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Luing school's future hangs in the balance

by Kathie Griffiths
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Islanders want youngsters back in the playground but some fear unless travel links between Luing and the mainland, a mere 200 yards across the swift-flowing and often inclement Cuan Sound are improved – it may never happen.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed there are currently no pupils registered at the tiny school for the 2020/21 academic year and that its upkeep is in the hands of existing janitors.

When The Oban Times asked about the school's future, a council spokesman replied: 'There are no current plans for its future.'

Some children from Luing are now travelling to Easdale School on the neighbouring island of Seil that has 17 primary and five pre-school pupils.

In a bid to attract a new family with children to the island, livestock farm owner Shane Cadzow is offering a full-

time job opportunity, with a four-bedroom house included.

'We would love to have a young family come here but better access on and off the island would help attract more families without a doubt,' said Mr Cadzow adding he believed the ferry and its current timetable restricted people being able to enjoy social attractions on the mainland. The cost of forking out for a seasonal travel pass was also a prohibitive factor, he said.

'It's grim. If I had a young family, I'd look at restrictions to living on Luing before moving here. I'd want to get on and off. If that was easier or cheaper to do I don't think the school would be shut now,' he said. 'We're only about 200 yards off the mainland, which makes it even more frustrating for people. We should have a bridge. We were almost there years ago but it never happened and now there isn't the money to do it any way.'

There has been a Fixed Link Action Group on the island

since the 1990s, with some residents wanting to see Luing permanently connected to Seil to try and stop the population from dwindling.

There is split opinion over whether the ferry should be kept or a causeway or a bridge built and there have been more recent round-table talks about possibilities, but for now the traditional ferry has remained.

John Robertson, who has lived on Luing all his life, also believes access on and off Luing is 'a huge stumbling block' for young families.

'This was all predicted to the council. This was all forecast – the demise of the school – people could see it happening,' he said.

Councillor Kieron Green, who is also Argyll and Bute's depute policy holder for education, said: 'I think for an island like Luing having a primary school is incredibly important because it's a centre of the community. If people on the

Continued on page two.



Oban street cleaner receives royal approval

A street cleaner from Oban features in a prestigious national photography exhibition backed by the Duchess of Cambridge.

David Farrell was working during lockdown when photographer Christopher Cox from Taynuilt stopped him and asked if he could take his photograph.

Christopher sent the image to the National Portrait Gallery's Hold Still digital exhibition, where it made the final 100 portraits from almost 32,000 entries.

You can view Christopher's image of David on the National Portrait Gallery website at www.npg.org.uk/hold-still

New Ganavan steering group

Oban Community Council is setting up a new steering group to sort out parking problems at Ganavan.

The new group received backing from community councillors at a virtual meeting on Monday September 28, after Ganavan's continuing woes with overnighters urinating, defecating and littering the area was flagged up as a major health risk.

Who dunnit could cost taxpayers

Unless the person who crashed into a wall belonging to Oban's Rockfield Centre comes forward, the repair, costing £10,000, could fall on taxpayers. Councillor Roddy McCuish told Oban Community Council on Monday that there are hopes a bill can be avoided if insurance details are passed to the council.

Flu jab clinics in Oban and Mull

NHS Highland is running drop-in clinics for people eligible for the flu vaccine.

One session is being run by Lorn Medical Centre, the other by Mull and Iona Medical Group.

Turn to page 14 for full details.

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OT

Man watching family with binoculars claims he was retrieving his cat

COURT

Parents playing with their daughter were shocked when they spotted a man watching with binoculars from a bedroom window, the court has heard.

Kevin Hobbs now living at 69 West Princes Street, Helensburgh, pleaded not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last week to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner which was likely to cause a reasonable person to suffer fear and alarm.

The court heard how the parents, who were in court to give evidence against the 22-year-old, were 'utterly credible', 'reliable', 'sensible' and

'level-headed people' with good eyesight who were prompted, when they saw they were being observed by Hobbs through what appeared to be binoculars at a short distance of about 40 metres, to confront him and contact the police.

It had been a hot summers night on June 1 this year when the family had been out in the garden at their Oban home. The little girl had been playing in her underwear and t-shirt.

The parents both described spotting Hobbs watching them from inside a house nearby. When he realised he had been seen he 'jumped to one side' and 'hid'. The mother said: 'I felt shocked. I was concerned he was looking at my child.'

While the mother called the police, the father went to Hobbs's front door to confront him. The father told the court he 'could not believe' seeing Hobbs with the binoculars looking at them. 'It's not the kind of thing you would normally see. I was angry, I felt disgust,' he said.

When Hobbs was later challenged by police about being at the window, he was under the influence of drink. He denied being at the window, then changed his mind to say he may have been there and then explained himself further by saying he was there to retrieve the family cat. He also denied owning any binoculars.

Police did not search his

house straight away, when they did two days later no binoculars were found.

Although it could not be ascertained just how long Hobbs had been at the window, Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said he had been 'furtive.' Mr Glancy added: 'He can only have been looking downwards at them and their child who was in a partial state of undress.'

There was no one else was out in the other gardens at the time and there was nothing else remarkable to look at, the court was told.

Hobbs's solicitor invited an acquittal saying his client's behaviour was neither threatening or abusive because he had been seen at the window of

his own home for only a couple of seconds therefore there was no case to answer.

But after being satisfied by evidence heard, Sheriff Patrick Hughes told Hobbs: 'I accept evidence about you ducking away from the window knowing you were doing wrong. I don't accept you were holding a cat. I do accept the evidence of witnesses and I'm satisfied you acted in a manner as libelled. You are guilty.'

Deferring Hobbs's sentence until November 4 for more reports, the sheriff said: 'This is a troubling matter especially against the nature of your record.'

Hobbs is under a special condition not to enter Oban.

Luig school's future hangs in balance

Continued from page one. community.' Councillor Elaine Robertson said Luig Primary School was a vibrant and busy place when she first represented the island and it was with sadness she heard there were no pupils registered this year.

'I know the Luig community will be considering all means of addressing the decline in young families on the island - housing, better ferry connections, perhaps further discussions with regard to a fixed link, access to the mainland being of huge importance.

'The island provides many advantages for a young family bringing up children, including a safe, inclusive and welcoming community. I hope to see it [the school] being reopened and the young population numbers rising again.'

Luig Community Council chairman Mike Barlow said: 'It's very sad that our school has been mothballed. For children's development, it's not good if they are in a school with just one or two other children, they need classmates.'

Eoghann MacLachlan, chairman of Isle of Luig Community Trust said building affordable housing with more than one or two bedrooms than the slate quarry-workers' cottages offer might be something to consider - if there was support and funding available to do it.

Unsafe overtake by motorcyclist caught on dash cam

COURT

A touring motorcyclist has been fined for an 'unsafe' overtake which ripped the wing mirror off an oncoming car.

Steven William McCamley, aged 64, pleaded guilty to driving dangerously on the A816 between Knipoch and Kilmore.

The charge stated on June 8 2019 he used excessive speed

to overtake another vehicle when it was unsafe to do so in that he entered the oncoming carriageway causing another driver to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

David Glancy, Procurator Fiscal, told Oban Sheriff Court on September 22, that a motorist driving from Oban was passed by motorbikes with one overtaking in the path of an oncoming car.

Mr Glancy said McCamley crossed the centre line of the road and adopted the 'racing line' through a bend which resulted in his bike ripping the offside wing mirror off the oncoming car.

McCamley, of Stad aan 't Haringvliet, Holland, continued on his way but the driver following behind had a dashboard camera which recorded the incident. The

footage was played in court. Mr Glancy said the driver caught up with him at traffic lights further down the road and advised him to go back or report the matter.

The driver of the car whose wing mirror was damaged was said to be 'shaken' and reported it to police. The dash cam footage identified it was a motorcycle with Dutch plates, said Mr Glancy and there was

a subsequent social media appeal. The motorcyclist attended a police station in Dingwall and was told the matter would be reported.

Mr Glancy told the court: 'It was an error of judgement and thankfully no one was injured.'

McCamley did not attend the hearing and no mitigation was provided in open court.

He was fined £300 with penalty points added to his licence.

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Woman 'stabbed' brother during row, court hears

COURT

A woman has gone on trial accused of stabbing her younger brother during an argument.

Samantha MacDonald, 35, pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault in that she did repeatedly strike John MacDonald, 30, on the body with a knife.

Oban Sheriff Court heard she called paramedics to her caravan at 6 Ledaig Travelling Persons' Site, Ledaig, some time after 2am on January 21 2019. Mr MacDonald was found with a 'small' puncture wound on his bicep and a 'defensive wound' on his hand like he had grabbed something sharp, said an ambulance technician giving evidence.

A police officer, appearing for the prosecution, described finding the accused in a 'heavily blood-stained' jumper and jeans. The accused's partner had no signs of blood on him.

The victim agreed to have his injuries bandaged but declined to attend hospital, tell police what had happened or provide a statement against his sister, the court heard.

He had also failed to respond to 'repeated attempts' to cite him as a witness at the trial, said Procurator Fiscal David Glancy.

However, Mr Glancy said it was clear the accused was responsible due to 'multiple voluntary admissions' she made after the incident.

A police officer, appearing as a prosecution witness, told the court the accused had said it was a 'brother-sister argument that got out of hand'.

She had repeatedly said: 'I'm sorry Mammy, I didn't mean it Mammy,' the court was told.

A police officer also heard the accused say: 'I haven't taken my tablets, maybe that's why I done it?' On the journey

to Oban Police Station, the accused had also said: 'John'll no press charges,' according to the police witness. At the police station, she told officers to release her spouse who had also been arrested as it had 'nothing to do' with him and that she took 'full blame', the court heard.

While in police custody, she had been heard singing: 'First cut is the deepest,' the court heard.

A recording of the 999 call the accused made requesting help from the ambulance service for her brother was played in court.

She was heard to tell the call handler she had 'stabbed' her brother after he grabbed her by the hair.

The accused's spouse also stated during the call that the injury had been 'one nip in the arm' and that the bleeding had stopped. Solicitor Ruben Murd-

anaigum called for the case to be halted on the grounds of 'insufficient evidence'.

He argued that at no stage had MacDonald indicated she had 'repeatedly' hit her brother around the body with a knife - as she had been charged.

The victim had also indicated to a police officer he had cut himself from a fall, while no knife had ever been recovered, said Mr Murdanaigum.

However, Mr Glancy told the sheriff there was no evidence of 'third party involvement' and that the perpetrator could only 'logically' be the accused.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said he was 'satisfied' the accused had been properly identified and that Mr MacDonald had been the victim of a 'stabbing assault'.

MacDonald, who dabbed at her eyes during the hearing, was told the case would continue on November 3.

POLICE FILES

Arrested

About 2am on Monday September 21 at Corran Esplanade, Oban, a man, 26, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The man was arrested and charged and a report was sent to the procurator fiscal.

Drugs search

About 10pm on Monday September 21 at Shuna Terrace, Oban, police searched an address and a 37-year-old man was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis. The man was cautioned and charged and a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Theft

Between 3.50pm on September 11 and 1pm on Monday September 14 at Burnbank Terrace, Oban, a mountain bike was stolen. Police are investigating.

Driving charge

About 4pm on Tuesday September 22 at Pennyghael, Isle of Mull, police attended the scene of an accident. The driver, a man, 28, was allegedly driving in a careless manner. He was charged with the

offence and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Assault

About 9pm on Saturday September 26, at Bayview Road, Oban, a woman, 70, assaulted a woman. The pensioner was issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

Charged

About 9pm on Sunday September 27 at Shore Street, Oban, a man, 32, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The man was arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Assault allegation

About 8.30pm on Thursday September 24, at Bunessan, Isle of Mull, a man, 38, was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman. The man was charged with the offences and held for court. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Any information can be called in anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Have your say on eleven options unveiled for A83

Eleven 'corridor' options for the A83 can now be viewed online with a deadline for public comments of October 30, writes Ellis Butcher.

The options are detailed on a dedicated project page on the Transport Scotland website - www.transport.gov.scot/publication/project-corridor-options-access-to-argyll-and-bute-a83/

The 11 options are being assessed by a project team to decide a 'preferred route corridor' by spring next year.

The 'Access to Argyll and Bute (A83)' project feedback forms are here: www.transport.gov.scot/media/48162/feedback-form-a83-access-to-argyll-and-bute-pdf-version-sept-2020.pdf.

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, appealed for people to visit the page and give input by October 30.

'We recognise that the timescale for an alternative to the current route are frustrating for the local community but in recognition of the pressures the current situation



While ongoing work has helped keep the Rest open, a long-term solution is long overdue.

brings, we remain committed to progressing substantial shorter term investment in the existing A83 in tandem with the work to identify a permanent solution as part of a two phased approach.

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

Mr Matheson said he understood the 'frustration and disruption' that recent landslips at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful had caused.

He said: 'While our previous and on-going investment in catch pits has helped keep the road open for an estimated 48 days when it would otherwise have closed, I realise people are looking for a long-term solution to dealing with landslips at the site and we are committed to delivering one.'

'Transport Scotland is now taking forward the project development and assessment work required to deliver an alternative infrastructure solution to the existing A83, in parallel with the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.'

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OT

Restoration work takes Dunollie Castle ruin to a whole new level

by Kathie Griffiths
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Work has finished on making Dunollie Castle ruin safe for years to come.

Phase three of the castle conservation work had been started in February but had to temporarily stop for lockdown. Now the work has been completed, visitors to Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds will be able to go inside the ruin safely for the first time since repairs started in 2013 – once Covid restrictions allow.

An added bonus will see visitors being able to go up to the first floor and then on up to a new viewing platform at second floor level.

The project saw repairs and pointing work carried out on the northwest and northeast walls of the ruin as well as secure a flight of ancient stairs hidden within the upper walls of the castle.



The Dunollie Castle Ruin conservation team.

Because of the hard work of Gary Simpson and his team from Heritage Consolidation Ltd, there were only a few minor fixtures remaining to be repaired after lockdown began to ease, and the team was able to get back on site.

Also working on the project were Ian Campbell (CP Architects) as lead architect with his team of conservation architect Paul Barham from Barham Glen, Ben Adam from

David Narro Conservation Engineers, Tommy McQuade from Morham & Brochie and archaeologist Roddy Regan.

Sustainability and development manager Jane Issacson, who has co-ordinated the programme of consolidation since works began in 2013, said: 'The team has been an absolute pleasure to work with and we are so delighted to have completed this third phase of work, meaning that the monument tower is now

secure. There are still further phases which we hope to carry out in the future, but consolidating and repointing the third and fourth walls in this phase means the ruin is now safe for many, many years to come.'

The cost of these works was £224,000, with the overall cost totalling £974,000.

Without the backing of supporters from home and further away these essential works would not have been possible. A large chunk of funding for phase three came from a Historic Environment Scotland grant for £141,605. The Dunollie team also fundraised more than £50,000, with generous contributions from the Clan MacDougall Society of North America.

Alison McNab, chairperson of the Dunollie Preservation Trust said: 'DPT is extremely grateful for the immense support shown from both the local and international community

for this project. Dunollie Castle is a landmark for our town and an extremely important visitor attraction. The castle is an integral part of the Dunollie visitor experience for both locals and visitors, and it's hugely exciting to have more of the building open for viewing.'

As well as new accessibility for visitors in the castle ruin itself, DPT has also been working on fitting a handrail on the castle path. Careful consideration and planning was needed for that job because the castle mound is protected by scheduled monument consent, preventing ground leading up to the castle being disturbed.

An old Wych Elm recently taken down on the grounds of Dunollie will be turned into a barrier with a handrail and will feature the timeline of development as well as giving a nod to others who contributed to it over the years.

With visitor access uncertain

for the rest of 2020, the Dunollie team has been coming up with new ways for people to still enjoy the Castle ruin and it's fascinating history. One way is through the new Kindred of Lorn project, launched during lockdown, inviting history enthusiasts, creatives, writers and anyone with an emotional connection to the castle to create either a written or physical piece to go on display in an exhibition showcasing the castle's heritage throughout the ages.

A short Dunollie Castle film is to be made in collaboration with film maker Mikey McManus of MMCM Media takes viewers through the decades of the castle and the chiefs of the Clan MacDougall who once resided there. Filming is anticipated to take place early October, with the film available to purchase from November.

To see more of what is happening at Dunollie, visit www.dunollie.org

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Oban's bucking the trend

Around Oban

KAY McDONALD

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WHERE IS THIS?



Two local businesses have recently expanded into larger premises which is great to see, Avalon has moved into Argyll Square, into its beautiful new salon, and today sees the reopening of Button Nose Boutique in its lovely new shop in Airds Crescent. If the window is anything to go by it will be fantastic and I can't wait to see inside.

We're very lucky in Oban as we seem to be bucking the national trend with new businesses opening and existing ones expanding, and we can only hope and pray it continues this way.

Actually we can do more than that, we can make sure it continues like this by supporting the businesses we have and making sure we use them – like the old expression goes, we have to use them or lose them, and I for one want to see our local businesses prosper, it makes the town a more interesting and colourful place to live and visit.

Speaking of which, Argyll Square seems to be the place

to be these days, it's looking fantastic with no empty premises now and lots of great shops windows to catch your eye.

I know it's a bit early for the 'C' word but seeing all these lovely things has inspired to me to at least think about starting my shopping for the big event in December – and again, as far as I can, I'm determined that I'll be shopping locally for everyone.

Sorry about the lack of photograph last week, but we're back to normal this week with a slightly difficult one, unless you're constantly looking up.

Willy's wander for charity

More than £1,000 has already been raised for Royal British Legion Scotland's Easdale Branch by wellwishers supporting a sponsored hike by one of its members.

Willy Munro plans to walk from Ellenabeich to Degnish via Ardmaddy and back through the Pass of Melfort to Kilninver then home to Seil over Clachan Bridge on Wednesday October 7.

The trek is about 25 miles and in a bid to up the fundraising goal to £2,000 people are being invited to guess just how long it will take him to complete – in hours, minutes and seconds – the closest winner will get a special bottle of malt whisky.

Anyone wanting to have a go should donate to justgiving.com/crowdfunding/willys-wander, adding their name and estimated time for the finish time in the comments section on the page.

Or people can make a donation in an envelope with their name and estimated time for the challenge and just pop it in the donation box at Balvicar Stores.

All proceeds from Willy's Wander will be donated to Forces Charities and the work of the Easdale RBLs.

Vinyl graphic artist Leonie has it covered

by Kathie Griffiths
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From Japan to Sweden and Oban, vinyl graphic artist Leonie has got it covered.

Leonie Mead sends graphics from her from Oban-based Art & Sea business right across the globe covering America to Canada and Alaska to Australia as well as Europe.

Luxury yachts in Thailand and out in the Med sport her artwork, kayaking companies in Hong Kong and Switzerland are also on her client list, including boat owners closer to home.

'I've branded the fleet of Staffa Tours boats. Most quirky, I've done a lot of pets for people's boats, including a guinea pig for a boat called Little Sea Pig,' said Leonie, who is also a kayak instructor and a member of Oban's volunteer lifeboat crew.

Even pink dinosaurs have been among other requests for the vinyl graphics drawn up by Leonie then cut out in vinyl afterwards to be sent out to customers.

She has also fitted graphics in both Oban and Lochgilphead high schools, provided win-



dow graphics for Martyn's Monday Club, produced artwork for vans and come up with logo designs for businesses around Argyll.

The idea for the business started in 2011 when she bought her first kayak and wanted it to stand out from all the rest.

Leonie received start-up financial support from the Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland scheme and was able

to buy equipment to get going.

Originally from North Wales where she studied Art & Design for a year specialising in Fine Art, she had taken time off to travel before returning to the UK in 2009, basing herself in Oban to teach people how to sea kayak.

'I wanted to make my boat unique and stand out from the rest. Internet search results were unsuccessful, so it was time to be inventive,' said



Leonie, far left, volunteers with Oban RNLI, and left, one of the boats adorned with her vinyl artwork.

Leonie, who settled on vinyl as the best option and took three days to produce, cut out and apply by hand.'

It did not take her long to realise she had found a gap in the market.

'Without start-up funding from the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, we really wouldn't be here today,' she added.

A lot of her work is based online from her office in town. Would-be clients also have an

option of getting hands-on with their own design through an option on her website.

'People can be quite sentimental when it comes to naming their boats and getting artwork for them. People treasure them and look after them.

'They want them to look nice and stand out - that's what started my idea in the first place!' said Leonie.

To find out more about her work go to artandsea.co.uk

Driver turns up drunk at doctor's surgery to pick up prescription

COURT

A 33-year-old woman who smelled overpoweringly of alcohol when she picked up a doctor's prescription has been fined and banned from driving.

Shona Maire Johnston of The Braes, Cornaigbeg, admitted driving on a B road near Baugh Surgery on September 13 last year while over the drink drive limit.

A breath test showed the 52-year-old had 117 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, the prescribed limit being 22 micrograms, last week's Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Surgery staff noticed her smelling of alcohol, being unsteady on her feet and having to hold herself upright by leaning on a wall, the court was told.

When the receptionist asked

Johnston how she had got to the surgery, she denied getting there by bus or car.

She had difficulty signing for her prescription and when she left, staff followed her out and saw the accused had parked her car on a grass verge and was on her hands and knees.

They offered to help her and she replied: 'It's fine, my knee has gone.' Staff got her to her feet and tried to encourage her back into the surgery to see to a gaza but she was intending to drive.

Johnston refused their help, they went back inside the surgery and watched her drive off.

The police were contacted and went to Johnston's home where she was drinking when they arrived.

She was co-operative and confirmed she had been driving but denied drinking earlier that

morning. Defence solicitor Eddie Thornton said his client, who had never been in trouble before of any nature, had experienced an alcohol problem for a considerable amount of time, made worse in the last few years because of mental health issues. She had used alcohol as a form of self-medication, added Mr Thornton.

Johnston, who is currently suspended from working for Argyll and Bute Council because of her health difficulties, is now on medication that has stabilised her, said Mr Thornton adding she hopes to return to her job.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes fined her £400, endorsed her licence and banned her from driving for 15 months reduced to 12 months if she successfully completes a drink driver rehabilitation course.

Worker stole from Oban hotel

A hotel worker who admitted stealing over £400 has appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

Dylan Negus, now living in Kent, was charged with stealing £410 from the Oban Bay Hotel while working there on April 30 in 2018.

Negus pleaded guilty at a previous hearing but after reports to the sheriff, the court heard last week how the 23-year-old was on bail at the time, had been homeless, and had no money, and having just got his foot back on the ladder of employment, lost it by committing the offence.

Negus had only worked at the hotel for one week before the incident.

As an alternative to custody, Oban sheriff Patrick Hughes ordered Negus to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work within 18 months, plus 12 months of social work supervision.

Clarification

In our article last week about the Dalmally flood, we attributed a quote about SSE 'shoving more pylons in our face', to Donald McLaren. This was in error. We apologise for any inconvenience.

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 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 or telephone **0333 880 6685**

OT

Ballet West creditors will have to wait

Liquidators tasked with establishing the financial state of scandal-hit Ballet West say it is still too early to indicate whether there will be funds to pay off the Taynuilt company's debts, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Those waiting to hear if they will get money back include students and parents from the dance school looking to have fees refunded.

Allegations made about sexual misconduct at the school led to the resignation of the dance school's vice principal, Jonathan Barton. Mr Barton has denied any wrongdoing.

The company's business is now being wound up after a court order.

Eileen Blackburn of French Duncan LLP, who has been appointed interim liquidator said she appreciates it must be frustrating and upsetting for everyone involved, but there is a process laid down by the insolvency legislation that has to be followed.

'We appreciate this must be frustrating and upsetting for everyone involved, however we must follow the processes laid down by the insolvency legislation. In line with the

legislation we will issue our report as quickly as possible,' she said, adding: 'The trustees of the charity were required to make an application at Oban Sheriff Court due to the recent decisions of some key customers and partner organisations, as the business was no longer financially viable.

'At this stage I and my team at French Duncan are gathering information to establish the financial state of affairs of the company. Unfortunately it is too early to be able to indicate whether there will be funds available to make payments to any creditors, and that includes students and parents looking to have fees refunded.

'When matters become clearer a report will be provided to all creditors. Anyone who feels they have a claim should register this, emailing BalletWest@frenchduncan.co.uk.'

Police Scotland has now received a number of reports regarding the allegations which are being thoroughly investigated. Anyone wanting to report any information or concerns can email OperationTele@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Sentence deferred on man who assaulted police

COURT

A man who moved to Oban to turn his life around ended up assaulting police officers and threatening to shoot Tesco staff, a court heard.

Robert Brown, 39, of 17 Combie Court, pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on September 22 to five charges relating to incidents on May 29 and May 30.

They encompassed disorderly conduct inside Tesco, including threatening staff and police with violence and assaulting two police officers.

He also admitted failing to comply with an order not to enter Tesco or its car park, and behaving in a disorderly manner at the Old Parish Church at Glencruitten Road.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy said that on May 29, staff at Oban Tesco noticed Brown had been in and out

on 'numerous' occasions. Concerned by his levels of intoxication and failure to abide by social distancing during lockdown, he was invited to leave, Mr Glancy said.

Brown became 'agitated and confrontational' but left only to later return shouting and swearing, with his attention focused on one staff member in particular, said Mr Glancy.

Police officers noticed Brown showed signs of having smoked heroin

He then left but returned again engaging in threatening behaviour and threatening to shoot staff and telling them he was not 'scared' of the police, the court was told.

Police officers arrived and noticed Brown displayed signs of having smoked heroin and

there was a struggle, said Mr Glancy. During the incident Brown lashed out with his feet and head, and reportedly said: 'You think you're something, you wouldn't last five minutes in Niddrie.'

Brown was taken into custody but released on condition he did not go back to Tesco or enter its car park.

The next day store staff alerted police he was 'nearby' and Brown was located within the grounds of the Old Parish Church at Glencruitten Road where there was another confrontation with police.

Brown's solicitor Ruben Murdanaigum said his client was 'mortified and ashamed' by his behaviour and had been prepared to hold his hands up at an early stage.

The court was told he had not had an 'easy life' and had been treated for depression and anxiety for many years

and required medication. He had moved to Oban to try and make something of himself, said Mr Murdanaigum.

Between 2008 until 2020, Brown had been actively involved in the town's Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (O.A.S.I.S) helping other people overcome their problems.

But its closure due to a lack of funding had left his client facing a familiar spiral of problems regarding his housing, health and money, said Mr Murdanaigum.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said the incidents were 'serious matters' and that Brown was 'close to custody'.

Sheriff Hughes acknowledged that Brown had not been in trouble for a period of time and ordered reports to consider a 'restriction of liberty'.

Sentence was deferred until November 4.

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- If you test positive, everyone in your household should stay at home for 14 days.

14



Stick with it. For yourselves and each other.

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gov.scot/coronavirus

Remember

FACTS



Face coverings



Avoid crowds



Clean hands



Two metres



Self isolate

OT

Supermarket shoplifters fined after being caught on camera

COURT

Two women caught shoplifting cosmetics on CCTV have been fined at Oban Sheriff Court.

Cairon McLuckie, 21, of 9F High Street, Oban and Eilidh Macauley, aged 20, of Room 8, Shore Street Flats, also Oban, both admitted stealing a quantity of cosmetics and toiletries from a supermarket in the town on June 30 this year.

The pair, who appeared before Oban sheriff Patrick Hughes last week, had attracted suspicions of staff by appearing to drift back and forth to see if anyone was watching them, the court heard.

They made their way to the self-scan section of the store, made some small purchases but there were more items that were not paid for. CCTV was viewed and police were called and the women were later charged.

The amount of stolen goods came to £45 but £13.84 worth of items was returned, the court was told.

At the time of the offence, McLuckie had been experiencing great difficulties in



coming to terms with the death of her partner earlier in the year and was feeling 'a bit wreckless,' said solicitor Kevin McGinness defending her.

She is now getting help and support to cope and was very sorry. 'She does not recognise herself in this behaviour,' Mr McGinness told the sheriff.

Macauley was on a joint venture with her and to her credit she did return the items she had, the court heard.

McLuckie was fined £70 plus a £10 victim surcharge and Macauley was fined £50 with a £10 victim surcharge.

Sheriff Hughes told the women: 'There's no excuse for this. The most valuable thing you can have is an honest reputation. You have to be very careful that is not destroyed in a small community.'

Assaults in Oban concern sheriff

COURT

A man has been told that his two assaults on people in the town centre are 'deeply concerning'.

Daniel Brandon Torrie, aged 21, of Connel Road, Oban, appeared before Sheriff Patrick Hughes on Tuesday September 22, who said the incidents 'met the threshold of custody'.

Torrie pleaded guilty to two charges of assault on November 22, 2019, and June 24 this year.

David Glancy, procurator fiscal, said the incident on November 22 followed Torrie being asked to leave Coasters on the Corran Esplanade at around 7.45pm.

On George Street, near The Anglers Corner, Torrie then 'focused' on an innocent passer by - a visitor who was out walking, said Mr Glancy.

'For no reason whatsoever and without having done

anything to him, the accused ran at him, punched him to the head and kicked him to the body,' said Mr Glancy.

The victim, aged 46, was knocked to the ground while Torrie ran off, the court heard.

Police used CCTV to identify

'The accused ran at him, punched him and kicked him.'

him and on December 5 told him he would be reported for the offence, said Mr Glancy.

The second assault took place at 6.50pm on June 24 at Craigard Road, Oban.

Mr Glancy said Torrie approached a man, aged 25, who was sitting in his car talking to another man outside the vehicle. Torrie's demeanour was 'aggressive' from the outset, said Mr Glancy, and

the accused demanded money owed by the driver who had 'no knowledge of such an obligation'.

The third person tried to intervene and told Torrie to leave. The driver got out of the car and in the course of a fight with the accused was punched and kicked by Torrie who also threw a stone which struck the victim on the forehead causing him to bleed profusely, said Mr Glancy.

Representing Torrie, solicitor Kevin McGinness said his client did not have any previous convictions and 'very much' regretted both incidents. He had been 'heavily intoxicated' at the time and had not been in trouble since.

The accused has a partner and young child and is employed as a deck hand on a fish boating, with his employer providing a supportive letter as to his value.

Mr McGinness told the court

that the assault in Craigard Road followed a 'prior incident' between the defendant and the driver.

Torrie had also been 'deeply apologetic' about the assault on the man in George Street, he said.

'This was something of an aberration and his risk of reoffending is very low,' said Mr McGinness, addressing the sheriff.

However, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said the accused's behaviour was 'deeply concerning'.

'This sort of violence in public and directed to people unknown to you is of special concern,' said Sheriff Hughes who ordered that Criminal Justice Social Work reports to be carried out and for them to consider a 'restriction of liberty'.

Sentencing was adjourned until November 4.

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Row with wife disturbed peace at Oban hotel

A man on a break in Oban with his wife has been fined after a fierce argument broke out in their hotel room shattering the peace for other guests.

Mark McGrogan, of 26 Rowallan Drive, Bannockburn, Stirling, appeared before Oban

Sheriff Court for the incident at the Columba Hotel, on the North Pier, on February 18.

The 47-year-old had been charged with behaving in a threatening or abusive manner placing his wife in a state of fear and alarm or distress.

At the hearing on September 22, procurator fiscal David Glancy told the court the couple had been out on February 17, 2020 and the argument broke out just after midnight

on February 18. The pair had retired to room 210 on the second floor and 'more drink had been consumed than was sensible,' said Mr Glancy.

'Just after midnight the peace and quiet was disturbed on account of lots of shouting and swearing audible to those in adjacent rooms and leaving people alarmed.'

One female guest was so disturbed she 'ran from her room' to notify the night porter who

knocked on the door in an attempt to resolve matters, he said.

Having received no reply, the police were called out and McGrogan took 'several minutes' to open the door, said Mr Glancy.

The room was found in a 'state of disarray,' he said, with empty bottles and cans on the floor.

McGrogan was handcuffed and taken to Oban Police

Station but made no comment during an interview, the court was told.

Solicitor Jane McLaren said the fully-employed father-of-three had visited Oban for a long weekend with his wife of 22 years.

'Clearly far too much alcohol has been consumed,' said Mrs McLaren, adding that her client had very little recollection of the night and extended his apologies to the court and to

those guests who had been disturbed. A man of 47 should not be finding himself before the court for a breach of the peace,' said Mrs McLaren.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes imposed a fine of £200 with a £10 victim surcharge and ordered that it be paid within 28 days.

He told the defendant that his behaviour had 'spoiled' the stay for himself and his wife, along with others staying at the hotel.

Race against time to beat bulldozers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Save Kilbowie campaigners are pulling out all the stops to beat the bulldozers.

From Monday, September 28, the outdoor centre's owners, North Lanarkshire Council, have the go ahead to demolish the main building as they plan to sell as a cleared site. But those who want to see the centre preserved are refusing to give up.

Talks are ongoing between Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise (OLCE) group and the Scottish Government's Lands Team to see if it could be eligible to put in a bid to utilise the Community Right to Buy Legislation at the site.

If that is viable, a Kilbowie steering group would be set up under the umbrella of OLCE to take on the task and see it through.

Campaigners have also won support of North Lanarkshire councillor Kirsten Larson who has sent an emergency motion to the chief executive of NLC asking for it to be put on the agenda of the next full council meeting on October 8.

The motion includes that NLC considers the ongoing talks about a community right to buy to be 'a significant and material change in circumstance'.

It continues to read: 'Accordingly, the council reiterates its belief that Kilbowie is an important facility to many in North Lanarkshire and indeed Argyll and Bute and therefore agrees to temporarily halt any and all demolition or other activity at the Kilbowie Outdoor Centre in order to allow Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise Trust reasonable time to progress their dialogue with the Scottish Government

and by association their application for a Community Right to Buy at the location.'

A response to that motion request is still awaited.

Kilbowie supporter Laura Corbe, who is also an Oban community councillor, said: 'For all we know right now the bulldozers could be down there. We hope to beat them.'

'Losing Kilbowie would be a huge loss of an amazing amenity with so much potential. We've had offers of support from Oban High School, local businesses and many organisations and groups. We've been told by Young Carers if they lose access to Kilbowie they will have to travel two to three hours to the nearest alternative and that's just too far away. The Youth Cafe is also worried.'

Just last week NLC's Head of Asset & Procurement Solutions James McKinstry sent an email to Kilbowie supporters saying tenders from demolition contractors were now being assessed, adding financial constraints faced by the council and exacerbated by Covid meant it could not commit to delaying the demolition of the building and realising the associated revenue savings and therefore the instructions were to proceed.

But Ms Corbe told The Oban Times: 'We must stay positive and hope to get good news from the Lands Team and to hear that the motion will be heard by NLC keeping the bulldozers off the site. If we put in a bid we will need to have about 80 per cent of the community behind us. When that time comes we will need everyone on our side.'

A spokesperson for North Lanarkshire Council told The Oban Times the demolition contract has not been awarded yet.

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OT

Delight as Argyll and Bute passes anti-racism motion

Argyll and Bute Council has passed an anti-racism motion to keep embracing diversity and challenge prejudice and inequality, writes Kathie Griffiths.

It was an amended version of a first motion put forward in a 'non-partisan manner' by Independent Oban councillor Kieron Green and SNP councillor Julie McKenzie who had worked on its wording with Black Lives Matter Oban and 846Solidarity, a hub created for concerned community members to learn about and act for anti-racism.

Councillor McKenzie said although heartened the issue was raised and debated it was a disappointment to her that the original motion was not universally supported by all councillors. She said: 'Issues of racism, hate and intolerance should transcend politics. Our motion was brought to the



Black Lives Matter Oban helped with the wording for the original motion.

council from our local area, in collaboration with Black Lives Matter Oban, in a non-partisan manner, so it has obviously been a disappointment to me that it was not universally supported by all councillors.

'On a more positive note it is heartening that the issue was

raised and debated and hopefully now we find ourselves at a point where good work already done at Argyll and Bute Council can be built on. These conversations must continue and challenging the systemic injustices in our communities must remain a priority.'

The final version of the motion passed at the full council meeting on September 24 read: 'Our communities are enriched with a diverse mix of people with a variety of experiences and from different cultures and backgrounds. This rich diversity enhances our lives.'

'Today more than 40 years after the 1976 Race Relations Act and 10 years from the 2010 Equalities Act, there are still incidents of hate crimes motivated by prejudice in our society. This has been most recently highlighted by the Black Lives Matter, global campaign.'

'As individual councillors, we will always strive to promote community inclusion and cohesion, and support local initiatives and people addressing issues of inequality and prejudice.'

'Argyll and Bute Council will continue to work in promoting communities of respect that

embrace diversity and challenge prejudice and inequality wherever it's encountered, in all aspects of its operational work

'In passing this motion, we will strengthen our resolve and commitment to make Argyll and Bute an inclusive place where people want to live.'

Councillor Green said he was delighted the motion was passed and that there was recognition of the role that anti-racism groups like Black Lives Matter Oban have had this year in highlighting those issues.

'The issues of inequality and the injustices faced by society are deeply entrenched and it's going to require firm action from people to get movement on this.'

'It's not enough not to be racist, you have to be anti-racist to tackle it.'

'It's really good to see those

groups working in the community. It's only through education and greater understanding that society can move forward,' he added.

A spokesperson for 846Solidarity said: 'We were very pleased to work with Councillors Green and McKenzie on the motion they put forward and were glad of the conversation it sparked within the council.'

'While we are disappointed their motion did not pass, the amendment that was passed takes a strong stand for diversity, inclusion and against inequality and prejudice. We are happy about this step towards working to ensure that Argyll & Bute is a wonderful place for all to live, visit and work. We also know that this is only one step and will be continuing to work towards an Argyll & Bute that is strongly and proudly anti-racist.'

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory Thu 1 - Sun 4 Oct
Buessan Mon 5 - Tue 6 Oct

Hope Gap (12A) 101 mins

Drama starring Annette Bening and Bill Nighy as a couple whose 30-year marriage breaks down. "nuanced and mature" Variety **01/10 at 5.30pm, 04/10 at 8.30pm, 06/10 at 8.30pm**

Tenet (12A) 150 mins

Action sci-fi epic from Christopher Nolan about a spy trying to prevent World War III. "Big, bold, baffling and bonkers" Empire **01/10 at 8.30pm, 03/10 at 8.30pm, 04/10 at 5pm, 05/10 at 8.30pm**

Trolls World Tour (U) 91 mins

"a visually dazzling trip that will keep kids spellbound" The Telegraph **02/10 at 5.30pm, 03/10 at 2pm, 04/10 at 2pm, 06/10 at 5.30pm**

Local Hero (PG) 111 mins

A US executive is sent to buy a small Scottish village so his company can build an oil refinery. "laugh-out-loud funny" Empire **02/10 at 8.30pm**

Back to the Future (PG) 116 mins

Sci-fi classic about teenager Marty McFly accidentally travelling back to 1955. "one of the classic films of the Eighties" The Telegraph **03/10 at 5pm, 05/10 at 5.30pm**

If you would like to visit Screen Machine, you'll notice we have introduced a few changes. Firstly, we've reduced our original capacity down from 80 to 20 in 10 pairs of 2 seats. This is to ensure all these pairs of seats are properly physically distanced at 2 metres.

Please book your tickets online - we will not be selling any tickets on the door. When you book, you'll be asked to pick your seats from a seating plan. Tickets are now available online up to 75 minutes before the film's scheduled start time, and doors will open 15 minutes before it begins.

Unless you are exempt, please wear a face covering throughout the duration of your visit. Hand sanitiser stations will be available for your use. We also have a new cleaning regime put in place between and after shows. Screen Machine already has a top-of-the-range air ventilation system.

You can read about all our changes in full detail at: www.screenmachine.co.uk/covid-19

Thanks for all your support - we look forward to welcoming you back.

Book at www.screenmachine.co.uk. All tickets must be booked online. No cash sales on the door. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the film's scheduled start time. £7.50 adults/£5.50 concs. Young people aged 16-25 can now book a concessionary ticket. Fully accessible for wheelchair users. Please give us at least 24 hours notice if you'd like to reserve our dedicated wheelchair space by emailing info@regionalscreenscotland.org.



Clan Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean and Mia Lopes with her winning design.

Mia wins Duart Castle's tartan competition

Duart Castle on Mull is proud to have a new tartan - with a little help from the island's schoolchildren.

To come up with a safe way of welcoming back visitors, the castle organised a Design A Tartan competition for the primary schools on Mull and Iona to help develop its own traffic light system to keep tourists social distancing.

To illustrate the traffic light system with red, yellow and green signs symbolising stop, look and listen then go, castle staff decided to base it on the two Maclean tartans. Using the clan's red dress tartan for stop and the Maclean's green hunting tartan, they were missing a yellow one.

The competition to design a new yellow tartan

received almost 150 entries, delighting the Clan Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean who chose the eventual winner and lives at the castle.

'We want people to feel safe and looked after when they visit. Unfortunately none of my ancestors had thought to introduce a yellow based tartan, so I was delighted to receive so many entries.'

'I'm delighted that Mia Lopes from Tobermory Primary school has designed the winning entry and her design is being used in our new signs. It was a very tough decision.'

'The pupils of the islands' schools have much to be proud of and I'm pleased that so many took the time to help us here at Duart,' he said.

Moment of madness sees driver banned

A driver who 'saw red' and had 'a moment of madness' behind the wheel has been banned from the road for 12 months.

Gary McEwan, of 72 Drip Road, Riploch, Stirling, who was previously found guilty of dangerous driving appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week for sentencing.

The 36-year-old was charged with driving his car dangerously on September 25, 2018, on the A85 near Arrivain Cottage in Argyll and tailgating another car, repeatedly sounding his horn at the occupants of that car and then moving into the opposite side of the carriageway, travelling alongside it and swerving to his left causing him to collide with it and cause damage.

'You saw red and had a moment of madness that we expect not to be repeated,' said Sheriff Patrick Hughes who warned for 'something like this to have been done deliberately could justify a custodial sentence'. As an alternative to custody, he banned McEwan from driving for 12 months and ordered him to pass an extended driver's competence test before getting his licence back.

McEwan was also ordered to carry out 240 hours of unpaid community work within 20 months and was put on 12 months social work department supervision.

'If that doesn't work out you can expect a custodial sentence,' said the sheriff.

Food from Argyll secures funding boost

Food from Argyll has secured cash to champion local produce, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The group, which is made up of 29 food producers growing a thriving food and drink network for the area, is receiving the funding from Scotland Food & Drink as part of a new national £250,000 fund, supported by the Scottish Government.

Founded in 2007, Food from Argyll has helped its members build their businesses, encouraged start-ups, opened its own café based at the CalMac ferry terminal and provided catering on two sites in Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games in 2014, hosted a major conference on Food Tourism held in Oban in 2015 and catered at major events nationwide.

The group works closely with Argyll & The Isles Tourism Co-operative and is currently working on developing food tourism within Argyll plus taste trails for visitors, among other projects.

Its other partners include the Scottish Tourism Alliance with project support from Argyll & Bute Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Virginia Sumsion who is group co-ordinator at Food from Argyll, said: 'The geog-

raphy of Argyll and the type of land and sea it covers suits small to medium food producers and enables companies to develop their businesses using traditional farming methods as well as innovative ideas and products. That natural advantage, teamed with our collaborative approach to championing the area's produce are a recipe for success.

'Building lifestyles and communities is as important to local producers as profit but they need to be profitable to survive and grow, and need the support of their customers and the statutory bodies.

'Providing employment, boosting tourism and being part of local communities are all vital to the sustainability of the area. With the new funding from Scotland Food & Drink, we hope to build on those successes and showcase the best food and drink Argyll has to offer.'

The fund will benefit 13 other groups across the country.

Fiona Richmond, head of regional food at Scotland Food & Drink, said: 'Regional food groups like Food from Argyll have a pivotal role to play in the successful growth and development of our country's food, drink and food tourism sectors, especially in the recovery from Covid-19.'

Funding secures North Uist school for community

Funding will help breathe new life into a council-shut school on North Uist.

Thanks to money from the Scottish Land Fund, North Uist Development Company can now buy the former Lochmaddy Primary School

from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as an asset transfer.

Plans are to turn it into a community hub, an environmental centre and later to provide accommodation for visitors, students and temporary workers.

Standing on the edge of Lochmaddy village, the building has many memories for generations of people on North Uist, says Catherine Macleod who is director of

the North Uist Development Company.

'This is fantastic news for North Uist. This award will mean we can now move forward with the plans to reopen and sustainably develop the school for the benefit of the community.'

'The community hub will provide a multi-purpose focus for community and visitors alike: acting as a welcoming gathering place, an incubator

for learning and enterprise and, an inspirational environmental centre to educate and conserve the unique local environment for generations into the future - creating many new memories for North Uist,' she said.

The next steps for the development company are to complete the asset transfer and get the old school building open again so the community can get back in and start using.

ACHA appoints new chairman

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish has been appointed the new chairperson of Argyll Community Housing Associating (ACHA).

The housing provider's 14th annual general meeting was held on Skype on September 22.

ACHA's AGM heard a report from previous chairman Jim Milne MBE followed by approval of the group's annual accounts, the appointment of board members and the appointment of auditors.

Other office bearers appointed included Jim Milne from Garelochhead as vice-chairperson, Cathy Grant from Glendaruel as company secretary and Ian McIntyre from Oban as audit chairperson.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's

chief executive said: 'I am really grateful to all of the association's members and the staff team who pulled together the AGM this year in such unique circumstances and we were able to give a full report to our members and get the necessary approvals carried out.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish added: 'It's an honour to be confirmed as chairperson of ACHA. I am fortunate that I inherit a hardworking dedicated staff and board of directors. Good quality housing is a basic human right. ACHA will continue to provide this though continued investment right throughout Argyll and Bute.'

He added: 'I look forward to increased partnership working with all those interested in affordable housing.'

The graphic features the Healthier Scotland Scottish Government logo on the left and the NHS Scotland TEST & PROTECT logo on the right. The central text reads 'Sticking to the restrictions stops the spread.' Below this is a diagram showing a single person at the top connected to three people in the middle, who are then connected to a group of nine people at the bottom. A line points to the three people in the middle with the text 'Didn't meet anyone inside their home'. At the bottom, there are five icons representing health and safety measures: Face coverings, Avoid crowds, Clean hands, Two metres, and Self isolate. The text 'Remember FACTS' is written in large letters above these icons. At the bottom, it says 'Credit: Toby Morris & Siouxsie Wiles for thespinoff.co.nz'.

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Remember
FACTS

- Face coverings
- Avoid crowds
- Clean hands
- Two metres
- Self isolate

Credit: Toby Morris & Siouxsie Wiles for thespinoff.co.nz

OT

Islay Co-op driver sees efforts during lockdown recognised

The work of a delivery driver from Bowmore, Islay, during the Coronavirus lockdown has been recognised nationally by the Co-op.

Dougie McFadzean, a Co-op delivery driver, realised the coronavirus crisis was going to have a profound effect on Islay.

As a retired police officer, he knew there were a number of risks to vulnerable people being able to access basic necessities such as food, medicines and hygiene products.

He arranged a meeting with a member of the community who organises support for older people on the island to see what they could do to help.

With swift action needed, the Islay Resilience Group was created.

More than 200 volunteers and co-ordinators pledged their support, along with donations of more than £150,000. Dougie was pivotal in setting this group up and undertook a lot of the deliveries personally.

As Islay is a big whisky producing island, several thousand bottles of hand sanitiser were also donated.

The aim of the resilience group was to support residents



Dougie McFadzean.

who needed it the most and, thanks to the resources that had been sourced, the volunteers did that.

Jane Walapu from the Co-op's Colleague Recognition Team said: 'We've been amazed by the stories we've heard about the lengths colleagues have gone to over the last few months to help others and this is why we wanted to recognise the amazing things they have been doing to not only support fellow colleagues but also their communities during this time of crisis.'

Dougie has won experience vouchers and was invited to a virtual afternoon tea hosted by the Co-op's chief executive Steve Murrells.

Top entrepreneur award Ruari

Mull man Ruari Fairbairns who founded a global alcohol prevention programme has picked up a top entrepreneur award, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The One Year No Beer founder has just been named Scotland and Northern Ireland Entrepreneur of the Year at the Great British Entrepreneur Awards.

Inspired by Ruari's own personal journey, One Year No Beer (OYNB) is a programme aimed at anyone drinking more than three glasses of wine a week, helping them change their relationship with alcohol and transforms lives.

Ruari also won the regional Health & Wellbeing Entrepreneur of the Year title at the 2020 awards.

The entrepreneur was also congratulated by Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

Ruari said: 'This has been such a tough year for so many

people following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and with so many turning to alcohol to manage their symptoms of stress and anxiety, it has never been

more important for us to continue on our mission to help people change their relationship with alcohol, which leads to most people fundamentally transforming their lives.'

Now in its eighth year, the Great British Entrepreneur Awards in partnership with its sponsor Starling Bank celebrate the hard work and inspiring stories of entrepreneurs in the UK, rather than the business' balance sheet.

With Covid-19 restrictions preventing the regional finals taking place at a live event, Ruari won the award during a virtual award ceremony.

He is now in the running to be named Great British Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 at the National Final of the

Great British Entrepreneur Awards.

In a video message to finalists, Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: 'Entrepreneurs have shown they stay strong, even during a global pandemic. Coronavirus hasn't stifled enterprise.'

'Entrepreneurs are creating new businesses and adapting to the crisis, as seen in this year's entries. And that's what we need to happen if we want our economy to bounce back. We need all of you to keep inventing, keep taking risks, keep creating new businesses. 'Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you to all of you for everything you've done.'

Francesca James, founder of the Great British Entrepreneur Awards, said: 'I'm delighted for Ruari. He was the outstanding candidate to become Entrepreneur of the Year in Scotland and Northern Ireland.'

'He exhibits everything that it means to be a Great British entrepreneur. He has a fantastic story and I can't wait to watch One Year No Beer flourish for many years to come.'

Robin Currie named new council leader

Argyll and Bute Council has named its new leader. He was appointed at the full council meeting on Thursday, September 24.

It follows the decision by councillor Aileen Morton to step down from the role.

Councillor Currie, of Islay, is a Liberal Democrat representing Kintyre and the Islands.

He is the current policy lead for housing, roads and infrastructure services.

He has served Argyll and Bute Council for more than 30 years in roles as wide-ranging as planning, housing, leisure, islands and roads services.

Councillor Currie said: 'I am passionate about Argyll and Bute. Becoming leader of its council is an honour.'

'Perhaps it's because I am an islander, but steering a ship safely into harbour is the best analogy for me in describing my role as leader.'

'I know where we want to be, and I am clear on what we have to do to get there.'

For full story, visit www.obantimes.co.uk

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Appin couple tie knot West Highland Way



The happy couple with their 'bridesmaid'.

by Iain Ferguson
fort@obantimes.co.uk

For most brides a walk up the aisle may only be a few steps which can seem like an eternity, but for Tracy Pollington, her procession took about a week as her aisle was the 96-mile long West Highland Way, to the marriage ceremony in Fort William, writes Iain Ferguson.

Tracy, 41, and her fiancé, 43-year-old Andy Cuthbert, both from Appin, Argyll, 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, pet dog Isla, allowing plenty of time to reach Fort



Tracey and Andy sight their marriage documents on the back of the 'sair feet' bronze.

All photographs: Iain Ferguson

William where their ceremony was planned for 4.30pm on Thursday September 17.

In line with Covid 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' 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: 'There was nothing more appropriate for us than walking the West Highland Way to our wedding, then marrying at its end.'

'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 as the finishing touch to our wedding.'

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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Barcelona battle comes to an early end for McPhee

Despite a strong start and battling at the sharp end Connel's John McPhee's Catalan Grand Prix came to an early end after a Turn 4 crash on lap five.

A strong start from John saw him move up into ninth place on the first lap. Setting fastest laps early on, John soon moved up into the top three and was fighting at the sharp end during the opening laps.

Unfortunately his race came to an early end at Turn 4 on lap five, after he lost the front end braking to avoid another rider. However, he maintains his third place in the championship standings.

John will now be able to enjoy a week's break, before the next triple-header kicks off with the Grand Prix de France at Le Mans (October 9-11).

After the race John said: 'It's a real shame to finish the race like this. I felt so strong on the first part of the race and was

immediately able to make my way to the front. I apologise to my crew for the crash. It's a shame, but it was a racing incident.

'I felt like I had already passed Arenas cleanly, but then he released the brake and tried to close the gap on me. I had to squeeze the brake as I had nowhere to go and I lost the front.

'I also want to apologise to Albert, for being collected in my crash. This is racing, it happens, and now we focus on Le Mans.'

John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Catalan Grand Prix in Barcelona last Sunday.



Flu Vaccination Clinics



Mull & Iona Medical Group

Proposed clinics subject vaccine availability

If you are **aged 65 or over** or if you suffer from **respiratory, heart, kidney problems** or have **reduced immunity** or **diabetes** you should be immunised.

Under 18 and those aged 55-64 will be invited at a later date.

Please try to come on the suggested dates to help maintain COVID-19 compliance

Tobermory Surgery	Sat 3 October	10.00am to 4.00pm
Craignure Hall	Tue 13 October	10:00am to 6:30pm
Bunessan Hall	Wed 21 October	10:00am to 6:30pm
Iona Surgery	Thur 22 October	11:00am to 3:00pm
Tobermory Surgery	Wed 28 October	10:00am to 6:30pm

Come jag ready

wearing a face covering and short sleeves under a jacket.

For more information see our website

www.bunessansurgery.co.uk or our Facebook Page

Lorn Medical Centre

are holding Flu Jag Clinics in the

Corran Halls

7, 8 and 9 October and 21, 22 and 23 October 2020

If you are **aged 65 or over** or if you suffer from **respiratory, heart, kidney problems** or have **reduced immunity** or **diabetes** you should be immunised.

Under 18 and those aged 55-64 will be invited at a later date.

Please try to come on the suggested dates to help maintain social distancing.

If your surname begins with come on

A – L	Wednesday	9.00am – 7.30pm
N – Z	Thursday	9.00am – 7.30pm
M (including Mac/Mc)	Friday	9.00am – 3.30pm

Come jag ready

wearing a face covering and short sleeves under a jacket.

For more information see our website

www.lornmedicalcentre.co.uk or our Facebook Page

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are aiming to immunise about 4500 people at our drop-in clinics in Oban and Mull. (Those of you who are in the 55-65 age group that have no other indication for a flu jag may receive the immunisation later, depending on national availability of vaccine.) Household contacts of

people shielding and informal carers can also attend the drop in clinics.

The District Nursing teams will immunise the patients they see and anyone else who is housebound. Appointments will be arranged for pre-school children and those under 18 who require immunisations. Primary school children will receive their immunisation at school.

Because of the number of people eligible to receive this immunisation, and with the necessity to comply with COVID-19 recommendations, we plan to make this a fast track process. To help us do this, we would ask that you come prepared

- wearing a face covering
- wearing a short sleeved garment under your coat/jacket

- and not bring any unnecessary bags with you

More information about Flu can be found on www.nhsinform.scot. The vaccine will help reduce your risk of getting flu; and with coronavirus around it is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine this autumn to protect yourself, others and our NHS services.

Shinty returns after lockdown



Strathglass keeper and manager Allan MacLeod makes a save during a busy day between the sticks.



Lewis Macdonald, Glenurquhart, tussles with Sean Brown, Strathglass.



Covid officer Garry Mackintosh watches the game.

Ali Ban Cup Glenurquhart 6 Strathglass 0

Shinty returned for the first time since lockdown as Glenurquhart defeated National Division rivals Strathglass 6-0 to lift the annual Ali Ban Cup.

Shinty was allowed to return to action on Saturday for the first time in six months in

line with government regulations. But no spectators were allowed at Blairbeg Park in Drumnadrochit as the two teams competed for the historic trophy.

The hosts proved too strong for the visitors as Glenurquhart captain David MacLennan found the net four times with Charlie Macleod scoring twice to secure the trophy.



Glenurquhart captain David 'Dixie' MacLennan with the Man of the Match trophy. Photographs: Neil Paterson.



Strathglass player Lewis Douglas was just pleased to be back playing shinty.



Lewis Macdonald, Glenurquhart, with Steven Hyslop, Strathglass.



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LETTERS

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

Looking to Luings future

The mothballing of Luings Primary School is a sad state of affairs.

The education and well-being of local children is the priority here, and it is good for Easdale that it has a thriving primary school, but we are sure that having a similarly thriving school on Luings would be most people's wish.

Suitable housing and improved access on and off the mainland seem to be the main concerns, not just for attracting young families to the island, but also for those living there.

Perhaps the time is right, once again, to push for a more frequent and more affordable ferry service to the island or, better still, look at fixed alternatives?

Life on the up at Dunollie

It was fantastic to hear restoration work on the castle ruin has been completed, with the added bonus they can now get up to the first floor and a new viewing platform on the second level.

The new Kindred of Lorn project also sounds like a wonderful way to engage visitors during lockdown.

Hats off to the Dunollie team for all their hard work.

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



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

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Disbelief over Ganavan plan

I am shocked, to the point of disbelief, that the people of Oban may lose access to Ganavan car park because of Argyll and Bute Council's proposal to change its use to a campervan site.

This will deprive the people of Oban of their beach which was gifted to them, their families and friends in 1905. Furthermore, people with disabilities will be deprived access to the beach as a result of parking spaces being blocked by campervans.

The beach was a health and safety hazard over the summer because of the number of campervans and let's not forget we are in the middle of a pandemic. A handful of fines were issued, not the hundreds which should have been. Vans were dumping their chemical waste in the public toilets and there was defecation overnight.

The outcome of this? A proposal for a motor-home park, provided at public expense. This beggars belief.

If the Oban people can't park there, where are they to go? It is used all year round and is a wonderful asset for the health and wellbeing of the community.

The only alternative to this is Atlantis Centre, a great resource but not free.

There are many well-run campervan and caravan sites in and around the Oban. If the council wants more why spoil a beauty spot? This is Oban's jewel in the crown and the plan is close to environmental vandalism.

There is a connected proposal to stop campervans illegally parking and causing congestion on Ganavan Road. This is a good initiative which most people would agree with. This proposal should have been split in two: stop illegal parking and congestion on Ganavan Road – good. Ganavan car park changed to a campervan park – a disaster.

There has been no official consultation with the people of Oban regarding this yet.

There must be alternative areas in and around Oban where legitimate paying campervan owners can have the services they need and deserve.

A project like this would cost thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money. If the council can find the money for it, it can surely afford a couple of traffic wardens to fine the illegal, and therefore 'free', overnight parking of campervans at Ganavan.

They could have made many thousands of pounds in fines from the 'free' parking over the summer.

The people of Oban must strongly oppose this. The beach and car park area belong to you.

Elaine MacLean.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Is bràthair don chuthach an òige! Ma tha an seanfhacal ceart, agus cuiridh mi geall gum feumadh a h-uile inbheach an cuid pàirt fhèin de 'dh'fhaoinas na h-òige' aideachadh, tha fhios nach b' iongnadh gum bithte a' cur air mhanadh oilthighean is cholaistean an cunnart gun sgapadh coròna-bhioras am measg oileanaich.

Na mo bheachd-sa tha e tur ceàrr a bhith a' cronachadh na h-òigridh airson tachartas a bha cho coltach tachairt nuair a chaidh iarraidh air oileanaich na dùthcha tilleadh chun nan oilthighean is nan colaistean, a dh'aindeoin 's ged a bha a' mhòr-chuid den teagasg gu bhith ga thoirt dhaibh air-loidhne.

Gun teagamh tha tomhas den eòlas chudromach a gheibh daoine òga ann am foghlam àrd-ìre an lùib a bhith coinneachadh le òigridh eile far feadh an t-saoghail, agus anns an seòrsa co-luadair agus càirdeis a thig an lùib sin. Agus far am bheil cianalas na uallach cho làidir anns a' chiad ghluasad bhon dachaigh tha caraidean ùra deatamach mar thaic dha oileanaich uile, agus 's e peanas do-labhairt a th' ann na daoine òga sin a ghlasadh nan cuid sheòmraichean an dèidh an ìre mhath an òrdachadh chun nan ionadan. Tuigear gum bheil na h-oilthighean airson na bheil aca de sheòmraichean còmhnaidh a bhith a' cosnadh dhaibh, agus cha b' iongnadh ged a b' e sin pàirt den adhbhar a bha uimhir de chuideam ga chur air oileanaich a bhith an làthair anna.

Ach tha e doirbh a thuigsinn cionnas nach robh eòlaichean a tha a' comhairleachadh an Riaghaltais a' faicinn a' chunnairt a bha gu

bhith ann an cròthadh na bha seo de dhaoine òga còmhla. Tha ùidh mhòr agam ann an gliocas sheanfhalagal agus tha fear ag innse "bidh fonn air gille nan lùb, 's e h-uile rud ùr as fheàrr", agus bidh iomadh annas tarraingeach san t-saoghal ùr air falbh bhon dachaigh. Ged is dòcha gum bi dìth tùir aig amannan am measg na h-òigridh tha a' mhòr-chuid aca ciallach agus comasach, sin a dh'fhàg iad air starsaich foghlaim àrd-ìre, agus tha còir dèiligeadh riutha ann an dòigh a rèir sin, is chan ann mar leanabain!

Ma tha iad air an dearbhadh saor bho ghalair tha fhios gur còir leigeil leatha tilleadh dhachaigh agus àireamh nan treudan a dh'fheumar a bhuachailleachd aig na h-oilthighean a lùghdachadh. Cha bu chòir air chor sam bith gum bithte a' cur teachd-a-steach oilthighean is cholaistean os cionn sochair agus slàinte nan oileanaich. Tha seanfhacal eile ag innse dhuinn gur miosad "amaideachd na h-aoise na amaideachd na h-òige", agus bu chòir dha luchd-riaghlaidh poileasaidh a bhith deònach aideachadh nuair a tha iadsan ceàrr, agus cùisean a cheartachadh.

Observing the resurgence of Covid 19, many will believe that this is an inevitable result of an overly fast relaxation of lockdown restrictions, but surely the spread of infection among thousands of closely packed students was totally predictable! So why order them back to campuses when most of their tuition is being delivered online?

Allan Campbell. ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

A disaster for rural Scotland

The human faeces and urine which I flagged up earlier in the summer is now, as predicted, everywhere for us to see.

Last weekend, a campervan parked up during the night at the foot of Wauchan Glen. I saw it leave early on the Sunday morning as it was only 50 metres from my house.

On inspecting the road where the vehicle had spent the night, the entire contents of its toilet was clear to see on the road.

How did we get here? Opening up the so-called economy to the tourist industry and the ruthlessness of too many tourists with little or no

respect for health and social norms. When you open pubs until 10pm or 11pm, have students back to cramped residences at university and school children and staff back at the coalface what can one expect?

All one has to do is look at the USA to witness what a rush to open up to save the economy does to a nation. America has a medical crisis as a result, with 200,000 dead to date.

Our society is also dominated by the economy. Fair enough one might say. However, I have maintained since the 1960s that an economy based largeley on tourism would eventually be a disaster for rural Scotland. Yes, a few will benefit. But the majority of folk in rural Scotland

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will, as usual, suffer the consequences. Mostly the indigenous population. It also raises the ongoing issue of the lack or poor public toilets and showers across the Highlands for visitors.

Perhaps the dreadful current situation and lack of hygienic facilities will be taken up by our councillors, MSPs, MPs, health boards and tourist boards before it is too late.

Graham Noble, Drumsallie, Kinlocheil.

'Crafts and Things' memories

I was interested in the recent article in The Oban Times about the Craft and Things shop and restaurant at Tigh Phuirst, Glencoe.

The Cooper family has run an excellent business from there for the past 50 years.

'Tigh Phuirst' means 'house at the port' and there was a pier opposite the house.

The premises, comprising house, croft and steading, were run for more than 100 years by the Rankine family as a slaughterhouse, butchery and village shop, situated in the front rooms of the house.

It was, like today, a hive of industry and activity.

Of the last generations of Rankines - three girls and one boy - only Marjory married. She settled in Oban and my late husband, Robin Banks, was their grandson.

Robin, living in Oban, frequently went by train to stay with the aunts and uncle in the 1930s and 1940s. He hardly heard a word of English in the shop except for 'margarine' and 'an ounce of bogey roll'. He remembered hams hanging by hooks from the rafters and boxes of men's black tackety boots.

The shop literally sold everything and they were open all hours. The family nickname was the 'Poondens', probably because everything was sold in pounds and ounces.

Aunt Teenie, the only one I knew, died in 1963, aged 93, and subsequently the property was sold to the Cooper family. Towards the end of the 19th century, the famous American Evangelists Sankey and Moodie held a religious rally at Ballachulish. They were the forerunners of Billy Graham. Teenie and her sister Mary attended the rally, were converted, left their established church and joined the Faith Mission.

Teenie used to talk about a neighbour John Cameron who, sitting at his fireside, composed a poem called 'Chi mi na Mor-bheanna' (Mist Covered Mountains) - a much-loved Gaelic song, frequently sung today. It is a great joy to me knowing there is still life in the old house, although it has changed dramatically.

Ishbel Banks, Gowan Brae, Oban.

DISTRICT NEWS



Left to right: Moreen MacCall; David Evans, vice chairman of the Friends of Oban Hospice; Lilian Kermode representing Marie Curie and Marie Anne MacEachen.

Charities benefit from memorial golf tournament

Fundraising cheques have been presented to four charities in memory of a former golf club captain at Glencruitten.

Oban Hospice Dove Centre Co-ordinator Peter Darling said: "The grand sum of £6,700 was raised at the John MacEachen Memorial golf tournament held recently at Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban. The event attracted 168 players. Four charities will benefit - Friends

of Oban Hospice at the Dove Centre; Pink Ladies Day; the Macmillan Day Bed Unit at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Marie Curie.'

Enthusiastic golfer John MacEachen was a former captain of Glencruitten Golf Club and the competition is held annually in tribute to him. 'The MacEachen family, once again, thank everyone who supported the event,' added Mr Darling.

Cyclist Carol makes it up 'Everest'

Charity cyclist Carol Lawson got perfect weather for cycling up Argyll's version of Everest.

The Lochgilphead librarian, who is a member of North Argyll Cycle Club, cycled 72 times up Glen Salloch near Barcaldine to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of her dad.

'I cycled 8,860m, so just slightly over the elevation of Mount Everest. I had perfect weather. I couldn't believe my luck. I started cycling at 4.45am and finished at 10.30pm. I enjoyed the feeling of peace and solitude, just thinking about my dad. Then, as the sun came up and the birds started to sing, different cyclists came along to ride with me. It was an amazing experi-

ence and one which I'll always remember. I am so thankful for friends for helping me through the day. This was the hardest thing I have ever done. It felt so good to finish that last hill. My Everest was complete. Seventy-two times up Glen Salloch.

'I am so pleased to have been able to do this challenge and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, which were such a help and comfort to my family in the last weeks of my dad's life,' said Carol.

Carol's cycling challenge raised £1,900 plus several offline donations taking it to £2,400.

Donations can still be made via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carol-lawson8848

Lodge supports Killin war memorial

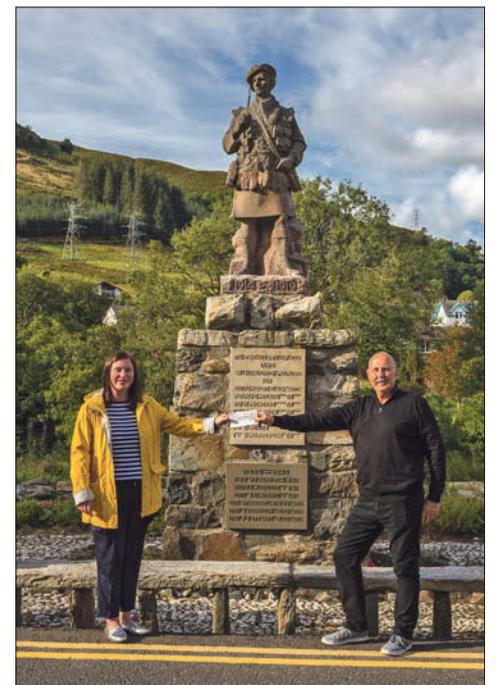
Killin's war memorial committee has received funding to help pay for its upkeep.

As part of The Grand Lodge of Scotland's Covid Challenge, each Province in Scotland received £2,000 which The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West matched and distributed equally to groups nominated by the 13 lodges in the province.

Lodge Breadalbane St Fillans No. 815 in Killin's nominated group was the War Memorial Committee in Killin.

The group was set up to restore and maintain Killin's unique war memorial.

Lodge 815 is keen to support this project as many of the soldiers named on the plaques were freemasons.



Martin Cockburn presents a cheque for £300 to Rona Foubister who is treasurer of the memorial committee on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Perthshire West.

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Cheeseburger pasta bake



• 3 Syns per serving • 40 minutes • Serves 4

Ingredients

- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 2 large onions, roughly chopped
- 400g dried pasta shapes, such as fusilli or spirali

- 500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)
- 6 large tomatoes, sliced
- 80g reduced-fat Cheddar, coarsely grated (or see tip)

TIP - For a cheesier bake that's also Free, you could increase the cheese to 160g and have it as a Healthy Extra 'a' choice.

Method:

1. Spray a medium-size saucepan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a medium-low heat. Add the onions, cover and cook for 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to the pack instructions, but drain and return to the pan a couple of minutes before the end of the recommended cooking time.
3. Uncover the onions and increase the heat to high. Add the beef and fry for 5 minutes or until browned, breaking up any lumps. Drain off any liquid and season lightly.
4. Preheat your grill to high.
5. Stir the beef into the pasta. Spoon half of the mixture into a shallow baking dish, cover with half of the tomatoes and season lightly. Grill for 5-7 minutes.
6. Sprinkle over half of the cheese and top with the remaining pasta, beef and tomatoes. Grill for 5 minutes then sprinkle with the remaining cheese and grill for 2 minutes or until golden. Divide between 4 plates to serve.

Classes are back!!

Booked Weigh-in Venues followed by Virtual Classes.

Oban Wednesday 9.30am, 12pm and 5pm, 7pm
Fort William Monday 9.30am, 12pm and Thursday 3.30pm, 7pm.

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The Oban Times and St Kilda

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



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

Friday 29th: The Harebell with the islanders and their remaining belongings, sailed from St Kilda, at 6am.

The Dunara Castle arrived at Oban 4am, when the sheep and cattle stock and household effects were landed on the Railway Pier. The furniture and other household effects were temporarily stored in the premises of Mr Robert Forbes, Argyll Square. On this occasion the stock comprised 573 sheep and 13 cattle.

It may be recalled that the Dunara Castle brought 666 sheep from Sty Kilda to Oban on 6th August, so that the total stock which fall to be sold in Messrs Corson's Marts numbered some 1200 sheep. Harebell arrived at Lochaline, Morvern, at 6.30pm.

'When the Harebell came abreast of Lochaline Pier she was met by the Princess Louise, which in the course of the afternoon had conveyed from Oban the furniture and other effects which had been landed there from St Kilda by the Dunara Castle. Eight of the ten families were disembarked at Lochaline and on landing at the pier they were received with cheers by the people of the village. The St Kildans were later driven to the houses allocated to them on the Ardtornish estate.

The remaining two families were conveyed by the Harebell to Oban, which was reached about 8.30pm. The arrival of the islanders at Oban was witnessed by an enormous crowd of towns people and visitors, and for a considerable time part of the Railway Pier was impassable. The islanders were conveyed to the landing stage in the Harebell's pinnace. Mr Neil Ferguson, the Postmaster, and Mrs Ferguson were the first to step ashore. They were met by Mr Menzie, an official of the Oban Post Office, who, on behalf of Mr Andrew Fleming, Postmaster, took over the mails and documents and everything belonging to the Post Office in St Kilda.

September 1930: 'This has been an eventful week in the annals of Morvern. For some time



Left: The St Kilda houses not long after the island was abandoned.

Photograph: Robert Atkinson. Copyright The School of Scottish Studies, The University of Edinburgh.

speculation was rife as to the day and hour when the St Kildans would arrive at Lochaline. Our Morvern correspondent writes: 'The advance guard of pressmen, six in number, arrived on Wednesday, and, day by day, their ranks augmented, until ultimately sixteen gentlemen and one lady came on the scene to represent the Scottish and English newspaper press.

'They were out to photograph twenty-eight persons. Nothing like this has ever occurred since MacPherson went to battle with four and twenty men and five and twenty pipers. Due preparation had been made for the reception of the migrants before their arrival. Beds and blankets, food and fuel, had been put into the houses at Ardnass, Savary, Achabeg, Lochaline and Larachbeg, and friendly neighbours were ready to kindle the fires'.

'It was rumoured that the Harebell would arrive at six pm on Friday evening, and a large concourse of the residents gathered at the pier to welcome the strangers. At six forty-five the vessel anchored off Ardnass Point, about a mile from the pier and the ship's tender, Princess Louise, immediately began to trans-ship the passengers and their chattels. The weather was entirely favourable. It was in impressive picture, the dark outline of the ship resting on a gently rippling sea, the hill-tops of Mull and Morvern

wrapped in airy mists, over-head gleamy black clouds tearing in tatters, and the sun sinking in red and gold behind the heights of Aros.

'As the Princess Louise neared the quay there was a deep hush, followed by a faint cheer that left the stoical faces on board quite unmoved. They betrayed no sign of joy or sorrow, nothing but a calm resignation to the hand of Fate. But the pressmen, who had for so long a time been leashed from launching on the quarry, went into action along the length of the pier while the victims of their attention filed slowly down the gangway, the older folks first, and then the rank and file, men, women and children - twenty-eight in all - receiving as they passed friendly handclasps from the onlookers. T

'There are thirty-six St Kildans, of whom women form the majority. Three families are to be settled under the afforestation scheme on the portion of the Ardtornish Estate, Morvern, acquired by the Forestry Commission. These families number 17 individuals, and include seven male workers. Arrangements have been made that these men will be provided with forestry work, to the extent of at least 150 days in the year, and each family will have a dwelling and a croft. There is not a tree on St Kilda, and those who have never been out of the island have never seen a tree, so probably that is the

Right: The Fishery Cruiser, HMS Harebell, that carried the islanders from St Kilda to the Sound of Mull from which they were taken ashore by the Princess Louise in August 1930.

Photograph: the late Philip Vicary.



reason why forestry has been chosen for the new vocation of the men.

'Another family is in the happy position of being an applicant for a small holding, and the Department of Agriculture has the matter in hand. For this one family it is reported that 'nothing definite has been done, pending the receipt of information which has been asked as to the circumstances of the islander, as to what capital he may be able to furnish, and, generally, the type and location of the holding he is desirous of obtaining'. According to the report from official sources, no difficulty is anticipated in placing the women who are not provided for in the settlement of families.

One of two of the older women are to be provided for by the Inverness County Council; others, 'it is hoped', are likely to be taken into the



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 1, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	***	**	05.23	3.7
Thur	11.45	0.9	17.36	4.1
Fri	00.01	1.0	05.51	3.9
	12.17	0.8	18.07	4.1
Sat	00.31	0.9	06.18	3.9
	12.47	0.9	18.36	4.1
Sun	01.01	1.0	06.45	4.0
	13.15	1.0	19.05	4.0
Mon	01.31	1.1	07.11	3.9
	13.41	1.2	19.33	3.9
Tues	01.59	1.2	07.38	3.8
	14.04	1.4	19.59	3.7
Wed	02.26	1.4	08.06	3.6
	14.27	1.7	20.27	3.5

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

Ardershaig	-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 light winds
Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

FRIDAY

Sunny intervals and gentle breeze
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK

Saturday

Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

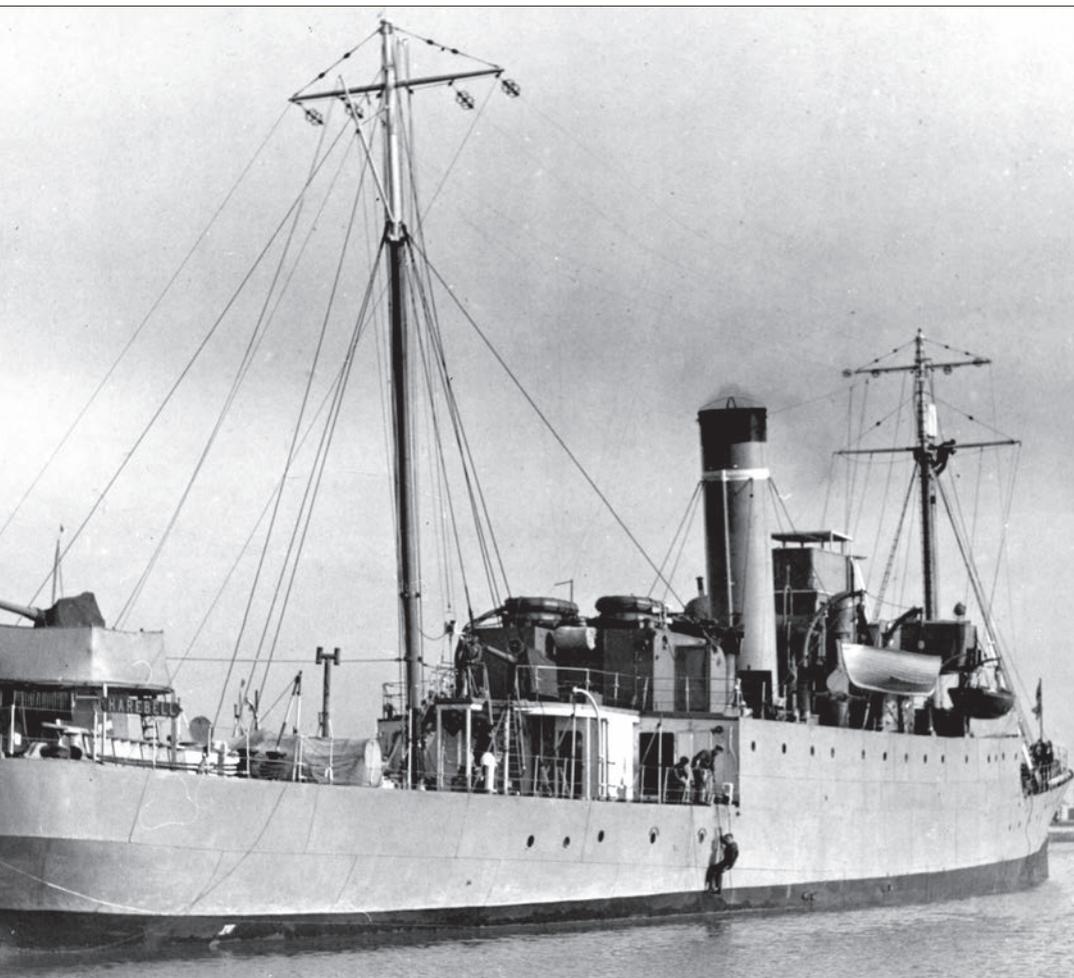
Sunday

Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST



Clearance: part 9



household of friends. Then for the young women, there is, we are told, 'an overwhelming number of applications for St Kildan girls as domestic servants' thus the St Kildan community is to be launched into another life and to be separated from one another. 'The island community have suffered too long through their condition of segregation. The desire of the authorities is rather to spread them amongst the mainland population! These are autocratic pronouncements.

'One family, man and wife, have meantime been settled in Culross, Fife, the man being employed at the Tulliallan nursery of the Forestry Commission. This house - the only one meantime being available - was some distance from the man's work, but arrangements are being made to transfer him at an early date to a house recently purchased by then Forestry Commission.

One household, consisting of a man, his wife, and her father, has been temporarily settled at Ardnarff, Strome Ferry, Ross-shire, where the man is working on a Forestry Commission scheme. As soon as a house can be built for them this family will be transferred to the Tulliallan estate of the Forestry Commission, where they will be near to the family already at Tulliallan, who are relatives. For one man employed by the Inverness County Council, lodgings were found in Inverness. A house has, however, now been found for him and his housekeeper. The house-keeper is a widow, and her daughter, who was first settled in domestic service in Skye, is at present residing with her with a view to entering such employment near Inverness'.

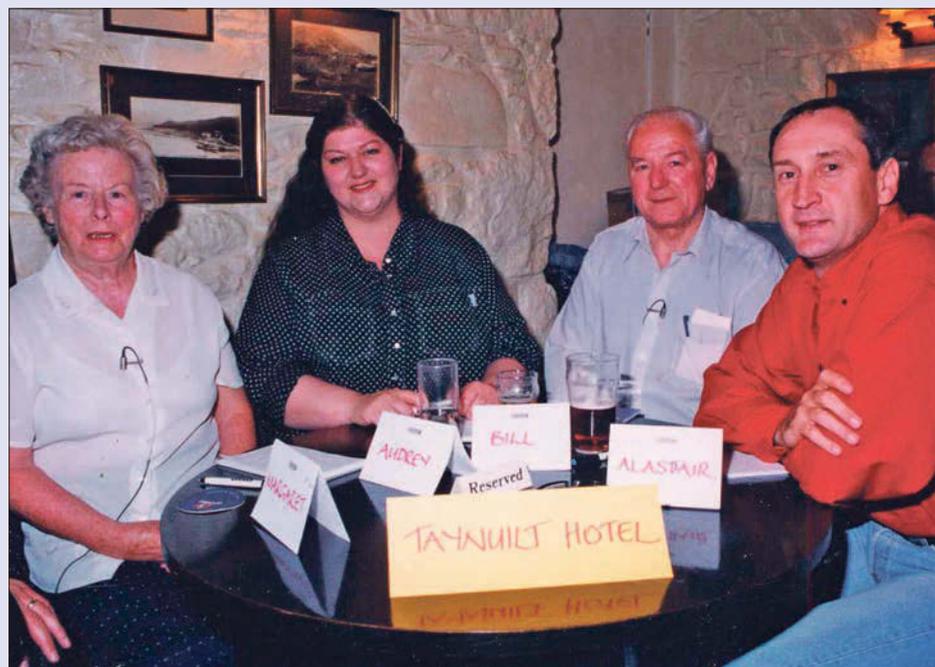
To be concluded next week.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Primary one and two pupils of Kilmonivaig Primary School with the new computer system bought for them by the Parent Teacher Association in March 1993.



The Taynuilt Hotel quiz team were recorded for the BBC Radio Scotland pub quiz competition It's Your Round in June 1998.

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Ceumnaiche à Earra-Ghàidheal a' glèidheadh duais Oileanach na Bliadhna aig Sabhal Mòr

Thèid cuirm Luchd-ceuma Shabhal Mòr Ostaig a chumail air-loidhne air Dihaoine 2 Dàmhair, airson meal an naidheachd a chur air na h-oileanaich agus airson an cuid shaothair a chomharrachadh ann am bliadhna a tha air a bhith gu math neo-àbhaisteach.

Tha 59 oileanaich a' ceumnachadh bhon Ionad Nàiseanta airson Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig am-bliadhna, le teisteanasan bho Phreantasachd Tòiseachaidh suas gu MSc le ceum barraichte.

Tha duais OGE airson Oileanach SMO na Bliadhna a' dol gu Ross Christie à Cille Chreanain, Earra-Ghàidheal a thàinig dhan Cholaiste as dèidh dha an sgoil fhàgail. Chùm e air le a chuid obrach aig sàr àrd-ìre, 's e a' ceumnachadh le BA (le Urram) Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig aig a' chiad ìre. Tha e a-nis ag obair aig MG Alba mar Cho-òrdanaiche Conaltraidh is Susbaint.

Choisinn Màiri NicGillFhinnein à Inbhirnis Duais Dhonnchaidh MhicGhuairne a tha ag aithneachadh sàr sgilean teagaisg air a' phrògram BA (le Urram) Gàidhlig agus Foghlam. Tha Màiri a-nis a'

teagaisg tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil an t-Sàilein ann am Muile.

Tha duais airson Oileanach FE na Bliadhna a' dol gu Èirinn Toner à Glaschu a rinn am Preantasachd Tòiseachaidh – Clann is Daoine Òga – agus tha i a-nis am beachd teagasg a dhèanamh gus am bi i na tidsear Gàidhlig.

Thèid cèilidh a chumail beò air duilleag Facebook na Colaiste as dèidh làimh le Eòghann MacEanraig agus Gary Innes, bhon chòmhlan MÀNran. – fios gu lèir air làrach-lìn na Colaiste - www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig graduate from Argyll receives Student of the Year award

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will mark its graduates' successes this Friday, 2 October, with an online celebration to congratulate all the students on their achievements and hard work, in what has been a challenging year.



Ross Christie, SMO student of the year

SMO - the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture - will see 59 students graduate this year from Foundation Apprenticeship to MSc with Distinction.

The UHI award for SMO Student of the Year goes to Ross Christie

from Kilchrenan, Argyll who came to SMO as a school-leaver. He continued to excel at his studies, now graduating BA Gaelic

Language and Culture with First class Honours. Ross has been a great role-model for male students and is now employed by MG Alba as a Communications and Content Co-ordinator.

Mairi MacLennan from Inverness is the recipient of the Duncan MacQuarrie Memorial Prize which recognises excellence in teaching on the BA (Hons) Gaelic and Education programme. Mairi is currently in her first year of Gaelic-medium teaching at Salen Primary School in Mull.

The award for FE SMO Student of the Year goes to Èirinn Toner from Glasgow who undertook the Foundation Apprenticeship in Children and Young People and now hopes to continue her studies and become a Gaelic teacher.

A live ceilidh with Ewen Henderson and Gary Innes from the band, MÀNran, will follow via the College's Facebook page. All information can be found on our website - www.smo.uhi.ac.uk





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Luchd-ceuma an t-Sabhal Mhòir 2020 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Graduates 2020

Foghlam Àrd-ìre / Higher Education

MSc. ann an Cultar Dùthchasach agus Eachdraidh na Gàidhealtachd / MSc. Material Culture and Gàidhealtachd History
Joina NicDhòmhnaill (Barraichte), Deirdre Ni Mhathuna (Barraichte), Calum Rothach (Barraichte)

BA (le Urram) Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig / BA (Hons) Gaelic Language and Culture
Ross Christie (ciad ìre), Kyle Orr (ciad ìre)

BA (le Urram) Gàidhlig is Foghlam / BA (Hons) Gaelic and Education
Kiera Jayne Brennan, Raonaid Ghrannnd (ciad ìre), Rachel Kellow (ciad ìre), Amy NicAoidh (ciad ìre) Màiri NicGillFhinnein, Liam MacGriogair

BA (le Urram) Gàidhlig is Leasachadh / BA (Hons) Gaelic and Development
Peigi Scott (ciad ìre)

PGDE Foghlam Àrd-sgoile / PGDE Secondary Education (Gaelic pathway)
Natasha Madigan

BA Gàidhlig is Leasachadh / BA Gaelic and Development
Robbie Kerr

Dioplòma Foghlaim Àrd-ìre ann an Gàidhlig is Cuspairean Co-cheangailte / Higher Education Diploma in Gaelic and Related Studies
Anna Gilmore, Madeleine Hughes, Rachael Alana Morrison

Teisteanas Foghlaim Àrd-ìre / Certificate of Higher Education

An Cùrsa Adhartais
Philip Berry (Barraichte), Rhoda Grant, Ile Halliday, Kevin Leetion (Barraichte), Jason Leitch (Barraichte), Ron Looker (Barraichte), William Mohieddeen, Neil Simco (Barraichte), Christopher Oates (Barraichte), Helen Patterson (Barraichte), Wendy Smillie (Barraichte), Maria Tsvetoukhina

An Cùrsa Comais
Màiri Bell, Brighde Gilbert, Seumas Hepburn (Barraichte), Ruairidh MacIlFhinnein More (Barraichte), Iain Moireasdain, Karrie Prescott, Ciara NicDhòmhnaill (Barraichte), Evelyn Roe (Barraichte), Rhoda Whatley, Lewis Willcox

Gàidhlig is Conaltradh
Catriona MhaolChallainn (Barraichte), Flòraidh Sìne Moireach (Barraichte), Tealsaidh

Nic a' Phearsain (Barraichte), John Viktor Kardell (Barraichte)

Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig / Diploma HE in Gaelic Media
Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul, Robyn Low, Shannon NicIlleathain, Rebekah NicLeòid, Màiri NicIlfhinnein

Foghlam Adhartach / Further Education

Preantasachd Tòiseachaidh / Foundation Apprenticeship

Clann agus Daoine Òga / Children and Young People
Niamh Kerr, Holly MacLean, Eilidh M MacPhee, Èirinn Toner

Na Meadhanan Cruthachail is Didseatach / Creative and Digital Media
Jonathan Beaton, Siobhan Gillies, Iona Jayne MacCaskill, Daniel MacDonald, Niamh MacKinnon, Isla Grace MacLeod, Calum Gilleasbuig MacVicar



Primary ones 2020

Shining the spotlight on the P1's of 2020 - a special keepsake supplement!



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LOCHABER TIMES
& Oban Times

Dalmally Primary School



004

Easdale Primary School



006

Dunbeg Primary School



005

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Kilchoan Primary School



007a



007b



007c

Lochnell Primary School



009

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Park Primary School



011

Rockfield Primary School (1)



012

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The advertisement is a promotional banner for City Plumbing Supplies. It features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the left, the company logo 'CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES' is displayed. The main text reads 'FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING AND HEATING NEEDS' and 'Bathroom and kitchen tiles now available'. Below this, the address '7e Glengallan Road, Oban Tel: 01631 567640' is provided. On the right side, there is a large yellow banner that says 'SALE NOW ON!'. Below this, there are several small images showing the interior of the showroom, which is filled with various plumbing and heating products. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'City Heating Spares' with the tagline 'LOOK OUT FOR THE BATHROOM SHOWROOM' and 'SPECIALISTS FOR THE TRADE'. At the bottom left, there is a yellow banner that says 'Pleased to support this years Local Primary one intake'.

Rockfield Primary School (2)



013

Rockfield Primary School (Gaelic)



014

Kilchrenan Primary School



008



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St Columbas Primary School



015

Strath of Appin Primary School (English)

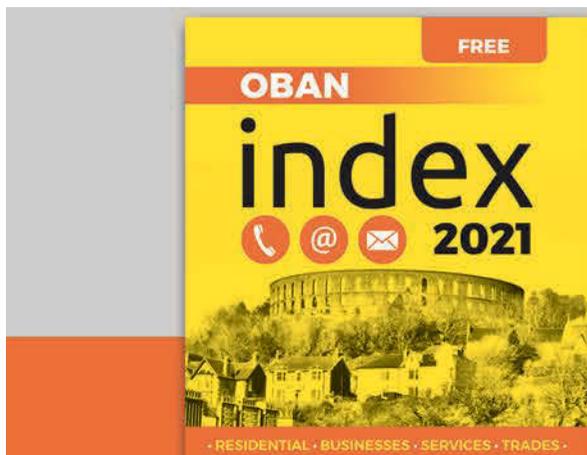


016a

Strath of Appin Primary School (Gaelic)



016b



COMING SOON
OBAN index 2021

• RESIDENTIAL • BUSINESSES • SERVICES • TRADES •

Taynuilt Primary School



017

Ardrishaig Primary School



019

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Craignish Primary School



020

Glassary Primary School



022

Carradale Primary School



030

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Inveraray Primary School



023

Kilninver Primary School



025

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Lochgilphead Primary School



026

Tarbert Academy



028

Tayvallich Primary School



029

The logo for Riverside Rascals Nursery is colorful and playful. It features a central figure with arms raised, surrounded by various symbols like hearts, hands, and a sun. The letter 'R' is prominently displayed on the figure's chest.

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A photograph showing several children sitting around a round table in a classroom. They appear to be engaged in a hands-on activity, possibly a craft or a game. The room is decorated with colorful items, including a rainbow on the wall.

Castlehill Primary School (1)

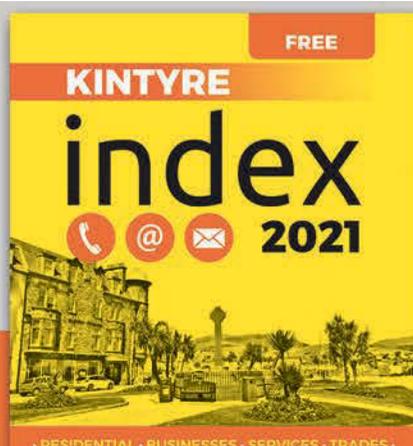


031a

Castlehill Primary School (2)



031b



COMING SOON
KINTYRE index 2021

• RESIDENTIAL • BUSINESSES • SERVICES • TRADES •

Dalintober Primary School (1)



033a



033c

Dalintober Primary School (2)



033b

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Drumlemble Primary School



034

Rhunahaorine Primary School



036

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Acharacle Primary School



038

Ardgour Primary School



039

Auchtertyre Primary School



041

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Ballachulish Primary School



042

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Banavie Primary School



043

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY



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Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar



044

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Glencoe Primary School



047

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Gleneig Primary School



048

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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FREE

Caol Primary School (1)



045a

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Inverlochry Primary School



051

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Invergarry Primary School



049

Caol Primary School (2)



045b

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Kilchuimen Primary School



053

Kinlochleven Primary School



054

Mallaig Primary School (English)



060a

Mallaig Primary School (Gaelic)



060b

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

REGULARLY RESTOCKED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Available from most retailers and tourist outlets

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Lundavra Primary School (1)



059a

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Lundavra Primary School (2)



059b

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Spean Bridge Primary School



062

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

St Bride's Primary School



063

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Strontian Primary School



065

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St Columba's Primary School



064

A BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Bowmore Primary School (English)



067a

Bowmore Primary School (Gaelic)



067b

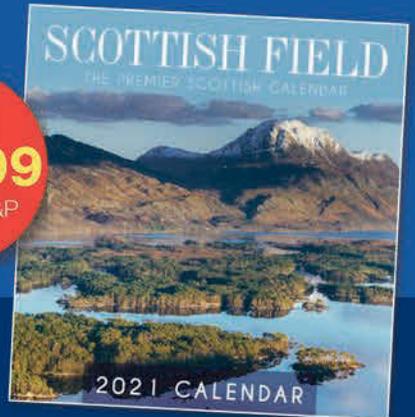
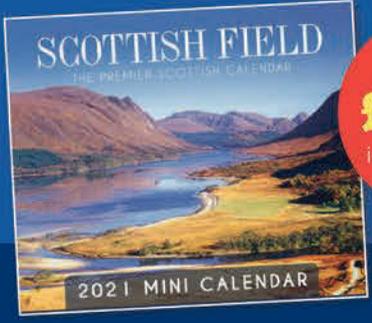
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069

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070

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072

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073

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079

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074

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Iona Primary School



080

Keills Primary School



081

Lochdonhead Primary School



085

Port Charlotte Primary School



087

An advertisement for Mull & Iona Life magazine. The background is teal. On the left is a small image of the magazine cover with headlines: "Mull & Iona Life", "AUTUMN 2020", "IONA HOLDS SPECIAL PLACE IN POET AND AUTHOR'S HEART", "VOLUNTEERS THANKED FOR COVID-BUSTING DELIVERIES", and "BAND'S BON VOYAGE TO ICONIC TORBERMORY FISHING BOAT". To the right, the text "COMING SOON" is written in large orange letters. Below that, "Mull & Iona" is written in large white letters, with "Life" in a red script font. At the bottom, "MULL AND IONA'S FREE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE" is written in white and orange letters.

Port Ellen Primary School



088

Small Isles Primary School



093

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089

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092a

Salen Primary School (Gaelic) School



092b

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097

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Ulva Primary School



098

Eoligarry Primary School



105

Balivanich Primary School (English)



100

Balivanich Primary School (Gaelic)



101

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Daliburgh Primary School (E)



104a

Daliburgh Primary School (Gaelic)



104b

Laxdale Primary School (English)



106a

Laxdale Primary School (Gaelic)



106b

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Sgoil-nan-Loch (English)



115

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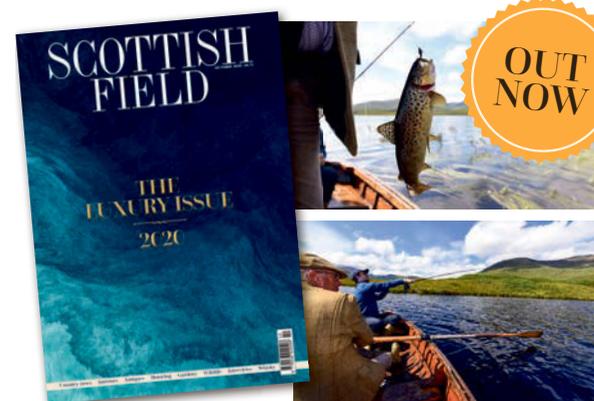
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BUSINESS NEWS

Grant support helps create jobs in fisheries sector

Grants totalling £427,627 have been awarded to 16 projects by The Outer Hebrides Fisheries Local Action Group, creating 18 full-time equivalent jobs, supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020 and the Scottish Government.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Sustainable Development Committee heard details of the scheme at a meeting last Wednesday.

Projects were across the islands and included development of new fisheries, boat repair yards, marine tourism businesses, a cockle survey and a Blue Fin Tuna Tagging and Release scheme.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of Sustainable Development, said: 'These grants have supported projects across the islands with a total cost of over £1.4m. This highlights the contribution of European funding and the requirement for a suitable replacement scheme as we leave the European Union.'

Funding for projects must be committed by December 31 and projects completed and grant assistance claimed by September 30 2022.

The committee also heard details of the The Comhairle's Fisheries Investment Scheme which has been in operation since October 2012 and has loaned over £1.5m to over 40 applicants across the islands. Loans are up to 40 per cent of eligible project costs, subject to a maximum loan of £100,000 and are available for the purchase of fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in overall length, equipped to go fishing at sea, up to 30 years old.

Over the last six months, the scheme has helped support fishing vessel investment of £1.62m with the comhairle providing £0.46m loan funding from the Fisheries Investment Scheme.

Councillor Crichton added: 'The comhairle is committed to supporting the fishing sector particularly during the challenging economic times we face as a result of Covid and Brexit.'

Oban hotel awarded AA stars and rosette

by Ellis Butcher
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban hotel has been awarded the highly coveted AA four star status and an AA rosette in recognition of its quality cuisine.

The honours follow a detailed and anonymous inspection of the Oban Bay Hotel & Spa under what bosses called the 'toughest grading scheme in the world'. It makes it the only hotel in town to achieve the AA four star standard.

Inspectors found the facilities and hospitality 'exceeded' the expected standards - putting the Corran Esplanade hospitality venue in the top quarter of all four-star hotels in the UK, it said.

The hotel, employing 22 staff, has seen an investment of nearly £4 million since it was bought by Crerar Hotels in 2005.

Paddy Crerar CBE, the Oban-born chairman of Crerar Hotels, saluted the role of general manager Marc Gardner. He was appointed having overseen the awarding of four stars at the Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray, a sister property in the group.

Mr Crerar said: 'I've been involved with Oban hotels most of my life and professionally for more than three decades. It's always been my ambition to see quality in the town.'

'The Oban Bay Hotel has achieved one of the highest gradings possible and it's my most sincere hope fellow hoteliers in the town follow suit.'

Mr Crerar described Scotland as a 'global player' in tourism and urged competitors to join the drive to raise standards.

'Competition for Oban is not the next door hotel - it's the towns and resorts of the Lake District, Cornwall and mainland Europe,' he said.

'Despite Covid-19, we all have opportunity and we must take it. We can do that by being the best we can be. Oban should be the shining gem in Scotland's hospitality crown.'



Lap of luxury at the Oban Bay Hotel.

The hotel's approach to and quality of food was singled out at the new restaurant, The Grill Room, it said.

Rosettes are the AA's most prestigious food award celebrating a high level of cuisine.

Chris Wayne-Wills, chief executive officer of Crerar Hotels, said: 'The AA rosette is a particularly good award for our team to win. It's tough to achieve at any time and very rare on an inspector's first visit.'

He praised the 'incredible' kitchen brigade and front of house team and the use of locally-sourced food from slow grown, grass-fed Luing beef and venison from Crerar Home farm and the 'world's greatest seafood' on its doorstep.

Marc Gardner said the hotel is not notified in advance that an inspector is staying and it was always a 'heart stopping' moment when they reveal their identity and request to speak to the manager.

'We never know when or who will be inspect-

ing for an AA grading. We only know once the inspector has completed their assessment. The hotel was full when he stayed, as it has been since we re-opened. Add into an already busy environment the strict protocols we have in place for Covid-19 safety and I can assure you the thought of any assessment was never in our minds.

'It's the team we have that delivered this, Oban folk and folk who have made Oban their home. They are every bit hospitality professionals and dedicated. I'm very proud of them.'

The privately-owned Crerar Hotels runs seven properties which includes Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craignure and the Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray.

The company aims to offer 'the best and most authentic hotels and inns' in Scotland.

A fifth hotel on the Isle of Mull was mid-refurbishment when lockdown halted work.

It hopes to resume its plans over winter to add a fifth four-star gem to its portfolio.

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Accommodation reaches new heights.

Luxury eco cabins arrive at Loch Awe

A pair of luxurious eco cabins have been craned into place at an award-winning tourism business overlooking Loch Awe.

The custom-built lodges, made by Echo Living at Castle Douglas, Dumfries, now command a lofty position on a hillside behind the Ben Cruachan Inn.

Secured on purpose-built steel platforms, the 'Lochawe Luxury Eco-cabins' have been designed using sustainable materials and to operate off-grid using solar panels.

Tracey Peedle co-owns the inn with husband Ian Irvine and fellow co-owner Steve McDonald.

She said the new lodges would provide luxury accommodation for couples. They include private decks with spectacular views over the 25-mile long Loch Awe and the stunning mountain ranges beyond.

Tracey said there was much excitement as the cabins were manoeuvred into place.

The inn reopened in 2017 following major investment and refurbishment after standing derelict for years at the side of the A85. As well as its bar and restaurant, it offers five letting rooms and five apartments.



On terra firma.

Curfew 'last straw' for many pubs, says tourism body

A leading Scottish tourism organisation has warned a 10pm curfew for bars, pubs and restaurants could prove the 'last straw' for struggling businesses.

Hospitality venues across Scotland were ordered to abide to the new rule from Friday September 25 after it was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in an effort to combat rising cases of coronavirus across the country.

Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA), said businesses had put in place many measures to protect staff and customers as far as they could. He said: 'Sadly, this is likely to be the last straw for many businesses which were only just managing to break even. The impact this new rule will have on restaurants in particular in terms of restricting a second seating in the evening will result in a substantial loss of revenue, as indeed it will in other areas of hospitality.'

Mr Crothall called for a package of measures for Scotland's tourism industry to help the sector's 'immediate survival and future sustainability'.

He said a 'tailored furlough package' would now be required alongside a permanent reduction in VAT to five per cent beyond 2021. Furthermore, there should be a holiday for business rates until the end of March 2022 for all tourism businesses, he added. However, Mr Crothall agreed the industry must continue 'to do the right thing' and comply with every measure for the good of everyone. He also welcomed the announcement of additional inspection measures, backed with enforcement, for those who did non-comply.

But he added: 'Evidence to date shows incidences of the virus in hospitality businesses accounts for only a very small percentage of overall cases and I would therefore be hopeful the further evidence we will gather in the coming days and weeks will feed into the review of this particular measure.'

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Musical cheer for Skye care home residents

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A music project is making a positive difference to the well-being of some of Skye's most isolated residents.

When lockdown forced residents of the island's three care homes into their rooms, SEALL, Skye's performing arts promotion charity, used money from the Scottish Government's Well-being Fund to run a two-month project entitled SEALL@Home.

This provided free online music sessions for residents, carers and families of Home Farm, Budhmor and An



Iseabail Strachan.

Arcasaid. The sessions also reached service users of Kyleakin Connections – Skye and Lochalsh Association for Disability.

The project enlisted the talents of Small Halls musicians Innes Watson, Su-a-Lee and Hamish Napier, singer Anna Mhartainn, the multi-talented MacKenzie family, John and Kate Masson, Ceitidh Douglas of Sheepshank Beag, father and daughter duo Donald and Lucy Livingstone, piper and fiddler Malin Lewis and box and banjo player Iseabail Strachan.

Marie Lewis, SEALL's creative director, said: 'We wanted to do something positive for the most isolated members of our communities, as well as support performing artists.'

'We could not programme live events, so decided to use online music sessions to spread a bit of joy to older and vulnerable residents during the pandemic.'

'We set up concerts via Zoom and asked the participants for

playlists. We could not have imagined such a wonderful response from everyone involved. There were even a few joyful tears shed during the sessions.'

Popular musician Iseabail Strachan ran the sessions and filmed and produced the video. She said: 'I had previously worked with the care homes and Kyleakin Connections and was delighted to carry on working with many of the people who I have got to know over the last few years.'

'Kyleakin Connections had never been to a concert together as a group, so it was special for them to have such a variety of musical performances every week. It is clear to see from watching the audience on Zoom that people's moods improve during the concerts.'

Marie added: 'Whilst this was initially a crisis response, we hope to continue reaching people in their homes and working with Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Services to identify



The MacKenzie family.

groups and individuals who would benefit from this work.

'The pilot ended at the end of July and while we await funding decisions, we really need to keep this project going. We are therefore trying to raise £5,000 to run more sessions and concerts for the

next three months.' To raise the funds, SEALL has set up a JustGiving page, and to launch the crowdfunder it put up a concert on Facebook last week showcasing the musicians who have been involved in the project and presenting a flavour of the work to the public.

The funds will be used to pay musicians' fees. The concert is available to view via SEALL's Facebook page www.facebook.com/sealleventsskye.

Donations may be made to the charity's JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/seallathome>

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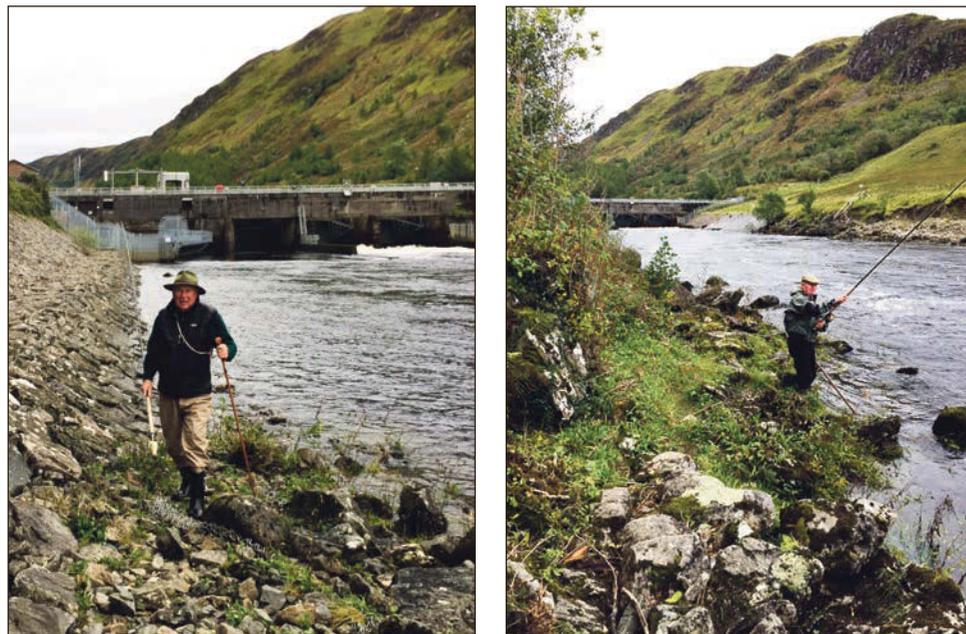
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RECRUITING
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Rotarians enjoy fishing on River Awe

Rotary Club of Oban members enjoy various sports and outside activities. A favourite is fishing, particularly fly fishing and our photographs show Rotarians Billy MacLean, left, and Phil Monteith, right, fishing on the River Awe. Unfortunately no fish were caught, as a result of high water and strong winds, but any disappointment was offset by the many 'tea breaks' in the riverside cabin with Past President Iain MacIntyre in the role of 'chief caterer'.

'Unbelievable' whale encounter off Mull

Passengers on a Tobermory-based tour boat had a 'once in a lifetime' experience with a pair of friendly and inquisitive minke whales.

The Sea Life Surveys vessel 'MV Highest Apple' was on a Wildlife Adventure trip on Sunday September 20 in the seas off Mull.

The passengers and crew sat quietly, with engines off, in mirror-calm waters watching a number of minke whales feeding in the distance when a younger whale began getting closer to the boat. To the thrill of everyone onboard it began surfacing just metres away, swimming underneath the boat, blowing bubbles and spy-hopping repeatedly. Soon after, it was joined by another, larger individual, who started doing the same.

Guide AJ MacLeod said: 'Seeing these magnificent animals in the wild any time is an absolute privilege, but to experience them behaving in this manner, on their own terms was humbling.'

Minke whales are the smallest baleen whale found in UK seas, growing up to 10 metres in length. They can be seen regularly along the west coast of Scotland where they migrate to feed between April and October. Whilst they are usually quite shy and elusive animals, juvenile whales can sometimes be curious and inquisitive around boats.

Over the course of 30 minutes, the whales displayed a variety of behaviours including spy-hopping and rolling



Above: One of the minke whales gets close to the boat, delighting passengers on board.

Left: A close up of one the whales.

over under the water, showing off their bright white bellies.

Head guide and zoologist Megan Francis explained: 'Minke whales have a narrow, pointed head with small eyes positioned on either side, so these behaviours allow the whale to get a better look at the boat and all those aboard - a case of who's watching who.'

Captain Andrew Kirsop added it was a 'once in a lifetime experience'. 'Whilst encounters with whales can be more common in other parts of the world, to see it in UK waters is

absolutely unbelievable and I'll never forget it,' he said.

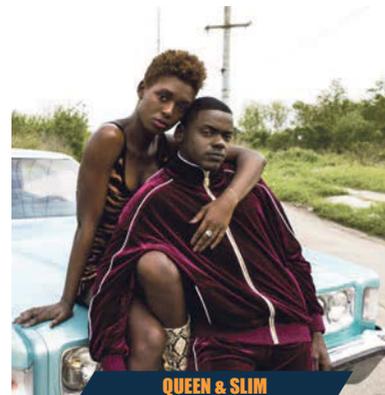
Sea Life Surveys has been operating since 1982, running wildlife and research trips off the seas around the isle of Mull. The variety of wildlife regularly encountered - including minke whales, basking sharks, common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoise, white-tailed eagles and an abundance of seabirds - makes Mull its surrounding waters one of the best wildlife watching destinations in the UK.

WHAT'S ON

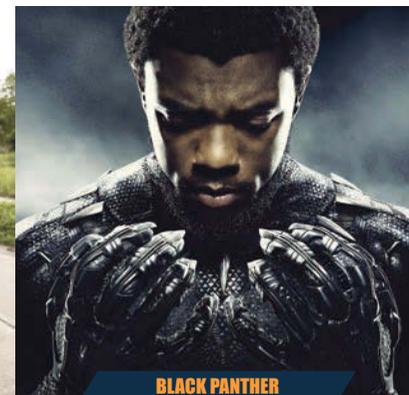
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- Schemers | 15 19:30
- Eternal Beauty | 15 19:45

SATURDAY 3 OCT

- The Elfkins | U 12:00/14:15
- Trolls World Tour | U 13:00
- Bill & Ted Face The Music | PG 15:30
- Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A 16:45
- Schemers | 15 18:00
- Black Panther | 12A 19:30

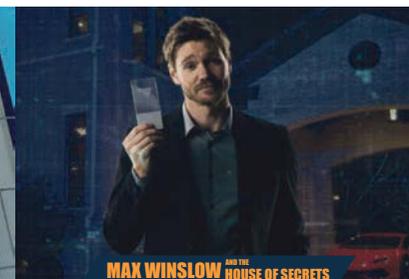
SUNDAY 4 OCT

- The Elfkins | U 12:00/14:15
- Trolls World Tour | U 13:00
- Bill & Ted Face The Music | PG 15:30
- Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A 16:45
- Schemers | 15 18:00
- Queen & Slim | 15 19:30

WEEKDAY CINEMA



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MONDAY 5 - THURSDAY 8 OCT

- The Elfkins | U 12:00/14:15
- Trolls World Tour | U 13:00
- Bill & Ted Face The Music | PG 15:30
- Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A 16:45
- Schemers | 15 18:00
- Eternal Beauty | 15 19:30

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WEDNESDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Ken & Len Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY:	8am-11am 11am-2pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Laura Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 4pm-6:45pm 6:45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Jay The One with Allan Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry, Janet & Anna Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie Late Show with Jay
SATURDAY:	8am-10am 10am-1pm 3pm-6pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darlin Evening Show with Dave Lewi
SUNDAY:	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham

Work well under way on new coastal rowing skiff

Work is well under way on the construction of Argyll's latest coastal rowing boat, now that coronavirus advice permits limited team work.

The hull of the Upper Loch Fyne Coastal Rowing Club's skiff is emerging rapidly in the old milking parlour of Glenshellish farm, Glenbranter, writes Ken MacTaggart.

A team of volunteers led by Neil Wilson is assembling the boat, which comes in kit form but requires additional parts to be made. Volunteer helpers include Patrick Gibb from Strachur, Martyn and Robin Webster, Terry Muirhead-Smith and Derek Anstee of Inveraray.

Early October is expected to see a big event – the 22-foot hull finally turned right way up, marking the half-way point in its construction.

The wooden sections came largely pre-cut and shaped by Jordan Boats of Somerset, ready to be assembled locally around a 'hog' template using wood-working tools and an epoxy binder.

With the main build phase over, she next requires seats and gunwhales, not to mention a paint job and a set of oars.

When complete, the skiff will likely be launched at Strachur. It is to be crewed by a team of four rowers and a coxswain.

The boat will be named 'Mrs McPhun' after the Strachur woman who thought she was widowed by the hanging of her husband Archie McPhun for murder at Inveraray.

As Mrs McPhun, their child and the body were being rowed back to Strachur for burial, Archie's 'corpse' groaned and he was resuscitated. He lived on for some years.

In recognition of the expected funeral that happily never happened, the skiff will be painted black.

Upper Loch Fyne Coastal Rowing Club was set up in Inveraray two years ago with the aim of building and operating a



Above: The new skiff hull is almost finished. It is being built at Glenbranter, near Strachur, Loch Fyne. Top and bottom right: Martyn Webster and Neil Wilson at work.



St Ayles skiff on the upper reaches Loch Fyne.

The club is a member of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA), which encourages boat building, rowing and racing of coastal rowing boats around the Scottish coastline. Most follow the design of the St Ayles skiff, which emerged in Anstruther based on the traditional Fair Isle skiff, and the Scottish community rowing regattas that were traditionally popular. The kit-built boat greatly reduces the cost to a community and as they are all a standard design, they can be fairly raced against one another. It quickly became a remarkable success, attracting worldwide attention and creating its own boating class association, St Ayles Skiff International (SASI). There are now more than 200 St

Ayles skiffs operating around Scotland's coast and abroad, including over a dozen in Argyll and others in the Netherlands, USA and Australia.

The SCRA now has more than 70 member clubs around the Scottish coast and on large freshwater lochs.

Upper Loch Fyne Coastal Rowing Club, which aims to promote community spirit, learning and purposeful activity for young and old, is open to new members to help maintain the boat and potential rowers and navigators keen to learn nautical skills. For further information about the rowing club contact Martyn Webster at martyn@martynwebster.com. For club membership or purchasing a share in the boat contact Terry Muirhead-Smith at terrymuirheadsmith@hotmail.co.uk.

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	25	26	27	28

Across

- 1 Way to ascertain intelligence (2,4)
- 4 Numeracy toy (6)
- 9 A mammal, city or river (3,4)
- 10 Annoyed (5)
- 11 Divided (5)
- 12 From the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (7)
- 13 Old coffin (11)
- 18 City in Israel (3,4)
- 20 Part of a coat collar (5)
- 22 Range (5)
- 23 Bliss (7)
- 24 Put in stitches (6)
- 25 Young waterbird (6)

Down

- 1 Pour in (6)
- 2 Type of wave (5)
- 3 When one isn't sure something would work (7)
- 5 Buckwheat pancakes (5)
- 6 A French country estate (7)
- 7 Parts of kilt attire (6)
- 8 Mad under-foot (5,6)
- 14 Disorder (7)
- 15 Cause of itching
- 16 Drooping of eyelids (6)
- 17 Flexible (6)
- 19 Deadly snake (5)
- 21 Everyday (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

H	K	A	Q	P	C
B	O	N	E	U	P
R	R	P	A	N	I
S	N	U	B	L	E
E	D	Y	S	E	Y
E	D	O	M		
R	A	Q	I	C	R
A	U	R	A	T	I
L	I	T	E	R	A
S	N	S	T	O	I
M	I	S	C	U	E
N	E	D	L	K	G

New online booking system for boaters

Scottish Canals is promising a journey like no other thanks to a new online booking system for boaters.

After successfully piloting the new system on the Crinan Canal in August, those looking to explore Scotland's waterways are also able to book transit licenses for the Caledonian Canal in advance of their journey by visiting scottishcanals.co.uk/YCW2020.

The new digital licences and booking process are just one part of making sure customers benefit from an unrivalled experience when visiting Scotland's inland waterways.

From the myths and majesty of the Caledonian Canal to the wildlife and wonder on the Crinan Canal or the life less ordinary to be experienced on the

Lowland Canals, Scottish Canals says its new booking system will take boaters 'on a journey like no other, from planning through to exiting the sea lock'.

Chief Executive of Scottish Canals Catherine Topley said: 'There's no denying our 2020 boating season has looked vastly different to any other.'

'This means we have had to think outside the box in terms of operating and extending online licences to our customers ensures we can still offer the experience of our canals in a safe way, which limits contact – and therefore limits risk of Covid transmission – to customers.'

'With many people looking to take breaks closer to home, we want to remind boaters and staycationers the canals offer a journey like no other. Whether you're

travelling through the Great Glen and exploring the Scottish Highlands, taking advantage of Britain's most beautiful shortcut or sailing through the sky on The Falkirk Wheel, our canals offer an experience second to none. A journey like no other begins with a click of a button and ends where your imagination allows.'

Scottish Canals has also released a Journey Like No Other video, which showcases the beauty and appeal of Scotland's inland waterways from sailing down Neptune's staircase and waking up to a view of Ben Nevis, to spotting rare pine marten and basking in an epic starlit sky on the Crinan Canal.

Scottish Canals offers the opportunity to transit the waterways with your own vessel or a hired boat.

Robert in lockdown!

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



I read something on social media recently about the standard job interview question: 'where do you see yourself in five years time?'

It was suggesting that nobody who answered this question five years ago could possibly have got it correct!

Before my pals spit out their tea laughing, I appreciate that I don't know much about job interviews having played music for a living since I was 17. But life really has taken an unexpected turn for everyone, hasn't it?

In previous years, in amongst hectic touring schedules, I would have bitten your hand off for a free Friday and Saturday night. A year's worth of them in a row? Not so much.

And that's the prospect that now faces us with our last gig away back in March; and our next not until April 2021 at the earliest. We'll be back, though; and so, I hope, will most bands. Venues might not be so lucky.

I read this week that Clark's on Lindsay Street in Dundee has closed its doors forever. As far as I know, this is the first



venue Tide Lines have played in that has fallen foul of the Covid-19 restrictions. It was also the first venue we ever played in Dundee – which is why its closure has saddened me so much. This is not purely because it is nostalgic to us (although there is a bit of that); but more because venues like Clark's are the only way for any young band to get a foot on the first rung of the ladder.

Let me try to explain why. When we played there in 2017, we had established a decent fan base in the Highlands, were beginning to make a name for ourselves in Glasgow, and had done a couple of support slots in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. We'd even supported Skerryvore in nearby Forfar.

But Dundee was completely uncharted territory for us and anyone in the music business

will tell you it is a notoriously difficult place to sell tickets – so there was no chance we could take a risk on any of the city's sizeable venues. Clark's had a good reputation for putting on young bands; so Beyond Presents (who were promoting our first full-scale Scottish tour) included it in our schedule. The venue was small enough (probably about 200 capacity from what I recall) that we managed to sell it out; and the gig, for me at least, felt brilliant.

I remember saying to a really supportive audience to go out and tell their pals to come to our next gig in Dundee. I also remember eyeing up the neighbouring Fat Sams, 1,200 capacity, and thinking I'd love to play there one day. Last November, two years after our Clark's gig, we did.

I am not making a political point here about regulations in any way. I only wanted to show anecdotally how important the smaller venues are for up-and-coming bands and, therefore, for the survival of the Scottish and UK music industry as we know it.



Debate Night looking for people from Argyll and Bute for show

BBC Scotland's topical TV discussion programme is touring Scotland once again, to give the people of Scotland the opportunity to have their say about the issues that matter most to them.

The show's host is inviting people from only Argyll and Bute to apply now for its episode on Wednesday October 7. The programme goes out at 10.30pm.

Presenter Stephen Jardine is encouraging people to apply to take part in the political discussion programme.

He told The Oban Times: 'We are looking for members of the general public in Argyll and Bute to join our video audience via their mobile phone or PC so they can have their say on the evening's programme. 'Maybe you run a business,

have been self-isolating or your work has been affected by Coronavirus; whatever your situation, we want you to apply and be part of the discussion.

'As a Debate Night audience member, it is YOUR questions which lead the discussion and the stories, experiences and opinions you share with us that matter most.

'It is the only TV programme of its kind in the country to allow you the chance to put your questions to Scotland's key decision-makers and public figures each week.

To apply visit www.bbc.co.uk/debatenight and click 'Join the Audience' and select the location that applies to you.

Previous episodes are available to watch via BBC iPlayer: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000htfx

Newborn bison born at Highland Wildlife Park

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland is celebrating the birth of a European bison calf, born at Highland Wildlife Park in July.

Staff at the wildlife conservation charity say the new arrival, a boy, will be named in the coming weeks.

Becky Pink, animal keeper at Highland Wildlife Park said, 'We were so happy to see mum Isla and dad Tomek welcome a calf earlier this year. Our new arrival is doing well and can be spotted running around with the herd in our main reserve.

'We have a tradition of naming our bison after Scottish glens and will be choosing the youngster's name in the coming weeks.'

European bison have been brought back from extinction in the wild following the success of rewilding and reintroduction projects.

Becky added: 'We currently have one of the largest European bison herds in the UK and they play an important role in supporting reintroduction efforts for the species in mainland Europe.

'We're all really excited about our new arrival.'

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

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 Bana- Churaidhean/Warrior Women (rpt)
23.25 Celtic Connections (rpt)
23.30 Bannan S7 (rpt)

18.00 Seachd – Inaccessible Pinnacle (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Cómhraidh (rpt)
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)
22.00 Bana- Churaidhean / Warrior Women (rpt)
22.50 Binneas Na Trads (rpt)
23.00 Tatu Rioghail Dhun Eideann 2019 (rpt)
00.40 Belladrum 2016 – Cridhe Tartan – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 NEW – Bannan S7
21.30 NEW – Abair Trusadh
22.00 Skipinnish agus Caraidean (rpt)
22.30 Sar-Sgeoil – Consider the Lilies (rpt)
23.30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 4 an Dàmhair SUNDAY 4 October

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 Call air Cladach Ile (The Loss on Islay's Shore) (rpt)
22.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)
23.00 UR/NEW The Optimists
23.45 Celtic Connections (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Falls of Acharn) (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 6 an Dàmhair TUESDAY 6 October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.05 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in a Big War) (rpt)
19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (rpt)
21.00 Thugainn Dhan Phark / Park Bar Life (rpt)
22.00 Abair Trusadh (rpt)
22.30 Bus Glaschu (rpt)
23.00 Fonn mo Bheatha (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DILUAIN 5 an Dàmhair MONDAY 5 October

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 – Macbeth (rpt)
22.00 Bannan S7 (rpt)
22.30 An Taistealaiche/ The Far Traveller (rpt)
23.30 Skipinnish agus Caraidean (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 3 an Dàmhair SATURDAY 3 October

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là – News



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Around the markets

Dingwall & Highland Marts Limited, Fort William, Saturday September 25: sold 2,409 store sheep of all classes. Lambs (1,756) sold to £81 gross for a pen of Cheviots from Annbank, Kilchoan.

Feeding sheep (653) sold to £86 gross for a Cheviot ram from Benhaint, Kilchoan.

All classes of stock sold to sellers' advantage.

Other leading prices per head:

Store lambs: Cross - Loch Treig, £70, 3 Bohuntin, Roy Bridge, £69.50, 17 Fiscavaig, Carbost, £62, Torlundy Farm, £61.50; TexX - 52 Banavie, £70, £69, £67.50, Duror, Glenelg, £66, Dalreoch, Roy Bridge, £59; Chev - South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £67, Annbank, £63.50, £63, 7 South Laggan, Spean Bridge, £62; SuffX - Ockle, Achateny, £65.50; BF - Loch Treig, £55, Breakachy, Laggan, £55, 17 Fiscavaig, £54, Ockle, £54, Keil Farm, Ardgour, £54.

Feeding sheep: Chev ewe - Balnaha, Kilmory, £72, Benhaint, £72, Annbank, £69, Inverailort Estate, £66; Lly ewe - 2 Unachan, Spean Bridge, £70; Chev wdr - Annbank, £69, 7 South Laggan, £63; Roy ewe - Greenfield, Invergarry, £61; Cross ewe - Torlundy Farm, £60, Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, £56, 2 Unachan,

£54; Chev gmr - Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £55, Cross gmr - 2 Achnaphuib, £55, BF wdr - Duror, £55, Keil Farm, £54; BF ewe - Insh Farm, £54.50, Breakachy, £53.50, Keppoch Farms, £50, Tigh Seonaid, Inchree, £50; BF ram - 16 Moss, Acharacle, £50.

United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday September 22: sold 3835 Breeding Sheep. 1372 Ewe Lambs averaged £70.50 (+£21.34), 833 Gimmers averaged £113.11 (+£26.38), and 1630 Ewes averaged £75.90 (+£22.14).

Sellers enjoyed a buoyant trade at Oban's Annual Sale of Breeding Ewes, Gimmers & Ewe Lambs when averages rose considerably in all sections. Despite the buoyant trade prevailing, buying customers were selective with their purchases for all classes and only the best bred types dominated the trade.

United Auctions wish to express their gratitude to the customers who diverted their Cross Bred Sheep to Oban Livestock Centre in order that both Dalmally & Oban Centres served their customers to full advantage under the present COVID19 restrictions.

Leading prices: Ewe Lambs - Chev Mule - £108, £107, Tyree (D MacDonald Jnr); £98.00, Caddleton; £92.00, Shenavallie. Mule - £102, Tyree (D MacDonald

Jnr); £101, £99.00, £98.00, £96.00, Tyree; £95.00, Scammadale; £94.00, Stronacroibh; £92.00, Fiart; £90.00, Poltalloch. TexX - £95.00, 10 Killeonan; £88.00, Drimsynie Estate. Chev - £78.00, Barndromin; £76.00, £75.00, Slaterich; £75.00, Balure; £74.00, Drumfingal; £74.00, Slaterich; £73.00, Balure; £71.00, Caddleton; £70.00, Braefoot. Cross - £65.00, Creagnich. SuffX - £63.00, Fasgadh. LleyX - £67.00, Kilpatrick Croft. Gimmers - Tex - £400, £300, £280, Drimsynie Estate; £118, Gorteneoran. Chev - £155, Bardaravine; £135, Stalker Cottage; £132, Caddleton. Mule - £148, Achalic; £145, 4 Balligrundle; £145, £144, Achalic; £140, Fiart; £140, 4 Balligrundle; £140, Achalic; £138, Fiart; £135, Achalic; £135, Balligrundle 1. Chev Mule - £130, Keppochan. Cross - £105, 2 Kiel Crofts; £102, Achnacroish; £100, Tullich Croft. BF - £110, £108, Ensay; £102, Kilbride Kilmore; £90.00, Achnacroish.

Warranted Ewes - SuffX - £82.00, Slaterich. Lley - £75.00, Craig. TexX - £250, £220, Drimsynie; £82.00, Slaterich. Chev - £110, £100, Cailach; £98.00, Cour Grazings; £92.00, Torloisk; £90.00, Ardnacross. Mule - £108, £100, Dalvore. Cross - £80.00, Antuim. BF - £108, £106, Ensay; £85.00, Glengorm; £75.00, Achnab; £72.00, Turnault; £70.00, Ensay; £70.00, Turnault.

Caledonian Marts Ltd, Sirling, Wednesday September 23, sold: 4527 Store Lambs & Feeding Ewes at their weekly sale alongside their Annual Sale of Regular Cast Blackface Ewes & Gimmers.

Store lambs (2094) were a similar trade to last week, selling to a top of £81 twice for a pen of Texels from E W & J Davies, New Flockhouse, Blairadam, and a pen of Suffolks from D Fletcher, Persabus, Islay.

Leading prices: Lambs per Head: Mule £80 & £78 Malling Cheviot £80 Malling; Texel £78 New Flockhouse; Suffolk X £75 New Flockhouse; Continental £74 & £72 Mill of Ardoch; Continental X £72 Easter Dullatur; Cheviot X £70 Coul Estates; BF £66 Edentaggart; BF £64 Craiggannet; BF £63 Shankhead; BF £62 Persabus, Islay; Shetland £42 Persabus, Islay.

Feeding Ewes: Texel £74 Kirkland; Texel X £72 Couston Farming Co; Cross £71 Hillside Suffolk X £59 Bluebell Cottage, Islay; BF £51 Hillside; Cheviot £65 Stillaig; Mule £64 Kirkland'

Breeding section - Record price smashed by Lurg A great show of 2433 Breeding Sheep forward for a full ringside of buyers all adhering to the two-metre rule.

Top price of the day went to Ewen McMillan, Lurg, Fintry, for



The five Blackface Gimmers from E McMillan, Lurg, which realised £340 at a sale in Stirling last week.

a cracking pen of 5 Blackface Gimmers which set a new record at the Cally selling to £340 purchased by a telephone bid to Co Down, Ireland.

In the BF Section, many of the regular customers would be up by £20-£25 on the year with 1424 BF Ewes averaging £70.05 (+£23.29 on the year) selling to a top of £88 for a pen of 1 crop from Logan Russell, Myothill Mains, Denny.

Regular Cast Ewes sold to £84 for a cracking pen of 64 from Drummond Estates, Muthill.

Stud Ewes sold to £84 from W Adam & Son, Shankhead, Stirling.

Other leading prices: BF Ewes £80 Drummond Estates; £80 Aberuchill Estates; £80 & £76 Glenturret Estates; £78 Littleport; £75 Edentaggart & Malling; £74 Auchnafree, North Side; £74 Auchnafree, South Side; £72 Invergoldie; £72 Stronmagachan.

BF Gimmers (165) Averaged £116.54 (+£50 on the year)

Leading prices: £128 Littleport; £122 Aberuchill.

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SRUC reassures students

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) has reassured its students their safety and wellbeing is its priority during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following reports of a number of positive cases at Scottish university halls of residence, SRUC and SRUCSA, its students' association, has reminded those returning to its campuses over the coming weeks and months of the steps it has taken to ensure they are able to study safely.

This includes its highly flexible accommodation policy of 'pay what you need', which removes the concerns of having to take out an annual contract for halls of residence when this might not be necessary or there could be further lockdowns.

SRUC has also created a rota of its programmes so that, when students are on campus, they are in small groups of 15 or fewer. This means they can plan their travel and accommodation in good time.

Professor Wayne Powell, Principal and Chief Executive of SRUC, said: 'We understand that this is a worrying time for students, but we want to reassure those returning to our campuses that their safety and wellbeing – and that of our staff – is our priority.

'Early on, we took the strategic decision to take a staff and student-centric approach, rather than a financial one, particularly in terms of our 'pay what you need' accommodation policy. However, there can be no room for complacency at this crucial time and we recognise that everyone – including our students and staff – have a vital role to play to keep everyone safe.'

A statement issued last week said: 'Whether you're a returning student or are new to SRUC this year, we appreciate this is a time of huge uncertainty and anxiety. This isn't what you had in mind for your education – it's not what we had envisaged either. However, SRUC is a community, and our responses have that community, and its safety and wellbeing, at their heart.

'We have put in a lot of work to make our accommodation safe and ready for you in line with government guidelines. We have created an institution-wide teaching rota of our programmes so that campuses are never over-filled.

'We know it's tough. We know it's not what you had in mind. But we'll get through this and the SRUC community is here for you.'

Other Gimmers leading prices: Mule £170, £166 & £164 Gartenbantrick; £150 Low Gartachorrans; £148 Scarba Cottage; £142 & £140 Kilbride, Islay. Suffolk: £148 Kilbride, Islay. Texel: £180 Lower Killernie; £168 Kilbride, Islay; £160 Low Gartachorrans.

Cheviot: £100 Kilbride, Islay. BFL: £108 Menteith Crescent. Roussin: £125 Scarba Cottage. Kerryhill: £96 Rosebank.

All classes of ewes: Cheviot £94 & £90 Carloonan; £82 Accurach & Hillside

Mule: £102 Arnbathie Farms; £90 Easter Dullatur; £90 Ardnave, Islay. Cheviot X £72 Accurach; £72 Drumdrills; £70 Carloonan; £68 Stronmagachan. Texel: £86 Astel; £85 Easter Dullatur.

Ewe Lamb leading prices: Texel £85 Lower Killernie; Suffolk £80 Coull, Islay; Texel £76 Coull, Islay; Cheviot £61 Camore; BFL £48 Menteith Crescent; BF £45 Tandlemuir; BF £43 Garrows.

United Auctions, Dalmally, Friday September 25: sold

6409 Blackface Ewes, Gimmers and Ewe Lambs. Warranted ewes (3715) sold to £400 per head from J Fairlie, Tearmann, and D Murray, Lurgan, to average £73.65 (+ £13.75).

1192 Gimmers sold to £650 per head from J Cockburn, 20 Achnamara, to average £121.68 (+ £20.96).

Ewe Lambs sold to £600 per head from W G Walker, Crammie, to average £56.59 (+ £15.45). With a packed market of buyers whilst keeping to COVID19 restrictions, a Market full to capacity with pens of sheep and a flying trade, atmosphere was high around the premises with consignors returning home after a satisfying days trading.

Leading prices: Warranted Ewes - £400, Tearman; £400, £300, Lurgan; £280, Tearman; £210, Tay & Torridon Estates; £200, Balliemeanoch; £125, Tay & Torridon Estates; £112, Benmore Home Farm; £108, Millpark; £98.00, Maam; £98.00, Benmore Home Farm; £85.00, Roromore; £82.00, Castles Estate; £82.00, Duncroisk; £82.00, Littleport; £82.00, Lochs Estate; £82.00, Glenfeochan Estate; £80.00, Garraron; £80.00, Tullochcan; £78.00, Castles Estate; £78.00, Corrylorn; £78.00, Roro Estate; £78.00, Bragleenmore; £78.00, Duncroisk; £78.00, Roromore; £78.00, Stroneskar.

Gimmers - £650, 20 Achnamara; £230, Laigh Balernock; £215, 20 Achnamara; £200, Laigh Balernock; £160, Littleport; £152, 20 Achnamara; £152, £145, Balliemeanoch; £145, 20 Achnamara; £144, Roromore; £140, Davdell; £138, Acharonich; £135, Dunalastair Estate; £135, Balliemeanoch.

Ewe Lambs - £600, Crammie; £300, Lurgan; £200, Tearman; £112, Crammie; £112, Saulmore; £108, Lurgan; £108, Saulmore; £100, Lurgan; £100, Crammie; £100, Low Tirfergus; £98.00, Millpark; £90.00, Rhugarbh; £88.00, Millpark; £88.00, Tearman; £88.00, Sonachan; £85.00, Invernahyle; £85.00, Low Tirfergus; £80.00, Largie; £80.00, Acharonich.



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New Galfre 320-10 single rota rakes	£3800

all prices plus vat

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S&S SERVICES SUBARU ISUZU

SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER

MISSED US? WE ARE BACK AT TESCO OBAN THIS WEEKEND

One of the longest serving Subaru & Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services are a family run business aiming to meet each customers individual needs. S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979 from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr. An escalating client base was soon formed and the business relocated to Mossblown.

Whilst at Mossblown, Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business. For almost two decades cars were sold and serviced and many friendships formed.

The family business was further enhanced when John's wife Lesley joined the business in 1997. It was in the latter nineties that the business had out grown the location and plans were put in place to build an impressive state of the art showroom and workshop at Ayr.

The plans soon became a reality and S & S moved to Old Bridge Road, Ayr in September 2000. Now on the to the 3rd generation with Matthew Spicer, business has flourished to unbelievable standards meaning that S & S are now the top UK Subaru dealer. Achieving Subaru UK's dealer of the year status continuously from 2007, S & S Services are your number one for Subaru, Isuzu and Great Wall franchise, with a large stock of new and used cars at competitive prices.



SATURDAY
3RD OCTOBER
& SUNDAY 4TH
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HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX

TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702

S&S SERVICES SUBARU ISUZU

SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER

**MISSED US?
WE ARE BACK AT TESCO OBAN THIS WEEKEND**

For the second year running, Subaru has been voted Best Manufacturer for Safety Features in the 2020 Driver Power survey, the UK's number one car ownership survey. In the overall rankings, Subaru placed 3rd in a fiercely competitive field of 30 manufacturers.

Steve Fowler, Editor at Auto Express, said: "This year marks another exceptional performance for Subaru, as Driver Power respondents told us they're happy with almost everything that relates to life with these cars. Owners find them immensely satisfying to drive, enjoy their fantastic interiors, and can rely on them day in, day out. Owners also say no other car maker offers better safety systems. Given these results, it's easy to see why Subaru owners tend to be a loyal lot."

Chris Graham, Managing Director at Subaru UK, commented: "The results of this industry leading survey clearly show that owners appreciate the importance of being able to choose and drive a car that's built to be Better Where It Matters – and

nothing matters more than safety. We're delighted that Subaru owners recognise our on-going commitment to build the safest cars on the road today, as well as praising the outstanding capability, practicality and reliability that our vehicles offer. We are immensely proud to be placed 3rd out of 30 manufacturers and will continue to work tirelessly to deliver against – and exceed – owners' expectations."

All three Subaru SUVs hold the maximum 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating and are fitted with a host of safety features, including EyeSight driver assistance, as standard. Subaru's exceptional safety credentials have been recognised with several notable awards in recent months.

Subaru's brand-new Driver



**SATURDAY
3RD OCTOBER
& SUNDAY 4TH
OCTOBER,
TESCO OBAN**

**Come and meet the award winning Subaru E-Boxer at
this weekends road show.
For more details, please call John Spicer on 07831 808702**

Monitoring System won the Technology Award at the 2020 What Car? Awards and was described as 'the most advanced of its kind', proving to be more accurate than other manufacturer

systems at identifying when concentration was lost. Forester e-BOXER was named 'Best in Class 2019 in the Small Off-Road/MPV Class' in the Euro NCAP 2019 safety performance

test, achieving outstanding scores in all four assessment areas and registering the highest score ever (91%) in its class for Child Occupant Protection. Forester was also awarded 4x4 Magazine's

'Best Small SUV of the Year 2020', impressing judges with its comprehensive range of safety technologies, on-road driveability and outstanding off-road capabilities.



**THE AWARD-WINNING
SUBARU SUV RANGE.**

Vehicles shown: Outback 2.5i SE Premium Lineartronic OTR price of £37,320.00, a Forester 2.0i XE Premium e-BOXER Lineartronic OTR price of £39,885.00 and a XV 2.0i SE Premium e-BOXER Lineartronic OTR price of £34,205.00.



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HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX

TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702

ARE YOUR TYRES READY FOR ACTION, ASKS GEM

- Tyre safety month starts Thursday 1 October
- Are your tyres ready for ACTION: air pressure, condition, tread depth
- Commit to monthly checks – and before long journeys

ROAD SAFETY AND breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging car owners to make monthly checks of air pressure, condition and tread on their tyres.

GEM's call comes at the start of Tyre Safety Month (this Thursday 1 October), with its key safety message urging drivers not to ignore their tyres, and to check them once a month.

GEM chief executive Neil Worth explains: "Correctly inflated tyres with good levels of tread allow all the other safety systems on a car to work effectively. In a sudden emergency this could be significant in determining the outcome and protecting those involved.

"Under-inflated tyres reduce your vehicle's ability to grip the road, and also compromise handling. This can result in unpredictable vehicle behaviour, and increases the risk of a tyre blowout, where sudden rapid deflation occurs.

"Over-inflated tyres have a smaller contact area with the road, leading to increased stopping distance and reduced grip. There's likely to be a lot more wear across the central part of the tyre, leading to a shorter lifespan.

"So please don't ignore your tyres. Check air pressure, condition and tread depth on a monthly basis."

Checks ready for ACTION: Use an accurate gauge to check that the air pressure is at

recommended settings. Check the vehicles owner's handbook if you're not sure.

Check to ensure your tyres are in good condition. Lumps, bulges, cuts or cracks indicate damage to a tyre - and increase the risk of its failing in a critical situation.

Use an accurate gauge to ensure tread depth is above the minimum legal limit of 1.6mm. If you don't have an accurate tread depth gauge, a 20p coin can be used as a guide to how close your tread is to the limit.

There are heavy penalties for drivers using worn or defective tyres on their cars. Each bald or defective tyre carries a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points.





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PEUGEOT: A KEY PLAYER IN SUPPORTING THE CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCTION OF THE 2020

A dedicated environmentally-responsible fleet for 2020. The PEUGEOT 3008 SUV GT plug-in HYBRID4 offers 300hp, never before achieved by a standard PEUGEOT. This top-of-the-range version has been approved according to the new WLTP protocol at 29g/km of CO₂, with up to 40 miles range in full electric mode and four-wheel drive capability. The PEUGEOT 508 and 508 SW plug-in HYBRID offers a new plug-in HYBRID engine with 225hp and CO₂ emissions at the best level on the hybrid market. The PEUGEOT 508

plug-in HYBRID is certified at 29g/km of CO₂, with a range of up to 39 miles in full electric mode. The PEUGEOT 508 SW plug-in HYBRID is certified at 30g/km of CO₂. The all-new PEUGEOT e-2008 SUV gives you the freedom to choose between three powertrains: full electric, petrol and diesel, with the electric version offering distinctive styling features and a serene driving experience. The new PEUGEOT e-Traveller, with its full electric powertrain, is mobility's best friend when it comes to business and

personal travel. Available in multiple configurations suitable for passenger transport, an elegant style that offers no compromise on performance and capable of accessing city centres with emission restriction zones, the new PEUGEOT e-Traveller showcases a high-end, technological interior atmosphere.

Meet the range at Campbeltown Motor Company Snipefield | Drumore | Campbeltown | Argyll | PA28 6SY | Tel: 01586 552030 | www.campbeltown-motorcompany.co.uk



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Grey, 16500 miles, grip control, leather trim, alloys, Car Play, parking sensors, Bluetooth.

£14499

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Grey, 16700 miles, parking sensors, alloys, Car Play, radio/USB, leather steering wheel.

£9999

2019 (69) Peugeot 108 1.0 Collection



Red, 7500 miles, ex demonstrator, reversing camera, alloys, Car Play, privacy glass, keyless entry

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Used cars

- 2019 (19) Peugeot 208 Tech Edition PureTech. Orange, 7400 miles, sat nav, rear camera, alloys, Car Play. **£12499**
- 2018 (68) Peugeot 308 Allure PureTech 130. Red, 18000 miles, glass roof, sat nav, Car Play, alloys, parking aid. **£11999**
- 2018 (67) Peugeot 2008 Allure BHD1 100. Emerald metallic, grip control, alloys, leather trim, Car Play, parking aid. **£11799**
- 2016 (16) Peugeot 308 Active 1.6 BHD1 120. Silver, 43000 miles, sat nav, alloys, parking aid, £0 road tax, USB. **£7999**
- 2015 (15) Peugeot 208 Active 1.2 PureTech. Silver, 19000 miles, £20 road tax, Radio/USB, Bluetooth, alloys. **£5999**
- 2013 (13) Peugeot 208 Allure 1.4 HDI 70. White, 51600 miles, alloys, privacy glass, auto lights/wipers, USB. **£4799**
- 2010 (10) Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 5 Door. Blue, 46000 miles, £30 road tax, radio/CD, air con, ideal first car. **£2999**

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Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED

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

Tel: 07546 788945



VAUXHALL MERIVA 60 PLATE



Currently sorned has been off the road for 6 months. Bad points rear door lock failed (and has been removed along with inner door panel) boot access switch broken. A bit tatty inside and out. Usual sticky brakes with a car that hasn't moved in 6 months. Mot expires in a week. Good points. Low mileage 55k, great starter. Mechanically sound.

£800 Ono

Tel. 07900048362

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**Contact William 07730 130284
email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

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Honda C50/C70 or C90 or something similar.

Any age or condition considered.

Tel. 07836 500403

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Highland Services Building Materials Ltd trading as Highland Services Building Materials Ltd of Unit 1, Baliscate, Salen Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6QA is applying for a licence to use Unit 1, Baliscate, Salen Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6QA as an operating centre for four goods vehicles and two trailers.

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

www.highland.gov.uk



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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/03586/FUL	Land 80M West of Creag Darach Glenborrodale, Acharacle	Erection of house
20/03153/FUL	Land 25M SE Of Clan Cottage Acharacle	Erection of house
20/03602/FUL	Land at Kingie Tomdown, Invergarry	Erection of six holiday letting units

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01542/PP	Erection of 2 holiday units and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground Of Soroba Lodge, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4SB
20/01638/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Cnoc An Teine (Plot 1), Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01634/PP	Demolition of extension and erection of replacement extension	9 Cullipool, Isle Of Luing, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4UB
20/01612/PP	Erection of farmhouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land North East Of Bannan, Calgary, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QY
20/01587/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage and installation of septic tank	An Sealladh, Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1PT
20/00645/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of a snack bar	Land North West Of Tulla Cottage, Bridge Of Orchy, Argyll And Bute
20/01277/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Block T17B, Phase 3 (Plot 203), Land West Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg, Argyll And Bute
20/01509/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Oban Seil Croft, Clachan Seil, Isle Of Seil, Argyll And Bute
20/01601/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land Adjacent To Torr Na Craoibhe, Ardtun, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01490/MFF	Installation of a raft (12m x 7.5m)	Port Na Croe Salmon Farm, Shuna Island, Argyll And Bute
20/01565/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage/workshop and formation of access	Land South East Of Gramercy, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, 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
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106143

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106145

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106147

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106149

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106151

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106153

Kilfinan Community Forest of Tighnabruaich are applying to create a new croft.
Case no: 106155

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission within 28 days of the date of this newspaper and a copy will be forwarded to the applicant.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW - info@crofting.gov.scot

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

1. ID Campbell, 4 Kirkapol, 0.049 ha, amenity ground for existing house site (105311)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 30/10/20 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

1. AJ Maclean, 6 Kenovay, 0.057 ha. Site for proposed new development, fencing and use conditions (101882)
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

69%
of the business community read the regional press



Source: Business Choice 6, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Malcolm Campbell MacPhail has registered their croft Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail 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 17th May 2021. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0479

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. The croft registration number is C7108

RECRUITMENT



Bookkeeper

Argyll Estates seeks an experienced Bookkeeper. This is a part-time, permanent position.

A full job description and further details can be obtained from Argyll Estates Office by contacting enquiries@inveraray-castle.com or telephoning 01499 302203. Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to enquiries@inveraray-castle.com to arrive no later than Monday 12th October



Secretary – Maternity Cover

Argyll Estates seeks a full-time Secretary to cover maternity leave.

A high level of typing skills and computer literacy is required, as well as excellent organisational and communication skills. A full job description and further details can be obtained from Argyll Estates Office by contacting enquiries@inveraray-castle.com or telephoning 01499 302203. Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to enquiries@inveraray-castle.com to arrive no later than Monday 12th October

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

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

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

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

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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

re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

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

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk

Mechanical Craftsperson - Cruachan Power Station

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GRADUATION



Nicole Will

Graduated with distinction in BSc Nursing Studies (Adult) from Glasgow Caledonian University. Nicole is the daughter of Jonathan Will and Vikki Campbell and granddaughter of Bob Smith and Moreen Gracie as well as Ewan and (late) Katrina Campbell. She is a former pupil of Dunbeg Primary School and Oban High School.

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DIAMOND WEDDING

SANDISON – On October 1, 1960, John and Florence née Carmichael at MacIntosh Memorial Church, Fort William followed by a reception in the Grand Hotel.

DEATHS

BELL - Peacefully at Clarence Court Care Home, Glasgow on September 26, 2020, Sandra Bell née Macleod in her 75th year, of Lochgair, Argyll, previously Bearsden and Stornoway. Former teacher at Bearsden Primary School, Glasgow. Beloved wife of Fraser, much loved mother of Fiona and grandmother of Lucas. Dear sister of Dena and Ian and sister-in-law of Lachlan and family. A much loved aunt and cousin. A private funeral service will be held at St. Bride's Cemetery, Lochgair on Friday, October 2, 2020. The funeral cortege will depart from the bus bay area in Lochgair village at 10.30am on route to St. Bride's Cemetery. Donations can be made in memory of Sandra to Parkinson's UK via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors.

BURKE - Peacefully at home and surrounded by her family, Jinty Burke, formerly of Orchybank, Dalmally. Beloved wife to John and Mum to Jim, Iain and Lucy. Grandma to Rachel, Ollie and Jamie and Great-Grandma to Rory. She will be taking her final journey back to Dalmally from 12.30pm on Friday, October 2 via Strommilchan and then up through the old Dalmally village, and will be laid to rest at Glenorchy Cemetery at 1pm. Due to current restrictions, the funeral will be private but the family would love to see old friends along the route. Family flowers only, donations gratefully received for Cystic Fibrosis www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/donate

INGLIS - Peacefully at home on September 28, 2020, Ian Morrison Inglis in his 80th year. Beloved husband of Isabella and dear father to Andrew, Fraser and the late Lorne. Father-in-law to Shirley and dear grandfather to Cameron, Stewart, Fraser and Mairi. Brother to Janet and June. Will be sadly missed.

MACKENZIE – Peacefully on September 25, 2020 at Etive House Care Home, Benderloch, in her 85th year, Christa MacKenzie, née Hausmann (Christel) of Tarbert House, Salen, Acharacle. Beloved wife of Donald MacKenzie, much loved mother of Mike, Donald, Jacky, Gordon and Fiona and her fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Sorely missed by all. Funeral at Dalnottar Crematorium, Clydebank on Tuesday, October 6, and attendance limited to close relatives. Friends of the deceased are invited to make a donation to Stroke Association.

MACMILLAN - Suddenly on September 24, 2020 whilst on holiday in Dunkeld, John, beloved husband of Anne (Bibby), brother of Charles. Formerly of Corpach and latterly resident in Helensburgh. Funeral private in line with current restrictions.

MACNEILL - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands hospital, Oban, Christina (Chrissie) née MacIntyre, aged 96 years. Loving mum, granny and great-granny. Due to current circumstances a small funeral will take place at Appin Parish church on September 30. Our grateful thanks to Vivienne and staff of Joan's Carers, Marie Curie and all other medical professionals involved in mum's care. Anyone wishing to make a donation to Marie Curie contact Lillian Kermode on 01631 571009. Mum we will love and miss you always.

PEARSON - Tragically on September 19, 2020, Kenneth (Kenny), dearly loved son of Tam and Christine, loving brother of Ailsa, adored Daddy of Nellie and Thomas, a special uncle to Evie and a good friend to many. He will be sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACINNES - Catherine and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy by way of cards, flowers, messages and phone calls following the very sudden death of her brother Malcolm. Special thanks to Fiona Cruickshank for her comforting service at the graveside, our piper D.J. MacDougall, Petals of Oban and Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for his professional, caring support throughout. Finally to the Seil community who paid their last respects at the roadside. Malcolm will be dearly and sorely missed by all the family.

MCCORKINDALE - Jennifer, Morag, Mairi and family would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, cards, baking and messages of sympathy they received. Special thanks to all the community nurses, doctors and staff of Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, the Beatson Hospital and Southend Surgery. A big thank you to the Rev. Steve Fulcher for visits, support and a very comforting service. Many thanks to Kenny, Rhys and David Blair for their professionalism and help. To Andrew and all his staff at the graveside, Frances for excellent catering at our house and to all who stood along the route and gave Neil John a really great send off on his final journey. All the kindness shown to us is greatly appreciated.

PETRIE - Martin and the family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours stretching from Argyll to Aberdeenshire and beyond, who sent cards, letters and kind offers of help and practical support since last month's tragic loss of May. A special thanks go to all the emergency services and volunteers who helped with the search for May. Many thanks go to celebrant Lucie Johnston and Hamish Hoey and Son for all their help and support at a difficult time. Anyone considering a donation in memory of May should consider Oban or Braemar Mountain Rescue Teams as worthy recipients.

MEMORIALS

BLUE - In memory of our loving mother Mary, who passed away October 2, 2011. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. - Donnie, Mary and Jim.

CATTANACH - In loving memory of my brother, brother-in-law and best friend, Sandy Cattanach, who passed away on September 30, 2019. We think of you every day and sorely miss you.

- Robin and Mary.
Uncle Sandy we miss your stories, your contagious laugh and smile.
Love you always.
- Robert, Fiona and Chloe.

GRANT - Donald Robertson. Treasured memories of a much loved brother, father, grandfather and uncle, who passed away so sadly on October 3, 2017.

Always in our thoughts.
- Margaret, Neil and families xx.

KIRSOP - In loving memory of our darling daughter Joanna, who passed away October 1, 2015.

Always in our thoughts.
Sadly missed by everyone.
- Mum, Dad and Thomas.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear fiancé Ian, who died October 1, 2014. In my heart you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- Love Jessie xxx

MACLEAN - Fondest memories of our dear mum Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007 also our dad Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Always in our thoughts.

Loved and remembered every day.
- Teen, Angela and Alexander.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my dear husband David (Tiger), who died September 29, 2019. To part is to die a little.
- Marie.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dear parents Archie, who died October 7, 2000 and Rita who died May 10, 2005.

Always in our thoughts.
- Sandra, Denis and family.

MILLIN - In loving memory of my dear mother and father. Mother, who died on September 27, 1990 and father, who died on May 10, 1986.

- Inserted by their son, Creagan, Strontian.

NICHOLSON - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993.

Twenty seven years have passed since I saw you last
I shared with you such happy days
I miss you in so many ways
You left a place no one can fill
I miss you now and always will
- Ever loving husband Bryan.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of our beloved mum and granny, who died October 4, 1993.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
Sadly missed.
- Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and families.

SCOTT - Treasured memories of our parents, Jean, passed away October 1, 2000 and Eddie, September 27, 2013.

Loved and missed every day.
- Pamela, Edmund, Gordon and families.

WALKER - In loving memory of our dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990 (30 years).

Forever in our hearts, loved always.
- Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

WHITE - In loving memory of a dear brother, uncle and great-uncle John Kearnie White, unexpectedly taken from us on October 1, 2018.

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Parishoners bring in harvest to help Hope

Members of The Parish of Ardchattan were kept busy recently collecting donations of food for their Harvest Festival 2020.

Pictured are the Reverend Willem J Bezuidenhout and his family, with Janette

Macdonald and her family, at the collection point on Ledaig Leisure's forecourt in Benderloch, by kind permission of the business owners.

All the donations were given to Hope Kitchen.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Don't blame the messenger. Would you? Do you? We are receiving a lot of bad news at present and depending on our circumstances this news may have serious consequences for our lives, work, businesses, relations.

How we react to this bad news is important. We may simply comply, or we may have genuine reasons to present a case for business support, wage support – many things.

However, we don't kill the messenger, but tackle the substance of the matter which is the virus.

In times past, a messenger bringing bad news to some despotic ruler would fear for his head. The equivalent in our 21st society will be found in



the populist politician selling porky pies to garner votes. Or in the conspiracy theorist blaming 5G whilst wearing a tin foil hat.

The danger is that the longer this pandemic continues, the more people will be attracted to simplistic and erroneous options.

Martin Luther the Reformer and communicator knew the message had to be heard. He was a flawed man with huge blind spots and yet deep insight. He acknowledged his limitations. Luther wrote in his preface to the Book of James in his German New Testament of 1522: 'That which does not teach Christ is not apostolic, even if Peter or Paul taught it. Again, that which does preach Christ is apostolic, even if Judas, Annas, Pilate or Herod did it.'

In other words, deal with the reality, get beyond the messenger to what we need to do together to make Scotland and the world safer for everyone.

**Reverend Dugald Cameron,
Kilmore and Oban.**

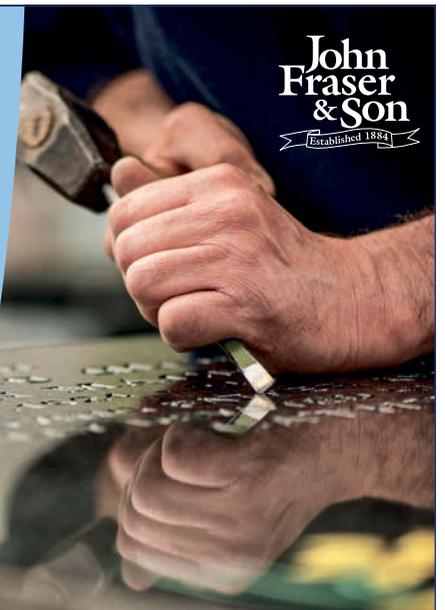
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Martin O'Keefe with the Ralph Boon Trophy.

News from Dalmally Golf Club

The Ralph Boon Trophy is played every year in memory of one of the club's late members and a great character in the history of Dalmally Golf Club. Unlike other club competitions, the trophy is traditionally contested at an 'away' course.

Recent years have seen the Dalmally gents head off to Dunaverty, Callander, Crieff and Stirling. Normally held in the first week in May, this year the competition was delayed until last Friday, when it was held at Auchterarder.

Beautiful weather and the rolling Perthshire countryside made a perfect setting for a closely contested match with Martin O'Keefe on 33 Stableford Points narrowly beating Terry Macnair on 32 points.

Meanwhile at home, the course, having recovered from recent flooding, held the Cowan Cup competition last Sunday. Gary Wilson won convincingly with a nett 57 after a masterclass in chipping and putting.

Dalmally members are delighted at the record number of visitors the club has had this season. Although this results in the unusual occurrence of queuing to tee off, the members recognise visitors are crucial to the future of the club.

Bob is hoping for a happy homecoming

Oban's Bob MacIntyre will be hoping a healthy dose of Scottish sea air will inspire him to produce a quality performance when the European Tour rolls into North Berwick this week.

Bob will be teeing it up with some of the biggest names in golf at the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open at the Renaissance Club in East Lothian.

The star studded event has a prize fund of \$7m and has tempted superstars including Tommy Fleetwood, Lee Westwood and Ian Poulter to travel north for the rescheduled tournament. The field includes seven former major winners and 20 former Ryder Cup players which means Bob will have to be at his best to get himself into contention.

The Oban left hander will have mixed emotions about returning to East Lothian. In 2019, having announced himself on the scene with

second place finishes at the British Masters and Made in Denmark tournaments, he was rewarded with a glamorous draw alongside Rory McIlroy and Ricki Fowler and a healthy contingent of Oban fans travelled East to cheer on their favourite son.

The week, however, didn't quite go according to plan with Bob missing the cut by one shot despite shooting rounds of 68 and 70.

The pandemic means US based stars will be missing this year, but as a Rolex Series event, there are extra world ranking points available as well as the huge prize fund and Bob will be hoping for a strong finish to get his ranking going in the right direction having recently fallen to 90th.

The tournament was won last year by Austrian Bernd Wiesberger with a score of -22. If that level of scoring is to be repeated this year, the Scottish weather will need to



Bob MacIntyre.

behave itself which in October on the east coast seems highly unlikely. Expect to see plenty waterproofs over the four days.

The Scottish Open marks the start of consecutive Rolex series events as it is immediately followed by the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth

in Surrey on October 8. Strong showings over the next two weeks could reignite Bob's season and all of Oban will be hoping to see his name near the top of the leaderboard over the next fortnight.

More sport on pages 14 and 15.

'Sixes' competition at Craignure GC

Craignure Golf Club has recently held a series of events including 14 rounds of six holes, starting at 6pm every Thursday evening since the end of lockdown.

The average of four best scores counted and the winner was Adrian Fitness.

Captain's Day, Sunday September 27, 'Completely Against The Rules Of Golf' was a light-hearted end to the season over nine holes. Normal golf were relaxed to ensure everyone finished with a good round.

The winner was club captain Steve Wilson, 24 points. Runner up was Barry Whenman, 23, and third place went to James Campbell, 22, decided on count back.

Tony McGill proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of all members for the amount of work Steve has put in this year arranging competitions, as well as all the other work he does on the course.

The Glenforsa Quaich, the annual joint event with Tobermory GC - nine holes at each course - is scheduled for Sunday October 11.

Good away win for Oban Saints U15s

Saints under 15s travelled to take on Ardencaple in a friendly last weekend and returned home with a 7-0 win under their belts.

Scorers were Preston MacIntyre; Gabriel Tidser; Ryan Hill (2), Zander Craik (2) and Michael Campbell.

Oban Saints FC back in league action

The Oban Saints senior team return to action on Saturday when they travel to Dalziel Park, Motherwell, to take on Lesmahagow in the resumption of last season's Central Scottish AFL Division 1B.

The game kicks-off at 1pm on the excellent 4G surface with referee Dougie Gunning in charge.

Saints are already champions, winning all league games played so far and will play in the Premier Division in the 20/21

season, but it's a straight fight between Lesmahagow and Blantyre RGM to see who will finish second to Saints and gain the other promotion place.

The amateur game in Scotland was given the green light to start up again on September 14 by the Scottish government and the Scottish Football Association with friendly matches allowed.

With all clubs adhering strictly to the government guidelines and the Scottish FA match day protocols, the Central AFL

was given permission to recommence league fixtures on October 3.

All clubs had to appoint a Covid co-ordinator and Covid officers. Saints put all their committee, players and coaching staff through the sportscotland Covid training programme. Jamie Graham is the club's Covid co-ordinator

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored side have been training for a few weeks and have played two friendlies - beating South Lochaber Thistle 4-2 and Dunoon 6-2.



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FREE INSIDE 32-PAGE PRIMARY 1 KEEPSAKE SUPPLEMENT



Lochaber 'betrayed' over new hospital delay

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

NHS Highland chairman Professor Boyd Robertson was left in no doubt this week there is a feeling of 'neglect and betrayal' over the lack of progress on replacing the ageing Belford Hospital in Fort William.

Local steering group members Dr Michael Foxley, former Belford surgeon David Sedgwick and John Hutchison, along with Dr Chris Robinson, have written to Professor Robertson telling him: 'Since we met with you in August 2019 any progress has been reversed and you will likely join us in finding this inexcusable, particularly since the hospital completion date has slipped from 2020 to an unspecified date.'

Various groups were set up by NHS Highland (NHS) in 2015 to develop the New Belford project, along with the steering group, which included health board management, local health service workers and representatives of community

councils. But Messrs Foxley, Robinson, Sedgwick and Hutchison state that five years later, all there is to show for it is a series of inconclusive and postponed meetings. There is still no local project manager, no complete business case and no agreed clinical model for the new hospital.

Covid has not stopped work in Broadford, Aviemore or Inverness

It has led them to question whether there is really any desire to see this project succeed and they are seeking a strong public reassurance to the contrary from Professor Robertson. 'Covid is now the excuse for inaction - although it has not stopped work progressing hospital developments in Broadford, Aviemore and, of course, Inverness,' they told Professor Robertson. 'We feel betrayed and deliberately neglected by NHS, which seems determined to reduce

activities at the Belford so that it can concentrate resources at Raigmore. Community parties are becoming quite alarmed and irritated by this trend.'

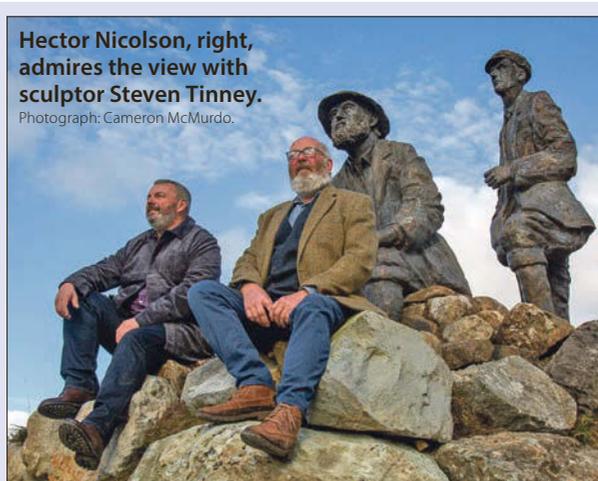
Asked to comment, Katherine Sutton, NHS Highland's chief officer for acute services, said: 'As we came out of lockdown the project teams, comprising many of our key clinical staff, have been re-established to support taking the project forward for the new hospital in Fort William.'

The issue was raised at Monday's meeting of Lochaber Area Committee by Councillor Denis Rixson, who told the Lochaber Times: 'We need to see a full business case sent to the government as soon as possible because the longer it takes to give them what they need, the more chance there is that this project ends up being kicked into the long grass.'

Area committee chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health Jeane Freeman to express councillors' 'alarm' over the delays.

Hector Nicolson, right, admires the view with sculptor Steven Tinney.

Photograph: Cameron McMurdo.



Memorial to Cuillin climbers

Following a 17-year fundraising campaign, members of the Collie and Mackenzie Heritage Group were finally rewarded for their efforts on Saturday with the unveiling of a new statue on Skye.

Cuillin climbing pioneers Professor Norman Collie and John Mackenzie have been immortalised in bronze, gazing out onto the mountains that united and inspired them throughout a lifelong friendship.

Covid restrictions curtailed the planned 'grand unveiling' but members of both families travelled to the site. More on this story on page two.

Hotel staff member tests positive for Covid

The popular Moorings Hotel at Banavie, near Fort William, announced the closure of all its public areas at the start of the week after a staff member tested positive for Covid-19.

In a statement on its Facebook page, the hotel commented: '...we are taking the following precautions of closing all of the public areas for deep cleaning and sanitising.'

'We will review this on Friday morning and keep everyone updated. As part of NHS track and trace, all those affected will be notified in due course.'

Cancer referrals a 'ticking time bomb'

Shadow Health Secretary Donald Cameron is worried about a drop in cancer referrals in the NHS Highland area during lockdown.

Mr Cameron, a Highlands and Islands MSP, said 20 per cent of referrals took 84 or more days for treatment, which was the worst result in Scotland. The official target is 95 per cent being seen within 62 days.

'This is a ticking time-bomb for the health of Scottish people if it's not tackled urgently,' he said.

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LT

Mountaineering memorial unveiled



Bronze statue of intrepid climbers takes pride of place in Glen Sligachan

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A bronze statue marking Skye's mountaineering history and honouring two of the Cuillin's most intrepid climbers was unveiled last weekend.

Made possible after a community heritage group successfully reached its £117,000 target, the statue of Professor Norman Collie and John Mackenzie was created by local artist Stephen Tinney.

It was in the late 1800's when climbing in the Cuillin attracted the attention of many including eminent chemist Collie who became a regular visitor to Skye.

During these visits to the Cullin, Collie met guide Mackenzie and a climbing partnership was struck which generated first ascents of summits that were at the time seemingly impossible.

Collie and Mackenzie are inspiring for their spirit in undertaking dangerous climbs using only the most basic of equipment, with no means of rescue should anything go wrong. Their story, however,

runs deeper with two men from vastly different backgrounds working together to overcome many challenges in the Cuillin to strike a lifelong friendship.

'Having the sculpture of Collie and Mackenzie in place at Glen Sligachan has been a 17-year journey for the sculpture's supporters on Skye and across the world,' said Morag Nicolson, chairwoman of the Collie and Mackenzie Heritage Group.

'From the start, this has been a community driven idea to create a sculpture which captures the essence of the two climbers, to recognise their achievements but also to inspire others who may wish to climb or simply view the ever-changing face of the Cuillin.'

'A sculpture for the people from the people.'

Cast in bronze in a foundry in Ireland, the statue has taken many hours of hard work and stoical resolve by the sculpture's supporters to realise their vision, only made possible through generous donations from individuals, local businesses and relatives



The impressive new statue.



Members of the Collie and Mackenzie Heritage Group and supporters turned out to witness the unveiling on Saturday. Photographs: Cameron McMurdo

of Collie and Mackenzie to meet the £120,000 cost.

'The Collie and Mackenzie Sculpture represents mountaineering past and present as the Cuillin continues to draw climbers from around the world,' added Mrs Nicolson.

'Equally, we have the story of the crofter and the chemist who through mountaineering

created strong respect for each other despite the social divides of the period.'

The Cuillin of Skye has been an icon of Scottish mountaineering for more than 100 years and presents some of the most challenging climbing in Britain with its alpine-like narrow ridges and rock buttresses.

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Students self-isolating after Covid case in halls

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Student leaders have urged students living in the West Highland College UHI's halls of residences in Fort William to self isolate for 14 days after a confirmed case of Covid-19.

The plea comes after the student, who stays at the residences in Fort William, tested positive on Monday.

The student, who is well, is self-isolating along with four others in a shared flat. There are currently 34 students staying in the 40-bed residence.

All rooms have their own showers and toilets and residents share kitchen and living areas within those household flats.

Staff from West Highland College UHI's student support team are providing care and support to the affected students and other students within the



West Highland College deputy president Ciaran Gibson.

residence. This includes help with grocery shopping and providing advice on mental health support services.

'We are working with Cityheart, which manages the residence on the university's behalf, to monitor the situ-

ation and to ensure Scottish Government guidance is followed,' said the college in a statement.

In response to the news, Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) West Highland College deputy president Ciaran Gibson said: 'Alongside West Highland College UHI, HISA strongly recommends that any students currently residing in the West Highland College UHI student accommodation self isolate for the full 14-day period.

'Despite this, we want our students to know there are various support services available to them during this difficult time.

'HISA is working with West Highland College UHI to ensure there is mental health support and access to all essentials, including food, for any students in self isolation as a result of this outbreak.

'Students can get in touch with West Highland College UHI or HISA directly if they want to talk about any concerns they may have.'

Mr Gibson went on to call what he said the failure of governments to anticipate these outbreaks and the lack of testing infrastructure 'a national disgrace'.

He continued: 'It has left students feeling abandoned after they were encouraged to return to campus and assured it would be safe. While many students wish to return home right now they will be, rightly, reluctant to do so without knowing if they are clear of the virus. HISA would also like to see the University of the Highlands and Islands follow suit with other Scottish institutions and offer any students self isolating in their student accommodation a month free of rent.'

Glenfinnan is murder setting for Fort author's new novel

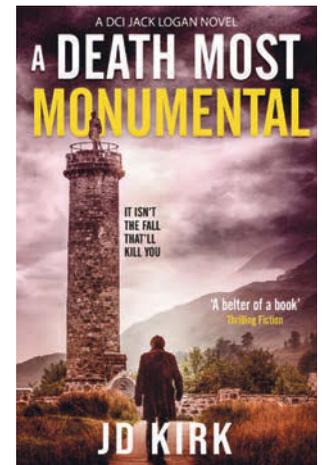
Fort William-based crime author JD Kirk will officially launch his latest DCI Logan crime novel 'A Death Most Monumental' in a special Facebook live event this week, writes Mark Entwistle.

The eighth book in the Amazon number-one bestselling series follows a murder investigation after the discovery of a body at Glenfinnan Monument and, once again, sees the series' regular characters frequent well-known locations around Lochaber.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, JD - in reality author Barry Hutchison - was unable to host an in-person event, so settled on a virtual launch as the next best thing.

'I'm lucky enough to have fans of the series in countries all over the world,' said Barry. 'So hosting the virtual event on Facebook is a great way of letting them all get involved.'

As well as talking about the series so far, Barry will be reading from the new book, taking questions from those in attendance and dropping some hints as to what to



Barry writes his crime novels under the pen name JD Kirk.

expect from DCI Logan and his team in the future.

The live launch event kicks off at 7pm today (Thursday). Anyone looking to attend can do so at Facebook.com/jdkirkbooks

A Death Most Monumental is published in ebook format tomorrow (Friday). Signed copies of the previous books in the series are available from the Highland Bookshop in Fort William.

New Broadford Primary School to take big step forward

A new Broadford Primary School is a significant step closer this week after it was shortlisted as Highland Council's first priority project in its updated Learning Estate Improvement Programme, writes Mark Entwistle.

Along with Skye elected representatives, Broadford's parent council has been campaigning for years for the present dilapidated building to be replaced.

A paper going to a special meeting of councillors today (Thursday) says the multi-million-pound project is expected to cost in the region of £9.5-11 million and will include a library, nursery and council service point.

Given the amount of preparatory work that has already taken place, it is hoped construction could begin as soon as the project is agreed.

The progress has been heartily welcomed by Skye constituency MSP Kate Forbes and Skye councillor John Finlayson, who is also chairman of the council's education committee.

Mr Finlayson said: 'I am delighted this paper on the



A replacement for the dilapidated Broadford Primary School is a step closer.

Learning Estate Improvement Programme is coming to the special meeting of the council and that all the projects mentioned are moving ahead.

'I am especially delighted the paper clearly recommends Broadford Primary School is the number one priority in terms of the council's application to the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Improvement Programme and the wider ambitions of the community in terms of a new school, community wing

and additional housing being a step nearer to becoming a reality.

'I am sure the Scottish Government will also want to support a project that meets fully the strategic outcomes that have been laid out as part of the programme, which looks to connect people, places and learning and deliver improved outcomes for all while also enabling sustainable and inclusive economic growth in one of the fastest growing parts of Skye.'

Ms Forbes added: 'There have been a lot of milestones along the way and what ultimately matters is the new school getting built. I know teachers, parents and children have been exceptionally patient and have waited far too long for a new school.

'Every step forward though takes us closer to the new school and this week's news is no exception.

'There is still a process ahead to agree Highland Council's application for funding for the school, but the fact this is the first priority on the council's capital estate programme makes all the difference.'

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LT

Councillors support move to tackle visitor management

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Proposed actions to address the impacts of booming post-lockdown tourism in Lochaber have received support from members of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee this week.

A variety of new local approaches will be introduced for the tourism season in 2021 pending available resources and funding.

Lochaber councillors thanked Police Scotland for its support and assistance in the local area throughout the 2020 tourism season in responding to hotspot issues and welcomed the partnership approach moving forward.

To tackle roads, parking and transport service issues the council will introduce 'not suitable for large vehicles' signs on some narrow rural and single-track roads and missing



There was anger after campers visited Glen Etive at the weekend, abandoning their tents and rubbish.

passing place signs at priority locations will be replaced. Enlargement and maintenance of some passing places and laybys will also be carried out.

To help improve driver behaviour, members discussed that visitors not used to driving on single track roads need to be informed and educated on the inappropriate use of passing

places. To address the issue of parking overnight in non-designated areas, new areas for parking will be designated where possible, and the introduction of charges for parking and overnight stays creating income to help fund required new infrastructure and support services. Clear signs will be reviewed for car parks, infor-

mation points, and trails. The introduction of community bus schemes, park-and-ride, or additional seasonal loop bus routes could also help alleviate traffic and parking issues.

Traffic Regulation Orders can be introduced where there are safety critical issues – with the appropriate prior local consultation and enforcement by staff/rangers is also required in remote areas.

At Glen Nevis, local roads staff and Police Scotland have attended and managed traffic and, in some cases, removed vehicles; and the local council roads team are working with Parking Enforcement colleagues in drafting traffic orders for year-round waiting restrictions to improve the situation of inappropriate parking near the cemetery.

At the Traigh and Morar Area, the council's local roads team is drafting a Traffic Regulation Order for seasonal

waiting restrictions to address the inappropriate parking near Toigal.

A new rural tourism infrastructure bid scheme is now under way for Glen Etive, combined with Glencoe. The scheme is being led by the National Trust for Scotland, with local council officers working closely with the NTS.

Discussions are ongoing with local officers about issues and requirements at other locations, including the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge; Clachaig; Loch Arkaig; Kilchoan and Kinlochleven.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson told us: 'We had a very positive discussion with the new Chief Superintendent, Conrad Trickett, about how best to deal with summer tourism pressures. The police have been very supportive over the past summer lifting cars at Silver Sands, Glen Nevis. They do have to respond to emer-

gencies at no notice and simply can't commit to being present at tourism hotspots ahead of the busiest weekends, so it's clear that other solutions need to be brought in.

'My own preference is to combine a seasonal ranger/traffic enforcement role, possibly funded from car parking charges.

'The council is working on proposals of that nature, along with improved infrastructure such as improved waste disposal.

'Those plans were submitted to the Scottish Government for funding and we are still hopeful of a positive response.'

The council says it hopes that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund criteria may be altered by Scottish Government to enable more applications and that timescales will allow progress to be achieved where possible before next season.

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Isle of Skye Yachts owners wave goodbye to their final customers

After a difficult trading season due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the owners of Isle of Skye Yachts have now said goodbye to their last customers, writes Mark Entwistle.

Due to the two-metre social distancing rule remaining in place for the marine sector, the company ended up with just three weeks of bookings in spite of starting the year with 14-plus weeks lined up.

Proprietors Mark and Charmian Entwistle say that although they were in the fortunate position of having reduced the size of the business significantly at the end of the 2019 season, the pandemic still led to a large number of cancelled bookings. Given it remains unclear as to whether yacht charter will be able to continue normally in 2021, due to the ongoing uncertainty the couple have decided to retire.

'We are in the fortunate position of being of retiring age and having only one remaining charter coded yacht, but we sympathise with all the other charter companies that are struggling to keep going in these uncertain and changeable times,' Mrs Entwistle



Mark and Charmian Entwistle aboard one of their yachts.

told us this week. It is now 45 years since a yacht charter company was first established at Armadalon, Skye, by the late Charles Barrington, and customers have enjoyed sailing from its wonderful location, at the heart of one of the best cruising areas in the world, during that time.

The Entwistles bought the business in 1998 on the retirement of the previous owner and built up the fleet of five classic yachts to 11 modern yachts, leading the way in the Scottish charter industry for many years.

In recent years they were not successful in finding a

buyer for the business but had continued to enjoy running a slimmed down fleet.

Some of the companies assets have now been sold off separately and the boatyard at Ardasar is now under the ownership of Peter Fowler.

Mrs Entwistle added: 'On a personal basis we would like to thank the thousands of customers who have come sailing from Armadale over the last 22 years. Not forgetting, thanks to our staff, owners of managed yachts and everyone else who has contributed to the success of the business. We look forward to doing some sailing ourselves in future.'

NHS confirms 19 positive Covid tests in South Uist

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A total of 19 people in South Uist have now tested positive for the virus that causes Covid-19 infection, as of Tuesday morning. Test and Protect actions are ongoing. The individuals are from the southern end of the Uists.

One patient with the infection has been transferred to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow for treatment. NHS Western Isles says it has no further information about their condition. All other patients are managing their symptoms at home.

Contact tracing is ongoing. Close contacts are being advised to self-isolate and other identified contacts are being followed up and given appropriate advice.

A Problem Assessment Group (PAG) met on Friday and an Incident Management Team (IMT) met on Monday and is working with Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland to provide advice and support.

NHS Western Isles has

taken the decision to restrict visiting in Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh (Uist and Barra Hospital) to essential visiting only, with immediate effect, as a precautionary measure.

The outbreak has led to the closure of Uist schools, the Daliburgh care home, Cothrom Òg nursery and Am Politician pub on Eriskay.

NHS Western Isles director

'If we are to contain and suppress this outbreak, people must follow the rules'

of Public Health, Dr Maggie Watts, said: 'We would like to reassure our local communities and visitors to the island that we are taking all necessary steps to contain the virus but it is vital that everyone in the Western Isles follows the current Scottish Government restrictions and FACTS guidance to limit any spread of the virus.'

NHS Western Isles chief executive, Gordon Jamieson, said: 'Our staff are working

extremely hard in terms of Test and Protect. If we are to contain and suppress this outbreak, people must follow the rules. Covid-19 thrives on complacency.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has urged close adherence to public health guidance in light of the recent spread of Covid-19 in South Uist and Eriskay.

Mr Allan commented: 'I can only urge everyone to adhere closely to public health guidance. If you develop symptoms, you can book a test using the local phonenumber on 01851 601151. The symptoms are a new persistent cough, a fever or loss of smell or taste.'

'If you have questions about self-isolating, testing or symptoms, your first port of call is www.nhsinform.scot

'Please limit your contact with other households and avoid car-sharing. Ensure physical distancing and good hand hygiene. People should work from home if they can and avoid non-essential travel. We all need to abide by public health guidance, which matters now more than ever.'

Well seasoned story stands test of time for Lewis mum

A Lewis lady has had her much loved children's story published 32 years after telling the tale to nursery pupils in Inverloch, writes Fiona Scott

Written by Anna Oighrig (Annetta) Nicaoidh, Little Miss Daisy, and her four seasons, was first written on loose leaf paper, the majority of which were scattered over the writer's home and to all extents and purposes lost.

'The original idea was drummed up in a very short space of time,' said Annetta. 'I was attending a parent-led pre-school in the Braxy Hall, Inverloch, when we were given the task of presenting specified topics to the children. One of the other parents was asked to do the seasons of the year and didn't really fancy it so I rushed home and quickly scribbled down what was to be the beginning of Little Miss Daisy.'

Thanks to Annetta's husband John the 'lost' pieces of paper were gathered together and the story has now been transformed into a delightful illustrated book.



Annetta with her newly published picture book which teaches children about the changing seasons.

'I was getting increasingly frustrated on finding that some children had no understanding of the seasons and the story was mentioned now and again, so John asked me why I didn't just send it off to a publisher.'

'I didn't really think it was good enough to be published so didn't bother but then John took it on himself to do it for me.'

Little Miss Daisy follows the title character through the seasons. Underneath the oak tree Little Miss Daisy is waking from her winter rest, opening her petals and basking in the sunshine.

At the end of the year,

when the ground is white with snow, Little Miss Daisy will be tucked up once again in her bed waiting for the spring.

'I'm thrilled with the finished product, now he just has to stop me giving it away to everyone,' added Annetta.

Born on the Isle of Lewis, Annetta completed her nurses training and moved to Glasgow to take a post in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. She met and married John and the couple had two sons, one who now lives in Canada and one in Glasgow.

Little Miss Daisy is available to buy at Stockwell Publishers, Waterstones, Amazon and eBay.

Cinema launch has heads reeling

Highland cinema creator Angus MacDonald admitted that the feedback he had received following the opening of his new venture had made him 'quite dizzy', writes Fiona Scott.

The visually impressive High Street 'hub' opened its doors last Friday night with capacity audiences at the big screen on both Friday and Saturday sittings. Showing over the weekend were classics, including Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Disney's Onward, Local Hero, Bill and Ted Face the Music and Tenet.

'We can't believe the great feedback we have had from within the town,' said Angus.

'Revenue numbers exceeded our expectations and it seems to have scored a 10 out of 10 for morale.'

'I would like to thank all our guests and staff for contribut-



Staff at the new cinema are all smiles after the positive feedback following the opening weekend.

ing, making our first weekend such a great success. I have been smiling from ear to ear ever since.'

As well as the cinema, the cafe bar also enjoyed good numbers, with visitors and locals alike enjoying the new facility.

One happy cinema-goer

commented: 'I was really excited to watch Bill and Ted on Friday. The cinema didn't disappoint - lovely comfy seats and felt safe. Visited the cafe on Saturday and sat out on the terrace. Cappuccino was strong, how I like it, but no cake. There had been a rush, so had nachos. I'll be back next month.'

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 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 or telephone **0333 880 6685**

LT

Lochaber communities urged to apply for winter resilience aid

Gritting priorities for Highland Council roads and footpaths across the Lochaber area this coming winter 2020/21 were approved by councillors on Monday.

Lochaber Area Committee councillors gave the go ahead for a winter maintenance plan which replicates the 2019/20 plan and includes approved priority routes and maps.

The plan explains that primary routes are treated first, followed by secondary routes and then all 'other' routes as resources permit.

Members issued a plea to local communities to apply now through their community councils for help as Highland Council can provide salt/grit bins, scrapers and reflective waistcoats to allow volunteers to provide an enhanced level of service where local need and demand is identified.

A professional weather forecasting service is provided to the council that supports managers' local decision mak-

ing on delivery of the winter maintenance service. Daily forecasts enable managers to plan road treatments for each evening and the following morning.

Arrangements are made in the policy for the provision of grit/salt bins which are generally placed at steep locations where there is no regular road or footway gritting service.

A framework contract is in place with local contractors to aid in clearing deep snow at short notice in exceptional weather conditions.

Council staff can be mobilised to assist with gritting in severe conditions (according to weather forecasts or freezing rain) and the Community Payback Service is also available to help with footpath treatments.

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Fort to Fort power line upgrade completed

SSEN Transmission and its principle contractor Balfour Beatty have successfully completed, on time, the challenging upgrade of the existing Fort Augustus to Fort William overhead electricity line.

Bringing to a close two years of hard work, the project team has upgraded one of the north of Scotland's longest serving power lines and by doubling its capacity, aided the growth in renewable electricity in the area, supporting the transition to net zero emissions.

The 44km line was originally built in the 1950s, and after nearly 70 years' service the project team needed to determine the best way to upgrade the line while minimising the impact to the local communities surrounding it.

The location of the line, which crosses public roads, railway lines and the Caledonian Canal, following steep terrain



throughout its route, so innovation was the key, with the existing conductor changed to an ACCC conductor which means the conductor will be twice as strong as the steel, 70 per cent lighter and able to carry twice the amount of power. By using this technology and strengthening the existing towers only five of the 156 towers needed to be replaced.

The steep sides of the glen the line runs through made access difficult. In some locations the side slopes were so steep specially built sets of stairs were installed to allow access up the hillside to the towers.

Where the line crossed the A82, local roads and the canal, netting was placed under the wires on scaffolding to protect the areas below. Where scaf-

folding could not be used, another innovation was the use of Catenary Support System (CSS) over the Caledonian Canal and A82 and A87 – where a motorised tug pulls the new conductor and rollers along the old conductor between towers. This was a great success.

Lead project manager Pat Howe said he was immensely proud with what had been achieved: 'In delivering this essential service, we have demonstrated that this is achievable, even on a project that contained as many challenges as this one.'

'Our team has worked closely with the local community throughout the project, being awarded an Excellent in the Considerate Constructors Scheme, raising over £8,000 for local charities, including the Scottish Air Ambulance, Lochaber Hope and the Highland Hospice.'

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Caroline Gordon, left, and Eleanor Brown of Alzheimer's Scotland, and Darren Anderson of the National Trust for Scotland wrap the monument in the rainbow scarf. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



A view from the top. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Even the noble Highland warrior on top of the monument played his role in World Alzheimer's Day. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Monument scarf brings comfort to Alzheimer's sufferers

The famous Glenfinnan Monument was made ready for last week's forecast of colder weather when it was wrapped in 400 feet of crocheted scarf to mark World Alzheimer's Day, writes Iain Ferguson.

Individual one foot colourful crochet squares were made by people from Skye to Ardnamurchan and as far as Torridon in support of Alzheimer Scotland West Highland. The squares were sewn together

creating a giant rainbow scarf to mark World Alzheimer's Day and the 40th anniversary year of Alzheimer Scotland. The monument at Glenfinnan on the shores of Loch Shiel is in honour of the Highlanders who rose for Prince Charles Edward Stuart in the 1745 Jacobite Rising and is topped by a symbolic clansman.

Lochaber-based Alzheimer's activities co-ordinator Eleanor Brown said: 'I'm sure Bonnie Prince Charlie

would have approved of this use of his monument.

'The idea of the scarf has so many connotations as it brings us together, wraps around us, connects us and brings comfort.

'This was demonstrated today when we wrapped the monument, never having met the National Trust for Scotland staff before. They all just connected with us. Darren Anderson, the catering manager,

gave up his day off to help fix the scarfs around the monument.

'It had been our intention to take the scarf 'on tour' draping not only Glenfinnan Monument, but Eilan Donan Castle and the Skye Bridge but as a result of coronavirus restrictions this has now been postponed until at least next spring.'

World Alzheimer's Day on Monday September 21 also marked 40 years of supporting people living with de-

mentia and their carers. 'Donations can still be made to the scarf project, with more crochet or knitted squares always welcome,' added Eleanor. 'There is also a justgiving page which will help us fulfil our aim that no-one should face Alzheimer's alone.'

Anyone wishing to donate to the scarf can do so at the Alzheimer Scotland - Rainbow Scarf Justgiving page at <https://tinyurl.com/Rainbow-Scarf>.



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Tender issued for Lochaber Flood Prevention Scheme

The tender for the Caol and Lochyside flood prevention scheme has been issued by The Highland Council with a return date of November 26.

In the meantime, community consultation is continuing over the final look of the riverside floodwall and landscaping for the project which

includes planting, seating, paths and a play area.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, council officers are unable to provide a face-to-face drop-in session and presentation but the team is working closely with Caol Community Council to spread the message about

how people can provide feedback regarding preferred pattern and colour of the riverside floodwall. Posters, drawings and feedback forms are being distributed and details are available on the Caol and Lochyside Flood Prevention Scheme page on The Highland Council's website www.highland.gov.uk/caolandlochyside-floodprotection and on the community council's Facebook page. The council's Executive Chief Officer for Infrastructure and the Environment Malcolm MacLeod said: "The design for the flood scheme is complete and tender documents and drawings have

been sent to a shortlist of contractors for pricing. "However, we would still like the community's views on important details so I would encourage people to feedback their comments."

Construction is scheduled to start in early 2021 and continue for two years.



HMS Albion at Loch Ewe for Exercise Joint Warrior.

Hebrides to host elements of major military exercise

The Western Isles will host elements of a major UK-led multi-national military exercise next week.

One of the largest military exercises of its kind in Europe, Joint Warrior will run from October 4 to October 15, with several vessels operating in the Sea of Hebrides and the Minches and some aircraft operating out of Stornoway Airport.

Eleven nations – ten NATO and one non-NATO – will take part, bringing 28 warships, two submarines, 81 aircraft and more than 6,000 military personnel, including 130 ground troops, to military ranges across the country and to maritime exercise areas off the east, west and north coasts of Scotland.

The exercise, which takes place in the spring and autumn every year, is designed, planned and delivered by Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff (JTEPS) based at Northwood in London which will deploy to HM Naval Base Clyde to co-ordinate events during the fortnight.

Joint Warrior 20-02 forms part of a wider 'Groupex', which will run from September 21 to October 15. This is the UK Carrier Strike Group led by HMS Queen Elizabeth with training taking place mainly off the east coast of Scotland.

Thirty naval units from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK and the USA will be participating around

the Scottish coast. A total of 81 aircraft will take part with some of them operating from RAF Lossiemouth, Prestwick Airport – previously HMS Gannet – and Stornoway Airport.

Cape Wrath Weapons Range in the north of Scotland will be used for joint firing activity while a Freedom of Navigation exercise will take place in the Moray Firth.

GPS denial operations will be conducted at limited periods each day off the west coast with relevant safeguards in place.

Exercise Joint Warrior is linked directly with the NATO Military Training Exercise Programme and brings together all three UK Armed Forces – the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force – along with other participating countries, to provide high quality training opportunities and improve joint operations between the UK and its allies.

The scenario of the exercise will mirror a broad range of crisis and conflict situations which could realistically be experienced in real-world operations.

Over the fortnight, participants will be faced with increasing political and military tensions and realistic military tasks. All units involved will observe current Covid-19 guidelines. Exercise planning staff have liaised with communities and organisations, including Highlands and Islands Airports Authority, ahead of Joint Warrior to minimise the impact of military activity.

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LT

Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

One in four of us will be affected by mental health issues at some point in our lives. But we are not alone.

Many organisations offer support and help to people suffering and can make life altering differences to the lives of individuals and their families.

I talked to 14-year-old Millie Henderson, a pupil at Lochaber High School, about how Support in Mind Scotland has improved the lives of her and her family and the amazing way she has shown her appreciation to the charity this summer.

Millie told me: 'I'm a normal busy school girl with a part-time job at Macaris on Fort William High Street, a facebook page selling my homemade cards and face masks, and a busy social life with my friends. I live with my Mum Lisa, Dad John, my sisters Bethany and Lauren, brother Thomas and our wee dog Breagha.'

But life for the Hendersons is often overshadowed by mum Lisa's mental health issues. Millie explained: 'Mum



has been ill for 14 years and is diagnosed with Mixed Personality Disorder, Autism, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and Severe Anxiety. She used to have a job, a driving licence, manage the weekly shop and take us on trips but then everything changed. Her combined illnesses are completely debilitating and affect how Mum functions. Sometimes she is filled with energy and other days she cannot lift her head

from the pillow, let alone leave the house.'

A referral to Support in Mind Scotland and the help of outreach worker Sharyn has really helped Lisa and the rest of the family. Millie said: 'It's the simplest things my family appreciate and we make sure to bring the best out of everything we come across. Fresh air and exercise is the one thing that makes everything better and since Mum got an ebike she is able to join us on bike rides.'

Millie Henderson cycled three times the distance of her original target with a little help from her friends.

This spring Millie herself began to notice she was feeling low.

'I wasn't my usual self and not as 'bubbly' as normal,' she said. 'Things I loved most I really didn't enjoy any more and I just wasn't happy. I thought I was being a burden so kept all my stresses and worries to myself, until one of my work friends told me I could open up to them.'

Knowing the huge benefits of fresh air and exercise on mental well-being, Millie embarked on a challenge of a 150km cycle ride during August with a goal of raising £500 for Support in Mind Scotland. She explained: 'I set up a JustGiving page and talked to local businesses to support my fundraising. We held a raffle and my friends and I made a video talking about mental health issues which

had more than 4,000 views.' The cycling was not always an easy ride with the Fort William weather and the midges offering challenges with every mile but, accompanied by friends and family, Millie cycled nearly three times her target, clocking up 365km during August.

The fundraising page is still open and so far Millie has raised nearly three times her original goal with the current total £1,450.

'I'm feeling so proud of myself, not only because of how much money I've raised for the amazing charity but for everything I've overcome during the challenge,' she told me. Thank you to my friends who cycled with me and kept my spirits up, to all the local businesses for their support and for donating raffle prizes, even during these hard times.'

For more info about Support in Mind go to www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk

To donate to Millie's challenge go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/millie-henderson1



Ardnamurchan Distillery's new single malt goes on sale next week. Photograph: Tina Norris

Photography 2020.

Ardnamurchan Distillery launches first single malt

Ardnamurchan Distillery has launched its first single malt Scotch whisky.

Bottled at 46.8 per cent ABV, non-chill filtered and naturally coloured, Ardnamurchan Single Malt will be dispatched from October 5 and will sell at £45 a bottle.

The distillery produces two signature styles of spirit, one peated and one unpeated. The single malt will comprise a 50/50 split between peated and unpeated whiskies, matured in a 65 per cent/35 per cent mixture of ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry oak casks.

Tasting notes are said to include honeycomb, waxy peel, oyster shells, brine, strawberries with black pepper and bonfire embers.

Ahead of the launch, managing director Alex Bruce said: 'When we filled the first spirit into casks, just over six years ago, the concept of being able to disgorge those casks into bottles seemed very distant.'

'However, we have had an incredible journey, building our 100 per cent local team, filling the warehouses with more than 10,000 casks and preparing national and international distribution.'

'We relied on the unique local maturation climate to do the rest and are really excited by the quality and consistency that has been reached.'

Ardnamurchan says it is the first Scottish distillery to adopt the use of blockchain technology to provide an incorruptible ledger of its complete supply and production chain.

This ledger is available to the consumer by scanning the QR code on the bottle and offers a diary of each bottle's field to bottle journey.

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory Thu 1 - Sun 4 Oct
Bunessan Mon 5 - Tue 6 Oct

Hope Gap (12A) 101 mins

Drama starring Annette Bening and Bill Nighy as a couple whose 30-year marriage breaks down. "nuanced and mature" Variety **01/10 at 5.30pm, 04/10 at 8.30pm, 06/10 at 8.30pm**

Tenet (12A) 150 mins

Action sci-fi epic from Christopher Nolan about a spy trying to prevent World War III. "Big, bold, baffling and bonkers" Empire **01/10 at 8.30pm, 03/10 at 8.30pm, 04/10 at 5pm, 05/10 at 8.30pm**

Trolls World Tour (U) 91 mins

"a visually dazzling trip that will keep kids spellbound" The Telegraph **02/10 at 5.30pm, 03/10 at 2pm, 04/10 at 2pm, 06/10 at 5.30pm**

Local Hero (PG) 111 mins

A US executive is sent to buy a small Scottish village so his company can build an oil refinery. "laugh-out-loud funny" Empire **02/10 at 8.30pm**

Back to the Future (PG) 116 mins

Sci-fi classic about teenager Marty McFly accidentally travelling back to 1955. "one of the classic films of the Eighties" The Telegraph **03/10 at 5pm, 05/10 at 5.30pm**

If you would like to visit Screen Machine, you'll notice we have introduced a few changes. Firstly, we've reduced our original capacity down from 80 to 20 in 10 pairs of 2 seats. This is to ensure all these pairs of seats are properly physically distanced at 2 metres.

Please book your tickets online - we will not be selling any tickets on the door. When you book, you'll be asked to pick your seats from a seating plan. Tickets are now available online up to 75 minutes before the film's scheduled start time, and doors will open 15 minutes before it begins.

Unless you are exempt, please wear a face covering throughout the duration of your visit. Hand sanitiser stations will be available for your use. We also have a new cleaning regime put in place between and after shows. Screen Machine already has a top-of-the-range air ventilation system.

You can read about all our changes in full detail at: www.screenmachine.co.uk/covid-19

Thanks for all your support - we look forward to welcoming you back.

Book at www.screenmachine.co.uk. All tickets must be booked online. No cash sales on the door. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the film's scheduled start time. £7.50 adults/£5.50 concs. Young people aged 16-25 can now book a concessionary ticket. Fully accessible for wheelchair users. Please give us at least 24 hours notice if you'd like to reserve our dedicated wheelchair space by emailing info@regionalscreenscotland.org.



Robert Cairns, left, presents the 1917 Calendar and Roll of Honour to Tom Uppington of Alvance.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

WW1 calendar preserved at Alvance's Lochaber smelter

With a limited chance of commemorations taking place on Remembrance Sunday, Robert Cairns of Lochaber Archaeological Group is preserving the memory of British Aluminium Company employees serving in the First World War by presenting a 1917 'Dam Calendar' for display in the Lochaber smelter, writes Iain Ferguson.

Originally part of a collection from the Blackwater Dam, the Roll of Honour from 1917 listed employees from every site owned by the company worldwide serving in the war.

Hundreds of names are listed, from industrial and office sites, those printed in red unfortunately having lost their lives. The large,

framed document was presented to Tom Uppington, manager of the Lochaber Smelter, who will display it in the office. Under the entry for Kinlochleven, the list shows men serving in every service across many fronts. Robert said: 'This is an important piece of history that should not be forgotten, but could so easily have been lost. Hundreds must have been made annually for distribution amongst the sites, but I don't think many still exist. I am delighted this will now be on display in the only aluminium smelter left in Britain and that the names of these men who sacrificed so much will be present today and in the future.'

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Action for Arnish campaign wins comhairle backing

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is backing the Action for Arnish campaign.

The campaign has been launched by former workers at the yard, trade unions and community leaders.

Speaking this week, Councillor Donald Crichton,

chairman of the local authority's Sustainable Development Committee, said it was disappointing to hear BiFab had been unsuccessful in bidding for the SSE renewables contract off the east coast.

'This has implications for the Arnish fabrication yard and

leaves our skilled local workforce without any prospect of future work,' he said. 'Along with the Council Leader, I am a signatory to the statement by the Arnish Campaign Group and fully share the frustration at the lack of progress in securing contracts for the yard.'

The comhairle was due to meet Mr Wheelhouse yesterday (Wednesday).

The Western Isles Labour Party has also given its backing to the Action for Arnish campaign. In a statement, the constituency party said: 'We warmly commend the former

Arnish workers who have taken the lead in trying to focus attention on the disgraceful treatment of the yard over recent years. The demand for the Arnish yard to be available to any user which can bring work to it is particularly important. The dependence on BiFab,

which was created by the Scottish Government as a side-deal to the Fife yards, has been a disaster for Arnish. The party urges every islander, regardless of politics, to add their names to the Declaration for Arnish and to support an ongoing campaign for the yard.'



Innes Watson promotes his new album, 'Shhh, I'm on the Phone'.

Innes back on track with new album

Lockdown on Skye has helped one of Scotland's finest traditional musicians get his life back on track.

Innes Watson, who many island residents will know from SEALL's Small Halls Festival, suffered from anxiety and depression for years but, since making Skye his permanent home, is back to his music, he says, 'in a healthy way' and has created a new album, inspired by lockdown and his mobile phone.

His new work, entitled Shhh, I'm on the Phone, will be launched online by SEALL in a live stream concert from Breakish Hall today (Thursday, October 1) at 7.30pm. Innes will be accompanied by popular local musician Murdo 'Yogi' Cameron and the public concert is available to watch on Facebook Live.

Originally from Glasgow, Innes was brought up in the Scottish Borders. He plays contemporary folk-style traditional music influenced by 'everything I've listened to over the years'.

Classically trained and socially refined, Innes' abilities on his main instruments – fiddle and guitar – have weathered severe changes due to composing and arranging his own and others' music within the Scottish scene and beyond.

'I've even been employed to make noises with my voice in the last five years too,' he added, 'and not just as a backing singer. I have enjoyed doing this so much I now count my voice as one of my main instruments.'

Innes says it was a girl that

made him decide to make Skye his permanent home. He explained: 'A girl I met during last year's Small Halls Festival helped me through a very low point in my life.'

'I suffer from severe anxiety and depression. Without any pressure whatsoever, and a lot of care, she harboured me and my issues nurturing them back to a place where I was back in control and able to apply myself to my music in a healthy way. It should have been worrying being thrown into a serious relationship due to Covid-19 but we weathered the storm and emerged from lockdown stronger than ever.'

A former pupil of Sgoil Chiùl Na Gàidhealtachd in Plockton, Innes said: 'I have my own space now. That really helps me focus and overcome issues. I took on life as a full-time job because, thanks to Covid-19, the location and people, for the first time in my career, I felt totally capable. I asked Creative Scotland to fund an album, the sounds of which would be created entirely via the iPhone,' he explained.

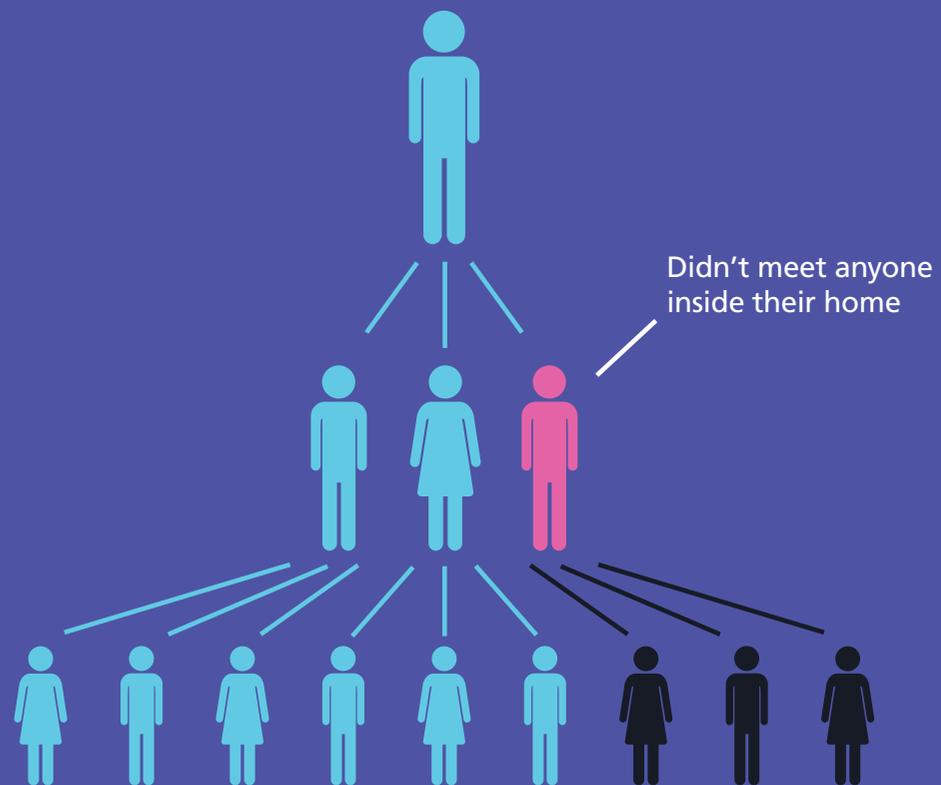
'Three months plus and a lot of work later I have an album that doesn't sound too shabby having been recorded entirely via an iPhone microphone.'

'Andrea Gobbi helped me out by mixing and mastering the album in house at Carrier Waves and GloWorm Studios in Glasgow, and I did the rest up here.'

The concert will be live-streamed by SEALL at 7.30pm tonight and tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/seall.



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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce completed its first virtual trade mission to Nova Scotia last week as part of the international Trade Programme run by Scottish Chambers of Commerce on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Eight companies from throughout Scotland took the opportunity to explore new international markets in Nova Scotia, the easily accessible gateway to Atlantic Canada.

Nova Scotia has many



cultural and historic ties to Scotland, particularly the West Highlands, but the reasons for doing business there are not based on the past. The province has major ports and direct flights from Scotland, the time difference is business-friendly at just four hours behind GMT and its capital city Halifax is

one of the fastest growing in Canada. Over the course of the week-long mission, the delegates took part in one-to-one virtual business meetings with specially selected contacts and learned about the realities of trading into Nova Scotia with informative market awareness briefings, specialist tax and law drop-ins and business overviews.

The delegates had a chance to get to know each other at an informal 'meet and greet' session before being welcomed by the Minister for Business in Nova Scotia and the head of the Scottish Government in Canada.

Trade missions are all about the intangible as well as the tangible – it's the personal chit-chat, the smiles on faces and getting a feel for how things work, as well as the individual B2B meetings, that create a successful mission. We may not have been able to shake hands on this virtual trip, but it was a great first step to open up conversations and chat face to face, even if through a screen.

Global circumstances dictated the move from a real mission to Nova Scotia to a virtual

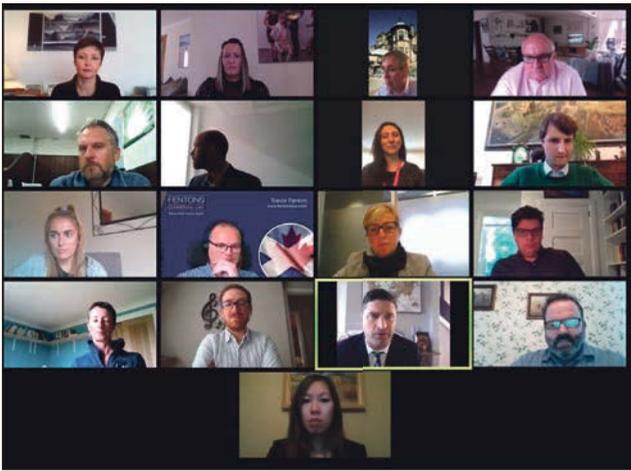
one, but it has proved to bring real benefits as a preliminary step before the physical trade mission to Nova Scotia next summer.

The feedback from delegates has been positive. The mission was free to take part in and offered a 'no risk' way to explore opportunities and get a feel for the reality of doing business there before going over.

All of the delegates saw the benefits of building relationships and all hoped to come along on the 2021 mission. As one of the delegates said: 'It's answered a lot of questions about what I need to do to move forward.'

Our next virtual trade mission to Nova Scotia is in November and planning for this is already well under way, with a full delegation of 12 businesses across Scotland signed up to take part. We look forward to following the progress of our delegates over the coming months.

The International Trade Programme is open to all Scottish businesses. If you are interested in finding out more about what opportunities are on offer visit www.exporthub-scotland.com.



The welcome session with the Minister for Business in Nova Scotia.

Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

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Driving home from town along the south shore of Loch Eil, my son exclaimed 'look at the geese mummy!'

It turned out he meant gulls, hundreds of them, all lifting into the air at once. Flying along the surface of the loch below them was what I first took to be a buzzard.

Slowly it dawned on me the gull being chased by this 'buzzard' was not a small herring gull, it was a blackback – and a big one at that. As my sense of scale shifted, a turn in the air revealed the pale flash of the giant persecutor's tail. My buzzard was a sea eagle.

While buzzards have recovered entirely from past human persecution, sea eagles are still relatively rare. However, these huge birds once lived across the whole of the UK.

In *The Nature of Summer*, Perthshire writer Jim Crumley points out the number of Highland landscape features named after the eagles that once haunted them: 'Wherever Gaels and eagles have co-existed, there you will find crags, buttresses, rock faces and rock outcrops bearing the

same name.' *Iolaire*: eagle. One of the smaller hills to the west of Glen Nevis, *Bidein Bad na h-Iolaire* is one such example. But those eagles came into competition with humans.

A 2012 study for the British Trust for Ornithology indicated that 1,500 years ago there were between 800 and 1,400 pairs of white-tailed eagles across Britain and Ireland. That number had reduced to an estimated 150 pairs by the beginning of the 19th century. Another 100 years later, in 1916, the last breeding pair were reported on Skye. Two years later they were extinct in the British Isles. Their names on our maps were the only echo of the eagles' former presence.

A reintroduction scheme began in 1975, orchestrated by NatureScot – previously Scottish Natural Heritage – and the RSPB. As a result of the scheme, there are now more than 100 breeding pairs in the Highlands, but their fortunes are by no means secured. The previous loss of eagles from this landscape is largely attributed to human activity – and we are still here. Leaving aside

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for the moment the more widely publicised disappearance of eagles over sport grouse-shooting moors, eagles pose a potential threat to the human landscape due to their predation of livestock. In an attempt to counter any negative impact of the reintroduction scheme, NatureScot created a White-tailed Eagle Action Plan. The plan, which is to be reviewed this year, offers support to farmers and crofters, as well as trialling prevention measures.

Sheep are bred and cared for by people as a livelihood, a livelihood that puts a roof over our heads, that puts food on the table. By the same token, sheep taken by sea eagles are the birds' livelihood. They put food in their belly, they provide the energy needed for the bird to live. Humans and birds both live off the landscape, but human and bird are still challenged to find a place for the needs of the other.

We have a 1,500-year history of intolerance towards the infringements of the white-tailed eagle into our lives; it seems we are taking small steps towards co-existing again.



Alexandra Mckeown.



Eddie Mowles.

Lochaber students top of WHC class

Two Lochaber West Highland College UHI students will be celebrating during an online graduation ceremony this week after being named Students of the Year for Further and Higher Education.

Fort William's Alexandra Mckeown, 20, and Kinlochleven mature student Eddie Mowles, were named in the honours list issued by the college last week.

HNC Social Services student Alexandra was named Overall Student of the Year for Higher Education and has been described by her lecturer as always going the extra mile in her studies.

'I've always had an interest in social and care work. Coming to college was a positive step for me. I had no idea how different learning in college would be. I really enjoyed the course and was excited about learning and coming in each day.

'I learned about things I was really intrigued by and I would take it home and think about it and want to find out more. For work placement, I've been supporting adults with additional support needs. I found everything I had been learning in class was relevant and how important the background knowledge I had covered was when putting it into practice.

'My qualification has helped me to start working as a support worker within Key Community Support. I'm currently training to work with adults who have a variety of additional support needs, supporting them in their own homes. I am enjoying building a career. I have made many life-long friends and am really looking forward to my future.'

Lockdown brought with it the additional pressures of studying independently from home after having worked

in a class environment, but Alexandra quickly adapted to the new style of studying.

Andy Gibb, Lecturer on HNC Social Services, commented: 'Alexandra has been an extremely conscientious student and every one of her assessments was well thought out, constructive and always submitted ahead of deadlines.'

Eddie Mowles from Kinlochleven was named Student of the Year for Further Education after successfully completing his Maritime and Aquaculture Skills course.

Now aged 56, Eddie had been unemployed for 16 years when he started West Highland College UHI in 2018 after attending a weekly job club drop-in at the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven. His goal was to improve his life and his chances of getting a good, well-paid job, saying 'he was sick and tired of living the way he was'.

What started off as small steps developed into a real goal. Eddie would talk about an 'ideal' job and, because of his love of fishing, it was always something outdoors.

After a few unsuccessful job applications, Eddie returned to the drop-in and said he had decided the Maritime and Aquaculture Skills course based in Mallaig was for him. This was a huge step for Eddie having no previous relevant experience or qualifications but he demonstrated tremendous determination and used his college experience to turn his life around. He completed the course and has now applied for a short contract to gain valuable work experience in the aquaculture industry.

Now with a zest for learning, Eddie has decided to return to college in Mallaig to study the NC Shipping and Operations at Level 6.

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South Lochaber Thistle appoint new women's team coach

South Lochaber Thistle (SLT) have appointed a new coach for their dynamic women's team.

Vicki MacNeil will take over at the helm as the ladies team move toward an exciting new phase in their development.

Speaking after the announcement last weekend Vicki said: 'I am very excited to be taking on the challenge of coaching the women's SLT football team. 'After leaving school, I personally felt that there was not many opportunities for young talented players in the area so years later, I was thrilled to see a women's team had been set up.

'The game is a burning passion for many ladies in the Lochaber area so getting to work alongside and help develop their skills and future opportunities is something I'm really looking forward to.'

SLT founder Alan Gray said

on the appointment: 'Vicki got in touch with the club and having chatted with her it was clear to see her enthusiasm to promote women's football in Lochaber and get as many ladies playing as possible.

'She will prove to be an excellent addition to the club.

Alan also thanked club president Peter Newman and first team assistant manager Albie Robertson who have taken training and organised games for the team while they sought to make a permanent appointment.

The Kinlochleven outfit's women's team was formed a little over two years ago with the aim of providing football for women of all ages from 12 years old upwards.

President Newman said: 'I want to thank Vicki for agreeing to take on the role with the women and girls.

'It was always an important part of our goal to offer football from cradle to grave to ensure girls and women's football was available and having someone clearly so passionate involved will enable us to make that dream a reality.

'She inherits a fantastic squad with some exceptional players and, more importantly, superb people. I wish her every success.'

In addition to the appointment of Vicki, local development officer for the girls and women's game from the Scottish Football Association Jo Murphy has announced the intention of launching a girl's under-15 Highland League.

'This would mean SLT would be the only club in the region in a position to offer a women's team in the Highlands and Islands League and the U15s would play in a league too.

Vicki MacNeil is the new SLT women's team coach.



The Jags are still actively recruiting women and girls of all ages, experience and ability to make this commitment a reality both as players and coaches.

Roy Bridge rider blazes a trail on World circuit

Trials rider Ben Dignan, from Roy Bridge, is putting Scotland on the map with his efforts in the FIM World Trial Championship.

Ben, 17, has been riding trials since the age of four and has competed for a number of years in the Scottish Championship and the ACU Trial GB Championship. In 2019 Ben was crowned the ACU British Trial 125 Champion as well as being the first Scottish rider to finish third in the FIM Trial European Championship.

Earlier this year, Ben signed for 12 times Trial World Champion Dougie Lampkin's Vertigo factory team and set his sights on competing in the FIM Trial 125 World Championship.

After a delayed start to the race season due to Covid-19, the 2020 season eventually got under way on September 4 with the first round taking place in France.

Over the weekend, Ben took two top 10 finishes, a great start to his season in such a competitive category, and learned plenty to take forward

to the next round, just a week later in Spain.

Further improvements were made, with Ben finishing fifth on the Saturday then taking his first podium on Sunday with a third place finish alongside French rider Leo Guiraud in second and fellow Vertigo rider Pau Martinez of Spain in first.

No rest for the wicked though as round three of the championship was just a week later in Andorra. Ben finished day one in sixth but showed his true potential on day two finishing first, dropping just 19 points and standing on the top step of the podium.

Ben said: 'I am so pleased all

the hard work is paying off. It is a great feeling to stand on the top step of the podium, especially in such a competitive championship with the top riders in the world.

'A huge thank you to my mentor Alexz Wigg, the Vertigo team and all my sponsors who are making this journey possible for me.'

After three out of four rounds of the 2020 championship, Ben Dignan is currently sitting third, just 21 points behind Leo Guiraud in second.

The final round takes place in Italy from October 9 to 11 where he is hoping for another good result to finish the season on a high.



Ben Dignan, right, and Vertigo teammate Dougie Lampkin.

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Shinty returns after lockdown



Strathglass keeper and manager Allan MacLeod makes a save during a busy day between the sticks.



Lewis Macdonald, Glenurquhart, tussles with Sean Brown, Strathglass.



Covid officer Garry Mackintosh watches the game.

Ali Ban Cup Glenurquhart 6 Strathglass 0

Shinty returned for the first time since lockdown as Glenurquhart defeated National Division rivals Strathglass 6-0 to lift the annual Ali Ban Cup.

Shinty was allowed to return to action on Saturday for the first time in six months in

line with government regulations. But no spectators were allowed at Blairbeg Park in Drumnadrochit as the two teams competed for the historic trophy.

The hosts proved too strong for the visitors as Glenurquhart captain David MacLennan found the net four times with Charlie Macleod scoring twice to secure the trophy.



Glenurquhart captain David 'Dixie' MacLennan with the Man of the Match trophy. Photographs: Neil Paterson.



Strathglass player Lewis Douglas was just pleased to be back playing shinty.



Lewis Macdonald, Glenurquhart, with Steven Hyslop, Strathglass.



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LETTERS

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No more delaying tactics

Given the continuing delays on building the new Belford Hospital, it has come as no surprise that members of the local steering group have finally had enough and fired off a no-holds-barred letter to NHS Highland chairman Professor Boyd Robertson.

There is clear anger and a sense of betrayal in Lochaber over the lack of progress in building the much-needed new hospital and fears too that given the completion date has now been left unspecified, it may never happen.

It beggars belief that discussions for this new facility began in 1990 and now, 30 years later, we seem to be no further forward.

And the fact NHS Highland is using the current situation with the pandemic as a reason to not move forward with talks is an insult to the intelligence of Lochaber residents.

We would echo the stinging attack from Dr Michael Foxley and Dr Chris Robinson, alongside retired Belford surgeon David Sedgwick and John Hutchison.

Why has NHS Highland managed to follow through on the new hospital in Kirkwall, Orkney, yet the existing Belford Hospital has been sidelined? And now houses have started being built, access to the Blar Mor site is being questioned.

Enough is enough, let's get this hospital build started. The people of Lochaber deserve better.

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



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A disaster for rural Scotland

The human faeces and urine which I flagged up earlier in the summer is now, as predicted, everywhere for us to see.

Last weekend, a campervan parked up during the night at the foot of Wauchan Glen. I saw it leave early on the Sunday morning as it was only 50 metres from my house.

On inspecting the road where the vehicle had spent the night, the entire contents of its toilet was clear to see on the road.

How did we get here – opening up the so-called economy to the tourist industry and the ruthlessness of too many tourists with little or no respect for health and social norms? When you open pubs until 10pm or 11pm, have students back to cramped residences at university and school children and staff back at the coalface what can one expect?

All one has to do is look at the USA to witness what a rush to open up to save the economy does to a nation. America has a medical crisis as a result, with 200,000 dead to date.

Our society is also dominated by the economy. Fair enough one might say. However, I have maintained since the 1960s that an economy based largeley on tourism would eventually be a disaster for rural Scotland. Yes, a few will benefit. But the majority of folk in rural Scotland will, as usual, suffer the consequences. Mostly the indigenous population.

It also raises the ongoing issue of the lack of poor public toilets and showers across the Highlands for visitors.

Perhaps the dreadful current situation and lack of hygienic facilities will be taken up by our councillors, MSPs, MPs, health boards and tourist boards before it is too late.

Graham Noble, Drumsallie, Kinlochail.

'Crafts and Things' memories

I was interested in the recent article in The Oban Times about the Craft and Things shop and restaurant at Tigh Phuirst, Glencoe.

The Cooper family has run an excellent business from there for the past 50 years.

'Tigh Phuirst' means 'house at the port' and there was a pier opposite the house.

The premises, comprising house, croft and steading, were run for more than 100 years by the Rankine family as a slaughterhouse, butchery and village shop, situated in the front rooms of the house.

It was, like today, a hive of industry and activity.

Of the last generations of Rankines – three girls and one boy – only Marjory married. She

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Is bràthair don chuthach an òige! Ma tha an seanfhacal ceart, agus cuiridh mi geall gum feumadh a h-uile inbheach an cuid pàirt fhèin de 'dh'fhaoinas na h-òige' aideachadh, tha fhios nach b' iongnadh gum bithte a' cur air mhanadh oilthighean is cholaistean an cunnart gun sgapadh coròna-bhioras am measg oileanaich.

Na mo bheachd-sa tha e tur ceàrr a bhith a' cronachadh na h-òigridh airson tachartas a bha cho coltach tachairt nuair a chaidh iarraidh air oileanaich na dùthcha tilleadh chun nan oilthighean is nan colaistean, a dh'aindeoin 's ged a bha a' mhòr-chuid den teagasg gu bhith ga thoirt dhaibh air-loidhne.

Gun teagamh tha tomhas den eòlas chudromach a gheibh daoine òga ann am foghlam àrd-ìre an lùib a bhith coinneachadh le òigridh eile far feadh an t-saoghail, agus anns an seòrsa co-luadair agus càirdeis a thig an lùib sin. Agus far am bheil cianalas na uallach cho làidir anns a' chiad ghluasad bhon dachaigh tha caraidean ùra deatamach mar thaic dha oileanaich uile, agus 's e peanas do-labhairt a th' ann na daoine òga sin a ghlasadh nan cuid sheòmraichean an dèidh an ìre mhath an òrdachadh chun nan ionadan. Tuigear gum bheil na h-oilthighean airson na bheil aca de sheòmraichean còmhnaidh a bhith a' cosnadh dhaibh, agus cha b' iongnadh ged a b' e sin pàirt den adhbhar a bha uimhir de chuideam ga chur air oileanaich a bhith an làthair anna.

Ach tha e doirbh a thuigsinn cionnas nach robh eòlaichean a tha a' comhairleachadh an Riaghaltais a' faicinn a' chunnairt a bha gu

bhith ann an cròthadh na bha seo de dhaoine òga còmhla. Tha ùidh mhòr agam ann an gliocas sheanfhalac agus tha fear ag innse "bidh fonn air gille nan lùb, 's e h-uile rud ùr as fheàrr", agus bidh iomadh annas tarraingeach san t-saoghal ùr air falbh bhon dachaigh. Ged is dòcha gum bi dìth tùir aig amannan am measg na h-òigridh tha a' mhòr-chuid aca ciallach agus comasach, sin a dh'fhàg iad air starsaich foghlaim àrd-ìre, agus tha còir dèiligeadh riutha ann an dòigh a rèir sin, is chan ann mar leanabain!

Ma tha iad air an dearbhadh saor bho ghalair tha fhios gur còir leigeil leotha tilleadh dhachaigh agus àireamh nan treudan a dh'fheumar a bhuachailleachd aig na h-oilthighean a lùghdachadh. Cha bu chòir air chor sam bith gum bithte a' cur teachd-a-steach oilthighean is cholaistean os cionn sochair agus slàinte nan oileanaich. Tha seanfhacal eile ag innse dhuinn gur miosad "amaideachd na h-aoise na amaideachd na h-òige", agus bu chòir dha luchd-riaghlaidh poileasaidh a bhith deònach aideachadh nuair a tha iadsan ceàrr, agus cùisean a cheartachadh.

Observing the resurgence of Covid-19, many will believe that this is an inevitable result of an overly fast relaxation of lockdown restrictions, but surely the spread of infection among thousands of closely packed students was totally predictable! So why order them back to campuses when most of their tuition is being delivered online?

Allan Campbell. ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

settled in Oban and my late husband, Robin Banks, was their grandson.

Robin, living in Oban, frequently went by train to stay with the aunts and uncle in the 1930s and 1940s. He hardly heard a word of English in the shop except for 'margarine' and 'an ounce of bogey roll'. He remembered hams hanging by hooks from the rafters and boxes of men's black tackety boots. The shop literally sold everything and they were open all hours.

The family nickname was the 'Poondens', probably because everything was sold in pounds and ounces. Aunt Teenie, the only one I knew, died in 1963, aged 93, and subsequently the property was sold to the Cooper family.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the famous American Evangelists Sankey and Moodie held a religious rally at Ballachulish. They were the forerunners of Billy Graham. Teenie and her sister Mary attended the rally, were converted, left their established church and joined the Faith Mission.

Teenie used to talk about a neighbour John Cameron who, sitting at his fireside, composed a poem called 'Chi mi na Mor-bheanna' (Mist Covered Mountains) – a much-loved Gaelic song, frequently sung today. It is a great joy to me knowing there is still life in the old house, although it has changed dramatically.

Ishbel Banks, Gowan Brae, Oban.

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Disbelief over Ganavan plan

I am shocked, to the point of disbelief, that the people of Oban may lose access to the Ganavan car park because of Argyll and Bute Council's proposal to change its use to a campervan site.

This will deprive the people of Oban of their beach which was gifted to them, their families and friends in 1905.

The beach was a health and safety hazard over the summer because of the number of campervans and let's not forget we are in the middle of a pandemic.

A handful of fines were issued, not the hundreds which should have been. Vans were dumping their chemical waste in the public toilets and there was defecation overnight.

The outcome of this? A proposal for a motor-home park, provided at public expense. This beggars belief.

If the Oban people can't park there, where are they to go? It is used all year round and is a wonderful asset for the health and well-being of the community.

The only alternative to this is Atlantis Centre, a great resource but not free. Families have to pay a membership. If this car park becomes a campervan park the people of Oban would be subsidising the campervaners by having to pay for activities that were previously free to them.

There are many well-run campervan and caravan sites in and around the Oban. If the council wants, more why spoil a beauty spot. This is Oban's jewel in the crown and the plan is close to environmental vandalism.

There is a connected proposal to stop campervans illegally parking and causing congestion on Ganavan Road. This is a good initiative which most people would agree with. This proposal should have been split in two: stop illegal parking and congestion on Ganavan Road - good. Ganavan car park changed to a campervan park - a disaster. There has been no official consultation with the people of Oban regarding this yet.

There must be alternative areas in and around Oban where legitimate paying campervan owners can have the services they need and deserve.

A project like this would cost thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money. If the council can find the money for it, it can surely afford a couple of traffic wardens to fine the illegal, and therefore 'free', overnight parking of campervans at Ganavan. They could have made many thousands of pounds in fines from the illegal 'free' parking over the summer.

The people of Oban must strongly oppose this.
Elaine MacLean.

DISTRICT NEWS



Caroline MacDonald, treasurer, and daughter Rosie, Armando R Bárcenas Junior, chairman, and Berit MacIntosh, committee member, at the newly installed 'wee library'.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Free books help Claggan readers

Claggan Residents Association has set up its own free book lending service to help those finding it difficult to get to a library because of Covid restrictions.

With assistance from The Highland Council, a mini-library has been installed in an easy to access location between the bus stop and post box, next to the Spar shop.

Named 'Our Free Little Library' people are encouraged to borrow and deposit books of all kinds so that keen readers need never be short of material.

Claggan Residents Association chairman Armando Barcenas said: 'We heard that due to Covid worries, even recently, many people

were only leaving their houses to pick up essentials which meant they were often not changing library books.

'If you are spending more time in the house, it is important there is plenty to keep the mind occupied and new books were a big miss. We decided to set up the library cabinet so people could have regular changes without having to travel. The library is open 24/7 and everyone is welcome to borrow books. People have also been generous in donating books to cover all age ranges and tastes so thank you to them and The Highland Council which was a great help in providing the 'hardware' to make sure it happened.'

Keep Me Posted campaign backed by Highland MSPs

Rhoda Grant and David Stewart, Scottish Labour's MSPs for the Highlands and Islands, are reminding constituents they can still be contacted by mail or over the phone.

The elected members were contacted by the consumer campaign Keep Me Posted which aims to ensure consumers who do not have access to the internet or who just prefer to receive bills or mail by post are able to do so, for an assurance constituents can still contact their MSPs by post. While the vast majority of constituent contacts now come in by email or via website or social media, Rhoda Grant and David Stewart are also pleased to receive letters or speak to constituents over the phone.

Commenting on the campaign, Ms Grant said: 'In line with government guidelines, like other MSPs across the region, we were forced to close our regional offices in Inverness and Stornoway at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and with cases rising again we've been unable to open them again as planned. Representing such a large region and one where broadband and digital connectivity can be a challenge for many, it's essential constituents who aren't online are still able to contact their MSPs with any problems and issues they might have by phone or in writing, something our office has continued throughout the lockdown and to date.

'That's why I'm backing the Keep Me Posted campaign to send a clear message to constituents that I can still be contacted in various ways, including by post.'

Mr Stewart, who has also backed the campaign, said: 'The Keep Me Posted' campaign does a great job standing up for those who want to continue receiving hard copies of bills, statements or other important documents and I'm happy to keep receiving mail from constituents.

'Many people prefer to receive documents and correspondence by post as they may feel it is more secure or because they don't have access to digital communications or the skills or confidence to use technology. Being able to pick up a pen and paper and write to your MSP will always be important and something I'll support.'

Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!

Volunteers now required in Oban.

Call **01546 60 5550** or email **info@abcab.org.uk** to find out more.



Cheeseburger pasta bake



• 3 Syns per serving • 40 minutes • Serves 4

Ingredients

Low-calorie cooking spray
2 large onions, roughly chopped
400g dried pasta shapes, such as fusilli or spirali
500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)
6 large tomatoes, sliced
80g reduced-fat Cheddar, coarsely grated (or see tip)

Method:

1. Spray a medium-size saucepan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a medium-low heat. Add the onions, cover and cook for 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to the pack instructions, but drain and return to the pan a couple of minutes before the end of the recommended cooking time.
3. Uncover the onions and increase the heat to high. Add the beef and fry for 5 minutes or until browned, breaking up any lumps. Drain off any liquid and season lightly.
4. Preheat your grill to high.
5. Stir the beef into the pasta. Spoon half of the mixture into a shallow baking dish, cover with half of the tomatoes and season lightly. Grill for 5-7 minutes.
6. Sprinkle over half of the cheese and top with the remaining pasta, beef and tomatoes. Grill for 5 minutes then sprinkle with the remaining cheese and grill for 2 minutes or until golden. Divide between 4 plates to serve.

The unmistakable flavours of the American classic work so well in this satisfying supper with a twist.

TIP - For a cheesier bake that's also Free, you could increase the cheese to 160g and have it as a Healthy Extra 'a' choice.

Classes are back!!

Booked Weigh-in Venues followed by Virtual Classes.

Oban Wednesday 9.30am, 12pm and 5pm, 7pm
Fort William Monday 9.30am, 12pm and Thursday 3.30pm, 7pm.

Please message Gillian on 07796 040803 for information



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Fort fighter seeking support to bring MMA events to Lochaber

A Fort William man, frustrated promoters of his favourite sport Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) will not bring shows to the town, has decided to set up his own business in an effort to make it happen, writes Iain Ferguson.

Lewis Simpson is seeking support from the public and local businesses in creating Braveheart Fighting Championships to attract top names and stage fights to the area.

With huge international television audiences for cage fighting and a number of MMA clubs throughout the country, he believes there will also be great benefit to the local economy as fans flood in to see the action.

He said: 'It's been frustrating having to grow up being in love with a sport and having to travel away to events, or even to train a high level.

'MMA is a sport that when you break it down is beautiful, an art, a game of inches which relies on strength, skill and timing.'

'My main aim is to bring a new light to Fort William and give people the chance to experience a 'new' sport first hand.

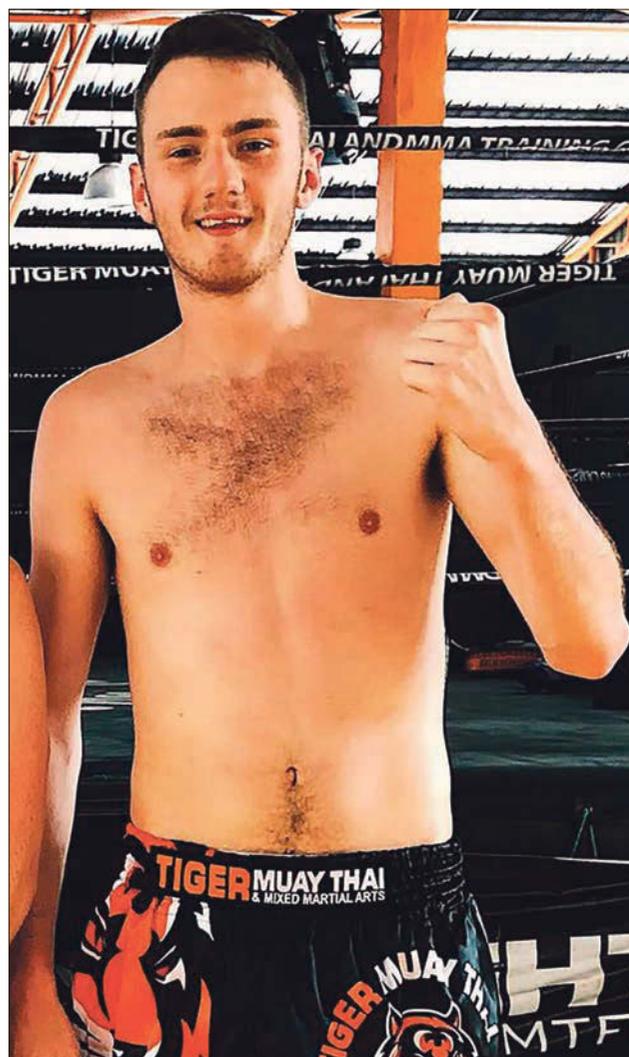
'MMA is a sport that when you break it down is beautiful, an art, a game of inches which relies on strength, skill and timing.

'Like many of the sports already played here, there can be blood and there is violence, but it is not barbaric and requires a dedicated, extensive training regime for maximum control and performance in the cage.

'Participants are also athletes with a direction, determination and hope, which can be an inspiring life changing experience.'

Lewis travelled to Thailand for training and approached existing promoters about bringing an event to Fort William.

Their lukewarm responses



Lewis Simpson.

prompted him to follow his own path and in doing this has brought support and positive comments from established fighters and fans across the globe.

Former Ultimate Fighting Championship Welterweight Champion Tyron Woodley was one of the earliest to congratulate and encourage Lewis.

In a Facebook message, recorded as he prepared for his latest fight in Las Vegas, he said: 'I hear you are starting a local MMA promotion and I want to wish you the best of luck in your next chapter.

'I want to congratulate you

and hope things go smoothly and I hope you do great things in Scotland increasing awareness of Mixed Martial Arts.'

Lewis has also been interviewed on several MMA websites and says being a martial arts promoter has always been in the back of his mind, but given the level of interest, now is the time make it happen and offer the reality of MMA to a local audience.

Information on how to become involved can be found on the Braveheart FC Facebook page.

More sport on pages 14 and 15

Results from Fort William Golf Club

The men's Club Championship was played over the weekend of August 29/30 with Steven Jamieson crowned the 2020 winner with a score of 145 (74 + 71).

Padraig McNeil was runner-up with a score of 146 (72 + 74) and Ali Shearer third on 154 (75 + 79).

Other results:

Mclver Cup, September 19/20: Winner, Stephen Howden 135 (67 + 68); runner-up, David Matheson 136 (63 + 73); 3 Rusty Duncan 138 (66 + 72).

Saturday Stableford, September 26: Winner, Neil Young 42 points; Runner-up, Neil Worsdall 39; 3 David MacPherson 36.

September Medal: Winner, Dougie Duncan 71 (81 - 10); runner-up, Brian Gillespie 72 (83 - 11); 3 Graeme Worsdall 73 (86 - 13).

Ladies Club Championship, September 19/20: Winner, Rosemary Macintyre 163 (81 + 82); runner-up, Kim Topping 178 (88 + 90).

Ladies Club Championship Bronze Division, Saturday, September 19: Winner, Helen Brian 103; runner-up, Ann Lovatt 114.

Budget Cup, Sunday, September 27: Winner, Ann Lovatt 78 (103-25); runner-up, Kathleen Leitch 78 (96 - 18); 3, Rosemary Macintyre 84 (97 - 13).

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