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## Top Tiree surfing event rides waves of concern

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Plans to carry on with a top world windsurfing event during Covid-19 are making waves in Tiree.

If the week-long Tiree Wave Classic competition goes ahead next month it will be Scotland's first international sports event as the UK exits lockdown.

Argyll and Bute Council and EventScotland are backing it and organisers are working flat out to Covid-proof the event that will attract about 50 competitors this year and 75 to 80 spectators daily.

The event is being seen as a pilot for putting on a safe international event.

So far the tiny island has stayed virus-free but some concerns are being expressed about the globe's longest running professional windsurfing event happening during the pandemic.

Oban South and the Isles

**'No matter how the organisers try to cut risks, it is still a huge risk. It is complete madness.'**

councillor Roddy McCuish said it was madness for the event to go ahead and it should be cancelled this year.

He said: 'As far as I'm aware, Tiree has been virus-free until now. I'm deeply concerned about all the people heading here. No matter how the organisers try to cut risks, it is still a huge risk. It's complete madness. The Covid figures in Scotland right now are higher than they have been for months. Why not just call it off this year and look forward to doing it again in 2021?'

Earlier this year, coronavirus saw the cancelling of Tiree Music Festival and the Tiree Ultramarathon.

Continued on page eight.



### Team Eilidh set the pace in virtual challenge

Runners and walkers clocked up enough miles to circle Barra 30 times in memory of the island's young piper Eilidh MacLeod, who was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing. Runners Lisa MacNeil, who grew up in Oban to Barra parents, Catriona MacNeil and Suzanne Forman were among those taking part in a virtual challenge to raise money for the musical trust set up in the 14-year-old's memory. The trio, above, completed a half marathon on the island. Full story: page six.

### Woman, 54, dies in Crianlarich crash

Police are appealing for witnesses after the death of 54-year-old woman in a crash on the A82.

The incident happened around 3.50am on Tuesday, a mile south of Crianlarich and involved a silver MG ZS car and a lorry. Emergency services attended but the woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The road was closed in both directions until 2.15pm.

### Another landslip closes A83 again

Fresh calls have been made for a permanent solution to the A83 after another major landslip closed the road again at the weekend.

The section which had to be closed on Sunday had only just re-opened last Monday, September 7, following the 10,000-tonne landslip on August 4.

Full story: page three.

### Connel racer John wins Grand Prix

Connel motorbike racer John McPhee claimed Moto3 victory at the San Marino Grand Prix on Sunday.

Full story: page 10.



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## Man tells police: 'I'm an idiot'

A man charged with threatening behaviour told police 'I'm an idiot', Oban Sheriff Court heard last Wednesday.

Neil O'Hara, 42, of 11 Powell Place, Connel, admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner and acting aggressively, shouting, swearing and repeatedly striking a door at his partner's home and uttering threats of violence on August 14 last year.

Roofer O'Hara was 'aggressive' from the outset the court heard. He came into the house shouting and making threats about a man that O'Hara's partner took to be a man who lives nearby.

Police were contacted and O'Hara was taken into custody, questioned and charged. His reply to officers was 'I'm an idiot', said procurator fiscal David Glancy.

In O'Hara's defence, the court was told the incident was a 'one-off isolated matter' and was due to alcohol. He had no previous convictions and it was completely out of character. He had not drunk since and did not intend to.

The court also heard how O'Hara was 'disgusted with what happened' and wanted to apologise.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes continued O'Hara's bail and deferred the case until Wednesday October 7.

# Overnight A82 closures

A 16-mile section of the A82 is to close for 10 nights in a £170,000 project later this month.

Around 2km (1.2m) between Tarbet and Ardlui near Loch Lomond will be resurfaced, said BEAR Scotland.

The work will start on Sunday September 20 and will take place between 8pm-6am.

It is scheduled to be finished by 6am on Friday October 2. No work will take place on Friday or Saturday nights, said BEAR Scotland.

Due to narrow widths

throughout the two locations, a 16.5 mile section of the A82 will be closed in both directions between Tarbet and Crianlarich during working hours. This is to ensure the safety of road workers and motorists, said a spokesperson.

A signed diversion route will be in place via the A82, A85, A819 and A83 during working hours.

BEAR Scotland said the A82 would remain open during the day to keep disruption to a minimum.

To ensure the safety of mo-

torists, there will be a 30mph speed restriction as traffic will be running on a temporary surface, it said.

Emergency services will be able to pass through the works at all times.

Access for local residents, businesses and scheduled bus services will be maintained when it is safe to pass through the working area.

Consultation has been carried out with emergency services and relevant stakeholders to make them aware of the plans and share information

about the project in advance. Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative said: "This surfacing project across these two locations of A82 will help address any defects and greatly improve the surface for motorists. The overnight closures are essential for ensuring the safety of road workers and motorists due to the narrow widths of the road at these locations.

'We've taken steps to limit the overall impact of the project by carrying out the work overnight and avoid-

ing working on Friday and Saturday nights. Our teams will do all they can to complete the works as quickly and safely as they can, and we thank the community and road users for their patience in advance while we complete these projects.

'We encourage motorists to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information.'

Real-time journey planning information can be obtained by visiting [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org).

## New Zealand shells 'shore' need a new home

Seeking a new owner for a child's suitcase full of sea snail shells from New Zealand is a curious task facing Lismore woman Brona MacDougall.

The Paua shells, legally brought back to Scotland in the 1950s, are from the estate of a North Connel woman who passed away.

Her two daughters, who both live in Australia, visited after their mother's death to wind up the old family home and asked their friend Brona and long-time family tax-advisor to help find the unusual shells a new home.

'They could only take back what they could fit in their suitcases so that left the shells behind. They'd found them in



a gorgeous children's suitcase. They had been legally brought back here in the 1950s,' said Brona, who used to work at a chartered accountants in

Oban but is now with a firm in Hawick.

'The daughters are all for girl power and they would really like the shells to go to

**Brona MacDougall on Lismore is seeking a new home for these colourful shells.**

a female jeweller in Scotland to be turned into something beautiful to be enjoyed at last after years of being shut in an old suitcase,' added Brona.

Despite getting ideas from the Lismore and Oban communities about who might be interested in working with the shells and bids of Brona's own to contact jewellers, there have been no takers so far.

'It's a curious responsibility to have. I'm at a bit of a loss what to do with them really.

'At the moment they are covered in sea crud so they'd

need sanding down but once they are cleaned up they are beautiful brilliantly coloured purples, blues and greens like water.'

Paua is the Maori name given to three New Zealand species of large edible sea snails, that survive strong tidal surges by clinging to rocks using their large muscular foot and eat seaweed.

Also known as 'sea ears,' the shells are often used to represent the eyes in Maori carvings and traditionally are associated with the stars and eyes of ancestors gazing down from the night sky.

Any women Scottish jewellers interested can contact Brona on 01450 372267.

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## Call to take a stand against racism

A call is being made to Argyll and Bute Council to take a stand against racism, hate crime and all forms of intolerance.

Oban councillors Kieron Green and Julie McKenzie will present a motion to the council at its September 24 meeting asking members to show their support so Argyll and Bute can be recognised as a welcoming area for everyone. The motion has been worked on in conjunction with Black Lives Matter Oban and 846Solidarity, which are both dedicated to learning about and acting against racism.

Councillor McKenzie said: 'Hopefully we will raise awareness and play our part in ensuring the council takes a positive step forward, building on good work already done, to ensure a better Argyll and Bute for everyone.' Jakki Spicer, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Oban and 846Solidarity, added: 'It is important to recognise that, unfortunately, racism and xenophobia exist in our beautiful corner of the world and to do something positive about it.'

# Fresh calls for A83 action after more landslip havoc

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Fresh calls have been made for a permanent solution to the A83 after more 'havoc' from another major landslip at the Rest and Be Thankful.

The vital route connecting Tarbet with Lochgilphead and the A816 to Oban, was closed on Saturday afternoon as a safety precaution in advance of a Met Office yellow alert for heavy rain. And it was discovered on Sunday September 13 that around 5,000 tonnes of mud and boulders had slipped and reached road level.

The same section had only just re-opened last Monday, September 7, under traffic light control following the 10,000-tonne landslip which shut the A83 in several places on August 4.

Donald Cameron, a Highlands and Islands MSP,



Rubble trouble on the A83. Photograph: BEAR Scotland.

said it was causing 'havoc'. The third landslip this year was affecting residents, businesses and visitors as the area attempts to make the most of the short tourism season, he said. 'For far too long, the SNP government has adopted a 'make do' approach to Argyll and Bute's transport infrastructure. They absolutely must now deliver the long-

term, permanent solution local people are rightly demanding, and soon.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, has written to Scottish Transport Secretary Michael Matheson calling for the 'quickest possible' route to building a new road.

Mr Russell said the SNP had committed to a new road and the issue now was how quickly

it could be built. He said: 'The second major slip in six weeks means time is absolutely of the essence in solving the problem. The best solution must also be one that has the potential for having the shortest possible timetable to completion which does rule out some of the more elaborate options.'

Campaigners have started

an online petition calling for a 'bypass tunnel' which has garnered 2,200 signatures with a flurry of supporters since the weekend. It calls for a 2.4-mile long tunnel 'costing up to £261 million' based on the cost of similar projects in Norway.

However, the unstable 'geology' across the area means such an idea has its detractors.

## Safety concerns amplified

The latest landslide follows weeks of work by BEAR Scotland.

Over the last five weeks, they had worked round-the-clock to secure the area by putting in a 'temporary debris barrier' and a catch-pit, along with plans for another. Recent repairs have included constructing a new culvert beneath the road as well as installing a new concrete retaining wall.

The wall was anchored to the

ground using multiple eight-metre-long rods to help stabilise the road. Work had also been carried out to stabilise and secure the hillside above the carriageway. In addition, a new road safety barrier and roadside drainage system was also installed. Yet the weekend's weather was the first significant 'rain event' since the slip at the start of August and will amplify concerns about its ability to cope in winter.



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## Obstruction and sectarian songs land man in court

A man who obstructed police officers and sang sectarian songs has been ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

Gavin MacColl, 38, of Flat 1, West Bay Flats, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday September 9 for sentence. He pleaded guilty to two charges relating to November 28 last year.

He was charged with intentionally obstructing two police officers at his home as they tried to exercise their powers under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Having opened the door when requested to do so, he attempted to close it to prevent them searching him and struggled violently, according to the charge by the Procurator Fiscal.

MacColl was further charged with behaving in a threatening or abusive manner in that he did shout, swear and repeatedly make sectarian remarks and sing sectarian songs when being taken by police vehicle between his flat and Oban Police Station.

His solicitor Ruben

Murdanaigum told the court it was a 'very short incident' and that his client had 'over reacted' to the police asking him to leave the house.

Mr Murdanaigum said MacColl, a bricklayer, had not been in trouble since the incident and accepted he should not have done it. Mr Murdanaigum said a report into the defendant had been 'very good'.

But Sheriff Patrick Hughes told the court the 'most alarming' part of the report was that it suggested MacColl presented a 'high likelihood of reconviction'.

However, Sheriff Hughes said the sentence he planned to impose was an alternative to custody and if it did not work it would be 'difficult' to see an alternative.

He imposed a community pay back order encompassing rehabilitation and 120 hours of unpaid work over 12 months.

For the protection of the public from further 'outbursts' Sheriff Hughes ordered that MacColl must stay at home between 8pm and 5am for six weeks.

# Ardchattan cheer as buyout secured

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ardchattan is celebrating securing the funding to buy its former school and turn it into a community hub.

Ardchattan Centre has been awarded £52,000 to make the purchase, including the school house next door to it, from Argyll and Bute Council.

Breege Smith, chairperson of Ardchattan Centre, said: 'We are overjoyed with the award. Our ambition to transform this building into the cultural and social hub that our community desperately needs has taken a major step forward.'

A radical rethink is ongoing with the public's input about how the project will work post Covid-19. Plans are being thought out and ideas being explored.

Using the old Bonawe school

for workshops, evening classes, a bakery and cafe, as well as a meeting space for the community and for events were among initial plans and so was providing holiday accommodation.

The project had already received £6,360 as first-stage funding from the Scottish Land Fund to kickstart it and help with feasibility work to make sure the building would be an asset.

Another £10,000 was received from the Scottish Government's Launch Me fund to help progress a five-year business plan if community ownership went ahead.

The new funding award, announced yesterday, September 16, is part of a £544,576 Scottish Land Fund package being split between five local ownership initiatives in Argyll.

One of the other projects is Inverawe Community Woodlands which has been awarded £25,762 to buy an ancient area of woods to clear it of invasive species, open up pedestrian access and encourage wildlife.

John Bergant, chairperson of Inverawe Community Woodland, said the project was 'absolutely delighted' to have received the grant that would allow it to buy the ground.

'There were times when we thought this day would never come. However, we can now



Ardchattan Centre committee celebrates the funding news outside the old school buildings. Photograph: Emily Lavis-Jones.

very much look forward to getting started on our modest plans for the ground,' he said.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'What a fantastic result. Many congratulations to The Ardchattan Centre Group for their unwavering commitment and belief in this project. I am absolutely delighted to

hear the Ardchattan school buildings will be brought back to life, once again, providing a centre for the community in this rural and very beautiful area. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Scottish Land Fund and Argyll and Bute Council for their vital support which is enabling this project to become a reality.'

## Council prepares for winter

More than 11,000 tonnes of salt will be stockpiled to keep 750 miles of Argyll and Bute's priority roads clear this winter.

Members of the environment, development and infrastructure committee approved the 2020-2021 Winter Service Policy on Thursday, setting out priorities for treatment and pre-treating routes ahead of winter hazards.

Winter stand-by arrangements will be in place from Friday October 30 running until Friday April 16 next year.

The programme is similar to previous years with the inclusion of additional Covid-19 safety guidelines.

When cold weather hits, the council pre-treats 52 per cent of the road network, which is more than most other local authorities.

There are 31 frontline vehicles ready for action with two spare in case of breakdown. There are another six vehicles, as well as tractors and 'V' ploughs, that can be deployed if necessary.

Keeping priority roads clear takes careful planning by a team of people who analyse local weather forecast data so by the end of each day the council knows what it needs to do the

following morning. Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for housing, roads and infrastructure services, said: 'Each year, we thank our roads workers who come to work on the icy roads, in the dark, to make sure the rest of us can get to our daily commitments as safely as possible. More than ever this year, we will value the frontline service they provide. Please look out for vulnerable neighbours when conditions underfoot are poor.'

'Throughout winter, we work closely with colleagues in Police Scotland and promote any relevant travel advice through our own council Facebook and Twitter channels. Please pay close attention to travel advice during poor weather conditions and stay safe.'

For more information on the council's adverse weather plans go to: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-roads>

ROSPA also has a useful factsheet on being prepared for winter driving on its website at <http://bit.ly/2RjY5pB>.

However, in very bad weather, the advice is to avoid driving completely unless it is absolutely necessary.

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# Countdown to key handover at Oban's Rockfield Centre

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Builders revamping The Rockfield Centre (TRC) are scheduled to hand the keys back to the community next month.

Work on refurbishing the centre is progressing well after lockdown, says Oban Communities Trust, which is leading the project to convert and refurbish the former primary school into a community cultural hub.

As soon as restrictions eased, contractors TSL had workers back on site to get the £2.8million scheme finished.

The main building and site was acquired for the community in 2015 with arts and culture, history and heritage, enterprise and education and community well-being the themes at the heart of the re-development ambition.

Fundraising for the main building make-over has been achieved in just over five years. With the added challenges brought on by Covid-19, this is a remarkable achievement for a community project, said Eleanor MacKinnon, TRC's transition operational manager.

'Despite the pandemic and all the challenges this brought with loss of earnings overnight, the centre remained an anchor for our community. Our staff and volunteers continued to work with telephone calls, deliveries and the distribution of monies via the Community Support Fund to a plethora of organisations supporting the Covid response,' she added.

Although the site shut, TRC moved its clubs and activities online with the support of staff, volunteers and the wider community, keeping the door open for film, comedy and drama nights, writing and poetry

sessions, arts sessions, camera club, children's activities and the blether sessions which have been vital in helping to beat loneliness for people socially isolating.

'More recently as restrictions have lifted, the centre, like every other organisation has adapted to the new normal. It was heartening to see the response to our requests to brighten up the shelter in the grounds which has hosted our book bank and other outdoor sessions and more recently the response to the charity shop opening and the limited opening of the huts as a venue for artists during Artmap Argyll.

'The receipt of the keys for the building will begin a new era for TRC and the conversion of large rooms will open up many opportunities. Although the building is refurbished, additional fitting out work is required, some of which will require additional funds. So



Building work on The Rockfield Centre is nearly finished.

much depends on how the pandemic recovery pans out,' said Eleanor. And she added: 'We are proceeding in a phased entry to accommodate the kit out plans with the first phase

moving to tenant occupation in January. If all goes to plan early spring will include a move to some limited opening within the building alongside a mix of online and on site

activity. However, we obviously have a lot of logistics to consider. Meantime all our clubs and our programme will, in the majority, remain online.'

A winter programme of online activities is being compiled. Details, when complete, will be available on [www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk) and Facebook.

TRC customer liaison officer Lyn Connelly has also put out an appeal for more volunteers.

She said: 'We are very lucky to have many willing volunteers but there is always room for more whether helping in the charity shop, offering support to activities or, as was the case recently, decorating the shelter, making visors or moving donations of furniture and equipment for the centre. This new era is an ideal time for people to join the effort.'

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**POLICE FILES**

Police are appealing for witnesses after a black Ford Transit van and an Eldis motorhome collided on the A828 at Appin at 2.15pm on Sunday September 6.

At 9.30am on Tuesday September 8 at Nelson Road, Oban, police charged a woman, aged 34, for breaching conditions that she should not contact another woman.

The woman was kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

A woman, aged 26, was found in possession of cannabis when police searched a house in Sinclair Drive, Oban, at 1.30pm on Thursday September 10.

She was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

Police arrested and charged a man with behaving in an abusive manner at 9.15pm on Friday September 11 in George Street, Oban. The 39-year-old was detained to appear in court.

**Anyone with information in relation to the above should call 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.**

# Barra's Team Eilidh set the pace on virtual fundraiser

Runners and walkers clocked up enough miles to circle Barra 30 times in memory of the island's young piper Eilidh MacLeod, who was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing.

More than 55 people from the island and as far away as Virginia in the USA took part in a virtual 5k, 10k, half marathon or full marathon raising hundreds of pounds so far for the musical trust set up in the 14-year-old's name.

Eilidh, who was a piper with Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, died along with 21 other Ariana Grande fans in the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017.

Participants in the virtual event completed 396 miles – the same as going round Barra 30.5 times – said Iagan MacNeil, one of the organisers.

Those joining in the challenge got involved in Barra and Vatersay, Eriskay, Lewis and

Harris, Skye, Tiree, Lochaber, Ross-shire, the summit of Ben Lomond, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Oldham and Virginia, USA.

'There may be more but these are the ones who signed up and whose mileage we can log,' said Iagan.

'And we had a musical flavour to our participants. We've had Skipinnish's Angus MacPhail and Rachel Walker, who is a solo musician and singer; Ian Smith of Trail West, who achieved a personal best on Tiree; pipe drummer Fergus Bryce, who masterminded our pipe tune A Tune for The Trust; and Murray O'May who piped during his Team Eilidh contribution.'

The challenge was free to enter but donations to the trust would still be welcomed in light of this year's fundraising events being scaled back. Donations can be made via



Suzanne Forman and son Seumas during their 5k walk near Barra's beach airport. Suzanne is Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil's head teacher.



Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil S2 classmates Rachael, Mairead and Ellie walked the 13 miles round Barra and collected £100 on the way.



Andrew James of Barra and a pupil at Sgoil Bhàgh a' Chaisteil completed his 5k with a personal best.

Eilidh's Trust's JustGiving page. So far around £700 has been donated.

Schoolchildren on Barra and Vatersay also got involved as the island schools used the event as part of their regular PE challenges. JustGiving – <https://www.justgiving.com/eilidhstrust>



Iagan MacNeil, originally from Barra, completed two runs in Edinburgh.



Piper Murray O'May, whose mother is from Campbeltown, plays a tune while on his walk near Stirling University.

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www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

# Island gears up for £600k cycling and walking plan

Nearly £600,000 has been awarded to a sustainable travel project on a remote Scottish island.

The Gateway to Gigha project has been awarded £593,000 to improve paths for residents and visitors.

The aim is to provide better walking and cycle access to historic heritage sites and reduce car use on the island, which is off the west coast of Kintyre.

The cash will help to deliver construction and upgrading of paths spanning 8km (4.9m) across the island.

New bikes and e-bikes will be available to hire next to the ferry slip to reduce the need for cars.

The funding will also help pay for a newly-created island ranger position which aims to project manage the Gateway to Gigha initiative. It will encourage and promote the sustainable use and protection of Gigha's landscape and assets, including sustainable travel.

Jane Millar, business development manager for Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, said: 'With thanks to the support from the European Regional Development Fund and the Scottish Government, Gigha will become more accessible.

'By improving our foot and cycle path network and providing more information we aim to reduce the number of car-borne visitors to Gigha and ensure our visitors and residents know more about our environment, landscape and assets and how best to



The project will improve walking and cycle routes on Gigha.

protect them.' The project was one of 10 schemes to share £9.46m of funding through the Scottish Government Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund. The fund has benefited from £7.21 million provided through the European Regional Development Fund.

The aim is to help councils and community groups benefit from projects responding to the global climate emergency and allow more people to enjoy greener and more sustainable transport options.

Michael Matheson, cabinet secretary for transport, infrastructure and connectivity, said: 'Our Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund is responding to the global climate emergency and helping to support Scotland's green recovery from Covid-19.

'These exciting projects will

join other low carbon and active travel initiatives that have been very much welcomed by communities. These projects will support our Programme for Government commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032, whilst helping us to build an active nation and make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle for everyday journeys.'

Tim Anderson, head of transport at the Energy Saving Trust, said: 'We look forward to working with the public and third sector organisations, supporting them to achieve the promising potential of the projects.'

Other beneficiaries include Lochaber Environmental Group which is behind the Active Travel Fort William project and an electric bike share scheme.

# Man lost temper at shelter

A man lost his temper at an Oban homeless centre, a court has heard.

The case against Paul Birss was heard at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday September 9 following an incident at Solas on Albany Street on April 6.

Birss, aged 34, of Ardmore Guest House, Helensburgh, was charged with having behaved in a threatening or abusive manner on that date.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court Birss was found asleep on the couch at the property with a 'strong smell of drink' and was told to go to his room. But he was seen leaving the property then returned 'very drunk' at 1.30pm in an 'agitated and incoherent' state, said Mr Glancy.

He kicked over a table and threw a remote control at a 46-inch television with such force that the screen cracked,

the court was told. He was told the police would be called but replied he did not care and wanted to go to jail, and shouted and swore, said Mr Glancy.

Staff had 'no option' but to call the police, said Mr Glancy, saying officers attended and removed him.

Birss, who was not in court, will be sentenced on October 7, said Sheriff Patrick Hughes, who ordered that he attend court on that date.

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OT

# Special meeting will hear Ganavan plans

Reports on how parking at Ganavan could be better managed will come to a special meeting of Oban and Lorn councillors on October 14.

A motion was passed at last week's Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee asking Argyll and Bute's roads and infrastructure service to consider the feasibility of banning campervans, caravans and commercial vehicles from parking overnight on the

road directly in front of The Lancaster Hotel, up Ganavan Road to the entrance of the beach car park.

Providing a tap and waste disposal facility at the car park was also part of the motion proposed by Councillor Julie McKenzie and seconded by Councillor Kieron Green after 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, campervan visitors are being displaced along Ganavan Road 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,' read the motion.

#### Costs

Officers have also been asked to figure out the costs of work needed to provide basic services for overnight campervans at Ganavan and bring a report and recommendations to the

special area committee next month so the issue can be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Concerns about the Ganavan car park were raised and led to a lengthy discussion as part of public question time. Marri Malloy, chairperson of Oban Community Council, spoke as an Oban resident and said: 'That land was gifted to the people of Oban for their recreation.

'I object as an Oban resident

that I can't go out and enjoy my local beach.' Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Green said: 'It's really welcome that we can look for a way in which we can manage this better.'

The motion also called on officers to 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.



These boots are made for walking. Willy Munro gets ready for his charity walk from Seil.

## Willy marches on for Forces' charities

British Legion member Willy Munro is making it his mission to help fill a funding gap for his Easdale branch next month.

On Wednesday October 7 he plans to walk 25 miles from his home in Ellenabeich out to Melfort and back to raise as much money as he can for Armed Forces Charities.

Royal British Legion Scotland's (RBL) Easdale branch usually makes £4,000 to £5,000 a year through fund-raising activities for veterans charities including Erskine

and SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, the Soldiers, Sailors and Families Association – but this year's events had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The inspiration for Willy's sponsored walk is his son Niall who is a serving soldier with the Scots Guards.

'In 2018 he was part of a Scots Guards group that walked from Ypres to London, 100 miles for 100 years since the end of the First World War and I thought our RBL branch could probably make

a bit of money if we did a similar thing,' said semi-retired orthotist Willy. Organisers helping him with the walk are also planning a grand raffle of prizes donated by generous businesses for the event that had been planned by the RBL branch to commemorate VE and VJ Day. The hope is to sell tickets at those businesses and to have collecting tins at Seil's two pubs to help bring in funds. A Justgiving page is also being created so people can make donations directly.

'People are welcome to join me for all or just part of the way, although social distancing will have to be observed,' said Willy. 'I've always enjoyed walking. As a child I'd walk four miles to school and back. I've trekked in the Dolomites and in Norway in the past,' said Willy, who once walked 56 miles round the perimeter of Arran in 24 hours to raise funds for a church needing a new roof. To support Willy visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/willyswander](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/willyswander)

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**Eye to eye** with John Wallace

**A feeling of deja vu**

It's now six weeks since I returned to work after four months shielding. Even in these last six weeks I have noticed a major shift in attitude to the effects of the pandemic. Most of my elderly patients are still too frightened to travel far. Many have hardly stepped out of their houses since mid-March. They have frequently been ignoring significant vision loss. Sadly, in several cases this potentially reversible loss of vision has become permanent. Many other patients have taken the attitude "It won't happen to me" and are carrying on as if nothing was amiss.

As I write, the omens are suggesting a second "Lockdown" is imminent. I dread to think what that means for health-care. Waiting lists for basic

of patients each needing extended appointment times. I wonder how we will ever get out of this predicament.

In my practice we introduced video and telephone consultations at the start of lockdown in March. It's not the same as a "real" face to face consultation. It does mean patients terrified by the thought of leaving the safety of their home can still access basic eyecare. If you are concerned about any sudden or unexpected changes in your vision always call your optometrist to discuss your symptoms. Even if you don't have a smartphone with a camera your optometrist can frequently diagnose from your symptoms. Apparently minor eye problems can quickly escalate and can be potentially blinding!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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Advertorial

# Boy assaulted mum in row over games console

A teenager, who admitted assaulting his mother in an altercation over a birthday gift games console, has been warned he could face prison.

The 17-year-old from Oban, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had wanted to get a refund for the gift from his mum to raise enough money to travel to Glasgow in the hope of getting more gifts from other family.

Oban Sheriff Court heard how earlier this year the boy, who has no previous convictions, was at home alone with his mum when he asked for money to pay for his fare to the city.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court how the games console had taken up all of the mother's savings leaving her with no disposable cash.

He told his mother he wanted to go to Glasgow to see family because they might have presents, said Mr Glancy.

She told him she could not afford the journey so he said he would return the games console to get a refund to pay for the trip. 'That led to a physical altercation,' added Mr Glancy.

He seized her by the neck compressing her throat and only released

his grip when she was struggling for breath. He then repeatedly punched and kicked her on the head and body, stamping on her.

The boy told his mother to stay on the ground.

He took the house phone and her mobile then left the house before calling the police himself and was waiting for officers when they ar-

rived, admitting what he had done. During the police interview, he was 'remorseful and certainly upset' said Mr Glancy.

Oban sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence and called for reports including one on good behaviour warning it could end in a custodial sentence but adding: 'Given your youth that should be the last resort.'

## Tiree windsurfing event rides waves of concern

Continued from page one.

Tiree Community Council discussed it at its last meeting and is taking 'a balanced approach', said community council chairman Dr John Holliday.

'It's an important part of the Tiree branding and business year. Everything else has been cancelled but we are worried.

'We have not seen all the details yet. It is possible things can be put in place to satisfy concerns but we are being cautious. We have had representations. We need to know people who come to the event will stick to regulations. There is a sharp rise in Covid cases on the mainland so it may well be that events overtake the event,' he added.

William MacLean from event host and Tiree-based Wild Diamond said: 'We're not downplaying the risk of Covid, but we believe we can more than adequately Covid-proof this event.'

Putting the event's attendance figures of surfers in 'prime health' into context he said about 20,000 tourists had already visited Tiree in the past eight weeks.

More than 100 people a day are taking part in water sport activities run by Wild Diamond, sticking to strict Covid regulations.

'In the contest, the participants will have all their own equipment. Social-distancing is abundant, happening naturally in the sport because it would be dangerous to get close. It's all in the great, fresh outdoors,' said Mr MacLean.

He added: 'It's the social side of the event that will suffer.'

Changes to make the event as safe as possible for competitors, organisers and the population of the Isle of Tiree will include a ban on formal indoor meet-ups of competitors in the evenings throughout the week, the prizewinning

will be outdoors on the beach on the final day and skippers' meetings will be held outside to minimise the risk of Covid transmission.

Organisers are also working closely with the British Wavesailing Association (BWA) and RYA Scotland as well as Caledonian MacBrayne, Tiree Community Development Trust and the community council.

A Covid policy is currently being written for the event that will include details on expected Covid testing for the windsurfers.

'We are doing everything we can to make this a safe event for everyone - our competitors, event crew, judges, people travelling through Glasgow, Oban, the airports and for island residents.

'Ultimately the event will be in limbo right up until the first day and will be in the hands of the government. In the meantime, we are also talking and listening to the community. If they came up with solid justification that this event was unsafe, it would not go ahead,' said Mr MacLean.

The event dates are October 10 to October 16.

Tiree Wave Classic is likely to be the only event sanctioned by the BWA in the UK this year and the only big-name event in Argyll in 2020.

EventScotland says the Tiree Wave Classic is one of the UK's most prestigious wavesailing events which it has supported through its international programme for the last 16 years. 'We have agreed to continue our support of the event in 2020 and have asked the organisers to share their plans for the safe delivery of the event, ensuring at all times that they comply with the up-to-date Scottish Government guidelines for sporting competition and outdoor events,' said a spokesperson.

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OT

## Wet weather sees Oban Open moved to this Saturday

The Oban Golf Open, due to be played at Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday, was called off and the course closed for the day following wet weather and a bad forecast for the day of the event.

The competition has been re-arranged for this Saturday, September 19, with the same tee off times.

## Oban Camanachd Club golf day at Glencruitten

Oban Camanachd Club is holding a golf day at Glencruitten Golf Club this Sunday, September 20.

Twenty-six four-man teams will take part, with the first team teeing off at 8am.

## YOURSTORY

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# McPhee takes excellent win at San Marino GP

A tactical masterclass from John McPhee saw him claim Moto3 victory at the San Marino Grand Prix, after starting from 17th on the grid, to close in on the leader in the championship standings.

A good start saw John move into 11th on the first lap. Biding his time in the main field, the Connel rider started to move himself into podium contention in the closing stages of the race.

After a brief stint in the lead with three laps to go, John ignored the battling bikes around him to take his first win since Le Mans last year.

McPhee has now reduced his deficit in the championship standings to 14 points.

After the race John said: I'm over the moon. It's a dream come true to be on the top step here after the last race and all the problems there. I tried to set all my times on my own on



A delighted John McPhee and two members of his team celebrate after winning the San Marino Grand Prix.

Friday, then I completely let the team down in qualifying,

by having a crash right at the start. That race just couldn't

have gone any better for me though. It went perfectly to

plan and I felt so strong. I knew it would be hard to make my way through, but on the first lap I was already up to P11 so I just tried to keep calm and creep my way forward. I found myself back in 14th so I just tried to mount a charge to see what happened.

'On that last lap I felt really strong, so I knew I could pass one or two guys in the last few corners if I needed to.

'I just want to say a massive thank you to the team. I couldn't have done it without them.

'It's still early days in the championship. It's good to close the gap but let's see what happens next weekend.

Round eight of the Moto3 championship will get under way for the PETRONAS Sprinta Racing Moto3 riders in a few days, September 18 to September 20 at Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli.

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## ALIenergy aims to help families affected by fuel poverty

Local energy charity ALIenergy has started a new, two year project, working with Home Energy Scotland, funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme – [www.energyredress.org.uk](http://www.energyredress.org.uk). Argyll Energy Advice Service delivers a home energy advice service to households across all of Argyll & Bute. Assistance is available for anyone suffering from fuel poverty with special focus on off-gas households, which are often particularly badly affected by fuel poverty due to reliance on more expensive heating types such as electric heating with punitive restrictive meter tariffs. Households will be supported to access alternative suppliers, meters, or tariffs, implement energy saving measures and behaviours, access schemes and reduce bills using a mix of telephone advice, home visits (as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow), and drop-in events.

Argyll has one of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Europe, due to poor housing, high energy prices, lack of mains gas, low wages, vulnerable demographics, bad weather and exposure. Fuel poverty



affects 1 in 3 households across Argyll. The Argyll area is the second largest local authority in Scotland, covering 9% of Scotland, and is particularly challenging: 96% of the area and 45% of its population is classed as 'remote rural', tending to fall through policy gaps, and poorly represented in standard household indicators. Many households are isolated or inaccessible and 17% are on 23 inhabited islands. ALIenergy's Affordable Warmth Advisors are available to help households struggling to meet the cost of heating their home comfortably. Recent cases have seen householders receiving boiler replacements

free of charge and hundreds of pounds saved from switching electricity tariffs.

Fuel poverty kills six people in Scotland every day of winter and increased levels of fuel poverty will result in more deaths. In an area like Argyll which is heavily dependent on tourism, hospitality and seasonal work, it's very likely the knock-on effects of lockdown will see an increased number of households with less income this winter.

"ALIenergy handled every step of the process on my behalf, without them I wouldn't have received my new boiler, secondary glazing and fridge." Mrs B, Oban.

# Corinthian spirit for Round Shuna weekend

Regattas, in common with most other sporting events, have mostly been cancelled this year because of the pandemic.

However, with a relaxation on restrictions, Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club (CCYC) ran its Round Shuna weekend in early September, in accordance with social distancing protocol and government guidelines.

Participating yachts sailed from Ardfern and Oban to Craobh Marina for the event.

Brian Wiseman's Sorr of Appin won the Ardfern passage, with the fastest junior on corrected time awarded to Magnus Hampton sailing Phoenix.

Magnus helmed brilliantly under spinnaker all the way down Loch Craignish,

through the Dhorus Mhor up to Craobh.

Oban boats Elixir of Lorn, Hot Toddy and Dawn Seeker had a fabulous sail downwind, only dropping kites to navigate Cuan Sound.

The sail around Shuna starts in pursuit style with the choice to sail clockwise or anti-clockwise left to the yacht skipper to decide. However, with no wind and floating conditions for the start, it was difficult to make that choice this year and the fleet split in two, some heading north about and some to the south of Shuna.

Winning the first boat home was Andy Peden in Stealthy. He lifted the prized case of bubbly for the team's efforts as well as lifting first in Class

1. Vamp was second and Elixir of Lorn, third. Brian Wiseman's Sorr of Appin won Class 2 from Skirmish and Guy Neville's Antares.

Hot Toddy took Class 3 from Phoenix and Malindi of Lorne. The prized Brendan Bucket for the last boat to finish within

the time limit was awarded to Aurantes and the Craobh Haven team, whilst Darren Taylor won the Wooden Spoon in Avilion.

CCYC commodore Seonaid Reid said: 'This was for not trying hard enough to be the last boat home!'

The best overall boat of the weekend and the Craobh Haven Challenge Cup was awarded to Brian Wiseman and Sorr of Appin. A barbecue where everyone kept appropriate social distancing was held.

Seonaid Reid thanked everyone for taking part in

the Round Shuna weekend and everyone who had been involved in helping to organise and run the event.

She said: 'This weekend continues to remain one of the most popular in the CCYC and west coast racing calendar. We look forward to next year.'



Phoenix at the windless start to the pursuit sail Round Shuna.

## Donald wins Seniors Open at Craignure

Donald Morrison was the winner of the recent Seniors Open played at Craignure Golf Club.

Second, third and fourth places were separated by just a single shot.

Results:

- 1 Donald Morrison, 38 points
- 2 Steve Wilson, 33 points
- 3 Pat Wilson, 32 points

In the heat of a sweltering September afternoon at Craignure, Donald was apparently fading towards the end of his round but with 24 points on the front nine holes he was always going to be difficult to catch.

Steve claims bragging rights in the Wilson household for a change, but expects it to be a short-lived victory.



Donald Morrison with the Seniors Open trophy.

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OT

## Affordable housing sites on Lismore identified

Two sites for affordable housing have been identified for community consultation on Lismore.

An updated survey of the island's needs is being carried out as part of a feasibility report involving existing residents and those living away but who may want to return if affordable accommodation becomes available. Out of many sites looked at, two that have been highlighted for further consideration are land at the south end of Newfield Terrace in Achnacroish, which already has consent for one dwelling but could contain more. The second site is The Steadings at Clachan, which has the possibility of some land immediately to the south for a few new build units.

A drop-in day was planned on the island for today (Thursday September 17) depending on Covid-10 restrictions.

The work of an independent architect and valuation surveyor is almost complete on plans to develop enterprise units on an existing Scottish and Southern Energy site at the foot of the brae at Achnacroish.

Discussions with interested parties, postponed due to the pandemic, have only recently started up again before more consultations will be held with the community and potentially bids put in for support to buy the land.

'This project remains a priority, offering opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs to develop local employment and enhance Achnacroish at the same time,' reports Lismore Community Trust as part of its summer 2020 update.

A revised planning application has been submitted for the island's school house project to include a compact on-site car parking and turning area.

The Lismore Map and Guide has been proving popular with plans to put it on the island website so it can be downloaded. It will also be made available more widely on the island.

And finally the community trust is looking for new directors to volunteer to join it. Two of its current directors, including Sebastian Tombs, are standing down after six years of continuous service.



This Highland Coo was just one of the farmyard sculptures helping to make up for the cancelled Dalmally Show.



See you at Dalmally Show 2021.



This hen has been putting a smile on people's faces while missing this year's Covid-19 cancelled Dalmally Agricultural Show.

## Farmyard sculptures help make up for cancelled Dalmally Agricultural Show

Villagers in Dalmally have come up with an alternative to this year's cancelled agricultural show.

Instead of being downhearted and missing out on the fun of the show that should have happened on September 5, the creative crowd took up the challenge to invent a different kind of entertainment for that weekend and put on a display of home-made sculptures on a farming theme.

While there were no marquees in the Mart Park and none of the usual classes for livestock or home industries, larger-than-life models of a chicken, a pig, a sheep and a Highland cow could be spotted in fields and gardens near the show field.

There was even a long distance scarecrow joining in the fun as far away as Lochgilphead.

Pupils at the village primary

school also competed in one-off virtual competitions organised by the show team, completing challenges entitled My Dalmally Show Memory and Lockdown on a Plate, which they entered by sending in photos.

The Not-Dalmally-Show-Day events aimed to provide a little entertainment and to help raise the profile of the event ahead of next year's centenary celebrations.

### Mini celebration

'We know many people were disappointed Dalmally Show had to be cancelled this year, because of Coronavirus restrictions but we hope our mini celebration has brought a smile to the faces of a few passers-by and will remind people we will be back next year for a special date, marking 100 years of Dalmally Show,' said Marjorie Walker, one of the show organisers.



A crunchy carrot marks the spot where Dalmally Show should have taken place on September 5 this year.



Villagers got creative with this sculpture of a piggy.

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## Shoplifter's sentence deferred

A man who pleaded guilty to two charges of shoplifting has had his sentence deferred until next month.

Oban sheriff Patrick Hughes has called for reports on Lewis McLachlan, 39, of Flat 5, Shore Street Flats, Oban, who will have to return to court on October 7.

Last Monday the court heard how McLachlan was seen on CCTV at a shop in town on February 5 this year helping himself to toiletries and razors, hiding them, then fleeing the shop without paying.

When the shop manager went to investigate the aisle, he found empty display boxes and the police were called, said Procurator Fiscal David Glancy.

Mr Glancy told the court the second charge was 'much of the same' where McLachlan had again been seen on CCTV, this time at another Oban shop on March 8 stealing items from a shelf and concealing what he took in his clothing.

# 'Shameful' drunk kisses see man placed on sex offenders' register

A man who repeatedly kissed a woman outside an Oban pub as she tried to push him away has been ordered to pay £400 compensation to his victim.

The offence that landed 32-year-old Wojciech Modzelewski from 62 Mill Drive, Aberdeen, on the sex offenders' list and in court was 'embarrassing' and 'shameful' Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Defence solicitor Kevin McGinness said Modzelewski was a person of previous good character and his actions that night had been out of character because of alcohol.

Mr McGinness told the court it had been 'a very embarrassing, shameful aberration' for his client who works as a drainage engineer and who had been 'heavily intoxicated' that night on November 25 last year.

Modzelewski's sentence was deferred for reports and he was put on the sex offenders' register for six months in March after admitting the sexual assault.

The court at that time was told how Modzelewski was drunk but not unpleasant when he first approached the

woman and her friend in a pub.

At some point when they were speaking he had kissed the woman's hand which was not something she took issue with.

Later the woman went outside for a smoke and Modzelewski followed her for a cigarette and was seen trying to engage her in conversation. It was noticed the woman looked uncomfortable.

When Modzelewski and the woman were left alone smoking in the street they were effectively doing it separately but he approached her and

kissed her on the cheek more than once and asked a number of times if he could kiss her. She tried to push away from him but he had his arm around her stopping her from moving away.

He used his free hand to touch her breasts. She told him to stop. This was seen by her friend who went out and said 'that's enough' which Modzelewski took as a cue and walked away, leaving the pub.

It was while police officers were in the pub dealing with a different matter that the woman spoke to them about

what happened, leading to Modzelewski being traced and interviewed.

Sentencing him, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'It was distressing and humiliating for the complainer' and told Modzelewski 'people simply can't be treated in this way'.

In addition to being put on the sex offenders' register for six months and the fine, Modzelewski was put under supervision of the social work department for six months.

Mr McGinness had told the court Modzelewski was not at risk of re-offending.

## Nominations sought for community council elections

Community councils across the area are seeking nominations for new members.

Elections, which were due to take place earlier in the year, had to be re-scheduled due to

the Covid-19 pandemic. Public notice of the election was given on Tuesday September 8 with a closing date for nominations set for Thursday September 24.

Election day is on Thursday

November 5 with the count taking place on Monday November 9 at 10.30am at Argyll and Bute's Kilmory headquarters.

A number of community

councils, including Seil and Easdale Community Council where five of its members are stepping down, have vacancies.

According to Argyll and Bute Council's website there

are currently 56 community councils in the region from Cardross in the east to Tieve in the west. To find out more and to get a nomination pack go to [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

# NOW LIVE ONLINE

## SEARCH FOR "OBAN WHAT'S ON"

### FOR EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN OBAN

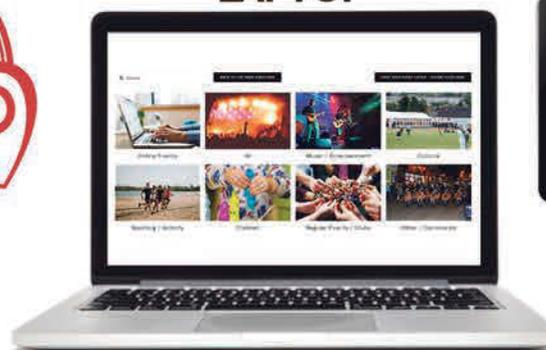


OUR SEPTEMBER WINNER  
FIONA COLQUHOUN

WIN  
**£100**  
VOUCHERS  
IN OUR **FREE**  
MONTHLY DRAW



LAPTOP



TABLET



MOBILE



## Oban Business Improvement District

[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



## CROSS CODE

		25			20		6		9		1		4		2		12			21			
7		6		5		6			4			11			2		4		10		2		
		17			19		8		10		11		11		12		18			19			
26		23		8		7			18			12			19		23		8		12		
7			22				20		9		12		22		5		25			25			
12		14		12		2		9		3			19		23		25		16		9		12
12			19				10						8				9				22		
9		23		8		22		12		19			24		12		9		4		2		13
12			9			19		6		9		12		19			18			12			
18		22		12		26		9			20		25		12		2		18				
		4		6		16		16		22		4		14		12			4				
15		10		6		18		6			25		6		22		8			19			
		8			12		9		12		25		12		2		8				12		

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	E	13
14	15	P	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	M	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

## MAGIC SQUARE

### AGE-RELATED IDLING

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.


# Quiz Challenge

- Brian May has played lead guitar for more than 40 years with which rock group?
- At Rio 2016, who cycled their way into the history books to become Great Britain's most decorated female Paralympian?
- Which landmark is used as the high water reference point for all British tide tables?
- Which inland sea fills the deepest depression on the Earth's surface?
- What is the title of the US national anthem?
- The piccolo belongs to which group of orchestral instruments?
- Boy George is the lead singer of which New Romantic band?
- While at St Andrew's University, Prince William captained his team in which sport?
- The Carnatic Wars were fought in which country?
- Benbecula is in which British group of islands?

## NONAGRAM

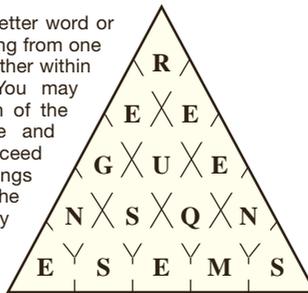
R	I	B
A	G	E
R	I	D

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

**Guidelines:** 18 Good; 22 Very Good; 25 Excellent. Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

## WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.



## FIVE ALIVE

LS	MA	AR	LG	EL
OM		PE		JU
AS	CL	TA	AL	RE
ER		LD		CI
RT	OE	SY	EA	TD

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid - but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						
9			10			
11	12			13	14	
				15		
16		17		18	19	
20						21
22			23			

### ACROSS

- Gathering it's improving (7,2)
- Reduce percentage (3)
- Eccentric members of society have a crazy hairdo (7,6)
- Stop or pass on (5)
- Trusting Robin perhaps (7)
- Cad gets right with the beast (6)
- Pecan, a sort of appetiser (6)
- Men in line went first and caused irritation (7)
- Initially Richard and I examine the bolt (5)
- Valley possibly is a run-down region (9,4)
- Clutch component! (3)
- Digging is sheer drudgery (9)

### DOWN

- Friend having most of the stake (3)
- Many with Alan moving about on the water (5)
- Concentrated in the past maybe (7)
- Got one vehicle inside another (2-4)
- Copper illegally covers up danger (5)
- Is able to rubbish a musical composition (7)
- Dealing with management (9)
- Case for an explosive vehicle on the hill (9)
- One used by those securing temporary accommodation (4,3)
- Shorten a game (7)
- Poems as sent back to Black Sea port (6)
- City is in first place, we hear (5)
- Covers over part of the left-hand page (5)
- Request to lie in the sun topless (3)

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8							
		11					
12		13		14	15		
		16		17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26				27			
		28					
29				30			
31				32			

### ACROSS

- Even (6)
- Foolish (6)
- School absentee (6)
- Young cat (6)
- International prize (5)
- Wanderer (6)
- Tidy (6)
- Went on horseback (4)
- Threesome (4)
- Finest (4)
- Haemorrhaged (4)

- Kidney duct (6)
- Lasso (6)
- Bolt (5)
- In the same place (6)
- Breathe huskily (6)
- Bicycle for two (6)
- Emergency (6)
- Surgical stitch (6)
- Of the eye (6)
- Canned (6)
- Worker (6)
- Vegetable (6)

- Eating (6)
- Ripped (4)
- Garden of England (4)
- Musical work (5)
- Drying frame (5)
- Whimsical (6)
- Harmless (6)
- Calm (6)
- Cut back (4)
- Breathed out (4)
- Suds (6)
- Frogmen (6)
- Strain (6)

## SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Easy** **Hard**

		1	5	7		9	6	
5			2			8		
			9		8	4		3
						3		8
	2			8		6		
1	6			2	9			4
9				3		7		
2		7					3	6
8	1		7				4	

3		9						7
	5		7					2
6		1			3	4		
7				3	4	9		
						6		
1		2			7			
	9	6			5			8
	8							
5					8			6

## EQUALISER

4	8
14 ○ 2 ○ 1	
2 2	
4 ○ 2 ○ 1	
4 1	

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

This puzzle page is supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to [www.zygolex.com](http://www.zygolex.com)

**QUIZ CHALLENGE:** 1 Queen; 2 Sarah Storey; 3 London Bridge; 4 The Dead Sea; 5 The Star Spangled Banner; 6 Woodwind; 7 Culture Club; 8 Water polo; 9 India; 10 The Outer Hebrides.

**CROSS CODE:** 1 Across - Larger; Scaler; Resat. 2 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 3 Across - Small; Altar; Toyed. 4 Down - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 5 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 6 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 7 Down - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 8 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 9 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 10 Across - Small; Altar; Toyed. 11 Down - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 12 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 13 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 14 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 15 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 16 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 17 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 18 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 19 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 20 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 21 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 22 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 23 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 24 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 25 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 26 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 27 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 28 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 29 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 30 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid. 31 Down - Loser; Reads; Eject. 32 Across - Smart; Aptly; Lurid.

**NONAGRAM:** 19 Verso; 21 Ask.

**QUICK CROSSWORD:** 1 Snoot; 4 Stupid; 8 Truant; 10 Kitten; 11 Nobel; 12 girth; 13 Rotten; 14 Abridge; 15 Odessa; 17 BRIGADIER; 18 Rankled; 19 Bantam; 20 barge; 21 Ask; 22 Egg; 23 Spade; 24 Abridge; 25 Odessa; 26 girth; 27 Latent; 28 River; 29 Ibidem; 30 Wheeze; 31 Tandem; 32 rage; 33 Rotten; 34 Rankled; 35 Bantam; 36 Abridge; 37 Odessa; 38 girth; 39 Rotten; 40 Rankled; 41 Bantam; 42 barge; 43 Ask; 44 Egg; 45 Spade; 46 Abridge; 47 Odessa; 48 girth; 49 Rotten; 50 Rankled; 51 Bantam; 52 barge; 53 Ask; 54 Egg; 55 Spade; 56 Abridge; 57 Odessa; 58 girth; 59 Rotten; 60 Rankled; 61 Bantam; 62 barge; 63 Ask; 64 Egg; 65 Spade; 66 Abridge; 67 Odessa; 68 girth; 69 Rotten; 70 Rankled; 71 Bantam; 72 barge; 73 Ask; 74 Egg; 75 Spade; 76 Abridge; 77 Odessa; 78 girth; 79 Rotten; 80 Rankled; 81 Bantam; 82 barge; 83 Ask; 84 Egg; 85 Spade; 86 Abridge; 87 Odessa; 88 girth; 89 Rotten; 90 Rankled; 91 Bantam; 92 barge; 93 Ask; 94 Egg; 95 Spade; 96 Abridge; 97 Odessa; 98 girth; 99 Rotten; 100 Rankled; 101 Bantam; 102 barge; 103 Ask; 104 Egg; 105 Spade; 106 Abridge; 107 Odessa; 108 girth; 109 Rotten; 110 Rankled; 111 Bantam; 112 barge; 113 Ask; 114 Egg; 115 Spade; 116 Abridge; 117 Odessa; 118 girth; 119 Rotten; 120 Rankled; 121 Bantam; 122 barge; 123 Ask; 124 Egg; 125 Spade; 126 Abridge; 127 Odessa; 128 girth; 129 Rotten; 130 Rankled; 131 Bantam; 132 barge; 133 Ask; 134 Egg; 135 Spade; 136 Abridge; 137 Odessa; 138 girth; 139 Rotten; 140 Rankled; 141 Bantam; 142 barge; 143 Ask; 144 Egg; 145 Spade; 146 Abridge; 147 Odessa; 148 girth; 149 Rotten; 150 Rankled; 151 Bantam; 152 barge; 153 Ask; 154 Egg; 155 Spade; 156 Abridge; 157 Odessa; 158 girth; 159 Rotten; 160 Rankled; 161 Bantam; 162 barge; 163 Ask; 164 Egg; 165 Spade; 166 Abridge; 167 Odessa; 168 girth; 169 Rotten; 170 Rankled; 171 Bantam; 172 barge; 173 Ask; 174 Egg; 175 Spade; 176 Abridge; 177 Odessa; 178 girth; 179 Rotten; 180 Rankled; 181 Bantam; 182 barge; 183 Ask; 184 Egg; 185 Spade; 186 Abridge; 187 Odessa; 188 girth; 189 Rotten; 190 Rankled; 191 Bantam; 192 barge; 193 Ask; 194 Egg; 195 Spade; 196 Abridge; 197 Odessa; 198 girth; 199 Rotten; 200 Rankled; 201 Bantam; 202 barge; 203 Ask; 204 Egg; 205 Spade; 206 Abridge; 207 Odessa; 208 girth; 209 Rotten; 210 Rankled; 211 Bantam; 212 barge; 213 Ask; 214 Egg; 215 Spade; 216 Abridge; 217 Odessa; 218 girth; 219 Rotten; 220 Rankled; 221 Bantam; 222 barge; 223 Ask; 224 Egg; 225 Spade; 226 Abridge; 227 Odessa; 228 girth; 229 Rotten; 230 Rankled; 231 Bantam; 232 barge; 233 Ask; 234 Egg; 235 Spade; 236 Abridge; 237 Odessa; 238 girth; 239 Rotten; 240 Rankled; 241 Bantam; 242 barge; 243 Ask; 244 Egg; 245 Spade; 246 Abridge; 247 Odessa; 248 girth; 249 Rotten; 250 Rankled; 251 Bantam; 252 barge; 253 Ask; 254 Egg; 255 Spade; 256 Abridge; 257 Odessa; 258 girth; 259 Rotten; 260 Rankled; 261 Bantam; 262 barge; 263 Ask; 264 Egg; 265 Spade; 266 Abridge; 267 Odessa; 268 girth; 269 Rotten; 270 Rankled; 271 Bantam; 272 barge; 273 Ask; 274 Egg; 275 Spade; 276 Abridge; 277 Odessa; 278 girth; 279 Rotten; 280 Rankled; 281 Bantam; 282 barge; 283 Ask; 284 Egg; 285 Spade; 286 Abridge; 287 Odessa; 288 girth; 289 Rotten; 290 Rankled; 291 Bantam; 292 barge; 293 Ask; 294 Egg; 295 Spade; 296 Abridge; 297 Odessa; 298 girth; 299 Rotten; 300 Rankled; 301 Bantam; 302 barge; 303 Ask; 304 Egg; 305 Spade; 306 Abridge; 307 Odessa; 308 girth; 309 Rotten; 310 Rankled; 311 Bantam; 312 barge; 313 Ask; 314 Egg; 315 Spade; 316 Abridge; 317 Odessa; 318 girth; 319 Rotten; 320 Rankled; 321 Bantam; 322 barge; 323 Ask; 324 Egg; 325 Spade; 326 Abridge; 327 Odessa; 328 girth; 329 Rotten; 330 Rankled; 331 Bantam; 332 barge; 333 Ask; 334 Egg; 335 Spade; 336 Abridge; 337 Odessa; 338 girth; 339 Rotten; 340 Rankled; 341 Bantam; 342 barge; 343 Ask; 344 Egg; 345 Spade; 346 Abridge; 347 Odessa; 348 girth; 349 Rotten; 350 Rankled; 351 Bantam; 352 barge; 353 Ask; 354 Egg; 355 Spade; 356 Abridge; 357 Odessa; 358 girth; 359 Rotten; 360 Rankled; 361 Bantam; 362 barge; 363 Ask; 364 Egg; 365 Spade; 366 Abridge; 367 Odessa; 368 girth; 369 Rotten; 370 Rankled; 371 Bantam; 372 barge; 373 Ask; 374 Egg; 375 Spade; 376 Abridge; 377 Odessa; 378 girth; 379 Rotten; 380 Rankled; 381 Bantam; 382 barge; 383 Ask; 384 Egg; 385 Spade; 386 Abridge; 387 Odessa; 388 girth; 389 Rotten; 390 Rankled; 391 Bantam; 392 barge; 393 Ask; 394 Egg; 395 Spade; 396 Abridge; 397 Odessa; 398 girth; 399 Rotten; 400 Rankled; 401 Bantam; 402 barge; 403 Ask; 404 Egg; 405 Spade; 406 Abridge; 407 Odessa; 408 girth; 409 Rotten; 410 Rankled; 411 Bantam; 412 barge; 413 Ask; 414 Egg; 415 Spade; 416 Abridge; 417 Odessa; 418 girth; 419 Rotten; 420 Rankled; 421 Bantam; 422 barge; 423 Ask; 424 Egg; 425 Spade; 426 Abridge; 427 Odessa; 428 girth; 429 Rotten; 430 Rankled; 431 Bantam; 432 barge; 433 Ask; 434 Egg; 435 Spade; 436 Abridge; 437 Odessa; 438 girth; 439 Rotten; 440 Rankled; 441 Bantam; 442 barge; 443 Ask; 444 Egg; 445 Spade; 446 Abridge; 447 Odessa; 448 girth; 449 Rotten; 450 Rankled; 451 Bantam; 452 barge; 453 Ask; 454 Egg; 455 Spade; 456 Abridge; 457 Odessa; 458 girth; 459 Rotten; 460 Rankled; 461 Bantam; 462 barge; 463 Ask; 464 Egg; 465 Spade; 466 Abridge; 467 Odessa; 468 girth; 469 Rotten; 470 Rankled; 471 Bantam; 472 barge; 473 Ask; 474 Egg; 475 Spade; 476 Abridge; 477 Odessa; 478 girth; 479 Rotten; 480 Rankled; 481 Bantam; 482 barge; 483 Ask; 484 Egg; 485 Spade; 486 Abridge; 487 Odessa; 488 girth; 489 Rotten; 490 Rankled; 491 Bantam; 492 barge; 493 Ask; 494 Egg; 495 Spade; 496 Abridge; 497 Odessa; 498 girth; 499 Rotten; 500 Rankled; 501 Bantam; 502 barge; 503 Ask; 504 Egg; 505 Spade; 506 Abridge; 507 Odessa; 508 girth; 509 Rotten; 510 Rankled; 511 Bantam; 512 barge; 513 Ask; 514 Egg; 515 Spade; 516 Abridge; 517 Odessa; 518 girth; 519 Rotten; 520 Rankled; 521 Bantam; 522 barge; 523 Ask; 524 Egg; 525 Spade; 526 Abridge; 527 Odessa; 528 girth; 529 Rotten; 530 Rankled; 531 Bantam; 532 barge; 533 Ask; 534 Egg; 535 Spade; 536 Abridge; 537 Odessa; 538 girth; 539 Rotten; 540 Rankled; 541 Bantam; 542 barge; 543 Ask; 544 Egg; 545 Spade; 546 Abridge; 547 Odessa; 548 girth; 549 Rotten; 550 Rankled; 551 Bantam; 552 barge; 553 Ask; 554 Egg; 555 Spade; 556 Abridge; 557 Odessa; 558 girth; 559 Rotten; 560 Rankled; 561 Bantam; 562 barge; 563 Ask; 564 Egg; 565 Spade; 566 Abridge; 567 Odessa; 568 girth; 569 Rotten; 570 Rankled; 571 Bantam; 572 barge; 573 Ask; 574 Egg; 575 Spade; 576 Abridge; 577 Odessa; 578 girth; 579 Rotten; 580 Rankled; 581 Bantam; 582 barge; 583 Ask; 584 Egg; 585 Spade; 586 Abridge; 587 Odessa; 588 girth; 589 Rotten; 590 Rankled; 591 Bantam; 592 barge; 593 Ask; 594 Egg; 595 Spade; 596 Abridge; 597 Odessa; 598 girth; 599 Rotten; 600 Rankled; 601 Bantam; 602 barge; 603 Ask; 604 Egg; 605 Spade; 606 Abridge; 607 Odessa; 608 girth; 609 Rotten; 610 Rankled; 611 Bantam; 612 barge; 613 Ask; 614 Egg; 615 Spade; 616 Abridge; 617 Odessa; 618 girth; 619 Rotten; 620 Rankled; 621 Bantam; 622 barge; 623 Ask; 624 Egg; 625 Spade; 626 Abridge; 627 Odessa; 628 girth; 629 Rotten; 630 Rankled; 631 Bantam; 632 barge; 633 Ask; 634 Egg; 635 Spade; 636 Abridge; 637 Odessa; 638 girth; 639 Rotten; 640 Rankled; 641 Bantam; 642 barge; 643 Ask; 644 Egg; 645 Spade; 646 Abridge; 647 Odessa; 648 girth; 649 Rotten; 650 Rankled; 651 Bantam; 652 barge; 653 Ask; 654 Egg; 655 Spade; 656 Abridge; 657 Odessa; 658 girth;

# ALBA

[bbc.co.uk/alba](http://bbc.co.uk/alba)

BBC ALBA

## Toradh Togarrach Autumn on ALBA



### Bannan

Bho 21 Sultain, 9f | *From 21 September, 9pm*

Tha Bannan air ais le barrachd dràma agus còmhstri na bha againn a-riamh. Leis a' choimhearsnachd ùile a' dèanamh gàirdeachas aig banais, chan eil fada gus an nochd breugan agus brath!

*In the most dramatic and suspenseful series of Bannan ever, joy turns to dread as a community gathering to celebrate a wedding are suddenly confronted with lies, betrayal and exploitation in their midst.*



### Fuine

Bho 23 Sultain, 8.30f | *From 23 September, 8.30pm*

Cha bheag na rinneadh de bhèiceireachd tron ghlasadh ach nach math a-nise a bhith a' faighinn a-steach dha cidsinean dhaoine eile, còmhla ri Griogair a chlàr an t-sreath ùr seo de Fuine mus robh guth air glasadh.

*Baking and lockdown, one of the new partnerships of 2020. Gregor Macleod is ready to assist with a new series of Fuine, recorded before our kitchens became schools, offices and meeting rooms!*



### Vets: Gach Creutair Beò

Bho 29 Sultain, 8.30f | *From 29 September, 8.30pm*

Tha iad air ais, creutairean beaga is mòra a tha feumach air cobhair agus na bheataichean beaga is mòra a tha gam frithealadh.

*The series returns taking viewers on a journey across Scotland following vets as they tend to animals from the small to the large, the domesticated and the very wild.*



### An Taistealaiche | *The Far Traveller*

1 Dàmhair 9f | *1 October, 9pm*

Prògram aithriseach le ath-chleasachd a' leantainn beatha Gudrid, bana-ghaisgeach à Innis Tìle le ceangal ri Alba.

*Documentary with dramatic re-enactments following the life of Gudrid, an Icelandic legend who held Scottish ancestry.*



### Spòrs nam Ban | *Women's Sport*

Bidh BBC ALBA, aithnichte mar dhachaigh spòrs nam ban ann an Alba, a' sealltainn Farpais nan Sia Dùthchannan agus ball-coise bhon SWPL agus Alba a' cluich ann an cuairt dearbhaidh Cupa Eòrpach nam Ban. Tha BBC ALBA cuideachd a' craoladh prògram didseatach 360, le Iona Ballantyne a' taisbeanadh spòrs nam ban gach seachdain air oidhche Dhiardaoin air YouTube BBC ALBA agus [bbc.co.uk/alba360](http://bbc.co.uk/alba360)

*BBC ALBA continues to be the home of women's sport in Scotland showing the resuming fixtures from the Women's Six Nations alongside football from the Scottish Women's Premier League and Scotland's Euro qualifiers. BBC ALBA has also launched the digital series 360, with presenter Iona Ballantyne highlighting the best of women's sport in Scotland and beyond. Available weekly from Thursday evenings on the BBC ALBA YouTube site and [bbc.co.uk/alba360](http://bbc.co.uk/alba360)*

Bho 1 Dàmhair, bithidh BBC ALBA a' gluasad air SKY | *On 1 October, BBC ALBA will be moving on SKY*

Chithear BBC ALBA | *Watch BBC ALBA at:*

Sky 117 (Alba / Scotland) • Sky 169 (An còrr den RA / Rest of UK) • Freeview 7 (Alba / Scotland) • Freesat 109 • Virgin Media 161

OT

## LETTERS

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

## Covid will have the final say

Even with the best risk planning in the world, Covid will have the final say on whether this year's Tíree Wave Classic goes ahead or not.

Both those for and those against the 2020 competition getting out on the water make good points and it seems Tíree Community Council taking 'a balanced' wait and see approach is the appropriate way forward.

Full credit to Wave Classic organisers who are leaving no stone unturned as part of their risk assessment preparations for the event. The event hosts live and work on the island so do have the community's safety at heart.

If there have been 20,000 tourists visiting Tíree in the past couple of months, some would ask will those participating and spectating at the windsurfing event really make such a difference when it comes to posing a threat to the island that has heroically managed to stay virus free so far?

All eyes are on the Wave Classic to see how safely it can be run as an international event during Covid times. The undeniable bonus of it going ahead is the boost it will bring to the island's businesses and economy.

Pros and cons apart, ultimately the decision will rest with Covid and contagion trends in the run up to it. Let's hope for a happy and safe outcome for everyone concerned.

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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); telephone on 01631 568000; or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## Protect Ganavan Sands

I no longer live in Argyll, but continue to read The Oban Times.

For more than 20 years I lived in Seil and worked in Oban.

Ganavan Sands was always a favourite destination with family and friends.

In later years, grandchildren couldn't wait to get to the only beach in the area to paddle, picnic, sail boats, play on the swings and have tea in the pavilion. We return each year in our caravan and though we base ourselves in Barcaldine, we always go to Ganavan to walk and relax. It is a lovely spot. It would be a tragedy if such a marvellous resource was taken from the majority for the sake of private housing. I have just completed the Friends of Ganavan survey. Keep up the good work.

Aileen Armstrong, Langholm, Dumfriesshire.

## Searching for Stella

I am looking for a lady who worked in Seafeld children's hospital in Ayr. I lost contact with her, and my mum and dad - Jim and Margaret McMaster - used to visit her in Taynuilt.

I have tried Facebook, but have had no luck. I know it's a long shot, but perhaps readers can help. Her name is (was) Stella Muir or Moore.

Miss F McMaster, [fmcmas@outlook.com](mailto:fmcmas@outlook.com)

## Scoring political points

The Scottish Conservatives portray themselves as principled defenders of free speech with regard to the SNP's Hate Crime Bill, while the UK Conservatives preside over fairly similar existing laws in England and Wales.

Freedom of expression is under attack throughout the UK, but the Conservatives only seem bothered when it presents an opportunity to attack the SNP. Their position of supporting the concept of hate crime while opposing hate speech legislation is unsustainable as one logically entails the other. Consider an example. A man punches a Hindu woman after Tweeting that he hates Hindus. He is sentenced to two months in prison for the assault and another one month because it was motivated by religious hatred. However, the punishment for assault already includes the fact a motivation was present, so the additional punishment was therefore just for hating Hindus. So, what about the man who Tweets that he hates Hindus but doesn't punch one? Surely the principle has been conceded that this is deserving of a month's imprisonment? That's why calls for hate speech laws inevitably follow in nations with hate crime legislation. So,

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Bha mi ga chur air mhanadh dha! Tha iomadh bliadhna bho nach do chleachd mi an abairt seo, ach nam òige nuair a chluinninn mo phàrantan is inbhich eile ga chantainn bhithinn ga mheas car iargalta leis gun robh manadh a' ciallachadh taibhse, agus bhithinn a' faireachadh gun robh rudeigin eagalach mu bhith cur dad air mhanadh do neach sam bith. Ach 's e fìrinn na cùise gum bheil sinn uile gu ìre air choreigin a' fàidheadaireachd gach latha, dhuinn fhìn agus do dhaoine eile, agus gun teagamh 's e gliocas a th' ann a bhith a' coimhead romhad ged nach eil làn-smachd gu bhith agad gu sìorraidh air a h-uile nì a bhios an dàn dhut.

Ged a bha a' mhòr-chuid againn air fàs gu math sgìth den ghlasadh a bh' oirnn ri linn a' chorona-bhiorais saoilidh mi gum bheil uabhas dhaoine gu math gealtach a thaobh iomairt a-mach bho chaidh cùisean fhuasgladh. Tha deagh adhbhar faicill againn is uimhir gu follaiseach a' seachnadh nan riaghailtean astair bho chèile, agus fiù 's brat-gnùise de sheòrsa sam bith, far am bheil mòran eile cruinn. 'S dòcha gun robh cùisean riamh mar sin ach gu cinnteach tha mòran ann a tha den bheachd gur ann dha càch a tha laghan agus riaghailtean, agus gum faod iadsan dèanamh mar a thogras iad! Eadar gach dùbhlán a tha an lùib sin, agus cead aig daoine coinneachadh ann an taighean-òsta is bidh, agus sgoiltean is colaistean a' fosgladh às ùr, cha b' iongnadh ged

a bhithte a' cur air mhanadh dhan dùthaich gun dùisgeadh an galair mallaichte seo a-rithist. Gu mì-fhortanach bha an droch amharas sin ceart agus tha sinn a' faicinn Covid 19 ag ath-bheothachadh feadh na dùthcha ged nach eil, fhathast co-dhiù, uimhir de dhaoine fo chùram ospadail agus bidh sinn beò an dòchas gur ann mar sin a leanas.

Le cinnt cha robh neach sam bith air na thachair air an dàrna latha fichead den Chèitean 2017 aig consairt an t-seinneadair Ameireaganach Ariana Grande ann am Manchester a chur air mhanadh dha na truaghain a chailleadh, agus an fheadhainn a chaidh an leòn, ri linn ionnsaigh ceannairce. Dà dhuine fichead marbh agus còrr air ochd ceud, le clann òga nam measg, air an goirteachadh ann an spreadhadh oillteil fo làimh dhithis bhràithrean a bha deònach fèin-mharbhadh agus murt a dhèanamh gus an cuid creideamh fhoillseachadh. Mo cho-fhaireachadh dhùrachdach dha na teaghlaichean uile a dh'fhuiling ann am Manchester, agus anns gach àite eile.

The 2017 Manchester bombing inquiry inevitably renews suffering over losses and injuries for so many families, but what a moving and beautiful tribute by one mother to her teenage daughter who was among those lost in the carnage. 'She would have been the best at whatever she did - whether a housewife or an astronaut.'

Scottish Conservatives, purported guardians of free speech, here's a question for you. When I stated my disapproval of same sex parenting and opined that children need a mum and a dad, ideally, Police Scotland recorded it as a Hate Incident and sent a Hate Concern Form to my employer that named me as the 'perpetrator'. Any comment? No? I thought not.

The Scottish Conservatives don't support freedom of speech, they just want to score a few political points.

Richard Lucas, Leader of The Scottish Family Party, 272 Bath Street, Glasgow.

## Lower food standards fear

It will be a sad day on December 31 when Scotland is dragged out of the EU against our will.

With Brexit, we are expected by the Westminster Government to accept lower food standards from America.

We have for some years now appreciated the high standards of food hygiene and good quality from the EU.

With Brexit looming the Westminster Government wants us to accept lower food standards.

This is not at all suitable for children or people suffering from ill health. Both children and the sick require good quality food as does the population as a whole.

We were in the EU with a good relationship and had no reason to leave. Scotland needs independence and to return to the EU as soon as possible.

Susan Swain.

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## Stacey Dooley seeks Lismore sleep over

Makers of TV show Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over have reached out to the community of Lismore.

A television researcher at award-winning production company Firecracker Films has been in touch to see if any islanders are interested in taking part in the programme for Channel W, a British pay TV channel. The show makers are in pre-production for a second series of the documentary that explores modern family life.

'We'll be working alongside presenter Stacey Dooley MBE to convey an honest and insightful portrait of what life is like in Britain today for a cross section of society. Stacey will spend weekends with six different families to learn more about their lifestyles.

'I think our audience would be very interested in learning more about life in a close-knit, remote island community - especially such a beautiful one,' said the researcher in a post put up on the Isle of Lismore Community website.

## John of Lorn bequest open for applications

People living in Oban are being invited to apply for funding from the town's John of Lorn Bequest.

When vet John McDougall died in 1947, he bequeathed money to what was then known as Oban Town Council. This money was to be used to benefit poor people living in the area and was to be distributed in whichever manner the town council deemed best.

At the latest meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, members agreed distribution arrangements for the fund.

The criteria is that anyone aged over 16 and in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support or Universal Credit can apply.

For those people who are employed/self-employed, applications will only be considered if they are in receipt of some amount of Universal Credit. Successful applicants will receive £50, while families will be eligible for £100.

The deadline for the next round of funding is November 15. To find out more or to apply, visit [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/john-lorn-bequest](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/john-lorn-bequest)

# DISTRICT NEWS



Members of the Rotary Club of Oban rose to the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 3,300 miles to help vulnerable in community

Oban rotarians clocked up nearly 3,300 miles going to the aid of vulnerable people during the pandemic.

The Rotary Club of Oban formed a Covid-19 action group chaired by Ronnie Forbes, with group secretary Ciorsti Baxter liaising with Argyll and Bute Council.

Members included rotarians Alan Hoar, William Lockwood, junior vice president Lachie Beaton and past presidents Ronnie Neil and Tommy McQuade.

Statistics after five months of volunteering have now underlined just how much the group helped some of the area's most vulnerable people.

The team delivered 162 medical prescriptions to people shielding and fulfilled more than 50 shopping requests. More than £670 was raised and more than 200 food parcels delivered.

In total, the team clocked up 3,290 miles helping people during lockdown.

Past president and club treasurer Roger Parry also said club members raised £4,360 which has been passed to Hope Kitchen, which helps the most vulnerable people in the community by providing advice, food, comfort and company.

Recently-appointed Oban president Kees Van Rein has also handed over a £200 cheque to Oban's Martyn's Monday Club.

Laura McDonald, Covid-19 response co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute Council, has formally thanked the group and the club for its outstanding efforts. Secretary Ciorsti Baxter has been tasked with reporting to the Scottish Government on the response.

President Kees said: 'It is increasingly important the Rotary Club of Oban dedicates itself in helping to get past the worst effects of Covid-19, particularly as we head towards winter coughs

and colds. Our members will continue to help in any way we can to counter the effects of Covid-19 locally.

'Like it or not, it will define my presidential year but I am fully committed to giving every effort to support our fantastic Argyll and Bute community during this pandemic.

'The West Highlands and Islands is a special place with a great sense of self and place. We have faced much hardship in the past and will get through this together, I have no doubt.'

The club thanked Oban Distillery for providing much-needed and, at the time, very scarce, hand sanitiser. All unused sanitiser has been passed to Oban Girl Guides.

Anyone wishing to join the Rotary Club of Oban should contact membership secretary and past president Douglas Small at [wm-douglasssmall@gmw.co.uk](mailto:wm-douglasssmall@gmw.co.uk) or any current club member.

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# The Oban Times and St Kilda

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



This week we continue Iain Thorne'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.

### 'IT MUST NOT BE 'SOIRIDH HIRTA!'

How I regard the Government's attempt to break up my home – What its passing would mean. Article by Mrs Christina M MacQueen

'From the lone sheiling on the misty island, Mountains divide us, and a waste of sea;

Yet still our hearts are true, our hearts are Highland.

And we in dreams behold the Hebrides.'

'On the twenty-eighth of this month Her Majesty's Labour Government has decided to stage the last act in the drama of Hirta. On that date, with the aid of a naval sloop and fishery cruiser, it will destroy the last exclusive outpost of the Gaelic tongue and carry into exile the 36 survivors of years of government neglect. The minimum of publicity will be given the tragic event, so that only those in authority will witness the grief of my people, and that the last act will not be (according to the reported statement of the Under Secretary for Scotland) 'in the nature of a circus'. People don't go readily to a circus, to witness a tragedy; they go to see the clown, to laugh and to forget. But, 'tha diofar eader ciall is cuthach', (there is a difference between sense and madness!).

'As a native of Hirta, a woman, a mother with 25 years' experience of mainland life, I have a knowledge of the needs and aspirations of my people. They are bringing the young folks of home to introduce them to the grave uncertainties of a worker's life on the promise of a guaranteed 150 days' work per annum (three days per week) and while they do so other young natives of Hirta, amongst whom is my brother, are trying to exist on the 17 shillings a week – the politicians price to save them tackling seriously the land and other problems that confront them. Another young native who discovered it was uneconomically impossible to pay his landlady 25 shillings a week from 17, went home on the tenth ultimo in the company of my husband to his mother, leaving behind him the 17 shillings



as a Hirteach's contribution to the fund for the sustenance of our two million unemployed. Och mo chreach! mo chreach! it is sad am I, to think that never again he'll have the comfort of his mother in the cottage under Connachair.

'The press must stay back. It must be kept dark and secret – this final breaking off of my people from centuries old associations, from the birth place of their sires, from the cemetery of their hopes. Only the spirits that Connachair has, through the centuries gathered to its bosom, will be allowed to gaze on the procession of broken men and women – the old folk who have no desire to leave, but who are being taken to exile, and a worse form of isolation than ever they experienced in Hirta, because of the failure of politicians to sense the needs of the developing

Highlands and Islands, not as mere places, but as places fitted to nourish and sustain a happy and contented peasantry.

'I will be told that my young brothers signified their willingness to leave, appealed to the Secretary of State to be taken off the island. But they did so under pressure – the pressure of those promises, I'm afraid, will turn out as shallow as their knowledge of Highland needs. These young men, largely nurtured and developed in the war period, were swept into the same quagmire of economic falsity as the whole world is presently floundering in. It was easy then for governments to send vessels to the island, to keep in touch with their subjects, to give them a mail almost every other week. Apparently it was a difficult matter to do so when a thousand

vessels were withdrawn from service and about to be scrapped!

'I will be told, too, that it takes money to send a vessel to Hirta; but I will answer that it takes money to send the 'Hesperus' round the lighthouses. But they will add, 'the lighthouses perform a service to the sailors of the world!' And I will tell them 'So has Hirta! Many a vessel have we guided to the sure haven of our bay. Many a time in the dark nights of winter, when the wind whipped the waves to madness, and the north and west side of the island was a thick curtain of salt spume, have we fought for the lives of despairing mariners. Sometimes we have won, sometimes we have lost.

'The last trawler skipper to take me and my children to fair Eilean mo Ghrìdh went down



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 17, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	***	**	05.39	3.9
<b>Thur</b>	11.35	0.4	17.46	4.3
<b>Fri</b>	00.16	0.5	06.11	4.0
	12.16	0.2	18.22	4.4
<b>Sat</b>	00.54	0.4	06.44	4.1
	12.58	0.2	18.58	4.3
<b>Sun</b>	01.32	0.4	17.19	4.0
	13.41	0.2	19.36	4.2
<b>Mon</b>	02.11	0.6	07.58	3.8
	14.26	0.4	20.15	3.9
<b>Tues</b>	02.55	0.8	08.39	3.6
	15.14	0.8	20.56	3.5
<b>Wed</b>	03.44	1.1	09.28	3.3
	16.09	1.1	21.45	3.1

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

Ardrihaig	-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

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.

### FRIDAY

Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.

### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

#### Saturday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 17°C.

#### Sunday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST



# clearance: part 7



Gathering fulmars on the cliffs 1885. Photograph: George Washington Wilson; and above, Village Bay St Kilda. Photograph William Cameron.

with his vessel in the vicinity of the Sound of Soay on the north-east side of the island three winters ago, after a memorable struggle by the natives to effect his rescue. And for all this – what? ‘A home for the old folk that can never be better than a prison’. Ach, ach, mo thruaigh! mo thruaigh! But I refuse to believe that Hirta is doomed. The last Hirtach has not been laid in the corner under the hill. The Gaels from far and near will muster their strength to defeat the ends of those who have Hirta mapped for other things. I refused to bring my wheel. It is left with my heart in the 10th little cottage of that straggling line to wait the day when the gloaming comes. Then there will gather round me the spirits of those who just lie sleeping, and whose voices still come to me in the night time when sleep has carried me home to fair Eilean mo ghraidh.

**August 30 1930:** ‘The Hebrides which earlier had put into Oban for a few hours, arrived at St Kilda on Saturday last at 11.45am. The passage was fairly calm with a slight swell from the West-South-West. On sighting the steamer, the St Kildans went out as usual with their boats to

convey the passengers, who were landed with little difficulty. Each went on his own quest, the journalist to interview the natives, the curious to view the mode of living of a people so isolated, the curio-hunter to obtain a souvenir of the adventurous visit. Some spinning-wheels, which will exchange their past of toil for a life of ease in some mainland drawing room, were obtained.

‘The wind when WSW blows right into Parson’s Bay, where the ‘Hebrides’ was anchored, it began to freshen and Capt John MacKinnon, with his experience of St Kilda storms and his natural prudence, at once blew the steamer’s whistle for the return of those who had landed. The natives then set about to take the passengers back to the steamer, but the waves were rising. Parson’s Bay is not a match for the whole force of the mighty Atlantic, and the St Kildan’s boat was dashed against the little pier, holed and sank. The situation became tense. The natives naturally would not risk their other boat. The visitors were faced with an unprepared stay on the island.’

■ To be continued.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Once again we’re looking for readers’ help in identifying the four men in our photograph. We have absolutely no information, so if you were able to tell us their names, dates and location we’d be grateful. As always email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



Princess Margaret visits Oban’s Manor House Hotel on August 30 1984.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

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## Oban's Alexandra Hotel gets green light to expand

Plans to add five bedrooms to an Oban hotel have been approved by council planners.

The proposal for the Alexandra Hotel on the Corran Esplanade got the go-ahead from Argyll and Bute Council officials after no-one objected to the plans.

The plans, submitted by Highland Coaches Limited, also involve alterations to the hotel's lounge area.

A council planning officer said the proposed development would have no adverse effect on the appearance of the hotel or its setting on the wider landscape.

The planning officer said: "The Alexandra Hotel is situated in a prominent position in a waterfront setting on the Corran Esplanade in Oban. The proposed works are to an existing lounge area within a single storey projection located to the rear of the hotel.

"The north west elevation is bounded by the Bishop's House, St Columba's Cathedral, a category A listed building, and the north west elevation is bounded by the existing standalone staff accommodation block.

"The proposal shows internal alterations to the existing lounge area to form five additional bedrooms with en-suite facilities.

"These internal works do not fall within the legal definition of 'development'. Consequently, they do not fall to be assessed here.

"The application shows the replacement of all the doors and windows to the north west and north east elevation to the existing lounge area on a like for like basis."

The officer added: "The proposals are of a suitable form, scale and design which ensures the development will not detract from the overall appearance of the hotel or its setting within the wider landscape.

"The proposed development within the settlement zone would accord with the relevant provisions of the Local Development Plan.

"The proposed development complies with all of these key policy aims and is considered acceptable."

# Businesses urged to welcome cyclists

by Ellis Butcher  
[ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk)



Tourism businesses wanting to learn more about the booming leisure cycling market can take part in a series of free webinars starting on Thursday September 17.

Cycle tourism is estimated to be worth up to £239 million alone to the Scottish tourism industry and has seen a 'spectacular increase' in the last decade – nearly doubling in popularity.

According to VisitScotland research cycling visitors tend to stay an average of five nights, spending up to £65 per night where they stay, with more than half of visitors coming from Scotland and around 45 per cent from England.

Argyll and Bute's position on the 234-mile east coast to west coast Caledonia Way puts it in the heartland of the highly scenic long-distance route linking Campbeltown, Oban, Fort William and Inverness. The series of one-hour



**Leisure cycle tourism is growing in popularity.** Photograph: Svenja Timmins, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.

long webinars will take place on September 17, 22, 24 and 29 featuring industry experts sharing experience and insight of how tourism businesses can serve and appeal to leisure cyclists.

The webinars, held at 6pm, will cover topics including current and future trends, meeting the needs and expectations of leisure cycling visitors and easy-to-learn tips for online engagement.

The webinars are delivered by Sustrans Scotland in partnership with funders Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, the Cairngorms Business Partnership, Forth Valley Leader and Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland.

Organisers say participating businesses will gain an 'invaluable understanding' of the sector and learn more about the steps they can take to support and benefit from visiting leisure cyclists. The first webinar will look at how tourism business can provide in-depth information about multi-day cycle tours and shorter, family-friendly day trips.

To find out more and register interest visit the event brite website and search for the leisure cycling tourism webinar series.

## Business owner recognised by Institute of Directors

The owner and managing director of an Oban-based business has been recognised by Scotland's Institute of Directors (IoD).

Having been nominated by Highland and Islands Enterprise, Martin Sayer of Tritonia Scientific was a finalist in the Innovation Category at Scotland's IoD virtual awards, hosted online by broadcaster Grant Stott on Tuesday September 8.

The IoD aims to support, represent and set standards for business, encourage entrepreneurial activity and promote responsible business practice for the benefit of the business community. In line with these aims, the awards recognise exceptional leadership, entrepreneur-

ship and good governance. Since establishing Tritonia Scientific in 2018, Martin and his team have developed new and innovative ways of applying three-dimensional photogrammetry techniques for underwater surveying and monitoring of structures including harbours and piers. These services have been expanded to examine subsea oil and gas installations in the UK and abroad, mooring and anchoring systems for the marine renewables sector and impacted coral reef systems across the world.

Gillian Docherty, sponsor representative and judge, said: 'Innovation is central to Scotland's ambitions. We want more businesses to increase their level of innovation, realise their growth

ambitions and create jobs, enabling a health and well-being across Scotland. We want to celebrate innovative behaviours and help inspire others to innovate and prosper. The judges were extremely impressed by the very high standard of entries and breadth and depth of innovation across multiple industries.'

Of Martin Sayer, the judges said: 'He has demonstrated a significant personal capability across all IoD competency framework categories and built a successful and growing business with new and innovative techniques and solutions.'

'He has demonstrated great leadership and stakeholder management and demonstrated excellent strategic thinking.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

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## £15 million fund to save Scotland's cultural venues

Galleries, theatres, comedy clubs, nightclubs and festivals across Argyll and Bute are being invited to apply for a share of £15 million from the Scottish Government with the deadline closing a week on Thursday.

The pot of money, called the Culture Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund, aims to provide emergency support to organisations unable to trade due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Applicants can seek funding of between £10,000 and £150,000 and grants of up to £250,000 are available on exception.

The aim is to protect jobs and support organisations threatened by insolvency.

Fiona Hyslop, culture secretary for the Scottish Government, said: 'It's been an extremely difficult time for the culture sector this year.

'We've done everything we can to alleviate some of the immediate challenges but we know many businesses will continue to struggle until they can fully re-open.

'The Culture Organisations and Venue Recovery Fund will aid a range of cultural businesses and help them weather the most critical challenges they face.'

The fund is looking for applications from organisations 'critical to the cultural life of Scotland' and whose existence is threatened by the restrictions.

Eligible organisations include galleries, commercial theatres, performing arts spaces, festivals, comedy clubs and nightclubs, along with music and dance companies.

The process will be overseen by Creative Scotland, the public body which supports the arts, screen and creative industries.

Iain Munro, chief executive officer, said: 'The challenges presented to the culture and creative sector by the Covid-19 pandemic are only too real and are not going to go away quickly or easily. That's why this additional emergency funding from the Scottish Government is so



Culture Secretary Fiona Hislop MSP.

welcome. Our top priority is the delivery of these funds to the sector as quickly as possible.'

The online application portal will go live on Thursday September 17 at noon.

The deadline for applications is a week later on

Thursday September 24 at noon. Applications will be assessed throughout September and October with decisions made in November.

For more information visit [creativescotland.com](http://creativescotland.com)

### Energy company gives £2.7m to Highlands

Energy company SSE Renewables has donated £2.7 million to communities across the Highlands and Islands.

The company runs onshore wind farms and has a community investment fund.

Thousands of pounds have been awarded from the fund to projects in the Highlands and Islands and across Scotland, Ireland and England throughout 2019-20.

Earlier this year, the company also recognised the impact that coronavirus pandemic had on communities and made £1 million available for emergency responses.

Jim Smith, managing director, said: 'SSE Renewables is committed to investing in Highlands and Islands communities.

'We are thankful to community organisations for responding quickly to the coronavirus pandemic and we will continue to provide support as communities recover from this difficult time.'

Funding decisions are made by panels of local people to invest in a range of services and facilities.

Jim Hunter, Emeritus Professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands, serves on a panel: 'Lots of communities look to us for assistance with all sorts of exciting and imaginative projects.

'I help decide who's to get some of our available cash. The most deserving projects, I think, are those that make a long-run contribution to improving the prospects and well being of people living in the communities where they're to take place.'

Apprenticeship programmes in the Highlands have received £114,000 to support young people in gaining skills and experience.

SSE Renewables operates a single development in Argyll and Bute region- the Tangy wind farm in the Kintyre Peninsula.

Other projects to benefit in 2019-20 include £5,000 to Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community councils; £4,049 to Spean Bridge Community Centre and £3,500 to Spean Bridge Senior Citizens' Association.

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Family-run Bossards of Oban opened in 2005 after 15 years in Corstorphine, Edinburgh, and provides 11 jobs, and supports several local suppliers.

It is overseen by Sylvia Bossard with husband Heinz and son Michael in charge of all the daily fresh baking - not a single product bought in. Heinz originates from a long-established baking family in Zug, Switzerland. He and Michael make a wide variety of breads, cakes, pies and goodies



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# The shop and takeaway in Oban has appealed for support as part of the 'Love Local' campaign.

including Millionaire's Shortbread, Malteser Slices and Chocolate Brownies, with gluten-free options. Sylvia, born in Glencoe, said: 'We will rely a lot this winter on local people coming in and supporting us as we now have everyone back at work.'

'Getting through lockdown and furlough was not an easy thing for any business but we have come through it and are up and running again.'

'Our ethos is to support other local businesses. We get all of our meat from Jackson Brothers and Grants, our eggs from Tarbet, smoked salmon from Inverawe and our milk from Campbell Dairies near Lochgilphead.'

'We have bought our fruit and veg from JM Breckenridge for 15 years or so. We always try to support local businesses so locals supporting us goes full circle - it has a knock-on effect.'

Like others, Bossards has reduced its indoor capacity from 13 tables to five and takeaways are as popular as ever. Under the new rules, Bossards can only serve one person at a time but the team remains positive, helpful and welcoming, but Sylvia appeals for patience. She added: 'We don't skimp on quality of food - it's something we pride ourselves on'.

Takeaway afternoon teas have been a roaring success - look out for seasonal versions for autumn, Halloween, Christmas and fun themes for children.

Open 9am- 4.30pm from Monday to Saturday, it also offers soups with a vegetarian option.

Sylvia encourages anyone interested in booking a table to reserve in advance as everything is freshly-made every day and needs some preparation. Go book and enjoy!

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Fèis week postponed again

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Organisers of Oban's rescheduled week-long fèis have had to postpone it again due to continued Covid restrictions.

More than 200 participants and 30 tutors were expected to take part in the festival originally set to run from April 6 until April 10 in Oban Primary Campus.

But the Gaelic festival had to be pulled because of the pandemic and moved to October in what committee members hoped would be 'better times'.

Fèis Latharna is organised by a committee of volunteers and has been running its week of traditional music tuition in Oban since 1994.

Fèis committee member Ewan Macdonald said: 'We moved the fèis the week before lockdown kicked in, pushing it as far back to the October holidays as we could hoping for better times ahead but it wasn't

to be. There were lots of factors to consider in delaying it again until next Easter but it's the right decision. Our priority is keeping everyone safe. We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience over this difficult period.'

The main fèis week traditionally includes song, drama, bagpipes, shinty, drumming, clarsach, guitar, group work, whistle, fiddle, accordion, sound production, art and crafts, Highland dance, chanter, dance, step dance, piano and percussion.

The national body Fèisean nan Gàidheal and funders, in line with national guidelines, were involved in the deciding discussions.

The annual three-week Argyll Ceilidh Trail also had to be cancelled this year with gigs postponed until 2021.

Weekly classes have been carrying on via Zoom before taking a break for the summer.

'We're now looking forward



Band of mixed musicians at Oban's Easter Fèis 2019.

to the 2021 fèis week and to resuming our online classes,' added Ewan, who also appealed for new committee members to

join them and help plan next year's event and help run the weekly classes on Zoom.

There has been a good uptake

of online classes, says Ewan, and the committee has been inviting parents to take part in a survey to help update and

refresh classes on offer after the short summer break. For more information go to [www.feislatharna.org](http://www.feislatharna.org)

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Joan's Carers is a family run business providing full personal care, sleep overs, assistance with dressing/undressing, companionship, cooking and meals, collecting of prescriptions, medication assistance/management and vital home support.

Established in 2000 by Joan Graham, the business has expanded over the years delivering services across Oban and the area as well as to Appin, Lismore, other islands and out to Helensburgh, Dumbaron, Alexandria, Kilcraggan, Luss and Arrochar.

With many years of care industry experience under her belt, Joan decided to start her own business working from home to co-ordinating the company, enjoying the 'hands on' approach.

Her eldest son Russell, who joined the business five years ago, now takes care of the



day-to-day running of services, while Joan takes the managing lead.

The company ethos is to promote the highest standards of domiciliary care to people of all ages in their own home. Top priority is promoting independence, respect, rights, freedom of choice, dignity and confidentiality.

Registered with relevant

Social Work Departments, the Care Commission, SSSC, PVG Disclosure Scotland and Scottish Care Association, all staff get in-house training, an offer of a company pension, competitive rate of pay and mileage paid to drivers.

'We aim to move onto mandatory SVQ Qualifications following a successful six month probationary period,' says Joan.

# Lives of Consequence lecture will go online

Author and journalist Joni Buchanan will give this year's prestigious Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture in Gaelic online and on Hebridean Women: Lives of Consequence.

Drawing on her recent research, Joni will be addressing why those women, who have carried out so many crucial roles in society, only get limited mention in the vast literature out there about the Hebrides and their people, asking: 'Were their lives really of so little consequence?'

As well as challenging why their voices have been given so little expression, the lecture will also draw on individual examples of extraordinary lives to confirm the more general truth that Hebridean women, and their contribution to all aspects of life in the islands and far beyond, have earned the right to wider awareness, respect and recognition.

Because of coronavirus restrictions, this year's lecture will be pre-recorded and made available on YouTube and online from Thursday October 22.

It is also planned that the lecture will feature in a special edition of Radio nan Gàidheal's Feasgar programme in which Joni Buchanan will be interviewed by Cathy MacDonald. More details of that will be announced later.

An English and Gaelic text of the lecture will also be available in booklet form by Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc, which organises the annual lecture in partnership with e-Sgoil, CnES, the Islands Book Trust and Angus Macleod's family.



Author and journalist Joni Buchanan will give this year's Angus Macleod Lecture.

Donnie Morrison, chairman of Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc, said: 'We are delighted Joni has agreed to give this year's lecture on a much-neglected subject which I am sure will be of great interest to many people.'

'Despite the unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic, we thought it important to

ensure the lecture went ahead, albeit not in front of a live audience, and we are grateful to Radio nan Gàidheal for facilitating this year's special arrangements.'

For more about the lecture and how to access it, contact John Randall of Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc at john.673randall@btinternet.com

## BOOK REVIEW

**Kathleen MacPhee: The folk who live in the West: tales from the West Coast. New Generation Publishing.**

This is a book on several levels – autobiography, social history, folk tales and myths and legends. The author originally intended to write only about her native Kintyre, but the work grew to take in the whole west coast and crossed the seas to Ireland and Norway.

There are many things discussed which will be familiar to readers such as the traumas of the Qualifying Examination or a Gaelic test before competing as a choir member at the Mull Mod. As a teacher and later

Schools Adviser and salmon smokehouse owner, the author experienced the vagaries of the west coast weather and travel problems from the 1960s onwards.

These difficulties could be on land and sea, but sound life advice could often emerge as, for example, when a friend confided that, 'if you want to know what a man is really like, take him out sailing in a rough sea and just see how he behaves'.

The west coast has many residents who merit the term 'character' and this book is full of them. Many starred in plays as members of the Dunaverty Players, whose first producer was the writer

Eric Macintyre. Angus MacVicar. The author skilfully weaves together contemporary events and the history and legends of an area, as when a west coast man declares 'my name is Morrison and John Cameron, the fisherman, told me that the Morrisons were originally from Norway – and were probably Vikings'.

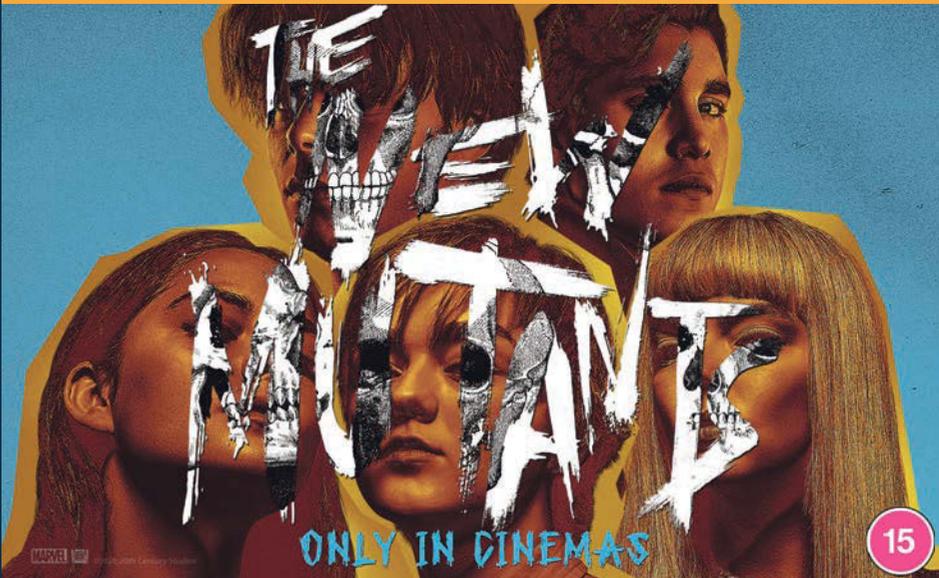
This is a vibrant, humorous, poignant and well-written book. Readers of this paper will identify with all of the content and reflect on past times and the eternal vicissitudes of life in that beautiful and mysterious kingdom which is the West Coast of Scotland.

Eric Macintyre.



# What's On This Week

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**ONLY IN CINEMAS** 15

THIS WEEKEND

<p><b>FRIDAY 18 SEP</b></p> <p>Tenet   12A <span style="float: right;">16:00</span></p> <p>Trolls World Tour   U <span style="float: right;">16:30</span></p> <p>André Rieu's Magical Maastricht: Together In Music   U <span style="float: right;">19:00</span></p> <p>The New Mutants   15 <span style="float: right;">19:30</span></p>	 <p><b>THE PAINTED BIRD</b></p> <p>A young Jewish boy somewhere in Eastern Europe seeks refuge during World War II where he encounters many different characters.</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">18</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY 19 SEP</b></p> <p>Trolls World Tour   U <span style="float: right;">12:30</span></p> <p>Tenet   12A <span style="float: right;">14:00</span></p> <p>André Rieu's Magical Maastricht: Together In Music   U <span style="float: right;">15:00</span></p> <p>The Painted Bird   18 <span style="float: right;">17:30</span></p> <p>The New Mutants   15 <span style="float: right;">18:30</span></p>	
<p><b>SUNDAY 20 SEP</b></p> <p>Trolls World Tour   U <span style="float: right;">12:30</span></p> <p>Tenet   12A <span style="float: right;">14:00</span></p> <p>André Rieu's Magical Maastricht: Together In Music   U <span style="float: right;">15:00</span></p> <p>The Painted Bird   18 <span style="float: right;">17:30</span></p> <p>The New Mutants   15 <span style="float: right;">18:30</span></p>	

WEEKDAYS

<p><b>MONDAY 21 - THURSDAY 24 SEP</b></p> <p>Trolls World Tour   U <span style="float: right;">16:30</span></p> <p>Tenet   12A <span style="float: right;">18:00</span></p> <p>The New Mutants   15 <span style="float: right;">19:30</span></p>	 <p><b>NOW PLAYING</b></p> <p>JOHN DAVID WASHINGTON</p> <p>ONLY IN CINEMAS</p>
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**We've made changes to help you enjoy a safer big screen experience.**

Masks/face coverings must be worn when entering and moving around the cinema. You can remove masks to have food and drink. Those who are exempt and under 5s do not need to wear a mask. Please book ahead where possible. We have implemented a 2m rule in the big screen and left every other row empty, please sit in the seat shown on your ticket.

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](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) for more information about film certificates.



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<b>MONDAY:</b>	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
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	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
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	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
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	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
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	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
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	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
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	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

# Mull-inspired musical album released ahead of tour

With a national autumn 2020 tour postponed, the team behind *Islander: A New Musical* are instead releasing the original cast album.

The critically acclaimed show, performed by Kirsty Findlay (Olivier Award Nominated, *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour*) and Bethany Tennick (Stage Debut Award Nominated, *Islander* at Southwark Playhouse) follows the story of Eilidh who stares out to sea and dreams of a new life beyond her lonely island.

Myth and reality collide when the tide washes a mysterious stranger onto her beach, changing her life forever.

Epic storytelling intimately staged with a contemporary Scottish folk-inspired score - by award-winning composer, writer and singer-songwriter Finn Anderson - Kirsty and Bethany perform a whole host of characters, while weaving, building and layering their voices using looping technology to create an expansive, ethereal soundscape.

Exploring themes of loss, identity, migration and home, *Islander: A New Musical* was created on Mull and is inspired by the sights, sounds and smells of the wind-beaten and



Kirsty Findlay and Bethany Tennick perform on the *Islander* musical album. Photograph: Ali Wright.

wave-struck Western Isle. The production had its first - and completely sold out - run in 2019 at Summerhall as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme before a three-week season at London's Southwark Playhouse last October.

With national touring plans currently on hold, the album - out September 25 - aims to give *Islander* fans a welcome

opportunity to listen to the complete soundtrack anywhere and at any time.

Finn Anderson said: 'Creating the music for *Islander* was an exciting challenge. The score draws heavily on Scottish folk traditions, with raw acapella vocals at its heart, but the use of the loop station allowed us to create a vast and fantastical theatrical soundscape with just two

female voices. I'm always excited by how we marry tradition and innovation, and how centuries-old music and folk traditions can find new relevance through contemporary narratives and modern technology.'

*Islander: A New Musical* cast album is available from September 25 through Spotify, iTunes, Amazon and all major online music distributors.

**CROSSWORD**

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- Across**
- 1 Mackerel typr fish (6)
  - 4 Foil (4,2)
  - 9 Of the buttercup family (7)
  - 10 Deep pink (5)
  - 11 Type of sole (5)
  - 12 Weapon used by police at demonstrations (4,3)
  - 13 Shelf over the fire (11)
  - 18 Uninvolved (7)
  - 20 Eucalyptus eater (5)
  - 22 World-weariness (5)
  - 23 Turning point (7)
  - 24 Take offense at (6)
  - 25 Seasonal drink (6)
- Down**
- 1 Offshoot (6)
  - 2 Absence of people (2,3)
  - 3 Three-pronged weapon (7)
  - 5 Cuban dance (5)
  - 6 Relating to open waters (7)
  - 7 Task-set for a wrong doing (6)
  - 8 Teeth cleaner (6,5)
  - 14 Graduate (7)
  - 15 Idea (7)
  - 16 Win over (6)
  - 17 No-good person (3,3)
  - 19 Have the throne (5)
  - 21 Extra charge (3-2)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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## More to explore at

Benmore Botanic Gardens is home to some of the finest trees in Scotland, from Giant Redwoods to new wild-collected plantings from Chile and Bhutan.

The best time to see them will be from September 28 until December 1 when the dramatic hillside garden near Dunoon will be taking part in the Scottish Tree Festival.

This year the annual festival, which is organised by Discover Scottish Gardens will shine a light on some of the trees that give Scotland its unique character and which contribute to the environment, shelter wildlife and enhance the well-being of those who enjoy them.

With more than 40 live and virtual events planned this autumn, those looking to make the most of a staycation will find lots to enjoy at Benmore and across Scotland.

It's a chance to explore some of the country's great designed landscapes, such as Scone

Palace in Perth, where head gardener Brian Cunningham will be leading tours amongst the trees that grow on the estate.

At Hopetoun House on the outskirts of Edinburgh, rangers will take visitors into the past with tours that weave history and folklore and at Blair Castle there will be the chance to discover the legacy of the 'Planting Dukes of Atholl', who through the 18th and 19th centuries planted 27 million trees at the heart of Scotland.

From real life encounters with Rexy, the willow dinosaur at Logan Botanic Garden in Dumfries and Galloway, to virtual tours of trees with royal connections at Gordon Castle near Fochabers, events are taking place across Scotland.

And nurseries will be offering advice on what to plant, from heritage fruit varieties to trees suitable for small gardens.

Catherine Erskine, chair-

# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## 'Ears' to social distancing filming

Earlier this week, I was filming for BBC Alba in the Arches in Glasgow which has re-opened fairly recently as a vibrant events and hospitality brand called Platform.

As usual, Covid regulations threw up a number of interesting situations. As the presenter of the programme, I was the only member of the team who was not obliged to wear a mask and everyone involved was, of course, adhering to strict social distancing.

An interesting problem arose, however, when a cameraman pointed out the type of back lighting being used was illuminating my ears to such an extent as to make me resemble Martin Clunes!

After much discussion, production decided the only solution was to gaffa tape the back of my ears to stop the light shining through.

As no-one is allowed to come within a metre, I had to apply the gaffa tape myself. Anyone who has ever gaffa taped their own ears will tell you, it's no easy task. I'm hoping I don't turn on the telly in a few months to see me chatting away with a big bit of tape sticking out!

## Skerryvore Live

The closest anyone has come to a real, live gig recently would have to be Skerryvore's fantastic Live Across the World performance from the Clydeside Distillery.

Virtual tickets were available by donation and included a whisky tasting with piper Martin Gillespie.

The boys then took to the stage in the distillery, with full sound and lighting rig, and put on a tremendous set for the many people watching at home. Skerryvore fans tuned in quite literally from across the world - 24 countries, in fact.

## Tional begins this weekend

Hands Up for Trad's virtual Gaelic festival, Tional (Gathering), that I wrote about last week begins this weekend, presented by Joy Dunlop.

I include the line up again for anyone interested in tuning into the Hands Up For Trad facebook and YouTube channels. More info on the Hands Up for Trad website.

### Friday night

8pm - Norrie McIver in concert  
9pm - Hands Up For Trad Cèilidh House, featuring Kathleen MacInnes, Ian Smith and Iain 'Costello' MacIver

### Saturday

12pm - Covid Choral Workshop with Joy Dunlop  
1pm - Clàrsach workshop with Calum Macleod

2pm - Lunchtime concert with Marit and 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 and Fionnghal NicChoinnich, Ciorstaidh Beaton and Seonaidh MacIntyre and John Alec Mackay

9pm - Fairich audio-visual showcase with Whyte

### Sunday

1pm - Lunchtime concert with Iain MacFarlane and Ingrid Henderson

2pm - Fiddle playing for dancing workshop with Shona Masson

3pm - An audience with Arthur Cormack

4pm - Gaelic song for Learners workshop with Maeve Mackinnon

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

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### 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)  
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)

### DIHAOINE 18 an t-Sultain

#### FRIDAY 18 September

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
18:35 Machair (rpt)  
19:00 An Là - News  
19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19:30 Bonn Comhraidh (rpt)  
20:00 Fonn mo Bheatha (rpt)  
20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21:00 Opry Dhoire (rpt)  
22:00 UR/NEW: The Optimists  
22:45 Celtic Connections (rpt)  
22:55 Dhan Uisge (Easdale) (rpt)  
23:00 Folk Prom (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 19 an t-Sultain

#### SATURDAY 19 September

16:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
17:45 An Là - News  
18:00 Mallachd an Fhìr-rabaide/Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were Rabbit (rpt)  
19:15 Bonn Comhraidh (rpt)  
19:45 Sgeul Slainte (rpt)  
20:00 Machair (rpt)  
20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20:30 Two Go To Tolsta - Sgeulachd Syd Agus Millie (rpt)

21:00 Seirm S5 (rpt)  
22:00 Al Capone (rpt)  
22:55 Dhan Uisge (Easdale) (rpt)  
23:00 Tatu Rioghail Dhun Eideann 2018 (rpt)  
00:45 Belladrum 2016 - Cridhe Tartan - Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 20 an t-Sultain

#### SUNDAY 20 September

16:05 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
16:45 An Là - News  
17:00 Seachd La - News Review  
18:00 NEW Scottish Premiership - Aberdeen v Motherwell  
19:45 Alleluia! (rpt)  
20:15 An Lot S3 (rpt)  
20:40 Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt)  
21:10 Bothy Life (rpt)  
22:10 Seirm S5 (rpt)  
23:10 The Optimists (rpt)

### DILUAIN 21 an t-Sultain

#### MONDAY 21 September

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19:00 An Solas Buan/Lighthouses of Scotland (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là - News  
20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21:00 NEW - Bannan S7  
21:30 NEW - Abair Trusadh  
22:00 TradFest (rpt)  
22:20 Am Fear Cinnidh Òg - The Young Commander (rpt)  
23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin - The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 22 an t-Sultain

#### TUESDAY 22 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 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)  
21:00 An Drochaid/The Bridge Rising (rpt)  
22:00 Abair Trusadh (rpt)  
22:30 Tradfest (rpt)  
23:00 Fonn mo Bheatha (rpt)  
23:30 Alleluia! (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 23 an t-Sultain

#### WEDNESDAY 23 September

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming  
19:00 An Solas Buan/Lighthouses of Scotland (rpt)  
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20:00 An Là - News  
20:30 NEW - Fuine  
21:00 NEW - Sar-Sgeoil - The Cone Gatherers  
22:00 Bannan S7 (rpt)  
22:30 Tommy Burns (rpt)  
23:45 Celtic Connections (rpt)  
23:50 Celtic Connections

### DIARDAOIN 24 an t-Sultain

#### THURSDAY 24 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 Sgoil nan Sagairt/Priest School (rpt)  
21:00 The Brewdog Story (Na Grudairean) (rpt)  
22:00 Seoid a' Chidsin - The Kitchen Coves (rpt)  
22:30 NEW - Sliogean Traillachd (Slavery Routes)  
23:20 Celtic Connections (rpt)  
23:30 Bannan S7 (rpt)



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# Benmore



woman, Discover Scottish Gardens, said: 'The festival is a celebration of Scotland's wonderful trees, their contribution to our landscapes and the part they play in our lives. This year, more than ever, people are feeling a need to connect more closely with nature and the festival will give them to chance to do that.'

See [discoverscottishgardens.org/tree-festival](http://discoverscottishgardens.org/tree-festival)

## Kilmore 100 Club winners

Summer winners in the Kilmore 100 Club were: June - M Bowie and A Love; July - S Scott; August - J Battison and September - M Griffen and A Spence.

# Memory walk marks 40th anniversary

This weekend Alzheimer Scotland is marking 40 years of supporting and campaigning for people living with dementia and launching the theme 'Innovation' with The Big Weekend Memory Walk with a difference.

From being a small part of the Alzheimer Society - raising funds which went to England - the founders of Alzheimer Scotland decided the country needed to support her own people and merged with Action on Dementia in 1980.

Oban dementia advisor Sue Pagan said: 'The charity is firmly driven by the people who live with brain diseases; people who live daily with dementia and who know the changes that need to be made by government, local authorities and the NHS.'

'Although our greatest wish is a cure for dementia and no

need for further birthdays, we are marking the occasion, September 21-27, with the theme 'Innovation' which is certainly appropriate now.'

Everyone living with dementia has been hard-hit during lockdown, with additional pressure for family and unpaid carers and, although Alzheimer Scotland has been working throughout offering support, information and advice, unfortunately, the coronavirus has had a big impact on fundraising income.

'This Big Weekend we are going to kick-off 'Innovation' with our annual Memory Walk. You decide where and when you walk. Walk alone or with your household - just remember the Covid rules,' said Sue. Register via: <https://shop.alzscot.org/pages/fundraising-events/alzheimer-scotland-memory-walk-big-weekend>

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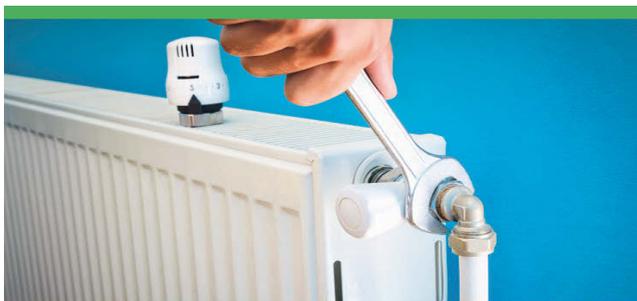
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# This year will be the tenth anniversary of Gas Safety Week 14 - 20 September 2020.

The week-long annual campaign raises public awareness of gas safety and the importance of taking care of your gas appliances and is coordinated by Gas Safe Register.



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1 in 5 homes in the UK contain unsafe gas appliances and our new research, of people who care or check in on others, suggests vulnerable people could be at risk due to confusion amongst carers about the signs of unsafe gas. We're urging people to protect themselves and loved ones by getting clued up on gas safety, familiarising themselves with the signs and symptoms of unsafe gas appliances.



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### Carbon monoxide – what do you need to know?

What is carbon monoxide? Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas which has no taste, colour or smell. It can make you feel seriously ill and can kill quickly without warning.

What are the signs of a carbon monoxide leak? Carbon monoxide can be produced when poorly maintained, incorrectly fitted or badly repaired appliances do not burn gas completely.

Look out for the following signs that could indicate that a gas appliance is not working correctly, and CO may be present in the house:

- Floppy yellow or orange flame on your gas hob, rather than a crisp blue
- Dark, sooty staining on or around gas appliances
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out

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- Increased condensation inside windows

If you're suffering from any of the symptoms and feel better when you leave the house, it could be CO poisoning. If you're concerned you or someone in your household may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning, make sure you do the following:

- ✓ Get fresh air immediately
- ✓ Open all doors and windows, switch off gas appliances and leave the house
- ✓ Contact your GP, who can check and advise if you need treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning
- ✓ If you're concerned there is immediate danger, call the gas emergency helpline on 0800 111 999 (mainland GB), 0800 002 001 (Northern Ireland) or look up the number for your UK region at <http://bit.ly/gasemergency>.

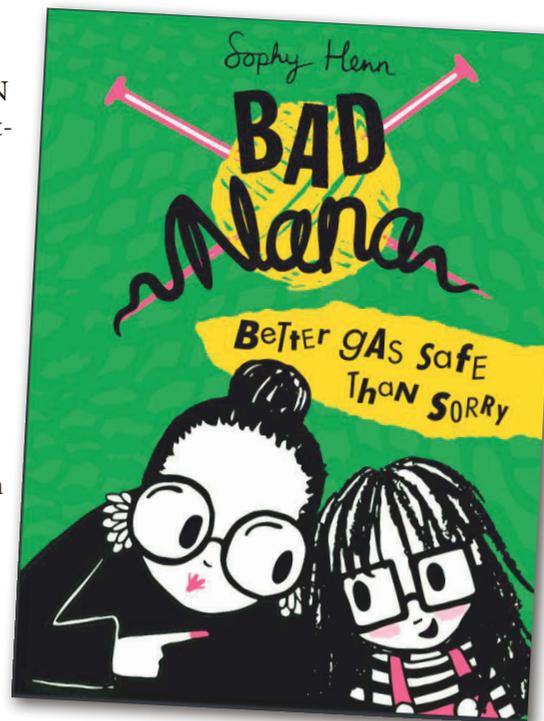
**How to stay gas safe**

- Ensure your gas appliances are checked annually by a qualified Gas Safe registered engineer

- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm marked EN 50291 which carries the British Standards Kitemark

**About Gas Safe Register**

In the right hands gas is safe, but poorly fitted and badly maintained gas appliances or equipment can put you at risk of gas leaks, fires explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. The Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas engineers who are legally allowed to work on gas appliances. Gas Safe Register can help you find a registered engineer in your local area and tell you if they're qualified for the type work you need them to do. Some of these local engineers are featured within this special.



**Best-selling children's author, Sophy Henn, creates new book to help educate families and keep older people safe**

We're very excited to have partnered with renowned children's author, Sophy Henn, author of the Bad Nana series to launch a new book to boost gas safety and awareness. All to ensure people are safe in their homes.

The book sees Jeanie aged 7 ¾, and her annoying little brother Jack help her nan (aka Bad Nana) save a neighbour from carbon monoxide poisoning, after spotting the signs and symptoms. The book's aim is to bring the issue to the attention of children, parents and the vulnerable people they care for, all delivered with Sophy's signature dose of fun.

Read the book here online: [https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/media/2924/bad-nana\\_better-gas-safe-than-sorry.pdf](https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/media/2924/bad-nana_better-gas-safe-than-sorry.pdf)



**The key signs are:**

- Floppy yellow or orange flames on gas appliances, such as cookers, instead of a bright blue one
- Increased condensation inside windows
- The pilot light repeatedly going out or the boiler fails to light
- Black or sooty marks on or around your gas appliances
- Feeling unwell – the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are: headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness

**The Oban Times and Lochaber Times fully support Gas Safety Week**

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# Capital funding of up to £20,000 for farmers 'going green'

The Scottish Government launched a pilot grant scheme called the Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme on Monday September 7.

The scheme offers capital grant funding of up to £20,000 for farmers and crofters to buy specific items of agricultural equipment to support them in the delivery of direct greenhouse gas reductions on Scottish farms and crofts.

This in turn will help Scotland deliver on its highly ambitious statutory climate change targets as well in the majority of cases delivering improvement in air and water

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quality or animal welfare. The grants are funded by the Scottish Government.

Full details on eligibility and how to apply is available at <https://www.ruralpayments.org/>

## AN OVERVIEW

The Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme provides grant funding for farmers and crofters to purchase specific items of agricultural equipment.

This is a pilot grant scheme. The scheme opened for applications on Monday September 7 and closes to applications midnight Sunday October 11.

The main objectives/expected outcomes of the scheme is to:

- protect and improve the natural environment
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions from farming operations

support sustainable farming

support sustainable land use

The capital items that can be applied for through the SACGS have been chosen for their effectiveness in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well supporting sustainable farming, by improving land and livestock management.

The Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme will offer grants based on standard costs. The use of standard costs will reduce the burden on farmers and crofters as they are not required to submit quotes with applications. This approach will provide a more straightforward application for farmers, crofters and SGRPID.

For more visit: <https://news.gov.scot/news/rural-role-in-green-recovery>

## Around the markets

**United Auctions, Dalmally, Saturday September 12:** sold 8147 Lambs & Sheep of all classes. This sale included the Principal Dalmally Sale for Blackface Wedder lambs. The 6723 Blackface Wedder lambs averaged £53.05 (+ £14.03) per head and 190.7 pence per kilo (+ 53.1p). All lambs (7325) averaged £53.53 (+£13.67) per head or 191.98 (+52.76p) pence per kilo. The entry of Blackface Wedder Lambs attracted the largest attendance of buyers ever seen at this centre for this sale. Overall, an excellent selection of stock sold extremely well which resulted in a tremendous atmosphere at the centre whilst obeying all Covid19 restrictions.

### Leading Prices per head

Lambs – BF - £76.00, Stonefield; £73.50, Achnaba; £72.00, Clachan; £66.50, Glenfalloch; £66.50, Craig; £66.00, Inernahyle; £66.00, Innisaig; £65.50, Millpark; £65.50, Saulmore; £64.50, Castles; £64.50, Glenfeochan; £64.50, Acharonich; £64.50, Scallasaig; £63.50, Dall; £63.00, Corrylorn; £62.50, Tullich Farmers; £62.50, Innisaig; £62.50, Tullochcan; £62.50, Fearnoch; £62.50, Lurignish; £62.00, Benmore; £61.50, Achnaba; £61.50, Duncroisk; £61.00, Bragleenmore; £61.00, Clachan. SuffX - £76.00, Glenbrook; £63.50, Balnahard. BeltX - £61.00, Dunans. TexX - £90.00, Dunans; £90.00, Stonefield; £81.00,

Tullich Farmers; £79.50, £78.00, Stonefield; £76.00, Craig; £70.00, Ardachuple; £70.00, Drumclach. Chev - £74.00, 1 Savary; £71.00, Keppochan; £67.00, Auchreoch; £65.00, Kingairloch; £65.00, 1 Savary; £60.00, Glenbrooke. Cross - £74.00, Dunans; £70.50, Glenbrooke; £66.00, Home Farm, Kilberry. Mule - £75.50, Stonefield; £74.00, Glenshellach.

**Feeding Ewes** – TexX - £76.00, £60.00, Silvercraigs. Chev - £62.00, 1 Savary; £56.50, Kingairloch. Cross - £51.00, Kingairloch. BF - £46.00, £38.50, Woodside Croft.

### Leading Prices per Kilo

Lambs – BF – 219p, Ormsary Farmers; 217p, Littleport; 212p, Ormsary Farmers; 211p, Tullich Farmers; 209p, Duncroisk; 209p, Balnahard; 207p, Scallasaig; 205p, Creaganterve Beg; 204p, Machrins; 202p, Brackley; 201p, Bragleenmore; 200p, Littleport; 200p, Garrogie; 200p, Dunans; 200p, Dall; 200p, Drissaig; 200p, Glenbeg. SuffX – 215p, Balnahard. BeltX – 218p, Dunans. TexX – 232p, Ardachuple; 223p, 221p, Glenshellach; 220p, Home Farm; 218p, Silvercraigs; 216p, Stonefield; 214p, Brenchoille; 214p, Craig; 212p, Stonefield; 212p, Brenchoille; 210p, Evanachan. Chev – 245p, Glenbrooke; 225p, Brackley; 217p, 1 Savary; 211p, Brackley; 211p, 1 Savary. Cross – 258p, Evanachan; 234p, Brenchoille; 220p, Home Farm. Mule – 215p, Stonefield.

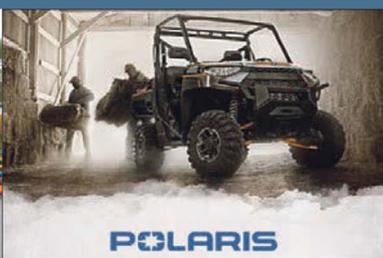
**Islay – United Auctions, Islay Friday, September 11:** sold 3471 sheep of all classes. Lambs averaged £70.70 (+ £18.06) per head and 203.3 pence per kilo (+ 49.6 pence per kilo). An excellent show of quality bred lambs was presented to a good following of buyers. The top end of lambs suitable for immediate slaughter and the smallest end of long keeping lambs enjoyed the best of the rise albeit medium sized lambs were also in keen demand. Ewes sold at levels in keeping with current trends.

### Leading Prices per head

Lambs (2943) – SuffX - £94.00, Lossit; £91.00, Octofad; £90.00, Ardbeg; £90.00, Machrie Croft; £88.00, Octofad; £87.00, Coull; £86.50, Duich; £85.50, Dunlossit Lossit; £85.00, Dunlossit Knocklearach; £84.00, Lossit; £83.00, Octofad; £81.00, Finlaggan; £81.00, Duich; £80.00, Ardbeg; £80.00, Dunlossit Knocklearach; £79.00, Woodend; £79.00, Bali-martin; £79.00, Octofad; £78.50, Ballimartin; £78.00, £77.50, £76.00, Coull; £75.00, Pairc A Chlassan. TexX - £94.00, Mansefield JG Ltd; £89.00, Dunlossit Lossit; £88.00, Octofad; £88.00, Gartness; £86.50, Conisby; £85.00, Gartness; £85.00, Mansefield JG Ltd.; £82.00, Conisby; £82.00, Ardbeg; £79.00,

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# Kintyre Agricultural Society's annual sheep sale guidelines

Kintyre Agricultural Society (KAS), in conjunction with C&D Marts Longtown, will be holding its annual sheep sale on Saturday September 19, at 11am at Anderston Park.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are guidelines that must be adhered to.

The sale will take place outdoors with no additional visitors admitted other than staff, buyers and sellers. All sellers and buyers are asked to leave as soon as their business is done. There will be hand sanitising

stations on entry and exit to the sale and at various points around the sale ring. There will be no catering or toilet facilities. In line with guidance from The Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland, KAS is asking for the following rules to be adhered to:

Only one person per business attends the sale; no under 16s should attend; all buyers should pre-register with the secretary before the sale; 2m social distancing must be observed.

All those attending must provide contact details - name, address, phone number and email address - before entering the sale. These will be taken at the gate on entry to the sale but to keep things moving, KAS is asking people to hand them over to the gate stewards.

Vendors, where possible, should have ear numbers of all stock to hand to pass on to market staff on arrival. When delivering or collecting stock, wait in vehicles until directed otherwise by a steward.

Eskinish; £78.00, Gartness; £76.50, Gartness; £76.00, Lower Cragabus; £73.00, Octofad; £73.00, Ardtalla; £73.00, Pairc A Chlassan; £73.00, £72.00, Conisby; £71.50, Ardnave. BeltX - £90.00, £85.00, £79.00, Stanalane. LleyX - £84.00, £79.50, Ardbeg. HB - £60.00, Duich. Chev - £58.00, Coillabus. Cross - £91.00, Duich; £89.00, Coull; £88.00, Lossit; £88.00, Mansefield JG Ltd; £72.00, Duich. Mule - £78.00, Dunlossit Knocklearach; £75.00, Corrary; £72.00, Rockside. Chev Mule - £80.00, £74.00, Coull. BF - £79.50, Duich; £70.50, Dunlossit Ceannacroic; £62.00, Dunlossit Lossit; £60.00, Cnoc Na Faire.

**Feeding Ewes (437) - Suff** - £63.00, Mansefield JG Ltd. Lley - £66.00, Ardbeg. BFL - £73.00, Corrary; £67.00, Island. Tex - £122.00, £99.00, 16 Westend; £97.00, Mansefield JG Ltd; £93.00, Lower Cragabus; £80.00, Kirkby; £77.00, Westend Grazings; £75.00, Woodend; £67.00, Dunlossit Lossit. Cross - £66.50, Ballinaby; £65.00, Coull. Mule - £79.00, 16 Westend; £61.00, Eskinish. BF - £55.00, Cnoc Na Faire; £51.00, Dunlossit Knocklearach.

**Leading prices per Kilo**  
Lambs - SuffX - 227p, Ardnave; 225p, Ardtalla; 216p, Ardnave; 206p, Duich; 206p, Octofad; 204p, Ardnave; 203p, Ardbeg; 202p, Ballinaby; 200p, Woodend; 199p, 198p, Dunlossit Knocklearach; 197p, Dunlossit Lossit; 197p, Duich; 196p, Coull; 196p,

Finlaggan; 195p, Woodend; 194p, Octofad; 193p, Pairc A Chlassan; 192p, Duich; 190p, Ballimartin. TexX - 252p, Ardtalla; 221p, Ardnave; 220p, Conisby; 215p, Mansefield JG Ltd; 209p, Octofad; 204p, Lower Cragabus; 202p, Westend Grazings; 202p, Eskinish; 200p, Mansefield JG Ltd; 200p, Conisby; 198p, Dunlossit Lossit; 198p, Octofad; 197p, Eskinish; 194p, Pairc A Chlassan; 194p, Kinnabus; 193p, Gartness; 191p, Westend Grazings. LleyN - 192p, 190p, Ardbeg. BeltX - 202p, 196p, Stanalane. Chev - 200p, Kinnabus. Cross - 236p, 213p, 212p, Ardnave; 209p, 207p, Ardtalla; 200p, Lossit; 196p, Mansefield JG Ltd. Mule - 203p, Ardtalla; 191p, Corrary. Chev Mule - 216p, 193p, 190p, Coull. BF - 193p, Duich; 178p, Dunlossit Ceannacroic; 171p, Kinnabus.

**Oban - United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday September 8:** sold 5130 Lambs & Feeding Sheep which included the Premier Oban Sale of 2495 BF Wedder Lambs which averaged £48.80 (+£15.57). The overall average of the lambs was £52.91 which recorded a rise of £17.82 on the year. With a strong force of buyers in attendance, all classes sold well. Again, in the lamb sections, the majority were long keeping types which met a spirited demand.

**Leading prices**  
Lambs - BF - £65.00, Achalic; £64.00, Fiart; £61.50, Aird;

£60.00, Mid; £58.50, Glengorm; £58.00, Achalic; £58.00, Scammadale; £57.50, Carnasserie; £56.00, Blarchascaig; £56.00, Creag-A-Mhadaidh; £55.00, Assapol; £55.00, Saulmore; £55.00, Gallanachmore; £55.00, Inshaig; £55.00, Achuaran; £55.00, RSPB Oransay; £54.50, Poltalloch; £54.50, Lamlash; £54.00, Fiart. SuffX - £74.50, Killiechronan; £68.00, Kilbride Croft; £63.00, Homestead; £62.00, Killiechronan; £57.50, Kilbride Croft; £56.00, Strongorm; £56.00, Ardenca- ple. LleyX - £72.50, Kilpatrick Croft. TexX - £75.00, Kames Beag; £74.50, 9 Grean, Barra; £72.50, Homestead; £72.00, Ardachy; £72.00, Barbreck; £71.00, Bailuacraich. ChevX - £73.50, Aird; £69.00, Balliemore; £67.50, Antuim; £67.50, 117 Craigston, Barra; £66.50, Blackmount; £64.50, 79 Borve, Barra; £64.00, £63.50, Aird; £62.50, The Steadings; £61.00, Barndromin; £61.00, Caddleton; £60.50, Blackmount; £60.00, Plocaig; £60.00, Strongorm; £60.00, 117 Craigston, Barra. Cross - £64.00, Killiechronan; £58.00, Gallanachmore; £57.50, Balliemore; £57.00, Aspin Lodge. Mule - £79.00, Dalrannoch; £70.00, Achuaran; £67.00, Stronacroibh; £67.00, Kames Beag; £66.00, Fiart. Ewes - TexX - £59.00, Assapol. ChevX - £57.50, No 4 Aros. Cross - £60.00, Creagnich. Mule - £75.00, £57.00, Kames Beag; £51.00, The Ridges. BF - £50.00, Callachally; £46.00, Gallanachmore; £42.00, Kilbride; £40.00, Inion; £40.00, Shellachan.

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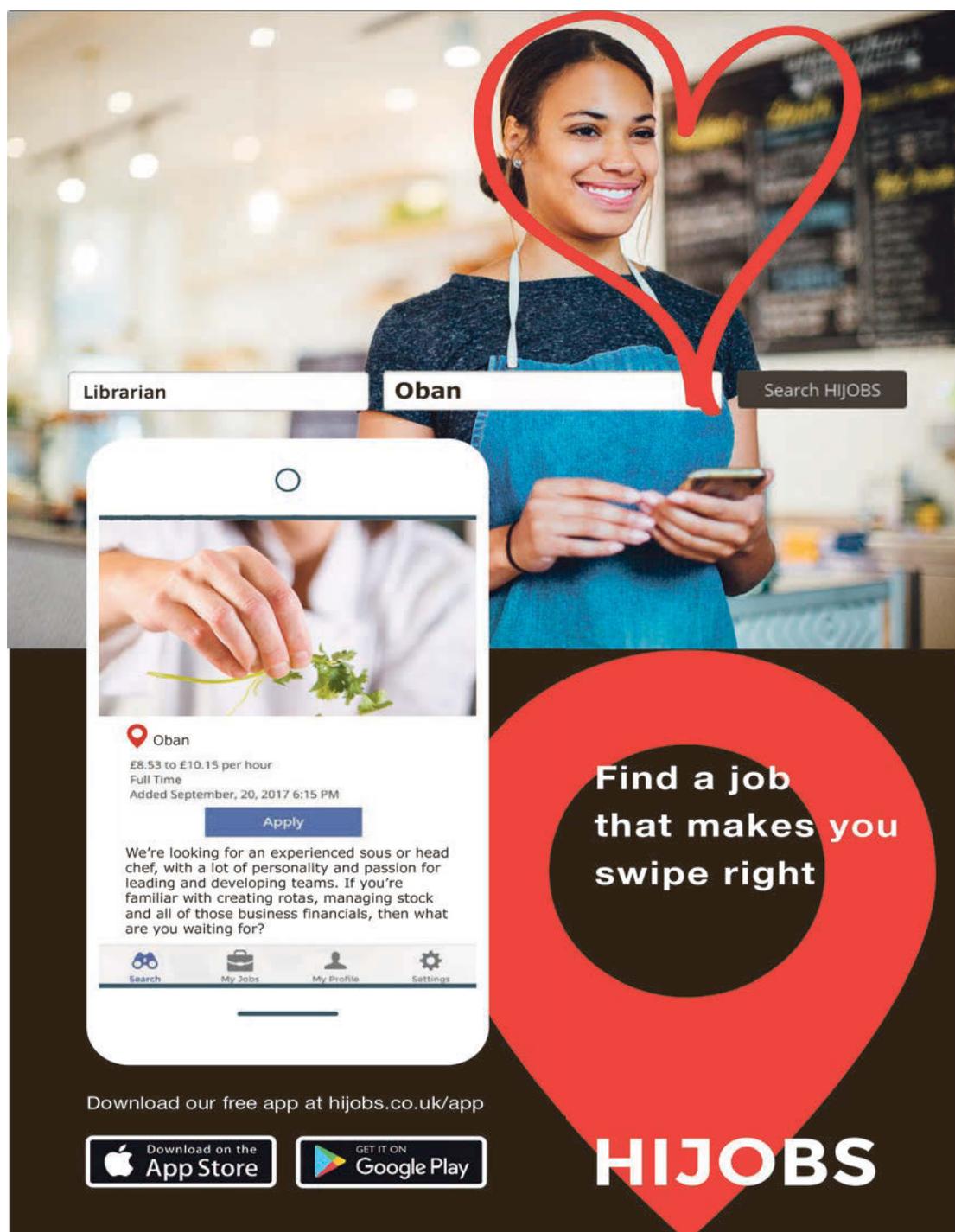
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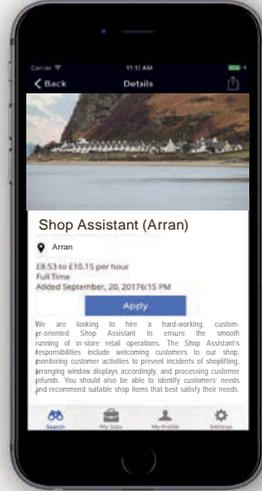
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MARINE FARM, LOCH SUNART, LOCHABER

Notice is hereby given that Greensea Solutions Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a marine farm at:

Location	Cost	Latitude	Longitude
Loch Sunart,	£200,000	56° 39.820 N	005° 54.949 W
Lochaber		56° 39.946 N	005° 54.796 W
		56° 39.791 N	005° 54.338 W
		56° 39.670 N	005° 54.473 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3mb6FGQ>

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made by email to:

MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00008866 and Greensea Solutions Ltd.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot).

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01468/PP	Partial change of use of croft to form holiday park to include 10 lodges, 5 glamping pods, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	17 Kiel Crofts, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1QS

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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



## Argyll and Bute Council

**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended**  
**ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER or MODIFICATION ORDER**

**Planning Permission in Principle for the Erection of Dwellinghouse (Plot 1) at Garden Ground of Jarew, Fishnish, Craignure, Isle of Mull and Erection of Dwellinghouse (Plot 2) at Garden Ground of Jarew, Fishnish, Craignure, Isle of Mull**  
**REFERENCE NUMBER: 19/00084/PPP and 19/00085/PPP**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permissions.

The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to The Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2F (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 15th October 2020.

If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 29th October 2020 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.

Date 17 September 2020

David Logan, Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

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**Scottish Government**  
**Riaghaltas na h-Alba**  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

## TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

**THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2020**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(b) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point 93 metres or thereby west of its junction with the Old Glencoe Road in a general south easterly direction to a point at its junction with the unclassified access road to Allt Na Reigh Cottage, a distance of 4.3 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required because of the likelihood of danger to the public, or of serious damage to the road, which is not attributable to works will be in operation from 20th September until 23rd September 2020. It is anticipated that the restrictions will only be in operation for short periods of approximately 5 minute intervals between the hours of 05:00 hrs and 12:00 hrs and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes.

### ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

### S R LEES

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



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### First Registration of a Croft

Philip Knight has registered their croft 25 Auchinahard (share), Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon 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](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C7015.

### Proposed Apportionment of a Common Grazings

Mrs Wilma Ann Moynihan is applying for an apportionment of part of the Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael & Lochyside Common Grazings extending to 24.18 has for the purpose of creating a hill park to ease management and care of grazing livestock.

Written comments from any shareholder or owner of the said common grazings (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW - [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 17th October 2020

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



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

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

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
20/02854/FUL	Land 740M SW Of Rhue House	Arisaig	Formation of camp site
20/03326/FUL	33 Locheil Road	Inverlochy Fort William	Siting of Holiday Pod
20/03071/FUL	Sherwood Cottage	Tigh A Phuirt Ballachulish	Siting of holiday pod
20/03070/FUL	Land West Of 3 Leven View	Kinlochleven	Erection of House - Amendment to Planning Permission 14/00320/FUL; Amended House Design
20/03272/PIP	Land 60M NW Of Cruachan	12 Anahellit Strontian	Erection of house. Installation of sewage treatment system and formation of access track
20/03414/FUL	Land 110M NW Of The Cottage	Drimmin	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

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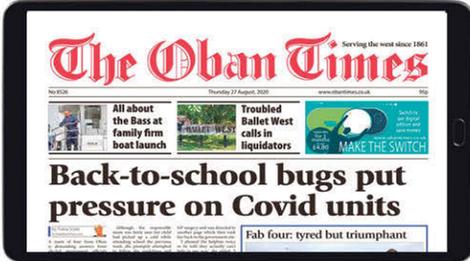
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## DEATHS

**COATES** - Derek F. Coates who passed away on August 26, 2020. A loving dad to Alisdair, to his stepchildren and the best grandad. He fought a good fight and passed away at home in the loving arms of his wife Sandra. We miss him every day. The Power of Love.

**DAVIES** - Peacefully at Cowal Community Hospital on September 10, 2020, Geraint James Davies of 17 Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt. Loving partner of Jean Sim, brother of Gwen Duff and uncle to Marc and Sally. A private funeral service will be held at Muckairn Cemetery on Friday, September 18, 2020. He will be sorely missed.

**MACNAB** - Renee, peacefully at Auchmacoy Lodge, Ellon on Sunday, September, 6, 2020. Beloved wife of the late James, much loved mum of Isabel and the late Nicholas, proud grandmother of Matthew, Pamela, Archie and Geordie,

mother-in-law to Linda, friend and teacher to many. Private service in accordance with current restrictions to be held at Tobermory Cemetery at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

**SEMPLE** - Suddenly but peacefully after a brave battle, on September 10, 2020 at the Beatson Hospital, Glasgow, Callum Semple in his 62nd year, Caliglen, Southend, beloved son of Elizabeth and the late Richard, loving dad of Callum, Allan, Iain, Rebecca and Andrew, devoted granddad to Liam, Callum, Cara-Louise and Lexi-Jane, much loved brother, brother-in-law, father-in-law, uncle and a friend to many. Simply The Best. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Callum's funeral will take place on Friday, September 18 at 1pm. The funeral cortege will leave Callum's office in Longrow, Campbeltown at 11:45am, travelling along Aqualibrium Avenue, round the Cross and

up Main Street on the way to the family home. We will leave the family home in Southend at 1pm travelling through the village to Keil Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects may do so anywhere on our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**WILLIAMS** - Peacefully on Sunday, August 30, 2020, at home. Walter Williams (Pat), aged 90 years. A much loved husband of Christina Williams (Ena), loving dad of John and Jean, father-in-law to Colin. Much loved granddad to Niall and Dominic. Loving brother to Dorothy, Sandy and the late Robert. Devoted uncle and friend to many. Funeral has already taken place on the island of Colonsay.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**KNOX** - The family of the late George Knox wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the love, care and compassion shown by them and the

many cards, flowers and visits since his passing. Our heartfelt thanks to them all. A very special thank you to Rev Richard Baxter and Rev Morag Muirhead for their words of comfort and prayers at the graveside. Thanks to Andrew Orr for his beautiful piping. Sincere thanks to Manson & MacBeath Funeral Directors for going above and beyond with their support and compassion in all aspects of the funeral arrangements. Many thanks to all the staff at Moss Park Care Home who cared for George in his final years. Lastly we would like to thank all who paid their respects at the roadside during George's final journey to Glen Nevis.

**QUINN** - The family of the late Sandra Quinn would like to thank all relatives and friends for cards and flowers following their recent bereavement. Thanks to Fr James, Fr David and Deacon Thomas Wynne for the comforting service. Special thanks to Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey and Son for efficient funeral arrangements.

**SHIELDS** - After the sad loss of Robert, those closest to him wish to thank, most sincerely, all the medical staff and carers who have looked after Robert over the years. From all the doctors and staff at Lorn Medical Centre, the doctors and staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital and all the carers who have cared for him in his own home. Also, all his

friends and neighbours who have looked in on him over the years. Thank you all for your loving care. Finally thank you to everyone who made a donation in Robert's memory to the Oban Hospice. A total of £600.00 was raised.

## MEMORIALS

**BLUE** - In memory of our sister Lilian, who passed away September 22, 2011. Forever in our hearts.

- Donnie, Mary and Jim.

**MACDONALD** - Catherine, died September 12, 2006.

Mum, no words, no verse could ever say how much I miss you every day.

A loving thought, a silent tear, forever wishing you were here.

- Inserted by John. Xx

Also remembering my much loved brother-in-law, Kenny Campbell, suddenly taken from us on August 10, 2018. Sorely missed by everyone.

**MACDONALD**

- Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas Macdonald, who passed away on September 18, 1991. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

We keep in our hearts the love of the past

For there it was planted forever to last.

Too deep in our hearts, for death to divide.

Each day of our lives, you walk by our side.

- His ever loving daughters, Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

**MACDOUGALL** - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy, who died on September 19, 1997.

Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family.

**MACDOUGALL**

- Remembering with love our dad and grampy Callum, died September 19, 1997.

Never more than a thought away.

- Margaret and family, Bunesan.

**McBAIN** - In loving memory of Sandy, died September 16, 2000. Loving husband, dad and grandpa.

The last scoop may have been twenty years but the love keeps digging forever in our hearts.

- Christine and family.

**ROSS** - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Marion, who died September 15, 2003.

Softly the leaves of memory fall Gently we gather and treasure them all

Flowers may wither and suns may set

But the hearts that love you will never forget

Also remembering loved ones gone before

- From loving husband Rusty and family.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

My husband and I only came out of shielding on August 1.

At the first opportunity, we went for a walk.

We went up Glen Nevis and parked at the visitor centre, which wasn't quite as busy as we expected.

We then went over the bridge and along the Riverside Walk on the path.

We only met a few other walkers, among them a friend we hadn't seen for five months, so we stopped and had a chat - suitably distanced.

Walking at the pace we do gives us time to look at the things around us and I found a really interesting broken, almost dead, tree. It had been a beech tree, but now seemed to be just a rotting trunk, about six feet high. But

there was still life in that old tree. At one side of its trunk, little branches of beech tree sprouted out. On its other side, where a branch had once been, a small rowan tree was growing and alongside that were several fern fronds.

It was a three-in-one tree: one tree trunk but the source of life for three plants - beech, rowan and fern. In a way it reminded me of our Trinitarian God: God in three persons - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God reveals himself to us in the most unexpected places and in the most unexpected ways, reminding us of his constant and ever-loving presence even and especially in these strange Covid-19 times.

**Reverend Morag Muirhead, Ordained Local Minister at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church of Scotland, Fort William, linked with Kilmonivaig Church of Scotland.**

## CONTACTUS

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## BIRTH

**GRAHAM** - Dougal and Jill (Carswell) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first daughter Hailey Allison Graham born August 27, 2020 at the RAH. Eleventh grandchild for Dougie and Allison Graham Oban, and the seventh for Stevie Carswell and Jenny Addison, Oban and the third for the late Nuala Carswell.



# People urged to download new app to protect Scotland from Covid-19

A Highlands and Islands MSP has urged people to download the new Protect Scotland app.

Maree Todd, for the SNP, said it was designed to help slow the spread of coronavirus in Scotland and support the easing of lockdown restrictions.

It works by notifying users if they have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

It automatically alerts users if someone reports they've tested positive for Covid-19 and detects via the phone whether the two devices have recently been in close contact.

No personal identifiable information is entered on the app and the Scottish Government said it does not monitor the location of individuals.

The app uses Bluetooth technology, not GPS, to identify

contacts. It can only be used on smartphones with either the Apple (iOS) or Google (Android) operating systems.

Within a few hours of its launch, it had already been downloaded more than 50,000 times.

### Launched

Ms Todd said: 'The Scottish Government has launched the Protect Scotland proximity tracing app to help stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus and complement the person-to-person approach of Test and Protect.'

'The app - which takes less than a minute to download -

will allow us to alert people at risk far more quickly so we can all take steps to reduce the risk of infecting others.'

'Scotland's official contact tracing app will help us all to protect ourselves, our family, our friends and our community by enabling faster contact tracing.'

'The more people who have the app, the more it can help to slow the spread of coronavirus.'

'That's why I'm urging people across the Highlands and Islands to download the app.'

The Protect Scotland app can be downloaded at [www.protect.scot](http://www.protect.scot)

How it works?

The app communicates with other app users' phones using Bluetooth to swap anonymous random IDs when in close proximity - two metres or less - for 15 minutes or more.

This acts like a virtual handshake between devices, which can be anonymously recalled if one of the contacts later tests positive for Covid.

It is important, therefore, app users keep Bluetooth enabled on their phones as often as possible.

For more information on how it works visit <https://www.protect.scot/how-it-works>

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### Big-hearted Bob's birdie pledge

Golfer Bob MacIntyre showed why he is such a class act last week when he interrupted his preparations for his US Open debut and pledged thousands of dollars to a hurricane relief fund in Louisiana, where he spent 18 months at university.

Hurricane Laura left at least 26 people dead and hundreds of thousands without power or water when it struck at the end of August. Bob, in conjunction with his sponsors, has pledged to donate \$3,500 for every birdie or better he records at his second major starting at Winged Foot, New York, on September 17.

'It felt like the right thing for me to do,' Bob, who attended McNeese University in the state explained. 'I come from a family background and my mum supports so many folk around Oban.'

Bob will be hoping to make the cut, just as he did at his last Major, the USPGA championship in August, to ensure he maximises his opportunity to make birdies and raise much-needed cash for the relief fund.

The European Tour Rookie of the year goes into his toughest challenge yet full of confidence after his great showing over the final three days at Valderrama earlier this month. He can expect similarly tough conditions at Winged Foot with the set-up described as 'brutal'.

The course is almost 7,500 yards long and includes two par fours more than 500 yards and a monster 640 yard par five. With a par of only 70, it is not a course for the faint-hearted, but Bob has so far risen to every challenge he has faced in his fledgling professional career.

# Saints back in action

Oban Saints	4
South Lochaber Thistle	2
Pre-season friendly	

One hundred and eighty nine days after their last match, Oban Saints returned to action last Saturday in a friendly encounter with near neighbours South Lochaber Thistle.

The Glencruitten 2 playing surface was in its usual excellent condition for the 1pm kick-off, however, that was one of the few familiar sights as football adjusted to the new normal.

The Scottish Football Association's Match Day Protocols restrict the numbers permitted on the touchline to substitutes and a small number of coaching staff. All but the players and match officials are prohibited from entering the playing surface. Only the first aider can enter the 'red' playing zone and even then only if suitably attired with mask, apron and gloves. The small number in the 'amber' coaching zone must exercise strict social distancing and all players must have their own water and hand sanitiser.

With no changing or showering facilities permitted, all players must arrive and depart in their playing kit.

Perhaps the cruellest and most difficult protocol to enforce at grassroots level is the **no spectators** rule and the players and management of Oban Saints thank their loyal band of supporters who played their part by denying themselves their football fix and stayed away.

Saints were without Scottish international players Lewis Cameron and Scott Maitland, skipper Dene Cassells, re-



David Beaton is congratulated by his teammates after scoring Saints' third goal and his hat-trick. Report and photographs: Derek Black

covering from an operation, and James Ford who was unavailable

With referee Jimmy Litster satisfied both sides were fully complying with the guidelines, he got the action under way.

It was the visitors who showed the least amount of ring rust in the opening exchanges.

Veteran Jags striker David Forbes forced Graham Douglas into action in the third minute with the Saints number one producing an excellent save low down to his left and getting quickly back to his feet to push a second effort from Forbes behind for a corner kick.

After 35 lethargic minutes, where the visitors were by far the more impressive, Saints finally came alive and tested Thistle's goalkeeper Owen Cooke.

Skipper for the day Craig MacEwan won possession on

the edge of the centre circle and drove forward with Matty Kelly making a supporting run from midfield. MacEwan's well-weighted pass slipped in the Central Scottish Amateur Football Select man for a deli-

**Perhaps the cruellest and most difficult SFA Match Day Protocol to enforce at grassroots level is the NO SPECTATORS rule**

cate chip which Cooke did very well to claw away.

The deadlock was broken in the 40th minute when young Aaron McKay made a driving run up the right wing and found David Beaton on the corner of the 18-yard box for a low shot across the keeper and

into the bottom corner.

Jamie Graham and Aaron McKay made way for Paul Carmichael and Cammy Hill for the start of the second half with the big central defender playing a key part in Saints' second goal seven minutes after the re-start.

Steven MacLeod won the ball well on the edge of the Saints' 18-yard box and played the ball across to Carmichael on the left. Carmichael's raking left foot pass sent David Beaton racing up the left wing where his searing pace took him comfortably away from his marker and through on substitute keeper Andrew Brown whom he beat with ease low down to his right to double the home advantage.

Saints' impressive start to the second half continued and a third goal was added in the 55th minute when David

Beaton bundled the ball over the line from close range to seal his hat-trick after good work from Craig MacEwan.

The visitors pulled a goal back when captain Martin Munro's pace was too much for Kerr Newbigging and the wide man raced through on goal and slotted the ball under Graham Douglas to give the visitors hope of mounting a comeback.

Home for a brief spell from his work commitments in England, Saints co-manager Donald Campbell declared himself fit enough for a 30 minute run out. Youngster Gavin Forgive made way for Campbell with Scott Johnstone also making a 60th minute appearance in favour of Myles McAuley.

After taking the ball wide right, all-time Saints top goal scorer Campbell turned provider and delivered an inch perfect cross onto the forehead of Craig MacEwan who nodded the ball over the stranded Andrew Brown and into the net for Saints' fourth goal.

In the second minute of added time, the Jags were awarded a free kick. Unfortunately for Saints, Graham Douglas didn't quite get his angles right and was beaten low to his right by Martin Munro's sweetly struck 20 yard free-kick which completed his brace and rounded off the scoring with Saints winning 4-2.

More sport on pages 10 and 11.



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# Big cash boost pushes ebike scheme forward

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William is a step closer to getting its ebike hire scheme on the road after being awarded a massive £537,000 grant.

The cash, which covers 80 per cent of the total costs, will pay for 80 ebikes, 10 charging hubs and virtual docking stations at key locations throughout the wider Fort William area including the high street, transport centre and suburbs.

Following the announcement by Transport Scotland last week, Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) confirmed it was awarded the funding in April.

LEG's ebike hire scheme is one of 10 active travel and low carbon transport projects that will receive a share of £9.46 million through round three of the Scottish Government Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund. The European Regional Development Fund provided £7.21m of the overall total.

Kate Willis from LEG said the opportunity to deliver an

**'The scheme will provide easy and affordable access to ebikes for everyone'**

ebike scheme of this size was 'incredibly exciting' as it had the potential to make a real difference to the way people travelled locally.

'The scheme will provide easy and affordable access to ebikes for everyone. We hope this will encourage people to use the bikes, rather than their cars, for daily journeys,' she told the Lochaber Times.

'This will help to ease traffic congestion, especially in the summer, as well as reduce carbon emissions. Electric bikes are such a great way to get around. They are fun to ride, hills are a breeze and they provide that extra boost if you are recovering from injury or illness.'

Transport secretary Michael Matheson commented: 'These  
Continued on page three.



## Fitting tribute to firefighting colleagues

Mark Gibbings, from Fort William Community Fire Station, paid tribute to colleagues who gave their lives at 9/11 and raised much-needed cash for The Fire Fighters Charity by climbing the equivalent height of Ben Nevis using the StairMaster machine at Wolfhouse Gym on September 11 this year. Not content with just climbing the 587 flights of stairs, the retained firefighter completed his task wearing full turnout gear.  
Full story: page 12. Photograph: Abridge Photography

## Village shows resilience in face of Covid

Kinlochleven is pulling together this week after its first known Covid case was confirmed.

The news was announced on the MacDonald Hotel Kinlochleven Facebook page on Saturday after a staff member tested positive.

Owners Helen Thompson and Mark Brotherston wrote: 'All of our team members have received training on the symptoms of the virus and the person concerned took swift action and arranged a test as soon as feeling unwell.'

'They isolated immediately to await the result. Any team member who worked closely with them is also isolating for two weeks.'

More cases have since been confirmed and on Tuesday the hotel owners announced they would be closing until Wednesday September 30 as a result of 'nervousness' in the village about the situation.

'Although we are confident in our practices, this situation is new to all of us and, after careful consideration of our team and village residents, we have decided to self isolate for two weeks,' said an ensuing statement.

Highland Council confirmed  
Continued on page 8

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# Wet weather wreaks road and rail havoc in the west



The landslide on the West Highland Line. Photograph: Network Rail Scotland.



The Glen Nevis Visitor Centre car park was flooded at the weekend. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A landslide on the West Highland Line will mean train services between Crianlarich and Fort William being affected until at least Saturday.

Extensive damage was caused on a section of the line between the neighbouring stations of Bridge of Orchy and Upper Tyndrum, said Scot Rail.

Passenger train services provided by Scot Rail and Caledonian Sleeper have been affected, as well as GB Rail Freight Ltd.

Network Rail Scotland said it was working hard on site and expected the line to re-open on Saturday.

Train services between Glasgow Queen Street and the terminus at Mallaig for ferries to Skye have been 'revised' with buses in place in some areas.

The closure sparked calls from John Finnie MSP, the Scottish Greens Transport spokesman, that 'immediate action' is needed to 'climate proof' Scotland's railways.

Mr Finnie said: 'We know Scotland's antiquated rail network is vulnerable to adverse

weather and we know that as the climate emergency grips we will be faced by increasingly severe weather.

'Action must be taken now to protect and enhance Scotland's railway.

'Many of my constituents rely on the West Highland Line, and it provides a massive economic boost to communities along its route, but frustrations are building at regular closures caused by the weather.

'I commend those who work tirelessly to keep the railway open, but it's clear we urgently need a climate plan to protect this and other lines.'

Last weekend saw the region battered again by persistent rainfall.

On Saturday overnight into Sunday, Scotland's flood forecasting and warning service had 10 Regional Flood Alerts and seven Local Flood Warnings in force.

In total, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency said that between 70mm - 80mm fell.

There was a second landslide on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful within a matter of weeks.

The vital high-level route connecting Tarbet with



Above and below: Heavy rain saw Glenfinnan badly flooded.



Lochgilphead and the A816 to Oban, was closed on Saturday afternoon as a safety precaution in advance of a Met Office yellow alert for heavy rain. And it was discovered on Sunday September 13 that around 5,000 tonnes of mud and boulders had slipped and reached road level.

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## Big cash boost pushes ebike scheme forward

Continued from page one. exciting projects will join other low carbon and active travel initiatives that have been very much welcomed by communities through the Challenge Fund.

'These projects will support our Programme for Government commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032, whilst helping us to build an active nation and make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle for everyday journeys,' said Mr Matheson.

LEG now just needs to secure the remaining 20 per cent match funding (£135,000) and the scheme will become a reality.

The funding will also pay for ebike infrastructure, including the development of a mobile app that will allow users to unlock bikes and monitor their rides, and a project manager and community engagement officer to deliver the project, which will include running community and business engagement events.

# Crown Estate cash compromise still leaves Lochaber £80k short

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Communities in The Highland Council area are to benefit from Crown Estate funding to be disbursed by the local authority, but a compromise deal still sees Lochaber losing out on nearly £80,000.

Councillors on Friday agreed how more than £3m of Crown Estate money would be distributed across the region.

A total of £3,034,704.78, from net revenues generated from Crown Estate marine assets out to 12 nautical miles, has been allocated to The Highland Council from the Scottish Government.

Last week the Lochaber Times reported on growing anger in Lochaber after it emerged the area could lose out on a large slice of the available cash as a result of the way distribution was being worked out by council

mandarins in Inverness. But Councillor Ben Thompson, Caol and Mallaig, said that following the number of motions and amendments put up, he believes Lochaber got the best deal available – the second largest distribution of funds directly to Lochaber (£462,000) and the largest central pot that bigger active Lochaber projects, such as Corpach Marina, can now bid in to (£455,000).

'This is a gain of £89,000 for Lochaber over the original proposal and it provides an opportunity for an even bigger local gain since we have good large projects ready to bid into the central fund,' he said.

'It was a real pleasure to work with a large number of fellow Lochaber, Skye and Caithness councillors to get to this outcome.'

But his fellow Lochaber councillor and area committee chairman Andrew Baxter said

the area was still losing out.

Mr Baxter had seconded an amendment that would have seen Lochaber receive the full share of £543,000, but saw it defeated by 26-24 votes when up against another amendment.

'I voted for a compromise to block Inverness getting its own way. That was successful but sadly we still only get £463,000 for Lochaber when we could have got £543,000,' he commented.

Members agreed the vast majority of the funding (£2.6m) should be devolved to area committees with a strategic fund of 15 per cent being retained for Highland-wide projects and for bids from individual areas that are over-subscribed, with funding for the administration of the scheme to be a maximum of £100,000.

Also approved was a governance structure for the scheme



Councillor Ben Thompson, Caol and Mallaig, says the deal was the best one available for Lochaber when it came to a division of Crown Estate money.

with details of broad eligibility principles, eligible applicants and geography and rates available.

There will also be administration resource requirements to support communities and members in preparing, administering and managing the fund for the initial tranche of funding available to the council.

The scheme will be advertised

and applications sought as soon as practicable to support the economic recovery and the development of projects that support coastal and marine communities throughout Highland.

The council aims to open up a first round of applications before the end of the year.

Full details on how to apply will be published and promoted by the council.



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# Motorhome 'bullying' incident prompts plea

## Community council urges residents to welcome tourists

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven Community Council has issued a plea to residents to refrain from using what it calls 'bullying tactics' after a recent incident involving the driver of a visiting motorhome.

Council chairwoman Yvonne Rosie received the complaint and drafted the plea for the council's Facebook page.

She said: 'The gentleman wrote of an incident whereby cars drove up to his parked motorhome on the evening of Friday September 4, not far out of Kinlochleven, and tooted the horn for up to 10 seconds at a time. One of the cars returned to do it again on Saturday morning, suggesting

**'We cannot treat everyone that visits our area as the enemy. Tourism is permitted providing they adhere to the guidelines.'**

drivers could be local. This is intimidating behaviour. Had he been with young children or had been older, this could have had a detrimental affect on him and his partner.

'He wrote they were from a similar environment to us and he totally understood our reticence at returning to tourism. He also understood our concern and anger at the recent experiences our



Kinlochleven where the chairwoman of the community council has issued a plea for people not to engage in 'bullying tactics' over tourists. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

area has been subjected to by people who don't understand how to conduct themselves in this locale, camping or in

motorhomes. We cannot treat everyone that visits our area as the enemy. We might all have varying opinions on how to live our lives at the moment, but not everyone will be environmental hooligans.

'Tourism is permitted providing they adhere to the guidelines. We know not everyone is holding up their end of the bargain, but behaviour such as this is not helping either.'

Ms Rosie added that recent photographic evidence showed foodstuff and litter dumped

in the village. She said it was doubtful this was tourism and, unfortunately, more likely to have been what she called 'home grown inconsiderate local litter bugs'.

'So having potshots at motorhome users is rather churlish,' she continued. 'Become proactive, get involved in what we can do, educate those who don't follow the guidance, report the illegal dumping of waste and engage with those who can implement change instead of using bullying tactics towards innocent bystanders.'

## Lochaber Marie Curie fundraising group sets up Facebook page

Lochaber Marie Curie fundraising group has set up a Facebook page to share its plans, advertise events and enjoy seeing photographs of the events afterwards.

Latest news includes details of another afternoon tea following the successful event in June which raised £1,700.

'We had a delivered afternoon tea in June which raised nearly £1,700 and was,' said the group's Joan MacKintosh, 'a welcome ray of sunshine for so many people as they emerged from lockdown.'

And she added: 'It was so popular we've decided to have another Blooming Great Tea Party at Home on October 31. This time, we're also going to do goody bags/boxes for children.'

It will be slightly themed to Hallowe'en but will again be filled with delicious handmade treats to share with family and friends and by taking part people will be supporting Marie Curie locally. More details will be on the page in the next week or two.

'We have another couple of great ideas in the pipeline and look forward to sharing them on the Facebook page. The page is on Facebook as Lochaber Marie Curie Fundraising Group and everyone is welcome to like and follow us.'

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## 'Connect and Collect' at libraries

Linclate and Stornoway libraries re-opened with a reduced service on Monday.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been working to ensure all procedures managing the re-opening of services follow Scottish Government guidance and Safer Workplace Guidance for public libraries.

The phased re-opening will initially involve reduced opening hours at Linclate and Stornoway libraries which will offer a special 'connect and collect' service, hopefully leading to a gradual return to normal library services at all branches. The library service hopes to announce a date for Tarbert Library's re-opening with the same service shortly. There is no date for Castlebay Library to re-open, but Barra and Vatersay communities will be kept informed of progress.

Under the connect and collect system, each library will

have reduced opening hours. Customers can arrange to visit their local library at a specific day and time to collect a bag of books library staff will have prepared for them.

Customers can connect with their local library by phone, email or through completing the online connect and collect form available via the library website.

They can either place holds on particular items through the library catalogue or tell staff what kinds of books/audio books/DVDs/authors they enjoy.

Library staff will then put a collection of five items together for them which will be ready to collect at an agreed time.

Customers will also be able to return their outstanding library books at the same time.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Libraries manager Kathleen Milne said: 'Even though the

eLibrary has been available throughout lockdown, and will continue to be available round the clock, we know from the many phone calls received over the last few months how many customers have missed the library and are desperate to get their hands on some new, physical, books.

'The library will continue to promote new books through events and customers are encouraged to follow 'wilibraries' on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep up to date with any developments and to share their reading experiences.

'Everyone at Western Isles Libraries is looking forward to seeing their customers again. They have been missed.'

When collecting items from libraries, customers are requested to wear face coverings - unless exempt - sanitise their hands and observe physical distancing at all times.

## Online only for parking permits

Residents of Fort William, Inverness and Nairn who need to renew or apply for a Highland Council parking permit must now do so using an online application form.

Following suspension of residents' parking permits during the coronavirus lockdown, Highland Council resumed the service from Monday September 14.

Residents who are eligible for a parking permit will be able to renew or apply for permits through the council's new online self-service portal at [www.highland.gov.uk/parkingpermits](http://www.highland.gov.uk/parkingpermits).

This move to an entirely online permit service is necessary as a result of Scottish Government and UK Government's advice to minimise social contact.

The council had to take the difficult decision to close all service points and they remain currently unavailable for in-person visits. Anyone who does not have access to the internet should seek assistance from family or friends in accessing the online portal. Any temporary permit arrangements will be withdrawn by November 1 this year.

# Maintenance work swings into action at Banavie and Laggan

Essential maintenance on two swing bridges on the Caledonian Canal got under way this week.

The £260,000 project will see work take place on the A830 Banavie Swing Bridge near Corpach, before moving to the A82 Laggan Swing Bridge.

The project involves painting components on the end girders at both bridges, with deck waterproofing and surfacing work also taking place at Laggan Bridge. The work will ensure both bridges continue to operate safely for years to come.

The project at the A830 Banavie Swing Bridge is scheduled to take place from Monday September 14 to Friday September 18 between 11.15pm and 5am.

Overnight road closures will be in place during working hours as the bridge will be swung 'open' to allow engi-



The Laggan swing bridge on the Caledonian Canal.

neers safe access to the ends of the structure, resulting in a full closure of the A830 at this location.

As there is no suitable diversion route, vehicles will be allowed to park in signed designated areas until the swing bridge re-opens at 5am.

There will be no amnesty periods during this phase of the project.

There will be a signed diversion route for pedestrians and cyclists over the canal locks. The A830 will be fully open outwith working hours.

Work on the A82 Laggan

Swing Bridge will take place from Monday September 21 to Friday September 25 between 10pm and 6am.

Two-hour closures will be in place on the A82 while the bridge is swung 'open' for work to be carried out.

Waiting traffic will be held until the bridge is swung back into position approximately every two hours. Alternatively, a signed diversion route is available via the A82, A9 and A86.

The second phase of work at Laggan Swing Bridge – Monday September 28 to Friday October 3 from 7pm to 7am – will involve waterproofing and surfacing.

The A82 will remain open during the second phase of work, however, temporary traffic lights will be in place for safety overnight to protect roadworkers and motorists.

The project will be resched-

uled if adverse weather is forecast.

Consultation has been carried out with emergency services, The Highland Council, businesses, transport operators, residents and other relevant stakeholders to make them aware of the work.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative, said: 'This project will allow us to carry out essential maintenance on Banavie and Laggan swing bridges across the Caledonian Canal, ensuring they continue to function safely for road users and canal traffic.'

'The road closures are essential to allow for painting, waterproofing and surfacing.

We've arranged for the project to take place overnight and avoid working on Saturday and Sunday nights to minimise disruption as much as possible.'

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# Families begin legal action against care home operator

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Families who lost loved ones in the Covid-19 outbreak at Home Farm Care Home on Skye are to begin legal proceedings.

Highland Councillor John Gordon, who lost his father at the home in May, is uniting with other bereaved families to address the failings at the home and is calling for others across Scotland to share their concerns about how other care homes have responded to the crisis.

Councillor Gordon said: 'The situation at Home Farm was appalling but I do not think it is an isolated case. I believe many other care homes in Scotland have also failed to safeguard vulnerable residents like my father at a time when they most needed protection.'

'I hope other families in similar circumstances will



Councillor John Gordon.

contact me so that lessons can be learned before more lives are lost.'

Ten residents died at Portree's Home Farm Care Home during the outbreak earlier this year. A total of 30 people living in the home tested positive for

Covid-19 and 29 staff also tested positive. The operator HC-One is in the process of selling the home to NHS Highland.

Peter Watson of PBW Law, who is acting on behalf of the families, said: 'The families have already suffered bereavement in the most tragic circumstances.'

'Compounding their loss is the fear that their loved ones could have been protected had the proper procedures been in place.'

## Scrutiny

'I am writing to the Lord Advocate to ask if a fatal accident inquiry is to be held. I will also ask the Scottish Government, which has indicated that there will be an inquiry, whether this will be a public inquiry, which would enable a proper scrutiny of the regulation of care homes.'

PBW Law is representing Councillor John Gordon, his

sister, Mary Maccaskill and Norma Morrison, who lost her mother Margaret Morrison.

The Care Inspectorate's report on May 18 detailed a litany of serious failings at the home following a series of unannounced inspections in April and May.

Staff reported residents had been left lying in urine and faeces and the families had raised concerns that there were few infection control measures in place.

The Care Inspectorate team found residents had lost weight during lockdown and that medication was not administered safely or in a timely manner.

Staffing levels were inadequate on numerous occasions and some staff were working 60 hours a week. Staff also did not consistently use PPE in an effective manner to protect themselves and others from

Highland Council members unanimously agreed a motion last week by Eilean a' Cheò (Skye) ward members to seek assurances that all revenue funding regarding the purchase of Home Farm Care Home at Portree would be met by the Scottish Government.

Chairman of the Eilean a' Cheò committee Councillor John Gordon said: 'The report from the Care Inspectorate was a hard read and we welcome the NHS taking on the running of Home Farm, however, the detail of the financial

impacts of the purchase are as yet unclear.'

Leader of the Highland Council Margaret Davidson commented: 'I want to congratulate the heroic efforts of staff involved in turning around a significant improvement in the care home. The Scottish Government has agreed to fund revenue costs for the first year, but funding for future years is uncertain.'

'We cannot be in a position of having to cut services elsewhere in social care and we need a sustainable solution for the longer term.'

the risk of infection. The overall cleanliness of the home also gave rise to serious concerns and infection control measures were lacking.

The Care Inspectorate

subsequently applied for cancellation of the care service's registration under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, however, this application was subsequently withdrawn.




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Instructors and pupils enjoy some outdoor activity.

## Lochaber pupils get a taste of adventure from new scheme

More than 500 pupils in four Lochaber schools are the first to benefit from Outward Bound trust instructors visiting weekly to offer outdoor learning experiences and adventures.

More than 130 schools from across Scotland usually visit the Outward Bound Trust's Loch Eil centre for a week-long outdoor learning and adventure stay each year.

But as overnight stays are not currently possible due to Covid-19, the trust has announced exciting new plans to take its outdoor adventures directly into Scottish classrooms to ensure young people don't miss out.

Outward Bound is a charity that provides adventurous outdoor experiences, immersing young people in nature and helping them develop key skills such as resilience, self-confidence and positivity.

This autumn, instructors will visit schools to offer outdoor learning experiences, starting within the school grounds, building up to local adventures.

The first schools to take advantage of this are those closest to Outward Bound's Loch Eil centre, where staff are supporting more than 500 young people across all stages, in four schools in Lochaber including Lundavra primary in Fort William.

The charity plans to extend this work to more schools across Scotland and the rest of the UK.

This initial support for



The instructors and teachers.

schools and young people has been made possible through funding from Mowi Scotland, Swagelok Scotland and a number of other Scottish supporters.

Martin Davidson, director for Scotland and innovation at The Outward Bound Trust, said: 'At Outward Bound we never sit back and say we can't. It's just not in our DNA. If pupils are not able to come on residential at Outward Bound this autumn, we will go to them.'

'Covid-19 has brought many challenges to the education system, from the isolation many children felt during lockdown to the worry of how schools can open safely. Each child has had a different experience, for some safe and enjoyable and for others challenging or traumatic.'

'Outward Bound's mission is to help young people see what they are truly capable of, to believe in themselves, to be more than they think.'

'We saw an opportunity to use our experience of working with young people to help schools as part of their recovery curriculums, to adapt to new ways of working and to support young people as they adjust to life back in the class-

room after almost five months away.'

Katrina Kelly, head teacher at Lundavra Primary School, said having two dedicated Outward Bound instructors in the school was helping pupils develop the skills they needed to face an ever-changing world.

'Crucial skills like resilience, confidence and self-belief, as well as a willingness to try things,' she said.

'The learning is done outdoors, with a firm emphasis on health and well-being and play-based learning. The children are having fun whilst being helped to address some of the emotional uncertainties of the past few months.'

'As a school team we are relishing the opportunity to work with Outward Bound to enhance our pupils' opportunities for outdoor learning and to help them develop a wider range of skills for life, learning and work.'

All activities support the Curriculum for Excellence and will adhere to government safety guidelines.

As soon as restrictions allow, pupils near Outward Bound's Loch Eil centre will also be able to travel to its site for bigger adventures to support their learning.

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## Village resilience in face of Covid

Continued from page one  
enhanced cleaning regimes were in place at Kinlochleven High School and that a small number of people had been advised to self isolate for 14 days after being identified as possible close contacts of the positive Covid cases.

Meanwhile, Kinlochleven Village Resilience and Support group has offered its best wishes to the Covid sufferers adding: 'The situation has evolved quickly over the last three days. We do not have access to data but can assure everyone we continue to support the people of Kinlochleven in these difficult times.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter praised the village for its 'remarkable resilience' throughout the pandemic.

'Such swift action, including household isolation, will make sure the virus doesn't spread,' he added. 'This demonstrates why none of us should be complacent.'

Councillor Niall McLean added: 'It's a worrying development but I am confident the strong community in Kinlochleven will assist in best controlling the spread of Covid-19.'

# Lochaber Gary's radio spotlight on area's worrying suicide rate

It was something that had bothered Lochaber musician and broadcaster Gary Innes for years – why had six of his former team-mates from Fort William's shinty team taken their own lives over a period of 20 years.

In an attempt to find answers, Gary helped to pull together a two-part radio documentary, entitled *Six Men*, which was broadcast last week and is still available on the BBC iPlayer, in which he speaks to families of three of the dead men, as well as to psychologists and mental health experts.

The first suicide happened when Gary was just 15, with the last coming only three years ago in 2017, when he was 36, and old and mature enough to fully appreciate the scale of the collective tragedy.

'I'd wanted to do something to highlight the high rate of suicide in Lochaber for quite a while and this had been

playing round in my mind for some time,' Gary told the Lochaber Times from his home in Glasgow, from where he also presents the popular BBC Radio Scotland show, *Take the Floor*.

'One of the things that bothered me was that, if I had been someone who had felt suicidal, I'm not sure I would've known where to turn for help or find someone just to speak to.'

'So I wanted to find out a bit more and spoke to Lochaber Hope to see if it could help. I didn't know that nowadays there are so many different clubs and organisations locally that can help. But the suicide rate among young men in Lochaber is still atrocious.'

What emerged from Gary's conversations with families of local suicide victims, as well as medical and mental health professionals, was that there was no one answer as to why these six particular men had



Gary Innes.

felt they had no option but to take their own lives.

'There can be a lot of reasons – drug and alcohol abuse or a traumatic experience to social deprivation and depression – but one thing that does come through is much of it is driven by a sense of entrapment.'

Gary, who plays accordion with folk-rock band Mánran, says he finds it extremely worrying Lochaber and the Highlands have the highest

suicide rates per head of population in the UK.

In the documentary, broadcast to coincide with World Suicide Awareness Day last Thursday, Gary describes how all six of his shinty pals were very different characters.

'They were all from loving families and all seemed fine. They obviously felt they couldn't open up or didn't know where to get help.'

Gary says the horrible statistic Lochaber is now saddled with need not always be the case. 'Ten years ago Shetland had the highest suicide rate in Scotland and now, a decade later, it has the lowest.'

'So I wanted to find out why that is the case and what they did to combat it. The surprising thing that emerged is that they don't know. They did lots of initiatives but can't put their finger on any which might have been the thing that helped. My hope in doing this

programme is to highlight the devastation that suicide leaves behind for the families and friends of those who take their own lives. We need to show people that it's ok to talk about feeling not ok and if you are struggling with any aspect of your mental health that there is help available.'

Asked how he felt now having made the programmes, Gary said: 'I felt like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders.'

And Gary makes a plea for the families he spoke to who had lost someone to suicide to be recognised for their courage in being prepared to speak openly.

'It was incredible that the three families I spoke to were prepared to speak so freely. They were open and honest and I definitely think it will help other people who hear the programme and are struggling with mental health issues.'

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**Eye to eye** with John Wallace

## A feeling of deja vu

It's now six weeks since I returned to work after four months shielding. Even in these last six weeks I have noticed a major shift in attitude to the effects of the pandemic. Most of my elderly patients are still too frightened to travel far. Many have hardly stepped out of their houses since mid-March. They have frequently been ignoring significant vision loss. Sadly, in several cases this potentially reversible loss of vision has become permanent. Many other patients have taken the attitude "It won't happen to me" and are carrying on as if nothing was amiss.

As I write, the omens are suggesting a second "Lockdown" is imminent. I dread to think what that means for health-care. Waiting lists for basic



cataract surgery are now well over twelve months. In some hospitals they are quoting a two year wait. Even in Optometry we are having to cope with catching up on the patients delayed by lockdown. Because of the precautions we are having to take to prevent the spread of COVID each appointment is now much longer. The result is twice the number

of patients each needing extended appointment times. I wonder how we will ever get out of this predicament.

In my practice we introduced video and telephone consultations at the start of lockdown in March. It's not the same as a "real" face to face consultation. It does mean patients terrified by the thought of leaving the safety of their home can still access basic eyecare. If you are concerned about any sudden or unexpected changes in your vision always call your optometrist to discuss your symptoms. Even if you don't have a smartphone with a camera your optometrist can frequently diagnose from your symptoms. Apparently minor eye problems can quickly escalate and can be potentially blinding!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Mystery of dead seabirds washed up at Caol

Mystery surrounds why dozens of dead seabirds were washed up along the Caol shoreline last week.

People walking along the

**Left: One of the dead guillemots which was washed up on the shore at Caol last week.**

beach on Thursday spotted the bodies of the birds which included 30 guillemots, three gulls and several razorbills.

There are also reports that about half this number were washed up dead the previous week. One resident who saw the birds said the bodies had no visible injuries, nor were

they embedded with foreign objects. 'The main concern is potential chemical contamination or contaminated food supply in regards to birds,' she told the Lochaber Times.

'This needs further investigation to determine whether this poses a threat to dogs/scavenging animals and young

children who may play at the beach.'

The woman said the details of the dead birds had now been submitted to Highland Council's environmental health team for investigation.

The shared Facebook post about the dead birds has generated further reports of

increasing numbers of dead seabirds being washed up the previous week.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Our environmental health team will follow this up with other agencies. Anyone who finds dead wild birds should report them to the Defra on 03459 335577.'

## Building work starts on Fort Augustus homes

Work has started on 12 new houses for affordable rent in Fort Augustus.

Led by Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, this is a major achievement for a small community organisation.

The project has been in development since 2018 when the community bought The Old Convent land site with support from the Scottish Land Fund.

One of the aims of the purchase was to develop affordable housing to help meet the housing needs of the area.

The project is costing more than £3million and will provide 12 new homes for local families. The development includes two bungalows, four flats and six villas.

The site required substantial groundworks which have significantly added to the budget.

The development would not have been possible without the significant assistance of the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund which has contributed £970,000 to the project.

The community has also gained from community benefit funds from Stronelairg wind farm and Blairidh wind farm, both managed by SSE Renewables.

The community company was also successful in a bid to the SSE Renewables Highland Sustainable Development Fund. The total contribution to the project from the funds managed by SSE Renewables is in excess of £1.6 million.

Funding has also been received from Falck Renewables Millennium Wind Farm and Fern Community Funds

(Beinneun). 'Unlike many other community groups, we are very fortunate in being able to access match funding for the Rural Housing Fund through monies from SSE Renewables and Falck Renewables, as well as having the experience of running other capital projects,' said community company chairperson Harry Whiteside.

'This has allowed us to progress what has been a complex project in a relatively short timescale. Other community groups have to spend much longer trying to put a funding package in place so we know we are fortunate to have such funds.

'Access to affordable housing is crucial for many rural communities where just a small number of new homes can make a big difference to the viability of the community, but we shouldn't underestimate how long this can take.'

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart added: 'This ambitious project shows what a community can achieve when empowered to take local decisions. Supported by almost £1 million from the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund, these new homes will help grow and sustain the community as well as providing safe, warm and affordable places to live.

'We recognise good quality, affordable housing is essential to help attract and retain people in Scotland's rural and island communities. This parliamentary term, we have committed more than £3.5 billion to deliver our target of 50,000 affordable homes, including 35,000 for social rent.'

The scheme is being built by Compass Building and Construction Services Limited and will be complete by July 2021.

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#WeAreScotland

LT

# Memorial piping event goes online

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Pipe Major Donald Macleod MBE Memorial Piping Competition, supported by Point and Sandwick Trust, is to be held behind closed doors this year.

Performances from the invited pipers will be broadcast online at a later date, due to the ongoing situation with coronavirus.

Lewis and Harris Piping Society had initially postponed the competition from April 3 to November 27 but the organising committee reluctantly agreed it would be impossible in the circumstances to hold the usual live event with an audience in Stornoway.

It will now be held in The Piping Centre in Glasgow on November 27. There will also be a junior competition for the first time this year – held entirely virtually – with recordings of performances to be invited from eight selected young pipers and

again broadcast online at a later date.

Dr John Smith, chairman of the Lewis and Harris Piping Society, said in the current circumstances organisers felt they needed to try and keep some semblance of routine by organising the only thing they can possibly do, which is recording performances and broadcasting them on social media.

‘We are aware that pipers at all levels will be missing the opportunity to perform both for the judges and the audiences and we know for a fact that the pipers who were invited to the Donald Macleod competition are very sad that they will not be coming to Stornoway this year, because they always enjoy it,’ said Dr Smith.

‘However, we feel that we have arrived at a reasonably practical solution which complies with the current regulations and we are grateful to The Piping Centre for its help and special thanks to the director Finlay MacDonald.



Finlay Johnston, left, overall winner of the 2019 competition, with second overall Stuart Liddell. Photograph: Derek MacKinnon

‘We have negotiated with The Piping Centre to hire the main hall for the day and the pipers will attend in pairs at regular intervals and play their tunes in front of a panel of three professional judges sitting in the hall.

‘The Piping Centre has run

a few events in recent weeks, having undertaken a full risk assessment, and comply fully with all the regulations currently required for the Covid-19 pandemic.

‘The Lewis and Harris Piping Society is very grateful that our main sponsor, Point

and Sandwick Trust, is still going to fund us to the tune of £5,000 despite the fact the competition is not taking place in Stornoway and we have given a clear undertaking that the event will be back to normal next year, all things being equal. The next

Donald Macleod competition in Stornoway is planned for April 2 2021.

‘The sponsorship from Point and Sandwick Trust covers the cost of The Piping Centre hire, technical support and appearance fees for the pipers and the judges, together with prize money.’

The eight pipers invited to take part this year – based on their wins on the competition circuit in the previous year – will be Willie McCallum, Gordon McCready, Sarah Muir, Connor Sinclair, Iain Speirs, Stuart Liddell, Angus MacColl and Niall Stewart.

For the junior competition, eight of the most accomplished young players from the Outer Hebrides will be invited to submit recordings of themselves playing a piobaireachd ‘ground’, plus a march, Strathspey and reel and a hornpipe and jig, in line with the structure of the main Donald Macleod competition.

The closing date for submissions is November 1.

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## ALIenergy aims to help families affected by fuel poverty

Advertorial

Local energy charity ALIenergy has started a new, two year project, working with Home Energy Scotland, funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme – [www.energyredress.org.uk](http://www.energyredress.org.uk). Argyll Energy Advice Service delivers a home energy advice service to households across all of Argyll & Bute. Assistance is available for anyone suffering from fuel poverty with special focus on off-gas households, which are often particularly badly affected by fuel poverty due to reliance on more expensive heating types such as electric heating with punitive restrictive meter tariffs. Households will be supported to access alternative suppliers, meters, or tariffs, implement energy saving measures and behaviours, access schemes and reduce bills using a mix of telephone advice, home visits (as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow), and drop-in events.

Argyll has one of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Europe, due to poor housing, high energy prices, lack of mains gas, low wages, vulnerable demographics, bad weather and exposure. Fuel poverty



affects 1 in 3 households across Argyll. The Argyll area is the second largest local authority in Scotland, covering 9% of Scotland, and is particularly challenging: 96% of the area and 45% of its population is classed as ‘remote rural’, tending to fall through policy gaps, and poorly represented in standard household indicators. Many households are isolated or inaccessible and 17% are on 23 inhabited islands. ALIenergy’s Affordable Warmth Advisors are available to help households struggling to meet the cost of heating their home comfortably. Recent cases have seen householders receiving boiler replacements

free of charge and hundreds of pounds saved from switching electricity tariffs.

Fuel poverty kills six people in Scotland every day of winter and increased levels of fuel poverty will result in more deaths. In an area like Argyll which is heavily dependent on tourism, hospitality and seasonal work, it’s very likely the knock-on effects of lockdown will see an increased number of households with less income this winter.

‘ALIenergy handled every step of the process on my behalf, without them I wouldn’t have received my new boiler, secondary glazing and fridge.’ Mrs B, Oban.

# Build your future Highland career

Construction careers in the West Highlands will be the focus of an online webinar this month.

The event is the third run by Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), part of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

Following the success of their last two virtual career sessions, 'Will Salmon Find Me A Career?' and 'Your Adventure, Your Career', DYW West Highland will be linking with DYW Inverness and Central Highland and DYW North Highland, West Highland College UHI and CITB Construction to give young people a chance to find out more about the growing opportunities in the construction sector.

Join the team on Wednesday September 30 from 2.30pm

to 3.30pm, via Zoom, to hear from industry professionals, including site managers, quantity surveyors and business owners, who will be sharing career stories, advice and expertise to help young people make informed choices about their future.

Participants will have the chance to hear from and interact with speakers from construction companies Global Infrastructure, Robertson Construction, CITB, Bam Nuttall and DMD Construction, whilst also learning about construction courses at West Highland College UHI.

Aimed at school leavers, but also open to young people of up to 25 years, the live, one hour session will include a question and answer session and the chance to sign up for

a mock interview with CITB. Teachers, parents and carers are also invited to join in to learn about the many job, apprenticeship and college course opportunities available.

If you are a school pupil considering your career options or are looking for a career change or opportunity

after redundancy, university or college, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn from industry professionals.

## Excited

Frazer Coupland, DYW West Highland Programme Lead and Chief Executive Officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'A growing

industry like construction offers many varied and interesting roles and apprenticeships within the Highland region for our young people.

'We are excited to work with a variety of construction companies and West Highland College UHI to create an informative and interactive

online session for those interested in the industry.'

Anyone wishing to sign up to the event or for further information about other ways DYW West Highland is encouraging employers to promote the world of work for young people should visit [www.dywwest-highland.org](http://www.dywwest-highland.org).

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### Love the local life in Lochaber

This week sees the launch of a new online campaign from the Outdoor Capital of the UK showcasing the best of Lochaber.

While the videos and accompanying social media posts will undoubtedly appeal to visitors, the campaign's aim is to encourage the Lochaber audience to shop locally, enjoy fine food and drink, take part in the wide range of activities and explore the stunning Highland scenery we're lucky to have on our doorstep.

With so many of us spending much more time at home and close to home, it's the perfect opportunity to encourage the community to appreciate all the positives about our spectacular region.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce promotes the area as the best place in the UK to live, work, study and visit under the Outdoor Capital of the UK brand.

Frazer Coupland, Chief Executive Officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce said: 'There's a reason why Lochaber is renowned as the Outdoor Capital of the UK – and there are so many ways to get out and enjoy it.

'Whether you fancy something adventurous, or just want to discover new places to go for a walk or bike ride, you'll never be short of somewhere to explore.'

The videos are themed around the topics of shop local, food and drink, coast and mountains, accommodation and things to do and



feature stunning video footage of the area.

'We've not just got the outdoors to offer – there's loads of great places to enjoy a meal or a drink or a night away, great places for gift shopping and fantastic local produce,' added Frazer.

Buying local is becoming ever more popular and there's a great range of shops and food and drink producers to tempt you in Lochaber. From unique gifts to fresh produce, artisan baking and brewing, choosing to shop locally is a choice that supports the local economy and community.

Created as part of a campaign to support local businesses through the pandemic, the videos will be showcased across the Outdoor Capital of the UK's social media channels over the next six weeks. The beautifully shot, locally produced videos feature specially commissioned music by Glenfinnan-based musicians Ingrid Henderson and Iain MacFarlane.

Local businesses and residents are encouraged to share the videos far and wide to promote their area using the hashtags #myoutdoorcapital and #Lochaberlocal.

Check out our new feature video of The Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7S8cLX7JJ0>

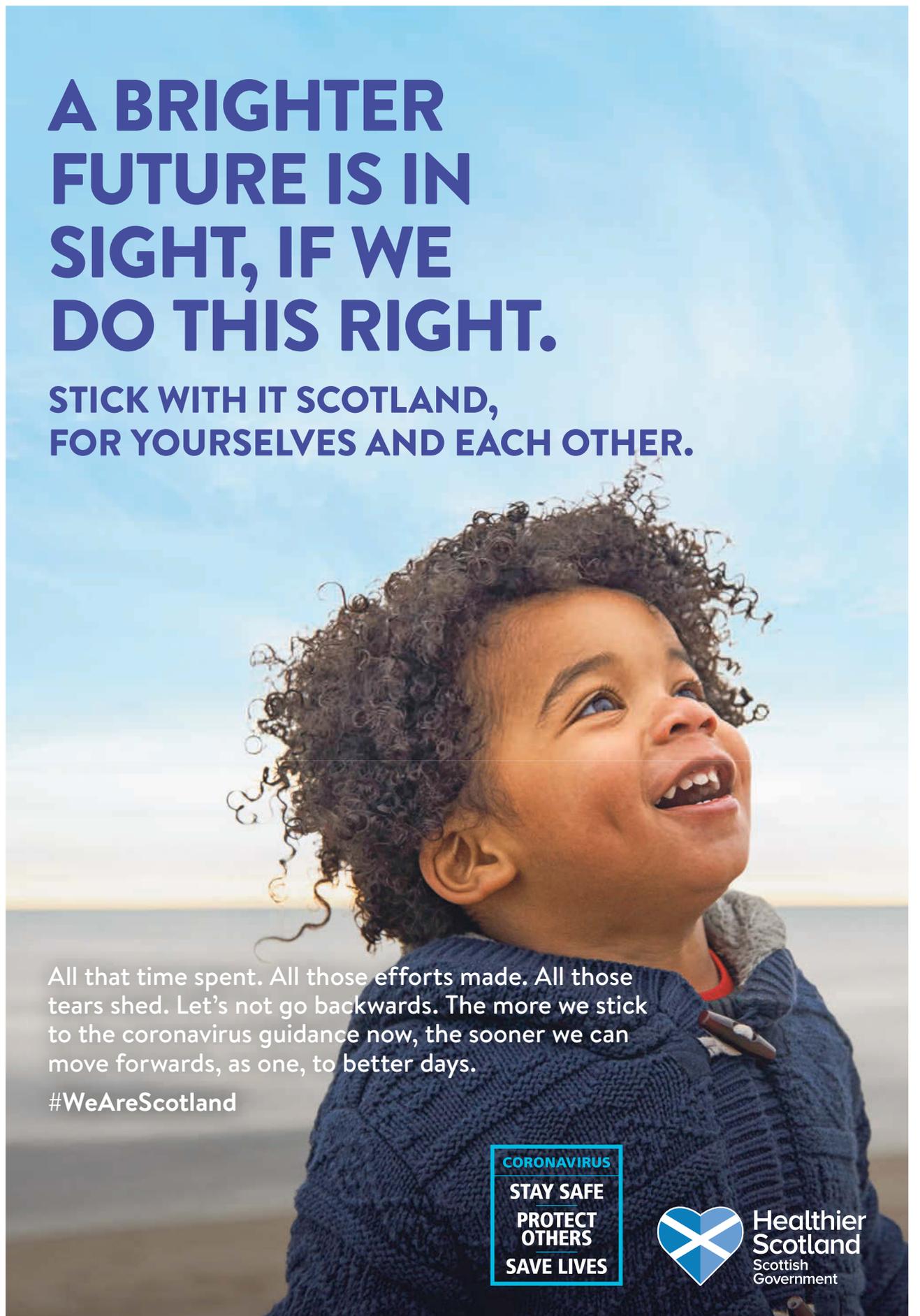
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## STICK WITH IT SCOTLAND, FOR YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER.

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#WeAreScotland

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SAVE LIVES



LT

# Firefighter Mark steps up for 9/11 heroes and charity

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A retained firefighter at Fort William Community Fire Station has been paying tribute to colleagues who gave their lives trying to save people at the Twin Towers on 9/11 2001, while raising funds for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Using the StairMaster machine at Wolfhouse Gym, on the corresponding date this year, Mark Gibbings scaled 587 flights of stairs - the equivalent height of Ben Nevis - wearing full turnout gear.

Ahead of his challenge Mark set three milestones:

- 110 flights of stairs in respect of the stair challenge performed each year by New York firefighters in memory of 9/11

- 343 flights of stairs as a mark of respect and in memo-

ry of the fallen firefighters as a result of 9/11

- reach 587 flights of stairs and complete the equivalent distance as Ben Nevis.

Mark told the Lochaber Times: 'The Fire Fighters Charity is finding it hard to raise money with so many fund-raising events called off due to the lockdown, so I looked around for something I could do to help them and came up with the floor challenge, climbing flights of stairs to different floors of a building.

'I also set the date to mark the 9/11 commemoration, as a tribute to the many firefighters who lost their lives climbing stairs in the Twin Towers.

'We worked out that 414 flights of stairs on the machine in the Wolfhouse Gym was the equivalent of reaching the Ben summit, although later discovered that we had miscalculated slightly so I

**Firefighter Mark Gibbings climbed the equivalent of one and a half times the height of Ben Nevis.**

Photograph: A Brightside Photography

actually ended up doing one and half Bens.' It took Mark almost four and a half hours to complete the challenge, without stopping, being supplied with water and food by his supporters as he climbed. He wore full firefighters clothing throughout, which being very



well insulated usually to stop heat getting in, meant regular liquid top-ups to help keep him cool and replace the sweat.

I was getting really sweaty, but everyone was great at keeping me hydrated without having to stop,' he added.

'At one point it felt as though I was floating as I couldn't feel my legs, but I just kept going and I'm glad to say that passed. I think I was a bit amazed myself that after the challenge I felt surprisingly OK, even after four and a half hours of climbing stairs. What I did was tough, but not nearly as tough as what firefighters and their families face and I would like to thank everyone who helped, especially Wolfhouse Gym for the use of its equipment and support before and during the challenge and to everyone who donated money, which so far stands at more than £1,000.'

Mark went on to a staff meeting an hour after finishing, then shortly afterwards he was back in his firefighter gear attending a fire and rescue call-out.

Donations can still be made at the Fort William Stair Challenge JustGiving page.

Fancy the Tayvallich Inn for lunch or dinner?  
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## A Cry For The Wild

HOLLY GILLIBRAND

fort@obantimes.co.uk



We, as human beings, do not respond that well to facts.

We respond to stories and to the emotions of other people.

The school climate strikes have captured this perfectly - children, unlike adults, are ruled by emotion and the main line of the Fridays For Future movement is that we are striking from school because our futures are being stolen.

As I write this, I am looking at a photo of a bridge in America.

The bridge is surrounded by glowing orange smoke, completely blocking out the sun, and the hill behind is bursting with flames.

This bridge is called the Bidwell Bar Bridge.

Look it up and you will probably find the photograph I am referring to.

The west coast of America is currently suffering from unprecedented wildfires, exacerbated by extreme drought and heat.

The sky over San Francisco is red.

It is snowing ash and you

cannot see the sun. This is at one degree celsius of global heating.

The climate science - which, during the coronavirus pandemic, we have all been saying we should listen to - says we are heading for more than three degrees unless we start to treat this crisis as a crisis.

Like we treated the coronavirus crisis.

### Wildfires

Think of the extreme weather, the wildfires, the food and water shortages, the climate wars, the towns and cities washed off the map, the millions of people dead at three degrees of global heating.

I saw this image of Bidwell Bar Bridge while I was in school on September 10.

But I had to drag myself away from the sight and thought of extreme fires and heat waves to study for a future that I may not have if we do nothing.

I do not have the words to describe the fear and anxiety young activists like myself experience when we see the

world literally burning, and yet the people who have the most power say it is too expensive or not feasible to do anything to stop it.

On September 25, we will be holding another global school climate strike. Another one.

It will be week 86 of my own school strike.

And still, all we are hearing are empty words from the adults in charge.

What I want more than anything else is to have a normal childhood.

What I want more than anything else is to be able to think about my future without wondering if the world will even be habitable in 10 years.

People say Extinction Rebellion is the extremists, the alarmists, the disruptors.

If you think a road block is more extreme than what is happening around the world right now due to climate and ecological collapse, you need to get your head out of the sand.

It should not be up to children to fix this.

# Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk



A few years ago, research on the wildlife of the Caledonian Canal led me to an old press release from Scottish Canals – a manatee had reportedly been spotted at Banavie.

Incredulity turned to respect for the bottle of the PR team when I spotted the date of the release: April 1.

However, the recent sighting of a different but only slightly less unusual sea-creature was no prank.

Crew on the Silurian, the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust's research vessel, were astonished to glimpse a giant leatherback turtle, 15 miles west of Muck on Sunday September 6.

Leatherback turtles are the largest marine turtle in the world, reaching up to 2.5 metres in length. They are extremely recognisable by their black, leathery skin covering their carapace (shell) and its seven ridges, which give them a hydrodynamic structure.

Like the canal's fabricated manatee, the giant leather-



Rarely seen in Scottish waters, a leatherback turtle is spotted by the crew of the Silurian off Muck.

back turtle can be found in tropical waters for breeding, but, unlike the manatee, the turtles venture much further in search of food.

Described by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust as 'truly an ocean wanderer', these incredible reptiles undertake huge migrations across the Atlantic and

Pacific Oceans. The turtles feed upon jellyfish and other soft-bodied sea creatures, using downward facing spiny barbs in the oesophagus to trap their slippery prey.

This adaptation has meant though that they face increasing threats from marine litter such as plastic bags or balloons, which can be easily

mistaken for jellyfish and can become trapped in their throats.

These turtles are comfortable in the jellyfish-rich but colder waters of the North Atlantic due to a unique set of adaptations, including a thick layer of fat and the ability to change blood flow, allowing them to control their body

temperature. While this means giant leatherback turtles can forage in temperatures lower than five degrees celsius, sightings of them around the UK are still rare.

The trust reported just one other encounter with a leatherback turtle in more than 17 years of expeditions, which aim primarily to collect

data on the whales, dolphins and porpoises found in the Hebrides.

This turtle popped up 100 metres from the Silurian, startling the crew on board, none of whom had ever seen a turtle in the UK before.

Becky Dudley is the Marine Biodiversity Officer for the trust. She said: 'It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime moment for all of us on board. The turtle did not seem to be in much of a hurry to go anywhere and we floated alongside the animal as it swam, using its colossal front flippers to propel itself forward with ease.'

'It was enormous. We could see the whole animal under the water as it glided along, taking periodic breaths, before disappearing beneath the waves.'

'I have been sailing around the Hebrides, year-round, for more than two years now. This has to be one of the most magical and surprising encounters so far, and one I will never forget.'

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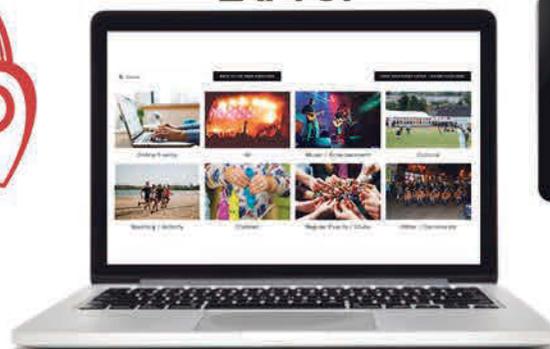


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LT

## LETTERS

## Fantastic community response

These unprecedented times continue to affect every one of us in Lochaber and the country as a whole.

As if we needed reminded the seemingly untameable coronavirus has not gone away, the peaceful village of Kinlochleven was hit with its first recorded case this week.

However, in times of crisis our community, as it has done since the start of the pandemic, has once again risen to the challenge.

Kinlochleven's Village Resilience and Support Group have encapsulated the kind of heart warming community heroics that have been prevalent in towns and villages throughout the region since the beginning of April this year and continue to do so.

From art boxes to dog walking initiatives, helpful advice for the young, elderly and everywhere in between and practical help for those who needed it most, the group has done it all throughout the pandemic.

Councillors Andrew Baxter and Niall McLean have quite rightly commended the group on their rapid response and the efforts of both of them, and the people directly affected by the outbreak, to control the spread.

As the pandemic continues to sweep across the UK, more and more people are driven to help the most vulnerable in our communities. Well done everyone.

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.



## Local government not working for Lochaber

With reference to the piece by Joanne Matheson, also the letters from John Hutchison and Ian Sykes, in last week's Lochaber Times I entirely agree, the present system of local government – the Highland Council – is not working for Lochaber.

I hope and believe a West Highland Council will be achieved in the near future. Not only is Lochaber not doing well out of local government, but you've also got to question Scottish and UK central Government. There seems to be an exclusion zone of spending in the area; revenue is raised in Lochaber but not spent in Lochaber.

The only thing that flows freely out of the area is the tax money. Look at our road and rail infrastructure, hospital provision and telecommunication network. Where's our share of Ministry of Defence spending, BBC spending, administration spending - tax offices, contact centres? When was the last major infrastructure project in the West Highlands? Possibly the Road to the Isles upgrade 15 years ago or was it the Skye Bridge that they wanted us to pay twice for? The Scottish elections are in May next year. Every voter in Lochaber has to bear in mind the progress made on our new hospital or improvements to the disgraceful death trap that is the A82.

Stuart Murray, Glenachulish.

## Scoring political points

The Scottish Conservatives portray themselves as principled defenders of free speech with regard to the SNP's Hate Crime Bill, while the UK Conservatives preside over fairly similar existing laws in England and Wales.

Freedom of expression is under attack throughout the UK, but the Conservatives only seem bothered when it presents an opportunity to attack the SNP. Their position of supporting the concept of hate crime while opposing hate speech legislation is unsustainable as one logically entails the other. Consider an example. A man punches a Hindu woman after Tweeting that he hates Hindus. He is sentenced to two months in prison for the assault and another one month because it was motivated by religious hatred. However, the punishment for assault already includes the fact a motivation was present, so the additional punishment was therefore just for hating Hindus.

So, what about the man who Tweets that he

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha mi ga chur air mhanadh dha! Tha iomadh bliadhna bho nach do chleachd mi an abairt seo, ach nam òige nuair a chluinninn mo phàrantan is inbhich eile ga chantainn bhithinn ga mheas car iargalta leis gun robh manadh a' ciallachadh taibhse, agus bhithinn a' faireachadh gun robh rudeigin eagalach mu bhith cur dad air mhanadh do neach sam bith. Ach 's e firinn na cùise gum bheil sinn uile gu ire air choreigin a' fàidheadaireachd gach latha, dhuinn fhin agus do dhaoine eile, agus gun teagamh 's e gliocas a th' ann a bhith a' coimhead romhad ged nach eil làn-smachd gu bhith agad gu siorraidh air a h-uile nì a bhios an dàn dhut.

Ged a bha a' mhòr-chuid againn air fàs gu math sgìth den ghlasadh a bh' oirnn ri linn a' chorona-bhiorais saoilidh mi gum bheil uabhas dhaoine gu math gealtach a thaobh iomairt a-mach bho chaidh cùisean fhuasgladh. Tha deagh adhbhar faicill againn is uimhir gu follaiseach a' seachnadh nan riaghailtean astair bho chèile, agus fiù 's brat-gnùise de sheòrsa sam bith, far am bheil mòran eile cruinn. 'S dòcha gun robh cùisean riamh mar sin ach gu cinnteach tha mòran ann a tha den bheachd gur ann dha càch a tha laghan agus riaghailtean, agus gum faod iadsan dèanamh mar a thogras iad! Eadar gach dùbhlán a tha an lùib sin, agus cead aig daoine coinneachadh ann an taighean-òsta is bidh, agus sgoiltean is colaistean a' fosgladh às ùr, cha b' iongnadh ged

a bhithte a' cur air mhanadh dhan dùthaich gun dùisgeadh an galair mallaichte seo a-rithist. Gu mì-fhortanach bha an droch amharas sin ceart agus tha sinn a' faicinn Covid 19 ag ath-bheothachadh feadh na dùthcha ged nach eil, fhathast co-dhiù, uimhir de dhaoine fo chùram ospadail agus bidh sinn beò an dòchas gur ann mar sin a leanas.

Le cinnt cha robh neach sam bith air na thachair air an dàrna latha fichead den Chèitean 2017 aig consairt an t-seinneadair Ameireaganach Ariana Grande ann am Manchester a chur air mhanadh dha na truaghain a chailleadh, agus an fheadhainn a chaidh an leòn, ri linn ionnsaigh ceannairce. Dà dhuine fichead marbh agus còrr air ochd ceud, le clann òga nam measg, air an goirteachadh ann an spreadhadh oillteil fo làimh dhithis bhràithrean a bha deònach fèin-mharbhadh agus murt a dhèanamh gus an cuid creideamh fhoillseachadh. Mo cho-fhaireachadh dhùrachdach dha na teaghlaichean uile a dh'fhuiling ann am Manchester, agus anns gach àite eile.

The 2017 Manchester bombing inquiry inevitably renews suffering over losses and injuries for so many families, but what a moving and beautiful tribute by one mother to her teenage daughter who was among those lost in the carnage. 'She would have been the best at whatever she did – whether a housewife or an astronaut.'

## Lower food standards fear

It will be a sad day on December 31 when Scotland is dragged out of the EU against our will. With Brexit, we are expected by the Westminster Government to accept lower food standards from America. We have for some years now appreciated the high standards of food hygiene and good quality from the EU. With Brexit looming the Westminster Government wants us to accept lower food standards.

This is not at all suitable for children or people suffering from ill health. Children and the sick require good quality food as does the population as a whole. We had no reason to leave the EU. Scotland needs independence and to return to the EU as soon as possible.

Susan Swain.

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## Kinlochleven schools campus gets new head teacher

Jemma Playfair has been appointed head teacher of the Kinlochleven 3-18 School Campus which is made up of Kinlochleven High School and Kinlochleven Primary School.

Councillor John Finlayson, chairman of The Highland Council's Education Committee, said he was sure staff, pupils, parents and the wider community were also delighted to see the post filled and were looking forward to the stability this appointment would bring.

'This is good news for Kinlochleven and for Highland and I wish Ms Playfair well in her new post. I look forward to meeting with her when she starts in Kinlochleven in the near future,' he added.

Ms Playfair currently works at Oban High School as a depute head teacher and has additional responsibilities supporting its partner 3-18 school on Tiree.

She was previously a Principal Teacher of Guidance at Elgin High School in Moray and Inverkeithing High School in Fife.

Her first degree was in Product Design at Edinburgh Napier University, then she completed the PGDE(S) at Strathclyde University.

Ms Playfair is a qualified design and technology teacher and still enjoys being in the classroom.

She recently completed the 'Into Headship' Qualification with the University of the Highlands and Islands and Education Scotland focusing on 'pupil voice' and how this can be used to support school improvements and self-evaluation.

Ms Playfair, who will take up her new post in early November, said: 'I am delighted to have been appointed head teacher of Kinlochleven 3-18 Campus and I look forward to meeting the staff and pupils in the next few weeks.'

'I feel lucky to be joining such a supportive school community and look forward to getting to know the parents, carers and school partners.'

## Annat noise issues raised again at community council

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) held its August meeting recently and discussed the establishment of a liaison group to address complaints of noise and pollution from commercial operations at Annat.

KCC had received an update from David



Kinlochleven Schools campus. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Mudie, Highland Council Area Planning Manager.

Community councillors heard that following a number of complaints related to the use by Boyd Brothers of a log chipper in early July, environmental health officers attended the site and undertook noise monitoring.

It was found noise emissions from the industrial wood chipper and ancillary operations, such as log splitting and subsequent movement leading up to chipping, had caused noise nuisance at surrounding residential premises.

While the chipping activities ceased, the council served an abatement notice, the scope of which covers recurrence. There had also been complaints in June regarding a mobile chipper on the BSW site and it was estimated the noise was likely to breach the planning condition limit.

This work ceased when the manager was alerted to the issue and noise mitigation work was undertaken on the butt reducer and the conveyor line during July.

The hope is still to establish a liaison group to try and address similar issues in future, before they cause problems.

There was also an update on the Lochaber Health and Social Care Redesign Steering Group.

It follows considerable concern about the announcement the group's work had been put on hold. The group has already done a large amount of work and there is a risk this could be lost if progress stalls and new people are appointed.

It was agreed the Covid-19 pandemic should not be used as an excuse for a lack of action, particularly on health-related matters. This is an issue where the association of community councils in the wider area could work together to press for action.

The next meeting will be on Monday September 28, at 7.15pm by remote video link. Please contact [secretary@kilmallie.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kilmallie.org.uk) to join the meeting.

## PLOCKTON

Plockton Hall, Plockton paper shop and Plockton Free Church were pleased to receive hand sanitiser dispensers from Skye Community Response working with Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust and Lochalsh Community Response.

They were fitted by Thomas Wilson of Isle of Skye Distillers. A total of 96 dispensers were fitted throughout Skye Raasay and Lochalsh.

Geoff Webster celebrated his 90th birthday on August 31. Mr Webster has been a member of Plockton Hall committee for the past 52 years, 26 as chairman, and he still attends to the bins every week. He received a signed card and a gift from Plockton Hall.

Kate Havard has retired from running Plockton Post Office which was opened by Ralph Riach of 'Hamish Macbeth' fame in 1998. The good wishes of the community go to Kate on her retirement.

Robert and Meryl Kennedy, of 15 Harbour

Street, celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 6. They received a telegram from the Queen. Both Robert and Meryl are still active in the village.

The village of Plockton was saddened by the sudden death of Mrs Susan Mackenzie, Tigh An Turait, Plockton, on September 2.

Sympathy is expressed to her husband Donald and sons Ian in America, Gordon in Glasgow and daughter Jenny, also in America. The funeral was held at Inverness Crematorium on September 10, with the hearse having driven through the village in the morning when many villagers stood outside their houses.

## Outer Hebrides MP pushes for progress on substations

A call has been made for progress in the renewal and upgrade of substations directly supplying power to the Outer Hebrides.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus MacNeil has had discussions with energy supplier Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) which is concerned work to upgrade and renew substations at Broadford on Skye and Quoich have been halted.

SSE outlined the current substations were reaching the end of life and a lack of progress could lead to future problems as the only way of feeding the Outer Hebrides is through the Fort Augustus line which spurs though Skye then on to island groups.

In a letter to Ofgem, Mr MacNeil said: 'These are substations that SSE is worried are at the end of their life and if they are not in use, the consequences for those of us at the end of the line would be difficult.'

'The only feed to the Outer Hebrides is from the Fort Augustus line passing through Skye which then spurs on to the island groups in the Outer Hebrides, one north to Lewis and Harris and one south to Uist and Barra.'

'It is concerning a risk which would not be accepted in other industries, such as aviation, seems to be accepted within the energy networks.'

'I also have concerns about the equipment at Sloy hydro power station. The equipment and transformers there are reaching the end of their lives. If there was ever a black-start issue, with Sloy being used to start up Peterhead, to have the possibility of those two being out at the same time seems an unnaturally high risk to take.'

Ofgem has acknowledged the letter from Mr MacNeil and he awaits a response.

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# Jags return to action in Oban

Oban Saints	4
South Lochaber Thistle	2
Pre-season friendly	

South Lochaber Thistle were finally allowed back onto the field of play with a friendly trip to Central Scottish AFL premier division side Oban Saints.

The Kinlochleven outfit took a decent squad to Argyll mixing established players with some younger members of the playing squad.

This was the first match to be played under the eagle-eyed auspices of club secretary and newly appointed Covid officer Rebecca Small. Along with her Oban counterpart and the referee they had to ensure that all the stringent SFA match day protocols were adhered to.

Things began well for the Greater Glasgow AFL visitors who seemed the fresher of the

two teams. Striker Dave Forbes forced a smart double save from Graham Douglas in the home side goal.

After 20 minutes, the veteran attacker was at it again, setting up a chance with a cutback for lolling midfielder Andrew Maclean which was dealt with by the scrambling Saints defence.

With half an hour gone, Saints had their first clear cut opportunity with Matt Kelly's delicate chip having to be clawed away by Owen Cooke in the Jag's goal.

This seemed to be the turning point in the match as the confidence this gave the hosts led to the opening goal.

Saints' young, impish winger Aaron McKay drove up the wing on the right hand side and found striker Dave Beaton, whose low shot across Owen Cooke nestled into the bottom corner to open the scoring.



Jags two-goal hero Martin Munro and Saints defender Ruaridh Horne challenge for the ball during last Saturday's friendly match in Oban. Match report: Pete Newman. Photographs: Derek Black

Despite chances coming for both sides, the match developed into a satisfying ding-dong battle.

However, it was the home side who drove home their advantage as they struck for 2-0. Beaton was set free by a raking left foot pass from Paul Carmichael. The striker streaked past his marker and slipped the ball past substitute goalkeeper Andrew Brown in the Thistle goal.

Things got even better for the Oban side as they managed to bundle a third goal home in a good, old fashioned goal-line stramash. Beaton again the beneficiary to claim the last touch and his hat-trick.

However, it was the Highland

side who rallied. Skipper Martin Munro made a trademark run up the wing, before cutting in and shooting low past the keeper for 3-1.

The green shoots of recovery by the visitors was effectively snuffed out as Oban's Matt Kelly's ball was not dealt with by the Jags. Veteran Donald Campbell moved wide to regain possession and his cross met the forehead of Saint's leading goal scorer from last season Craig MacEwan whose firmly-planted header restored their three goal advantage. 4-1.

With the clock already in overtime, Munro was awarded a free kick by referee Jimmy Litster and his sweetly taken finish from 25-yards was rifled

home, leading to a final score of 4-2.

Manager Alan Gray said: "This was really an enjoyable game and it was great to be back in Oban.

"Willie's [Gemmell] teams are always a tough challenge: well drilled, fast on the break and strong in the tackle and they finish well.

"I was very pleased with our performance and think some of our younger players can learn a lot from these sort of testing run-outs."

South Lochaber Thistle's next match will be a visit to Helensburgh to play Rhu Amateurs.

Man of the Match: Stevie Neil.

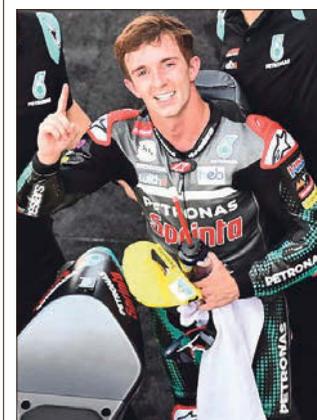
## John takes excellent San Marino GP win

A tactical masterclass from Oban's John McPhee saw him claim Moto3 victory at the San Marino GP, after starting from 17th on the grid, to close in on the leader in the championship standings.

A good start saw John move into 11th on the first lap. Biding his time in the main field, McPhee started to move himself into podium contention in the closing stages of the race.

After a brief stint in the lead with three laps to go, John ignored the battling bikes around him to take his first win since Le Mans last year. McPhee has now reduced his deficit in the championship standings to 14 points.

Round eight of the Moto3 championship will get underway for the PETRONAS Sprinta Racing Moto3 rider this coming weekend, September 18-20, which will also be held at Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli.



A delighted John McPhee after winning the San Marino Grand Prix.



South Lochaber's Andrew Maclean heads clear.

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