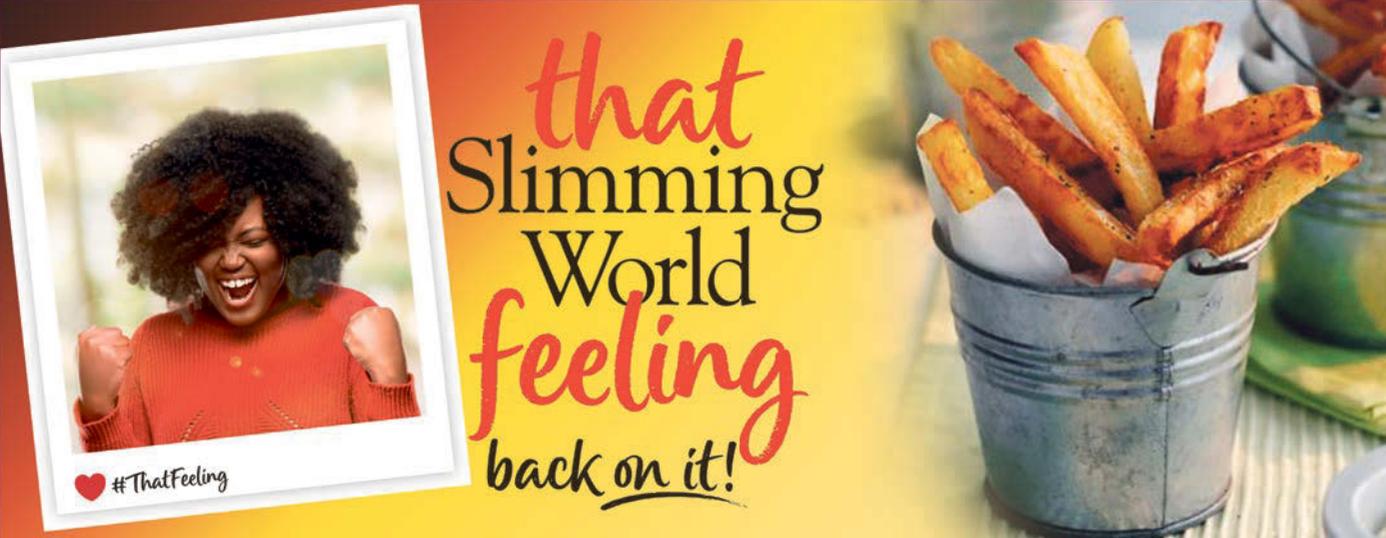
In Highland, the Nevis Landscape Partnership (NLP) will receive the kit, which will be available for individuals and groups to borrow, following strict social distancing and safety guidance.

The 11 community groups are the first round of groups to become litter pick hubs in Scotland, with more following in the future.

By creating the hubs, Keep Scotland Beautiful is looking to empower communities who are frustrated by litter worsening during, and following the easing of lockdown.

The funding for these Helping Hands litter kits has been provided by Coca-Cola, and will see kits containing enough litter pickers, gloves, bag hoops and hi-viz vests for up to 10 people to take part in a litter pick at a time.

Groups will also be able to access posters and social media content for their own social media pages to help encourage people to look after their local places and keep Scotland beautiful.



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Skye runner Donnie sets new Munro record

by Fiona Russell
www.fionaoutdoors.co.uk

Scottish runner Donnie Campbell has set an astonishing new record for the fastest round of Scotland's 282 Munros.

He took just 31 days, 23 hours and two minutes to complete a non-stop self-propelled circuit of every mountain with a summit of more than 3,000ft (914.4m).

His time is almost eight days quicker than the previous record set a decade ago by English fell runner Stephen 'Spyke' Pyke.

Donnie, 35, who is originally from Skye but now lives in Inverness, completed his challenge on Scotland's most northerly Munro, Ben Hope, in Sutherland, at 5.02am on Wednesday, September 2.

Not only did he run and 'power-hike' up and down all the hills, the accomplished mountain runner, who was

raising money for British Red Cross, also cycled and kayaked between his targets.

No motorised transport was used although he did have a back-up motorhome driven by his wife, Rachael, in which he slept each night.

Donnie started his Munro round bid on August 1 on Ben More, on the Island of Mull. He then kayaked to Lochaline in Morvern, before cycling to Glenfinnan for a traverse of the Cairngorms.

He reached the most easterly Munro of Mount Keen and headed to the Munros of the southern Highlands, including the most southerly, Ben Lomond.

He returned to the north-west of Scotland, with the most westerly Munro of Sgurr na Banachdich to come on the Isle of Skye and a finish on Ben Hope.

In total the running coach ran and power-hiked 883 miles (1,422km) and ascended



Donnie Campbell power-hiking through the Munros in Glencoe.

(413,854ft) 126,143m, which is the equivalent of more than 14 ascents of Mt Everest.

He also cycled 896 miles (1,443km) and a total elevation of 4,6755.249ft (14,251m).

His original goal had been 33 days.

On average, Donnie spent 12 hours every day running, walking, cycling or kayaking. He slept for around eight hours each night. He wore out seven pairs of running shoes and burned 7,000 calories each day. His toughest days were some

of his final days of the round. On Monday, he reached an incredible 18 Munros in the north-west Highlands, from Slioch near Kinlochewe to Ben Wyvis near Dingwall.

After only 30 minutes of sleep, he then cycled to Am Faochagach, near Ullapool, and then completed another 10 Munros to finish on Ben Hope.

Agonisingly, on day 29, he was also forced to climb the same Munro twice.

He said: 'It was my own fault due to cloud and a lack of concentration at the top. I reached a large cairn which I thought was the summit but my tracker showed later that I needed to go another 200m to a small pile of stones.'

Now Donnie plans to put his feet up and get back to his day job coaching other runners.

For the full story and more photographs, visit www.lochabertimes.co.uk

Fort FC players get back to training



Back at training for the first session since lockdown, Fort FC captain John Treasurer, right, and player Aidan Taylor. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Training up and running at Lochaber RFC

Training has also restarted at Lochaber Rugby Club, albeit with coronavirus restrictions in place.

Only touch rugby and non-contact training is allowed at the club's Banavie ground moment, but as head coach Gary Hendrie says, it is better than nothing after five months of lockdown.

'Numbers have been good across the board but we are having to have bubbles with set numbers in each one.'

'We need to move to the next stage in the SRU planning before we can start contact training then hopefully some fixtures.'

The club has also made a 'coming back to rugby' video to let everyone returning to the club know what to do and what to expect when signing in.



Club announces virtual racing for younger athletes

Virtual racing for Lochaber Athletics Club's younger runners over two races can be completed on any dates that suit until September 30.

For 15 years and under and under 13s, the first race is 5 km over the Nevis Range on the Park Run route.

The start is at the far side of the Nevis Range car park on the wide trail running up to the North Face car park, turn right after 2km on to the narrow boardwalk trail, over the bridge, turn right and follow the trail

to the pony field and hole in the wall, over the next bridge and turn right on to Mackenzie trail and up to the high wires, keep on rough ground on the right side of the car park up to the main trail, turn left and back to the start.

The second race is the same course but in reverse. Those aged 11 years and younger run over a 3.5km course. Follow the same Parkrun course but turn right after 2km at the bottom of the steep hill and taking the shortcut

to the pony field and hole in the wall, and follow Mackenzie trail back to the high wires and start.

The second race is the same course but reverse route turning left after the pony field/hole in the wall. Runners are asked to watch out for and give way to other trail users.

This is a participation challenge and rusty runners can jog or walk sections if they have to. Runners should be accompanied by a parent or parent nominated support.

Email times for both races to jamestreasurer1@gmail.com.

The names of everyone who finishes will be placed in a hat and the winners for prizes will be drawn at random from that.

Lochaber Athletic Club training for nine to 15 year olds has started again on Thursdays from 6-7pm at Claggan Park. Training is given by Scottish Athletics accredited coaches and covers running, jumping and throwing events.

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