



## Oban Lifeboat to the rescue - twice



## Sponsors give backing to 'phantom' cup final



# Anger voiced in wake of devastating floods

by Kathie Griffiths  
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## Dalmally calls for better barrage management after crofter cheats drowning

A crofter cheated drowning twice as he tried to save his cattle, clinging onto trees for his own life as fast and furious floodwater washed him away.

Stuart Underwood from Stronmilchan was one of a number of farmers and crofters in the Dalmally area left broken and counting the cost of extreme flooding after heavy rain fall burst the River Orchy's banks.

On two separate occasions, after wading into high water to follow the horrific roaring of his distressed cattle, Stuart was knocked off his feet and swept downstream. He is still suffering frightening flashbacks and the headache of worrying over livelihood losses and repairs.

Another farmer lost 60 young sheep worth about £6,000 and thousands of pounds of fencing was flattened by the torrents that swept down the valley

**'There were cattle and calves coming down the river. Miraculously mine managed to find a foothold on land but we had to go and look for them. I didn't know if they were alive or dead.'**

this month. Cows, calves and sheep were carried off by the aggressive water, winter feed bails were ruined and fertiliser on fields washed away after the torrential rain upped water levels overnight on Saturday

September 12 and the next day. The devastation has stirred angry criticism of the power company in charge of the Awe barrage which is being accused of failing to protect the nearby community.

Although the area historically experiences flooding, members of the farming and wider Dalmally community believe the latest extent of the damage and heartache suffered could have been avoided if those responsible for the barrage had acted on the bad weather warning and opened the gates earlier.

Calls are being made for talks about compensation and better management of the barrage in the hope of a promise that

**Continued on page three**



## 'Water' way to raise Oban lifeboat funds

Keen kayaker and talented artist Denise Vernon used time in lockdown to create four miniature paintings of Oban lifeboat in action. Each of the minuscule artworks is now being raffled off for the RNLI. To be in it to win it, read more on page two.

## Roadworks put on hold indefinitely

A £170,000 road improvement project due to start on the A82 on Sunday night has been put on ice as a result of the landslip on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful.

Highways crews were ready to start work this weekend on resurfacing 1.2m (2km) of road between Tarbet and Ardlui along the banks of Loch Lomond.

**Full story: page four.**

## Safety first as bank branch closes

The Oban branch of The Clydesdale Bank closed its doors to customers on Tuesday. A poster on the door read: 'There has been a suspected case of coronavirus in this store so we have had to close. We're doing everything possible to make the store safe for customers and colleagues and we'll be open again as soon as we can.'

## Oban woman's sweet fundraiser

The memory of Oban's Brian MacDonald lives on with a kind-hearted fundraiser doing her bit for Motor Neurone Disease.

**Full story: page 11.**



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# Oban Lifeboat to the rescue - twice

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Lifeboat rescued two people from a sinking motorboat near Lismore lighthouse on Sunday and helped another yacht which had grounded at the north end of Seil on Monday.

On Sunday September 20, a 16ft (five-metre) motorboat was taking on water near Lismore. Its crew phoned the coastguard to raise the alarm with RNLi volunteers who launched the Mora Edith MacDonalD at 2.10pm to head to the south east tip of the island.

The people on board had decided to stay close into shore in case the boat sank and thankfully were both wearing lifejackets.

'Once alongside the vessel, the two people on board were transferred onto the lifeboat and the boat was taken under tow whilst the lifeboat's salvage pump worked to stem the water ingress.

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One of the Oban RNLi volunteers who helped to save two people from a sinking motorboat near Lismore.

'The lifeboat continued the tow into Dunstaffnage marina where the boat was taken onto the slipway, enabling the owner to have it lifted to assess the damage. The two people on board were transferred ashore,' said an RNLi spokesperson.

The lifeboat left at 4.30pm and returned to Oban where she was ready for service again by 5.15pm.

The crew were woken by the

sound of their pagers early on Monday, September 21, to a Mayday call from a 32ft (9.5m) yacht understood to be aground and taking on water in the popular anchorage of Puilladobhrain at the north end of the Isle of Seil.

On arrival it was clear the yacht was well aground but did not appear to be taking on water. The volunteer crew launched their daughter craft,

**'Once alongside the vessel, the two people on board were transferred onto the lifeboat and the boat was taken under tow'**

known as the 'xp boat', to assess the situation and the two people needing help. With the tide not due to rise for a few hours, the decision was made to take one of the sailors back to Oban, leaving the skipper on the yacht. The volunteer crew went back to Oban for an hour's rest, before launching again to refloat the vessel.

The 'xp boat' was used again to check for any damage and make sure the yacht had full propulsion and steering.

Once the vessel was clear of the shore and with no damage found, it was able to go under its own power, escorted, back to Oban where it safely secured to a mooring. The lifeboat returned to station where it was cleaned in accordance with Covid-19 requirements and was ready for service again by 7.30am.



The mini discs each took more than six hours to paint.

## Raffle to boost RNLi

Brushes with big seas inspired kayaker Denise Vernon to create tiny artworks in aid of Oban's lifeboat.

Artist Denise, who recently moved to the town, is raffling off four miniature painted wooden discs she made to raise funds for the RNLi as a thank you to the volunteer crew members who risk their own lives to save others in danger out at sea.

Each of the discs took more than six hours to paint with a tiny brush and a pin to get in all the detail of the Mora Edith MacDonalD lifeboat going past Maiden Island.

'Each disc took a lot of patience. It's all so tiny. There wasn't enough room to fit the whole of the boat's name in though,' said Denise, who has sight in only one eye. 'When I first started

kayaking, I had a few scares in the big sea. Luckily I've never needed the lifeboat's help and hope I never will but you just don't know. I stay in safer water now but it's still a comfort to know they are there, ready to drop everything when their pagers go off.

'They are amazing people. I have massive respect for them,' said Denise, who got the RNLi's blessing for the raffle.

Raffle tickets are £5 each with 100 per cent of the takings going to Oban RNLi.

The closing date is October 31 and the four lucky winners will be announced on Facebook.

Anyone interested should search Facebook for Original-art-fundraiser-for-RNLi-Oban-Lifeboat-by-Denise-Vernon. Denise can also be contacted on denise1.vernon@gmail.com.

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# Dalmally devastated

Continued from page one.

Lessons will be learned but a spokesperson for SSE Renewables said while it can release water from Loch Awe to keep a safe flow of water downstream it has 'no control of rivers upstream' such as the River Orchy.

The catalogue of danger and destruction left by the flood also included trees torn up, chunks of ripped river banking churned out onto fields, five cars and four campervans getting stranded, a footbridge further up the glen at Catnish wrecked, Dalmally golf course vanishing under water, a completely submerged cattle shed and hens hanging on to perches up to their bellies in water.

In desperation, farmers ended up calling police for help to contact SSE and get the barrage open.

Ishbel Livingstone, one of the other affected crofters, described the scene as 'hell'.

'There were cattle and calves coming down the river. Miraculously mine managed to get a foothold on land but we had to go out and look for them. I didn't know if they were going to be alive or dead.'



Strommilchan crofter Stuart Underwood is one of many left counting the cost after the recent flood.

Her brother Donald McLaren was not so lucky. He lost 60 of his hogs. 'SSE have all the technology to sit and monitor water levels. They had the bad weather forecast but still they did not open the barrage until the police contacted them. The loch was full and backed up and the River Orchy had nowhere to go. SSE don't seem to care about anyone here. All they are bothered about is shoving more pylons in our face.'

NFU Scotland local secretary Euan Warnock said he was amazed more livestock had not been killed in the flood and warned some farmers and crofters' livelihoods would suffer the consequences for the flood for five or six years to come because of the damage and loss of breeding stock.

**'They had the bad weather forecast but still they did not open the barrage until the police contacted them'**

'We still believe there is a direct relevance of the water levels of Loch Awe and control of the barrage with the behaviour of the River Orchy. Our members have told of their frustration at how slow SSE were to open the gates. We need to get hold of the decision makers and the people who make the policy about how and when the gates are opened. We also need to talk about the control of Loch Awe water levels throughout the year and managing the levels of the loch more sensibly.'

John Kerr, chairman of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, said its members would also be 'ask-



The speed of the flood water was fast and furious said witnesses.

ing SSE for an explanation to establish all the facts'.

A SSE Renewables spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'While SSE Renewables is not the responsible authority for flood warnings, we're very sorry to hear of the circumstances that many residents in the region faced during last weekend's extreme weather.'

'Our responsibility and duty at all times is to monitor and manage water levels in Loch Awe, especially during periods of extreme weather. During such events we release water from the loch while ensuring we maintain safe flows of water into the river system downstream of Loch Awe. We have no control of rivers upstream of Loch Awe such as the Orchy that flow into the loch.'

'Throughout last weekend's extreme weather event we worked closely with the responsible authority, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), to monitor and manage water levels in Loch Awe. As a result, we began opening the Awe Barrage gates around 7am on Sunday morning, in line with procedures, to safely release water from the loch and maintain safe waterflows downstream. We continued safely opening the gates throughout the day as required to help reduce water levels in Loch Awe and until the extreme weather event had

passed.' Anyone with flood management concerns during extreme weather events should contact SEPA's dedicated floodline on 03459 881188.

Listen to Stuart Underwood talking to Oban Times reporter Kathie Griffiths about his efforts to save his stock at <https://youtu.be/2ACyMa6aCxI>

## Teenager hurt at Oban Hydro

Police called to reports of youths gathering at Oban's Hydro on Saturday night found an injured teenager.

The 15-year-old boy had been hurt in a fall, said a police spokesperson.

Officers were called to the Hydro area of Rockfield Road at around 9.20pm on September 19.

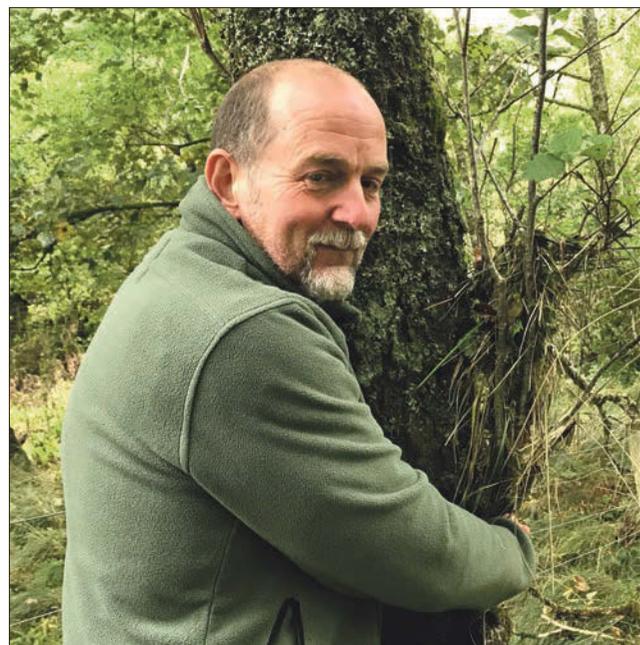
An ambulance attended to treat the boy and he was left in the care of his parents.

'The group of youths had dispersed prior to police arrival and officers carried out a search of the area, however, were unable to trace them,' added a police spokesperson.

## Body found near McCaig's Tower

The body of a 34-year-old man was found near McCaig's Tower, Oban, at 12.35am on Saturday September 19.

A police spokesperson said: 'There are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.'



Stuart Underwood back at the spot where he clung to a tree to avoid being washed away by floods.



A cattle shed in Dalmally was completely submerged by the flood water after the River Orchy burst its banks.



River weeds and chunks of land got tangled in fencing and will take a massive number of hours to clear.



The extreme flooding in Dalmally ruined winter feed and flood debris flattened fencing.



Catnish footbridge further up in the glen was wrecked by debris which was swept up stream in the floods.

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OT

# A82 roadworks halted due to A83 closure

A £170,000 road improvement project due to start on the A82 on Sunday night has been put on ice as a result of the landslide on the A83 Rest and Be Thankful.

Highways crews were ready to start work this weekend (September 20) on resurfacing 1.2m (2km) of road between Tarbet and Ardlui along the banks of Loch Lomond.

The project, due to last until October 2, required the overnight closure of the entire 16-mile stretch between Tarbet

and Crianlarich to make it safe for road teams, with diversions put in place.

However, the work has now been postponed indefinitely because motorists would have use the A83 to avoid the works on the A82.

The A83 route was closed last Saturday following a yellow warning for heavy rain – with a 5,000-tonne landslide at the Rest and Be Thankful discovered the following day.

The closure came less than a week after the A83 had re-

opened after six weeks of works following a previous landslide at the start of August, with the measures installed reportedly performing well and escaping relatively undamaged, according to BEAR Scotland.

A statement from BEAR Scotland said the surfacing improvements planned for two locations on the A82 near Loch Lomond had been postponed until 'further notice'.

'The A83 main carriageway at the Rest and Be Thankful remains closed, however, the

Old Military Road (OMR) local diversion is currently in operation.

'As a safety precaution it might become necessary at points to close the OMR which will impact the standard diversion route which includes the two locations due to be resurfaced.

'The project was scheduled to get under way from Sunday September 20 for 10 nights under a full road closure, however, the A82 will now remain fully open overnight to ensure

motorists continue to use the A82 as a diversion route via the A85 and A819 to Inveraray if the OMR local diversion closes.

'All relevant stakeholders have been made aware of the changes and will be updated once new dates are confirmed.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has said the A83 problem is an 'economic and public safety emergency' while Donald Cameron MSP has said a 'long-term permanent solution' is needed soon.

## CalMac's winter ferry timetable goes live

Ferry passengers can now book sailings for the months ahead following the launch of CalMac's winter timetable.

The company said already there had been an increase in bookings compared to the norm.

Robert Morrison, director of operations for CalMac, said: 'The winter timetable has been released following consultation with Transport Scotland and we look forward to welcoming passengers on board.'

'As Scotland is still in phase three of Covid restrictions, there are slight changes to some sailings and capacity is still less than usual.'

'We are encouraging passengers to plan ahead as much as possible and to wear face coverings when required to do so, unless they are exempt.'

'More information about the measures we are taking to keep staff and passengers safe can be found in our travel guidelines on our website.'

'You can stay up to date with regular service updates and travel guidance by following @calmac\_updates on Twitter.'

Journeys for the period October 19 2020 until March 25 2021 can be booked at <https://ticketing.calmac.co.uk/booking/asp/web100.asp>

## Soroba Young Families wins £250

Soroba Young Families Group was the clear winner of this month's £250 charity donation from Argyll Estate Agents.

'We thank everyone who took part. We were amazed yet again by the response and the number of smaller charities in the Oban area doing great work,' said business owner Johnny McKillop.

The team is giving away a total of £1,000 to local charities as a thank you to people who have soldiered on during lockdown.

Soroba Young Families Group won with 95 votes, second with 23 nominations was Anam Cara Fasgadh and third with 11 nominations was Oban and Lorn Riding For The Disabled.

Nominations are now open for a Mid Argyll charity to win the next donation. The MS Centre at Lochgilphead won it last time.

To nominate, go to [www.facebook.com/argyllestateagentsoban](http://www.facebook.com/argyllestateagentsoban) and leave a comment with a chosen registered charity.



## 'Fantastic' new Barcaldine homes

Ten new homes have been completed at Barcaldine – winning praise from new residents.

The West Highland Housing Association development Inverbhaer Cottages provides people and families with high-quality, affordable homes.

The development consists of six homes for social rent and four homes for sale under the New Supply Shared Equity scheme (NSSE) by the Scottish Government.

Resident Adrian Macleod said: 'There's a lot to get excited about with our new home.'

'The location is fantastic, the community has been welcoming and the house itself is perfect for our needs and has been flawlessly built.'

'We were incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity and I am looking forward to settling in, making new friends and exploring the surrounding area.'

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of West Highland



The new development at Barcaldine.

Housing Association, added: 'It is fantastic to hear these homes are already making a big difference to the lives of the local people moving into them.'

'We were very pleased to have been supported by the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council to build these new homes.'

Work recently started at its 10-house development at Craighouse on the Isle of Jura.

It has also completed eight properties at Imeraval, Port Ellen, Islay, six of which were for sale under the Scottish Government's New Supply Shared Equity scheme.

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# Learners driven up the wall over testing queue

by Ellis Butcher  
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Learner drivers wanting to book tests in Argyll and Bute say they have been referred hundreds of miles away in a chaotic 'free for all'.

Lockdown cancelled driving tests booked by thousands of people across the UK until test slots re-opened online again last month.

However, some test centres remain closed – including Oban and Islay – and the number and frequency of tests was reduced, sparking a stampede.

It has seen learners in places like Mull referred to test centres in Inverness and Paisley.

People in Lochgilphead have been expected to be put through their paces on roads in Glasgow, Dumbarton or Greenock.

As well as being far from where they took lessons and learned their test route, it will also cost more as their driving instructors have to accompany them on test day.

There are also reports of learners from England and Wales having secured tests in Scotland but then trying to book lessons with instructors in Argyll and Bute, said Amy Bruce, of Lochgilphead.

The 35-year-old bought a car months ago that she has not been able to drive and was all geared up to sit her test in Lochgilphead on March 25 when lockdown was imposed.

Having had a booked test, she had hoped that would be honoured when tests re-opened.

Instead, when tests were made available again, she was referred to Dumbarton, Greenock and Glasgow, the latter being the most difficult



Jamie Blair.

**'It's not acceptable that those living in this large, rural area are expected to have to travel so far for a driving test'**

place to pass a driving test in Scotland due to its high failure rates.

Miss Bruce has now secured a test in Inveraray but faces a wait until mid-December.

Like many others, she has missed out on months of honing her skills and called the situation a 'free for all' which had been handled atrociously.

## Irresponsible

She added: 'Even experienced drivers get nervous driving in new areas, so to seriously consider this as an option for people is irresponsible and upsetting.'

'We do not have the years of experience of driving to be able to just sit a test anywhere. This is not why I have spent thousands of pounds with a local instructor to learn the test route to pass my test.'

'Passing your test is just that,



Amy Bruce.

it is not the same as learning to drive.'

Jamie Blair, 17, of Tarbert, had intended to sit his test in Lochgilphead.

He feels the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) 'ignored' the needs of people in rural areas when releasing tests.

'Driving tests are being given to pupils from the cities where public transport systems are much more frequent,' said Jamie.

'However, in a place like Tarbert a driving licence and a car is a necessity for many young people like me.'

The lack of a driving licence limited graduate job opportunities and university chances, he said.

University applicants are required to demonstrate volunteering – difficult without access to a car, he said.

Nor did his father's work commitments make him available to 'taxi' him around.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has been overwhelmed by constituents complaining and has called the lack of local tests 'unacceptable'.

Mr O'Hara said: 'It's not acceptable that those living in this large, rural area are

expected to have to travel so far for a driving test.'

'This costs time and money. It would be safer all round for test centres to be available locally, avoiding the need for people to be travelling further than they need to.'

He has raised the issue with Grant Shapps, transport secretary for the UK Government. Mr O'Hara received a reply from roads minister Baroness Vere of Norbiton.

She said the pandemic had presented an 'unprecedented challenge' and speedy resumption of driving tests was a 'complex process'.

The DVSA had started to restore services but new procedures were required to keep people safe, she said.

To increase the number of tests available to learners, this week the DVSA extended the test bookings period from six to 18 weeks.

The move created more than 375,000 more test slots until the end of January next year.

She added: 'Oban driving test centre (DTC) is currently closed to the public. However, arrangements are in place to carry out a health and safety assessment shortly to allow tests to resume.'

'Test slots for Oban will be released this week for dates in November and December.'

'The DVSA is releasing test slots for Isle of Mull, Isle of Tiree and Inveraray DTCs this week for November and December 2020.'

She said the driving test centre on Islay remained closed but the DVSA was looking into when it will be safe to re-open it 'as soon as possible'.

She said: 'Any candidates on the hold list will receive priority booking for these dates before they are released to the general public.'

## Covid pulls the plug on St Conan's Christmas Tree festival

Disappointed friends of St Conan's Kirk have pulled the fairy light plug on this year's Christmas Tree Festival because of humbug Covid.

'We wanted to let you know that due to Covid, this year's Christmas Tree Festival cannot go ahead. Indoor events of this type are not currently allowed under the Scotgov routemap and given the current rise in covid cases this is unlikely to change. This is disappointing and we know some people have already started working on their trees. However, we look forward to seeing these and all of you next year,' said a spokesperson for the Friends group.

The dates for the 2021 festival at the kirk in Lochawe have been announced as December 3 to December 5, giving would-be tree designers plenty more time to be inspired for next year. The annual event regularly pulls in big crowds of visitors who come to admire the decorated trees, with entry fees donated to the kirk's restoration fund.

## Mental health support for school staff

School staff will be offered new support as part of a £1.5 million funding package to help manage additional pressures from the pandemic, the Scottish Government has announced.

Barnardo's Scotland and mental health charity Place2Be will offer the mental health support services which are expected to be available after the October break.

John Swinney MSP, education secretary, said supporting the health and well-being of teachers and other staff was of paramount importance.

He said: 'This was true before Covid-19, but it is of crucial importance as school staff support our children and young people to recover from the pandemic. This additional package of measures

will complement the excellent practice which is already taking place across Scotland.'

Ken Muir, chief executive, of the General Teaching Council for Scotland, said: 'GTC Scotland is pleased to deliver this important support to hard-working teachers in collaboration with our partners in education.'

Gillian Hamilton, strategic director at Education Scotland, said: 'Ensuring school staff feel well supported, particularly at this time, is essential. This new support package provides direct access to focused support including coaching, reflective supervision and opportunities for school staff to learn together through the challenges presented by Covid-19.'

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OT

# Tiree Wave Classic talks see event moved to next March

## Chance to run tiny island café

Anyone seeking a job change and a more peaceful pace of life might just be tempted by this tasty morsel.

The tiny community-owned island of Ulva, just off Mull's west coast, is looking for someone to take over its popular Boathouse café and restaurant. The venue has been operating since 2007 and is looking for the right person to come along and establish a new catering business there. Every year the island, measuring just 7.5 miles (12km) long by 2.5 miles (4km) wide with a current miniscule population of six, welcomes thousands of visitors. The Boathouse is one of its key attractions.

'The current tenants are giving up the lease, providing an opportunity for a new operator to establish their own business on the island, support tourism development locally and be part of our friendly island community,' says the job description.

The island is serviced by a small passenger ferry for a five-minute crossing which runs 9am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays from April



The Boathouse is near Ulva's slip way.

to early October, also on Sundays during June, July and August. Anyone interested has until 5pm on Thursday October 15 to get in touch with Wendy Reid, Ulva Development manager, to request an information pack.

Appointments to look round the Boathouse can be arranged but as a result of Covid-19 restrictions they need to be booked first. The deadline for formal offers is 5pm on Thursday November 26. Anyone interested should email boathouse@ulva.scot or write to North West Mull Community Woodland Company Limited, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, Argyll, Scotland, PA75 6QS.

Tiree Wave Classic 2020 has been rolled over to next March.

It was 'with regret' and after a lengthy discussion with the Department of Environmental Health at Argyll and Bute Council that organisers of the international windsurfing competition concluded it would 'not be in the best interest of the event or the community of Tiree' to proceed with it in October.

The new dates are March 13 to March 19 inclusive.

Tiree Wave Classic is the longest running professional windsurfing event in the world, having started in 1986.

Last week The Oban Times reported that there had been concerns from some islanders and a leading councillor about the international competition going ahead next month when Tiree had so far managed to stay Covid-free.

Councillor Roddy McCuish,



The Tiree Wave Classic has been rolled over to next March instead of next month due to Covid.

who previously said it would be 'madness' to run the event during Covid, said: 'I'm delighted the organisers have reviewed it going ahead and I'm sure islanders on Tiree will also be delighted with the risk being removed of Covid being spread on the island.'

Tiree Wave Classic said in a Facebook post it hoped to see as many as possible that had committed to the October dates come back in March.

Entry for further competitors to register for March is now re-opening with online registration closing for the new competition dates on Friday February 12.

Event host Wild Diamond still plans to offer advanced training for youngsters during the October half term so there should be no disappointment for the younger riders, other than them not having the opportunity to meet their heroes.

'Apologies to everyone who was looking forward once again to the thrill of competition. Hopefully March can deliver an event for us. We thank everyone who worked with us through our Covid consultation process and helped us over the past six months. Much appreciated and if we are able to deliver in March, all of our efforts will still have been worthwhile,' said event organisers.




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OT

## Biker airlifted to hospital after collision on A82

A motorcyclist was taken to hospital after a 'serious accident' involving a car just south of Glencoe Ski Centre on Saturday afternoon.

The incident took place at 2.45pm and resulted in diversion routes for northbound traffic on the A82 between Tyndrum and Fort William causing major tailbacks on the A85 Taynuilt to Connel and A828 Connel Bridge to Appin roads.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'Around 2.45pm on Saturday September 19, officers were called to the A82 south of the Glencoe Ski Centre, following a crash involving a car and a motorcyclist.'

'The motorcyclist was conveyed to hospital for treatment. The road was re-opened around 7.55pm.'

Traffic Scotland earlier reported an air ambulance was in attendance at the scene.

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## Police continue investigating Ballet West sexual misconduct claims

Police are still investigating a number of reports regarding allegations of sexual misconduct at Ballet West.

A dedicated email address for anyone wanting to report any information or concerns about the Taynuilt dance school has been set up by Police Scotland

at [OperationTele@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OperationTele@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

A police spokesperson said: 'Police have received a number of reports regarding alleged activities at Ballet West, which are being thoroughly investigated. Police Scotland is committed to bringing sexual

offenders before the courts and treat all reports of sexual abuse with the utmost seriousness and sensitivity.'

Ballet West is being liquidated. Its business activities are being wound down after Eileen Blackburn, of accountancy firm French Duncan LLP in

Edinburgh, was appointed provisional liquidator.

The trustees of charity registered Ballet West made the liquidation application at Oban Sheriff Court due to the decisions of some key customers and partner organisations, as the business was no longer

financially viable. Allegations made about activities at the school led to the suspension of its principal Gillian Barton and to the resignation of her son, Ballet West Scotland's vice principal, Jonathan Barton. Mr Barton has denied any wrongdoing.

## Friends' wheels for meals

Neighbours and pals from Lismore are getting on their bikes to feed funds to two meal-providing charities more than 7,000 miles apart.

This weekend island crofter Arthur Cross and his pals will be cycling 100 miles for Dalmally-based Mary's Meals and Oban's Hope Kitchen.

Arthur and his friends will cycle from Lismore over to Port Appin, up to the Corran Ferry and down to Ardnamurchan where they will camp overnight.

The following day their route will take them to Kilchoan via Ardnamurchan Point to take the ferry to Tobermory, cycling down to Craignure just in time to catch the ferry to Oban and then another across the

water to home. So far the keen cyclists have raised hundreds of pounds towards their £1,000 target. Donations can be made on their Gofundme page by searching [gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals](https://gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals)

Despite Covid-19, Mary's Meals has continued to provide life-changing meals to more than 1.6 million hungry children. In Oban, Hope Kitchen has remained a lifeline to many in the community particularly during lockdown.

Arthur is no stranger to wheeling his way around. In 2010 he was part of a team that cycled round Scotland for Christian Aid. It raised £5,000 and was topped up to £20,000 from the EU to help ease suffering in Western Africa from

the effects of climate change.

'Both the charities we are supporting provide meals and help for people in different ways.'

'Mary's Meals encourages youngsters to get to school by giving them a daily meal in the poorest parts of Africa. They do incredible work.'

'Much closer to home, Hope Kitchen provides meals and social support to people who are hard-up and vulnerable and struggling to make ends meet. I think it's a fantastic place,' said Arthur.

And he added: 'We know this is a particularly difficult time for people to be asked to part with their money. People are on furlough, others have lost their jobs but there are a lot of



Sarah Campbell, Amy Bowman, Yorrick Paine, Ruben Campbell-Paine getting ready for their 100-mile charity ride.

people who are feeling tough times a lot more than us. It would be good to meet people on our way round the route

not just to raise funds but also to spread the word even wider about the work of these two remarkable charities.'

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## POLICE FILES

Police received a report that a vehicle had to take evasive action to avoid a collision with a low loader travelling on the A816 at Kilninver at 11am on Thursday September 10. It was claimed the vehicle being transported on the low loader was too wide for the road.

Police charged a man, aged 47, with behaving in an abusive manner at 9pm on Monday September 14 in Albany Street, Oban. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

A woman, aged 34, was issued with a recorded police warning after behaving in an abusive manner about midday on Thursday September 17 in Lochavullin Drive, Oban.

At 2pm on Thursday September 17, at Lochavullin Drive, Oban, a man, 52, was charged with driving while using a mobile phone. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

A man, aged 22, was issued with a recordable police warning after he was found in possession of cannabis at 1pm on Thursday September 17 in Argyll Street, Oban.

At 11pm on Thursday September 17, in Soroba Road, Oban, a man, 29, was charged with assault and abusive behaviour and a woman, 27, was charged with abusive behaviour. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Police stopped and searched a man, aged 19, at 7am on Saturday September 19 in Fladda Road, Oban. The man was charged with being in possession of cannabis and being abusive towards police.

An 18-year-old man has been charged with drink driving and having no insurance or driving licence after he was stopped by police at 2.40pm on Saturday September 19 on the A85 near Bridge of Awe. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The passenger, a man aged 20, was charged with permitting the driver to drive without insurance or a licence. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact police on telephone number 101 or, anonymously, through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**

# End the mystery over Oban's Covid figures

## Health bosses urged to breakdown case numbers

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Health bosses have been urged to provide more information about local Covid figures across Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Kieron Green, the Oban North and Lorn councillor, said he was being contacted by people wanting to know how many cases there are in towns like Oban.

Figures for Argyll and Bute are made available but councillor Green has urged officials at NHS Highland and the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Partnership (HSCP) to provide more localised breakdowns.

Councillor Green is the chairman of a healthcare watchdog for Argyll and Bute – the integration joint board (IJB) of the Argyll and Bute HSCP.



Councillor Kieron Green.

Councillor Green told a meeting with health officials: 'I know in March and April numbers were quite low and there was strong guidance from the government. Figures could only be broken down by NHS boards and then councils.

'The situation has moved on quite a bit since then and we have had increased numbers of people testing positive.

'We have also had situations

where we have gone public about this, or information has come out through other means. There was a case in Oban, cases at Hermitage Academy and Lochgilphead Joint Campus, and then most recently in Kilcreggan.

'I am now getting requests from the public on how many people in Oban, or Lochgilphead, or Campbeltown, are testing positive for Covid-19. Press releases are going out identifying maybe one or two, but there might be five or 10 people in the town.

'Is it possible for us to break down these numbers a bit more?'

Dr Nicola Schinaia, associate director of public health at the HSCP, said: 'It is possible to be more open but having said that, I was looking into the possibility of having our

reports with information on more specific towns in Argyll and Bute.'

Professor Boyd Robertson, chairman of NHS Highland, said: 'We are abiding by Scottish Government policy.'

Board member Fiona Broderick said the Scottish Government was working on a new tool to show what was happening in local areas.

Councillor Green said data in England was available in much smaller units.

When The Oban Times asked the Argyll and Bute HSCP to provide figures for the Argyll and Bute area, it was told these could only be released by the Scottish Government.

NHS Highland health officials said on Friday that the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases within the Kilcreggan community outbreak had increased to 27.

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OT

# Council leader to stand down

Argyll and Bute Council's leader is to stand down from the role after more than three years.

Liberal Democrat councillor Aileen Morton, of the Helensburgh Central ward, has served as leader since May 2017, having been elected in 2012.

She will also resign as a chairperson of no fewer than four groups and as a member of a number of committees and external organisations where she represents the area.

In a council statement announcing the decision, no single specific reason was provided for her decision to step down as leader.

However, councillor Morton said now was an 'ideal time' for someone else to take the reins and that the decision had been made after 'much thought'.

It was regarded as the 'right time' to hand over to a succes-

**'Aileen took on the role of leader to get a job done for Argyll and Bute and she's done that.'**

sor to take the council through the 'next stage of development'.

The council confirmed she would continue to support the area as a councillor and as a member of the administration. She would also support the new leader in whatever role required, the council said.

Its new leader will now be chosen at its full meeting on Thursday September 24 which will be held via Skype due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Also on the agenda is a report which states the net additional costs to the authority as a result of Covid-19 amounts to an estimated £11.2m.

The shortfall before 'potential alternative options' is £4.4m but if a series of recommendations are taken forward, the council hopes to whittle the shortfall down to

£2.2m. Councillor Morton, of Kilmory, said in the statement: 'I took on the role of leader to put in place opportunities for success to happen.'

'With millions of pounds of national investment secured, stronger relationships developed with key decision-makers and the council's progress as an effective organisation recognised, it's the ideal time now for someone else to take the council forward.'

'Like all local authorities we face substantial challenges due to reduced funding but overall Argyll and Bute Council is in a really good place.'

'In the past three and a half years we've made very considerable progress.'

'We've seen the council through a positive Best Value audit which highlighted significantly improved, constructive relationships across the chamber and with our officers and also recognised the council's sound approach to financial planning and budgeting.'

'We have strengthened relationships with both the Scottish and UK Governments through proactive and positive



Councillor Aileen Morton

engagement from the start of my term as leader, with our cross-party Argyll and Bute Parliamentary Forum bringing together all the region's elected representatives.

'We have developed and agreed priorities which have our communities at their heart and which are designed to help Argyll and Bute thrive.'

'Our drive and determination to secure economic success for Argyll and Bute through growing the population has been relentless.'

'We've taken this issue to national government - identifying trends and leading on work relating to west coast

and rural depopulation while continuing to press Argyll and Bute's case with ministers.'

'Having already seen funding of at least £50million secured through our Rural Growth Deal I expect to see this take major steps forward later this year following continued engagement with ministers in both governments.'

'As we developed our Growth Deal we asked our communities what could make the biggest transformational change to the area and their top priority was digital and transport connectivity.'

'While there are still challenges to be addressed our broadband and mobile provision is now much improved and following sustained lobbying last month saw acceptance by the Scottish Government that a permanent solution for the A83 Rest and Be Thankful needs to be delivered.'

'We have achieved much over the past few years and there is so much potential for further success.'

'The next leader of this Council can build on that and will be starting from a very

strong position, supported by a fantastic workforce who know, as I do, that Argyll and Bute is a great place to live and work.'

'It's been my privilege to lead this council for the past few years and to serve the people of Argyll and Bute. I will continue to do so, working with my successor. My sincere thanks go to all who have supported me over the years.'

The council's deputy provost, councillor Roddy McCuish, paid tribute to Councillor Morton's achievements as leader.

He said: 'Aileen took on the role of leader to get a job done for Argyll and Bute, and she's done that.'

'In brief, she's taken Argyll and Bute's cause to key decision makers to secure transformational investment for the area; and she's progressed collaboration within the council to use shared priorities to deliver success.'

'On behalf of everyone who will benefit from the progress made, I would like to thank Aileen for her drive, focus and effective leadership of Argyll and Bute Council.'

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Tia MacDonald and Oban fundraiser Helen Jackson MBE.

## Oban woman's sweet gesture to late Brian MacDonald

The memory of Oban's Brian MacDonald lives on with a kind-hearted fundraiser doing her bit for Motor Neurone Disease.

Helen Jackson MBE, of Oban, had closely followed Brian's inspiring story in The Oban Times. While she didn't know him or his family personally, she was moved to help.

The 82-year-old fundraiser already had a soft spot for the MND charity because her nephew's father-in-law passed away from it.

Determined to raise around £300, Helen devised a 'sweetie quiz' for friends with a first prize of £10 and a series of mouth-watering cryptic clues.

People had to guess the answers to clever teasers such as 'wobbly infants' and 'chocolate bus' – the answers being Jelly Babies and Double Decker.

Helen explained: 'We were in lockdown so long I thought it would give all my friends and me something to do. It just snowballed from there. Some people handed over £10, £20 and sometimes £30.'

In total, around 40 folk completed the challenge and Oban's famed generosity surpassed her expectations to raise £500.

Tia MacDonald, Brian's sister, and mum Annie were on hand to draw the winner and gratefully accept the cheque.

It will go to MND Scotland, Glasgow, the leading charity providing care and support to people affected by the terminal illness, as well as funding vital research into a cure.

Tia promised that when social distancing allowed, she

would be straight round to Helen's house to reward her with a great big hug for her efforts.

Tia explained that awareness of MND – the name given to a group of illnesses which affect the body's motor nerves – is growing. It follows on from the well-publicised experiences of former Rangers Football Club star Fernando Ricksen, who died in September last year, aged 43.

Doddie Weir, 50, the former lock for the Scotland Rugby Union side, has also helped raise its profile having revealed he too suffers from MND.

Tia said: 'Our Brian wasn't a big person in the limelight like them but he has helped get it across through The Oban Times and The Press and Journal.'

'We are so, so thankful. As Helen said herself, it's a cause close to her own heart.'

Mum Annie, originally from the Isle of Barra, said: 'I would just like to thank everyone as a lot of people went out of their way to organise events and fund raise for MND. People have been so, so good and the way we look at it now is that we haven't got Brian, but we hope these funds help some other soul not to suffer the way he did.'

Brave Brian, 43, who spent 13 years in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and was a well-liked, charismatic personality, died on July 15.

The family was immensely touched by Oban turning out en-masse for his service while fire stations across Scotland also marked the day, with a massive salute to Brian from Oban Fire Station.

To fund raise for MND visit <https://www.mndscotland.org.uk/fundraising/organise-your-own-event/>

# A83 can't cope with weather, say MSPs

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

The first minister has been challenged to give a 'cast iron' guarantee on a new permanent route for the A83 amid criticism it has to be closed every time it rains heavily.

Donald Cameron, Highlands and Islands MSP, raised the issue at questions with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and has said the vital road was at risk of being shut whenever there was a downpour.

Jackie Baillie, MSP for Dumfries, also raised the issue with Michael Matheson, the cabinet secretary for transport, telling him any mitigation work was no match for 'Scottish weather'.

The road closed again following a 5,000-tonne landslip on Sunday, September 13 – the third this year.

Addressing the point, Ms



The latest landslide on the A83 saw 5,000 tonnes of rubble fall on the carriageway.

Photograph: BEAR Scotland

Sturgeon said: 'There is a commitment to find a long-term fundamental solution to this and there are now a number of options being considered on a cross-party basis and I think that is right and proper.'

'But the Government is absolutely committed to making sure we have not just temporary stop-gap solutions, but that there is a sustainable long term one found, because I think the residents who rely on this deserve exactly that,' she said.

Mr Cameron said despite 'years of promises of action' it was an 'intolerable situation' which required a permanent solution.

'I welcome her commitment but actions will speak far louder than words. Residents and businesses in Argyll and Bute have had enough,' said Mr Cameron.

Earlier this week, Mr Matheson said he understood the frustration caused by closures but said safety had to remain the key priority.

Mr Matheson said: 'Work has begun on a further catch pit, with an additional one to follow, as well as a new geo-technical survey of the hillside.'

'To accelerate work to consider alternative infrastructure options for the A83, a dedicated project team has been established. Design and assessment work is under way and engagement on the 11 route corridor options will start in the coming weeks. A preferred route corridor will be announced in March 2021.'

A public consultation on the 11 options is expected in December.

Calls have been made for a north bound relief route on the south side forestry track at Glen Croe with a south bound relief route on the Old Military Road.

However, Mr Matheson explained that 'blanket' 24-hour operation of the Old Military Road was not 'always safe'.

## Anti-racism motion calls for council pledge

An anti-racism motion goes before Argyll and Bute Council today (September 24) to 'put into words' the area's pledge to welcome everyone.

The motion is being forwarded by Oban councillor Kieron Green and seconded by councillor Julie McKenzie asking the council to pledge condemnation of all forms of intolerance. The motion was worked on by the councillors in conjunction with Black Lives Matter Oban and 846Solidarity, a hub created for community members to learn about and act for anti-racism after the death in police custody of African-American George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25 this year.

Councillor Green said: 'By working with Black Lives Matter Oban, I am seeking for Argyll and Bute to be recognised as being a welcoming area for everyone and committed to tackling all forms of intolerance.'

Councillor McKenzie said: 'We can and must do better to acknowledge and tackle the systemic injustices within society. It is important to recognise our communities are not immune to issues of racism, hate and intolerance.'

## Public asked for input to 11 options for new access to Argyll and Bute



Following recent landslips in the area, Transport Scotland is now taking forward the project development and assessment work required to deliver an alternative infrastructure option to the existing A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.

This work underlines the Scottish Government's commitment to continued work with key stakeholders to ensure that Argyll and Bute remains open for business.

From today, please visit [transport.gov.scot/A83options](https://transport.gov.scot/A83options) to see the eleven corridor options for the **Access to Argyll and Bute (A83) project** that are being considered as we work towards identifying a preferred route corridor in Spring 2021.

We are particularly interested in any local constraints or issues that will help inform our design and assessment work along with comments on the options under consideration.

**The deadline for any comments is Friday 30 October 2020. Please take the chance to tell us what you think.**

If you want a hard copy of the online material or have any questions, please email [transportscotland@bigpartnership.co.uk](mailto:transportscotland@bigpartnership.co.uk) or telephone **0333 880 6685**

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OT

### Questions over filling NHS dental gaps

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant is concerned some dental services currently not available on the NHS are available if the patient is willing to pay privately.

The MSP has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health Jeane Freeman after a number of constituents approached her raising concerns that dental treatments such as fillings and root canals which are currently not available on the NHS due to the coronavirus pandemic are available if the patient is willing to pay privately.

The MSP has written to the cabinet secretary asking why this is the case and how the Government is going to tackle this issue as she believes it will further widen health inequalities. 'I appreciate extra equipment and PPE is necessary to keep dentists safe but it's unfair that one person who needs treatment can get it because they can afford it while another person, who needs the same treatment, has to wait and potentially risk further damage because they don't have the funds,' she said.

# Luing aerial survey unearths the past for armchair archaeologists

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A history group on Luing has secured more than £14,000 in just four days to get the island's lay of the land and buried treasures scanned from the air.

The chance to get a cutting-edge aerial survey carried out from a powerful laser laden aircraft 1,800 feet above the slate island came as a surprise to Luing History Group which snapped up the offer but had to raise the money quickly.

A flurry of emails to islanders, holiday home owners, history group members and supporters, the Slate Islands Trust and those with an interest in archaeology on and off the island resulted in pledges of £14,645 to cover it.

And in a window of fine weather last Wednesday, the flight to carry out the laser

scanning of Luing, know as a LiDAR survey, took off to document the island's land surface in all its 3D glory.

'People have been very generous. They really wanted to contribute towards it. Some of the donations have been very moving. It's fired people up and generated lots of excitement,' said Mary Braithwaite from Luing History Group (LHG).

'The end result will be an interactive map that means people will be able to see the terrain from their homes and all the different archaeological sites. They'll be able to click and look at them in more detail.'

Data LHG members have already collected on foot will be added to the aerial survey making a fascinating package.

Just some of the gems of interest to be included are the island's two hill forts and



The aerial survey plane flies above Luing. Photograph: Birgit Whitmore.

Kilchattan Chapel with its unique medieval boat graffiti.

LHG hopes a final report from the walkover archaeological survey it has been working on since 2016, with the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, should also be ready for next year.

During lockdown, the group has been featuring some of the discovered sites on its

Facebook page as part of a Luing Through Time feature but walkover surveys cannot find everything, especially if land is covered by thick vegetation which is why the aerial survey was too good an opportunity to miss, said Mary.

Keen to catch sight of the survey aircraft as it flew overhead, about 300ft above the highest point of nearby Scarba,

people on Luing were given prior notice to look out for it.

Dave Cowley, Rapid Archaeological Mapping Manager at Historic Environment Scotland, will be analysing the flight's data.

Mary added: 'There are many people on Luing and elsewhere who can't visit the archaeological sites in person, so this will give them 3D images of the whole landscape as well as specific areas and sites. Combining the results of the two surveys will give a much more detailed picture of Luing's unique archaeological heritage.'

In the last few years, LiDAR surveys have been used to discover many other archaeological sites including prehistoric settlements and medieval farmsteads on Arran and an exceptionally rare Neolithic cursus monument on the west coast of Scotland.

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Rabbits are getting back in through cut meshing to make a mess in the cemetery, digging holes

# Plea to respect island cemetery

Islanders are being asked to 'grass' on a mystery mesh-snipper letting nuisance rabbits back into a cemetery on Islay.

Argyll and Bute Council is urging anyone who knows who is responsible to tell the police.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has also expressed concern at the distress being caused to the relatives of people buried at Kilnaughton Cemetery because of the rabbits that are digging under graves.

Mr Cameron said: 'I have been contacted by a number of people who are,

frankly, dismayed by the impact rabbits are having on the burial ground.

'Despite the best efforts of council staff, who have sought to fence the cemetery off with rabbit-proof mesh, the mesh is being cut, which is allowing the rabbits back in.'

He added: 'The result is paths are being damaged and floral tributes destroyed. I find it extraordinary anyone would deliberately interfere with attempts to keep rabbits out of the cemetery and urge whoever is responsible to desist.'

'Places of rest should be respected, as

should the feelings of family members who wish to visit the graves of their loved ones.'

Kintyre and Islands councillor Alastair Redman has also been contacted by upset families.

'This is an issue the community really cares about.'

'I do hope the council staff will be allowed to do their job, keep the cemetery safe and just as visitors would hope to find it,' he said.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Our team on Islay has

worked hard to protect Kilnaughton Cemetery from rabbits burrowing in from the neighbouring area. It is shameful if someone is adding to the distress of families by deliberately cutting the mesh put there to shield graves.'

'We have reinstated the mesh and are using humane traps to catch the rabbits.'

'If anyone has any information about who has vandalised the mesh, please get in touch with us or the police. We would also ask people to help by making sure the gate is shut when visiting the cemetery.'

## Seil rowers put their oar in

Covid could have left rowers high and dry at the weekend instead of taking part in their annual Castle to Crane event, but an alternative plan saved the day.

Undeterred, a 'rowing from home' event went ahead on Sunday which saw 118 clubs take part, including the one from Seil.

Allowing clubs to post a time from their home waters meant a far bigger entry, with 118 teams competing with about 700 rowers joining in. It also meant clubs from further afield could take part too from their own shores, including ones from Tasmania and Cornwall.

The Castle to Crane Course usually goes from Dumbarton Castle at the mouth of the River Leven up to the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow. In normal years it is part of the Clydebuilt Festival, held under the auspices of The Tall Ship at the Riverside Museum in Glasgow. 'Everyone was a winner obviously, by being able to take part,' said Sue Fenton, from Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club, but the winner of Castle to Crane's Median Trophy for 2020 was Burghead Coastal Rowing Club in their St Ayles Skiff called Tarbh Uisge, Gaelic for water bull.

The Seil crew put in an admirable perfor-



Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club was one of 118 clubs taking part in the 2020 Castle to Crane skiff event from home waters.

mance completing the course in one hour, 13 minutes and 44 seconds, battling against the wind that got quite choppy as it blew against the tide, especially at the entrance to Cuan.

'No cranes not even a heron in flight in sight on this Castle to Crane event but the skiff did pass the Castle of the Dogs on the island of Torsa,' added Sue.

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OT

# Oban business group bids for new funding

Bid4Oban is submitting an application for further funding to help with the impact of the coronavirus.

Chief executive Andy Spence confirmed the 500-strong organisation would be in the running for the second round of a fund being made available to help Scotland's Business Improvement Districts.

The Scottish Government has made a further £700,000 available nationwide to support Scotland's 40 or so BIDs over the next six months.

It is the second round of funding under the government's Covid-19 Business Improvement Districts Resilience Fund, with applications now open. The latest financial support is on top of a first round of £1 million of grant funding in March to support BIDs across Scotland.

The money has been used to help BIDs and businesses with a range of initiatives to help local economies bounce back from the pandemic.

Aileen Campbell, Scotland's com-

munities secretary, said: 'This next part of Scottish Government funding will build on that success to enable BIDs to continue their collaborative work to provide focussed support to businesses and the wider community. This will all contribute to local economic recovery during this difficult time.'

The aim is to develop 'innovative ways of trading' through all phases of the route map out of lockdown, whilst also supporting initiatives to help the

most vulnerable. The potential cash injection comes at a crucial time for BIDs across Scotland.

They levy members during the autumn and businesses have seen income significantly hit during lockdown.

The Scottish Government said the money would allow BIDs to continue working with their members.

Phil Prentice, chief officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership and programme director of Scotland's

Improvement Districts, said Scotland's BIDs were playing a 'critical role' in helping communities fight back.

'The innovation and creativity they have shown and support they have given their businesses is proving vital in helping the local economies in our towns and cities moving, supporting the communities around them.'

'This second wave of funding will allow that important work to continue and develop at pace,' he said.

## Stay at home sea eagle chick finally takes the plunge

He is the sea eagle chick who would not fly the nest....until now.

The chick, which hatched in a nest in Tiroran Community Forest managed by South West Mull and Iona Development, is being compared to a teenager reluctant to leave the comfort of home.

The chick has flown into the record books by staying for a further five weeks in his nest beyond the date when

he should have taken his maiden flight but now he has finally taken the plunge from his lofty abode,

Sea eagle chicks have usually all fledged by the age of 12 weeks. But this chick, hatched by parents Fingal and Iona, was still in the nest at 17 weeks old.

'This is the longest time I've known a sea eagle chick stay in the nest for,' said Dave Sexton, RSPB Scotland's Mull

officer. 'I did start to wonder if he was okay and capable of flying. We had lost his sibling due to a lack of food and then infection earlier on in the season. We watched the surviving chick very closely to ensure all was well and he seemed to be growing well with an increase in the food supply coming in. At about that time, in June, Fingal and Iona visit a common seal pupping area in Loch

Scridain and regularly come home with talons full of energy and protein-rich placenta for tea. We were also fortunate this year to have Tilhill Forestry managing the forest nearby. They always go the extra mile to ensure the eagles are safe around the harvesting operations and their haulage drivers and staff kept an eye on the eagle chick too. So they had plenty of people looking out for

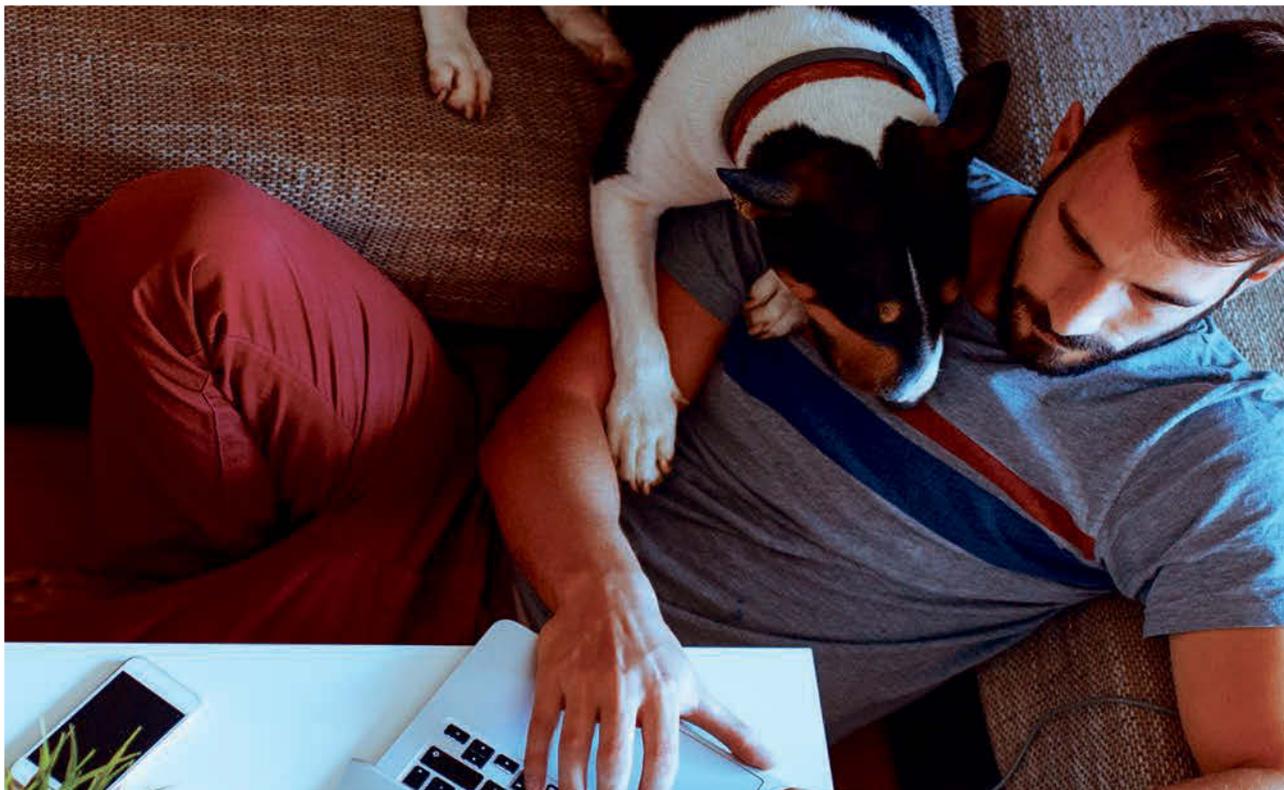
them. But week after week when I would have expected the youngster to fly, he just didn't and I became increasingly concerned,' said Dave.

Now aged four months old, the chick has taken the plunge and was spotted and photographed on the forest floor by wildlife guide Bryan Rains of Wild About Mull.

The chick has also been seen in flight so all is well, added David.



**The sea eagle chick on Mull who refused to leave home...until now.** Photograph: Bryan Rains/Wild About Mull



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# The rewards of becoming a firefighter



Allan with a banner featuring some well-known faces - left to right, Watch Commander Duncan Litster, Lochgilphead; Crew Commander Minard volunteers Gail Cook; and Firefighter Duncan MacBrayne, Lochgilphead. no\_a39SFRS\_AllanMacIntyre 01

Allan MacIntyre from Ardrishaig joined the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service retained unit in Lochgilphead around four years ago. The 34-year-old says being a firefighter is something he had always wanted to do, but due to work commitments he never applied.

'I think I was a little apprehensive about applying as I had heard it was hard to get in to,' Allan explained.

'It was when I started working in Lochgilphead with the council in 2016 that I enquired about being a retained firefighter, as I felt I had the flexibility and wanted to give something back to the community I lived in. The council was supportive, and I went along to the station's drill night and asked a few questions about the role. The guys at the station were really helpful and explained how the on-call system worked. I then applied and was successful after some practical selection tests and an interview.

'I remember my first shout well. When the pager went

off I was at home eating my lunch and I got such a fright I ran straight out the front door leaving my lunch behind. It was a smell of burning from an electrical unit at the hospital which didn't turn out to be much but it was still exciting responding and dealing with the situation with the rest of the crew. When I got home that day my lunch was gone and there was a very guilty looking

**Being a retained firefighter gave me the opportunity to learn loads of new skills**

Labrador in the house, a mistake which I have since learned from.

'Being a retained firefighter gave me the opportunity to learn loads of new skills. There are the obvious ones like first aid training, but my people skills are much better and I'm a much more confident person now. Being able to use my skills and help people within my community is very rewarding and definitely laid the foundations for wanting to become a whole-time firefighter.

'When recruitment opened for whole-time firefighters, I applied thinking I may not even get in as it is such a

popular career. Being retained helped with my application and I progressed, after successful selection tests and interviews, to be offered a full-time position as a firefighter.

I then went to the national training centre for a 14-week foundation course. I was posted to Blue Watch Oban which I was delighted with as this is the closest whole-time



Allan MacIntyre: 'You'll get such a lot out of being a firefighter.'

station to me. Since then I have learned loads of new skills, I am a qualified swift water rescue technician, I have gained my LGV and trailer licence and I am also a qualified blue light driver.

'I am now on a dual contract, which means I am still a part of the retained unit in Lochgilphead as well as whole time in Oban. I cover a 90-hour contract in Lochgilphead which I cover on my days and nights off. My experience as retained firefighter has helped me where I am today and I was glad I was given the opportunity to serve the community.'

Allan continued: 'My family and friends are all really supportive and are proud of my progression. My three-year-old boy loves it and every time the pager goes, he's shouting: 'Daddy, you need to go - quick daddy'. It can be hard sometimes not to wake the house when the pager goes in the middle of the night. You need to be well prepared with your clothes laid out every night ready

to spring out of bed and out quickly. I first imagined it as being the end of my social life with having to cover so many hours but it isn't like that at all. There is an online booking system which we organise on a Monday night together to make sure the week ahead is covered and time off is fair for everyone.

'For anyone thinking about joining the retained I would urge them to contact the station or contact one of the crew members. They would be more than happy to show or discuss with you what's all involved. You will have to give up some time, but in

**You'll get such a lot out of it, and it's great to be doing something so meaningful in your local community**

return you'll get such a lot out of it and it's great to be doing something so meaningful in your community and, who knows, you may even find yourself in a whole new career like I have.'

For more information on joining the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, please contact your local fire station or email [verina.litster@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:verina.litster@firescotland.gov.uk)

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

## All credit to devoted crofter

Heartbreak tore through the Dalmally area when torrential rain burst open the River Orchy's banks threatening no mercy to man or beast.

While many people will have been able to seek safe refuge from the relentless weather, others were not so fortunate and, with live-livelihoods and livestock at risk, had to face the elements head on.

One such crofter who had no choice but to be out in the worst of it as flood water swept over his fields was Stuart Underwood from Stronmilchan. Twice Stuart was left clinging on to trees and fences as he tried to track down missing cattle; twice he was washed away. A lesser man might have waved the white flag and retreated but he refused to give up on his animals and despite his own life being at risk, continued his search.

It was all credit to Stuart's sheer determination and devotion that his cows and calves were eventually reunited safe and sound.

Despite that happy ending, the ordeal still goes on for Stuart who is now facing the awful aftermath. Repairs and making things good again will cost time and money.

If the Awe barrage gates had opened earlier, would that have stopped the extreme event?

Questions are rightly being asked, answers are needed and lessons must be learned.

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.



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## 'Horrified' at Ganavan beach motorhome park proposals

I am writing to protest about the proposal of a motor home park at Ganavan beach Oban.

We have been coming to the area for years, visiting the beach, visiting friends and family in Oban. Many happy hours were spent here with family and children. It's a beautiful place and I feel this would spoil the beauty of the area. There are plenty of motor home parks in the area.

Where would the locals and visitors park their cars when visiting the beach? The place would be too crowded. What about disabled people or the elderly visiting? They need access directly to the beach.

It would be better to ban motor homes from parking here at all or overnight.

I understand it was gifted to the people of Oban. This would not serve the community. It would be an eyesore and if left as a car park would help to aid people's health, physical and mental health apart from preserving the beauty of this special place. I am horrified with this proposal.

Marilyn Sheeran, East Kilbride.

## Kilmory Castle intent on a return to the dark past

Our mastery in Kilmory Castle are, as Mr R Jackson points out, intent on returning us to the darkness of the past, The Oban Times, September 10.

Here, in the southern end of Argyll and Bute, public toilets closed during Covid and may never re-open. At the CalMac terminal, the toilets are the responsibility of Argyll and Bute Council. They are closed, with a sign telling us to use the 'Victorian toilets' 200 metres away.

Customer service and encouraging tourism are not high on the list of priorities. It sometimes seems our administrators in 'local' government have the sole purpose of self-preservation. In a time of austerity and budget cuts, can someone remind me of the salaries paid to directors and department heads in Kilmory?

Hamish Kirk, 16 Russell Street, Rothesay.

## Appreciation after hearing aid safely returned to owner

To the person who found my hearing aid on Friday September 11 outside the Tesco store in Oban and handed it in to the customer services desk, thank you very much.

Margaret Newall, Campbeltown.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Air an t-seachdain a chaidh bha mi ag ràdh gur 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. Bha mi a' togail sin mar phàirt ann an co-cheangal le suidheachadh anns am bheil coròna-bhioras ag ath-bheothachadh feadh na dùthcha, agus na cunnartan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith an lùib sin dhuinn. Dh'fheumte aideachadh gun robh eòlaichean a' cur seo air mhanadh dhan dùthaich an ire mhath bho nochd an galair an toiseach, ach a rèir choltais tha cùisean air gluasad fiù 's nas luaithe na bha iadsan an dùil a thachradh. Tuigear carson a tha e doirbh dha na h-eòlaichean a bhith cinnteach dè dìreach tha dol a thachairt le coròna-bhioras is iad a' dèiligeadh ri gnè bhiorais a tha ùr dha eòlas-leigheis, agus tha an dìth eòlais eachdraidheil sin cuideachd na chnap-starra mòr ann a bhith a' feuchainn ri banachdach a chruthachadh. Cha leig duine a leas eòlas meidigeach a bhith aige gus tuigsinn mar a dh'fhaodas a' bhioras sgapadh às ùr far am bheil saorsa aig daoine barrachd gluasaid a dhèanamh agus far am bheil sgoiltean is colaistean a' fosgladh a-rithist, agus tha amharas ann gum faodadh òigridh, ged nach biodh iad fhèin a' fulang, an galair a ghiùlan gu dachanan sheann chàirdean.

'S e suidheachadh draghail a th' ann gu cinnteach agus tha feum air impidh a chur air a' mhòr-shluagh, sean is òg, na riaghailtean sgaraidh agus brat-gnùise a leantainn gu dùrachdach. Feumar a bhith beò an dòchas gun soirbhich iomairtean a cheadaicheas ion-

dhion an aghaidh Covid 19 ann an ùine nach bi ro fhada, agus gum faigh ar beatha làitheil tilleadh gu àbhaisteachd, ged is e gu deimhinnte àbhaisteachd ùr a bhios ann! Ged a bhios argamaidean poiliteigeach ann a thaobh 's mar a dhèilig riaghaltasan fa leth ris an èiginn seo saoilidh mi nach gabh àicheadh gun robh mòran den taic ionmhais a thugadh le fòrladh luchd-obrach, agus cobhair dha caochladh sheòrsa ghnìomhachasan, ceart agus iomchaidh. Bha, agus tha, aithne ann gum faodadh briseadh eaconamach na milleanan a chur à cosnadh agus cosgais do-labhairt adhbharachadh dhan dùthaich thar iomadh bliadhna romhainn. Feumar sgilean agus ealantas luchd-obrach na dùthcha a dhion ach am bi comas againn fàs a-rithist cho luath 's a bhios cothrom ann. Ach cuin a bhios sin? Agus am fuiling Breatann an tuilleadh cosgais a chuireadh leantainn nan seòrsa taicean seo oirre? 'S e ceistean doirbh a tha sin dhan riaghaltas, agus cuideachd dha pàrtaidhean dùbhlach a dh'fheumas toinns a nochdadh ann am breithneachadh na slighe air adhart. Feumar na fiachan a phàigheadh agus, co-dhiù bhios sin a' ciallachadh lùghdachadh air seirbheisean poblach air neo àrdachadh chìsean, bidh cunnart dioghaltais poiliteigeach ann!

Resumption of a national lockdown would be enormously damaging but the spread of coronavirus must be halted, as must the UK's economy be protected. Options for repaying the escalating costs are few and all carry political risk.

## Concern over accumulation of rubbish in Islay's public bins

Constituents on Islay are concerned about our public bins overflowing with rubbish.

Household waste bags are being placed in the public bins which is exacerbating the problem. I have asked Argyll and Bute Council if it would consider increasing the number of uplifts. I am also concerned that with the hotter weather we have been having, the accumulation of rubbish could become a public health issue.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and Islands ward.

## 'Disgraceful' BBC being dictated to by the Tories

I never thought I would live to see the day when the BBC joined the Conservative Party as, ever since childhood, I have been given to understand the BBC was impartial.

It is essential our First Minister, in these dangerous times, gives her daily briefings to the Scottish nation, informing us of the necessary precautions we need to take.

It is disgraceful the BBC is allowing itself to be dictated to by the Tories.

Susan Swain.

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TIREE

### Island flag will keep flying

Tiree has narrowly missed out on being the proud owner of a world champion flag.

The island's flag was pipped at the flag pole by the village of Penkhull in Stoke-on-Trent.

Tiree made it to the final of the Flag Institute's World Series of Flags 2020 competition on Twitter after fending off competitors including Denver in the US and Vincennes in France.

The winner of this year's contest was announced on September 16 after Penkhull scraped home with 51 per cent of the vote.

The Flag Institute tweeted: 'The biggest poll we've ever run and what a match. Penkhull took a big lead at the start, but Tiree – tournament dark horse – fought for every per cent until it was in the lead overnight. A late flourish with three hours to go saw Penkhull edge ahead and take the win. An incredible effort by both communities.'

Another post commenting on Tiree's efforts said: 'Not bad for a tiny island off Scotland with only 650 folk living there but a nation who adores it behind them.'

Despite the disappointment, the creator of Tiree's flag, Donald Cameron, who was born and brought up on Tiree and now works for a London advertising agency, said the island would 'keep the flag flying'.

A poll for Tiree Community Council in 2016 found a majority of islanders wanted a flag, so a committee ran a competition to design one.

Donald's top design used stalks of barley, referring to the island's reputation as Tir an Eòrna, the island of barley, and the most fertile of the Hebrides, to create a yellow circle, symbolising the sunshine isle.

Donald said: 'It's just a bit of fun. It's been great exposure for Tiree. We'll keep our flag flying with great pride.'



The Isle of Tiree's flag.

# DISTRICT NEWS

MULL

### New waste collection routes

New Mull waste collection routes will be introduced from Monday September 28.

Updated calendars giving details of when to put out general waste, recycling and glass bins are available on the council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/bin-collection](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/bin-collection).

Type in a postcode online to get details of collections. Any problems, call 01546 605514.

'Please be aware, not everyone's calendar will change. The main changes affect Tobermory, Craignure and B8073. Please check your new calendar to be sure,' said an Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson.

The new routes will create an even flow of waste through the processing site and off the island by spreading the uplift more equally across the three-weekly cycle.

It will also mean there will only be one return ferry journey per week required for a waste lorry, freeing up much-needed space for islanders and visitors.

'We would be grateful if you could let friends and neighbours know changes are being introduced and that they should download their new calendar,' added the spokesperson.

ISLAY

### Call for urgent street repairs

Residents on some Islay streets have likened road surfaces to being the same as the cratered moon.

People living in Corrsgeir Place, Mansfield Place and North Bay in Port Ellen are fed up with the state of their deteriorating roads and are calling for urgent repairs. Kintyre and Islands ward councillor Alastair Redman said he has been contacted by large numbers of people raising 'justifiable concerns about the terrible road conditions'. 'One resident I spoke to said it looked more like the surface of the moon than the surface of a road,' he said.

Despite growing demands on Argyll and Bute Council's limited resources, he is demanding something is done soon to address people's

## Gigha's famous garden seeks new apprentice

Ambitious plans for a new horticulture apprentice programme at Achamore Gardens on Gigha have been announced.

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust has teamed up with Argyll College University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) to take on a modern apprentice.

Achamore Gardens is internationally renowned for its rhododendron collection and extensive gardens developed by Sir James Horlick in the middle of last century.

After years of decline, Achamore is embarking on a major restoration project which will respect the heritage and vision of Sir James' original garden, whilst giving a nod to the changing face of gardening in the 21st century with new features adding to the visitor experience.

Historically, apprentices were a key part of Achamore's workforce, with one of the garden's longest-serving head gardeners starting out as the apprentice before working his way up to the top job.

The new two-year apprenticeship will cover learning skills across the gardening spectrum and being involved in all aspects of Achamore's restoration while achieving academic qualifications delivered by Argyll College UHI's Horticulture Department.

Bryony White, head gardener at Acham-



Bryony White, head gardener at Achamore.

ore, said: 'By training up apprentices, we can offer young people a high-quality training placement and bring more young people to the island, which is great for the economy.'

'I hope the programme offers young people far more than just the bare minimum requirements, giving them the skills and future potential for a life-long career in horticulture.'

The deadline for applications is Friday September 25. For more information visit [www.gigha.org.uk](http://www.gigha.org.uk).

concerns. He added that the financial boost to central government's coffers from Islay and Jura's distilleries should see those communities getting fit-for-purpose roads in return. Our hardworking roads department are at times between a rock and a hard place dealing with growing demands on limited resources.

'That said, I would hope something could be done soon to address my constituents' concerns.'



Corrsfeir Place on Islay has been likened to 'the surface of the moon'.

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# The Oban Times and St Kilda

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



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

**August 1930:** The plight of the sheep. The bad weather prevented the Hebrides from taking the 600 or thereby sheep, which had been penned up in anticipation, and it is learned by radio that bad weather on Wednesday prevented the Dunara Castle also from taking off the sheep as hoped for. Without forage it will be difficult to keep them in condition, or even without some discomfort. There seems no chance of capturing the sheep on Borrera, that island of crags, rocks and precipices. It is only a young and vigorous St Kildan who can brave the dangers of capturing a sheep or trapping a fulmar. He can move and steady himself on the narrowest ledge of a dizzy precipice, where the slightest hesitancy would hurl him hundreds of feet to death. His marvellous power of equilibrium and the grasping power of his toes give him a confidence not possessed by any other people. Alas! The skilled cragsman of St Kilda will soon be a personage of history.

The Hebrides returned to Oban early on Monday morning and, after a few hours, proceeded to ship stock from Tiree for the Oban markets. Arriving again about seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, she left for Glasgow to be ready for her final trip to St Kilda on Thursday August 28. The Harebell, the Government ship for transport of the Islanders, or a number of them, to Lochaline, put into Oban from the south on Monday. She left for St Kilda on Wednesday.

'There is 'Mourning in the Isles' from a correspondent. I have read with keen interest the letters in *The Oban Times* regarding the evacuation of St Kilda. My heart goes out to these poor people who have to leave their native isle. My own youth was spent in a remote island of the Hebrides and I know the wrench of leaving. The strange thing is that the call of the Hebrides does not lessen with the years but instead grows stronger and stronger, and we who know and love these Islands cherish a hope that some



day we shall return and, when our time comes, we may be lulled to our last sleep by the sweet familiar sound of the Atlantic beating on our lonely shores. 'Och, Ochan! mise 'n diugh.'

**Letter 15 August:** An Isleswoman's Book on St Kilda, from Donald Maclean, 82 Belville Street, Greenock - 'In this week's issue of *The Oban Times* appears an announcement which gives me, and, I am sure, will give many other Gaels near and far, very great pleasure. I refer to a statement that the gifted St Kildan, Mrs Christina MacDonald MacQueen, is writing a book on Hirta. This is 'glad tidings' indeed, and as Mrs MacQueen has shown herself to be possessed of rare gifts we may look for a valuable and enlightening book. So far we have heard outsiders', and, in my opinion, mostly mislead-

ing notions, about the tiny isle and the ways of its folk. There are two sides to every question, and to judge wisely one should ponder both.

'I should like if Mr Calum MacPharlain, the accomplished bard, would write us a Gaelic song, and compose or adapt an air on the theme of the Last Farewell to Hirta. It would please and hearten Mrs MacQueen to have her prose sgeul of Hirta graced by the bard's 'sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not'. I am etc Donald MacLean.

**August report:** 'One of the final scenes in connection with the evacuation of St Kilda took place in the West Highland Auction Mart, Oban, on Wednesday, when the sheep stock of the island were sold by public auction. The great interest which is being taken in this unique

event was fully manifested in the crowds which thronged Ring No 1 at Messrs Corson's Mart, but it was evident from the resulting prices that the greater number present were there merely out of curiosity.

'Additional interest was given to the sale by the presence of Mr Tom Johnston, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, who was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Nurse Barclay and Mrs G A MacLeod, Oban. Mr Robert Mair, of Messrs Corson, introduced Mr Johnston, who was given a very cordial reception. Mr Johnston said he had been asked on behalf of the islanders to say a few words to explanation of this historic sale. There had already been many explanations offered as to the reasons for the evacuation of St Kilda. The press had been most kind and



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday September 24, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.43	1.4	10.36	3.0
<b>Thur</b>	17.13	1.5	23.03	2.8
<b>Fri</b>	05.57	1.7	12.53	2.9
	18.53	1.7	***	**
<b>Sat</b>	02.27	2.7	07.35	1.7
	14.39	3.1	20.26	1.7
<b>Sun</b>	03.51	2.9	09.01	1.6
	15.40	3.3	21.44	1.6
<b>Mon</b>	04.33	3.1	09.55	1.3
	16.09	3.5	22.27	1.4
<b>Tues</b>	04.45	3.3	10.36	1.1
	16.35	3.8	23.01	1.2
<b>Wed</b>	04.57	3.5	11.12	1.0
	17.05	3.9	23.31	1.1

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

Ardishraig	-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 6°C to 13°C.

### FRIDAY

Sunny and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

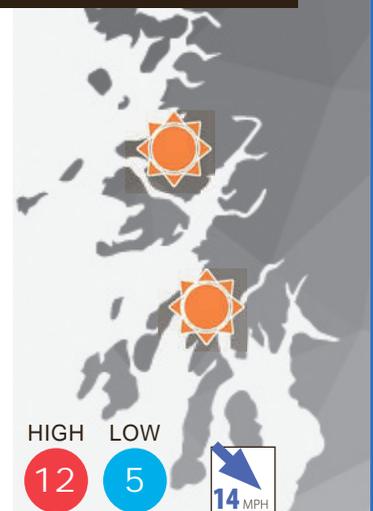
#### Saturday

Sunny and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

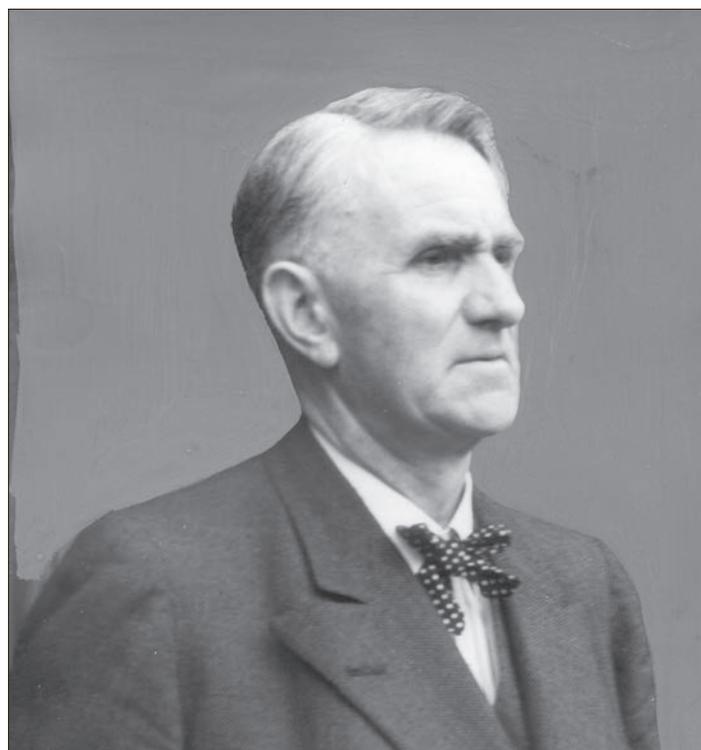
#### Sunday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST



# clearance: part 8



Far left, Larachbeg – a terrace of six houses built in 1875 where several families from St Kilda were housed when they were resettled in Morvern. Photograph: Iain Thornber; and left, Mr Tom Johnston, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, responsible for clearing St Kilda and who made a speech at Corson's Mart, Oban, when the St Kilda sheep were sold. Photograph: The Oban Times Archives.

helpful, and the tributes paid in the press to the officers of the various Departments of State had been in his opinion very well deserved indeed. His commendations, however, did not cover the inventor of the story that the Scottish Office had got four hundred applications for small holdings in St Kilda (laughter).

Mr Johnston recalled that the Secretary of State for Scotland got a petition signed on May 10 of this year from every adult inhabitant in St Kilda asking the Government to assist them to leave the island this year and to find homes and occupations for them on the mainland. He (Mr Johnston) volunteered to go and make inquiry. He found that last winter the people of the island had been three months without milk. They were suffering from poverty and hardship. One family with 10 to feed had a total income of £30 per annum to do it. They could not buy syrup, treacle, margarine or butter. Potatoes had rotted with the spray from the sea. Children suffered from the perpetual died of salted fulmar and mutton. The government agreed to assist in the evacuation, and that step had been approved by everybody except a small group of literary poseurs who worked the back-to-St-Columba stunt. Poverty was so picturesque to some

people so long as it was the other fellow who was undergoing the poverty.

'The government has succeeded in getting every islander a job and a decent house, and he desired to express his personal thanks to Sir John Stirling-Maxwell and his fellow-members of the Board of Afforestation for the very active and enthusiastic way in which they had assisted the islanders. A very useful precedent had been created. The State had shouldered the responsibility of finding an economic employment and opportunities for those in need, and this generation would live to see the principal established and made of much more general application.

'The auctioneer of the sale was Mr D MacInnes, and the total number put up for disposal was 1,060. The sum realised was £788. A large consignment was bought for transporting to England by Mr Sanderson, Lancashire, and the general trend of prices ranged from 10s to £1. The highest price obtained was 25s 3d. Miss Dudgeon of Penmore, Mull was among the purchasers. St Kilda's oldest inhabitant, Finlay Gillies, and his daughter, Mrs Ferguson, followed the sale of the sheep with every attention.'

■ To be continued.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



President of the Clan MacInnes Society, William S MacInnes; Games Chieftain Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern; Ranald Macdonald of Clanranald and Games Convenor Major Roderick Balfour at the opening ceremony of Glenfinnan Games in a year gone by.



Father Donald McKinnon with Bishop Douglas Cameron, Anglican Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who opened the St Columba's Bazaar in Oban in August 1995.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

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## Distillery in the pink with Co-op gin deal

An Argyll distillery is toasting a deal with the Co-op which will see its Kintyre Pink Gin available at up to 50 stores across Scotland.

Beinn an Tuirc Distillers, based in Carradale, employs six people and created its first bottle of spirit in 2017. It uses an on-site hydro-electric scheme to power the distillations to produce sustainable spirits.

Niall Macalister Hall, director, said: 'We are delighted to be working with the Co-op. The listing comes at an important time to support our business. The additional awareness, reach and availability from being stocked in our local Co-op and in communities across the country is a huge boost. We are confident our unique gin will be enjoyed by Co-op customers.'

Kevin Buchan, Co-op local sourcing buying manager Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to be working closely with local distillers. Co-op is all about connecting communities, making a difference and creating value locally and our work to celebrate and support local suppliers and showcase our great Scottish food and drink is a cornerstone of this approach.'



Just the tonic: Niall Macalister Hall of Beinn an Tuirc Distillers.

# Barcaldine's Noelia named Finfish Manager of the Year

## Scottish Sea Farms celebrates double triumph at annual aquaculture awards

Scottish Sea Farms celebrated a double triumph at the annual Aquaculture Awards open to entries from all over the world.

The company's Noelia Rodriguez, operations manager of the new hatchery at Barcaldine, won Finfish Farmer of the Year award.

Its Orkney team won the Economic Sustainability prize for a housing development on the island of Eday.

Noelia, originally from Asturias in northern Spain, joined Scottish Sea Farms in 2012 as fish health biologist. She began her career at the company's marine farms and gained an MSc (Master of Science) in Sustainable Aquaculture from the University of St Andrews, Fife.

She made the leap to freshwater production in 2017 and was appointed operations manager of the hatchery at Barcaldine, which is equipped with recirculating aquaculture system technology. The company said she is credited with creating greater collaboration between freshwater and marine farming, resulting in measurable advances in fish health and welfare.

Now two years into her role at Barcaldine, her focus on producing top quality smolts has been rewarded with fish that have been, in her words, 'nothing short of amazing'.

Of her award, Noelia said: 'There was a lot of talent represented in the category and across the awards, so I feel honoured to have been chosen.'

'I have such a passion for the sector. Equally, the last few years have been such hard work to make Barcaldine the success it is today, not only for me but for everyone involved, so this award is really for all those who helped make it happen and who continue to work hard to produce the best quality smolts.'



Noelia, operations manager at Barcaldine, with freshwater manager Pål Tangvik and managing director Jim Gallagher. Inset: A Barcaldine smolt. Photographs: Scottish Sea Farms.

Jim Gallagher, Scottish Sea Farms managing director, said: 'Across the company, we have exceptional people doing exceptional things, all with the shared purpose of farming as responsibly and as sustainably as we can. I am delighted for Noelia, who continues to go from strength to strength, and for our Eday homes team who, by thinking bigger picture, have improved conditions for colleagues and possibly shaped a new business model for ensuring more of our remote farms remain viable in the long-term.'

In Orkney, Scottish Sea Farms worked with landowners Willowstream to provide much-needed housing on the remote island of Eday. The conditions for growing salmon

were superb, but the remote location had made recruitment difficult, the company said.

With just 76 habitable properties for a population of 129 people, the lack of affordable homes threatened the long-term viability of the salmon farm.

Yet in eight years it has grown more than 1.6 million premium salmon with a combined market value in excess of £44 million.

The solution was to introduce a two-week on, two-week off shift pattern and to build six houses in the secluded area of Mill Bay for staff.

The awards recognise the achievements in the sector and give recognition to those making an exceptional contribution to the industry.

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# The Reel Deal...

## My vision for the Fort William cinema

By Angus MacDonald

I read an article in a magazine that said a good bookshop and a, ideally independent, town centre cinema were key to bringing life into a community. As shopping habits change towns now need to appeal to those looking for entertainment, galleries, coffee shops, bars and restaurants.

I had recently sold my recycling business and wanted to do something for the town; my family has lived here for centuries. The success of the people and economy of Lochaber is what really inspires me. The more I thought about it, the more benefits it seemed that a cinema in the town centre would bring.

The town had an eyesore at the town square, a concrete monstrosity built as the tourist office in the 1970's. The old cinema and public lavatories at the rear had become ruinous. I met with the council planners, and architects Dualchas in Skye to discuss my concept of a design based on a traditional red-roofed, stone-walled highland building, with the brief to make it 'the most photographed building in town.' We later had two open house days and over 500 locals came by, with almost complete support for the design. People were very keen on a cinema,

repeatedly telling me that our 20,000 local population face long rainy winters, there is not a lot for the young to do, and the elderly would benefit from a social event or two as well.

My definition of whether it is successful will be if it becomes the hub of the area, shows great film, but also hosting musicians, events and festivals. If we can help attract visitors to stay longer and outside of peak season that will have worthwhile benefits to the area's hospitality industry. Perhaps it will help businesses justify staying open all year round and therefore offer full-time employment, not just the summer months...

In Scotland Covid restrictions for cinemas requiring two-metre distancing is an anomaly. On a plane you sit right beside strangers, and in a bar it is one-metre distancing, without a mask. But a single customer at our cinema will have 12 empty seats around them! A financial challenge for us, but with 22 recently hired employees and a very encouraging local community, I will be proud to be cutting the ribbon to open The Highland Cinema on Friday, 25th September at 6pm. *Slàinte.*



All images courtesy and copyright Iain Ferguson

Management team, left - right, Kirsty Mann, General Manager, Adam Morrow, Head of Front of House, Elaine Brayshaw, Head of Finance and Administration, Carolanne Lawrie, Head of Kitchen, Hamish McIntyre, Head of Marketing and IT.



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# A *bygone era* for local cinema...



The Playhouse on the High Street. Open from 1931 to 1978.  
Photo reproduced from [www.ambaile.org.uk](http://www.ambaile.org.uk)



The old Town Hall, home of the Picture House and then CB Pictures from 1913-1926. The hall burnt down in 1975.  
Photo reproduced from [www.ambaile.org.uk](http://www.ambaile.org.uk)



Studio Cinema in Cameron Square. Open from 1986-2005.  
Photo reproduced from [www.scottishcinemas.org.uk](http://www.scottishcinemas.org.uk) / Gary Painter

While working towards opening the Highland Cinema later this year, we thought it would be fun to look back on a short history of predecessors in the town!

Cinema came early to Fort William, with the establishment of the 'Picture House' in the old town hall in April 1913, before WW1 broke out. In those days, films were typically short and an evening of cinema would often involve a variety of clips, ranging from newsreel to comedy, cartoons and travelogues of far away places - quite an eclectic mix! The Picture House was renamed 'CB Pictures' in 1919 and continued to operate in the Town Hall until 1926.

In 1929, the 'Shalee' opened on the High

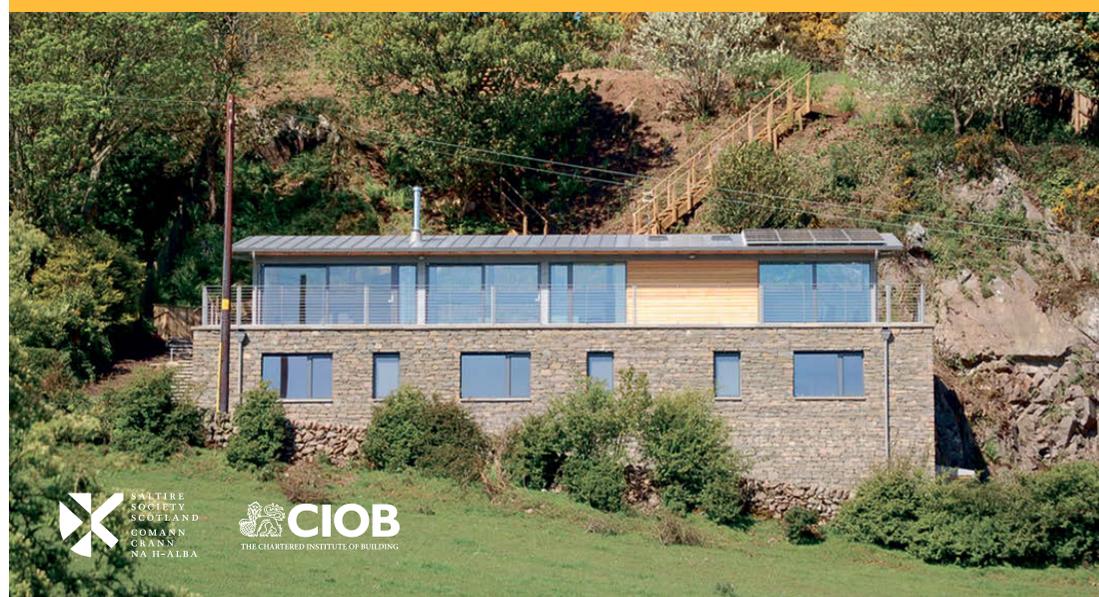
Street along from The Volunteer Arms, named after a Native American Indian tribe it seems. It brought the exciting new 'Talkies' to the town - movies synchronised with sound, such as the legendary film 'The Jazz Singer'.

Within a year the Shalee was renamed as 'The Lochaber' for a brief period, before a final name change to the 'Playhouse' in 1931, following considerable investment and refurbishment in the Art Deco style. The Playhouse had one screen and seating for a whopping 678 people! It ran for almost 50 years before becoming a bingo club. It was finally closed by the council in 1979 due to poor wiring, a leaking roof and no fire exit.

Many of you will remember what came next - 'Studio Cinema', built on the former site of the Town Hall in Cameron Square as a two screen theatre and tourist office. Run by John McDermott from its opening in 1986, Studio Cinema had the same chief projectionist as the Playhouse - Kevin Brooks. Since it closed in 2005, Fort William has been without a permanent cinema, leaving the local film loving community bereft of the big screen experience. Until now! We can't wait to get our new, purpose built Highland Cinema open for you all soon! In the meantime, we'd love to hear your memories and see any photos you have of previous cinema and film experiences in Fort William.



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# Feeling the mmunity love!



## Fort William Town Team Karen Dean

For many years the volunteers of Fort William Town Team have been 'sprucing up' areas of the town, adding hanging baskets full of colourful flowers to lamp posts, planting and maintaining gardens, improving the look of the town for both local people and visitors.

As they have worked in Cameron Square they have watched the new cinema take shape and have been eagerly awaiting its completion.

Karen Dean of the Town Team said: "The excitement is building for the opening of the Highland Cinema and Fort William Town team are thrilled to see the venue become an integral part of Cameron Square. "The Cinema team have been so supportive of our

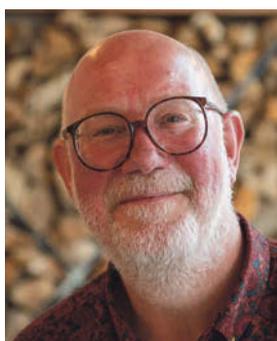


projects that it's our turn to support this fantastic new venture now. Good luck with the grand opening and we can't wait to watch our first movie!"

As a member of the Fort William Accommodation Marketing Karen also added: "The Highland Cinema is going to become

a go-to venue for visitors to Fort William.

"Local accommodation providers will now be able to offer the Cinema as an indoor activity for inclement weather days or just a relaxing few hours to enjoy a film. We look forward to supporting this new local business".



## Alasdair Eadie, Volunteer

Alasdair Eadie from South Lochaber jumped at the chance to volunteer at the Highland Cinema to help make a success of what he sees as a tremendous new

asset not only to Fort William, but the whole of Lochaber. He and his wife Harriet recently moved to the area from Perth, although as she is originally from Fort William they have been making regular visits to local family and friends for more than 35 years.

He said: "I have long felt that Fort William was really lacking in something like this, which will provide a focus for various arts. Obviously we remember the previous cinema which stood on this site and my wife remembers going to its predecessor, but we both feel that neither can compare to what is being

offered by this one. "Angus has produced a stunning building which really adds to the look of the town centre and is a much needed focal point. "I feel that this will meet the needs of all ages and provide them with not only with something to do on a dark winter's night, but in attractive and welcoming surroundings. As I know from my own experience it will also be a great benefit to visitors. As I am now at a point in my life where I have more free time I see this as a great opportunity to be involved in something very beneficial to the town".



## Carolann Lawrie, Kitchen Manager

Home made scones, cakes, bread, even pizza bases, coupled with a varied and extensive menu supporting

local producers and suppliers is the hallmark of the cinema's front-of-house catering under the watchful eye of Kitchen Manager, Carolann Lawrie. Trained at West Highland College UHI in Fort William 'Caz' as she is better known, has been a chef working in Lochaber over an 18 year period, so brings not only a wealth of experience but proven ability to provide a high standard of service to cinema diners.

She said: "The kitchen is a pleasure to work in and really well equipped to produce a range of great dishes, even including a real Italian pizza

oven. "It is great to be using local suppliers and also baking so much from scratch so it is fresh and of the highest quality. Even the coffee is our own special cinema roast, ground in Glen Lyon and we have Spean Bridge beer. "We are also planning theme nights on different types of food, tying in dishes and drinks to the film which is currently showing, which will be very interesting. "The whole cinema is really exciting project and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of it".



## Alyson Stewart

Humanist Celebrant and retired Paramedic, Alyson Stewart thinks the cinema will be a great venue for the town. She said: "This is just what we need and to give us something else to do and will make a huge difference to the town. "The building looks great and with its position in

Cameron Square right beside the bronze Model T Ford I can see making it also a perfect wedding venue for the ceremony and then food afterwards. "The last film I saw in First William was Braveheart, as a lot if my family were in it. I cannot wait to go and see my first film in the new cinema. I'm sure it will be an amazing experience".



## Tamzin Mackenzie

Fourteen year old Tamzin Mackenzie is a very keen on sports, but also cannot wait for the cinema to open as it will provide another indoor activity for young people. Tamzin said: "I am really excited about the new cinema and so are my friends. There is often not that much to do, especially in the evenings and this looks great. "I cannot wait to see the latest

films, which we have always missed out on in Fort William unless we travel to other places, which is not always easy and also costs quite a bit on top of buying tickets. "This will be great as they will now be shown right on out doorsteps which means we can see the new films without having to wait until we can arrange to travel a long way and sometimes even miss them altogether".



## Elaine Brayshaw Finance and Administration Manager

Very well known locally for her work at Lochaber High School, Elaine Brayshaw is now using

her considerable experience in Finance and Administration at the Highland Cinema. She is responsible for everything from ensuring smooth day to day running by staff and volunteers, to dealing with suppliers and the all important payroll. A total of 22 full and part-time jobs have been created along with positions, at the moment, for around 16 volunteers all of which means quite a bit of paperwork. However, her interest in the Cinema and what it brings to the community is more to her than just a job. As a life-long

cinema goer she is really looking forward to not making the journey further afield to enjoy the latest films or other Arts events. She said: "I have been so lucky to be involved in the project since almost the beginning and know that this is just what the area has been crying out for. "The building itself looks great, is in a fantastic location and purposely designed to be a great Arts hub, offering the big screen experience not only of the latest film releases, but also opera, ballet and National Theatre productions, for which their is increasing demand.

"Our whole ethos is to be at the heart of the community and we have already forged links with High Schools, especially with Additional Needs pupils, English and Drama departments, as well as with the Developing Young Workforce project, where young people still in education get to experience local jobs and learn of the opportunities for them to live and work in the area rather than move away. "I have a fantastic job working as part of the Highland Cinema team, which I know will bring huge benefits to the Lochaber Community".



## Alasdair Greens

Carpenter/Joiner, 23 year old Alasdair Greens is looking forward to having nights out

with family and friends in the cinema. He said: "I think the cinema is a good idea, definitely. "It's in a great location and there should be lots of places to go when we come out to make a real evening of it. "As long as films are kept on rotation and the cinema snacks are good I can see myself going there a lot with my friends and my children. It will be something to look forward to.

# Interiors with extra **va-**

By Mairi Watson

## Gorgeous design

When local businessman and author Angus MacDonald, 57, from Moidart, had the vision to build a cinema in the centre of his hometown, he said he wanted it to look like a traditional highland croft. "I love the simplicity of the stone buildings and their corrugated iron roofs," he said. To design it, he commissioned the award winning firm Dualchas Architects from Skye, who turned a quickly drawn scribble on the back of an envelope into an eye-catching, practical, contemporary design.

"I was determined to use the talents of local artists, craftsmen and tradesmen and where possible upcycled and recycled materials for the building of the cinema," said Mr MacDonald. The stone exterior is built from a mixture of grey stone reclaimed from an old Spean Bridge sheep fank, red stone from the River Nevis and slate from the Ballachulish quarry. Inside, the red bar, made by local craftsman Gary Burton, is constructed from reclaimed flooring from the former British Aluminium Social Club in Fort William. Mr Burton is also responsible for the four impressive antler chandeliers that hang from the pitched douglas fir ceiling of the large, light-filled café. The wood for the ceiling and the beautiful dining tables, made by local joiner Chris Webster, was donated by BSW Timber and is an indication of the support and excitement that this cinema is generating locally.

Two oversized red papier maché stags heads, designed and made by Scottish artist Silvy Weatherall, hang above the wood-burning stove, which is flanked by large log-filled mantelpieces, giving the room a lived-in, cosy feel. The red of

the stag heads is the same as the external roof and the bar and is a motif that runs throughout the building, including the pizza oven, specially imported from Napoli in Italy, the iron railings of the staircase and the plush VIP chairs in the two screening rooms. Even the Lotus car in screen 1, donated by local businessman Ivor Dunbar, is red. In the same screening room, the walls have been covered in red MacDonald Keppoch tartan, the exact tartan that is worn by Mr MacDonald and his family.

Meanwhile the ladies and gents bathrooms have received the same attention to detail, with hand-painted signs of highland dancers by local artist and sign-painter (and nephew of Mr MacDonald) Joe MacDonald. In both bathrooms, black and white photos sourced by Vanessa Martin from the West Highland Museum, depict life in the Highlands in the 1900s. In the gents' the photos show scenes of illicit whisky making which, together with the old whisky cask wash basins, gives the bathroom an old fashioned gentlemen's club feel.

More of life in the Highlands is portrayed in the many black and white photos displayed around



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the café, the stairs and the bar. All taken by local photographers, the photos show local people and personalities going about their daily business – a shepherd with his sheep, the local priest in front of his church, a competitive game of shinty. Projected on the large white wall of the café runs a silent black and white cine film depicting Highland life through the ages.

The black and white photos, the cine film, the red motif, the handmade tables, the wooden ceiling, antler chandeliers, the little sports car and the tartan on the screen room walls all create a stunning backdrop for this contemporary and exciting project. People may well come to watch a film, meet friends for a drink, or grab a pizza, but they will linger longer and come back again for the sheer comfort and joy of this lovely building.



## View from The Chamber.. the fantastic Highland Cinema brings a host of new opportunities

Frazer Coupland, CEO Lochaber Chamber of Commerce

Frazer Coupland whose office is just a few hundred yards from the cinema has watched the project grow and develop from preparation of the site right through to the building work and now to completion.

He said: "I have watched the cinema take shape and what a huge difference it makes to the look of Cameron Square. I am really excited about this and can't wait for it to open. I have already had the privilege of seeing round it and would say that this is one of the finest assets in the Highlands, not just Fort William.

"It also will also bring great economic benefit, with new jobs and an additional reason for people to come in to the town for a night out which will help other businesses.

"I know many top films will be coming here, which will be a great opportunity for people to see the latest releases and I am really looking forward to seeing many of them myself".

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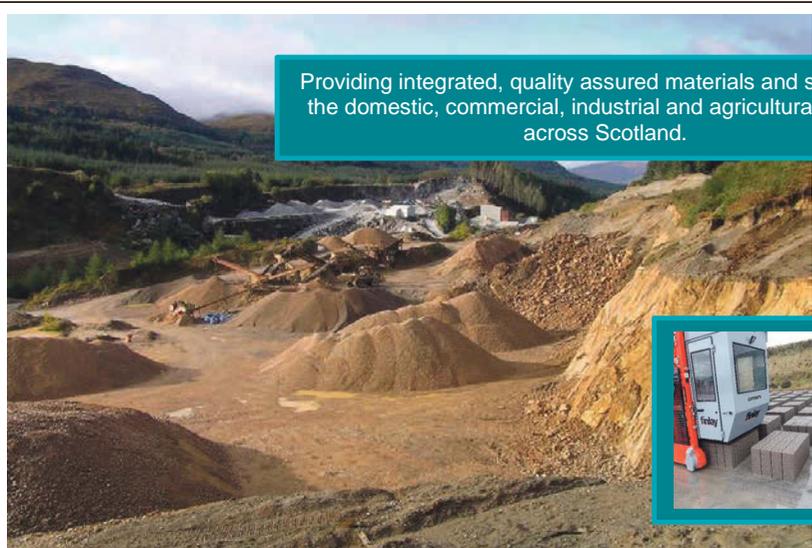
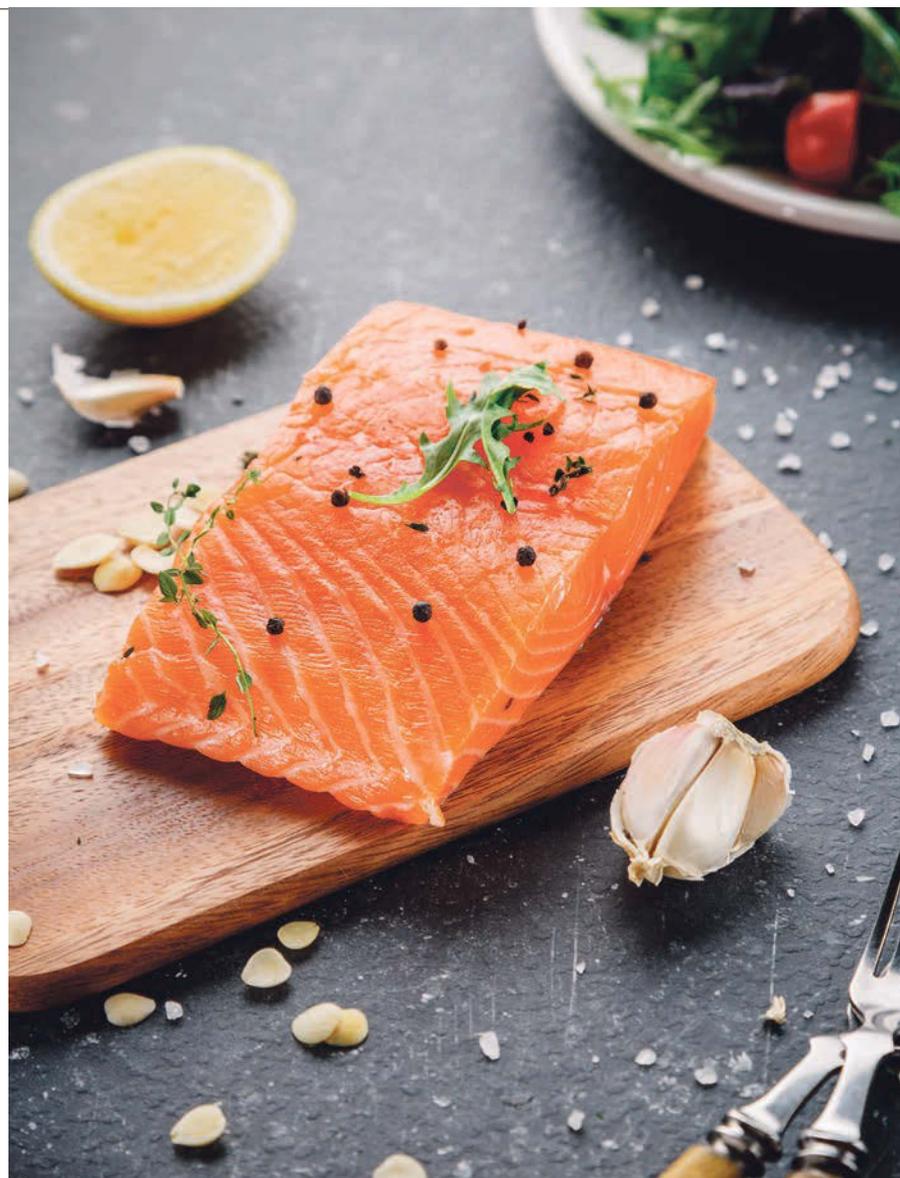
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3b Construction were the principal contractors.

# ***A Foodie's Love Story - made for the movies***

**A menu built around the best produce  
Lochaber and the Highlands have to offer.**

By Liz MacMaster

When Angus MacDonald saw the magnificent Stefano Ferraro pizza oven in a restaurant in Toronto he knew he had found the centrepiece for the Highland cinema café. He arranged to have one shipped from Naples and asked me to create a menu using the pizza oven, offering not only pizza but other oven-roasted specialities. And he requested that I build the menu around the best produce Lochaber and the Highlands have to offer.

At the heart of the menu are the magnificent sharing platters curated by Anja Baak of Great Glen Charcuterie. Anja has worked with the catering team to create a range of charcuterie and cheese boards highlighting her delicious venison charcuterie. Highland and Island cheeses are also featured as well as locally sourced fish from Fort William's favourite fishmonger, Ian Stewart. Anja has not neglected our vegan customers, as she has included an innovative plant-based platter.

The menu has plenty to suit all tastes. In addition to traditional pizza toppings, you can try Isle of Mull Cheddar, MOWI smoked salmon, venison meatballs and venison salami. Our local butcher, Stewart at Lochaber Larder, has developed a special recipe beef burger for us, and we are particularly excited by our handmade smoked sausage dish that we have gleefully named "Big Dug".

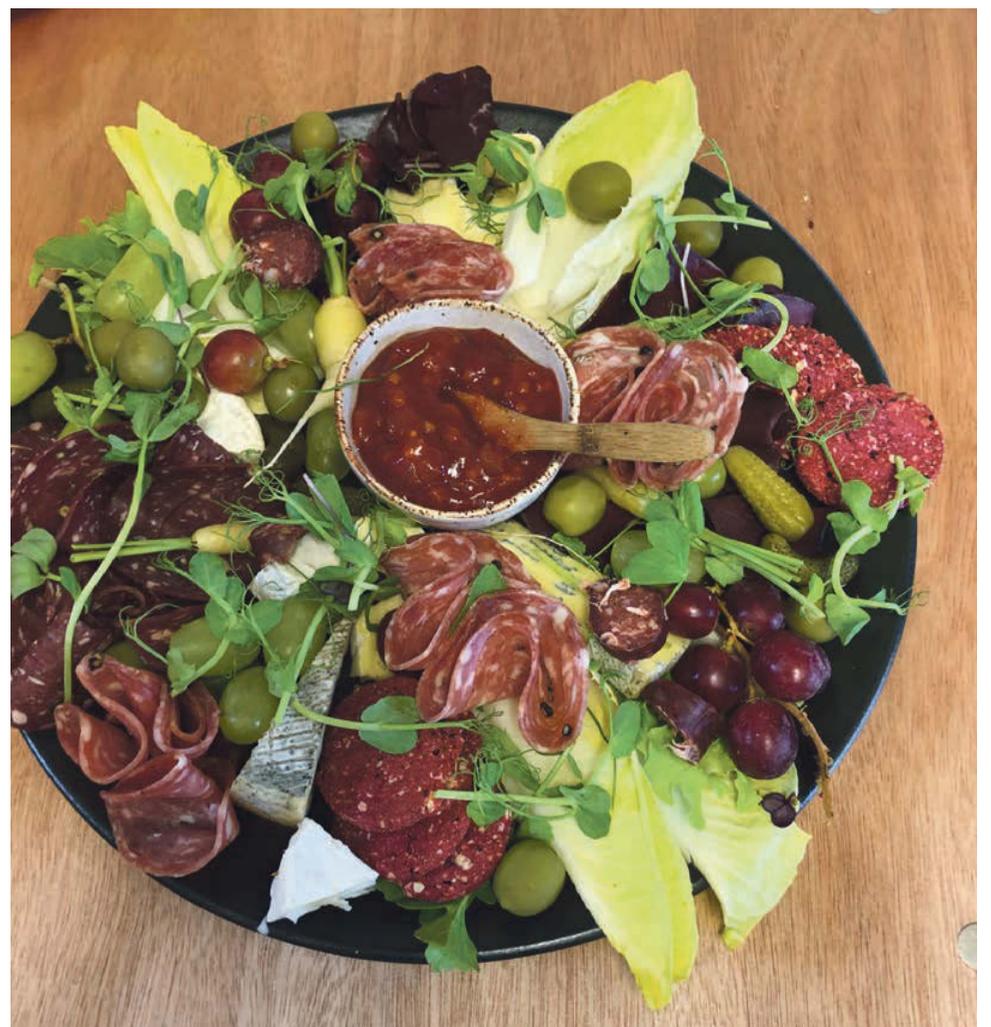
Enjoy our sourdough bread sourced from local artisanal bakery Doughies; try the yoghurt made by Angus' sister Jane Mackie at Rora Dairy; and finish your meal with an ice cream made using grass-fed milk and natural flavourings by the Wee Isle Dairy on the Isle of Gigha. Even our coffee is roasted in the Highlands by the team at Glen Lyon coffee.

The food and drink offerings at the Highland Cinema really are a family affair. Angus's brother Ian Peter MacDonald will be offering a range of beers from his award-winning Glen Spean Brewing, including Snowgoose lager on tap. The bar will also be stocked with other Scottish craft beers and will be showcasing local spirit distillers such as Pixel gin, Arisaig gin, Ben Nevis and Ardnamurchan whisky. A range of Scottish whiskies will be curated by the legendary Charlie MacLean.

Everyone is so excited by what they have created and cannot wait to share it with you and hope you will enjoy your cinema experience in one of the luxurious cinema seats. They are planning to show a range of films, from the latest blockbusters to Scottish classics and have commissioned a short film entitled 'Highlands from the Air' by Lochaber's John Sutherland. An excellent place to come for a drink, stay for a film and enjoy a meal.



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\*Available exclusively for local Lochaber residents from January 2021. To qualify, please bring proof of address when attending the Highland Cinema and present it to the cash desk attendant. You will then receive your membership card, giving you 30% off on tickets for 8 months per year.

# BUSINESS NEWS

Send us your business news by emailing  
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

## Lisa's new beer 'Heaven Cent'

A landmark hotel in the West Highlands is now one of the few places in Scotland where a newly-launched beer can be bought.

The four-star Bridge of Orchy Hotel, off the A82, has welcomed Heaven Cent – a 4.6 per cent India pale ale made by Lisa Matthews.

She is junior brewer at the independent, award-winning Scottish craft brewery Harviestoun, based in Alva, near Stirling, Clackmannanshire.

Launched during this year's Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight, it is the brewery's first new product of 2020 and Lisa's debut craft ale.

It is only available on draught from five selected bars and hotels around Scotland, including the Bridge of Orchy Hotel and Forth Inn at Aberfoyle, near Stirling.

Lisa launched her brewing career at Harviestoun Brewery in June 2018 after completing an MSc (Hons) in brewing and distilling at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

She said: 'After months of development with the team, I'm so excited we're able to launch Heaven Cent in time for Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight.'

'It's fantastic there are more women taking leading roles in the brewing industry and I'm proud to be part of that growing trend, along with my colleague Amy Cockburn, who is head brewer at Harviestoun.'

Heaven Cent takes its name and aroma from the 'centennial' hop and is described as



Lisa Matthews, creator of Heaven Cent. Photograph: Chris Watt

a 'perfectly balanced IPA with beautiful fruity aromas and a citrus tang'.

As a session IPA, the maltiness and bitterness

are said to be perfectly balanced with an initial citrus tang on the palate followed by clean, crisp, floral notes and a hint of spiciness.

## Island projects boosted by new £2m programme

A new £2million government programme aims to help communities on Scottish islands.

Funds have been set up to help with green projects including low carbon transport, food sustainability and zero waste.

Announced by the Scottish Government, they are designed to help support economic recovery after the coronavirus.

The Islands Green Recovery Programme was announced in the Programme for Government by the SNP. It is now open for applications and is managed by four partners. The Zero Waste Scotland fund will be in charge of £300,000 to introduce packaging free shops. The Energy Saving Trust fund will deliver £300,000 to support carbon neutral initiatives. The Inspiring Scotland fund will offer grants totalling £900,000 to support community recovery projects, while the Highlands and Islands Enterprise fund has been awarded £500,000 to support green economic recovery.

Part of the funding will be used to help independent food retailers and businesses introduce packaging-free shops and remove the need for disposable packaging.

Sustainable travel initiatives, climate change projects and projects to improve local supply chains can also apply for funding.

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, the Islands Minister, said: 'The Islands Green Recovery Programme will stimulate new economic activity across our islands, helping businesses recover from the impacts of the pandemic and creating new, quality jobs. We know being environmentally responsible and mitigating the effects of climate change can be more expensive for people living on our islands. This investment will also help reduce that financial burden.'

Celia Tennant, chief executive of Inspiring Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to support this programme which will contribute to the economic, environmental, and social well-being of island communities. We welcome the opportunity to fund and support locally-led green projects and look forward to working with businesses, sole traders, charities and community groups.'

## £1.2m to upgrade Argyll and Bute timber roads

Argyll and Bute Council has been awarded £1.2 million to help upgrade roads regularly used for timber extraction.

Argyll and Bute is home to nine forests covering thousands of hectares and the council applied to Scotland's Strategic Timber Transport Scheme.

The fund was established in 2005 and helps towards infrastructure improvements to minimise the 'social and environmental' impacts of

timber transport. Every year across Scotland, millions of tonnes of timber are transported across the country but it often relies on roads not designed for heavy traffic. It amounts to around 600,000 lorry movements transporting in the region of 7.5 million tonnes of sustainable timber from Scotland's forests to market, according to figures from 2017.

The council said the funding complements significant long-term capital investment made

over the last few years in roads surfacing and reconstruction. Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for housing, roads and infrastructure services, said: 'The additional funding from STTS is a welcome addition to our investment in roads capital works which, in recent years, has made an overall improvement in our network.'

In 2019-20 a total of £7 million was made available to support the TimberLINK shipping scheme and relevant projects through the STTS.

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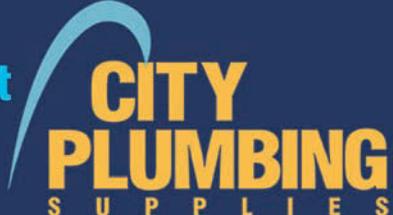
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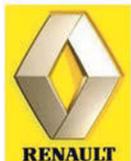
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# Coffee Morning is for everyone

**The official date for Coffee Morning is Friday 25 September, but you can hold yours whenever you like. Small or big, tea or coffee, socially distanced or virtual – Coffee Morning is what you make it!**

Macmillan Cancer Support is warning its flagship Coffee Morning — one of the UK’s longest-running fundraising events — is facing a staggering 71% income drop (£20m) as it urges the public to do whatever it takes to fund its vital support ahead of a possible ‘tsunami of demand’ this autumn.

The event is usually held at cafes, shops, schools, offices and hospitals around the UK every September, with an average of 200,000 people registering to take part. But this year, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Macmillan has changed the format for the first time in 30 years and is encouraging people to take part however suits them by:

- Hosting a socially distanced Coffee Morning safely from their doorstep
- Taking on an exciting new

**“We are going through one of the biggest crises in living memory and we want the public to know that the ‘new normal’ doesn’t mean that they can’t get involved with Coffee Morning this year.”**

- Setting up a virtual Coffee Morning online
  - Making a donation online and raising a mug with a selfie for people living with cancer
- Claire Rowney, Executive Director of Fundraising, Marketing and Communications at Macmillan Cancer Support, says: “We are going through one of the biggest crises in living memory and we want the public to know that the ‘new normal’ doesn’t mean that they can’t get involved with Coffee

challenge altogether, such as doing a sponsored run, walk or cycle

*more terrifying time in recent history to receive a diagnosis as people face potential disruption or delays to treatment, amid an increased risk of infection to the coronavirus.*

*“Coffee Morning has thrived for 30 years thanks to the enormous generosity of our supporters — and we need to act now to ensure it can continue to raise vital funds for people living with cancer for years to come.”* However you take part in Coffee Morning this year, you’ll be helping millions of people living with cancer, who need us to raise a mug more than ever. Sign up at [coffee.macmillan.org.uk](http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk)

*Morning this year. There are so many ways they can still show their support in whatever way they can and we’ve never needed their help more.*

*“Macmillan relies on donations to provide care and support for 1.9 million people affected by cancer every year — and sadly this support could be at risk without income from events like Coffee Morning. People with cancer need us more than ever. There has never been a*



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Isle of Eriska Hotel enjoys starring breakfast TV role

### Wild Waters of Callander revealed

Wild Waters of Callander will be revealed in an online lecture from TV presenter and avid outdoors swimmer Calum Maclean next month.

The free event, hosted by Callander's Landscape, a project focusing on improving access to natural and cultural heritage in the area, is on October 14 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Calum, who is also an ambassador for the Outdoor Swimming Society and a filmmaker, will take his audience on a tour of well-known swimming locations, some hidden gems around Callander, Gaelic tales of the land and the appeal of outdoor swimming. From swimming under the ice in Cairngorms, to enduring being eaten alive by midges, Calum showcases Scotland's outdoors in his unique style. His short films for BBC The Social have racked up millions of views and led to his own BBC ALBA series Dhan Uisge. Due to an overwhelming response to the event, online booking has been closed for the time being but more spaces will be made available from Monday October 5, say organisers. To find out more, contact [julie.wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:julie.wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

The talk has been funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

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



The Isle of Eriska Hotel and Spa near Oban has become a star of the small screen after appearing on Good Morning Britain and The Lorraine Show, hosted by TV personality Andi Peters.

The visit rounded off Andi's luxury tour of the West Highlands, where he tucked into a decadent Scottish breakfast, played a round of croquet and relaxed in the hotel grounds following his whirlwind adventure, which also took in Glenfinnan Viaduct and Tobermory.

Andi had the chance to speak with Claire Moreland, the hotel's assistant manager, who explained that the hotel championed local produce in

its award-winning restaurant and helped Andi pronounce some tricky Scottish place names including Ballachulish.

Norbert Lieder, managing director of Inverlochry Castle Management International, which oversees the management of the Isle of Eriska Hotel and Spa, said: 'We were so pleased to host Andi and the Good Morning Britain team at Eriska. Andi sampled some of the dishes from our Michelin-starred kitchen, as well as experiencing one of the exclusive hotel suites. It was so exciting to see the live broadcast showcasing the hotel and its extensive grounds, as well as the appearance from Claire.'

'We hope it's inspired people to come and explore Eriska and the surrounding area.'



TV presenter Andi Peters with Claire Moreland, Isle of Eriska hotel's assistant manager.

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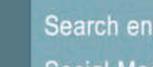
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Source: YouGov 2018

# Shinty music contest final shoot-out

Lochaber's Ewen Henderson, one of Scotland's finest musicians and composers, has won a unique competition held to mark the 200th anniversary of the Royal Celtic Society and the fact shinty has not been played this season.

Results of the final of the musical shoot-out were revealed at 2.15pm on Saturday afternoon – September 19 – at the precise moment shinty's Big Day Out, the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final, would have been throwing up in Kingussie had it not been for the Coronavirus pandemic.

Three of Scotland's oldest and most significant sporting and cultural bodies – the Royal Celtic Society, Glasgow Celtic Society and Camanachd Association – came together to offer a major set of prizes for an original musical competition marking the absence of shinty from this summer's sporting calendar and looking forward to the return of play.

Led by the Royal Celtic Society (RCS), which is this year celebrating its 200th anniversary, and in partnership with the Glasgow Celtic Society and shinty's governing body the Camanachd Association, supported by Tulloch Homes, the competition offered three prizes totalling £1,500 for an individual to compose an original competition.

Three finalists were chosen by a panel of judges after considerable and challenging assessment from an original entry list of more than 20.

Chairman of the judges Gary Innes revealed the results with Ewen Henderson in first place, Mary Ann Kennedy second and Chris Gray third.

Gary said: 'We are delighted with the response we got from a wide range of musicians who made the most of the opportunities we offered them to be creative and imaginative about the situation we find ourselves in.'

'It was very difficult for the judges to narrow it down, but we reduced the original 20-odd to five, then three and finally came to our decision.'

'Ewen's melody was key to his success but we cannot speak highly enough of the



Ewen Henderson's pipe tune won the unique competition.

effort everyone put into the competition.'

Ewen said: 'I've composed a pipe-style three-four march in three parts.'

'The first reflects shinty's proud history; the darker and repetitive second part symbolises lockdown and shinty's hiatus; the optimistic third part looks to the future and shinty's revival.'

'Unique to Scotland, three-four marches are a much underrated and neglected part of our musical heritage in the same way shinty is sometimes overlooked in the wider sphere of Scottish sport.'

'Also, many of the best of these marches were composed by army pipers in the war years – an appropriate nod to the only other times shinty seasons have been cancelled.'

Prizes for the competition

were supported by The Royal Celtic Society, Glasgow Celtic Society and the Camanachd Association supported by Tulloch Homes.

The winner received £750, second place £500 and third place £250.

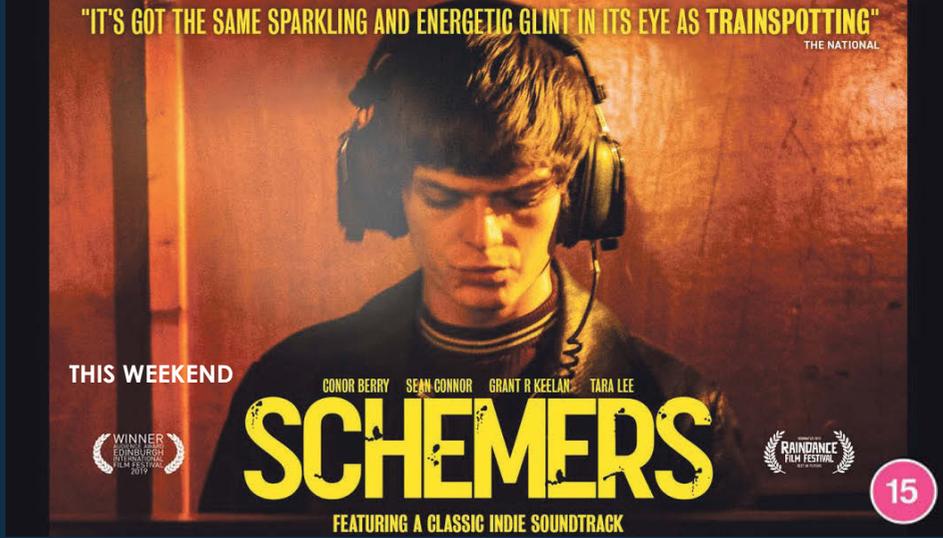
The selection panel was led by award-winning musician Gary Innes of Mánran, the BBC Scotland Take the Floor presenter and former shinty captain of Scotland.

Gary was joined on the panel by RCS chairman Alan Hay, Angus MacInnes of the Glasgow Celtic Society and Claire Delaney of Lochaber Camanachd, representing the Camanachd Association.

The three prizewinners and the competition video can be accessed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Qh3m1EaMyF4>

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<b>FRIDAY 25 SEP</b>	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:45
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	19:30
<b>SATURDAY 26 SEP</b>	Trolls World Tour   U	13:30
	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:00
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	18:30
<b>SUNDAY 27 SEP</b>	Trolls World Tour   U	13:30
	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:00
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	18:30
<b>MONDAY 28 SEP</b>	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:45
	Schemers   15	18:00
	David Attenborough: Life on our Planet AT CAPACITY	19:30
WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING AN ENCORE SCREENING FOR OCTOBER		
<b>TUESDAY 29 SEP</b>	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:45
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	19:30
<b>WEDNESDAY 30 SEP</b>	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:45
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	19:30
<b>THURSDAY 1 OCT</b>	Bill & Ted Face The Music   PG	16:45
	The New Mutants   15	18:00
	Schemers   15	19:30



**BILL & TED FACE THE MUSIC**  
The stakes are higher than ever for the time-traveling exploits of William "Bill" S. Preston Esq. and Theodore "Ted" Logan. Yet to fulfill their rock and roll destiny, the now middle aged best friends set out on a new adventure when a visitor from the future warns them that only their song can save life as we know it. Along the way, they will be helped by their daughters, a new batch of historical figures, and a few music legends - to seek the song that will set their world right and bring harmony in the universe.



**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 once seated 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.bffc.co.uk](http://www.bffc.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

# Tree festival celebrates the colours of autumn

From towering pines to ancient oaks, Scotland is home to remarkable woodland and from September 28 until December 1 the Scottish Tree Festival will be celebrating this living heritage in all its autumn colours.



Armadale Castle lawn. Photograph: Simon Larson.

Organisers Discover Scottish Gardens have lined up more than 40 live and virtual events, many of them across the Highlands, that will give locals and visitors a chance to get closer to nature's giants.

At Armadale Castle on Skye, garden consultant Andrew Peters will be leading tours of the estate's magnificent trees; at Gordon Castle in Fochabers there will be real and virtual tours of the fruit trees in the walled garden and of trees with royal connections; Munro's Nurseries in North Kessock will be offering advice on heritage fruit trees, while visitors to Attadale Gardens will be able to explore woodlands set against the stunning backdrop of Loch Carron.

Elsewhere in the country, festival-goers will have 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.

**Tours**  
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 century planted 27 million trees at the very heart of Scotland.

From real life encounters with Rexy, the willow dinosaur at Logan Botanic Garden in Dumfries and Galloway, to virtual tours of Little Sparta in Dunsyre and fairies in New Hopetoun woods, there's something for everyone, from art lovers to children.

Giant redwoods await visitors to Cluny House Garden near Aberfeldy and Benmore Botanic Garden in Argyll, while at Cambo in Fife there will be wood-fired feasts beneath trees festooned with twinkling lights.

The world-renowned arboretum at Dawyck Botanic Garden near Stobo will be in full autumn regalia during the festival, perfect for forest bathing, while in the heart of the capital, many of the trees that grow at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh are waiting to be hugged.

Catherine Erskine, chairwoman 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.'

A full list of events is available from [discoverscottishgardens.org/tree-festival](http://discoverscottishgardens.org/tree-festival)

**CROSSWORD**

- Across**
- 7 Study (4,2)
  - 8 Of service (6)
  - 9 Social slight (4)
  - 10 Remain (4,4)
  - 11 Amazing adventure (7)
  - 13 Third rock from the sun (5)
  - 15 An Arabic dialect (5)
  - 17 Mastermind (7)
  - 20 Intellectuals (8)
  - 21 Pigeon's home (4)
  - 22 Make a mistake on stage (6)
  - 23 Total (6)
- Down**
- 1 Having antlers (6)
  - 2 Pavement edge (4)
  - 3 Used (7)
  - 4 Drink heartily (5)
  - 5 View (8)
  - 6 Patron (6)
  - 12 Succession (8)
  - 14 Wave function of an electron in an atom (7)
  - 16 Small dried fruit (6)
  - 18 Day away (6)
  - 19 Stationed (5)
  - 21 Prepare (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

## All aboard museum's new online workshops

The Scottish Maritime Museum has received funding from Maths Week Scotland to offer five additional free places to the first primary schools to book onto the new Ship to Shore Online Learning Workshops.

The free places are available to primary schools booking places during maths week which runs from Monday September 28 to Sunday October 4, or the week following.

The workshops centre on the Scottish Maritime Museum's most popular Curriculum for Excellence linked science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities.

The workshops comprise two live links between the education team at the museum and school as well as a digital resource pack full of support information, activities and challenges.

Schools can choose from topics and activities including the life of Scotland's lifeline Puffer boats, buoyancy and Archimedes' 'Eureka' moment, the design of the Titanic and sending 'socially distanced' Morse Code messages to classmates.

During the second live link, activities include an 'unboxing' of artefacts from the museum's national maritime heritage collection.

All workshops include an activity linked to the Scottish Maritime Museum's new national art collection.

Claire Munro, learning and access officer at the Scottish Maritime Museum, explained: 'Maths is integral to our everyday lives

and, of course, key to shipbuilding design, engineering and construction.

'Taking part in our new online programme, pupils of all ages can get curious, creative and inspired by our nationally recognised collection of maritime heritage. They can discover all about the maths making it possible to move from invention to construction through to the engineering, science and technology involved.'

For younger schoolchildren, Ship to Shore Workshops include Ship Shape Science, looking at the principles behind floating and sinking, balance and friction when designing a ship. In Katie's Island Adventures schoolchildren can explore the life of cargo puffers and their importance to Scottish island communities.

Older primary schoolchildren can enjoy Buoyant Adventures discovering Archimedes' 'Eureka' moment and learn how boats float. With Investigating Titanic, they can problem solve using Morse Code, look at the design of the Titanic and lifesaving at sea.

The Scottish Maritime Museum is accepting bookings now. As funding for the free places is for a fixed amount and therefore offered on a 'first come, first served' basis, schools are urged to get in touch as soon as they can.

To book, or for more information, teachers can call the Scottish Maritime Museum on 01294 278283 or email [education@scotmaritime.org.uk](mailto:education@scotmaritime.org.uk)

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## Teenagers' c...

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# Robert in lockdown!

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robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Tional fest sees 20,000-plus online

Hands Up For Trad's virtual Gaelic festival, Tional was a resounding success last weekend.

Its first day attracted more than 11,000 views – with well above 20,000 views over the course of the weekend.

It was conducted almost entirely in Gaelic with the stated aim of the festival being 'to encourage speakers and learners to use and celebrate Gaelic language and culture'.

## Devil's Interval manifests

In an unlikely turn of events, this column is now about to take a much darker, macabre turn.

Have you ever heard of a musical phenomenon known as the devil's interval?

Neither had I until last week when I had an other-worldly experience.

The producer of the BBC Alba series I have been working on brought the devil's interval to my attention in casual conversation.

It is a tritone (three adjacent whole tones) that is common in Blues music and was banned from Hymn music by the Catholic Church in generations gone by because it was



Tional online festival saw 11,000 views in the first day alone.

believed to summon the devil.

Cue the rise of Heavy Metal which, as you would expect, played massively on the paranormal mystery surrounding the three notes.

As you can probably tell, I'm not particularly well versed on Heavy Metal; but I was told to listen in particular to the opening track of a Black Sabbath album which begins with the notes played on the electric guitar accompanied only by sound effects of lightning, wind, and rain.

I decided not to play this track whilst alone in the flat at night and waited, instead, until I was out on a nice day.

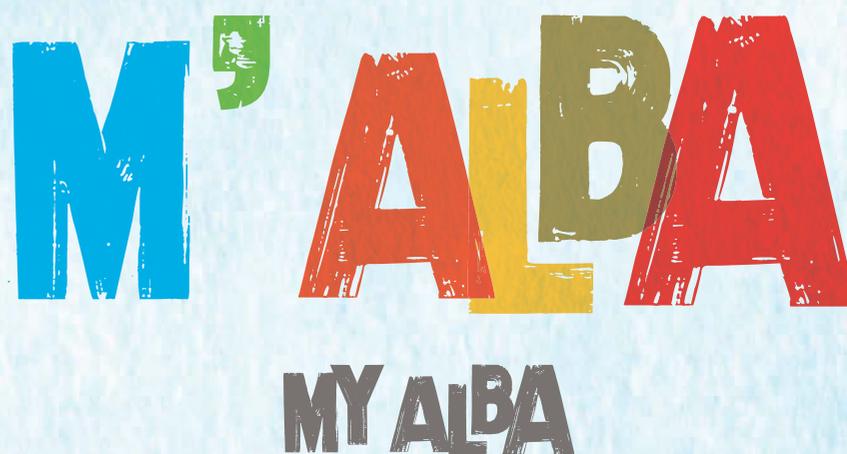
The ideal moment came when I was sitting in my car waiting for a pal to arrive in the car park of Milngavie golf club for a round. What could be less devilish than that?!

I played the track through

my car's speakers and, true enough, the devil's interval rang out – sending a chill down my spine. At this point, without a word of a lie, I felt a strange bump against the back of my car and the whole car started to shake. Looking in my mirrors, half expecting to see Old Nick himself, I saw nothing; yet the car was continuing to move violently.

Next thing I knew there was a 'bang!' on my passenger window. I literally screamed in fright as I turned to find a lovely, playful golden Labrador, with both paws up against my window.

From the path that begins the West Highland Way, an apologetic lady came running up behind the dog and took it away – oblivious to the possibility that she was out stretching her legs with Satan incarnated as a golden lab!



### 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 - Slighean Trailleachd (Slavery Routes)
- 23.20 Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 23.30 Bannan S7 (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 25 an t-Sultain

#### FRIDAY 25 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 ÙR/NEW: The Optimists
- 22.50 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)
- 23.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 26 an t-Sultain

#### SATURDAY 26 September

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – News
- 18.00 NEW Scottish Premiership – Hamilton v Dundee United
- 19.45 Sgeul Slainte (rpt)
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)

- 22.00 Slighean Trailleachd (Slavery Routes) (rpt)
- 22.50 Binneas Na Trads (rpt)
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership – Hamilton v Dundee United (rpt)
- 00.45 Belladrum 2016 – Cridhe Tartan – Alabama 3 (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 27 an t-Sultain

#### SUNDAY 27 September

- 16.05 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – News
- 18.30 Seachd La – News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 20.00 Sgoil nan Sagart (rpt)
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt)
- 21.00 An Drochaid/The Bridge Rising (rpt)
- 22.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)
- 23.00 The Optimists (rpt)
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge (Gaylet Pot) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 28 an t-Sultain

#### MONDAY 28 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 Niteworks: Baile air Bhoil (rpt)
- 22.30 Sar-Sgeoil – The Cone Gatherers (rpt)
- 23.30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 29 an t-Sultain

#### TUESDAY 29 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 Call air Cladach Ile (The Loss on Islay's Shore) (rpt)
- 22.00 Abair Trusadh (rpt)
- 22.30 Bus Glaschu (rpt)
- 23.00 Fonn mo Bheatha (rpt)
- 23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 30 an t-Sultain

#### WEDNESDAY 30 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 Sar-Sgeoil – Consider the Lilies (rpt)
- 22.00 Bannan S7 (rpt)
- 22.30 Niteworks: Baile air Bhoil (rpt)
- 23.00 The Brew Dog Story (Na Grudairean) (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 1 an Dàmhair

#### THURSDAY 1 October

- 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 NEW An Taistealaiche / The Far Traveller
- 22.00 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)
- 22.30 NEW - Slighean Trailleachd (Slavery Routes)
- 23.25 Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 23.30 Bannan S7 (rpt)

# Chance to get creative with film



Screen Argyll is excited to be running a BFI Film Academy course again this year.

In line with Covid guidance, this year's course will be run online during the October holidays, from Monday October 5 to Saturday October 10, followed by weekly online tutorials and a film screening at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Organisers are thrilled to be bringing this amazing opportunity for 16-19-year-olds to young people across Argyll and the Highlands and Islands. It is a great chance for creative teens or those curious about a career in the film industry.

During this professional online course they will work together to watch, experiment, create and learn more about animation and film in a variety of forms.

This intensive programme includes hands-on film-

making workshops where participants will be given the tools needed to develop an idea from rough sketch to big screen.

The course will give them the opportunity to work online with professional animators and film makers and skills covered include script writing, model making, animation, video editing, lighting for camera and sound design.

They will use these new skills to create their own animations which they will present at a screening event, which they create and co-ordinate. It offers participants the support to work towards an Arts Award qualification and the opportunity to submit their films into a variety of festivals.

Confirmed practitioners include:

■ Jim Parkyn from

Aardman Animations;

■ Selina Wagner, an award winning animator and director specialising in storytelling, design and animation;

■ Oscar and BAFTA nominated Barry Purves, who has been involved with animation and theatre and writing for more than 40 years, working on such TV shows as Wind in the Willows and feature films including Tim Burton's Mars Attacks;

■ Sara Harkins, who has worked in the industry for 30 years, working as a freelancer then at the BBC, primarily in drama and children's projects;

■ Alasdair Satchel, a lead practitioner with Scottish Screen and a fluent Gaelic speaker;

■ Jack Lockhart, a visual artist and film maker who works with video and animation and has many years' teaching experience.



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# favourite.

**Aulay Dunn, a loyal publican, now in his 37th year behind the bar in Oban town centre, has encouraged people to support their local pub.**

Aulay employs eight people and said the majority of regulars had loyally returned and adjusted to the new restrictions after 3 months of lockdown.

'It's good to be open again and nice to see all our clients coming back after being in lockdown for quite a while,' he said.

Aulay runs the business with wife Mary and said capacity inside the pub had naturally reduced due to the restrictions.

To help meet government guidelines, they have a new cleaning regime, a one-way entry system through the lounge with the exit via its public bar. It is table service only so no queuing, sitting or standing at the bar for the time being, and the new regime means people have to sign in on entry. To help with Scotland's Track and Trace project, customers must leave a contact name, address and number, and the date and time they entered.

Aulay said: 'Our customers are understanding of the laws laid down to us.' Bar meals have been suspended but Aulay said they may return if circumstances allow.

Fans of live sports are still well-catered for and it has a large selection of traditional ales and lagers, and an extensive range of different malts.

Opening hours are 11am until 12.30am throughout the week, and 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.



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## Around the markets

**United Auctions, Dalmally, Saturday September 19:** sold 3,591 sheep of all classes; 2,575 lambs averaged £51.12 (+£14.16). The 1,666 BF lambs averaged £47.83. An increased entry on the year sold well despite the entry of lambs being of smaller sorts. Averages on the year rose in line with other principal centres and all consignors were satisfied with their returns on the day.

### Leading prices per head:

Lambs - BF - £63.00, Stronmagachan; £62.00, Littleport; £60.50, Inchgarth; £60.00, Auchreoch; £58.50, Blarghour; £58.50, Achnaba; £58.00, Bragleenbeg; £57.50, Benmore; £55.50, Glenfalloch; £53.50, Barachander; £53.00, Eden Taggart; £52.00, Blarghour; £51.50, Dunans; £51.00, Auchreoch; £51.00, Doune of Glendouglas; £50.50, Couston; £50.00, Meallagie; £50.00, Eurach; £50.00, Bragleenbeg. SuffX - £72.50, Auchnashul; £68.50, Fasgadh; £61.00, Blarmafoldach. LleyX - £62.50, Blarghour. BeltX - £67.50, £64.50, Blarghour. TexX - £86.00, Tullochcan; £83.00, Craigmormore; £76.50, Stronmagachan; £76.00, Keilbeg; £73.00, Slatich; £69.00, Tullochcan; £68.00, Craigmormore. Chev - £78.00, £66.50, Inchgarth; £64.00, Slatich; £63.50, Glenshero; £62.00, Inverlair. Cross - £66.50, Blarghour; £66.00, Auchreoch; £62.00, Brenchoille; £62.00, Ardsheal;

£61.00, Brackley; £61.00, Eurach; £60.00, Brackley. Swa - £60.00, £54.00, Achalic.

Feeding Ewes - TexX - £57.50, Keilbeg. Chev - £58.00, Ardsheal; £51.00, Lochdochart. Cross - £58.00, Greenfield; £50.00, Tombuie; £46.00, Craigmormore; £45.00, Glenshero. BF - £52.50, Clachan Farms; £49.50, Barachander; £49.00, Scallasaig; £40.00, Garrogie; £40.00, Eurach.

### Leading prices per kilo:

Lambs - BF - 208p, 196p, Littleport; 189p, Eden Taggart; 188p, Inchgarth; 187p, Blarghour; 186p, Brackley; 186p, Scallasaig; 186p, Blarghour; 186p, Inchgarth. SuffX - 239p, Ardsheal; 204p, Achnacone. LleyX - 208p, Blarghour. BeltX - 227p, 216p, Blarghour. TexX - 205p, 204p, Craigmormore; 203p, Bragleenmore; 203p, Slatich; 202p, Blarmaoldach; 200p, Garrogie Estate. Chev - 223p, Slatich; 218p, Inverlair; 211p, Dunans; 211p, Auchnashul; 211p, Ardsheal; 205p, Fasgadh; 205p, Inchgarth; 203p, Lochdochart; 202p, Glenshero; 201p, Inverlair; 200p, Lochdochart.

Cross - 227p, Brackley; 225p, Fasgadh; 217p, 216p, Balnahard; 215p, 214p, Brackley; 212p, Ardsheal; 208p, Garrogie; 207p, Brackley; 206p, Scallasaig; 200p, Brackley; 200p, Bragleenmore.

**Dingwall and Highland Marts Limited, Fort William, Saturday September 19:** sold 365 weaned calves and store cattle, 16 OTM cattle and five adult head of

breeding cattle. Bulls (205) averaged 268.4p (+48.1p on the year) and sold to 352.9p per kg for a 170kg Limousin cross from 5 Burnside, Argyll, and £945 gross for a pen of 410kg Limousin crosses from Lurignish Farm, Appin.

Heifers (160) averaged 257.9p (+67.0p on the year) and sold to 300.0p per kg for a pair of 205kg Simmental crosses from Burnside, Isle of Mull, and £950 gross for a 425kg Limousin cross from Lurignish Farm.

Breeding cattle (five) sold to £1,200 gross for a Hereford bull from Ardtornish Farms, Morven.

OTM cattle (16) sold to 127.8p per kg and £1,010 gross for an Aberdeen Angus cross from National Trust, Isle of Canna.

All classes realised a substantial rise on the year.

### Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bulls (200-250kg) - Myrtle Moss Croft, Strontian, £710, Dalilea, Acharacle, 333.3p; 251-300kg - Ardtornish Farms, £830, Fersit, Roy Bridge, 294.1p; 301-350kg - Moy Farm, Banavie, £845, Fersit, 262.3p; 351-400kg - Balmaglasser, Spean Bridge, £930, 232.5p; 401kg and over - Isle of Canna, £920, Lurignish, 230.5p. Heifers (200-250kg) - Fersit, £710, 295.8p; 251-300kg - Lundavra, Fort William, £710, Moy Farm, 262.5p; 301-350kg - Lurignish, £890, 254.3p; 351-400kg - Moy Farm, £900, Lurignish, 213.7p; 401-450kg - Lurignish, £920, 223.5p.

**United Auctions, Lochboisdale,**

**Wednesday September 16:** sold 2,257 sheep of all classes. Lambs (1796) averaged £52.56 (+£12.05).

This second sale also had an increased entry on the year. The majority of lambs on offer were second and third draws which sold well and in keeping with current mainland levels.

### Leading Prices:

Lambs - SuffX - £77.00, Truimsгарry; £75.00, 6 Rhuban; £72.00, Drimore; £70.50, 12 Locheport; £70.00, Truimsгарry; £70.00, 249 Daliburgh. TexX - £84.00, 1 Balivanich; £84.00, 90/110 Borve; £79.00, Drimore; £76.00, 340 North Boisdale; £74.00, 28 Griminish; £72.00, £71.00, 90/110 Borve; £71.00, 20 West Gerinish; £70.00, 49 Balgarva; £70.00, 8 West Kilbride; £70.00, 11A East Gerinish; £70.00, 20 West Gerinish; £70.00, 44 Linique.

LleyX - £64.50, 8 Milton.

ChaX - £61.50, 325 North Boisdale. Chev - £78.00, 49 Balgarva; £74.00, 3 South Locheynort; £72.00, 1 Airidhmhullin; £72.00, Ardkenneth; £69.00, 8 Peninerine; £67.00, 28 Griminish; £66.00, 261 Daliburgh; £66.00, £65.00, 1 Airidhmhullin; £65.00, Truimsгарry. Cross - £75.00, 1 Balivanich; £73.00, Drimore; £71.00, 6 Rhuban; £68.50, 7 Frobost; £68.00, 1 Balivanich; £63.00, 49 Balgarva; £61.50, 7 Frobost; £61.00, Ardkenneth; £61.00, 6 Newton Ferry. Mule - £77.00, £61.50; 90/110 Borve. HampX - £72.50, Doon. BF - £78.00, 388 Garrynamonie; £63.00, 4 Kilerivagh.

Rams - Suff - £280, £160, 6 Dunganichy. Tex - £150, 2 Grimsay

Island. Chev - £160, 3 Nunton; £145, Corunna. Ewes - SuffX - £74.00, 414 Smerclate. TexX - £76.00, 383 Garrynamonie; £70.00, 379A Garrynamonie; £68.00, 340 North Boisdale. Chev - £72.00, 7 Ormiclate. Cross - £68.00, 414 Smerclate; £64.00, Truimsгарry. BF - £72.00, £62.00, 2/3 Rarnish.

### Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, Portree, Saturday September 16

sold 1,415 weaned calves and store cattle at its annual district ballot sale.

Bulls (834) averaged 285.5p (+64.6p on the year), and sold to 448.3p per kg for a 145kg Limousin cross from 1 and 2 Conon, Uig, and £1,110 gross for a 615kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 3 Kilmuir, Dunvegan.

Heifers (575) averaged 266.5p (+65.1p on the year) and sold to 405.7p per kg for a 212kg Limousin cross from Ose Farm, Struan, and £1,300 gross for a 645kg Limousin cross from Meadle, Struan.

Young Bulls (six) sold to 326.3p per kg for a 190kg Limousin cross from Gesto Farm, Struan, and £900 gross for a 515kg Simmental cross from Upper Duntulm, Kilmuir.

### Dingwall and Highland Marts Limited

held its annual Portree calf sale within Dingwall auction mart with all calves travelling and presented well and witnessing an extreme trade for all classes.

As this was a major undertaking Dingwall mart wishes to thank its Skye customers and George Campbell Haulage for a smooth

operation.

### Leading prices per head and per kg:

Bulls up to 250kg - 15 Glenconon, Uig, £875; 4 Torvaig, Portree, £865; Leabost, Portree £830; 12 Glenconon, Uig, £800; Corriebheinn Farms, Achachork, 423.1p; 251-300kg - Tote House, Skeabost, £920; 15 Glenconon, £900; 1 and 8 Drynoch, Carbost, £900; 11 Drinan, Elgol, £880; 1 and 8 Drynoch, 333.3p; 301-350kg - Meadle, £935; 4 and 5 Totescore, £930; 5 Portnalong, £930; Leabost, £905; Leabost, 295.8p; 351-400kg - 4 and 5 Totescore, and ½ of 6 Linicro, Portree, £980; Leabost, £930; 8 Torvaig, Portree, £910; Upper Duntulm, £900; Leabost, 258.3p; 401-450kg - 15 Glenconon, £1,070; 4 Sattle, Staffin, £1,020; 10 Achachork, Portree, £1,000; 4 and 5 Totescore, £980; 15 Glenconon, 243.3p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Ose Farm, £860; 3 Ardmore, Waterish, £790; Monkstadt, Kilmuir, £760; 5 Satran, Carbost, £750; Ose Farm, 388.9p; 251-300kg - Leabost, £840; Gesto, £830; Train Croft, £800; Braebost Farm, Portree, £790; Trien Croft, Carbost, 313.7p; 301-350kg - Trien Croft, £900; 12 Portnalong, Carbost, £850; 3 Ardmore, £840; 15 Glenconon, £840; Trein Croft, 276.9p; 351-400kg - 15 Glenconon, £900, 4 and 5 Totescore, £890; Corriebheinn Farms, £860; Waterish Farms, Waterish, £850; 15 Glenconon, 233.3p.

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# Farmers encouraged to focus on nature

A ground-breaking new project, encouraging farmers to manage flower-rich meadows, help vulnerable populations of wading birds thrive and restore peatlands has the potential to replace EU schemes.

The pilot, which launches this month, is led by NatureScot on behalf of the Scottish Government.

A successful first phase, completed in spring this year, consulted with more than 60 farmers and crofters across Scotland, in Argyll, East Lothian, Shetland, Skye, Strathspey and the Outer Hebrides.

Participating farmer Jim Simmons of Ruthven farm near Tomintoul said: 'Having the opportunity to be involved in this new points-based, agri-environment scheme



Farmers in Argyll try a scorecard which rewards species composition and structure of grassland. Photograph: NatureScot

from the start has been a step forward. This project brought together a group of like-minded practical farming folk who have had the chance

to give input from the start to help create a scheme which is practical and likely to achieve its aims, while continuing to allow productive farming. In

the past, schemes have sometimes been too prescriptive, not allowing flexibility, for example, for differences in geographical areas and the timing of seasons.'

Now ready to run up to 2023, and with an initial development phase spend of £150,000, the project will see participants paid for the results they achieve through managing nature rich areas on dairy farms in south west Scotland; developing flower rich habitats in Argyll and Skye and managing habitat for wading birds in Strathspey.

The aim is to develop a tried-and-tested approach that can become an important part of future rural support beyond 2024.

Claudia Rowse, NatureScot's head of natural resources, ex-

plained: 'With more flexibility than traditional environmental support schemes, this exciting project has the potential to transform rural payments.'

'Farmers decide how to achieve a positive environmental result on their land and their fields' environmental quality is scored. The more the land supports nature, the higher the score and consequently the higher the payment.'

'Farmers know best how to improve nature on their farms and we want to help build on their knowledge and expertise. Investing in nature is one of the most cost effective ways of making our communities sustainable and more resilient.'

'As lockdown lifts, farmers across Scotland have a vital role to play in a green recovery that puts nature and nature-based

solutions at the heart of rebuilding our economy.'

Martin Kennedy, vice president of the National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS), added: 'At NFUS we believe in farming that supports a healthy environment for the next generation and in a way that integrates food production alongside biodiversity and climate change. Higher payments for delivering greater environmental outcomes is a sensible approach as long as the farmer has control over the result.'

The launch comes in the month Scottish Natural Heritage became NatureScot as part of its drive to adapt the organisation to meet current environment challenges and deliver the change needed to secure a nature rich future.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## 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
20/01357/PP	Alterations and extension	Kingdom Hall, Etive Road, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1QF
20/01221/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 17.5 metre high lattice tower and associated works including formation of access	Land North East Of Gallanach Farm, Isle Of Coll, Argyll And Bute
20/01465/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Ach Na Caoraich, Lerags, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01502/PP	Erection of 4 self catering units and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land South Of Pine View Lodge Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01323/PP	Improvements to footpath within woodland	Dunollie Estate Woodland, Ganavan Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01188/PP	Erection of poly tunnel to be used for the evaporation process in the production of sea salt	Land North East Of Ardmore, Port Wemyss, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

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

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



## Argyll and Bute Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

#### ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, TOBERMORY) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2020

On Monday 21st September 2020, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period a no waiting at any time restriction will be in place on the B8073 across Eas Bridge, the entire length of the A848 Eas Brae, sections of the A848 Main Street (where it is inappropriate to park) and Ledaig Branch Road. There will also be controlled designated parking places on Main Street which are restricted for the parking of motor cars and motorcycles only. The existing bus stop, disabled bays and the taxi parking bay will remain in place.

Parking bays may be suspended from use around the entrances of selected premises, to allow areas for social distancing measures to be adhered to.

The restrictions, which are required because of the likelihood of danger to the public will be in operation when indicated by signs, from 0001 hours on 28th August 2020 until 2359 hours on the 28th March 2022 or until such time that the restrictions are no longer required or a permanent Order supersedes.

Full details of the restrictions are contained within the Order which can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders)

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

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

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

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### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
20/03233/FUL	Acarsaid Achintore Road, Fort William		Erection of extension and installation of new roof lights
20/03513/FUL	Land 210M SW Of Ceithir Raithean Morar		Relocation of laundry to avoid trees; 2 x additional lodges; increased soakaway areas
20/03177/FUL	Land 20M South of MacLean House Victoria Road, Fort William		Erection of house
20/03538/PIP	Plot East Of Cuil Cottage, Duror		Erection of house (renewal of 17/05814/PIP)
20/03104/FUL	61 High Street Fort William		Change of use from class 1 to class 3 with hot food takeaway
20/03494/LBC	The Gate Lodge Glencoe, Ballachulish		Refurbishment and erection of extension to house (amended design to 19/02091/LBC)
20/03492/FUL	Land 80M South West Of Heatherbank, Strontian, Acharacle		Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days & 21 days for 20/03494/LBC  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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Visit [www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies) for full details and application form.

Closing Date **1st October**.

### First Registration of a Croft

Thomas Robertson has registered his croft, Croft 7 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie Parish 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 14th May 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 C7108



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birthday  
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from all the  
family xxx



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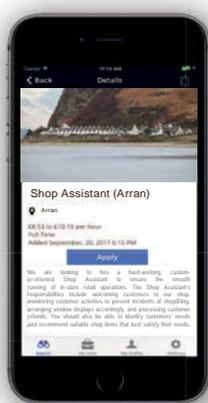
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## DEATHS

**KELLY** - Peacefully at Etive House Care Home, Benderloch in his 85th year, Michael Kelly (formerly of Bonawe), beloved husband of the late Catherine (née MacPhee), a dear father to Karen and John, much loved Granda of Alistair, Naomi and Calum. A special and dearest friend of Janet, much loved brother, brother-in-law, father-in-law, uncle and a friend to many. Will live long in all our hearts.

**McVEY** - Elizabeth June McVey (formerly of Fort William) passed away at Yeovil District Hospital, Somerset on September 2, 2020 surrounded by family. June was a loving Mum to Christine and Ronnie, proud grandmother of Storm and Red, big sister to Carol, mother-in-law to Simon and Megan and beloved partner of John. A private service arranged by St Margaret's Hospice will take place at Sedgemoor Crematorium, Somerset on

September 25 at 9.30 a.m., and she will later come home to Scotland. Family flowers only. Donations gratefully received for St Margaret's Hospice [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christine-ronnie-john](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christine-ronnie-john) and British Heart Foundation [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christine-learnmouth](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/christine-learnmouth)

**STEWART** - Irene Stewart (Rene) of Greenbank, Edinburgh and Kinlocheil, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2020 in Murrayfield House Care Home. Due to current circumstances a small private funeral will be held on October 3, 2020. Should anyone be unable to attend wish a copy of either the eulogy or the order of service then please let the family know. Rene was a unique lady and will be missed by many. As a force of nature her spirit will never be forgotten. Donations to Mary's Meals if desired. No flowers.

**TAYLOR** - Peacefully at home on Sunday, September 20, 2020,

Moira Galbraith Taylor, aged 75 years. A much loved wife to John. Loving Mum of John and Suzanne and Grandmother to Abi. Our grateful thanks to the NHS nurses for their care and support. A private funeral service with thanks to Hamish Hoey & Son will be held at Balvicar Graveyard on Thursday, October 1 at 1pm. Always Loved - Forever Missed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**DAVIES** - Jean and the family of the late Geraint Davies would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, flowers, baking and phone calls following the loss of Ger. A special mention of thanks to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and Ashgrove Nursing Home, Dunoon. Thank you to Ian of D & A Munn for his kindness and sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements. Thank you to Rev Tom Telfer for his comforting graveside service. Thank you to Lynette from

Petals for the beautiful flowers. Gorffwys mewn Heddwch Ger.

**MACKAY** - Maureen, Jimmy, Kirsteen, Ailsa and families of George would like to thank all of his friends, family and neighbours for all their kindness shown to George always and since his passing. Special thanks to Ian and all at Munn's for their above and beyond service. To Rev Dugald Cameron for his words of comfort at the graveside. God Bless.

**MACVEAN** - After the sad loss of Alasdair, his family thank all the staff at the Mid Argyll Community Hospital, the Beatson and The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Thanks also to the Mid-Argyll Transport Volunteers for the invaluable service provided. Thanks to all family and friends for their cards, phone calls and last respects on the day of the service. Special thanks to Rev. Hilda Smith, all at Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors, to Morna for the floral tributes and Kilmartin Hotel for the

purvey. Donations in memory of Alasdair for Alzheimer Scotland and Cancer Research U.K. raised £440.00.

## MEMORIALS

**BLACK** - In loving memory of my dear husband Hughie, who passed away on September 21, 2017.

Always in my thoughts.  
- Helen.

**ELDER** - In loving memory of Alasdair John, dearly beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle who died on September 30, 2018.

Always remembered.  
Gu Brath Nar Cridheachan.  
- David, Beverly and family.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Neil. In loving memory of my darling husband, best friend and the most amazing dad, who sadly passed away on September 26, 2019.

We love and miss you more, with each passing day  
Since you were so cruelly taken away  
But the memories we have and the love that we share

Makes each day without you a little easier to bear!

Always in our thoughts  
Forever in our hearts  
- Gillian, Craig, Katie, Abi and Ben xxxxx

**MACCORQUODALE** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother, Neil who died September 26, 2019.

Every day in some small way  
Memories of you come our way  
Though absent, you are always near  
Still missed, much loved and very dear.

Forever in our hearts and never far from our thoughts.  
- Dad, Alison, Kirstene and Sandy.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Remembering with love Neil, taken from us so tragically on September 26, 2019, a son-in-law so special.

- Wylie and Sandra.  
**MACCORQUODALE** - In memory of Neil a much loved uncle and brother-in-law. Always in our thoughts.  
- Grant and Gordon Gilmour and family.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## MEMORIALS

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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**MACCUISH** - In memory of Bobby, who passed away September 17, 2006, a much loved son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

You are always in our thoughts.  
- From your loving family.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of my wife Betty, who died September 25, 2012.

Love Jim xx

**McLENNAN** - Treasured memories of our parents Alex, who passed away on August 28, 1999 and Flora, on September 25, 1996.

Always loved, never forgotten.  
- Love Elsie, Margaret and families.

**RAMSAY** - In loving memory of our mum, mother-in-law and nana Janette, who died September 24, 2015.

And also our dad, father-in-law and papa Jimmy, who passed away June 12, 1990.

Loved and remembered always.

- Family in Denny, Oban, Lochgilphead and Midlothian.

**RAMSAY** - In loving memory of our dearly loved mum Janette, who sadly passed away September 26, 2016. Also remembering our dad Jimmy, who passed away June 12, 1990.

Sorely missed by us all.

- Janette, John, Lorna, Avril, Stuart, Robert and family.

**Oban Times**  
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## Oban businesses need community support this winter

Around Oban

**KAY MCDONALD**

editor@obantimes.co.uk



These are strange times we're living in and they may be about to get a bit more difficult again as this awful virus circulates amongst us.

As an area, we've not been unscathed but we've not suffered as other places have and the local community has really pulled together to help those who need it.

And as we head into autumn and winter, we may need to pull out all the stops again.

Our community has a strong record of being there for one another and I have no doubt that when they are needed our volunteers will do their best again.

But we also have to think of the wider picture and what our town will be like

when, hopefully soon, this virus is no more.

Many of our businesses are independent traders and small businesses who are already struggling after the last six months and if we want them to still be here next year, then this winter is when we need to show them love and support.

Internet shopping has really come into its own when none of us were able to leave the house and it still has its place but

I would urge you to think carefully before you decide to buy something and have a think about where you could get the same thing locally.

It might be slightly cheaper online but a local purchase means your helping to keep a local business going and Oban a better place because of it.

The last photograph was of the slip on the North Pier.

### Rotary Club of Oban contact details

The Rotary Club of Oban has asked us to clarify the email address anyone interested in joining should use is wmdouglassmall@gmx.co.uk or contact any current club member.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

### Communication breakdown?

For readers of a certain vintage, the title might bring to mind a song by Led Zeppelin - minus the question-mark.

For all of us it is a fact of life, sometimes fairly trivial but sometimes sadly the backdrop to all kinds of tensions and conflicts.

Last week I had a 'communication breakdown' of my own.

We were experiencing problems with our broadband connection, sometimes working, sometimes not. Our router was displaying its range of colours as well as the solid blue supposedly indicating all was well. Anyway it needed an engineer to trace the fault to an external

cause. Hopefully by the time this is published all will be well and our communication breakdown will be ended.

We certainly like to communicate and much of modern technology is about keeping in touch. At a fundamental level, I believe that reflects the Christian perspective that we are all made in the image of God, who is the great communicator. He speaks to us through his creation as one of the Bible's songs tells us - the heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. The same song goes on to speak of God's further communication

through his word, the Bible itself. The ultimate expression of God's communication is through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is described as the Word that became flesh, the incarnation; as the agent and sustainer of creation and as the writer of the letter to the Hebrews puts it, the one through whom God has spoken to us in these last days. Biblically that's the period from Jesus' ascension to his promised return.

There is no breakdown in communication from God to us. The problem lies with us. Are we listening to what God is saying to us, not least through his Son?

**James Beaton, Oban Free Church.**

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### MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

#### Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch

*Donations always gratefully accepted*

Please contact  
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**Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House**  
**Station Road, Oban**  
**01631 571009**

## CROSS CODE

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

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

### CLEANER SOIL IN JAR

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

- Who was the elder brother of Moses and first High Priest of Israel?
- The whaling novel Moby-Dick was by which author?
- Who produced the iconic Stratocaster electric guitar in 1954?
- Which gas is produced by yeast, enabling bread dough to rise?
- What is the common name for the North African granular pasta made from crushed and steamed semolina?
- What S is a small type of harpsichord?
- Jennifer Ellison played Emily Shadwick in which TV soap opera?
- What was the name of the balsa wood raft used by Thor Heyerdahl to partially cross the Pacific?
- What is tencha a type of?
- In 2016, the NASA spacecraft Juno successfully went into orbit around which planet, after a five-year journey?

## NONAGRAM

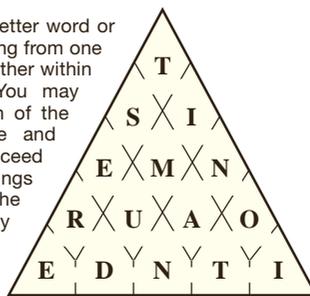
H	E	S
A	C	T
M	I	C

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:** 32 Good; 38 Very Good; 44 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

AN	LE	IV	EA	RS
EU		DI		UE
RT	AR	VE	AE	TN
VO		IA		ER
SE	AN	DL	OS	WA

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				
24							

### ACROSS

- Girl only a small space away, relatively speaking ... (12)
- .... and being the closest, relatively speaking (4,2,3)
- Be apathetic for the most part with a household implement (3)
- Objector to party line (7)
- Possess about 50 to divide in two (5)
- Bustle around making fine distinctions (6)
- Go without food, the way one might rave about it (6)
- Change officer after a word of hesitation (5)
- Dates he swapped for earphones (7)
- Chimney found in Glasgow slums (3)
- Elf keeps warm on the cooker perhaps (9)
- Jockey drawn by an author (5,7)

### DOWN

- License one vehicle to be on the road for hire (7)
- Quietly left the line in the middle to search for prey (5)
- Secure, say, a place in Turkey (6)
- Variety of noughts coming from a rifle (7)
- Tiger perhaps has large number in the end (5)
- On one's behalf making another gift (12)
- Edges higher, heels make one thus (6,6)
- Dog that goes from side to side (7)
- One who takes stock out of range (7)
- Irrational fear starts to put him off buying important articles (6)
- I had boy starting to be fearful (5)
- In the middle of part of exam on geography (5)

## QUICK CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7					8	
10	11				12	13
17					18	
19			20	21		
			22			
23	24	25			26	27
			28			
29					30	
					31	

### ACROSS

- Garbage can (7)
- Drill (4)
- Sicilian volcano (4)
- Top layer (7)
- Large bag (4)
- Dart (4)
- Wigwam (5)
- In a single direction (3-3)
- Remember (6)
- Tiles (6)
- Having two spouses (6)
- Gaze fixedly (5)

### DOWN

- Drink mixer (4)
- Writing table (4)
- Southern county (6)
- Sports jacket (6)
- Require (4)
- Burden (4)
- Nuptial (7)
- Reduce to ashes (7)
- South-eastern US state (7)
- Calm, peaceful (7)
- Stories (5)
- Mysterious, weird (5)
- Filter (6)
- Contusion (6)
- Beige (4)
- Tear to bits (4)
- Miserly (4)
- Separate article (4)

## SUDOKU

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

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

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

## EQUALISER

7	10
8	3
4	2
9	1
2	4

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)

**CROSS CODE**  
 1 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 2 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 3 Across - Never; Endow.  
 4 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 5 Across - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 6 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 7 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 8 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 9 Across - Never; Endow.  
 10 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 11 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 12 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 13 Across - Never; Endow.  
 14 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 15 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 16 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 17 Across - Never; Endow.  
 18 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 19 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 20 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 21 Across - Never; Endow.  
 22 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 23 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 24 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 25 Across - Never; Endow.  
 26 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 27 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 28 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 29 Across - Never; Endow.  
 30 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 31 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.

**WORD PYRAMID**  
 1 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 2 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 3 Across - Never; Endow.  
 4 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 5 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 6 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 7 Across - Never; Endow.  
 8 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 9 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 10 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 11 Across - Never; Endow.  
 12 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 13 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 14 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 15 Across - Never; Endow.  
 16 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 17 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
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 23 Across - Never; Endow.  
 24 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 25 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 26 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 27 Across - Never; Endow.  
 28 Down - Nerve; VIVID; Renew.  
 29 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
 30 Down - Autos; Ideal; Sutra.  
 31 Across - Never; Endow.

**NONAGRAM**  
 1 Across - Alias; Treat; Salsa.  
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# Derby win for Saints

Oban Saints	6
Dunoon	2
Pre-season friendly	

A second half hat-trick from Cammy Hill and first half strikes from Matty Kelly, Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron sealed victory for Oban Saints against Dunoon Amateurs in a friendly encounter last Saturday.

A brace from Dunoon's Evan Meyer-McDonagh completed the scoring in an entertaining Argyll derby played in warm sunshine at a once again spectator-free Glencruitten.

Saints welcomed back Lewis Cameron, James Ford and Scott Maitland to the squad from the previous week's win against South Lochaber Thistle. Donald Campbell and Kerr Newbigging were unavailable while captain Dene Cassells remained sidelined.

## Delivery

Dunoon's James Strapp was quickly across to put the ball behind for a 10th minute corner kick. Lewis Cameron placed his delivery perfectly on the head of Matty Kelly who had found space in the six-yard box to nod Saints into the lead.

Despite the friendly tag, all Argyll derbies are keenly contested and Mr Litster worked hard to earn his match fee keeping tempers on both sides under control.

Saints doubled their advantage in the 34th minute from a Lewis Cameron free-kick on the left after Ross Montgomery had bundled over David Beaton. Cameron spotted Craig MacEwan's run towards the front post and skipper for the day MacEwan flicked Cameron's delivery past Jamie



Robertson's right hand and into the bottom corner.

David Beaton had the chance to add to his hat-trick heroics of the previous week after a good run and cutback on the right from Ruaridh Horne, however, the diminutive winger's shot from the corner of the 18-yard box curled wide of target.

Beaton was in the thick of the action again in the 42nd minute, racing into the box on the end of a Lewis Cameron through ball where his progress was halted by a sliding challenge by Allan Laughlan. The central defender's lunge knocked the ball out wide but not before going through the Saints wide man giving Mr Litster no option but to point to the penalty spot.

With two assists already under his belt, Lewis Cameron added his name to the score-

sheet with a calmly despatched penalty kick to send Saints into the half-time interval three goals to the good.

Saints gaffer Willie Gemmell made two changes for the start of the second 45 minutes sending on James Ford and Cammy Hill to replace David Beaton and Aaron McKay.

## Great cross

The second half was only two minutes old when Saints added to their tally. A great cross from Ruaridh Horne picked out Cammy Hill's near post run for the big striker to clip the ball from close range past the helpless Dunoon keeper.

Craig MacEwan thought he had doubled his own personal tally in the 54th minute when he headed a James Ford right wing cross into the net off the underside of the crossbar, only for Mr Litster to rule out his

effort for a Cammy Hill push on James Strapp.

Youngster Gavin Forgrieve joined the action as a replacement for Central Scottish Amateur Football League Select man Matty Kelly.

Two quick-fire goals 60 seconds either side of the hour mark from speedy striker Evan Meyer-McDonagh saw Dunoon roaring back into the game.

Firstly the Saints defence was left appealing for an offside call which didn't come leaving Meyer-McDonagh to round the stranded Graham Douglas and tuck the ball into the unguarded net. Then, in the 61st minute, another straight ball through the middle from Brendan McIlkenny caught out the Saints back four, again with the Dunoon striker producing an excellent curling

Matty Kelly outjumps the Dunoon defence to head home Lewis Cameron's corner kick to open the scoring.

**Inset: Cammy Hill celebrates after scoring his hat-trick.**

Match report and photographs Derek Black.

finish past Graham Douglas to half the deficit.

Recovering from this setback, a sustained period of pressure saw Saints notch their fifth goal of the afternoon. After Jamie Robertson had twice denied Craig MacEwan, Myles McAuley picked out Cammy Hill whose turn on the 18-yard line took him in behind the Dunoon defence from where he slotted the ball into the bottom corner past Robertson's left hand.

## Final changes

Willie Gemmell made his final changes with 15 minutes remaining, replacing Ruaridh Horne and Myles McAuley with Jamie Graham and Scott Johnston.

Player/coach Graham played a vital role in Saints sixth and final goal, closing down and dispossessing Brendan McIlkenny ten yards inside the Dunoon half before laying the ball off to Lewis Cameron. Scottish Amateur international Cameron capped a splendid display with yet another assist threading in Hill to round the keeper and clip home from a tight angle.

After five added minutes referee Litster, who handled proceedings well throughout, brought to an end a good workout for the teams giving both sets of players more valuable game time ahead of the resumption of competitive action.



Open winner Jamie Pool with Stevie Wilson.

## Jamie wins Garmony Open

Results of Sunday's MBS Garmony Open:

Jamie Pool from Crieff won the scratch competition with an excellent score of 70.

Winner of the handicap competition was Tony McGill with a net 62.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for a glorious day's golf at Craignure.

## Frustrating race sees John McPhee finish tenth

The Emilia Romagna GP proved to be a difficult task for Connel's John McPhee and teammate Khairul Idham Pawi, with the Moto3 combo taking tenth and 24th respectively.

John joined the leading pack with ten laps remaining but being forced wide with two laps to go denied him the chance to challenge for the podium and he finally crossed the line tenth, maintaining his third place in the championship standings.

After the race John said: 'When I got to around P7 or P8 there were a couple of riders who upset the rhythm and I was unlucky to get run wide because we had a chance at the top five today. We're still third in the championship, not so far from the leader, and there's still a good amount of races to go.'

John will now head straight into the ninth round of the Moto3 championship: the Gran Premi de Catalunya from September 25 to September 27 September).

## Saints GG team lose out to Pupils

A young Oban Saints Greater Glasgow AFL team travelled to Lochgilphead Joint Campus last Saturday to take on Scottish Amateur League side Campbeltown Pupils in their first pre-season friendly of the season.

Unfortunately they returned home on the wrong end of a 3-0 scoreline, but manager Donald Black was reasonably happy with the performance.

## Shinty sponsors give backing to 'phantom' cup final

Although the pandemic means shinty's Blue Riband event, the Camanachd Cup Final, will not be played as scheduled on September 19, sponsors Tulloch Homes have offered significant support to the game's governing body.

The Inverness-based company is to donate its sponsorship fee despite the competition not being played as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tulloch Homes has missed out on the marketing opportunity via live BBC TV coverage of the semi finals and finals. But George Fraser, chief executive officer of the Highlands' largest house-builder, revealed: 'We want

to show our support for the sport and the Camanachd Association at an extremely difficult time.

'It's tough for the association's budget with such reduced income, so I spoke to our chairman Tom Allison, who is also a director of Celtic FC, and he gave the go-ahead to finance a competition which hasn't happened.

'We've had reduced income ourselves, only re-opening two months ago, but feel it is important to stand by shinty. We now look forward to sponsoring the 125th anniversary Camanachd Cup final at Kingussie in a year and for the following two seasons.'

'Camanachd Association president Keith Loades stressed the body's gratitude.

'It's a hugely valuable financial and morale boost after such a terrible year,' he said.

'Tulloch's decision will be widely appreciated throughout the shinty strongholds. It proves they are a true friend of the game and the funding will help us deliver our programme of support to clubs.

'George Fraser was one of the most successful shinty players, and an old opponent of mine, which makes this backing all the more satisfying.

'It helps underpin the game's future.'



From left: Keith Loades, Camanachd Association president; Michael Russell, captain of current Camanachd Cup holders Newtonmore and George Fraser, of Tulloch Homes.



Bob MacIntyre.

## Bob makes a major impact in New York

Three majors played, three cuts made - Bob MacIntyre continues to impress on the biggest of stages.

The Oban left-hander showed once again why he is one of the rising stars of the game with a gutsy performance at the US Open in New York.

With a host of big names, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, failing to make the half-way cut, Bob found himself teeing it up over the weekend at the brutal West Course at Winged Foot with his +6 score squeezing him in right on the cut line. Although he didn't quite have the weekend he hoped for, with rounds of 76 and 79 effectively stalling any prospects of a high finish, he will take away a lot of confidence after another week mixing with the best golfers on the planet.

The fact eventual winner Bryson DeChambeau was the only player to finish under par shows just how tough a test this was.

While Bob can take a great deal of satisfaction from his own performance, the big-hearted star will also be delighted his 10 birdies raised \$35,000 for the Hurricane Laura relief fund in Louisiana where Bob went to university. All in all, an excellent week's work.

# Ace Gregor's return a big hit at tennis club

Oban Tennis and Squash Club (OTSC) have brought in a big hitter to ensure they smash the path out of lockdown.

Gregor Brydon has been appointed club coach and, working in partnership with Atlantis Leisure, is all set to serve up a safe programme for everyone to enjoy.

Billy Thomson, chairman of Oban Tennis and Squash Club, said: 'These have been and continue to be very challenging times for us all and to be able to get outdoors and take part in sport has been of great benefit to the many that have been lucky enough to do so.'

'It is a great testament to Atlantis, its board and staff, along with Oban Tennis and Squash Club, that tennis has been able to be played, in some shape or form, for a few months now.'

The club is currently offering junior and adult coaching programmes alongside club nights, competition days and other events, all aimed at encouraging more people of all ages to get out and play tennis on the town's quality courts.

'We are very lucky to have Gregor and he has been busy delivering our club programme, alongside individual coaching lessons for those who want them,' added Billy.

With more than two years of coaching experience in the USA, Oban-born Gregor is looking forward to bringing a new edge to tennis in the town. 'Tennis in Oban has always



Gregor Brydon, foreground, is relishing his new role as Oban Tennis and Squash Club coach. Also pictured are OTSC chairman Billy Thomson, left, and Atlantis Leisure General Manager Nick Wesley.

been a huge part of my life and from a young age I have enjoyed being able to go down to the tennis courts and play matches as well as taking part in the West Highland Tennis Tournament,' he told The Oban Times.

'This is where I made my connection with the coaches and members of the Touring Team, from the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in Texas where I was invited to coach as a summer camp counsellor.'

'Since then I have returned, firstly in 2015 for 12 months when I was a 'Ranch Pro', and then again in 2018 for

18 months when I gained the role of co-director of the adult programme.'

'I have now returned home to Oban and it is great I have the opportunity to give back

**'This is not a normal time for anyone and nor will it be for some time to come.'**

to the club and centre that started my tennis adventure all those years ago.

'It has been brilliant to see lots of new people coming to the courts and giving tennis

a go as lockdown eases. I am looking forward to seeing Atlantis Leisure as well as the Tennis and Squash Club continue to grow and bring a new age of tennis players into the game.'

Nick Wesley, general manager at Atlantis Leisure, said: 'Having the tennis courts back open and being used well by the community has been such a positive for everyone at Atlantis this summer.'

'There's also been a lot of enthusiasm for the tennis coaching that's being delivered by Gregor.'

'I know the tennis and squash club members have particu-

larly enjoyed the courts being back open - even managing to host three Sunday club competitions held within Covid guidelines.'

Anyone interested in playing or learning to play tennis just needs to lift the phone to Atlantis or make contact through their Facebook page.

'This is not a normal time for anyone and nor will it be for some time to come, so to be able to get out on the courts and play does give us all a bit of a sense of normal life as it was before. Hopefully we can build on that,' added Billy.

'With squash now also opening up for play, all be it in a much-reduced capacity, I would encourage everyone to get involved as much as they can.'

Squash court bookings for solo or same household play can also be done via the Atlantis Leisure website and booking app.

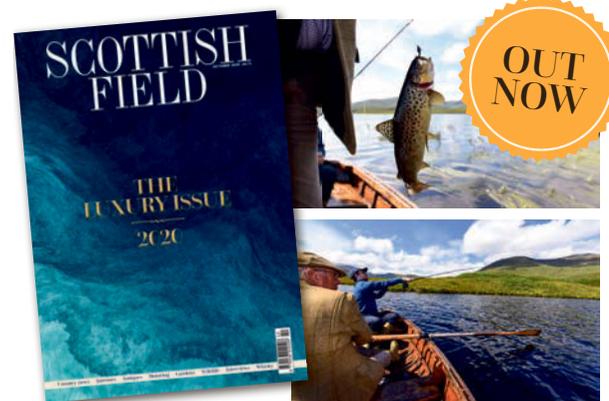


# SCOTTISH FIELD

## Luxury issue

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# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8528

Thursday 24 September, 2020

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95p



### Well-known Fort William building up for sale



### Police day of action targets drug dealers

# INSIDE

HIGHLAND CINEMA

SPECIAL KEEPSAKE SUPPLEMENT

## Memorial parade cancelled

There will be no Remembrance Parade at Fort William War Memorial this year as a result of ongoing Covid restrictions.

Royal British Legion (RBL) West Highland has announced the occasion will be marked by a single wreath bearer from each unit accompanied by Standard Bearers.

It is unclear at the moment whether a service will be held or not.

A spokesperson for the Fort William and district RBL branch said: 'This is a very upsetting situation for all veterans, serving service personnel and the general public as we know how important it is to honour local service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice.'

In line with the RBL decision, the Commandos Association has also cancelled most of its annual events at the memorial at Spean Bridge.

Wreath layers and Standard Bearers will be present on November 8, while a decision on whether or not a short service will take place is still to be made.

# Relief as doors finally open on new cinema

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Highland Cinema, Fort William, will open tomorrow (Friday) despite a few last minute concerns over stricter Covid-19 restriction announcements.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced on Monday that a tightening of restrictions was imminent as a result of a rise in cases but did not release details until Tuesday afternoon causing an anxious wait for founder/chairman Angus MacDonald and his staff.

'Two years of graft, the bureaucratic nightmare of a large building project, two months of never ending rain last winter, then the devastation caused by Covid-19, everything has been thrown at us...but we are here for the long term,' he said.

'In Scotland, Covid restrictions for cinemas requiring two-metre distancing is an anomaly. On a plane you sit right beside strangers and in a



### 'Everything has been thrown at us...but we are here for the long term'

bar it is one-metre distancing, without a mask. But a single customer at our cinema will have 12 empty seats around

them. A financial challenge for us, but with 22 recently hired employees and an encouraging local community, I will be proud to be cutting the ribbon to open The Highland Cinema tomorrow.'

Work on the High Street development, which was originally due to open on May 9, had already been hampered

by lockdown restrictions but careful planning and rescheduling of pending work was undertaken to ensure a safe working environment for all contractors and work resumed in mid-June.

Designed by Skye-based architects Dualchas, Highland Cinema is situated on the High Street at the top of Cameron

Management staff celebrate the opening of the cinema, left to right, Kirsty Mann, general manager; Elaine Brayshaw, head of finance and administration; Hamish McIntyre, head of marketing and IT; Carolanne Lawrie, head of kitchen and Adam Morrow, head of front of house. Photograph, Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Square and the traditional, stone-built building is causing a real buzz around town and beyond.

'I'm loving the feedback about the cinema from within Lochaber. There really is huge support. All we have to do now is deliver a great night out for our customers,' added Angus.

It has two screens, one with 100 seats and one with 85 seats, as well as a large cafe with a log burner. It also boasts a terrace looking out on to the square that can seat 16 people.

'I can't wait to see a line of happy people waiting to get in the cinema,' said Angus.

Meanwhile, ALVANCE British Aluminium has committed £20,000 to ensure all Lochaber residents can apply for a free annual membership card, which entitles them to a 30 per cent discount off tickets throughout 2021, excluding June to September.

Tom Uppington, managing director, said: 'It's great news

Continued on page five and eight-page pull-out inside.



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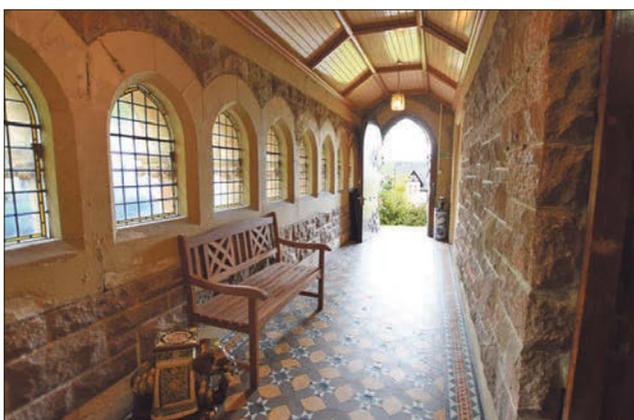
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St Andrews House in Fort William is up for sale for the first time in more than a century.



Just some of the many of original features which remain within St Andrews House.



St Andrews House in 1880 after completion of building work.

# Property sale of the century

First time well-known Fort William building has been on the market in its entirety

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

One of Lochaber's most well-known buildings has been put up for sale in its entirety for the first time in more than a century.

St Andrews House on Fassifern Road, which sits prominently overlooking Fort William town centre, has served various roles in the community, latterly acting as a home for several well-known families and as a popular guest house.

It was originally built as a choir school for nearby St Andrews Episcopal Church in 1880.

In 1918 the church, unable to

maintain its upkeep, split the building into an east and west wing. The west wing, which was the school, was converted into a dwelling house, whilst the east wing remained unchanged as it was the headmaster's residence.

The property was then sold as two separate houses. They remained the same until both properties were bought by the same family in 1992. The two houses were reunited in the year 2000 when the original door between the two houses was re-opened.

The B-listed property is currently owned by Thomas and Sheena Wynne and run as a nine-bedroom guesthouse.

The Wynne family were well-

known Lochaber stalwarts, running the town's popular butcher shop and its delivery vans to outlying communities for three generations.

St Andrews was always known to have an open door policy, where fondly remembered ceilidhs, Christmas parties and family occasions were celebrated, usually accompanied on the piano by the late Monsignor Thomas Wynne, former parish priest in Oban, Arisaig and Roy Bridge.

Current owners Tom and Sheena said: 'We will be very sad to leave it but we do so with all the happy memories we have made here over many years. We've had some wonderful times here.'

'When you're lucky enough to live in a property like this – because it's such a beautiful and prominent building, with all the history that comes with it – you always know you're really only looking after it, to pass it on to the next generation. We always felt a bit more like custodians than owners.'

Tom added: 'I lived with the family in the east side as a boy and in some respects coming back to the west side of the house with my own family was like coming home. We were very lucky we could join the two houses together again.'

St Andrews House was designed by noted architect Alexander Ross, former Provost of Inverness, who is

responsible for a large number of listed buildings in the city of Inverness, including the cathedral.

Reflecting the prominence and means of St Andrews Church at the time of its initial building, the property is a grand gothic-style granite and sandstone rectory with intricate archways and stone carvings running throughout the outside and inside.

While renovating parts of the west side, which was formerly the choir school, Mr and Mrs Wynne exposed and restored, where possible, some of the original wood work and stone work, including numerous inscriptions of psalms dotted around the building's arch-

ways, fireplaces and main doorways.

The original features and the history of the building are rare to find in today's property market, according to Katie Lamont, property director at MacPhee and Partners, which is selling the house at a guide price of £720,000.

She said: 'I am delighted to have the opportunity to market such a unique and historic Fort William property.'

'St Andrews is truly stunning with so much character and charm throughout. Its ability to be reverted back to two independent dwellings or be kept as one large dwelling makes it a very interesting prospect for a purchaser.'



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# Police day of action targets 'county lines' drug dealers

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Seven people were safeguarded, four warrants were executed and six people were arrested in the Highlands and Islands during a Police Scotland day of action to target county lines drug dealers.

More than £14,000 of drugs and approximately £5,600 in cash were seized in the area.

Police Scotland targeted drugs dealers – who exploit vulnerable people, including children and young adults – during a national county lines day of action last Wednesday, September 16.

Proactive action by officers resulted in vulnerable people being identified, 'cuckooing' addresses being visited, a number of drugs search warrants executed and people being arrested.



Highlands and Islands Police Division were involved in last week's county lines crack down. Photograph: Police Scotland.

A large quantity of controlled drugs, including heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and cannabis were seized across Scotland. Tens of thousands of pounds in cash and weapons,

including a Samurai sword, were also recovered.

Local officers, special constables and national resources, including Road Policing and Dog Unit officers, as well as

**'We are committed to disrupting the supply of drugs within our communities.'**

British Transport Police, took part in the activity throughout the day.

Detective Inspector Ritchie MacRae, of Inverness CID, said: 'We are pleased with the positive results in the Highlands and Islands as part of the nationwide day of action.'

'We are committed to disrupting the supply of drugs within our communities. It remains one of the top priorities for Police Scotland including in the Highlands and Islands.'

'The drug trade often exploits the most vulnerable members of society and we all have an obligation to help protect each

other by reporting any suspicious or harmful behaviour.

'If anyone has any concerns regarding the abuse of drugs, or anyone who may be involved in the supply of drugs, they are urged to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

County lines refers to drug dealers from large cities who expand their operations into smaller towns.

They endeavour to exploit young and vulnerable people to sell drugs, carry cash and weapons, bringing violence, coercion and abuse. They may also take over a vulnerable person's house, known as cuckooing.

Police Scotland's assistant chief constable Angela McLaren said: 'County line gangs groom and exploit the most vulnerable people in our communities, including chil-

dren and young people, to store and sell drugs. They are intimidated, coerced, threatened and often subject to violence. These gangs are not welcome in Scotland. Our officers remain absolutely committed to working with partners in the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) taskforce to safeguard individuals who may be at risk and to pursue offenders.'

'Together we will continue to make Scotland a hostile environment to those who seek to engage in criminal activity.'

Organised crime officers also arrested a man from Liverpool near Stirling as part of an intelligence-led operation and almost £35,000 in cash was seized.

'I would urge anyone with concerns to report them to Police Scotland or to Crimestoppers anonymously,' added Chief Constable McLaren.

## Couple tie the knot the West Highland Way

For most brides a walk up the aisle may only be a few steps but for Tracy Pollington her procession was a planned week-long aisle – along the 96-mile West Highland Way to her marriage ceremony in Fort William, writes Iain Ferguson.

Tracy, 41, and her fiancé, 43-year-old Andy Cuthbert, both from Appin, met a few years ago through their shared interest in walking and cycling.

They had previously cycled the Way together and when Andy popped the question a few months ago during lockdown it seemed only appropriate to match their love for each other, with the other great love of their lives.

They set off from Milngavie accompanied by their 'bridesmaid', dog Isla, allowing plenty of time to reach Fort William where their ceremony was planned for 4.30pm on Thursday September 17.

In line with Covid-19 regulations, a small gathering of friends and family, including a few walkers they met along the route, assembled by the iconic statue of 'Sair Feet'



Tracy, Andy and their 'bridesmaid' Isla.

to watch them walking the final leg along Fort William High Street.

However, much to everyone's surprise, the happy couple emerged

from a nearby hotel in full wedding outfits as the trip had been cut short after Tracy suffered a back injury and they returned home early. Although the walk to

the ceremony was not quite as planned, the couple made it, arm in arm, to the statue in the welcoming Fort William sunshine.

Humanist celebrant Alyson Stewart conducted the ceremony, commenting that not only did the couple look fantastic but they were also making history by holding the first wedding at the Fort William end of the West Highland Way.

Tracy said: 'We both have a great love of the outdoors and for us this was the only way to do it.'

'We may have had to cut the walk this time, but we will be completing it soon.'

Andy said: 'We discussed what to do and couldn't think of any better way or place to get married.'

'I'm glad the sun shone, but even if it had been the usual pouring rain, it would not have mattered one bit and we would still have gone ahead.'

The dry weather did provide the opportunity for another 'first' as the couple signed the marriage documents on 'Sair Feet's' back, which would have presented a bit of a problem in more inclement weather.

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# Upper Achintore Regeneration Group moves forward with online meeting

Like many other community organisations, Upper Achintore Regeneration Group has had to change its ways of operating during the Covid-19 pandemic and eight committee members held their first online meeting on September 14.

Chairman Mark Linfield, with a full agenda, welcomed everyone and said he 'hoped the group would continue to move forward with improving things for our area'.

Mark added the group would 'appreciate more involvement and input from residents' and urged those interested to contact them through their email at uarg19@aol.com.

A range of community issues was discussed including the school patrol crossing at Sutherland Avenue.

There are concerns about this being unmanned, particularly with the frequency of heavy construction vehicles delivering to the nearby 38-house



Upper Achintore Regeneration Group stalwarts Sarah Huxley and Nigel and Chris Heardman at the 'pick up a windowsill gardening kit' stance at Zetland Avenue, Upper Achintore. Photograph: Iain Ferguson.

development at the old school. Education Service and is awaiting a response. The group has been in touch with Highland Council. The issue of the continued

failure of the 20mph warning lights at Lundavra Primary School has been brought to the attention of the Highland Council's lighting service.

A written response has been received from the housing service that work may start on the kick-about pitch at Ross Place in October or may be delayed until spring but it will definitely go ahead.

Further funding should be forthcoming from Lochaber Housing Association for seating around the new pitch.

Work is progressing well on the school site housing development after it was delayed by the Covid-19 lockdown, with a revised completion date of spring 2021.

The group was unsuccessful in its bid for SSE Sustainability support to fund a feasibility study for its community hub project but has asked for feedback from SSE with a view to reapplying next year.

Major concern was raised about unsafe parking at the junction of Lochaber Road and Sutherland Avenue.

The group agreed to raise the issue with Highland Council and put in a request for double yellow lines.

Link Housing advised the 325-house project below Cow Hill was on hold as a result of funding issues.

A much-reduced scheme for 45 houses is currently at the design stage and could be lodged with the planning service soon.

Stewart Eastaugh, Highland Council access officer, has confirmed Apex Trees will be cutting back vegetation between Ross Place and Nairn Crescent within the next fortnight.

The major path work linking to the Cow Hill circular path has been put on hold as a result of funding issues. Councillor Andrew Baxter is being asked to press for this to be brought

forward. With support from the Green Health Initiative, more than 150 windowsill planting kits were assembled and distributed by the group for families living in flats without gardens during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Recyclable carrier bags had been kindly donated by The Granite House. Feedback had been excellent.

Funding for the Christmas tree, lights and lamp standard brackets has been received from Celebrate 25 Lottery with additional funding from Highland Council.

The group agreed to press the Highland Council to install additional green bins and signs advising of dog littering fines.

The next meeting is the AGM on Monday October 19 starting at 6pm.

This will be held using Zoom and invitations can be obtained by emailing the group secretary at uarg19@aol.com.

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## Peat and Diesel documentary wins international award

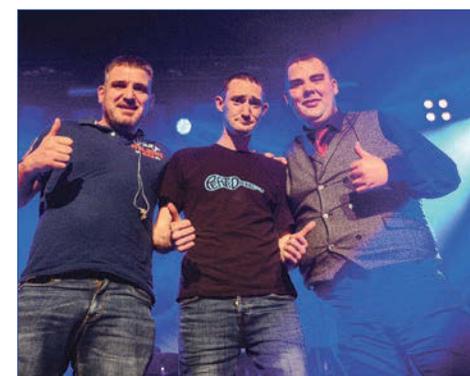
A BBC ALBA documentary about Hebridean folk-rock band Peat and Diesel has won a major award at a New York film festival.

Peat and Diesel: That's The Way We Do It! received the prize for International Documentary Feature at the long-running Williamsburg International Film and Music Festival in Brooklyn, New York.

Produced by MacTV, the programme follows the Stornoway band as they gain momentum and fame ahead of the launch of their second album and a landmark gig at the legendary Glasgow venue, the Barrowland Ballroom.

Peat and Diesel, comprising fisherman Calum 'Boydie' Macleod, electrician Innes Scott and delivery van driver Uilleam 'Uilly' Macleod, have taken the Scottish music scene by storm, capturing the country's imagination through their infectious music and unique tales of island life.

The documentary was a huge success on BBC ALBA when it aired in early April, as part of an evening of Peat and Diesel music and antics which drew



Popular Lewis trio Peat and Diesel have won international acclaim.

one of the biggest audiences of the year.

BBC ALBA head of service Margaret Mary Murray, who was also executive producer of the programme, said: 'We had a feeling this programme would be a hit with audiences and it certainly was.'

'We received a huge amount of appreciative feedback from the audience when we screened the double bill of this fabulously entertaining roller coaster road movie charting the rise of Peat and Diesel plus coverage of their sell-out gig in Glasgow. It was a memorable night on BBC ALBA.'

'We are delighted the talent of the island-based musicians

and filmmakers has been recognised on the international stage demonstrating the local does have global appeal.'

The programme's producer/director, RTS Scotland award-winner Daibhidh Martin, said: 'Peat and Diesel are unique.'

'They are captivating and it's been brilliant to be there with them as they become more and more successful.'

'They celebrate Gaelic and island culture, mixing sincere and relatable subjects with comedic imagery and stylings.'

'It was never difficult to film the band and capture something audiences would respond to.'



Lucy Conway, director of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust.

## Communities to benefit from Emerging Futures Fund

Community Land Scotland celebrated its 10th anniversary last Thursday by announcing a new National Lottery-funded project supporting six communities including Lewis and Mull.

Owning our Future will encourage the communities to take an in-depth look at why the community ownership model was so important to their response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to work with facilitators to find a route out of the crisis.

After years of instability, neglect and lack of secure tenure, the Isle of Eigg secured community ownership in 1997 and has proved since how successful the move was in terms of providing and creating opportunity for economic development, housing and infrastructure, whilst conserving its natural and cultural heritage.

Speaking at the tenth anniversary virtual conference, Lucy Conway, director of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust said: 'Eigg is focussed and resourceful and good at coming up with solutions to problems.'

'Although we are grateful for all the outside help we get, our community looks within itself to work out the way forward. The structure of how we work really helps, with all residents members of the residents' association directing the strategic direction of the trust.'

'The development of our off-grid energy system is a great example of the island coming together. People from all over the world come to see what we have achieved and learn lessons from our approach.'

The Owing our Future project is funded by a £48,000 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK, and is part of its Emerging Futures Fund that will support organisations across the UK that put people in the lead to look at how things are changing due to the pandemic, what is needed in this transition and what is possible in the future.

# Housing development starts after Covid delay

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Work has started on 12 new one and two-bedroom flats in the centre of Fort William.

Robertson Group will be delivering affordable homes for rent for Lochaber Housing Association at Fulton House in the town centre.

The former planning department offices of Highland Council, situated in Gordon Square, were identified as an opportunity for residential conversion by Robertson Property, which has developed a plan for the housing association leading to consent for the residential development.

The former offices will be transformed by Robertson Construction Northern to create 12 properties, comprising a mix of one and two-bedroom flats. Katherine

MacKintosh, managing director of Regeneration Robertson Property, said: 'Fulton House has been unoccupied since 2017.'

'The building is situated in a prime town centre location which is ideal for a change of consent to residential.'

'Working on behalf of Lochaber Housing Association with Communities Housing Trust, we are delighted to have been able to obtain a change of consent and work to deliver this much-needed accommodation will start later this month.'

'Not only will Fulton House become home for 12 households, it will contribute to the on-going regeneration of the town centre.'

'We look forward to seeing the transformation at Fulton House and to continuing our on-going relationship with Lochaber Housing

Association.' Funding for the £1.529m project is being supported by a £1.056m grant from the Scottish Government, with the balance provided through private finance with Unity Bank.

Hughie Donaldson, Lochaber Housing Association's chairman, said: 'Although the redevelopment of the building was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are delighted work has now started on site.'

'It's pleasing to be involved in a project that will bring life back to a disused building and to contribute to the regeneration of the town centre as well as, of course, providing much-needed affordable housing for the town.'

'We are grateful to the Scottish Government for its financial support, without which the development would not have been possible.'



Work begins on the former Council offices at Fulton House.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Ronnie MacRae, chief executive officer of Communities Housing Trust, added: 'As development agents for Lochaber Housing Association, we are excited to see the start of this town centre renovation project which forms part of the association's wider development programme.'

'This project will deliver 12 energy-efficient, comfortable homes for Fort William.'

'We're pleased to be working closely with Robertson, which has delivered an efficient process which enabled purchase and renovation works to start quickly, all with strong support from Scottish Government, and we look forward to watching the site progress.'

Robertson Construction Northern started work on the site last week, with an expected completion date of May 2021.

## 'Serious' accident on A82

A motorcyclist was taken to hospital after a 'serious accident' involving a car just south of Glencoe Ski Centre on Saturday afternoon.

The incident resulted in diversion routes for northbound traffic on the A82 between Tyndrum and Fort William causing major tailbacks on the A85 Taynuilt to Connel and A828 Connel Bridge to Appin roads.

A Police Scotland spokes-

person said: 'Around 2.45pm on Saturday September 19, officers were called to the A82 south of the Glencoe Ski Centre, following a crash involving a car and a motorcycle. 'The motorcyclist was conveyed to hospital for treatment.'

'The road was re-opened around 7.55pm.'

Traffic Scotland earlier reported an air ambulance was in attendance at the scene.

## Relief as doors finally open on new cinema

Continued from page one  
our employees and the wider Fort William community will now be able to make use of this impressive cinema.

'Our support of the cinema is a small way to recognise the goodwill of the community and help contribute to the regeneration of the High Street in Fort William. Our thanks go to all those who have made this project a reality, especially the Highland Cinema's founder and chairman Angus MacDonald,' said Mr Uppington. Residents living in North Ballachulish,

Kinlochleven, the Fort William area and north to Invergarry, Morvern, Ardnachan and the Inner Hebrides will all qualify to apply for the membership card, which will be active from January 2021.

The card will also be available to those living in areas with the Newtonmore postcode.

Residents will be able to apply for membership at the cinema from the end of November.

Tickets can be booked in advance from Highland Cinema's newly launched website [www.highlandcinema.co.uk](http://www.highlandcinema.co.uk) or from the box office at the venue.



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# Stroll down memory lane as West Highland Way celebrates 40 years

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The West Highland Way will celebrate its 40th anniversary on October 6 with the launch of a specially created online exhibition.

Over the summer, members of the public have been contributing to the content of the show by sending in stories, photographs, videos and heart-felt moments from their time spent on Scotland's most popular long-distance route.

Kenny Auld, chairman of the West Highland Way Management Group, said: 'The online exhibition and film captures the spirit of 40 years of the West Highland Way.'

'You can sit back and enjoy the show from the comfort of your home and be inspired by the many people who have

walked the 96-mile route. See the changing weather, enjoy the stunning scenery and wildlife, read the personal stories behind the walk and hear about the blood, sweat and tears that have gone into individual experiences, from the early 1980s to the present day.'

The virtual exhibition, part of a wider West Highland Way project funded by the Scottish Government's LEADER programme, will cover the 96-mile route from Milngavie north of Glasgow to Fort William, looking at milestone moments over the last 40 years.

Walkers, runners, cyclists, charity fundraisers and the route's fans from across the world have contributed their stories. There will be memories from those who walked the route in the early 1980s and adventurers who have tried to

beat time and speed records through to children as young as seven who have walked it this year.

Robert McClymont from Kinlochleven, who claims to be the only surviving worker from the team that built the West Highland Way, which officially opened in 1990, plans to make a short film for the exhibition.

'I still have my pic axe, shovel and crowbar,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'Devil's Staircase wasn't completed until 1982, over a year behind schedule due to the work involved.

'We carried steel buckets filled with stone gravel and moved a lot of boulders. I walked to and from work from Kinlochleven every day. Very fit I was.'

Other features of the exhibition include stories, charity



Walker Kim Kjaerside sets off from Milngavie.

events in memory of loved ones and people who have enjoyed the route multiple times.

The West Highland Way has attracted painters, poets and musicians too and the exhibition attempts to capture a flavour from those who have found it inspirational.

'The exhibition may encourage people to plan their own West Highland Way adventure,' added Mr Auld.

'Some people start by walking short sections and develop the confidence to walk the entire route to feel the exhilaration of completing a challenge.'

'The health and well-being benefits the Way has brought many over 40 years cannot be over-estimated and the quality and variety of the landscape brings people back year after year.'

'The 40th anniversary is a chance to celebrate the great success of Scotland's first long-distance route and ensure it remains an experience that can be enjoyed by future generations,' added Mr Auld.

The online exhibition, also featuring a 40th anniversary film, will be accessible via the website from October 6.

This will be followed by a few touring exhibits which will be shown at locations along the West Highland Way until spring 2021 to enable even more people to be inspired by this iconic route, completed by more than 40,000 walkers every year.




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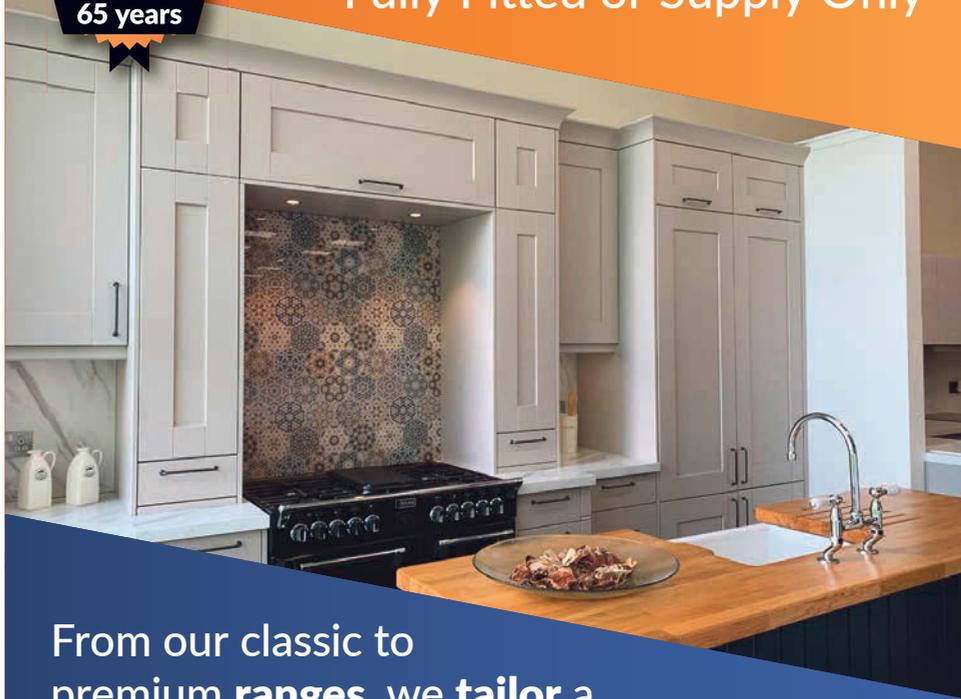
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## Uig linkspan plans shelved

Highland Council has said redevelopment plans for Uig Pier on Skye have been shelved because of a Scottish Government funding shortfall.

The local authority said tenders returned for the project 'exceeded the funding allocation from Transport Scotland'.

In a letter to MSP Rhoda Grant last week, council officials said tenders returned exceeded the funding allocation from Transport Scotland and as a result construction work had been paused for at least 12 months from September next year.

Strengthening of the council-owned berth is required for the delayed replacement of MV Hebrides.

Mrs Grant said while the new pier was not needed right away, this highlighted major concern over the government's willingness to adequately fund infrastructure projects.

'The council has made it clear that the tenders are so far out it has had to pull this project for the foreseeable future,' she added.

# Work on Shulishader steps access restarts

Work has resumed on a project to restore a historic access route to a popular island cove after it was put on hold due to lockdown.

The 88 Shulishader steps lead steeply down to a shore once used as a landing site for fishing boats and now popular for wild swimming.

Work paused as it was about to enter a major stage but now construction company Breedon is back on site in Point, Isle of Lewis.

The steep flight of steps down to the geodha (Gaelic for 'cove') will be repaired and made safe. They were cleaned up in the initial stage of the work and an access path of around 300 metres is being created from the township to the top of the steps.

Work on the access path was expected to be finished by the end of last week and the steps



should be done in the next couple of weeks.

The work is part of a £1-million project to create a clear walking route from Stornoway along the Braighe and all the way round the peninsula of Point.

Once complete, Point and Sandwick Community Coastal

Work resumes on the second phase of the coastal path, at Shulishader. Picture by Sandie Maciver of SandlePhotos.

community consultants, Alasdair Nicholson and Tony Robson, have been working with the Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path committee on delivering their ambitious project.

A number of other groups and organisations have helped to fund the second phase of the path.

The Scottish Landfill Fund, administered locally by Third Sector Hebrides, committed £7,000 and the Shulishader and Newlands Grazings Committee gave £4,000.

As well as the access to the geodha at Shulishader, the second phase also includes marking out the walking route

from the Braighe to Swordale on the Minch side of Point – a distance of around 1.2 miles (2km) – with route posts and installing several self-closing gates for access.

Matt Bruce, chairman of the Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path committee, said: 'We hope to continue to promote the path on its way around the whole of Point and Sandwick. Not all bits will be surfaced; some bits will be just moorland marker posts so that more people can experience the varied landscape and seascape that we have.'

Iain MacSween, clerk to the Shulishader and Newlands Grazings Committee, said: 'It's a great relief that it's going to get going again.'

'We were all set to get going with the project just when the lockdown started so it's been a bit frustrating.'

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## Heart warming story from Aussie 'brickie' Phil

A Fort William man has been warming to a lockdown hobby which is now benefitting the area's foodbank, writes Fiona Scott.

During lockdown Australian-born Phil Thurlow made 100 paper bricks which Petstop/Gardenstop Fort William have now kindly agreed to retail at £1 each with all proceeds going to the Fort William-based charity.

'Like a lot of people at the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown, we turned to potentially useful home crafts and for me paper brick making seemed a simple and appropriate thing to do in my spare time,' explained Phil.

'The raw materials consist of cardboard and paper, which both come through the front door in the form of packaging and junk mail, and tapwater. The bricks are made with a simple hand press worth about £15 and are sun dried. They are a low smoke, low ash solid fuel.'

Phil's wife Helen regularly donates to Lochaber Food Bank and the couple guessed

that they would come under some pressure this coming winter, so decided to sell the bricks – 100 being a good round target number – for their benefit.

'Linda at the Pet Stop and Garden Stop rose magnificently to the occasion and agreed to market the bricks, with all proceeds going to the Food Bank,' added Phil.

'I've managed to meet my 100 brick target, but doubt if I'll be able to make any more, as there's not much sunshine in Alma Road from October onwards.'

'I'll maybe repeat the exercise next year.'

'We know that compared to the efforts of some in tackling coronavirus, it's small (Foster's) beer; a very minor contribution only towards a hopefully bonzer outcome!'

Phil and Helen were originally penfriends – he in sunny Queensland and she in Glasgow.

The Fort has been home to them for the last 28 years, and also to their children.

# Wheels for meals by pedal power

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Neighbours and pals from Lismore are getting on their bikes to feed funds to two meal-providing charities more than 7,000 miles apart.

This weekend island crofter Arthur Cross and his pals will be cycling 100 miles for Dalmally-based Mary's Meals and Oban's Hope Kitchen.

Arthur and his friends from Lismore will cycle from the island over to Port Appin, up to the Corran Ferry and down to Ardnamurchan where they will camp overnight.

The following day their route will take them to Kilchoan via Ardnamurchan Point to take the ferry to Tobermory, cycling down to Craignure just in time to catch the ferry to Oban and then another across the water to home.

So far the keen cyclists have raised hundreds of pounds



Lismore's Sarah Campbell, Amy Bowman, Yorrick Paine and Ruben Campbell-Paine get ready for their 100-mile charity ride.

towards their £1,000 target. Donations can be made on their Gofundme page by searching [gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals](https://www.gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals)

Despite Covid-19, Mary's Meals has continued to provide life-changing meals to more than 1.6 million hungry children, whether they are learning at home or returning to the classroom.

In Oban, Hope Kitchen has remained a lifeline to many in the community particularly

during lockdown. Arthur is no stranger to wheeling his way round – in 2010 he was part of a team that cycled round Scotland for Christian Aid.

It managed to reach £5,000 and was topped up to £20,000 from the EU to help ease suffering in Western Africa from the effects of climate change.

'Both the charities we are supporting provide meals and help for people in different ways.'

'Mary's Meals encourages

youngsters to get to school by giving them a daily meal in the poorest parts of Africa; they do incredible work.

'Much closer to home, Hope Kitchen provides meals and also social support to people who are hard-up and vulnerable and struggling to make ends meet.'

'I think it's a fantastic place,' said Arthur.

And he added: 'We know this is a difficult time for people to be asked to part with their money.'

'People are on furlough, others have lost their jobs but there are a lot of people who are feeling tough times a lot more than us right now. We hope people will feel able to show their support.'

'It would be good to meet people on our way round the route not just to raise funds but also to spread the word wider about the work of these two remarkable charities.'

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# Workshop hopes to give men a place

Lochaber Hope is a well-established support service in Lochaber offering many mental health and well-being services in the community, writes Nic Goddard.

While many of the Lochaber Hope projects are well attended, the main service users are women.

While statistics show that men are far more at risk when suffering from mental well-being, with UK suicide rates in men being up to three times higher than women, it is recognised that asking for and accessing support appears to be harder for men.

Projects like men's sheds can help to create spaces for men to

learn new skills, reduce social isolation and loneliness and be part of a community project.

A boat building project had long been on the wish list for Lochaber Hope and in 2019 Cameron Bauer, a skilled joiner and woodworker, joined the team with a vision for a social enterprise for boat building and beyond.

The workshop is a place for people to build in every sense of the word.

Cameron is from a small town in Maryland, USA, and told me one of the first things that struck him about Fort William when he moved there with his wife was how few of the services and provisions in



Cameron Bauer at the workshop where he hopes to share his skills.

the area were designed with the people who lived there in mind. 'So many of the shops, cafes and other local business-

es are here for the visitors, not for the people who call this place home,' he said. 'Feeling as though there is nothing for you in the place you live undermines your sense of self, of importance. In my home town in America all of the services were for the people who lived in the town.'

'When I moved here I really wanted to work doing something which used my skills and served the community.'

Cameron's handiwork as a joiner can be seen in various hotels, bars and other businesses in the area and in 2019 he joined Lochaber Hope to take the lead on the boat building project which has now secured funding and began working on a vision for The Workshop.

Cameron explained: 'We were due to launch with the skiff build in early 2020 and then to become a space for people to come together, using the skills within the community; to share in a safe, positive environment and to encourage those who are experiencing vulnerable moments to engage, achieve and have a sense

of belonging.

'The Workshop aims to combine the practical with the mental well-being support of being in an inclusive, open space.' Lockdown has meant the boat building project is currently on a shelf and due to social distancing measures the space is unable to open up and welcome people in real life for the time being.

However, Cameron has been training a young apprentice and is creating regular online tutorials in joinery skills.

Once back up and running, The Workshop will provide workshops and training opportunities and community building projects including the skiff.

In the meantime, The Workshop has launched its bespoke furniture building services for Lochaber individuals and businesses.

Cameron added: 'In line with the Lochaber Hope mantra of 'truly the community helping the community', we are creating high quality pieces of furniture with 100 per cent of the sales going directly to the work of Lochaber Hope projects.'

## Charity urges people to take part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Residents across Lochaber are being encouraged to take part in Macmillan Cancer Support's annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning this Friday, September 25.

The charity, which is facing a dramatic drop in income

due to coronavirus, hopes Scots will get creative about how they take part this year, from holding virtual coffee mornings to signing up for its new Coffee Morning Challenge.

Macmillan funds hundreds

of nurses, support workers, benefits advisors and other vital roles across the NHS and social care system in Scotland.

The charity also provides a support line that offers expert advice from cancer

nurses, welfare rights and money specialists.

Although September 25 is the official day of the Coffee Morning, events can be held at any time.

Find out more at [coffee.macmillan.org.uk](http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk).



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# Library sows seed sharing and saving knowledge

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



ATLAS Arts is organising a range of online and offline activities for the launch of The Skye Zine Library – a new Skye and Lochalsh-wide library of mini libraries.

Containing flyers, posters and publications from crofters, artists, poets and activists, activities to coincide with the launch will include exploring the sharing of stories, publications and knowledge of seed sovereignty and environmental justice on Skye.

Balmacara-based artist Isabel McLeish opened the library in July with specially made zine tutorials and templates for children and families.

This month it's being used to share seeds and seed saving

knowledge. With more and more people learning how to grow their own food, this programme explores practical ways in which people can learn from other amateur growers about seed varieties to create networks of local growers, whilst also learning about the importance of seed sharing for food security, climate justice and other ways of knowing the world.

Ainslie Roddick, ATLAS Arts director, said: 'With this programme we're excited to explore the magic and power of seeds, here on Skye, and around the globe.'

'Like the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library, it would be amazing if we were to find an old heritage seed variety and find a way to bring it back to life – or to find an unusual story in the zine library about histories of local cultivation.'



Connecting to Skye Climate Action's new 'Grow Skye! Dùisg an talamh!' project, members of the communities

are being invited to share seeds and stories from their harvest produce via several different, specially-created



Left: Ainslie Roddick, director at one of the Skye Zine Library sites in Dunvegan and, above, a collection of the seed library deposit envelopes.

Skye Zine Library sites scattered across Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh.

From October 1 and through November, anyone can visit one of the library boxes and deposit their own seeds in specially created

envelopes for sharing with other growers.

They can also help themselves to seeds that others have shared too as well as peruse the free zines – mini publications – in the library.

The remainder of the programme takes shape as a series of films, talks and publication sharings focused on seed sovereignty and global food security.

The Skye Zine Library and the seed-saving programme is supported by Creative Scotland, Engage Scotland and the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), a Scottish Government grant programme managed by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

A full events programme can be found at [atlasarts.org.uk](http://atlasarts.org.uk) where bookings can also be made.

## Chronic pain patients suffering on waiting list, says shadow health MSP

People in chronic pain are being left in 'agony' as they wait weeks to be seen for the first time, a Highlands and Islands MSP has claimed.

Donald Cameron, shadow health spokesperson, said waiting times had fallen behind the Scottish Government's target of 18 weeks, to their highest percentage in five years, following the publication by Public Health Scotland (PHS) of chronic pain waiting time figures for the two quarters up to the end of March and to the end of June.

A total of 1,501 new patients were referred to a chronic pain clinic up to the end of June. This compared to 4,972 in the same quarter in 2019, or a 69.8 per cent fall in referrals.

In the same quarter, 547 patients were seen at a chronic pain clinic compared to 2,741 over the same period in 2019 – a fall of 80 per cent in people being seen.

Those waiting longer than 18 weeks for a first appointment for chronic pain also rose to 52.9 per cent. That compared to June 2019 when it was just 15.4 per cent and December 2019 when it was 23 per cent.

Chronic pain is that which



Donald Cameron MSP, Conservative health spokesman.

lasts longer than 12 weeks, despite medication or treatment. Mr Cameron said: 'While it was understandable the number of patients being seen dropped during the height of the pandemic, cabinet secretary for health Jeane Freeman must urgently outline a plan as to how patients waiting for vital operations will be treated as quickly as possible.'

'We have seen unacceptable situations of patients from Scotland having to travel to England for treatment and that cannot be allowed to continue.'

Public Health Scotland has pointed out the 'majority' of

chronic pain services were temporarily paused from March due to the pandemic. That saw clinicians redeployed before services started to resume in June, it said.

The Scottish Government too said it appreciated how 'difficult' the last few months had been for patients in chronic pain. It said it remained 'committed' to resuming the full range of pain services 'as quickly as it was safe to do so'.

And it pointed out some 'emergency and urgent care' had still been provided for those in chronic pain, despite the impact of the pandemic.

It added: 'Health boards have also offered virtual or telephone consultations to help people with pain management. 'Nationally, we have produced tailored advice and guidance to help people self-manage their condition and access local and online support services.'

Mr Cameron appreciated efforts made by NHS staff to mitigate the impact of the loss of the service but knew, from personal representations made by patients and family members, how much suffering some people had to bear.

## Public asked for input to 11 options for new access to Argyll and Bute



Following recent landslips in the area, Transport Scotland is now taking forward the project development and assessment work required to deliver an alternative infrastructure option to the existing A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.

This work underlines the Scottish Government's commitment to continued work with key stakeholders to ensure that Argyll and Bute remains open for business.

From today, please visit [transport.gov.scot/A83options](http://transport.gov.scot/A83options) to see the eleven corridor options for the **Access to Argyll and Bute (A83) project** that are being considered as we work towards identifying a preferred route corridor in Spring 2021.

We are particularly interested in any local constraints or issues that will help inform our design and assessment work along with comments on the options under consideration.

**The deadline for any comments is Friday 30 October 2020. Please take the chance to tell us what you think.**

If you want a hard copy of the online material or have any questions, please email [transportscotland@bigpartnership.co.uk](mailto:transportscotland@bigpartnership.co.uk) or telephone **0333 880 6685**

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# The Croftless Crofter



NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

## 'To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow'

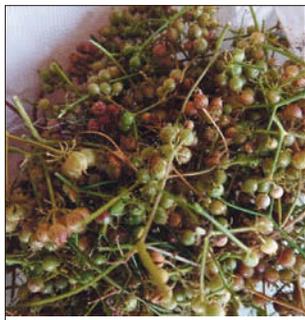
A famous quote from Audrey Hepburn is: 'To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow'.

Lots of us found ourselves planting this spring – and the need to believe in a tomorrow at such a challenging period in time was surely a part of that.

Concern about food security and availability was also preying heavily on people's minds with news stories of food shortages and empty supermarket shelves. Many of us are also familiar with that almost primal desire to find grounding in getting our hands in the soil in times of uncertainty.

I have noted more proudly shared photos of thriving tomato plants from my friends this year than any other.

Whether people have got the growing bug or further uncertainty looms on where the world might be in the year ahead, predictions for even



It is a good idea to gather seeds from crops that perform well – but beware cross pollination.

greater demand for compost and seeds are already being made for next spring.

Seed stores can fluctuate from year to year with weather conditions from the previous season responsible for famine or feast proportions in harvests and therefore seed supplies, let alone the demand from garden centre customers looking for extra packets.

I have participated in seed

swaps and saved seeds myself in years gone by. If you have a crop which performs well, saving seeds from it is always a good idea as it is likely to be a variety which particularly suits your plot – be it the soil, the climate or your own green fingered skills.

This year I have made a concentrated effort to harvest some of the seeds of this year's flowers, fruits and vegetables,

mindful of the frustration of trying to get hold of a packet of salad seeds back in March.

Not all seeds can be harvested – hybrid seeds will not germinate, some seeds cross pollinate too easily and you could think you are sowing one thing only to have something quite different poke its head through the soil.

Cucumbers and melons are the same family, as are

courgettes and marrows. Chillies and peppers, squashes and pumpkins can all get cross pollinated as can most varieties of beans. You are safe with peas, tomatoes, lettuces, herbs and flowers, so these are great places to start with seed saving.

Like all gardening there is a lot of experimenting, learning as you go and ensuring you are finding the joy in the process rather than only in the end result of a bumper successful harvest - to be celebrated for sure, but never anticipated.

There is a mindfulness and meditative quality to collecting seeds, to drying them out, to storing them, carefully labelled and putting them away for a winter hibernation ready to bring out next spring and start the process over again.

The internet has a host of tips and information on the best way to treat various seeds.

My own spare room is currently a seed-saving warehouse with peas drying in their pods and a tray of cornflower seed heads getting swept around every time a draught blows through. I have a couple of envelopes of lettuce seeds and nasturtium pods already dried out and yesterday I spent a lovely few hours sitting in the sunshine snipping off spent dried lavender flowers and coriander seeds.

These are now in jars in the kitchen though – not saved for planting but for culinary use.

We used the coriander leaves fresh in cooking through the summer. We enjoyed the flowers of both along with the many bees buzzing around on our decking and now they will add flavour to our curries, cakes and cookies as dried herbs. It was definitely the most enjoyable and fragrant of the end-of-the-season tasks.

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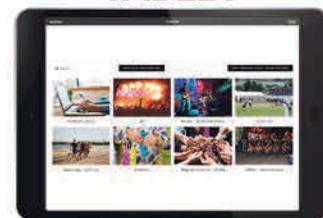
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## Highlanders urged to respond to consultation on Airbnb licensing

A new Scottish Government consultation on short-term lets, which includes a proposal that all AirBnBs in Scotland will require a licence by April 1 2022, has been welcomed by Kate Forbes MSP.

The consultation, which the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch is urging constituents to take part in, closes in mid-October.

A previous government study specifically looked at the effect of short-term lets in Skye and Fort William, particularly the impact on affordable housing and available housing supply for locals.

Proposals include: mandatory licensing to ensure short-term lets are safe and address issues faced by neighbours; control areas so that local authorities can help manage high concentrations of secondary letting where it is affecting the availability of residential housing and taxation to make sure short-term lets make an appropriate contribution to communities

and support local services. MS Forbes said: "There has been extensive debate on the lack of affordable housing in the Highlands. This is a ticking timebomb that is driving young families away and undermining efforts to retain population.

'A big part of the problem is the number of second homes and holiday lets in the Highlands and Islands.

'I know tourism is a key driver of economic growth in the Highlands. It creates jobs and sustains businesses. I want to support tourism. However, when almost 20 per cent of houses on Skye are on AirBnB, something needs to change.

'I know there will be lots of views on how to manage it. Licensing is one suggestion. I'd encourage everyone to reply.'

The consultation, which is open until October 16, can be completed here: <https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets-licensing-scheme/consultation/intro/>

## Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL  
fort@obantimes.co.uk



There used to be so many swallows around our house that their 4am alarm call was the bane of my life.

This summer there were none.

We did have two nests of house martins, who finally gathered on the power lines strung across the brae below our house before disappearing to the south a few weeks ago.

So when a wee bird with a white breast and black back appeared on the same lines this week I didn't immediately identify it.

Its yellow throat threw me. The attention I give to birds has increased as the swallow populations have decreased, so I was not familiar enough to know it was a juvenile swallow.

As well as the lack of the more familiar burnished red of the adult throat, the bird's trademark forking tail feathers had still not developed.

Those forked tails, when



Swallows have been scarce in the West Highlands this year.

they do develop, have been attributed to a natural selection advantage, increasing the birds' manoeuvrability and flight performance.

However, those advantages are proving to be insufficient in our changing world. Swallow populations are declining across the UK.

One reason proposed for this is a decline in insect populations due to changes

in farming practices. The RSPB also reports that 'adverse climatic conditions in Europe may be having a detrimental effect'. Cold springs with late frosts can cause problems for swallows, as do exceptionally hot and dry summers.

The late frosts this year have affected a great deal of wildlife: frost-killed flowers mean fewer rowan berries now for the fieldfares.

However, judging from the fly papers I grudgingly decorated our house with, it seemed to be a good year for insects, in Lochaber at least.

The young swallow looked like it had had a healthy enough start in life, but I wonder if this late brood bird will be up for the 200 miles a day swallows typically cover on their flight through France, Spain and across the Sahara to South Africa.

Swallows' exceptional flying skills allow them to feed as they travel. Even with this

ability it was always a challenging journey, resulting in the loss of many birds due to starvation and exhaustion – and it seems to have been made more difficult in recent years.

If these trends continue, those birds that do return to us next year are likely to be in poorer condition and to lay fewer eggs.

This wee one was joined on the line by four more swallows, clearly identifiable as their tail streamers shone blue-black in the low sun. They preened for a while; their outermost feathers angled knife-like in the air as their heads buried into the white feathers below. Yellow-throat was eventually noised up by a chaffinch and jinked away into the birchwood. I lost sight of the bird in the trees' circling yellow leaves.

If seeing the first swallow of the year is considered a good omen, what does it mean to see the last?

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Seminar reveals new  
manufacturing options

More than 50 businesses signed up to join Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and West Highland College (WHC) UHI at a virtual seminar to introduce new opportunities for advanced manufacturing in the West Highland area last week.

Dave Campbell, project director of STEM for West Highland College UHI, talked the audience through some of the key resources available to businesses looking to take their business to the next level.

No matter what kind of business – from artisan food production, fashion designers to fabricators of bespoke technical equipment for industry – the new Advancing Manufacturing in the West Highlands project can offer

tailored support to all types and sizes of SMEs and micro-businesses across different industry sectors, including food and drink, construction, aquaculture, metals and timber products.

Part of the national Advancing Manufacturing Challenge Fund, the project is a partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

WHC will now take forward a £1.6m project designed to provide the area's businesses with access to advanced manufacturing technology and expertise.

The multi-sector approach will give them access to new advanced manufacturing equipment and specialist



expertise that is not currently available to businesses in the West Highlands.

The aspiration is that access to advanced manufacturing techniques will open up new opportunities for businesses right across the area, helping to inform their adoption of

new technology and contributing to a strong and sustainable economy that will help the community to thrive.

As project director, Mr Campbell said in his presentation that the new fund would allow businesses to try out new ways of working in a no-risk

'sandpit' environment, giving them the freedom to explore the big 'what if?' questions their businesses may face and try new technology they might never have thought of before.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce looks forward to supporting and celebrating many innovative new developments for local business.

If anyone would like to find out more about how to get involved, contact Nigel Patterson, Business Development Manager at West Highland College UHI on [nigel.patterson.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:nigel.patterson.whc@uhi.ac.uk).

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CalMac winter  
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Ferry passengers can now book sailings for the months ahead following the launch of CalMac's winter timetable.

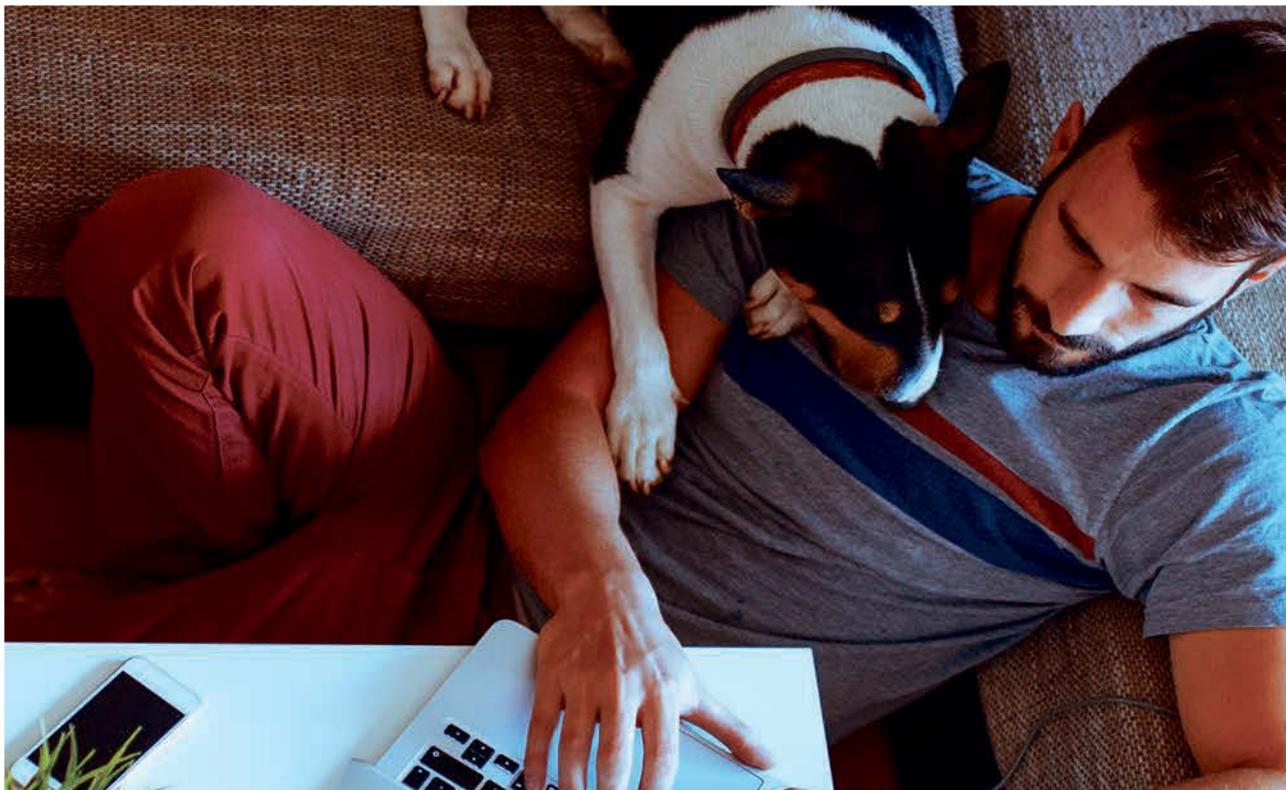
The company says there is already an increase in bookings compared to previous years.

Robert Morrison, director of operations, added: 'As Scotland is still in phase three of Covid restrictions, there are slight changes to some sailings and capacity is still less than usual.'

'We are encouraging passengers to plan ahead as much as possible and to wear face coverings when required to do so.'

'More information about the measures we are taking to keep staff and passengers safe can be found in our travel guidelines on our website.'

Journeys for the period October 19 2020 until March 25 2021 can be booked at [www.ticketing.calmac.co.uk/booking/asp/web100.asp](http://www.ticketing.calmac.co.uk/booking/asp/web100.asp)



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## LETTERS

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

## Much more than a cinema

Massive congratulations to Angus MacDonald, his staff and all the trades whose tremendous effort over the last few months mean the much-anticipated Highland Cinema can finally open this week.

There was a collective exhaling of breath on Tuesday as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's 'tightening of lockdown restrictions' stopped short of closing recreational facilities, with Angus himself admitting great relief following the 2.30pm broadcast from the Scottish Parliament. And who could blame him? The founder and chairman of the new cinema has put his heart and soul into the venture over the last three years and at last can stand back and witness the aesthetically pleasing creation which will provide a centralised hub for residents and visitors.

Standing in the place previously occupied by a 1970s-built tourist office which housed the old cinema, along with public toilets at the back, the new building is as eye-catching as it is functional. Great care has been taken by Skye-based designers Dualchas and 3b Construction, Newton Stewart, to create Angus's vision of a traditional red-roofed, stone-walled Highland building which will bring people together right in the heart of Fort William. His brief to make it 'the most photographed building in town' looks likely to become a reality.

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.



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## 'Horrified' at Ganavan beach motorhome park proposals

I am writing to protest about the proposal of a motor home park at Ganavan beach Oban.

We have been coming to the area for years, visiting the beach, visiting friends and family in Oban. Many happy hours were spent here with family and children. It's a beautiful place and I feel this would spoil the beauty of the area. There are plenty of motor home parks in the area.

Where would the locals and visitors park their cars when visiting the beach? The place would be too crowded. What about disabled people or the elderly visiting? They need access direct to the beach.

It would be better to ban motor homes from parking here at all or overnight.

I understand it was gifted to the people of Oban. This would not serve the community. It would be an eyesore and if left as a car park would help to aid people's health, physical and mental health apart from preserving the beauty of this special place. I am horrified with this proposal.

Marilyn Sheeran, East Kilbride.

## Kilmory Castle intent on a return to the dark past

Our mastery in Kilmory Castle are, as Mr R Jackson points out, intent on returning us to the darkness of the past, The Oban Times, September 10.

Here, in the southern end of Argyll and Bute, public toilets closed during Covid and may never re-open.

At the CalMac terminal, the toilets are the responsibility of Argyll and Bute Council. They are closed, with a sign telling us to use the 'Victorian toilets' 200 metres away.

Customer service and encouraging tourism are not high on the list of priorities. It sometimes seems our administrators in 'local' government have the sole purpose of self-preservation. In a time of austerity and budget cuts, can someone remind me of the salaries paid to directors and department heads in Kilmory?

Hamish Kirk, 16 Russell Street, Rothesay.

## Appreciation after hearing aid safely returned to owner

To the person who found my hearing aid on Friday September 11 outside the Tesco store in Oban and handed it in to the customer services desk, thank you very much.

Margaret Newall, Campbeltown.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Air an t-seachdain a chaidh bha mi ag ràdh gur 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. Bha mi a' togail sin mar phàirt ann an co-cheangal le suidheachadh anns am bheil coròna-bhioras ag ath-bheothachadh feadh na dùthcha, agus na cunnartan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith an lùib sin dhuinn. Dh'fheumte aideachadh gun robh eòlaichean a' cur seo air mhanadh dhan dùthaich an ire mhath bho nochd an galair an toiseach, ach a rèir choltais tha cùisean air gluasad fiù 's nas luaithe na bha iadsan an dùil a thachradh. Tuigear carson a tha e doirbh dha na h-eòlaichean a bhith cinnteach dè dìreach tha dol a thachairt le coròna-bhioras is iad a' dèiligeadh ri gnè bhiorais a tha ùr dha eòlas-leigheis, agus tha an dìth eòlais eachdraidheil sin cuideachd na chnap-starra mòr ann a bhith a' feuchainn ri banachdach a chruthachadh. Cha leig duine a leas eòlas meidigeach a bhith aige gus tuigsinn mar a dh'fhaodas a' bhioras sgapadh às ùr far am bheil saorsa aig daoine barrachd gluasaid a dhèanamh agus far am bheil sgoiltean is colaistean a' fosgladh a-rithist, agus tha amharas ann gum faodadh òigridh, ged nach biodh iad fhèin a' fulang, an galair a ghiùlan gu dachanan sheann chàirdean.

'S e suidheachadh draghail a th' ann gu cinnteach agus tha feum air impidh a chur air a' mhòr-shluagh, sean is òg, na riaghailtean sgaraidh agus brat-gnùise a leantainn gu dùrachdach. Feumar a bhith beò an dòchas gun soirbhich iomairtean a cheadaicheas ion-

dhion an aghaidh Covid 19 ann an ùine nach bi ro fhada, agus gum faigh ar beatha làitheil tilleadh gu àbhaisteachd, ged is e gu deimhinnte àbhaisteachd ùr a bhios ann! Ged a bhios argamaidean poilitigeach ann a thaobh 's mar a dhèilig riaghaltasan fa leth ris an èiginn seo saoilidh mi nach gabh àicheadh gun robh mòran den taic ionmhais a thugadh le fòrladh luchd-obrach, agus cobhair dha caochladh sheòrsa ghnìomhachasan, ceart agus iomchaidh. Bha, agus tha, aithne ann gum faodadh briseadh eaconamach na milleanan a chur à cosnadh agus cosgais do-labhairt adhbharachadh dhan dùthaich thar iomadh bliadhna romhainn. Feumar sgilean agus ealantas luchd-obrach na dùthcha a dhion ach am bi comas againn fàs a-rithist cho luath 's a bhios cothrom ann. Ach cuin a bhios sin? Agus am fuiling Breatann an tuilleadh cosgais a chuireadh leantainn nan seòrsa taicean seo oirre? 'S e ceistean doirbh a tha sin dhan riaghaltas, agus cuideachd dha pàrtaidhean dùbhlanaich a dh'fheumas toinnsa no chdadh ann am breithneachadh na slighe air adhart. Feumar na fiachan a phàigheadh agus, co-dhiù bhios sin a' ciallachadh lùghdachadh air seirbheisean poblach air neo àrdachadh chìsean, bidh cunnart dioghaltais poilitigeach ann!

Resumption of a national lockdown would be enormously damaging but the spread of coronavirus must be halted, as must the UK's economy be protected. Options for repaying the escalating costs are few and all carry political risk.

## Concern over accumulation of rubbish in Islay's public bins

Constituents on Islay are concerned about our public bins overflowing with rubbish.

Household waste bags are being placed in the public bins which is exasperating the problem. I have asked Argyll and Bute Council if they would consider increasing the number of up-lifts. I am also concerned that with the hotter weather we have been having, the accumulation of rubbish could become a public health issue.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and Islands ward.

## 'Disgraceful' BBC being dictated to by the Tories

I never thought I would live to see the day when the BBC joined the Conservative Party as ever since childhood I have been given to understand the BBC was impartial.

It is essential our First Minister, in these dangerous times, gives her daily briefings to the Scottish nation, informing us of the necessary precautions we need to take. It is disgraceful the BBC is allowing itself to be dictated to by the Tories.

Susan Swain.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Fingal Centre is latest High Life Highland location to re-open

Skye residents and visitors were able to restart swimming at the Fingal Centre in Portree as it re-opened its doors to the public on Monday.

Fingal centre manager Scott Milne said: 'This is the day we have all been waiting for since our building was put into lockdown in March.'

'The team has worked extremely hard to get the location re-opened in a safe and accessible way for our customers.'

'I fully appreciate and support that The Highland Council's priority was the safety of pupils and to get them back to full time education. So I am extremely grateful to the head teacher and school staff for their support

in getting our leisure centre open for the many people on the island looking to get back to swimming.

'We will have a number of measures in place to ensure the Scottish Government's guidelines are applied at all times, so customers may see some changes.'

'However, we will have staff around to advise customers as they return to the centre.'

The manager added: 'We have waited a while to be able to make this announcement, but now we have, I am really looking forward to seeing our residents and visitors coming back to the Fingal Centre.'

## Wheelie good effort from Plockton



Four hardy cyclists and their dedicated support trio have raised a mammoth £19,088.25 in aid of Maggie's Centre Inverness. From left, Charlie G MacRae, support; Michael Matheson, cyclist; Annan Dryburgh, support; Alan Hendry, cyclist; Kenneth MacRae, cyclist; and Douglas Cameron, cyclist, along with Iain Dobson, not in photograph, who was also part of the support group, cycled more than 150 miles to Inverness and back to Duirinish on August 15. All seven are members of the Plockton Two Wheelers.



David Mackenzie proudly displays his Highland wares in Australia before lockdown and a selection of crafts produced by David over the years.



## David brings Lochaber Down Under

All things Highland are going on Down Under as a former Lochaber man, who left Scotland more than 60 years ago, remembers his roots through craft.

David Mackenzie lives in Melbourne with his wife Trudi and makes a variety of items, including craft boxes with clan crests and Celtic designs, which he, pre-coronavirus lockdown, sold at the many Highland Gatherings in Australia.

The signs in the photograph easily identify to those who come from the Fort and lead to many a chin wag about those days.

Born in Inverloch, David lived in Seaview Terrace until 1955.

He attended Fort William Senior Secondary School on Achintore Road.

His father worked as an upholsterer for Frazer's furniture shop on the High Street

before the family migrated to Frankston, Australia. They have continued to live in the area since.

Many Fort William families settled in the area and kept a strong social connection going.

The couple have been back to Fort William on quite a few occasions and David has enjoyed reminiscing about his walks with his father along the peat track, over the deer fence and home via Glen Nevis.

The Mackenzies are currently in phase four of the Australian lockdown but hope to continue selling their wares at Gatherings in 2021.

The couple are also on the Clan Mackenzie committee in Australia and send their best wishes to everyone in Scotland, especially those in the Highlands.

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# Ten goal thriller as Jags go down at Rhu

Rhu Amateurs 6  
South Lochaber Thistle 4  
Pre-season friendly

## Report by Peter Newman

South Lochaber Thistle's pre-season continued with a trip to Helensburgh, suffering defeat at the hands of Rhu Amateurs in another 'local' friendly.

The Kinlochleven outfit made the trip south after having played well in a plucky defeat to Oban Saints the previous week.

Manager Alan Gray has been using the friendlies to blood new players and try out new formations and combinations within the team as the league programme appears on the horizon.

The first half saw the Jags set up in a 4-4-2 formation with Marcus Spence in goals behind a back four of Leigh Dunning, Callum Boyd, Steven Neil and

Kieran Lopez. Liam Gilchrist and Martin Munro lead the line in front of a midfield four of Sean Noble, Greg Kelly, Andrew McLean and Allan MacLellan.

And it was rangy midfielder McLean who opened the scoring in the second minute. A Boyd free kick was helped on by Munro. The ball landed at the feet of McLean who slotted the it home.

Unfortunately, this was the main highlight of the first half for the visitors. Rhu began to move the ball confidently and the first half saw the Jags concede five goals.

On a brighter note, goal of the game came midway through the half with skipper Munro jinking around several defenders before calmly curling a left-footed shot high into the keeper's top right hand corner.

A change of system and the introduction of Bradley Cameron, Calum-Ruairidh

Foxley, Ross MacLean and Morgan Birrell turned the game. First goals for the club for Birrell and Gilchrist were positive signs for the Greater Glasgow Amateur League team. Also of note was skipper Munro, the veteran of the side, the oldest player on show at 25 years old.

A solitary reply from Rhu saw the game end 6-4. Manager Gray said: 'A huge thanks to everyone at Rhu for hosting us and getting the game on.'

'It was a good run out for the lads and allowed everyone to get minutes under their belt. The scoreline wasn't great but in terms of what we were looking for, we saw plenty of positives.'

'This is a youthful squad with much potential in it. We are looking forward to getting the results to match the performance in the near future.'

Joint man of the match: Munro and Gilchrist.



SLT goalscorers, left to right, Andrew McLean, Liam Gilchrist, Morgan Birrell and Martin Munro. Photograph: Albie Robertson.

## Shinty sponsors give backing to 'phantom' cup final

Although the pandemic means shinty's Blue Riband event, the Camanachd Cup Final, will not be played as scheduled on September 19, sponsors Tulloch Homes has offered significant support to the game's governing body.

The Inverness-based company is to donate its sponsorship fee, despite the competition not being played as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tulloch Homes has missed out on the marketing opportunity via live BBC TV coverage of the semi finals and finals. But George Fraser, chief executive of the Highlands' largest house-builder, revealed: 'We want to show our support for the sport and the Camanachd Association at an extremely difficult time.'

'It's tough for the association's budget with such reduced income, so I spoke to our chairman Tom Allison, who is also a director of Celtic FC, and he gave the go-ahead to finance a competition which hasn't happened.'

'We've had reduced income ourselves, only re-opening two months ago, but feel it is important to stand by shinty.'



From left: Keith Loades, Camanachd Association president; Michael Russell, captain of current Camanachd Cup holders Newtonmore and George Fraser, Chief Executive Officer of Tulloch Homes.

'We now look forward to sponsoring the 125th anniversary Camanachd Cup final at Kingussie in a year and for the following two seasons.'

Camanachd Association president Keith Loades stressed the body's gratitude.

'It's a hugely valuable finan-

cial and morale boost after such a terrible year,' he said.

'Tulloch's decision will be widely appreciated throughout the shinty strongholds. It proves they are a true friend of the game and the funding will help us deliver our programme of support to clubs.'

'George Fraser was one of

the most successful shinty players, and an old opponent of mine, which makes this backing all the more satisfying.'

'It helps underpin the game's future.'

Newtonmore captain Michael Russell commented: 'It's an amazing gesture by

Tulloch Homes. No-one would have grudged it if they said they wouldn't pay for a tournament which didn't happen.'

Newtonmore equalled their club record last year by winning the trophy for the fourth consecutive season, and Russell added: 'I'm sure the clubs, the association and the fans will be delighted at the valuable commitment being shown by Tulloch.'

'I'm very pleased that Kingussie, after all their organisation for this month's final proved in vain, will be next year's venue.'

Mr Fraser praised the successful partnership between Tulloch Homes and the association in the firm's sponsorship of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 finals.

He also made special mention of the association's hard-working executive team, led by chief executive Derek Keir.

This year is the 95th anniversary of Highland-born Tulloch Homes.

George Fraser has eight Camanachd Cup winners medals, including captaining Newtonmore to victory over Kyles Athletic in the 1975 final.

## Frustrating race sees John McPhee finish tenth

The Emilia Romagna GP proved to be a difficult task for Connel's John McPhee and teammate Khairul Iddham Pawi, with the Moto3 combo taking tenth and 24th respectively.

John joined the leading pack with ten laps remaining but being forced wide with two laps to go denied him the chance to challenge for the podium and he finally crossed the line tenth, maintaining his third place in the championship standings.

After the race John said: 'It was much more difficult to make my way forward but I felt good on the bike.'

'When I got to around P7 or P8 there were a couple of riders who upset the rhythm and I was unlucky to get run wide because we had a chance at the top five today.'

'We're still third in the championship, not so far from the leader, and there's still a good amount of races to go.'

John now heads straight into the ninth round of the Moto3 championship: the Gran Premi de Catalunya in Barcelona from Friday September 25 to Sunday September 27.



Bob MacIntyre.

## Bob makes a major impact in New York

Three majors played, three cuts made - Bob MacIntyre continues to impress on the biggest of stages.

The Oban left-hander showed once again why he is one of the rising stars of the game with a gutsy performance at the US Open in New York.

With a host of big names, including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, failing to make the half-way cut, Bob found himself teeing it up over the weekend at the brutal West Course at Winged Foot with his +6 score squeezing him in right on the cut line.

Although he didn't quite have the weekend he hoped for, with rounds of 76 and 79 effectively stalling any prospects of a high finish, he will take away a lot of confidence after another week mixing with the best golfers on the planet.

The fact eventual winner Bryson DeChambeau was the only player to finish under par shows just how tough a test this was.

While Bob can take a great deal of satisfaction from his own performance, the big-hearted star will also be delighted his 10 birdies raised \$35,000 for the Hurricane Laura relief fund in Louisiana where Bob went to university. All in all, an excellent week's work.

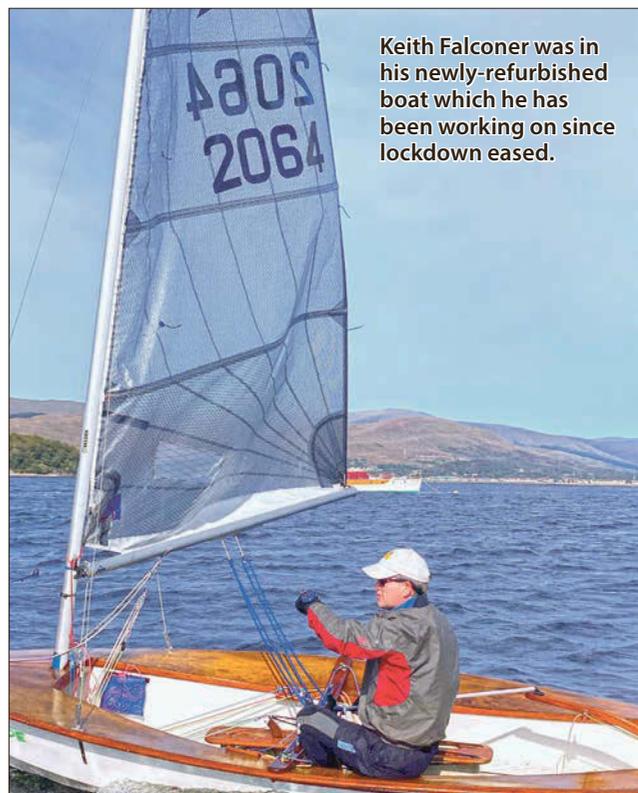
# Plain sailing in perfect yacht race conditions



Winners Viola and Michael Scott in their Fireball.



Vince Deans, Hamish Loudan and Tim Sims were in the Laser 16.



Keith Falconer was in his newly-refurbished boat which he has been working on since lockdown eased.



Mike Campbell in the Phantom.

It was a case of the tortoise and the hare for the only race of the season at Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) on Sunday.

In perfect sailing conditions of sunshine and a good breeze, the slowest boat set off first with the faster boats following at predetermined intervals in an attempt to take the lead within the time limit.

The triangular course on Loch Linnhe allowed for some fast sailing and for a while it looked as if the 'tortoise', Keith Falconer in a Solo, might hold the lead.

However, the Phantom of Mike Campbell gradually overhauled the Solo, only to be caught in the last minute by the Fireball of Viola and Michael Scott from Kielder Water Sailing Club in the Scottish Borders. They said it was the best conditions they had ever sailed this boat in.



LYC members Chris Strong and John Wilson manned one of the safety boats.

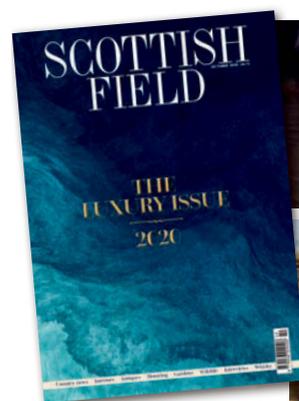


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