



**SAMS Nadja crowned student of the year**



**Tributes paid after death of Councillor Ellen Morton**

**Amazing offers from**



Of Oban

**See page 9 for more details**

## Oban launches lifeline mental health project

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban launches a lifeline directory today to help save the town from mental health crisis and tragedy.

The online Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles Mental Health Directory includes contact details and information from about 60 local and national organisations and support groups, and it is believed to be the first of its kind.

Funding from Comic Relief's Shift The Power initiative and support from Bid4Oban and the creators of the town's business-promoting directory has helped make it happen.

Catriona Petit, service manager at Hope Kitchen told us: 'It's about getting the right kind of help to people at the right time before crisis or tragedy takes over. Oban and other communities like ours have seen too much despair and tragedy. It's not going to be a solution but it is something



**Hope Kitchen has committed to keeping the new Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles Mental Health Directory up to date.**

positive we can do to support our community.'

The goal is the directory will be easy to navigate without overwhelming people looking for mental health help.

As well as pulling together details, including numbers to call and text, and signposting what support is available, the directory will have a what's on section and explanations of

mental health diagnoses from mental health charity Mind. There are plans to include short films to help people absorb the information and feel more at ease about seeking help.

Feedback and suggestions from site users will also be welcome to help keep the resource up-to-date and give smaller organisations a wider reach.

The directory has been three

**'It's about getting the right kind of help to people at the right time before crisis or tragedy takes over.'**

years in the making having started out on paper, involving work from Martyn's Monday Club then growing to include input from Oban Mental Health Forum and support agency Acumen.

'That was the vehicle from where the OLI Mental Health Directory was birthed,' said Catriona who secured £4,000 towards it.

The platform to build the web directory on was donated by Bid4Oban and Alan and Eilidh Livingstone, who designed the successful Oban Town Directory, which gives a comprehensive list of businesses.

Hope Kitchen 'developed it from there', added Catriona.

Hope advisory group member Jakki Spicer, who took on the role of collating the information from the different organisations, said: 'The idea is that anyone who thinks they may have a mental health problem or knows anyone they think might have a mental health problem - family member, friend or work mate - can go straight to the directory and find out what help is out there, whether it's how to get in touch with the community mental health team and find out what they do, or how to get financial advice. The directory lists all the different areas of help.'

Interest in producing similar directories has already been shown from other areas across Scotland.

'We believe ours is the first of its kind and that it will help remove barriers that quite often prevent people from getting the help they need,' said Catriona.

To access the directory, visit [www.olimentalhealthdirectory.co.uk](http://www.olimentalhealthdirectory.co.uk)

### Ganavan health risks in spotlight

A Ganavan resident so worried about health risks from dirty overnight campers has offered to be a voluntary ticket warden.

Frank Roberts made his plea for a better managed Ganavan car park to members of Oban Community Council at its last meeting.

**Full story: page three.**

### Remembrance parade decision

A decision will be taken in the next couple of weeks on the fate of this year's Remembrance Parade.

Councillor Jim Lynch said there would not be a full parade as in previous years but there might be a possibility of one reduced in size.

**Full story: page four.**

### Virtual feast lined up for 2020 Mòd

A National Mòd like no other is tuning up to reach out to national and international audiences this week.

An Comunn Gàidhealach will be hosting The Royal National Mòd 2020 online, between October 9 and 17.

**See pages 16 to 19.**



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## Why local journalism and your Oban Times matter

With headlines dominated by Covid and the Brexit negotiations, and local democracy still curtailed by social distancing restrictions, the independent scrutiny and accountability provided by local and national news publishers has never mattered more than it does now.

Television and radio don't get close to the same level of detail and spread of subjects as newspapers and with the suspension of proper community consultations, local publications are often the only way people find out about major changes being made to their districts by their local authority.

Newspapers such as The Oban Times bring a sense of cohesion to communities large and small, guiding them through this troubled and confusing era, a reassuring presence that local life still goes on in all its forms, for good or bad.

This week a new Journalism Matters campaign aims to remind people of the role their local newspaper plays, but also to ensure decision-makers are fully aware the sector is under the severest of threats as vital revenues dry up.

News publishing is hardly alone just now in facing a fight for existence, but the difference is that there is no shortage of demand for the services they provide and no shortage of money to support it. The problem is that despite massive readerships – more than 90 per cent of people read newspaper content

monthly – the advertising revenues that traditionally supported it are now being sucked up by a handful of overseas-owned technology companies who benefit from, but do not pay for, the stories publishers produce. Remember, when you watch a YouTube video instead of STV or the BBC, you are watching a Google subsidiary.

Well over 3,000 jobs are supported by Scottish news publishing, but companies such as Google and Facebook hardly employ anyone here. Yes, their services are extremely popular but there is a price to pay for the free social media communication and search services they provide and the loss of valued media cannot be regarded as small change.

Much work is going on to find solutions, but such is the power these vast digital monopolies enjoy that they pay only lip-service to fair dealing and in Australia they are orchestrating a campaign to oppose a statutory code which simply asks them to pay a fair price for the news they use.

You can help by taking out subscriptions to your favourite publications – digital access for a week rarely costs more than the price of a half-pint of beer – but you could also contact your MP and MSPs and ask them what they are doing to preserve the journalism you enjoy.

Journalism really does matter, so please act now before you realise just how much you miss it.

# High School acts fast to get Covid under control

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban High School pupil who tested positive for Covid-19 has been praised by their school for 'following national guidelines' and is now recovering from the symptoms.

The affected pupil was last in school on Monday September 28 since when contact tracing has been under way. Pupils identified as close contacts during the school day were contacted directly by NHS Highland's contact tracing team and were asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

In a letter to parents, sent out on Sunday, October 4, following a guidance letter sent out by NHS Highland Health Protection Team (HPT), Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain reassured everyone that the youngster in question was recovering and thanked staff at the school for their support.

'The youngster quite sensibly followed the national guidance on what to do if one has symptoms,' he added.

'Working between the family and the school, the HPT were able to use the Track and Trace protocols swiftly and efficiently.'



**Peter Bain said the youngster who tested positive for Covid followed national guidelines.**

Mr Bain confirmed that all the families that need to be made aware of the need to self-isolate were contacted, and he said he also called the families himself to ask how the children were keeping and to offer support if required.

'I am pleased to have found, although obviously concerned to learn of this news, all seemed physically well at the moment,' he continued.

'I am also pleased that all the staff are well and that no teachers are required to self-isolate.'

Summing up the views of many, one parent said: 'I think it was inevitable that coronavirus would reach Oban High School because I believe it is in the community or at

least bound to be in the town somewhere. I think the school has done as much as it can to contain any spread of the virus within its campus, short of closing the school.

'I think people have to look to their own behaviour to help stop the spread of the virus and feel that the school reacted quickly in sending out a letter to parents, before any rumours started circulating and causing panic.'

A statement from Dr Jenny Wares, consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHS Highland, said: 'As long as your child is well, and as long as other members of the household have no symptoms and are well, then everyone in the house can all go about their

normal business. Anyone who is well and has no symptoms does not need to be tested.'

Mr Bain concluded: 'I would like to take the opportunity to remind our community that this single confirmed case in our school is a reminder that schools are still places that are relatively safe places to work and learn, though, of course, we cannot be complacent and we must continue in our efforts to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19.'

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the positive case this week.

'The council as education authority, and the school are fully engaged with NHS Highland's Health Protection Team and are following Public Health guidance,' added a spokesperson.

'Strict control measures are in place at the school and will continue following the October break.

'Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and further information on testing can be found on NHS Inform ([www.nhsinform.scot/](http://www.nhsinform.scot/)).'

Public Health Scotland reported that in the seven-day period from September 28 to October 4 there had been 35 positive tests for Covid-19.

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## POLICE FILES

Between midnight on September 12 and 3.30pm on October 1 at Gallanach Road, Oban, a Surly Disc Trokker mountain bike was stolen from a secure shed. Police are investigating the incident.

About 5.15pm on October 1, at the A85, Taynult, a yellow Ford Transit Van, was damaged by having the wing mirror struck by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the collision. Police are investigating.

About 6.45pm on September 26, a man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner towards another man within the Co-op Supermarket in Main Street, Bowmore. Police are investigating.

Between September 27 and midday on September 29, at Eas Brae, Tobermory, damage was caused within a woodland area. Subsequently a woman, 77, was charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

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

# Resident offers to be Ganavan ticket warden

A Ganavan resident so worried about health risks from dirty overnighters has offered to be a voluntary ticket warden, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Frank Roberts made his plea for a better managed Ganavan car park to members of Oban Community Council at its last meeting, saying residents have witnessed 'disgusting scenes' and 'wreckless behaviour' by some who camp overnight in their vehicles. He also hit out at Argyll and Bute Council as being 'wreckless not controlling this'.

On August 15, Mr Roberts counted 18 campervans and four tents pitched at the back of the beach, he said, adding: 'I'll happily volunteer to be an unpaid traffic warden. I've seen awful behaviour, some I've photographed. No one should have to deal with what some of our council employees have to deal with. My main concern is the health risk. It's been so



bad this summer that I would discourage my grandchildren from walking on the beach.'

Reports of bad behaviour have included urinating, defecating, spitting after brushing teeth, littering and vandalism.

Oban councillor Kieron Green said he realised it was 'an incredibly difficult situation' and had seen first hand some of the issues, with one unhappy camper threatening

to run him over. Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Councillors are waiting for council officials to come back to a special area committee meeting on October 14 with reports investigating and costing work required if basic services were provided for overnight campervans at Ganavan, and bring recommendations, including consultations with the community and other stakeholders so the issue can be

dealt with urgently. There was more discussions about more monitoring of the car park and ticketing of overnighters.

Councillor Green said an assurance had been given there were plans on getting people out to check every other morning but said he would ask how many mornings so far an enforcement officer has been out.

Bid4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said sending out wardens every morning and issuing tickets would generate income: 'If the council doesn't want to manage it, give it to another organisation to run it and it will be sorted out. The council is just sitting on its hands.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairperson of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, told the meeting the report on the Ganavan problem was only 'the beginning of us trying to do something to improve this intolerable situation'.

Oban community council

chairperson Marri Malloy said the best answer was 'don't turn Ganavan into a caravan park'.

Discussion followed on other options such as turning the town centre Lochavullin car park into an overnight provision with infrastructure to cope for basic needs.

But Councillor Green warned that car parks such as Lochavullin would not have the same draw: 'People will always go to Ganavan for the view.'

The meeting heard how Tobermory had put together a working committee to sort out the chaos campervans were causing the Mull village. A proposal for Oban Community Council to set up its own steering group to help find a solution for Ganavan was agreed.

Dirty camping problems are not unique to Ganavan, some campers have also been leaving rubbish and discarded equipment along Loch Creran and in Glen Etive.

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## Seafood recipe rescue for lifeboat fundraiser

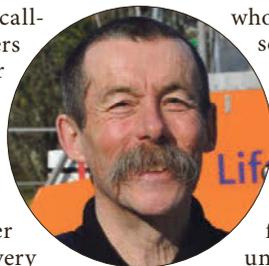
Oban Lifeboat is calling on its supporters to serve up their best seafood recipes and help raise funds.

The RNLI usually organises a social Fish Supper fundraiser every autumn encouraging families and friends to get together over fish and chips but Covid restrictions meant the charity had to come up with something new for 2020.

The plan is to hold a seafood recipe competition instead, aiming to find the best recipes then dish them out in an online recipe book called Oban Lifeboat Seafood Recipes.

Oban lifeboat's fundraising chairman Phil Hamerton, pictured, said: 'Fishing and seafood are at the heart of Oban and so is our lifeboat which is one of the busiest in Scotland. All of this combined makes us excited about this year's Fish Supper campaign.'

'We are calling on those



who love cooking seafood to enter our recipe competition and support Oban Lifeboat.'

The competition will run from October 9 until November 9, with categories divided into under 18s and over 18s.

Entrants are being asked to make a donation through the station's JustGiving page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising)

The lucky competition winners will be announced soon after the closing date with RNLI themed prizes up for grabs.

To keep up to date with RNLI fundraising activities and the recipe competition, follow Oban Lifeboat on Facebook.

**GETINTOUCH**

email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
telephone 01631 568000

# Video tribute could replace this year's Remembrance Parade

by Kathie Griffiths  
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A decision will be taken in the next couple of weeks on the fate of this year's Remembrance Parade.

Councillor Jim Lynch said there would not be a full parade as in previous years but there might be a possibility of one reduced in size.

But there is a concern even a smaller parade would still attract people wanting to watch it and social distancing could be compromised.

However, there are plans to work on a video to release as a way of marking the important commemoration.

Last year, Oban's Remembrance Day parade and poppy appeal was saved thanks to Oban Sea Cadets



Last year's Remembrance parade attracted about 400 people.

remembrance parade along the esplanade from the Corran Halls to the war memorial where wreaths were laid.

Oban Community Council members also heard at their meeting on September 24 that on advice from Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health department there would be no fireworks in November or at Hogmanay, no reindeer parade or Christmas lights switch on.

The meeting was told the decision had not been taken lightly but was reassured the town will still be lit up for the festive season and there will be Christmas trees.

and Councillor Lynch who took it on.

Previously organised by the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL), the traditional Armistice Day events, held to remember members of the

armed forces who died in the line of duty, were put in jeopardy after the local RBL officially closed its doors in February 2019.

### Wreaths

About 400 people turned out to join in and watch last year's

## Tributes paid following death of Councillor Ellen Morton

Tributes have been paid to Councillor Ellen Morton, who died at the weekend.

Councillor Robin Currie, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'It is with huge sadness that we learned of the death of Councillor Morton.'

'Ellen worked tirelessly to benefit Argyll and Bute. She brought energy and passion to the debating chamber, she was never afraid to speak her mind and she focused unwaveringly on doing the best possible for our communities. We will miss her. We send our heartfelt wishes to Ellen's family and, most especially, to our colleague Councillor Aileen Morton at this very sad time.'

Councillor Morton served as a councillor in Argyll and Bute for 21 years.

Pippa Milne, chief executive, said: 'Ellen was a councillor longer than many of us have worked for the council, so it's difficult to imagine the council without her.'

'Ellen never lost sight of the fact that things don't just happen, that progress depends on the hard work and commitment of our employees. She



Councillor Morton had served on Argyll and Bute Council in many roles for 21 years.

worked closely with employees in services across the council. We will remember with gratitude Ellen's drive for success. Our thoughts and warmest wishes are with Councillor Aileen Morton and wider family.'

During her time as a councillor, Councillor Morton served as deputy leader of the council, as spokesperson for education and sat on a number of council committees, including social work and criminal justice and licensing.

A particular interest for her was economic development and infrastructure and her most recent senior political role with the council was pol-

icy lead and later deputy policy lead for roads, infrastructure services and special projects. She shared her expertise in this field outwith Argyll and Bute, serving as the first chairperson of the Northern Roads Collaboration, which was established in 2018 to bring a number of Scottish councils together to explore innovation and potential for shared services and expertise.

Councillor Morton also represented Argyll and Bute on a number of external organisations ranging from the Board of Scottish Legal Aid to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority Board.

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# Marathon woman Jeltje steps out for charity

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



An NHS worker put her best foot forward to walk the virtual London marathon last weekend as a thank you to the health service that worked wonders for her.

Two years into remission from blood cancer Lymphoma and Jeltje Danhof, who lives on Seil, took on the 26.2-mile challenge to heighten awareness of the disease and raise funds for the 'brilliant' Lymphoma Action charity that gave her family, friends and herself enormous help after her diagnosis.

Jeltje, who at first put her symptoms down to just working hard, pulled on her walking boots last Sunday, October 4, and set out on two laps of the Isle of Coll where her boyfriend Niall Holland

Jeltje was raising money for cancer charity Lymphoma Action.



lives. Niall, along with Jeltje's loyal pet Labrador Tess, had been planning to join her for 'some, most or all of the way', she said.

Training by trekking through forestry routes round Luing and other coastal routes and pathways only started six weeks ago and Jeltje, who is vegan, planned to fuel up with plenty dates.

The virtual challenge can be done within 24 hours but Jeltje was aiming for just eight.

One in five young people diagnosed with cancer have Lymphoma, the most common form of cancer in teenagers. Symptoms can include itching, fatigue and weight loss.

Jeltje's rare form of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma was treated with a combination of

chemo and immunotherapy. 'The time after diagnosis and during treatment was not easy, but I am now two years in remission. Hooray. Thanks to clever scientists who invented this combination of chemo and immunotherapy I am here to tell the tale,' she wrote on her [www.gofundme.com/f/jeltje-vs-262-miles-against-lymphoma](http://www.gofundme.com/f/jeltje-vs-262-miles-against-lymphoma)

Just six weeks after finishing chemo she decided to walk the Coll Half Marathon and soon after that took up running again and says she is 'loving it'.

'I decided to walk this virtual challenge but my next goal is to run one another time,' said Jeltje, who has already smashed her £500 target reaching £1,425 this week.

Visit [www.lymphoma-action.org.uk](http://www.lymphoma-action.org.uk) to find out more about the charity Jeltje is supporting.

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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## WHERE IS THIS?



Autumn is definitely here. It is one of my favourite seasons and one of the best for this area as the colours are amazing and the crisp, clear days are great for clomping through fallen leaves.

Even the dreich days have something to offer with soft greys and misty hills.

Many of us are guilty of taking the world around us for granted but with the number of people being diagnosed positive for Covid-19 rising again, our landscape is one of the huge advantages of living here.

Walking and being surrounded by nature and beauty are one of the most positive things you can do for your mental health. Even a walk in the pouring rain has benefits. It's a lovely feeling arriving home soaked through and getting dry and warm again.

We're surrounded by lovely places to walk, even around the town, and if you're able to leave the town the options are endless, with lots of great forestry walks within a short

drive. If you're looking for inspiration on where to go, there is a great Facebook page called Wee Walks Oban which has lots of ideas and some great photographs to make you want to get out there.

I'd highly recommend walking to make everything look and feel better. On your own, with a dog or a friend, there's no better way to make you feel physically and mentally better and the beauty of our area and this season make this a perfect time to start.

The photograph last week was just as you turn into Stevenson Street from George Street. This week's is slightly easier I think.

## Stick to the guidelines and help Oban businesses thrive

People are being urged to follow Covid guidelines to help keep the town's businesses thriving, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Reporting to Oban Community Council on the latest impact of Covid, Councillor Kieron Green said although there was nothing significant to report case wise from Oban, the virus is recurring in Argyll and Bute.

He mentioned the outbreak linked to Kilcreggan Bowling Club earlier last month. The virus was also confirmed at Kilcreggan Primary School, where there was one case on September 24.

'It doesn't take much for it to happen. It's important everyone complies with the regulations. It is in our own interests and if everyone complies it maximises the chances that businesses in our town can stay open for the rest of the season,' he said.

Bid4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said later: 'We need everyone to behave, to queue properly outside takeaways and comply with the new licensing hours. If we all work



BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence.

together we will get through this.'

Mr Spence is predicting a busy October fortnight during the holidays that start at the weekend.

'Looking at bookings, there seems to be a lot of people wanting to come to the town. It's going to be busier than it normally is during the October holidays,' he said.

National guidance was followed and close contacts of the confirmed cases at Kilcreggan were identified and advised to

stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days after the outbreak there.

Dr Tim Allison, NHS Highland's Director of Public Health, said: 'NHS Highland's Health Protection Team has undertaken further investigations including case follow-up and contact tracing. We are also continuing to work closely with Kilcreggan Medical Practice which has been closely involved with the outbreak response.'

He advised: 'Anyone who is unwell, even if only mildly symptomatic, should isolate. You should arrange a test if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or if you have been asked to get a test by NHS Highland's Health Protection Team.'

'It is important we do not become complacent and that we continue to follow the national guidance to keep you and others safe. This includes physical distancing, wearing a face-covering when in enclosed spaces, cleaning your hands and surfaces regularly and immediately self-isolating if you develop symptoms.'

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

OT

## Community support for possible Kilbowie buyout

Oban Community Council has pledged its full support for a community buy out of Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Community councillor Laura Corbe updated the town's community council on the latest move to save the centre at Gallanach from the bulldozers.

The September 24 meeting heard efforts under the Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise group were ongoing with talks to find out if a community buy out could be viable with financial help from the Scottish Land Fund.

An emergency motion calling for a halt on plans to demolish the centre is due to be heard at a full meeting of North Lanarkshire Council tomorrow (October 8) to help buy more time to preserve the centre due to go up for sale as a cleared site later this year.

Oban community council chairperson Marri Malloy said: 'Oban Community Council will give its full support.'

Inquiries are also being made to see if there is any legal mention in Kilbowie documents that say the centre should be maintained for educational use, the meeting was told.

# Oban 'staycation' parking warning

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban parking solutions need to be ready for next year's staycationers, business group boss Andrew Spence has warned.

Speaking to members of the town's community council at its September meeting, Mr Spence, who is Bid4Oban's chief executive, said next year is bound to bring in huge numbers of UK visitors because of the Covid pandemic.

Instead of foreign travel, people will be holidaying nearer home. 'We need to get prepared,' he said, calling for traffic and parking solutions to ease congestion in the town to be in place for the 2021 tourist season.

'We need to get dialogue going with council officers and resolve these problems once and for all,' he added.

Motorists clogging up streets



Andrew Spence says Lochavullin car park could be used by workers instead of it standing virtually empty every day.

car parking regime where you could let people park free for the first 30 minutes before starting enforcement. On George Street, make it a maximum of one hour parking giving people time to go to the bank or shops then free up the space for someone else.

'We need to get serious about this and have it in place for next year. At the moment we don't have the option in town for more than 24 hours parking for people going off on ferries.'

'We also need to look at the possibility of Lochavullin car park, which stands empty every day, being used for parking by workers who could pay just a couple of pounds to leave their vehicles there,' he added.

and snatching priority spaces have added to the town's congestion over the years in the peak season.

During last Monday's community council meeting, community councillor Laura Corbe also raised the possibility of a park-and-ride set-up on the edge of town as one way

of tackling some of Oban's parking issues. Mr Spence later told The Oban Times talks that started in 2018 to improve parking in the town 'didn't appear to be any further forward'.

'We need to upgrade payment machines and need to look at introducing a proper

## POLICE FILES

■ About 2.45am on September 28, in Shore Street, Oban, a man, 33, was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of cocaine.

The man was charged and a report sent to the fiscal.

■ At 1.50am on September 29 at Benderloch, a man, 44, was arrested and charged for behaving in an abusive

manner and assault. He was held for court.

■ A 21-year-old male driver of a black Honda Civic was charged with careless driving after he was involved in a collision at 3am on September 19 on the A85 near Dunbeg.

Two people were injured in the collision.

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# New Scottish Legislation for Fire and Smoke Alarms

Scottish legislation has changed. Introduced in February 2019, the change applies to all households in Scotland and must be met by February 2021. The new Scottish legislation states that an interlinked Fire and Smoke alarm system must be fitted in your property and that there should be adequate Carbon Monoxide protection.

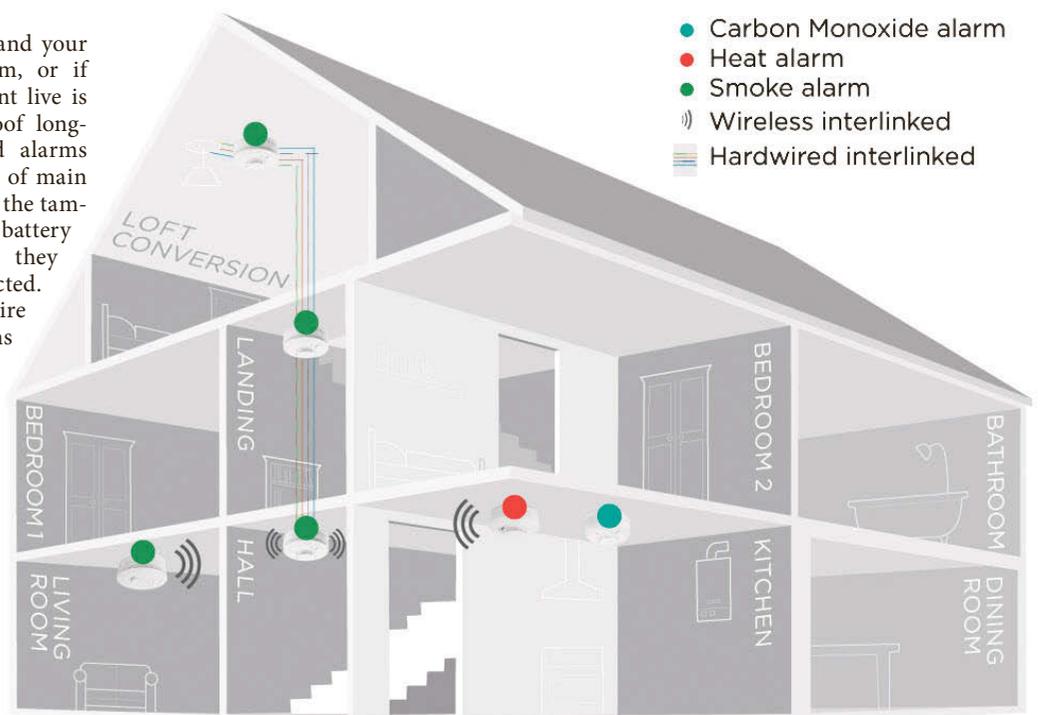
This legislative change to the Tolerable Standard covers all homes, both in the private and social housing sectors. The standard now requires a fully interlinked LD2 Fire and Smoke alarm system:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen

Fire and Smoke alarms must be interconnected and this can be achieved via traditional cabling methods or wirelessly. This new legislation also requires a Carbon Monoxide detector to be installed where there is a fuel-burning appliance (such as boilers, fires, heaters and stoves) or where there is a flue. Homeowners and landlords must comply to the new Scottish legislation by February 2021.

If you already have Fire and Smoke alarms installed in your property, check that they are interlinked. If you have an alarm system but it does not currently meet the new requirements, you can expand your system with wireless interconnection. By having an interlinked system, the whole alarm system will be triggered if one alarm is activated meaning you are alerted immediately in the event of a fire.

If you need to expand your current alarm system, or if access to a permanent live is difficult, tamper proof long-life battery powered alarms can be used in place of main powered alarms with the tamper proof long-life battery back-up, providing they can be interconnected. The Aico 600 Series Fire and Smoke alarms are battery powered units that meet this requirement, whereas the Aico 3000 Series is the mains powered equivalent.



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OT

# Rescued from Bosnia: can you help?

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Heart of gold nurse Jayne Mahmoud is looking for new homes for six dogs she rescued from Bosnia.

Away from her day job caring for cardiac patients at Oban hospital, Jayne puts all her heart into giving dogs a second chance at life.

In a gap of six years while living in Yorkshire, she once saved 256 dogs from cruelty, in the last year alone in Oban she has helped 12 more find better health and new happiness.

Involved heavily in a charity called Paws In Our Hearts, Jayne brought home six new furry friends to look after until they get new owners.

In Bosnia and Romania, stray and abandoned dogs are caught and held in privately-owned dog compounds, where they are treated barbarically with no compassion, says Jayne. Volunteers doing their best for them are their only hope of survival.

Working with the Paws In



Left, volunteers give the dogs a bath and a bit of pampering ready to find them new homes; below right, the six dogs just arrived in Oban from Bosnia; and below left, Jayne picking up some of the six dogs rescued from Bosnia.



Our Hearts charity, Jayne was able to pick six out of 115 dogs being looked after at a shelter in Sarajevo and organise their safe and legal journey to Scotland.

After time in quarantine, health checks, clearance from DEFRA (The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and 48 hours respite following their long bus journey from Bosnia - Jayne was finally able to go and pick them up from Ayrshire on Saturday.

'They were all chosen specifically for their character. Two of the dogs lived in the house of the lady who ran the shelter and has her own grandchildren living with her, three others were sponsored by members of the charity. They are all nice sociable dogs, two are a bit timid and there are sisters. Among them are Collie crosses, Labrador types and one that is like a miniature St Bernard!' said Jayne.

She added: 'Even though we know quite a lot about them there's no guarantee how they will be in their new homes, but I will assess them while they're

with me and try to find them the best homes I can with a bit of help from The Oban Times telling our story.

'Some need a nice quiet home because they have been through so much trauma and some are fun dogs and would be fine fitting in with a family.'

Once found, the new owners will be asked to pay a donation for the dog and that money will go straight back into the fundraising pot to help rescue other dogs either from abroad or from this country.

There are now more than 200 people in the Paws In Our Hearts group, including some members from the Oban area, and it relies on a stalwart core of volunteers such as Jayne and much-needed funds from supportive well-wishers.

Experienced foster carers would also be welcome to get in touch says Jayne who has dogs of her own.

To find out more about offering one of the dogs a full-time home or to show interest in becoming a foster home, email pawsinourhearts@gmail.com

## Sixteen staff redundant after Islay hotel closes

A historic hotel on Islay has officially closed with 16 people losing their jobs, writes Ellis Butcher.

The 11-room Bridgend Hotel, dating back more than 150 years, suffered 'heavy losses' during lockdown, with staff now informed it has shut for the 'foreseeable' future.

Hotel owners and major land holders, the Islay Estates Company, has given staff notice to leave accommodation.

A source said that due to the housing shortage on Islay, some staff offered to pay rent in order to stay on.

The company said it had been 'understanding' of the living arrangements of former hotel staff.

It said: 'Of the 16 members of staff that were made redundant, three lived in tied accommodation.'

'One person requested an extension to the contractual notice regarding accommodation, which we agreed to immediately, granting a licence to occupy until mid-January, in addition to being offered a choice of two properties to move on to.'

'The other staff affected have not expressed any con-

cerns over accommodation.' In a statement, the company said: 'Like many hospitality businesses in Islay and around the world, the Bridgend Hotel has incurred heavy losses due to the pandemic.'

'In a normal year summer profits would sustain the business until the spring of the next year.'

'With losses instead of profits during the summer months - and with little prospect of the commercial environment improving for a hotel like ours - it is with great regret that we have made the unavoidable decision to close the Bridgend Hotel for the foreseeable future; a highly regrettable consequence being that all hotel staff have been made redundant.'

'We thank all hotel staff for their commitment in the months preceding closure.'

The Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) has warned that the industry employs 3.2 million people in the UK and brought in eight per cent of GDP.

It said the pandemic had hit the hospitality, leisure and tourism industries hard with at least 900,000 jobs 'at risk'.



## Oban homes made toasty for winter

A delegation has toured streets in Oban to check on the progress of a major energy efficiency project to warm 633 homes.

In its simplest form, the £6 million programme 'wraps a blanket' around the house to cut costly fuel bills, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint.

Improvements are being made to homes identified to have high heat loss and poor thermal efficiency.

On Monday, eight representatives checked out the project as work takes place homes on Glencruitten Drive and Mossfield Avenue.

The party included representatives from Argyll Community

Housing Association, Argyll and Bute Council and co-ordinating contractors SSE.

Kenneth Adam, business development manager for SSE, said: 'The main objective is to tackle fuel poverty because you have people who are spending so much money just now on high cost electricity and gas bills because they have poor insulation.'

As well as new roofs, the face of homes are being studded with warm blocks of fireproof external wall insulation from as thick as 3.5in to 5.9in and with a 25-year guarantee. They are then layered with a skim coating, a mesh, a final skim coating and a dash finish to complete the look.

The project is jointly funded by ACHA, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), the Scottish Government and

Argyll and Bute Council. The latter secured a grant totalling £1 million from the government to help extend it to private owners.

A total of 262 ACHA homes along with 371 in private ownership will benefit.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said the works would have a 'massive impact' on fuel poverty in Oban.

Mr MacGregor said: 'I would like to thank the team working of the various stakeholders in bringing this together.'

It has provided work for three contracting firms bringing more than 190 staff to Oban with a knock-on economic boost.

'I also believe there will be a considerable benefit to the local economy in these challenging times,' said Mr MacGregor.

## Representatives from SSE, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA check out the project's progress on Monday.

Independent councillor Roddy McCuish, deputy provost and chairman of ACHA, was among the delegation.

He said it would help 'transform' houses and he only wished they could do more.

'My only plea is that we can continue to do this good work as there are a lot of houses needing done and I urge that if there is any further funding coming forward we use it for this effect.'

Councillor Robin Currie, council leader, said: 'One of the simplest and most effective ways we can reduce carbon emissions is to ensure our homes are properly insulated.'

'Preventing heat escaping means being able to turn down the thermostat by a few degrees.'

'That is not only good news for householder pockets it's good news for the planet as well.'

The project is programmed to run in two phases and is due for completion in March 2021, weather permitting.

It takes in areas throughout Oban, including Mossfield, Glencruitten, homes in the vicinity of Oban High School, Soroba, Soroba Road and Dunollie.



## Rockfield Primary appoints senior leadership team

Rockfield Primary School has elected their Senior pupil Leadership Team for the session 2020-2021.

The candidates had to fill out an application form and then attend a group interview with members of the school leadership and staff.

Rockfield Primary School head teacher Caroline Fothergill said: "The pupils had wonderfully creative ideas and suggestions to support and take the school forward in these unprecedented times.

"We are so proud of them all – our captains, vice captains and Rockfield ambassadors. Well done to you all."



## Bringing You CRAZY Special Offers From Thursday 8th October

<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 1</b> Any 10" Pizza + 10" Margherita served with Chips, Onion Rings, 2 Sauces + 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£9.95</b></p>	<p><b>CURRY EXPRESS 1</b> Vegetable Pakora, Chicken Curry, Korma OR Bhoona, Rice &amp; Nan <b>£8.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>	<p><b>EUROPEAN BOX</b> Veg Pakora, 2 Veg Samosa, 2 Veg Spring Rolls, 2 Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings, Chips, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£8.99</b></p>	<p><b>Kids Express 1</b> Chips, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings and Fruit Shoot <b>£3.95</b></p>	<p><b>FAMILY EXPRESS 1</b> Chicken Curry, Korma, OR Bhoona, Rice, 10" Margherita Pizza, Chips &amp; Donner, Cheese Burger with Chips &amp; 2L Pepsi <b>£19.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>
<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 2</b> Any 12" Pizza + 12" Margherita served with Chips, Wedges, Onion Rings, 2 Sauces + 2 Pepsi 500ml <b>£12.95</b></p>	<p><b>CURRY EXPRESS 2</b> Vegetable Pakora, Any Special, Karahi OR Balti Dish, Rice &amp; Nan <b>£9.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>	<p><b>GREEDY BOX</b> Mixed Pakora, 2 Mince Samosa, 2 Mince Spring Rolls, Chips, Popcorn Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£9.99</b></p>	<p><b>KIDS EXPRESS 2</b> Chips, Popcorn Chicken, 2 Mozzarella Sticks and 12oz Ice Cream Shake <b>£4.95</b></p>	<p><b>FAMILY EXPRESS 2</b> Mixed Pakora, Any Special, Karahi or Balti Dish, Rice, 12" Rosara Pizza, Donner Kebab Chips &amp; Cheese and 2L Pepsi <b>£22.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>
<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 3</b> Any 14" Pizza + 12" Garlic Bread with Cheese served with Chips, Wedges, Onion Rings, 4 Sauces + Pepsi 2L <b>£17.95</b></p>	<p><b>SHARING CURRY EXPRESS</b> Mixed Pakora, Any 2 Chicken Dishes, Rice &amp; Nan, Slice of Chocolate Fudge Cake &amp; 2 Cans Pepsi <b>£17.99</b> (Lamb +£2)</p>	<p><b>MEATY BOX</b> Chicken Pakora, Battered Chicken Fillet, Spicy Chicken Fillet, Popcorn Chicken, Chicken Bites, Chicken Wings, Chips, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£11.99</b></p>	<p><b>Sharing Kids Express</b> 10" Margherita, Chips, Onion Rings, Popcorn Chicken and 2 12oz Ice Cream Shakes <b>£9.95</b></p>	<p><b>Family Express 3</b> Mixed Pakora, Any Chicken Dish, Rice &amp; Nan, King Donner Nan, 12" Hawaiian OR Pepperoni Pizza + Chips, Cheese &amp; Chicken Nuggets and 2L Pepsi <b>£29.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>

Let's get going >

# Let's get ready for new

The way the UK does business with Europe changes from January 1, heralding a new start for the small and medium-sized companies. Let's get businesses ready to take advantage of new opportunities ...

A NEW year, a new start. The UK has left the EU and will leave the single market and customs union at the end of transition period on December 31 2020.

This means changes in the way the UK does business with Europe and companies need to be ready to make the most of new opportunities.

While the final form of that relationship is still being established in negotiations between the UK and the EU, there are important preparations that all businesses should be making now in order to head off potential problems.

The UK Government has put a range of support measures in place.

If you run a business, it is important that you check what you need to do now. To make the process easy the UK Government has set up the [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) website. Here you will find all the information, tools, advice and checklists you need.

It includes how to continue trading to and from the EU. These rules also apply to importing goods from the rest of the world.

You can find out how commodities – wine, hops, eggs, poultry meat, beef and veal, fruit and vegetables – meet the requirements for export to the EU from January 1 2021.

There is also information and what to do if your employees need a visa or work permit and whether they meet the professional requirements for the country they're travelling to.



**SUPPORT MEASURES:** The UK Government announced a £705 million funding package for border infrastructure, staffing and IT.

The site includes information for all business types including advanced manufacturing and services like aerospace and electronics, agriculture, animals, fisheries and forestry; business and personal services, charities and voluntary organisations, construction and environmental services, defence, entertainment, education, transport and tourism.

The UK Government has also implemented other measures including introducing new border controls in stages up until July 1 2021 and providing more than



*The UK Government has put a range of support measures in place, including introducing new border controls, and providing more than £80 million to boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector.*

£80 million to boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector.

It has announced a £705 million funding package for border infrastructure, staffing and IT to ensure border systems are fully operational when the UK takes back control of its border after the end of transition.

As well as the [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) website, trade associations, chambers of commerce and business support groups also offer valuable support.

Now is the time to put the right preparations in place.

## Ensure you are prepared

Make sure your business is ready for the end of transition period by visiting [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

Check tariffs that will apply to goods you import at [gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021)

For more information on staff travel, work and providing services to any country in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland from 2021 visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)



# Check, Change, Go

# way of doing business



**LOOKING AHEAD:** REIDsteel Managing Director Simon Boyd is 'incredibly positive' about the new start.

## 'We aim to make the most of new opportunities'

One firm looking forward to new opportunities the new year will bring is John Reid & Sons Ltd (REIDsteel).

Managing Director Simon Boyd said: "We are incredibly positive about the new start, not only for our business but also for the UK economy. International trade is in the DNA of our company from its birth over a century ago to the modern day."

His £30 million turnover structural steel company has exported to more than 140 countries to date, directly employing 130 staff and at peak times providing work for 400 subcontractors.

"I believe it is a tremendous opportunity to restore British Standards to their rightful position as a hallmark of excellence worldwide while giving a shot in the arm to British manufacturing," continued the MD.

"We will be seeking to invest as a company and take full advantage of the benefits the new start will bring, allowing us to improve productivity, create jobs, grow our business, ultimately boosting the economy and Great Britain's place in the world."

REIDsteel is well versed in the

intricacies of trading in the European Union and worldwide, having drawn on its own expertise while also utilising UK Government resources such as the gov.uk/transition website for detailed planning to ensure business continuity in the days, weeks and months leading up to December 31 as well as for longer term strategic considerations.

REIDsteel has long-standing plans in place to capitalise on the benefits the new start will bring, including a multi-million-pound new manufacturing facility.

Mr Boyd said: "We immediately hit the go button on our long-held plans for a new manufacturing facility once the country voted to leave the EU. It will considerably boost the company's productivity, allow us to create more jobs, take our apprenticeship programme to the next level, provide more work for firms in our supply chain and grow our business."

"But, more than that, we see it is a vote of confidence in Great Britain. We are an ambitious company, both for ourselves and the country. This gives us the potential to achieve those ambitions."

REIDsteel has used home products for

most of its history but consolidated that in December when it made British Steel its primary supplier.

Mr Boyd continued: "We do trade in Europe, but not as much as we would like, as the bureaucracy and protectionism that has built up over many years can make it extremely difficult."

"The gov.uk/transition site does the hard work by identifying key issues of concern for individual businesses."

"Many businesses could be forgiven for wanting to switch off but it is critical that they engage," added Mr Boyd.

"It is not too late to get to grips with the issues involved, and the gov.uk/transition site is the best place to start."

"With its interactive format it will only

“

*We are an ambitious company, both for ourselves and the country. This gives us the potential to achieve those ambitions.*

present the relevant issues affecting a business, which means a hard-pressed director or time-poor SME boss doesn't have to plough through reams of information.

"It serves as a checklist of issues to consider or address, but also has links to other government resources for relevant information."

"But, more than that, it can also serve as inspiration for potential business opportunities after transition or for ways to improve business efficiency or productivity."

"I would encourage all firms to view this move positively and take advantage of the support on offer from the UK Government."

To find out more about the UK's new start  
go to [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

Let's get going >

OT

# Battered and bewildered

Lesmahagow	5
Oban Saints	0
Division 1B	

A depleted Oban Saints side missing a host of key players made the long trip to Dalziel Park, Motherwell, last Saturday to complete the D&K Lafferty sponsored side's 2019-20 Central Scottish AFL Division 1B fixtures.

With the league title already in the bag, the only incentive for manager Willie Gemmell's makeshift squad was to make it 12 wins out of 12 and end their debut league season with a 100 per cent record.

Hosts Lesmahagow still harboured hopes of joining Saints in gaining promotion to the Premier Division, but knew that only three wins from their three remaining fixtures would be good enough to achieve that goal.

Unfortunately for Saints there was to be no perfect end to the season with Lesmahagow putting in their best performance of the season to secure the points.

Former Rangers man Jordan McCrorie gave an early indi-

cation of the danger he would pose on the 'Gow' right and only a well-timed sliding interception from Scott Maitland halted a promising sixth minute attack from the hosts.

From the resulting throw-in, a deflected shot from Daryl Meikle forced the first corner kick of the afternoon. McCrorie's delivery from the right was met by Steven MacLeod, however, his header under pressure went back across the six-yard box and was thumped into the net by the unmarked Meikle.

The hosts doubled their advantage five minutes later in similar circumstances when Robbie Kilpatrick tucked a near post flick-on under Jamie Strachan from close range.

Craig MacEwan took responsibility for a 14th minute free-kick but, despite successfully lifting the ball over the five man wall, was unable to direct his effort on target.

The visitors found themselves 3-0 down when the wall obligingly jumped high enough for Darren Smith to drill a fierce low free kick beyond Jamie Strachan's despairing right hand. Strachan's struggles

with the difficult conditions continued in the 28th minute when the big keeper allowed the greasy ball to squirm from his grasp for the unmarked Jordan McCrorie to tuck the ball into the unguarded net to put the hosts four goals ahead at the interval.

The second half was only seven minutes old when Kerr Newbigging's tightening



Willie Gemmell tries to lift his players at half time.

hamstring forced him off with Willie Gemmell having to fill the void in the back four.

Gemmell had only been on the pitch for three minutes when his illegal attempt to halt Jordan Callan's run to meet a Jordan McCrorie free-kick saw referee Gunning point to the penalty spot.

Darren Smith expertly dispatched the spot kick into the bottom corner

Sadly lacking any creative midfield spark, Saints introduced Donald Campbell at the expense of Cammy Hill.

Campbell's influence gave Saints a boost and brought them within inches of snatching a consolation goal when he clattered Fraser Campbell's right hand upright with a fierce strike from 22 yards.

The brief Saints' resurgence fizzled out and the home side comfortably saw out the closing minutes for a thoroughly deserved victory.

Saints have no fixture this weekend and will use the free date to regroup for the massive challenge which awaits in the Central Scottish AFL Premier Division.

Manager Willie Gemmell said: 'Although we had a lot of players missing, I refuse to use that as an excuse. We were outplayed and outfought in every department which was disappointing. We were nowhere near good enough and this should be a big wake up call for all the boys, otherwise it could be a long, hard season.'



Maud Marshall and the victorious ladies team with the Dalmally Challenge Shield.

## Ladies get even at Dalmally

Following a couple of years in abeyance, the Dalmally Challenge Shield was revived last year.

The new format of Ladies versus Gents was an average Stableford score to compensate for different sizes of team.

In 2019, the gents narrowly beat the ladies.

However, last Sunday it was time for the ladies to get even – even if it was by the narrowest of margins.

With the ladies scoring an average of 27 Stableford points and the Gents 26.9, the competition couldn't have been closer.

But with a beautiful day and perfect course conditions, the important thing, according to the gents, was taking part.

As well as the shield being presented to the winning ladies team, prizes were awarded to Maud Marshall as leading lady on 38 points and jointly to Lewis MacMillan and Gary Wilson, top men on 33 points each.

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# Nadja's 'outstanding' contribution to Oban student life is recognised

An ocean enthusiast from Germany has been named student of the year at Oban's Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI. Nadja Hohenadl won the award after making an 'outstanding' contribution to student life.

In the past year, the 23-year-old became one of SAMS UHI's first student ambassadors, performed the role of class representative and chaired the student diving club.

The third-year student, who is specialising in Oceanography with Robotics as part of her degree, was also praised for her academic achievements despite the pressures of Covid-19 lockdown. She will now be considered for the overall University of the Highlands and Islands Student of the Year prize.



Nadja said: 'I am very proud to have been chosen as the SAMS UHI Student of the Year 2020. It is a great honour.

'SAMS is a loved and family-like place to me and I believe there is no better place to study the world's oceans.'

'The past year was challeng-

ing as lockdown measures came into force, but quarantine and studying from home showed me a different perspective on the fast-paced world we find ourselves in.

#### Supportive

'The staff and wider SAMS community has been very supportive and I want to

Nadja will now be considered for the overall University of the Highlands and Islands Student of the Year award.

thank them all for making this time unforgettable.'

As one of the first SAMS UHI Student Ambassadors, Nadja has helped promote SAMS UHI and the BSc Marine Science programme by sharing her passion for the marine environment. In this role, she attended careers fairs and school events and presented at open days.

Marine Science BSc programme leader Dr John Howe said: 'Nadja is nominated for university undergraduate student of the year due to her outstanding contribution to student life at SAMS and her excellent academic performance.'

'It is no mean feat to balance

social and academic life, but Nadja has achieved this with remarkable poise and good humour.

'Nadja joined the BSc Marine Science programme in 2018 and immediately made an impact as a student who asked the difficult questions, volunteered to help out at open days and evening events and became involved in student clubs and societies.'

Shona Magill, SAMS UHI Head of Student Services, said: 'Nadja is creative and brings boundless enthusiasm to everything she does.'

'She is, no doubt, an incredible asset to SAMS UHI and a delight to have on campus.'

**GETINTOUCH**

email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
telephone 01631 568000

## Flat trouble leads to fine

Oban Sheriff Court heard how a man played a 'minor part' in a disturbance at a flat in town.

Darren MacIntyre, aged 45, of Hillside, 5B Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, admitted threatening or abusive behaviour by acting aggressively towards three men and shouting and swearing at them.

The incident happened on March 1 this year. MacIntyre and a friend visited the flat in the afternoon, three other men were there and all were watching television.

'An incident happened which quickly raised tensions in the flat,' said procurator fiscal David Glancy.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said MacIntyre was trying to avoid getting involved with what was taking place. When his friend was put out of the flat, MacIntyre feared the three men might turn on him.

'He was under the influence of alcohol and misinterpreted what was going to happen after his friend was put out,' he said. Sheriff Patrick Hughes said he recognised MacIntyre's involvement had been minimal and fined him £130 with a £10 victim surcharge.

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## Your new guide to mental health organisations and support groups

The Mental Health Directory for Oban Lorn and the Inner Isles is a new website, developed by the local community for the local community. Hope Kitchen have worked in partnership with the Mental Health Forum to compile this vital resource. It features local, national and UK wide services that can support people to get help, better understand their own mental health and hopefully remove barriers for those who don't know what is available in the area. It relies on feedback and so if anyone knows of a service they think should be added or any changes that need to be made please email [olimentalhealthdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:olimentalhealthdirectory@gmail.com)

"If you suffer from mental health problems, one of the most important things you need is clear access to what you should do and what help is available, whether you're a patient or caring for someone. The difficulty in getting that information is what drove me to initiate the OLI Mental Health Directory. My hope would be that it can be replicated in other areas." Alan Livingstone, Forum member and Directory Developer.

"The value of being able to find information easily in one place cannot be underestimated. This website is simple and easy to navigate but packed with essential local information and will provide its users with up-to-date information on what's available in the area. I very much hope to be involved in the development of a similar resource for Kintyre." Acumen, Sarah McFadzean



"I welcome this initiative, The Directory provides a clear and straightforward opportunity for those in need of help and support, to access information quickly and easily." Elaine Robertson –Councillor

"We provide respite for Unpaid Carers in Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Caring for someone can and does affect the Carers mental health and well-being... being part of the directory will hopefully help Carers see the support they can get from us and other organisations in this area." Joan Best, Crossroads

"The Mental Health Directory is a great step forward for the local community, especially at this time when mental health is very much at the forefront of individuals concerns as the consequence of Covid – 19. This especially applies to those who have had a diagnosis with life changing/ life limiting illness as well bereavement." Peter Darling, The Dove Centre

## Introducing the new OLI Mental Health Directory

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

Providing information on mental health resources available to those living in Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles

For more information check out Oban FM 103.3 Mental Health Musing with MER

Photo by Eilidh Livingstone Art & Photography [www.eilidhlivingstonephotography.com](http://www.eilidhlivingstonephotography.com)

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OT

# Online Mòd 2020 strikes an international chord

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A National Mòd like no other is tuning up to reach out to national and international audiences this week.

An Comunn Gàidhealach will be hosting The Royal National Mòd 2020 online, between October 9 and 17.

The event will showcase the best of Gaelic language, music and culture, featuring video performances from junior and senior participants across a range of different art forms.

Six special compilation programmes showcasing performances will be broadcast via The Royal National Mòd's social media channels on selected days of the online festival, as well as a programme of other exciting online fringe events.

Like many other events and festivals, this year's Royal National Mòd, due to take place in Inverness in October, fell victim to the on-going coronavirus pandemic. An Comunn Gàidhealach took the decision in June to hold an online version of Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail.

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, junior and senior participants have recorded performances in their respective categories and submitted them online.

The full list of disciplines,



including singing, bàrdachd, instrumental and highland dancing categories, can be found at The Royal National Mòd's social media channels, listed below, as well as further information on the Virtual Mòd performances.

In addition to the performances of the youngsters and adults taking part in the Mòd, a programme of exciting online events has been organised

to run alongside the online celebration.

James Graham, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'Like everyone else in the Mòd community, we were saddened we are unable to come together in person this year in Inverness for the Royal National Mòd.'

'However, we are excited to engage with our Gaelic community, albeit online, and

celebrate our language and culture in this way.

'The current situation in which we find ourselves presents opportunities to be creative and engage with others using a different approach.'

'Putting this together has been a massive team effort, with our volunteers stepping forward to help in any way they could.'

'It has been a massive learn-

**James Graham, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, is excited about this year's virtual Mòd.**

ing experience for everyone involved.'

Huge interest in the event has already been shown, with Gaelic communities from all over the world ready to join in.

Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, added: 'We are very proud to invite you to join us at the first Virtual Royal National Mòd, with international participants.'

'We are excited to be able to engage with audiences in this way and celebrate our language and culture despite the current challenges facing the arts.'

'The situation in which we find ourselves presents opportunities to be creative and engage with others using a different approach and the virtual Mòd is an example of this.'

'I hope everyone enjoys this unique event and we look forward to seeing you hale and hearty in Inverness a year from now.'

An Comunn Gàidhealach is delighted to be continuing its association with Caledonian MacBrayne and to have its support as a main sponsor for this unique event. Caledonian

MacBrayne's commercial director Diane Burke, said: 'We have been involved with the Royal National Mòd for many years. It is a fantastic way to show support for the Gaelic community and culture. We hope the format in 2020 will bring the event to a large global audience.'

The planned Inverness Mòd will now take place between October 8 and 16 2021, with the dates for other host areas as follows: Perth, October 14-22 2022; Paisley - October 13-21 2023; Oban - October 2024 - dates to be confirmed when 2024 school term dates become available.

All events from this year's virtual event will be shown on Facebook [www.facebook.com/RoyalNationalMod](http://www.facebook.com/RoyalNationalMod) and on the Royal National Mòd YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4-a-mCvJ1l8LO8ErbB4A](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4-a-mCvJ1l8LO8ErbB4A).

Mòd memories to look back on will be shown throughout the week on Facebook and Instagram [www.instagram.com/royalnationalmod](http://www.instagram.com/royalnationalmod)

To find out more information on The Royal National Mòd Online 2020 event visit [www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk)

**READMORE**  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## We would love to hear from you about your Mòd experience

The excitement is rising as everyone in Gaeldom prepares to enjoy the 2020 Royal National Mòd, writes Susan Windram.

But this will be a Mòd like no other. Due to coronavirus, rather than taking place in Inverness, this year's Mòd is taking place virtually, with performances being showcased online via the The Royal National Mòd's social media channels.

And because the Mòd itself has had to adapt to the challenges, so too has The Oban Times' coverage.

The Oban Times prides itself on offering some of the best coverage of the Royal National Mòd, but due to Covid we have had to make some changes this year.

Instead of the traditional Mòd competitions, participants were invited to record performances in the comfort of their own homes and submit

them to the Royal National Mòd for judging. As a result, Mòd organisers have received entries from all over the world.

To showcase all this international talent they have compiled a selection of these performances to share with you, streaming all of this year's events live from their social media channels.

This means you can either watch along with the live stream or catch up with programmes in your own time. It also means you can watch programmes more than once if you wish.

You can also watch the Mòd coverage from The Oban Times' website and social media channels, where you will also find columns from Allan Campbell and Robert Robertson, and images from Mòds gone by.

And we would love to hear from you if you have taken part in this year's

event. Due to GDPR, Mòd organisers are unable to provide contact details for competitions and winners.

However, you can contact us at The Oban Times to tell us about your performance, your achievements, what you liked, what you didn't about this year's event and how the restrictions impacted your Mòd experience.

Email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) along with your photograph, your contact details and information about what categories you took part in. Did you enjoy it? Were you pleased with your performance?

We hope everyone has a fantastic week and enjoys this unique Royal National Mòd.

**Last year at this time, Glasgow Gaelic School pupils were gearing up for the Royal National Mòd in the city.** Photograph: Paul Chappells.



## ROYAL NATIONAL MOD YEARS GONE BY



This junior Gaelic choir is obviously happy with their performance. Who are these kilted youngsters, what year was it and where?



Former Dunbeg Primary School head teacher Sine MacVicar took the school's junior choir to the Royal National Mòd in Perth in 2004.

One photograph has the power to bring back memories of years gone by – either a face that is no longer with us but laughter that echoes down the years or camaraderie that only a particular kind of joint effort can bring.

The Oban Times hopes the following photographs can invoke just such memories from but a few of the many shots taken and published from

Royal National Mòds going back through the years.

If anyone can put some names to faces, a year to the photograph and a place to the Mòd, please get in touch.

For more memories from past Royal National Mòds, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) over the next couple of weeks – and please do tag or name anyone recognised.



These two look extremely happy with their trophy but who are they, where are they from, what year and which Mòd?

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OT

# A virtual feast of Mod events

An Comunn Gaidhealach has lined up a series of virtual events from Friday October 9 to Saturday October 17 when the Royal National Mòd was due to be held in Inverness.

The on-the-ground Mòd has been postponed until 2021 in Inverness due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead Gaelic musicians, choirs, singers and speakers were invited to record performances in their own homes and submit them for a panel of judges to review. The best are being streamed, mostly in the evenings over the week, along with a selection of fringe events during the day.

All free to watch, the events will be streaming live on An Comunn Gaidhealach's social media channels and will be available on catch up too.

The Oban Times will be sharing some of these events on its social media channels, along with photographs and video from Royal National Mòds gone by at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## The events will be streaming live on An Comunn Gaidhealach's social media channels

The full virtual programme is as follows:

### Friday

**7pm:** Official opening concert – Kicking off the 2020 Virtual Royal National Mòd, with a mix of song, music and guests. Presented by Kirsteen MacDonald.

### Saturday

**11am:** Shinty at the Mòd – Eòghan Stewart from Iomain Cholmcille, the Gaelic Shinty Project, takes a look at the world of shinty in a year where Coronavirus resulted in the cancellation of the sport of the Gael. This special programme collects stories from throughout the men's, women's and youth sections of the sport and takes the place of the Mòd Cup which traditionally takes place on the first Saturday of the Mòd every year. In Gaelic, with English subtitles.

**2pm:** Part one of a compilation of some of the best performances across instrumental categories.

**7pm:** Part two of a compilation of some of the best performances across instrumental categories.

**9pm:** Piping Concert – The National Youth Pipe Band of



Scotland is delighted to present a piping recital featuring remote performances from the current gold and silver medal winners, Connor Sinclair and James Duncan Mackenzie, and current NYPBoS Pipe Majors Callum Brown and Ciaren Ross. Presented by Anna Murray.

### Sunday

**9am and 3pm:** Virtual Mòd Church Service – Reverend Donnie MacSween, Church of Scotland, leads the service with Psalm 98:3 'He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel'. Available to listen to and watch on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and Facebook Radio nan Gàidheal.

### Monday

**10am:** Read and Sing with Linda – Leugh is Seinn le Linda at the Mòd. Sing, read and play games with Linda. Suitable for babies to five-year-olds.

**11am:** Dolina agus D I at the Mòd – Puppet friends, Dolina and D I, are going to the Royal National Mòd. See what these

two friends get up to in their competitions.

**1pm:** Highland Whispers – A first glimpse of a unique arts project born in the Highlands during lockdown. Five artists from the worlds of photography, music, mixed media, poetry and fine art have been playing a remote version of the parlour games of Chinese Whispers and Consequences to create a series of responses to each other's work and to the theme of the senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch.

**3pm:** CnaG at the Mòd – Tune in for some fun and games with Comunn na Gàidhlig.

**7pm:** A compilation of some of the best performances across the junior categories.

### Tuesday

**10am:** Read and Sing with Linda.

**11am:** Dolina agus D I at the Mòd.

**1pm:** Highland Whispers.

**5pm:** Reading the Gaelic Landscape – John Murray discusses his book Reading the Gaelic Landscape,

which applies a Gaelic lens to the study of Scotland's landscapes and history and in doing so enables readers to understand the cultural landscape of the Highlands. This Gaelic-English event takes place on Zoom and is suitable for fluent speakers and learners. Tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-the-gaelic-landscape-with-john-murray-tickets-118431962187](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-the-gaelic-landscape-with-john-murray-tickets-118431962187) Free.

**7pm:** A compilation of some of the best performances across the junior categories.

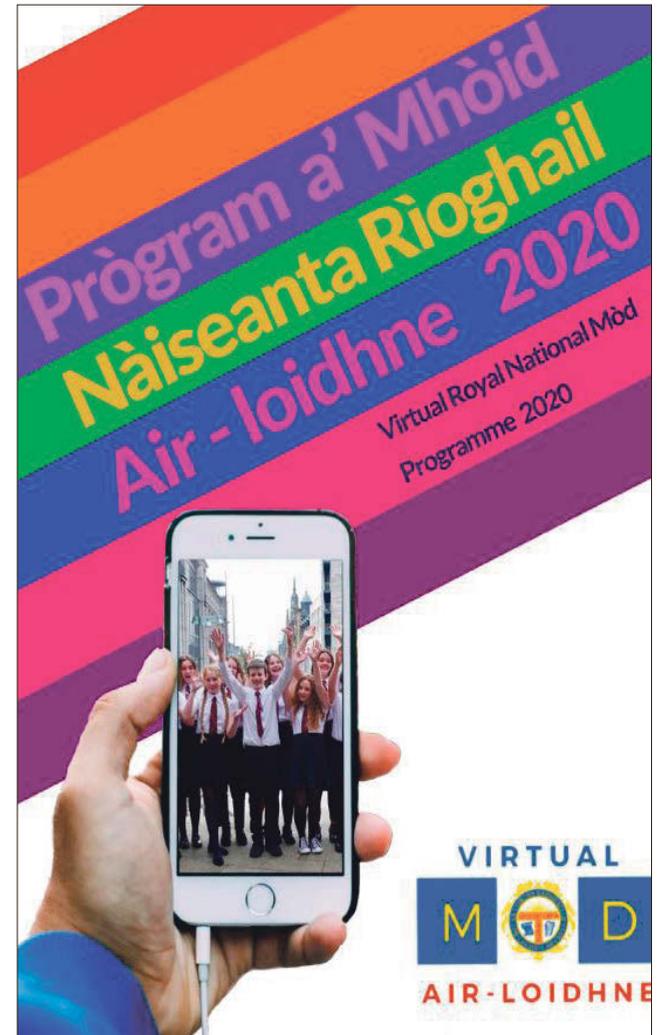
### Wednesday

**11am:** Dolina agus D I at the Mòd.

**1pm:** Highland Whispers.

**3pm:** But What Does a Book Do? Marie C Macaulay and Maureen Macleod discuss the types of books they enjoy the most, as well as the inspiration behind their writing.

**5pm:** The Poet's House – Four Gaelic poets come together to discuss their work and showcase a selection of their poems and songs. Bàrd a' Chomuinn, the reigning crowned bard,



While this year's Mod will lack the craic and camaraderie that comes with physically meeting up with old friends and new at events, there is a lot to look forward to during this year's virtual Royal National Mòd.

Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, will welcome three fellow poets: Eòghan Stewart, Marion F Morrison and Mark Turner.

**7pm:** A compilation of some of the best performances across the clàrsach, dancing and senior categories.

### Thursday

**11am:** Dolina agus D I at the Mòd.

**1pm:** Highland Whispers.

**5pm:** Gaelic Psalm Workshop – Join Calum Martin for this special workshop on Gaelic Psalm singing and learn more about this unique musical form.

Calum will be focusing on the tune French. The workshop will be delivered in Gaelic. An understanding of Gaelic would be advantageous.

### Friday

**11am:** Dolina agus D I at the Mòd.

**1pm:** Highland Whispers.

**7pm:** A compilation of some of the best performances across the senior categories.

**9pm:** The Highland Council Cèilidh – The Highland Council Gaelic team, in partnership with Fèis Rois, as part of the Virtual Mòd, have put together a fantastic night of music and Gaelic song from across the Highland Council area for this special Cèilidh na Comhairle.

The cèilidh will be hosted by Julie Fowles and features performers of all ages from across the nine Highland Council Community Planning Partnership areas.

### Saturday

**10am:** A throwback to some previous massed choirs over the years.

Watch the performances live at [facebook.com/RoyalNationalMod](http://facebook.com/RoyalNationalMod) and on An Comunn Gàidhealach's YouTube channel.

Don't miss out. Catch-up afterwards at [facebook.com/obantimes](http://facebook.com/obantimes)

Keep an eye out for familiar faces in photographs of Mòds gone by on The Oban Times Facebook page and [instagram.com/obantimes](http://instagram.com/obantimes)

# ROYAL NATIONAL MOD YEARS GONE BY



Could this be Taynuilt Gaelic Choir winning the rural choirs competition? Conductor Joy McAllister is held aloft in triumph. What is the year and where was this winning performance?



Oban High School Gaelic Choir with conductor Angus Smith – but what was the year and where was it?

These two look like the winners of the Royal National Mòd's junior silver pendants for Gaelic learners. What are their names, when was this and where?



These two members of Coisir Og Lochabair look like they have won a duet competition for singing at the Royal National Mòd in Perth in 2004. Who are they and did they keep singing?



This happy girl was the winner of the Mrs Roderick B Munro Trophy for solo singing aged nine-10 years. But who is this winning member of Coisir Og Lochabair, and when and where was this photograph taken?

Scottish Gaelic Awards  
Duaisean Gàidhlig  
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# All together >

# Chances for young jobless

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK Government has continued to act with speed to protect Scottish companies and safeguard jobs. The Kickstart scheme, currently underway, is one such way of getting the country's young people into a job. This is how the initiative works and who it is aimed at.

A NEW scheme to help young people in Scotland into work and boost the country's economic revival has been launched by the UK Government.

Businesses are now able to sign up to be part of the landmark £2billion Kickstart scheme, giving unemployed young people a future of opportunity and hope by creating high-quality, government-subsidised jobs.

Under the scheme, announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak as part of his Plan for Jobs, Scottish employers can offer youngsters aged 16 to 24, who are claiming Universal Credit, a six-month work placement.

The Government will fully fund each Kickstart job by paying 100 per cent of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week.

Employers will be able to top up this wage, while the UK Government will also pay employers £1,500 to set up support and training for people on Kickstart placements, as well as helping pay for uniforms and other set up costs. The jobs will give young people – who are more likely to have been

“

*The scheme will open the door to a brighter future for a new generation, helping Scotland bounce back stronger as a country.*

## Useful links

### Kickstart scheme

[gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme](https://gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme)

### Job Retention

[gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme](https://gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)

### Working safely

[gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](https://gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

furloughed, many working in sectors disproportionately hit by the pandemic – the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

The Chancellor said: “This isn't just about kickstarting our economy – it is an opportunity to kickstart the careers of thousands of young people who could otherwise be left behind as a result of the pandemic.”

The scheme will open the door to a brighter future for a new generation, helping Scotland bounce back stronger as a country.

Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack said: “The UK Government's Kickstart scheme will give young people in Scotland the support they need at this difficult time. The £2 billion Kickstart scheme will create thousands of high quality jobs for young people with the UK Government directly subsidising wages for six months. Young people will also get additional support through the Jobcentre network. I urge employers in Scotland to sign up to this.”

Businesses of all sizes looking to create quality jobs for young

**KICKSTART:**  
Unemployed young people in Scotland are being given a future of opportunity and hope.



■ As the rate of infection of coronavirus changes, please ensure that you adhere to any localised measures that are introduced in your area.

people can apply and there is no cap on the number of places. Household names including Tesco and The Prince's Trust are among those who have already pledged to offer Kickstart jobs.

The scheme, being delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions, will initially be open until December 2021 with the option of being extended.

As part of the plan to support jobs, a Job Retention Bonus will be introduced to help firms keep furloughed workers. All Scottish employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who remains continuously employed through to the end of January 2021.

Employees must earn above the Lower Earnings Limit (£520 per month) on average between the end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the end of January 2021 with payments made from February 2021.



# Supporting business

## Supporting business

# are given a £2bn Kickstart



## Winter Economy Plan

IN HIS Winter Economy Plan the Chancellor announced more measures to try to prevent mass job losses across the UK when the Jobs Retention Scheme ends at the end of October.

The three main pillars of the plan of the UK Government's new Job Support Scheme, expected to cost an estimated £500 million, are ...

■ Supporting viable jobs, making sure that employees must work

a third of their normal hours, paid as normal by the employer, with a top-up provided by the UK Government.

■ Six months of targeted support at firms that need it the most – mostly smaller and medium sized businesses – with larger firms allowed to apply if turnover has fallen.

■ Extending the existing self-employment grant as it currently stands.



**OPPORTUNITY:**  
James Vargo, Chief Executive of DirectID

## 'A great chance to build momentum'

A Scottish company CEO praised the UK Government's Kickstart scheme as a "great opportunity".

James Vargo, Chief Executive of Edinburgh-based DirectID, hopes to take on 30 recruits thanks to the initiative.

His fintech firm, supplying bank data products to customers across more than 30 countries, has been operating for a decade.

Companies use DirectID to verify the identity of their customers or applicants, carry out regulatory and compliance checks such as Anti-Money Laundering and Know Your Customer, also assessing affordability and spending patterns.

DirectID connects to more than 13,000 banks globally, having customers across the UK, Europe and continental America.

It gives the user the ability to do more online, by taking trusted data in your bank account and using it to access additional services.

"The Kickstart scheme is a great opportunity," said Mr Vargo, originally from Vancouver, based in the UK for 24 years.

"We have actually just stretched ourselves and put in an application for 30 people".

He hoped they could entice other fintech companies to join the bid but, when that did not happen, "we decided to go for it any way and play our part."

DirectID already employs 25 people with company revenues having doubled this year, allowing the operation to more than double its workforce by taking on 30 job-seekers.

"There is a buzz around this kind of business right now and it is a good time to expand," he explained.

DirectID is using the Kickstart scheme to recruit across the board, including sales and marketing roles, data insights and data analysis positions.

Mr Vargo encouraged other Scottish firms to embrace the scheme, seeing it as an opportunity to build more momentum in fintech – one area that has increased amid the current pandemic.

The UK Government hopes that, after the six months, those on the scheme will become permanent staff.

"If we can use this to find some people, and it's all productive and effective, then absolutely we will look to keep them on," he added.

# BUSINESS NEWS

## Mull biscuit takes Great Taste award

Biscuits from Mull have made it onto the A-list line up of Great Taste in 2020.

Food and drink Great Taste awards included The Island Bakery's apple crumble biscuits as among the best products for this year.

Judges chose them out of 12,777 products sent in from 106 different countries and awarded the Tobermory bakery two stars dubbing its satisfyingly crunchy, 'nubbly,' tangy apple crumble biscuits above and beyond delicious without being too sweet.

Judged by 144 of the most discerning palates, belonging to food critics, chefs, cooks, restaurateurs, buyers, retailers and producers, as well as food writers and journalists, Great Taste is the most coveted of all food and drink awards.

Organisers of the awards, which involved remote judging, hope star status will give businesses a boost in time for Christmas sales.

Dawn Reade from The Island Bakery said: 'We haven't entered the Great Taste Awards for many years so we thought it was about time we did.'

'Our Apple Crumbles stood out to the judges and getting two stars was even more pleasing to us. It's a great endorsement for everyone in the hardworking team at the bakery.'



Dawn and Joe Reade from The Island Bakery celebrate their new star status.

# Researchers investigate impact of Covid on seafood sector

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A research team led by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has begun to investigate the impact of Covid-19 on the UK seafood industry.

The seafood sector incorporates significant processing and logistics operations within the supply chain, which begins with farming and fishing and ends with supermarkets, fishmongers and restaurants.

Analysis of the previous economic crash in 2008 showed huge implications for the seafood sector, which also needed a longer recovery time than other industries. There is also a great deal of uncertainty within the industry over a looming post-Brexit end to the transition period.

Now the RiseUp project, led by Dr Sofia Franco from SAMS, will seek to find out the extent of the so-called 'Covid-shock' throughout the industry and provide policy recommendations and advice to help government and business improve resilience in the sector.

The 18-month investigation, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of the UK Research and Innovation's rapid response to Covid-19, will also involve the University of Manchester and will conduct interviews and surveys with industry during its initial data collection.

The project is also benefitting from Seafish information and analytical input.

Dr Franco said: 'The UK seafood industry is under unprecedented pressure to deliver on national food security during the Covid-19/SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, while trying to adapt to remain viable.'

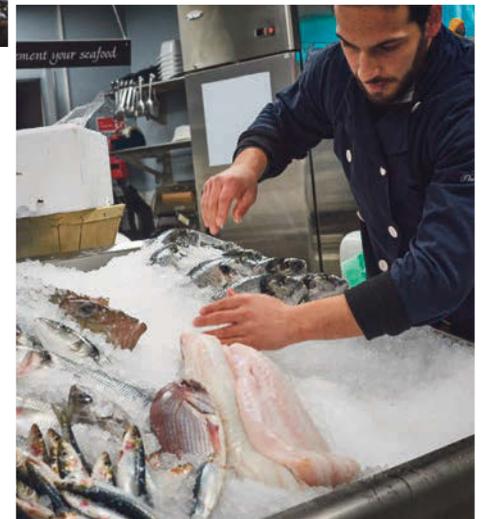
'Many livelihoods depend on the industry, whether that is people working within fishing and aquaculture sectors, supply chain companies and high street businesses.'

'The location of many of these jobs – many



Fishmongers are at the end of the supply chain and therefore rely on processing as well as fishing to supply their products, but many livelihoods depend on a thriving seafood industry. Photograph:

Seafish



in coastal and rural communities – is also significant in these economies. However, it is important to capture the systemic impacts to the UK seafood industry, how businesses are adapting and how the supply network has been affected.'

Dr Franco said there have likely been 'winners and losers' during the Covid-19 lockdown and the extent to which businesses prospered or struggled and why this happened could be vital to inform recommendations.

She also said the project's recommendations must consider opportunities and seafood sector concerns about the effect of an extended 'Covid-shock' on top of the uncertainty around the Brexit trade deal negotiations.

The project is keen to hear from companies across the seafood industry in gathering evidence on the effects of the Covid-19 disruption across the sector, the response from seafood businesses and the uptake of existing government support measures.

Please contact the project lead - sofia.franco@sams.ac.uk - if you would like to share your experience of how Covid-19 has affected your business.



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# Building a greener future in Argyll

Work has started on the new Renewables Parts Limited base at Kilmory Business Park, Lochgilphead.

MacLeod Construction has started clearing the site for the custom-built, dedicated refurbishment centre for renewable parts throughout the UK.

Founder of Renewable Parts Ewan Anderson said: 'The new development in Lochgilphead shows our ongoing commitment to sustainability in the wind industry. This new space is a significant step in our growth and will advance how we can help colleagues and partners in renewable energy meet their net-zero goals.'

'We are very pleased to be working with MacLeod Construction on this project. MacLeods have worked hard to provide a solution to our expanding business and tailor a building to our specific needs.'

Managing director of MacLeod Construction Kenny MacLeod said: 'We are delighted to have Renewable Parts Limited as our first long-term anchor-client for the new business park. Hopefully they are the first of many new tenants and industries.'

'We are working hard to deliver sites as part of



Back left: Michael Forbes, Renewable Parts Limited; centre, Ewan Anderson, Renewable Parts Limited; and, right, Kenny MacLeod, MacLeod Construction Limited.

our masterplan for the business park and to keep jobs in Argyll. Ewan and the team at Renewable Parts Limited are committed to providing a dependable, reliable service. It's great to see a

successful, UK-wide, business operating out of Argyll and we are glad to have them on board.'

It is anticipated work will be completed later this year.

## Oban TSB survives branch closures

Oban's TSB branch has survived a cull that will shut 73 of its banks across Scotland.

The closures are part of a three-year strategy announced by TSB in 2019 and will affect about 300 jobs in those branches. More than 900 UK jobs will be cut.

The bank says the move has been driven by a significant change in customer behaviour, including a significant acceleration in online use.

Over the next two years, the bank plans to continue to invest in its 62 remaining Scottish branches to radically improve the customer experience. TSB will also be introducing around 50 mobile advisors in rural communities to deliver face-to-face support.

Robin Bulloch, Customer Banking Director at TSB, said: 'These decisions are the most difficult we take, but we must always be guided by our customers and we are clearly witnessing a substantial shift towards digital banking.'

'TSB remains committed to offering high quality banking services in branches across Scotland. We are working to ensure the transition towards digital is handled sensitively and pragmatically for our colleagues and customers.'

But Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said he is 'angry' at the TSB's intention to close its branches in Campbeltown, Dunoon and Lochgilphead early next year, leading to job losses and major disruption for existing customers.

He said: 'I am angry that once again a large, profitable organisation is withdrawing from this rural constituency. The TSB says it hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies and it will help existing customers make alternative banking arrangements but welcome as those things are they are not the answer to the real problem which is a spiral of decline being exacerbated by Covid and Brexit. We need a fresh approach to our small towns and a fresh approach to our ambitions as an area and a nation. The TSB and the entire commercial sector need to help with that, not hinder it.'

# Button Nose Boutique moves to its new home

The ribbon has been cut to open the new home of an independent gift shop in Oban, writes Ellis Butcher.

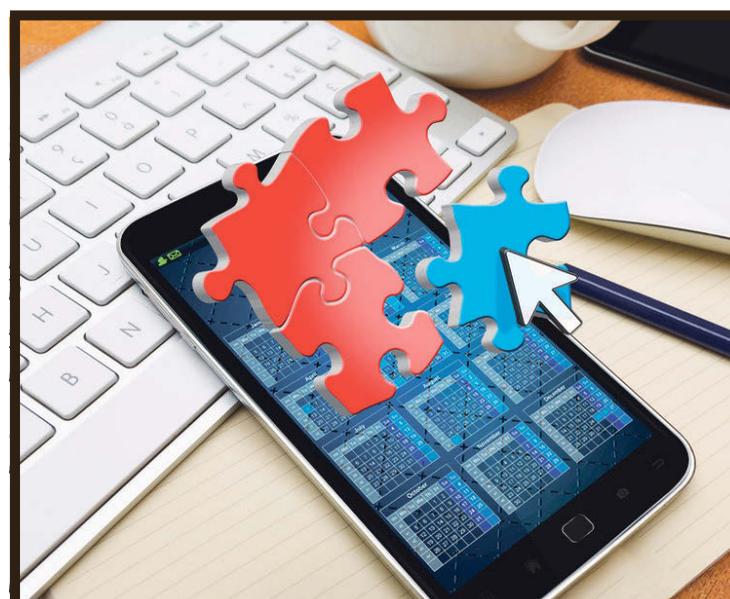
Button Nose Boutique has moved to larger premises at 12 Airds Crescent, between the TSB and The Ark, from its former home on Stevenson Street.

The official opening was carried out on Thursday October 1 by BID4Oban's Andy Spence, town ambassador Kay McDonald and owner Jackie Kerr.

Mr Spence said that with all the challenges faced by businesses in 2020 it was good news for the town.

Jackie has run the business for four years. It sells a range of items from greetings cards to scarves, handbags, jewellery and baby clothes, among others.

Jackie said the move to the new premises had gone 'exceptionally well' and the shop had been extremely busy.



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

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OT

## LETTERS

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

## Fantastic resource that will help save people's lives

The Oban, Lorn and the Inner Isles Mental Health online directory, which was launched in Oban today, is a fantastic resource, particularly in these changed and difficult times.

A huge thank you should go to everyone involved in pulling it together, including Martyn's Monday Club, Hope Kitchen and Bid4Oban.

With 60 groups and support organisations featured in the directory, the driving force behind the resource is making sure people get 'the right kind of help at the right time' before crisis or tragedy takes over.

As well as including contact details and information about what support is available, the mental health charity Mind has included explanations of mental health diagnoses, with plans for short films which will help people absorb the information and feel more at ease about seeking help.

Surprisingly, the Oban directory is believed to be the first of its kind in Scotland but, hopefully, it won't be the only one as this resource could help remove the barriers that often prevent thousands of people getting the support they desperately need.

Well done to everyone who had a hand in making this happen.

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



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

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## Government arrogance over Hate Crime Bill

How arrogant and aloof the Scottish Government is when it brazenly perseveres with its deeply flawed and hated Hate Crime Bill.

Yes, they have agreed to 'slightly amend' the Bill - after mounting pressure by hordes of public agencies, community groups and a train of individuals including academics, respected lawyers, playwrights and newspaper columnists - but lawmakers at Holyrood still can't hear the loud thunderclap of judgement. The masses across Scotland still don't want this insulting and offensive Bill foisted on them.

Not only is it flawed, the proposed legislation has more holes than Swiss cheese, just like the ludicrous Named Persons scheme.

On this occasion, their ill-thought-out scheme threatens to undermine freedom of expression, while debate on controversial issues would also be seriously affected. We remind the government what Mr Alistair Bonnington, a former Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Glasgow who taught the First Minister, said: 'This is yet another example of the SNP failing to understand fundamental principles of Scots law. They have shown an embarrassing level of ignorance as to how we do things in our Scottish system.'

While Holyrood politicians claim hate crime is sadly on the increase in Scotland, the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) has said there is nothing to be gained in implementing new legislation. The laws already in force can deal with the increase.

The General Secretary of SPF has said: 'We do not for one second suggest that prejudice, racism or discrimination are desirable qualities in our society but the need to address those matters when they reach a criminal level is met by laws already in place and the cost to free speech of going further with this bill is too high a price to pay for very little gain.'

With SPF confirming training alone would cost up to a mindboggling £4 million, surely the sanest and wisest course of action for the Scottish Government would be to do what they did with the Named Persons Bill - scrap it.

Mr Donald J Morrison  
Inverness.

## Catering for motorhomes

Ms Sheeran is horrified by the proposal to cater for motorhomes at Ganavan Sands, Letters, 24 September 24. But Oban needs to catch up with the shifting patterns of holiday-making brought about by the increase in pandemic-related 'staycationing' and rapidly make provisions for

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

*Sèididh aon sròn shalach an clachan a rèir an t-seanfhaicail, agus nach fhada bho chualas daoine ag ràdh 'nuair a nì Ameireagaidh sreathart glacaidh an saoghal cnatan!' Ged nach ann an Ameireagaidh a nochd coròna-bhioras an toiseach tha mise a' sgrìobhadh seo is aire mòr-chuid den t-saoghal air an dùthaich sin is an Ceann-suidhe aca fo chùram ospadail a' fulang le Covid 19, goirid air mìos ron cuid thaghaidhean choitcheann. Far am bheil buaidh phoilitigeach air a h-uile nì, tha amharas às na caochladh aithrisean a thaobh slàinte Mhaighstir Trump, agus ceistean mun bhuaidh air an t-saoghal nan strìochdadh e ri tinneas. Tha e cudromach a ràdh nach eil fianais sam bith air lethid sin de chunnart dhan Ceann-suidhe an-dràsta agus tha ceannardan an t-saoghail a' guidhe ùrachadh slàinte sgiobalta dha, ach ann an sgeulachd mhòr eadar-nàiseanta far nach eil fios mionaideach ri fhaotainn nochdaidh teagamhan daonna.*

Bidh mòran mothachail air an dòigh annasach san do dhèilig Dòmhnall Trump ri buaidh a' bhiorais feadh Ameireagaidh is e an ire mhath a' dol às àicheadh gun robh e idir a' tachairt, agus gun robh làn-smachd agus buaidh aig an dùthaich air a' bheagan dheth a bh' ann. Leis a' chliù a th' aige a bhith cur cùl ri rudan nach eil a' còrdadh ris, agus gan càineadh mar "naidheachdan fuadain", cha b' iongnadh cuid a bhith air am mealladh gus eisimpleir a' Chinn-suidhe a ghabhail ann a bhith a' seachnadh brat-gnùise, a dh'aindeoin comhairle eòlaichean mheidigeach an t-saoghail. Lean sin cuideachd gu cruinneachaidhean mòra

luchd-taice phoilitigeach far nach robh, a rèir choltais, feart sam bith ga thoirt dha riaghailtean sgaraidh-sòisealta agus tha a h-uile coltas gur e aon chruinneachadh den t-seòrsa sin aig an Taigh Gheal bho chionn còrr air seachdain a dh'adhbharaich mòran den sgapadh air Covid am measg cho-obraichean agus luchd-taice Dhòmhnall Trump.

Saoidh mi gum bheil adhbhar air a bhith agam an gnathas-cainnt seo a chleachdadh cho bitheanta bho chionn ghoirid, ach gun teagamh bhiodh iomadach neach ga chur air mhanadh dha Ceann-suidhe Ameireagaidh gun robh a chuid d'anachd dol a dhioladh air. *Is treun fear an eòlais* tha aon seanfhaicail ag innse, ach aig an aon àm mar a tha fear eile a' toirt an aire, *is trom an eire an t-aineolas!* Tha dreuchd Chinn-suidhe Ameireagaidh air fhaicinn mar fhear de na h-oibrichean as cumhachdaiche air an t-saoghal, agus tha e doirbh a chreidsinn gum biodh lethid Trump cho ladarna na chuid iùil air an t-sluagh a tha fo chùram, gun ghuth air a' bhuaidh a dh'fhaodadh a mhodh-giùlain a thoirt air sluagh ann an ceàrnaidhean eile den t-saoghal. Bidh sinn a' guidhe slàinte dha, agus gliocas bho na dh'fhoghlam e!

As I write, Donald Trump is receiving treatment for Covid-19, a virus he claimed was of little concern in America. While wishing him a speedy recovery, I also hope he learns from this experience that news is not always 'fake' because he might say so.

Allan Campbell, [ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

overnighting, or residents will be increasingly anxious. It is obvious the number of motorhomes on Argyll roads has increased markedly and this pattern looks likely to persist for years to come. Without overnight parking provision, all roads that have no parking restriction will be used, even narrow streets in the town.

Ian Reid, Oban.

## It is the unfairness...

Churches and their congregations in Scotland have been especially hard done by in these virus times. Services were only allowed to be held long after pubs were up and running again. A maximum of 50 parishioners allowed, even in vast cathedrals, and only a few applicants allowed to attend Catholic mass where I attend. Even singing

with masks on, which is uplifting and fantastic for morale is banned.

Churches have been unable to access the government's financial support schemes and, of course, the plate has a fraction of its normal collection. Yet building maintenance, insurance and clerics basic costs remain.

I wrote to Aileen Campbell, the Scottish Government Minister for 'Faith and Belief'. She will have presided over a period that has seen church attendee numbers collapse and quite possibly not return and given no financial support. She must have just told her assistants to 'send him the church letter' as not one of my points was addressed. She should be renamed Minister for 'No faith nor belief'.

Angus MacDonald, Lochailort.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Boundary review could cut councillor numbers

Argyll and Bute councillors are rejecting proposals in a boundary review that would cut the area's number of representatives.

In response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) setting out initial proposals for a review of the Argyll and Bute Council area, the council welcomed the opportunity to have a say in the first round of consultations and that its four area committees remained unchanged but said it was disappointed about a recommendation to reduce its councillor numbers.

The proposals to reduce councillors are in a similar vein to those made in a Commission review in 2016, council members heard at a full meeting on September 24.

'In line with the council's response at that time, the council objects to the proposals in that they diminish the overall electoral accountability, while failing to take into account material factors in relation to electoral parity, impact of demographic issues such as an ageing population and social and economic deprivation and the consequent requirement for more effective electoral representation these factors create. On this basis, the council rejects any reduction in the overall number of councillors for Argyll and Bute,' said the council's response to the LGBCS.

'In addition, the proposals for Argyll and Bute seem to be at odds with the overall focus of the review, which is to recognise the importance of Scottish islands and the unique challenges they face,' it added.

Proposals presented by the Commission, particularly in respect of the island wards, have raised a number of concerns in terms of electoral parity.

For example, in respect of the wards for Islay, Jura and Colonsay and for Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree, it is proposed there are four councillors covering a similar population to Bute where it is being suggested they have only two councillors. Similar concerns can also be applied in respect of the Lorn ward proposals and the proposed boundary change within the Helensburgh and Lomond administrative area, which would inevitably result in the area being under-represented in terms of electoral parity in future years, said the council in its response to LGBCS.

The boundary review was highlighted to Oban Community Council at its meeting on September 24 to allow them to review it and have their say.

## Aurora chaser captures rare moonbow

An amateur photographer from Oban has captured a stunning image of a rare moonbow.

Edwina Aitken went to Dunstaffnage on Monday night, searching for a glimpse of the aurora borealis. But although the aurora never appeared, nature produced the rarer sight of a moonbow over the night sky.

Edwina, who has been chasing the aurora since 2009, getting many great shots of it around Oban, was stunned when she caught her first sight of a moonbow.

She was with fellow aurora photographer Nick Edgington, from Oban, at the time and said: 'I was very excited when I saw it, I said to Nick 'That's a moonbow'.

'The moon was really bright and we were out aurora chasing when I saw a white streak going up in the sky and I fired off two or three shots.

'We also saw a couple of shooting stars. The night sky is amazing.'

A moonbow, which is also known as a lunar rainbow, is produced by moonlight rather than direct sunlight. It is caused by the refraction of light in water droplets, such as in rain or a waterfall and is always



seen in the opposite part of the sky to the moon by onlookers.

It is hard for the human eye to see the colours in a moonbow because the light reflection is normally too faint to allow this, so the spectacle often appears white,

although the colours show up in long exposure photographs.

The only places where you can see moonbows on a consistent basis are at Victoria Falls, on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border and Cumberland Falls in Kentucky.

## Wheels for Meals fundraiser still in motion

More than £800 has been raised so far by Lismore 'Wheels for Meals' cyclists.

Good weather blessed the cycling team of friends who got on their bikes to raise funds for Dalmally-based Mary's Meals and Oban's Hope Kitchen.

Crofter Arthur Cross and his pals cycled 100 miles from Lismore to Port Appin, up to the Corran Ferry and down to Ardnamurchan where they camped overnight before heading to Kilchoan via Ardnamurchan Point to take the ferry to Tobermory, cycling to Craignure just in time to catch the ferry to Oban and home.

Arthur said: 'Every donation is helping make a difference. Thank you to everyone.'



Lismore cyclists John Young, Arthur Cross, Amy Bowman and Tom Campbell. Donations can still be made at [gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals](https://gofundme.com/f/b2m9c6-miles-for-meals)

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Volunteers now required in Oban.

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## Vegetable Tagine Soup

A Free tagine-inspired soup with chickpeas, vegetables and a hint of Moroccan spices



### Ingredients

- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- 1 celery stick, roughly chopped
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 3cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and chopped
- 120g prepared butternut squash, roughly chopped
- 50g dried red lentils
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- ½ tbsp mild chilli powder
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 2 vegetable stock cubes, crumbled
- ½ x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 small red pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 1 small yellow pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 200g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- Lemon juice, to taste
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method:

Put all the ingredients apart from the chickpeas, peppers, cauliflower and lemon juice in a large saucepan. Add 850ml boiling water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer for 25 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

1. Blitz until smooth using a stick blender (or use a food processor or liquidiser and return to the pan).
2. Add the chickpeas, peppers and cauliflower, cover again and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the vegetables are cooked, stirring occasionally.
3. Season to taste with lemon juice, salt and pepper and serve hot. Enjoy!

## Classes are back!!

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# Good hair days come seven days a week at Avalon in Oban

*The hair and beauty salon has just moved out of Albany Street into bigger premises round the corner in Argyll Square.*

With more space to style and pamper their ever-growing clientele, there are '100 per cent exciting times ahead,' says salon owner Jackie Denheijer whose success story is like a fairytale - fitting for a business that makes everyone coming through their doors feel like a princess or prince.

Seven years ago, Jackie had not long qualified when she started up Avalon in what used to be the old sauna and steam room of a gym in Lochside Street.



Quickly outgrowing that space, the business moved to Albany Street and its reputation took root, like Jack's beanstalk it just kept growing.

'No sooner had we moved into Albany Street than we outgrew it immediately. Because we were still very much the new kids on the block and felt at home there we stayed knowing really it was never going to be big enough. We tried a couple of times to make it bigger but knew we would have to move eventually.'

'This place came up at the end of last year and now we're in at last. Fancier

salon, still the same old riff raff,' joked Jackie who praised A-team fitters Argyll Bathrooms and electrician Maurice Lockhart for working round-the-clock to get the salon ready in a whirlwind three weeks.

Instead of the three hair stations in Albany Street, the new-spacious Avalon that opens seven days a week now has eight of them. With a separate nail station, make-up station and zen treatment room for revitalising

is Avalon's massage expert and Emily Hall is the salon's apprentice stylist already proving to be top of the crop.

'Emily joined us a week before lockdown. She waited patiently and she is doing great, she's loving it here and enrolls at college in January. She's phenomenal already,' said Jackie who was able to furlough all her staff when Covid struck.

'I managed to run my business during lockdown without touching



massage and relaxing therapies - Avalon is looking good.

Family is the salon's heart and soul. Jackie's husband Ian recently qualified as a stylist and manages the salon, her mum Carol Young has 50 years hairstyling experience and daughter Danielle is a make up artist.

Also on the team is hair stylist Isla MacFarlane who has more than ten years experience. Rebecca Hay, who is also a fully qualified beauty therapist,

a head of hair. It gave me time to re-evaluate things and make changes to make sure all the compliance would be in place for when we opened up.

'It became apparent that if we went ahead and took on the new premises we could go back to basically what we knew as normal while keeping all the regulations in place to keep people and our staff safe because we'd have so much more space here.'

'We can have four people diagonally at the stations, all 2ms apart and we don't need to leave people standing in the rain to get in. That's what really spurred me on to make the move so quickly. We're no less stringent than we were round the corner and



still have the comfort value that has kept people staying with us, the only exception is offering bottles of water instead of teas and coffees for now!

'I hope our clients feel it's back the way it used to be before lockdown. That it's their home from home where they can come and chill out. It's far too posh for us but we'll lower the tone in no time - that's what people like. Basically it's the old Avalon but fancier,' said Jackie.

**With six Scottish industry awards firmly tucked under Avalon's belt including hair salon of the year, hair & beauty salon of the year and colourist of the year - there could be more on the way in the 2020 SHABA (Scottish hair and Beauty Awards)**



'We do the whole shebang here, absolutely everything! We've got plenty of room to do it now!' said Jackie who is just waiting to get the finishing touches made to the windows.

The salon inside has an exotic, pampering vibe and the much-loved chandeliers that came from Albany Street, due to popular demand, have taken pride of place over the colour station.

'We are very much orchids at Avalon but seeing all the beautiful lilies brought in by our clients to wish us all the best - we're loving them too.'

'We really do have the best clients in the world, there's just something about the wonderful relationship we have with them that is very unique,' said Jackie who is a well known face working behind the catwalk scenes at fashion weeks across the world.

Since 2017 she has styled at Cannes Film Festival twice and is no stranger to New York, Milan, Paris and London Fashion weeks with experience of leading global teams of stylists.

Shows in Los Angeles and at Kensington Palace are already lining up for next year.

'Our story is a bit like a fairytale. When we say everything we've achieved out loud we think 'Seriously?' After all here we are, just a wee hair

and beauty salon in Oban that started with nothing. I hadn't long been qualified when we first opened seven years ago but we've come such a long way since then. We don't really shout about it but we probably should. It's hard graft but the results of our efforts speak for themselves thankfully.

'It's one hundred per cent exciting times ahead!' said Jackie.

## CROSS CODE

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

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

## MAGIC SQUARE

### CLEANER SOIL IN JAR

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


# Quiz Challenge

- Who was the elder brother of Moses and first High Priest of Israel?
- The whaling novel Moby-Dick was by which author?
- Who produced the iconic Stratocaster electric guitar in 1954?
- Which gas is produced by yeast, enabling bread dough to rise?
- What is the common name for the North African granular pasta made from crushed and steamed semolina?
- What S is a small type of harpsichord?
- Jennifer Ellison played Emily Shadwick in which TV soap opera?
- What was the name of the balsa wood raft used by Thor Heyerdahl to partially cross the Pacific?
- What is tencha a type of?
- In 2016, the NASA spacecraft Juno successfully went into orbit around which planet, after a five-year journey?

## NONAGRAM

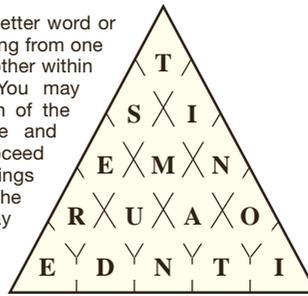
H	E	S
A	C	T
M	I	C

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

**Guidelines:**  
32 Good; 38 Very Good; 44 Excellent.  
Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

## WORD PYRAMID

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



## FIVE ALIVE

AN	LE	IV	EA	RS
EU		DI		UE
RT	AR	VE	AE	TN
VO		IA		ER
SE	AN	DL	OS	WA

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

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

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

### ACROSS

- Girl only a small space away, relatively speaking ... (12)
- .... and being the closest, relatively speaking (4,2,3)
- Be apathetic for the most part with a household implement (3)
- Objector to party line (7)
- Possess about 50 to divide in two (5)
- Bustle around making fine distinctions (6)
- Go without food, the way one might rave about it (6)
- Change officer after a word of hesitation (5)
- Dates he swapped for earphones (7)
- Chimney found in Glasgow slums (3)
- Elf keeps warm on the cooker perhaps (9)
- Jockey drawn by an author (5,7)

### DOWN

- License one vehicle to be on the road for hire (7)
- Quietly left the line in the middle to search for prey (5)
- Secure, say, a place in Turkey (6)
- Variety of noughts coming from a rifle (7)
- Tiger perhaps has large number in the end (5)
- On one's behalf making another gift (12)
- Edges higher, heels make one thus (6,6)
- Dog that goes from side to side (7)
- One who takes stock out of range (7)
- Irrational fear starts to put him off buying important articles (6)
- I had boy starting to be fearful (5)
- In the middle of part of exam on geography (5)

## QUICK CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7					8	
		9				
10	11				12	13
			15		16	
17					18	
19			20	21		
			22			
23	24	25			26	27
				28		
29						30
						31

### ACROSS

- Garbage can (7)
- Drill (4)
- Sicilian volcano (4)
- Top layer (7)
- Large bag (4)
- Dart (4)
- Wigwag (5)
- In a single direction (3-3)
- Remember (6)
- Tiles (6)
- Having two spouses (6)
- Gaze fixedly (5)

### DOWN

- Primary (4)
- Devious (7)
- Small bird (4)
- Prayer ending (4)
- Underground cell (7)
- Drink mixer (4)
- Writing table (4)
- Southern county (6)
- Sports jacket (6)
- Burden (4)
- Nuptial (7)
- Reduce to ashes (7)
- South-eastern US state (7)
- Calm, peaceful (7)
- Stories (5)
- Mysterious, weird (5)
- Filter (6)
- Contusion (6)
- Beige (4)
- Tear to bits (4)
- Miserly (4)
- Separate article (4)

## SUDOKU

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

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

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

## EQUALISER

7	10
8	3
4	2
9	1
2	4

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

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

**QUIZ CHALLENGE:** 1 Aaron; 2 Herman Melville; 3 Leo Fender; 4 Carbon dioxide; 5 Couscous; 6 Spinet; 7 Brooksidge; 8 Kon-Tiki; 9 Green tea; 10 Juppiter.

**CROSS CODE:** 1 J; 2 V; 3 B; 4 K; 5 U; 6 Y; 7 P; 8 L; 9 I; 10 H; 11 A; 12 N; 13 C

**NONAGRAM:** 19 Timid; 21 Among; 22 Dashed; 23 Darts; 24 Dash; 25 Darts; 26 Dash; 27 Darts; 28 Dash; 29 Darts; 30 Dash; 31 Darts.

**WORD PYRAMID:** 1 E; 2 D; 3 Y; 4 N; 5 T; 6 I; 7 E; 8 D; 9 Y; 10 N; 11 T; 12 I; 13 E; 14 D; 15 Y; 16 N; 17 T; 18 I; 19 E; 20 D; 21 Y; 22 N; 23 T; 24 I; 25 E; 26 D; 27 Y; 28 N; 29 T; 30 I; 31 E; 32 D; 33 Y; 34 N; 35 T; 36 I; 37 E; 38 D; 39 Y; 40 N; 41 T; 42 I; 43 E; 44 D; 45 Y; 46 N; 47 T; 48 I; 49 E; 50 D; 51 Y; 52 N; 53 T; 54 I; 55 E; 56 D; 57 Y; 58 N; 59 T; 60 I; 61 E; 62 D; 63 Y; 64 N; 65 T; 66 I; 67 E; 68 D; 69 Y; 70 N; 71 T; 72 I; 73 E; 74 D; 75 Y; 76 N; 77 T; 78 I; 79 E; 80 D; 81 Y; 82 N; 83 T; 84 I; 85 E; 86 D; 87 Y; 88 N; 89 T; 90 I; 91 E; 92 D; 93 Y; 94 N; 95 T; 96 I; 97 E; 98 D; 99 Y; 100 N; 101 T; 102 I; 103 E; 104 D; 105 Y; 106 N; 107 T; 108 I; 109 E; 110 D; 111 Y; 112 N; 113 T; 114 I; 115 E; 116 D; 117 Y; 118 N; 119 T; 120 I; 121 E; 122 D; 123 Y; 124 N; 125 T; 126 I; 127 E; 128 D; 129 Y; 130 N; 131 T; 132 I; 133 E; 134 D; 135 Y; 136 N; 137 T; 138 I; 139 E; 140 D; 141 Y; 142 N; 143 T; 144 I; 145 E; 146 D; 147 Y; 148 N; 149 T; 150 I; 151 E; 152 D; 153 Y; 154 N; 155 T; 156 I; 157 E; 158 D; 159 Y; 160 N; 161 T; 162 I; 163 E; 164 D; 165 Y; 166 N; 167 T; 168 I; 169 E; 170 D; 171 Y; 172 N; 173 T; 174 I; 175 E; 176 D; 177 Y; 178 N; 179 T; 180 I; 181 E; 182 D; 183 Y; 184 N; 185 T; 186 I; 187 E; 188 D; 189 Y; 190 N; 191 T; 192 I; 193 E; 194 D; 195 Y; 196 N; 197 T; 198 I; 199 E; 200 D; 201 Y; 202 N; 203 T; 204 I; 205 E; 206 D; 207 Y; 208 N; 209 T; 210 I; 211 E; 212 D; 213 Y; 214 N; 215 T; 216 I; 217 E; 218 D; 219 Y; 220 N; 221 T; 222 I; 223 E; 224 D; 225 Y; 226 N; 227 T; 228 I; 229 E; 230 D; 231 Y; 232 N; 233 T; 234 I; 235 E; 236 D; 237 Y; 238 N; 239 T; 240 I; 241 E; 242 D; 243 Y; 244 N; 245 T; 246 I; 247 E; 248 D; 249 Y; 250 N; 251 T; 252 I; 253 E; 254 D; 255 Y; 256 N; 257 T; 258 I; 259 E; 260 D; 261 Y; 262 N; 263 T; 264 I; 265 E; 266 D; 267 Y; 268 N; 269 T; 270 I; 271 E; 272 D; 273 Y; 274 N; 275 T; 276 I; 277 E; 278 D; 279 Y; 280 N; 281 T; 282 I; 283 E; 284 D; 285 Y; 286 N; 287 T; 288 I; 289 E; 290 D; 291 Y; 292 N; 293 T; 294 I; 295 E; 296 D; 297 Y; 298 N; 299 T; 300 I; 301 E; 302 D; 303 Y; 304 N; 305 T; 306 I; 307 E; 308 D; 309 Y; 310 N; 311 T; 312 I; 313 E; 314 D; 315 Y; 316 N; 317 T; 318 I; 319 E; 320 D; 321 Y; 322 N; 323 T; 324 I; 325 E; 326 D; 327 Y; 328 N; 329 T; 330 I; 331 E; 332 D; 333 Y; 334 N; 335 T; 336 I; 337 E; 338 D; 339 Y; 340 N; 341 T; 342 I; 343 E; 344 D; 345 Y; 346 N; 347 T; 348 I; 349 E; 350 D; 351 Y; 352 N; 353 T; 354 I; 355 E; 356 D; 357 Y; 358 N; 359 T; 360 I; 361 E; 362 D; 363 Y; 364 N; 365 T; 366 I; 367 E; 368 D; 369 Y; 370 N; 371 T; 372 I; 373 E; 374 D; 375 Y; 376 N; 377 T; 378 I; 379 E; 380 D; 381 Y; 382 N; 383 T; 384 I; 385 E; 386 D; 387 Y; 388 N; 389 T; 390 I; 391 E; 392 D; 393 Y; 394 N; 395 T; 396 I; 397 E; 398 D; 399 Y; 400 N; 401 T; 402 I; 403 E; 404 D; 405 Y; 406 N; 407 T; 408 I; 409 E; 410 D; 411 Y; 412 N; 413 T; 414 I; 415 E; 416 D; 417 Y; 418 N; 419 T; 420 I; 421 E; 422 D; 423 Y; 424 N; 425 T; 426 I; 427 E; 428 D; 429 Y; 430 N; 431 T; 432 I; 433 E; 434 D; 435 Y; 436 N; 437 T; 438 I; 439 E; 440 D; 441 Y; 442 N; 443 T; 444 I; 445 E; 446 D; 447 Y; 448 N; 449 T; 450 I; 451 E; 452 D; 453 Y; 454 N; 455 T; 456 I; 457 E; 458 D; 459 Y; 460 N; 461 T; 462 I; 463 E; 464 D; 465 Y; 466 N; 467 T; 468 I; 469 E; 470 D; 471 Y; 472 N; 473 T; 474 I; 475 E; 476 D; 477 Y; 478 N; 479 T; 480 I; 481 E; 482 D; 483 Y; 484 N; 485 T; 486 I; 487 E; 488 D; 489 Y; 490 N; 491 T; 492 I; 493 E; 494 D; 495 Y; 496 N; 497 T; 498 I; 499 E; 500 D; 501 Y; 502 N; 503 T; 504 I; 505 E; 506 D; 507 Y; 508 N; 509 T; 510 I; 511 E; 512 D; 513 Y; 514 N; 515 T; 516 I; 517 E; 518 D; 519 Y; 520 N; 521 T; 522 I; 523 E; 524 D; 525 Y; 526 N; 527 T; 528 I; 529 E; 530 D; 531 Y; 532 N; 533 T; 534 I; 535 E; 536 D; 537 Y; 538 N; 539 T; 540 I; 541 E; 542 D; 543 Y; 544 N; 545 T; 546 I; 547 E; 548 D; 549 Y; 550 N; 551 T; 552 I; 553 E; 554 D; 555 Y; 556 N; 557 T; 558 I; 559 E; 560 D; 561 Y; 562 N; 563 T; 564 I; 565 E; 566 D; 567 Y; 568 N; 569 T; 570 I; 571 E; 572 D; 573 Y; 574 N; 575 T; 576 I; 577 E; 578 D; 579 Y; 580 N; 581 T; 582 I; 583 E; 584 D; 585 Y; 586 N; 587 T; 588 I; 589 E; 590 D; 591 Y; 592 N; 593 T; 594 I; 595 E; 596 D; 597 Y; 598 N; 599 T; 600 I; 601 E; 602 D; 603 Y; 604 N; 605 T; 606 I; 607 E; 608 D; 609 Y; 610 N; 611 T; 612 I; 613 E; 614 D; 615 Y; 616 N; 617 T; 618 I; 619 E; 620 D; 621 Y; 622 N; 623 T; 624 I; 625 E; 626 D; 627 Y; 628 N; 629 T; 630 I; 631 E; 632 D; 633 Y; 634 N; 635 T; 636 I; 637 E; 638 D; 639 Y; 640 N; 641 T; 642 I; 643 E; 644 D; 645 Y; 646 N; 647 T; 648 I; 649 E; 650 D; 651 Y; 652 N; 653 T; 654 I; 655 E; 656 D; 657 Y; 658 N; 659 T; 660 I; 661 E; 662 D; 663 Y; 664 N; 665 T; 666 I; 667 E; 668 D; 669 Y; 670 N; 671 T; 672 I; 673 E; 674 D; 675 Y; 676 N; 677 T; 678 I; 679 E; 680 D; 681 Y; 682 N; 683 T; 684 I; 685 E; 686 D; 687 Y; 688 N; 689 T; 690 I; 691 E; 692 D; 693 Y; 694 N; 695 T; 696 I; 697 E; 698 D; 699 Y; 700 N; 701 T; 702 I; 703 E; 704 D; 705 Y; 706 N; 707 T; 708 I; 709 E; 710 D; 711 Y; 712 N; 713 T; 714 I; 715 E; 716 D; 717 Y; 718 N; 719 T; 720 I; 721 E; 722 D; 723 Y; 724 N; 725 T; 726 I; 727 E; 728 D; 729 Y; 730 N; 731 T; 732 I; 733 E; 734 D; 735 Y; 736 N; 737 T; 738 I; 739 E; 740 D; 741 Y; 742 N; 743 T; 744 I; 745 E; 746 D; 747 Y; 748 N; 749 T; 750 I; 751 E; 752 D; 753 Y; 754 N; 755 T; 756 I; 757 E; 758 D; 759 Y; 760 N; 761 T; 762 I; 763 E; 764 D; 765 Y; 766 N; 767 T; 768 I; 769 E; 770 D; 771 Y; 772 N; 773 T; 774 I; 775 E; 776 D; 777 Y; 778 N; 779 T; 780 I; 781 E; 782 D; 783 Y; 784 N; 785 T; 786 I; 787 E; 788 D; 789 Y; 790 N; 791 T; 792 I; 793 E; 794 D; 795 Y; 796 N; 797 T; 798 I; 799 E; 800 D; 801 Y; 802 N; 803 T; 804 I; 805 E; 806 D; 807 Y; 808 N; 809 T; 810 I; 811 E; 812 D; 813 Y; 814 N; 815 T; 816 I; 817 E; 818 D; 819 Y; 820 N; 821 T; 822 I; 823 E; 824 D; 825 Y; 826 N; 827 T; 828 I; 829 E; 830 D; 831 Y; 832 N; 833 T; 834 I; 835 E; 836 D; 837 Y; 838 N; 839 T; 840 I; 841 E; 842 D; 843 Y; 844 N; 845 T; 846 I; 847 E; 848 D; 849 Y; 850 N; 851 T; 852 I; 853 E; 854 D; 855 Y; 856 N; 857 T; 858 I; 859 E; 860 D; 861 Y; 862 N; 863 T; 864 I; 865 E; 866 D; 867 Y; 868 N; 869 T; 870 I; 871 E; 872 D; 873 Y; 874 N; 875 T; 876 I; 877 E; 878 D; 879 Y; 880 N; 881 T; 882 I; 883 E; 884 D; 885 Y; 886 N; 887 T; 888 I; 889 E; 890 D; 891 Y; 892 N; 893 T; 894 I; 895 E; 896 D; 897 Y; 898 N; 899 T; 900 I; 9

# The Oban Times and St Kilda ch

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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

**December 1930:** St Kildans' rights withheld. Macleod of Macleod criticizes Government's action.

'That the St Kildans have not yet been paid the money realised from the sale of their sheep after the evacuation was revealed by Sir Reginald Macleod of Macleod, speaking at the annual dinner of the Edinburgh Inverness-shire Association in the Royal Hotel, Edinburgh, last Saturday.

'In referring to St Kilda, which belongs to him, Sir Reginald remarked that the island was said to be a sort of prison to which the Lords of Macleod sent their less agreeable retainers. He did not know if that was true. As far as he knew, however, the late inhabitants were a most agreeable people, as far from being criminal as anyone in that room.

'Many people had been good enough to suggest how St Kilda should be utilised. The only practical suggestion was that it should be used as sort of prison for silver foxes. Silver foxes would be very welcome if anyone liked to try the experiment (laughter). Turning seriously to the question, he thought anyone who loved the island and its people must feel a sadness that it was again bare of inhabitants. There was nothing there but 13 little houses with no-one occupying them. One very earnestly wished that the inhabitants might prosper in their new surroundings.

'He thought the Government had incurred a very great responsibility in that matter. It was not enough simply to take the people from the homes of their ancestors and leave them to find their own way. They were entire strangers to modern life. They required care and he demanded that the Government should continue to take care of them and see that they were not lost in crowds of strange faces and that they really had sympathy shown to them. He wanted particularly to emphasise this - that the people moved from the island and everything they had



Left: Mrs Rachel MacDonald, St Kilda's oldest resident, E. Puzzled, tired but still stoical and dignified, they stand near their new homes; and above, Savary, overlooking the sea for many years.

in the world was taken from them. Hitherto it has not been done. To this moment nothing has been returned to them. They have not received a penny. I intend to leave the Government no peace until the people are properly treated, both in the way of care and restoration of all their property.

'The attention of Mr Tom Johnston, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, was drawn to the speech by MacLeod of MacLeod. In reply he stated that the reason the money received from the sale of the St Kildans' sheep and not yet been handed over to

the islanders was that the Government had been endeavouring, with some success, to induce the shipping company to reduce their transport charges. It was obviously in the interests of the St Kildans that the expenses of transport and sale of the sheep should be kept as low as possible. He had heard no complaint regarding the money, which would be paid to the islanders as soon as the accounts were settled.'

In concluding this series on the clearance of the island of St Kilda, based on reports in *The Oban Times* which has been the West Highland's

premier newspaper since 1861, it is apparent there was far more to the removal of the islanders than is generally accepted. Truly, history is written by the victor who, in this case, was a distant Westminster Labour Government and not the unfortunate evacuees. Had there been a volcanic eruption, as was the case on Tristan da Cunha in 1961 necessitating an emergency evacuation, it would have been different. But it wasn't. The UK Government had ample time to plan an orderly withdrawal and to ensure the transition was done sympathetically. Basically St Kilda, and indeed a number of other islands off the west coast, were an inconvenience to local and national governments providing opposition parties with the opportunity to berate each other.

Few in public life cared about a small,

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 8, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	02.58	1.6	08.39	3.4
	14.57	1.9	21.01	3.2
<b>Fri</b>	03.44	1.8	09.21	3.2
	15.48	2.1	21.52	2.9
<b>Sat</b>	04.58	2.0	10.23	3.0
	17.49	2.2	***	**
<b>Sun</b>	01.16	2.8	06.23	2.0
	13.34	3.0	19.39	2.1
<b>Mon</b>	02.36	3.0	07.42	1.8
	14.46	3.3	21.04	1.7
<b>Tues</b>	03.25	3.2	08.49	1.5
	15.29	3.6	21.53	1.4
<b>Wed</b>	04.04	3.5	09.42	1.1
	16.07	3.9	22.34	1.0

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

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

## WEATHER

### THURSDAY

Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

### FRIDAY

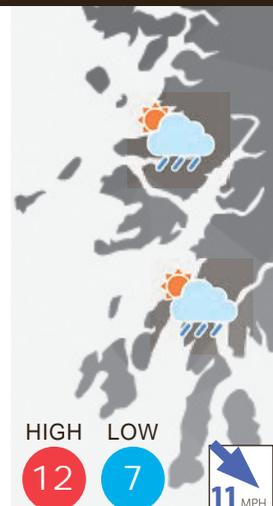
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

### WEEKEND OUTLOOK

**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

**Sunday**  
Light cloud and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST



# Clearance: part 10



Owen Gillies and Finlay Gillies, 'the King of St Kilda'.  
Near Lochaline pier waiting patiently for a car to take  
them home to the Sound of Mull, home to the Gillies family for

non-manufacturing community on the edge, other than the Cameron family of The Oban Times whose owner and editor, Flora Macaulay, kept the government on its toes.

The landowner could and should have done, but didn't. Sir Reginald Macleod of Macleod (1847-1935) KCB of Dunvegan Castle, 27th clan chief, was educated at Harrow and Cambridge. This kilted anglophile, Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, Register General and Permanent Under Secretary for Scotland in HM's Civil Service, was a person holding high office to whom the St Kildans were paying rent they could ill afford. He could so easily have helped well before 1930 and by at least underwriting the cost of the evacuation afterwards. He didn't and abandoned them when they needed him most leaving it until well after the

Harebell had sailed out of Village Bay before making a few half-hearted public squeaks to salve his conscience, by which time it was much too late.

There are many questions which future writers of St Kilda must ask before trotting out the usual stories of a starving and ageing population cut off from the outside world begging to be removed. Questions about the petition signed by islanders asking to be evacuated which was clearly orchestrated by Nurse Barclay. Had she been placed there by the Labour Government to sow the seeds in return for the medal she later received when she succeeded?

Questions, too, must be asked about the shambles which occurred once the islanders were tipped ashore at Lochaline. Before they left St Kilda they had been promised they would be housed in the same place. They were to be given crofts to enable them to go on living and working together which was so important to them, but it was not to be.

'Get them on the boat and out of here' seemed to have been the attitude of the officials, 'we won't be bringing them back' and set about un-roofing buildings and failing to maintain others. Questions also about what actually went on between the Chief Housing Inspector of the Department of Health for Scotland, the Department of Agriculture, the Forestry Commission in London and Edinburgh, Macandrew, Wright & Murray, Writers to the Signet and legal advisors to Mrs Owen Hugh Smith, the owner of Ardtornish Estate, who was quoted at a meeting between the Forestry Commission and the Department of Health on November 3 1930 as saying that she was unwilling to accept any ex-St Kildan as a tenant.

I am not a fan of retrospective public apologies by politicians and government ministers, but something is definitely due to the St Kildans for the shallow way in which they were treated and used as political pawns. As no costly plaque can atone for the neglect to the living and not one original St Kildan is alive today, perhaps the Scottish Government should consider awarding a tax free pension to the families of the second generation?

Arthur Balfour, the UK's prime minister from 1902 to 1905 wrote: 'Nothing matters very much and few things matter at all.' It would be simple to apply this to abandoned islands but given St Kilda's now near mythical status we cannot.

From the book, *The St Kilda Clearance* by Iain Thornber, forthcoming.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We just love the smiley faces and the bright coloured t-shirts worn by these youngsters. We think the logo says Balamory, which would perhaps place them in Tobermory on Mull, but it would be great to hear from you if you can put names to faces and perhaps give us the date and the occasion. Email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)



These youngsters are being shown how to plough a straight furrow, but by whom, where and when? If you know, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Music for a movement

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



University of the Highlands and Islands music students have been set some unusual course work – to compose a piece of music which celebrates communities which have taken back control of their land and assets.

It has been written that ever since the ancient pre-Christian Celtic legend had Deirdre of the Sorrows lamenting her departure from Glen Etive, Scotland's music, poetry and prose have explored her people's sense of place.

From the Gaelic songs of those lamenting their eviction and exile, to the creative genius of Robert Burns; from the folk songs and bothy ballads to Grassick Gibbon's Sunset Song, the focus has been on our relationship with the land and landscape closest to us.

The body which symbolises the radical land reform that heralded communities taking control of their land and assets



across Scotland recognises this. Community Land Scotland (CLS) is now seeking music for this movement towards local control to mark the tenth anniversary of its founding as the representative organisation for community buyouts from Gigha to Comrie and Knoydart to Peebles, as well as into the cities. They cover more than 560,000 acres of land and are home to tens of thousands of people.

The music project is being pursued in a unique partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands which already has a presence in many communities, including some of the most remote human outposts in the land.

It will be the 50-plus students on its BA (Hons) applied music course who will be asked initially to take up CLS's composition challenge.

Students on the BA (Hons)

Creative Writing in the Highlands and Islands have also been invited to contribute their response with words which may be integrated into the final piece.

Students will collaborate over two residencies to compose a piece across a range of genres – traditional, classical and modern – that meets the CLS challenge. The overall aspiration is for a piece that is easily accessible and capable

The musical quest will complement other CLS cultural projects.

of performance by a range of instruments and group sizes which will be used for events and videos.

CLS chairwoman Ailsa Raeburn said: 'The story of Scotland's land has been marked by dispossession, eviction and exploitation down the centuries. For generations many who lived and worked on the land had little or no power over their lives. Their sad stories were often told in music and songs that remain with us today are a powerful element of Scotland's culture. In the last three decades the tide started to turn, as governments began to recognise communities should be given the power to start to recreate their own stories and tell new ones. The opportunity now to write new music and songs and tell these new stories is one that can't be missed.'

Anna-Wendy Stevenson, Programme Leader for

University of the Highlands and Islands BA (Hons) applied music course is equally enthusiastic.

'We are living in a time where never has community been so important. The value of community for collaboration and learning underpins the curriculum design and delivery of the applied music degree course so we are excited to be working with CLS on this commission.'

'This project will provide depth and dynamic to our on-line creative practice environment and deeper consideration around the idea and value of community, identity and empowerment.'

The musical quest will complement other CLS cultural projects, including the appointment of artists in residence at Galson on Lewis and Abriachan in the hills above Loch Ness.

They are to be working around the theme of radical land reform.

These will be showcased at an event in Edinburgh in spring 2021.

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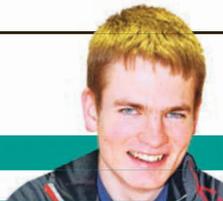
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# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## You've got to laugh

I don't know about you but I find recently I've been taking more and more joy out of daft little stories which help to keep my mind off the fact there seems to be no end in sight to this pandemic or the subsequent restrictions.

My Dad phoned last week with laughter in his voice to tell me my mum had been trying to take out some kind of insurance on the internet.

I'm not entirely sure of the details but, for the sake of the story, let's say the website in question was called CWB Caledonia, or something similar.

Ever the computer expert, Mum managed to sign herself up for an entirely different company called CWB Canada. The initials stand for the Canadian Welding Bureau - of which my mother is now a fully signed up member with all the registration emails to prove it.

I believe my Dad has been collecting any bits of metal he can find in the garden in the hope her new career will enable her to weld a nice table together for the patio.

Personally, I'm just looking forward to a nicely caramelised crème brûlée next time I'm home.

## Scots Trad Awards

On a more serious note, nominations for this year's MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards opened this week.

The awards will be broadcast in partnership with BBC Alba but, like every other event, they will be totally different to the usual busy, glamorous affair.

Previous years have seen the red carpet rolled out at



This year's MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards will be a celebration of all this year's virtual performances.

such prestigious venues as the Caird Hall in Dundee or the Aberdeen Music Hall with the great and good of the traditional music world piling in to the venues dressed in all their finery.

This year's event was to return to the Caird Hall but instead it will be a celebration of all the virtual performances that have happened throughout 2020 as musicians have had to innovate in ways never anticipated before the pandemic.

The usual awards will still be at the heart of the event, though, and the public can now nominate their favourite artists on the Hands Up for Trad website.

While most are a blank canvass for which you can nominate whoever you like, a long list of 20 albums has been produced by Hands Up

for Trad for the album of the year.

It's a cracking list of albums including Peat and Diesel's much-loved and hilariously entitled Light My Byre, the brilliant Steall, by Ewen Henderson, Dithis, by Joy and Andrew Dunlop, and a host of other crackers covering the spectrum of the genre.

It also includes Eye of the Storm by some band called Tide Lines.

I am sure I am not the only person connected to the traditional music world who will miss the chance to have a great party at the Trad in December. It is, nevertheless, a huge triumph and testament to the work of Simon Thumire and his team that the awards will still go ahead this year.

I'm looking forward to watching them.

# WHAT'S ON

## AT OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

FRI 9- THU 15 OCT



### THIS WEEKEND

#### FRIDAY 9 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard! | PG  
The Elfkins | U  
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite | U  
Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A  
Eternal Beauty | 15  
23 Walks | 12A

12:00/14:30  
13:00  
15:15  
17:00  
18:00  
19:30

#### SATURDAY 10 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard! | PG  
The Elfkins | U  
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite | U  
Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A  
Eternal Beauty | 15  
What Men Want | 15

12:00/14:30  
13:00  
15:15  
17:00  
18:00  
19:45

#### SUNDAY 11 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard! | PG  
The Elfkins | U  
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite | U  
Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A  
Eternal Beauty | 15  
Black Panther | 12A

12:00/14:30  
13:00  
15:15  
17:00  
18:00  
19:30

### WEEKDAY CINEMA



#### MONDAY 12 - THURSDAY 15 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard! | PG  
The Elfkins | U  
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite | U  
Max Winslow & The House of Secrets | 12A  
Eternal Beauty | 15  
23 Walks | 12A

12:00/14:30  
13:00  
15:15  
17:00  
18:00  
19:30

### We've made changes to help you enjoy a safer big screen experience.

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

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



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

# Could A Large Measure of Snow be the perfect winter antidote?

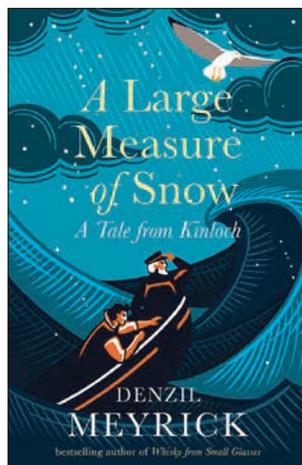
by Hannah O'Hanlon  
[editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk)

Best-selling novelist Denzil Meyrick's latest publication, *A Large Measure of Snow*, could be the perfect antidote to the boredom and uncertainty many of us are experiencing at the moment.

The 149-page novella set in Kinloch – a fictional town based on Denzil's native Campbeltown – may stir up memories for those who lived through the blizzards of the 1940s and 1960s and, more recently in 2013, which saw Kintyre cut off from the rest of the country.

Released on Thursday October 1, the book – a special edition hardback which is also available in ebook and audiobook formats – is set in December 1967. Kinloch has suffered heavy snow and, with all roads closed, the only way to feed and water the townsfolk is for the fishing fleet to sail to Girvan for much-needed supplies.

However, the skipper of the *Girl Maggie*, Sandy Hoynes,



has a problem. First mate Hamish has, to everyone's astonishment, been chosen as Young Fisherman of the Year by a Glasgow newspaper.

Marooned in the town and with one eye on a scoop, the newspaper's reporter decides to join the fishing crew on their mercy mission. The thought of the publicity – and some remuneration – delights Hoynes. But Hamish hasn't told him the whole story.

As the blizzards worsen, the crew of the *Girl Maggie* em-

bark upon a trip like no other, encountering ghostly Vikings, gigantic crustaceans and a helpful seagull.

Although set in the same location as the critically acclaimed DCI Daley series for which Denzil is most well known and sharing some of the same characters, he says the novella is very different. 'This is much more humorous and there's a wee bit of satire in there as well,' he told *The Oban Times*.

'It's light-hearted in my mind. It's an antidote to the terrible time we're having. It's old fashioned. It harkens back to Compton Mackenzie's books and the *Para Handy* and *Whisky Galore*. It's written in that kind of style. It would be ideal as a stocking filler.'

As it is not possible to hold official launch events under current government restrictions, Denzil and fellow Campbeltown author Freddy Gillies, whose latest book *Coal Fires and Tuppence for the Bus*, to which Denzil contributed, was released last month, have teamed up

to hold a digital launch. The duo will discuss their new releases, as well as a number of slides showing photographs of Campbeltown and its fishing fleet in the 1960s and 1970s, provided by Freddy. The package will be shared on Denzil's website and publisher Birlinn's website as well as Facebook and YouTube around publication day.

Denzil, who now lives with his wife Fiona on Loch Lomondside but whose home town is never far from his mind, dedicated the book to the memory of Campbeltown paramedic Robert Black, who died in May after a battle with Covid-19.

He said: 'I think it's good to dedicate it to someone who has done something or achieved something or, sadly in this case, died far too young in the course of their job.'

Thanks to thousands of pre-orders, the book sold out before it was released with more copies having to be printed.

It is available now from the usual outlets.

**CROSSWORD**

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- Across**
- 1 Single lockup? (4)
  - 3 Trigger bottle (5,3)
  - 9 Entourage (7)
  - 10 Leather strip (5)
  - 11 On the cards (12)
  - 13 Take up (6)
  - 15 Wrist joint (6)
  - 17 Canvas topped vehicle (7,5)
  - 20 Empty (5)
  - 21 Dependent (7)
  - 22 Narrow (3-5)
  - 23 Wail (4)
- Down**
- 1 Ridged fabric (8)
  - 2 Seated position (5)
  - 4 Rhymes (6)
  - 5 Cistern (8,4)
  - 6 Adult (7)
  - 7 Approaching (4)
  - 8 Forward thinking business person (12)
  - 12 Minute sea creatures (8)
  - 14 Hymn (7)
  - 16 Containing iron (6)
  - 18 Like some accents (5)
  - 19 Storage space (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

1	Q	2	E	3	S	4	A	5	B	6	C	7	U	8	V
N	I	C	R	C	L	H	K								
R	E	D	E	E	R	I	R	A	T	E					
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I	N	E		G	I	N									
S	U	T	U	R	E	C	Y	G	N	E	T				

# New album from Oban-born music man Neil Armstrong

by Fiona Scott  
[fscott@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fscott@obantimes.co.uk)

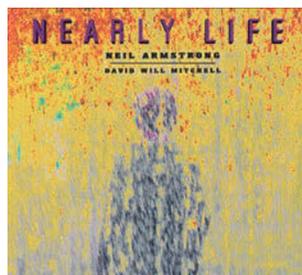


Written against the backdrop of the coronavirus catastrophe, *Nearly Life* is the latest album from Oban-born Neil Armstrong.

Now living in Spain, Neil has teamed up with lyricist David Will Mitchell and the legendary Jose Maria Sagrista (Triana), with the album initially sparked in January this year and finished within six months despite recording grinding to a halt mid-way through as a result of Spain's lockdown.

Together they produce emotive and meaningful pop songs. Drawing from his classical music background, Neil Armstrong writes and performs moving pop and rock tunes with a story to tell.

The album addresses descent and redemption, falling from grace, financial loss, physical falls, societal descents and environmental decline to name a



few. Taking inspiration from poet W B Yeats, author Gabriel Garcia Marquez and from pivotal societal moments such as the Covid pandemic, the 9/11 tragedy and climate change, 'Nearly Life' engages with big themes in a thoughtful and nuanced way.

Neil was born in Oban and brought up in Connel where his parents were GPs until the mid 2000s.

A multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, he has recently welcomed music back into his life. With two albums and a rock musical already to his name, he now lives in Spain with his family.





In solidarity with 31-year-old fisherman Boydie, the boys in the band and the crew of his fishing boat Comrade are going Sober for October.

## Whisky no-more for Western Isles' band Peat and Diesel

Popular three-piece band Peat and Diesel are giving up the booze for a month and taking part in Macmillan Cancer Support's Go Sober for October campaign.

Calum 'Boydie' MacLeod, Innes Scott and Uilly Macleod formed in 2018 after regular Saturday music sessions at the band members' homes in Stornoway became popular on social media.

In solidarity with 31-year-old fisherman Boydie, the boys in the band and the crew of his fishing boat Comrade have decided to jump on the wagon.

With no gigs in the pipeline and no parties to attend, Boydie said: 'Apart from the rain out at sea it's going to be a dry month. No-one is saying it's going to be easy but with the band and my crew joining in, it will certainly help. Uilly has a big birthday this month, so we're going to have to celebrate with a cup of coffee and leave the partying to a later date.'

On the band's Facebook page there are lots of good luck and cheeky messages from fans and supporters as the boys head into a month of sobriety.

Uilly said: 'I think I'll cope fine with going sober but I'm not sure about Boydie. He likes his beer! I'm more of a gin and tonic man myself and Innes is tea total so this

will be a breeze to him. I turn 30 on October 25 so I guess celebrations will need to take place in November. Macmillan Cancer Support, are a much-loved charity across the Western Isles and support a lot of people in the community so it's great to be doing something for them.'

Unable to get together because of the pandemic, Uilly said: 'We had a gig on the back of a trailer at the start of lockdown to try and lift people's spirits a wee bit, but since then it's been hard. We managed to meet once when the restrictions were eased and had a few practices. Now, of course, we can't meet at all because we are from three different households.'

'I usually like a drink to wind down at the end of a hard week, so I'll need to take up something else to relax a bit. It's all for a good cause so we will be reminding ourselves of that throughout. Anything people can donate to our page is very much appreciated. Thank you.'

Shirlie Geddes, senior fundraising manager in the north of Scotland, Macmillan Cancer Support, said: 'We can't thank the members of Peat and Diesel enough for taking part in our Go Sober fundraiser. Thank you also to the fishing boat Comrade. The band are very popular and well known so I am sure

there will be lots of support from their fan base.

'It's such a difficult time for charities just now so their support is very much appreciated and I'm sure they'll be able to catch up on their favourite tipples once October is out the way. Happy 30th birthday to Uilly when it comes and a massive thank you from everyone at Macmillan. Good luck!'

Macmillan's head of services in Scotland, Janice Preston, said: 'Right now people with cancer need Macmillan's support more than ever before. Many of us are struggling right now but having cancer during a pandemic brings a huge amount of additional stress and difficulty.'

'We want to be there for everyone who needs us but we rely on donations for almost all of our income. We're so grateful to everyone who is holding a coffee morning or raising money for us in another way. We need support now more than ever.'

'It's vital people with cancer don't become forgotten amidst the coronavirus.'

If you would like to donate to Peat and Diesel's Go Sober page, visit [www.gosober.org.uk/teams/peat-diesel](http://www.gosober.org.uk/teams/peat-diesel)

It's not too late to sign up and try a sober October and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Visit [www.gosober.org.uk](http://www.gosober.org.uk)

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 8 an Dàmhair

#### THURSDAY 8 October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in A Big War) (rpt)  
19.25 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Sgoil nan Sagairt/Priest School (rpt)  
21.00 Lorgan Linda/ Linda's Story (rpt)  
22.00 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)  
22.30 Bana- Churaidhean/ Warrior Women (rpt)  
23.20 Celtic Connections (rpt)  
23.30 Bannan 57 (rpt)

programming

17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 As an Eilean (rpt)  
19.35 Cearcall (rpt)  
20.05 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Fuine (rpt)  
21.00 Seirm 55 (rpt)  
21.55 Bana- Churaidhean / Warrior Women (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Morlich) (rpt)  
23.00 Colin Macleod – When it Kicks in (rpt)  
00.00 Colin Macleod – An Ceol (rpt)  
00.30 Belladrum 2019 (Highlights) (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News

20.30 NEW – Abair Trusadh  
21.00 NEW – Mod Suil Air Ais  
21.30 NEW – Abair Trusadh  
23.00 NEW – Bannan  
23.30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 13 an Dàmhair

#### TUESDAY 13 October

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhor (Small Hands Big War) (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 NEW – Vets: Gach Creutair Beo  
21.00 NEW – Mod Suil Air Ais  
23.00 Abair Trusadh (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia! Spiritual Music & verse (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 11 an Dàmhair

#### SUNDAY 11 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 Thugainn dhan Phark/ Park Bar Life (rpt)  
22.00 Sar Sgeoil: Macbeth (rpt)  
22.55 UR/ NEW The Optimists  
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Morlich) (rpt)

### DILUAIN 12 an Dàmhair

#### MONDAY 12 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)

### DISATHAIRNE 10 an Dàmhair

#### SATURDAY 10 October

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's



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## Around the markets

### United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday September 29:

sold 2,121 sheep of all classes. 1018 Lambs averaged £51.36 (+£19.18). Lambs consisted of third & fourth draws and sold exceptionally well. Ewes also sold well recording an increase of £6 on the corresponding sale last year.

Lambs - SuffX - £73.00, Daltote; £70.00, £68.00, Dalvuie; £68.00, Balnagown; £67.00, Scoor; £61.00, Daltote; £61.00, Scoor; £60.00, Baravullin Beag; £60.00, Dalvuie. TexX - £66.00, Daltote; £66.00, Balnagown; £65.00, Ardachy; £64.00, Aird; £60.00, Daltote; £60.00, Ardchatten. Chev - £86.00, £81.00, 119 Craigston, Barra; £70.00, Strongorm; £70.00, 119 Craigston; £68.00, Rhu-Ard; £68.00, Quinish Estate; £66.50, Poltalloch; £64.00, £63.00, Quinish Estate; £63.00, Newcrofts; £62.00, 11 Uidh, Vatersay; £62.00, Achadhbeag; £61.00, Kintraw. Cross - £76.00, Aird; £69.00, Clachan Farms; £68.00, Strongorm; £66.00, Creag A Mhadaidh; £63.00, Poltalloch; £62.00, Clachan Farms; £61.50, Mid Farm; £60.50, Balnagown; £60.00, Strongorm; £60.00, Baravullin Beag; £60.00, Kilbride, Balvicar. Mule - £67.00, Balure of Shian;

£64.50, 10 Eastfield; £63.00, Balure of Shian; £62.00, 10 Eastfield. BF - £58.00, Creagantervebeg; £58.00, Tyree; £58.00, Aird; £57.00, Glebe; £54.50, Poltalloch; £54.00, Glebe; £53.00, Callachally; £53.00, Tyree; £52.00, Stroneskar; £52.00, Soroba; £50.50, £50.00, Creag A Mhadaidh.

Ewes - SuffX - £73, Dalvuie; £70, Mid Farm; £68, Dalvuie; £60, Mid Farm. Lley - £67, Dalvuie. Chev - £76, £70, Aird; £65, Mid Farm; £65, Kengharair; £60, Aird Farm. Cross - £56, Crofts 9/31 Ullapool. Mule - £58, Balnagown. BF - £56, Ardchatten; £56, Ensay; £49, Achalic; £44, Torloisk.

### United Auctions, Dalmally,

**Saturday October 3:** sold 1748 sheep of all classes. 1096 lambs averaged £50.01 (+£14.87). A smaller show of lambs sold well. A good turnout of buyers ensured all stock was cleared at firm rates.

#### Leading Prices per head:

Lambs - TexX - £69.00, Glenshero; £68.00, Blairmore; £66.00, Glenfeochan Estate; £60.50, Duncroisk; £60.00, High Balantyre; £60.00, Balnahard. BeltX - £62.00, Dall Farm. Chev - £65.50, Achnacreemore; £59.00, Glenshero; £54.50, Achnacreemore; £51.00, Glenshero. Cross - £72.50, Achnacreemore; £61.00, Ardchnonnel Farms;

£60.50, Balliemore Farm; £57.00, Glenshero; £54.00, Balnahard. Mule - £70.00, Glenfeochan Estate; £58.00, Balnahard; £57.50, Garraron; £52.00, £51.00, Ederline Estate. BF - £69.50, Largie; £63.00, Castles Estate; £61.00, Birchfield; £60.50, Crubenbeg; £59.50, Glenfeochan; £59.00, Benmore; £54.50, Achnaba; £54.00, Sonachan; £50.50, Garraron.

**Ewe Lambs:** BF - £65.00, Achnaba; £50.00, Sonachan; £50.00, Castles Estate.

Gimmers - BF - £64.00, Musdale. Cross - £70.00, Ardchnonnel.

**Warranted Ewes:** BF - £55.00, Tullochcan; £55.00, Craig. Cross - £55.00, Craig.

Cast Ewes - TexX - £54.00, Craig. Cross - £60.00, Balnahard; £52.00, Achnacarron. BF - £58.00, Achnacone; £55.00, Ederline Estate; £50.00, Ardchnonnel; £50.00, Castles Estate; £48.00, Barrachander.

#### Leading prices per kilo:

Lambs - TexX - 213p, Duncroisk; 203p, Balnahard; 202p, Ederline Estate. BeltX - 225p, Dall Farm. Chev - 207p, Lochdochart; 202p, Garraron; 199p, Lochdochart; 190p, Achnacreemore; 190p, Glenshero. Cross - 200p, Glenshero; 195p, Ardchnonnel; 190p, Balnahard. Mule - 187p, Ederline Estate; 181p, Garraron. BF - 183p, Blairmore; 177p, Castles

Estate; 176p, Benmore; 176p, Largie; 176p, Glenfeochan Estate; 175p, Crubenbeg; 175p, Achnaba.

### Islay, United Auctions, Friday

**October 2:** sold 4958 Breeding and Feeding sheep. 3205 store lambs averaged £67.03 (+ £12.47). Blackface Gimmers sold to £155 from K Wiggins, Lorgbaw Croft and Mule Ewe lambs sold to £200 from S Young, Bola Na Traigh. The Ram section was topped by a Suffolk Ram Lamb from Jack McDonald realising £820. A strong force of buyers was in attendance and all classes of stock was easily sold to seller's advantage.

#### Leading Prices per head:

Store Lambs - SuffX - £97.00, Auchnaclach; £91.00, Islay Estates; £90.00, Auchnaclach; £90.00, £88.50, Islay Estates; £86.00, Dunlossit Keills; £85.50, Craigfad; £84.50, Islay Estates; £84.50, Craigfad; £84.00, Ardbeg; £84.00, Uiskentuie; £82.50, Lossit; £82.00, Octofad; £80.50, Ballimartin. TexX - £91.00, Blackrock; £87.00, Lower Cragabus; £84.50, Tallant; £84.00, Auchnaclach; £84.00, Islay Estates; £83.00, Dunlossit Keills; £81.50, Grulinbeg; £80.50, Lossit. BFL - £70.00, 17 Mansefield. BeltX - £74.50, Carrabus. Chev - £81.00, Aoradh; £76.00, Croft 2 Port Mor; £74.00, Aoradh; £72.00,

Coillabus Farm. Cross - £76.50, Ardbeg; £69.50, Carrabus; £69.00, Craigfad; £68.50, Carrabus; £67.00, £65.00, Duich; £65.00, Mansefield J G Ltd. Mule - £82.00, Ballytarsin; £82.00, Islay Estates; £80.00, 11 Charlotte Street. BF - £90.00, Uiskentuie; £83.00, Ballytarsin; £82.00, Uiskentuie; £79.00, Lossit; £72.00, Kilchiaran; £69.00, Lossit; £67.00, Islay Estates; £63.00, Blackpark. Feeding Ewes - Suff - £109, Bola Na Traigh. BFL - £95, Coille Farm; £80.00, Ballachlaven. Tex - £154, £144, £100, Kilmeny; £100, Grulinbeg; £99, Auchnaclach; £96, Octofad; £96, Claggan; £95, Blackrock; £93, Islay Estates; £90, Blackrock. Chev - £97, Aoradh; £93, £86, Cruach; £85, Aoradh. Cross - £69, Auchnaclach; £64, Laggan. Mule - £92, Starchmill; £79, £78, Islay Estates. BF - £57.50, Bola Na Traigh.

#### Breeding Sheep

Rams - Suff - £820, Bayview; £720, Coille. BFL - £620, Coille; £550, Ballachlaven. BeltX - £650, Westend. Tex - £700, £450, Westend.

Warranted Ewes - Mule - £82, Mansefield J G Ltd. BF - £82, Kelsay; £80, Lorgbaw Croft; £80, £76, Viewfield; £75, Starchmill. Gimmers - Mule - £150, £120, Lorgba. BF - £155, Lorgbaw. Ewe Lambs - Mule - £200, £130,

Bola Na Traigh; £118, Smaladh; £105, Ballytarsin; £102, Smaladh. Tex - £107, Kilmeny. BF - £72, Smaladh; £62, Dunlossit Ceannacroic.

#### Prices per kilo

Store Lambs - SuffX - 237p, Islay Estates; 222p, Sannaigmore; 219p, Octofad; 214p, Islay Estates; 214p, Viewfield; 213p, Smaladh; 208p, Octofad; 205p, Auchnaclach; 203p, Islay Estates; 202p, Carrabus; 201p, Islay Estates; 200p, Smaladh. TexX - 217p, Grulinbeg; 212p, Blackrock; 210p, Islay Estates; 209p, Lower Cragabus; 205p, 11 Charlotte Street; 203p, Mansefield J G Ltd; 202p, Laggan Properties. BeltX - 220p, Carrabus. Chev - 191p, Croft 2 Port Mor; 190p, Ardfarnal; 189p, Aoradh; 186p, Coille; 184p, Ardfarnal; 181p, Croft 2 Port Mor; 180p, Aoradh. Cross - 205p, 11 Charlotte Street; 204p, Craigfad; 194p, Carrabus; 191p, Craigfad. Mule - 204p, Smaladh; 192p, Kinndrochaid; 190p, Smaladh; 190p, Upper Cragabus Croft; 190p, Sannaigmore; 190p, Viewfield. BF - 176p, Islay Estates; 173p, Kilchiaran; 172p, Dunlossit Ceannacroic; 172p, Kinnabus Farm; 172p, Lossit; 171p, Kelsay; 170p, Dunlossit Keills.



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# How 'natural enemies' can be farmers' friends

With evidence mounting that insect populations are declining, farmers are being encouraged to act now to save these vitally important species.

While some can be classified as pests, many – including earthworms, bumblebees and spiders – play a crucial role in breaking down organic matter, pollinating crops or providing a crucial first line of defence against more harmful species.

A new Farm Advisory

Service fact sheet highlights the importance of invertebrate species – particularly with the reduction in the availability and effectiveness of pesticides.

Written by Lorna Cole, agricultural ecologist at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), and Paul Chapman, senior consultant at SAC Consulting, part of SRUC, it says: 'Managing farmland to support these beneficial invertebrates is an important component of Integrated Pest

Management. Determining where in a crop these natural enemies are active gives us an insight into the pests they will effectively control. There is even evidence that predators in different areas of the crop can work in synergy increasing the efficiency of biocontrol.'

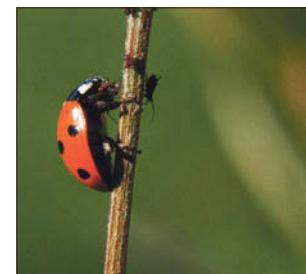
While ladybirds, money spiders, hoverfly larvae and parasitic wasps are frequently active in the crop canopy controlling aphids, cereal leaf

beetles and pollen beetles, ground predators such as rove beetles and wolf spiders will prey on leatherjackets and slugs at ground level.

These insects can also work in synergy, with ground active predators consuming aphids which fall to the ground to escape ladybirds.

However, although it is important to support a diversity of 'natural enemies' to control the wide range of pests that

damage crops, it can be difficult to achieve the perfect environment as different species require a variety of resources and these vary throughout their lifecycle. To overcome this, the authors recommend providing a diversity of farmland habitats, including floral-rich field margins, tussocky grassy field margins and hedgerows and beetle banks to provide forage for the insects that protect crops.



Insects have a vital role to play in controlling pests that damage crops.

## SAC Consulting to support Covid-hit charity in virtual Tour D'Office challenge

Staff from SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), will walk, cycle and run nearly 2,000 miles throughout October as part of a virtual Tour D'Office challenge to raise money for the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution

(RSABI). David Ross, Regional Development Manager with SAC Consulting said: 'For the past couple of years, we've entered teams into RSABI's Great Glen Challenge and it's always been a highlight for staff. This year, due to the current circum-

stances and cancellation of the Great Glen event, we decided to try and do something different. The concept of virtually racing around all 24 SAC Consulting offices has come up before and we decided this year is the perfect opportunity to make it happen. Head

of SAC Consulting, Andrew Lacey, said: 'RSABI provides a vital service to rural people throughout Scotland and we felt it was important to continue our fundraising efforts for them.'

Chief Executive of RSABI, Nina Clancy, said: 'So many charities have

been adversely impacted by lockdown and the subsequent restrictions. I am grateful the team has decided to donate the funds to RSABI as it will really make a difference to people in the agricultural sector who are struggling.'

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# RESERVATIONS OPEN FOR NEW ZERO-EMISSIONS PEUGEOT e-TRAVELLER

PEUGEOT has opened reservations for the new, full electric, e-Traveller, and has confirmed new specifications and features for the rest of the Traveller range. The new e-Traveller will arrive in UK showrooms in 2021, with the Traveller on sale now.

The new e-Traveller features a 50kWh battery and a 100kW (136hp) electric motor with 260Nm of torque. Under WLTP testing the new e-Traveller has a range of up to 143-miles (WLTP) from a single charge, with the battery guaranteed by an eight-year, 100,000 mile warranty. Three driving modes – ECO, NORMAL and POWER – allow drivers to optimise the range or performance from the battery to suit their journey.

Supporting up to 100kW rapid charging, an 80% charge will take just 30 minutes, all customers receive a free six-month subscription to POLAR, with a network of 7,000 public charging points.

The new e-Traveller is available in two body lengths, Standard and Long, and its modular configuration can accommo-

date up to eight passengers in comfort with a boot capacity of up to 1,500 litres. With removable second and third row seats, the e-Traveller has a maximum loadspace of up to 4,900 litres.

With no compromise in capability, the new e-Traveller offers businesses and private users a full electric, zero-emissions solution. Customers can reserve a vehicle with a single, fully-refundable deposit of £250.

The Traveller and new e-Traveller are available in Active and Allure trim levels, with both trim ranges updated for 2021.

Active models feature 17-inch wheels, Rear Parking Sensors, Cruise Control and Twin Sliding Rear Doors as standard. Inside, a seven-inch capacitive colour touchscreen integrates the Mirror Screen® function enabling compatible Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto smartphone applications. All versions offer excellent modularity and flexibility with the second and third row seats fully adjustable and removable. Allure trim adds Front and Rear Parking Sensors with



a 180-degree rear camera, PEUGEOT Open and Go keyless entry and start, Xenon headlights, electric Sliding doors, PEUGEOT Connected 3D Navigation and a Head Up

Display. Prices for the Traveller start at £37,430 for Standard length Active models.

David Peel, Managing Director of PEUGEOT UK, comment-

ed: “The new e-Traveller joins our growing line-up of electric vehicles. With no compromise in capability, it’s the perfect solution for fleet, business and private users looking to cut

their emissions and vehicle tax. By 2023 we will offer an electrified variant across our entire model line-up.” Visit [cambeltownmotorcompany.co.uk](http://cambeltownmotorcompany.co.uk) to find out more.

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
20/02857/FUL	Former Glenborrodale Primary School, Acharacle	Change of use of land to garden grounds and erection of extensions to self-contained unit
20/02533/FUL	25M South of Lochview Lochaline	Change of use of part of the community building to incorporate a cafe of up to 20 covers and alterations
20/03483/FUL	Invercoe Caravan Park Glencoe, Ballachulish	Proposed Foreshore Development Extension (Previous Application 00/00237/FULL0)
20/03681/FUL	Land 75M North of Tom Darroch Acharacle	Erection of house, improvement of existing access, provision of private drainage system
20/03678/FUL	Land South of Chalet at Brentwood Tomonie, Banavie	Erection of house (amended design to planning permission 19/05496/FUL)
20/03696/FUL	Land 60M West Of 3 Stronaba Stronaba, Spean Bridge	Erection of house, detached annexe and garage
20/03718/FUL	Land 70M SW Of Fordon Badabrie, Corpach	Erection of house
20/03767/FUL	104 High Street Fort William	Retention of pavement cafe (renewal of planning permission 17/05109/FUL)
20/03649/FUL	Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd Corpach	Change of use from Pulp Mill social Club to Workshop and storage facility

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

**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/01637/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of 2 bothies and composting toilets (retrospective)	Land Approx. 1400 Metres South West Of Ballygown Farm, Glenlonan, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/01666/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage/studio and installation of septic tank	Plot 1, Former Sawmill Site, Land At Airdeny Mill, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
20/01571/PP	Demolition of conservatory and erection of replacement single storey side extension (part retrospective). Demolition of workshop, erection of replacement double garage and change of use of existing garage to form ancillary living accommodation	Penlarach, Lerags, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4SE

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

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



**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (B0004 BANAVIE - GAIRLOCHY TRIANGLE)**  
**(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2020**

On 1st October 2020 The Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, in order to restrict traffic movements on the road for the safety of the workforce and the travelling public. This Order shall come into operation at 0800 hrs on Monday 19th October 2020 and will remain in effect until 1800 hrs on Friday 6th November 2020.

During that period, the road will be closed each day between 0800 and 1800 hrs and the use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule hereto except for use by emergency services, school transport and refuse collection vehicles is prohibited. All other traffic will be diverted via the A82/B8004 junction at Commando Memorial.

The Order has been requested to provide a safe working space for contractors to carry out essential improvement works on the road.

A copy of the Order can be inspected at: [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20006/parking\\_and\\_car\\_parks/711/decriminalised\\_parking\\_enforcement/4](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20006/parking_and_car_parks/711/decriminalised_parking_enforcement/4)

1st October 2020: Richard Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Highland Council, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William

**SCHEDULE**  
**Road Affected**  
**B8004 BANAVIE - GAIRLOCHY TRIANGLE**

Commencing at the end of the 30mph speed limit, a point 920m north of the B8004/A830 junction extending in a northerly direction for 9.3km (5.8 miles)

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

DAB Groundworks Ltd trading as DAB Groundworks Ltd of 8 Blaich, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 7AN is applying to change an existing licence as follows to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at 8 Blaich, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 7AN.

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

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES** **Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES** **Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES** **Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES** **Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013. NOTICE PUBLISHED UNDER REGULATION 7(2)**  
**PROPOSED WHISKY MATURATION WAREHOUSES (CLASS 6 STORAGE OR DISTRIBUTION), TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND AT ARDNAHOE DISTILLERY, PORT ASKAIG, ARGYLL AND BUTE.**

Ardnahoe Distillery Company Ltd give notice that it is proposed to submit a planning application in respect of the above proposed development.

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, is not possible to host a public exhibition. However, the Scottish Government has put in place measures to allow for pre application public consultation to continue via online and digital platforms.

Ardnahoe Distillery Company Ltd will make their pre application consultation information available online at [www.ardnaoematuration.com](http://www.ardnaoematuration.com) from 8th October 2020.

On Thursday 23rd October 2020 from 3pm to 7pm, the project team, will be available via the website, [www.ardnaoematuration.com](http://www.ardnaoematuration.com) for a live online discussion with digital attendees. This will enable direct contact with the project team who will be available to answer any questions in respect of the proposed development.

Persons unable to attend the online event will be able to make comment via the project website or by contacting the prospective applicant's agent as follows:

Graeme Laing  
North Planning and Development Ltd  
Tay House, 2nd Floor  
300 Bath Street  
Glasgow  
G2 4JR  
07711 766202 / 0141 212 2626 / [graeme@northplan.co.uk](mailto:graeme@northplan.co.uk)

Copies of the consultation materials will also be made available for public inspection at Ardnahoe Distillery Visitor Centre, Port Askaig, PA46 7RU.

Comments on the proposals should be submitted by Monday 2nd November 2020.

**Important:** Comments made are not representations to the planning authority (Argyll and Bute Council). If a planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority at the time.

**Proposed Assignment of a Grazing Share**

Gordon Grant is applying to assign the tenancy of the deemed croft/grazing share at Sligneach (share), Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon, Maol, to Sean Poynter of Tighna-Mara, Isle of Iona. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 29/10/2020.

**FIRST REG OF CROFT**

Sheila MacIntosh has registered their croft 1 Achluachrach Kilmonivaig 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 17/6/21. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C71

**Proposed Short Lease of an Owner-Occupied Croft/\*Part of an Owner-Occupied Croft**

Mr A MacConnell is applying to let the whole croft/\*part of the croft at Colnaturin, Colonsay on a short-term lease to Gillian Ashford of Glassford, Isle of Colonsay for 10 years. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of the advert.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT**

A Barge of Maireannach Croft, Otter Ferry, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2DH, is applying to create a new croft. 105801.

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](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

**BID4OBAN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**BID4Oban Ltd**  
**Notice of AGM to be held at 6pm to 6.30pm**  
**27th October 2020**

This event is open to BID Levy Payers and will be held via SKYPE or ZOOM only.  
Business: Approve accounts 2018-2019  
Election of Directors, Other business  
Presentation of BID business for 2020 -2021

**To register for this event please email [admin@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:admin@bid4oban.co.uk) no later than 6pm 26th October 2020**

**Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter**

Iain Martin is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at 1 Lee into 2 new crofts. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of the advert.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

RECRUITMENT

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**Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168**  
Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)




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INVERARAY, ARGYLL

**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](mailto:enquiries@inveraray-castle.com) or telephoning 01499 302203.  
Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to [enquiries@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:enquiries@inveraray-castle.com) to arrive no later than Monday 12th October



**ARGYLL ESTATES**  
INVERARAY, ARGYLL

**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](mailto:enquiries@inveraray-castle.com) or telephoning 01499 302203.  
Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to [enquiries@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:enquiries@inveraray-castle.com) to arrive no later than Monday 12th October



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll & the Isles**  
**Office Administrator**  
Applicants should have excellent administrative and secretarial skills and be experienced and skilled in maintaining and processing financial data. Primarily office based in Oban (COVID-19 restrictions permitting) but can be partially by remote working if necessary.  
25 hrs p/w. Can be worked flexibly. £11 p/h.  
Applicants must be willing to work within a Christian framework and be sensitive to its ethos. This is a rewarding opportunity to become a key member of the Diocesan Team. For further information and an application form please contact Canon Roddy Johnston, Vicar General on 01855 811203 or email: [vicargeneral@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:vicargeneral@rcdai.org.uk)  
Closing date: **Friday 16th October 2020.**

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PERSONAL NOTICES

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Helen Hope.

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## DEATHS

**BOA** - Peacefully after an illness bravely borne, with her family by her side Lorna Boa, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, aged 73 years. Loving wife of Hugh, dear mother of Linda and Fiona. Much loved granny of James and Gemma, great-granny of Roni Lorna. Sadly missed.

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully on Monday, September 28, 2020 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, after a long illness patiently borne. Anne Elizabeth (née Beaton), aged 71 years, formerly of Ganavan. Beloved wife of the late Dr Brian Cameron Campbell, dear sister of Donald, Catriona and Iain and a devoted and much loved aunt and great-aunt of the extended family. Funeral private due to the current restrictions.

**COLTHART** - Peacefully, on September 28, 2020, following a short illness, Catriona (McCull). Beloved wife of the late Tommy, dear mum of Sheila and Fiona, and a much loved granny and great-granny.

**HAWTHORNE** - Peacefully surrounded with love at his home in Bowman Court Craignure, Jimmy, much loved and respected by family and friends, sadly passed away on September 23, 2020. Private funeral was held on October 7, 2020, within current restrictions. Grateful thanks to all staff at Bowman Court. Will be truly missed by those closest to him.

**KETTLES** - Sheena (née Parker). On September 30, 2020, peacefully at Linlithgow Care Home, aged 89. Beloved wife of the late William (Bill) and mother of Lesley and Alasdair. Much loved Gran of Nicola, Kirsten, Gill, Callum and Finlay.

**LAVER** - Jennie (née Henderson) (Edinburgh/Argyll). Peacefully, on Saturday, September 26, 2020, Jennie, beloved wife of the late Albert and loving mum to Judith, Janice and the late Jennifer. A cherished granny, great-granny and auntie. Private funeral due to current restrictions. Donations if desired can be made directly to the R.N.L.I.

**MACDONALD** - Maria Louise. Suddenly, following medical complications, at Queen Elizabeth hospital, Glasgow, on Thursday, October 1, 2020, Maria, of Cambuslang, passed away aged 32 years. Born November 28, 1987, Leamington Spa, Maria attended Torphichen Primary, Bathgate Academy, then Stirling University. A wildly respected accordion player previously living in Bathgate, France, Leeds, Maria is survived by fiancé Kenny and twenty month old daughter April. Beloved daughter to Fiona and Mik, sister to Richard, granddaughter to Robin MacDonald of Manor Cottage, niece to Anne and Scottie of Soroba, and cherished community member of the Isle of Lismore. A private funeral service will be held in Glasgow next week. Donations can be made to the UK Sepsis Trust.

**MACVICAR** - Peacefully at Etive House Care Home on September 30, 2020 Jean MacDonald MacVicar, in her 93rd year, latterly of 13 Croft

Avenue, beloved wife of the late Archie, dear mum of Sine, Janet and Ian and much loved granny of Alastair, Fiona, Sarah, Shona and Graeme. Private funeral following government guidelines at Oban Parish Church thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**BELL** - Fraser and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy including cards, letters and flowers following the death of Sandra. Also for the amazing turn out of villagers on the A83. Thanks also to Rev. Robert MacLeod for his words of comfort at the graveside. The collection for Parkinson's UK raised the sum of £300.

## MEMORIALS

**MILLS** - Precious memories of Billy, a loving husband, dad, father-in-law and granda who passed away on October 6, 2008.

Memories of you are fondly kept  
Someone too special to ever forget.  
Your loving wife Helen and family xxx

**REID** - Frances. In loving memory of our mum and grannie, who passed away on October 6, 2019.

Our hearts still ache in sadness  
And secret tears will flow  
What it meant to lose you  
No one can ever know.  
- Catriona, Jim, Katie and Matthew.

**SNEDDON** - 1st anniversary. In loving memory of my darling granddaughter Jessie.

To some you may be forgotten  
To others part of the past  
But to me who have always loved you  
That love will always last  
Your name I often mention  
My thoughts are with you still  
You haven't been forgotten and to me you never will.  
- Nanny Bella X

**STEELE** - In loving memory of a special Mum, Margaret, who died October 8, 2000.

Always in our hearts.  
- With love, Alan and Diane.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear mum Ann, granny and great-granny, who died October 5, 2006.

Thank you for the years we shared

The love you gave  
The way you cared  
In our hearts you will always stay  
Loved and remembered every day.

- Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of Marybell, our mother and grandmother, who passed away October 4, 1990.

Always in our thoughts.  
- Allan and family.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990.

Sadly missed.  
- Inserted by her loving son Archie.

## MEMORIALS

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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# Sudden death of Argyll and Bute SNP constituency convenor

It is with deep sadness and regret Argyll and Bute SNP Constituency Association confirm that John MacMillan, convenor of the association, died suddenly on Sunday afternoon whilst chairing the monthly constituency meeting being held via Zoom.

Commenting, SNP MSP Michael Russell said: 'All of us who were present at the meeting, and I am sure the wider community as well, are feeling an overwhelming sense of shock and disbelief. Obviously all our thoughts are with his widow Anne at this time and our hearts go out to her given the tremendous loss she has suffered.'

'John had spoken on the phone with many of us over the last few days and had just made opening remarks to the meeting but, despite the immediate actions Anne took and the rapid medical attention from paramedics in Ballachulish, he was not able to be revived.'

'John was a lifelong supporter of independence and after a highly successful business career he retired to spend more time on the things that really mattered to him - his life with Anne, his beloved Highlands and the SNP.'

'He had been active in a number of branches, including Oban, and became vice convenor of the constituency some years ago. He was elected to the chair only last autumn but



John MacMillan.

quickly made a mark on all our activities.

'He had ambitious plans for the local SNP and just after Christmas he and I discussed a range of fundraising and other events that would have taken us through to the 2021 election. The implementation of the Covid-19 lockdown prevented all that coming to fruition but he rapidly instituted monthly Zoom constituency meetings, encouraged branches to keep active, took charge of the current Holyrood candidate selec-

tion process and made sure the constituency association kept functioning.

'Working closely with him as the constituency MSP, I was always grateful for his attention to detail. He made sure the local party organisation was well managed and focused on achieving independence and I only wish he was going to be with us to see that job completed.'

'John will be greatly missed by me and by many as a valued colleague and friend.'

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If someone had told us in February how 2020 would work out, would we have believed them?

Personally, I'd like to say 'yes' but it wouldn't be true. I'm grateful to those who saw the situation more clearly and helped us all to be safer than we might otherwise have been. The challenges aren't going away and we all need to decide how to respond. Change in some form is inevitable.

The Bible is full of stories of people coping with change. Abram and his family setting out in faith, Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery, Noah and the ark, disciples leaving everything to follow Jesus, the tumultuous events of what we now call Holy Week,

the arrival of the Holy Spirit like fire and wind sweeping through people's lives, the early church and the resistance and persecution they faced as they spread the good news of the gospel.

With foundational stories like these, how has the church come to be so often seen as the safe option, all about tradition? There is nothing wrong with good traditions but often they change, whether through choice or necessity.

World headlines - climate change, Covid-19, refugees, racism, the economy, political strife.

Personal headlines - mental health, physical health, unemployment, relationship issues, bereavement.

Church headlines - shrinking congregations, stretched resources, underused buildings, not enough ministers to go round.

Not so often in the headlines - all the care and kindness. Going not just one but many extra miles.

The willingness to do what is needed when we see it can really make a difference. Hopefully we can keep doing that, doing it more, helping our neighbours far and wide, and ourselves in the process.

In and through all, God is with us. God who is Love. Love which can help us be part of the solutions. Love for all the world.

Reverend Liz Gibson,  
Lochdon, Isle of Mull.

## MEMORIALS

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Help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured

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Registered address: Cancer Research UK, 2 Redman Place, Stratford, London E20 1DQ.

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**

**Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch**

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact  
Marie Curie Care  
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House  
Station Road, Oban  
01631 571009



# Bob battles back with strong finish at Scottish Open

It was a case of what might have been for Oban's Bob MacIntyre after a fine performance at the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open in North Berwick over the weekend saw him finish tied for 14th place.

While last year's Rookie of the Year will be pleased with his finishing position, he will rue a costly triple bogey six at his penultimate hole on the opening day that left him carding a 74 - well off the pace on the easiest scoring day of the tournament.

All credit to the Oban star who followed up with rounds of 67, 68 and a closing 69 to rocket up the leaderboard. He will be particularly pleased with his score on Saturday where the wet and windy con-

ditions saw many top players fall by the wayside. His finishing score moves him up to 89th in the world rankings and 66th in the Race to Dubai as well as earning him 80,000 Euros.

This was Bob's first tournament since taking the difficult decision to part company with his long-time caddie Greg Milne and replace him with Fife's Mike Thomson. Thomson has an impressive pedigree having previously caddied for major winner and former world number one Brooks Koepka.

His influence seemed almost immediate with the Oban left-hander bouncing back superbly from Thursday's disappointment to put himself into

serious contention over the weekend. The Scottish Open, eventually won after a play-off by England's Aaron Rai, was the first of back-to-back Rolex series events on the European tour. The second, the BMW PGA Championship, tees off at Wentworth in Surrey today (Thursday October 8) and Bob will go into it with renewed confidence that his form is returning at the right time



**Bob chips out of the bunker beside the 18th green to give him a putt for a four to end Saturday three under.**

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

# Sports volunteers recognised

Volunteers from Oban, Lorn and the Islands have been recognised for their dedication to their sport at the LiveArgyll Sport Awards 2020.

Stephen Groom, North Argyll Cycling Club; William Humphries, Oban Norseman American Football Club; and Lily Hargreaves and Orla MacLennan, Tobermory High School and Isle of Mull Netball Club, are all included on this year's roll of honour.

The awards, run annually in partnership with sportscotland, aim to celebrate and reward the success and achievements of coaches and volunteers in Argyll and Bute school and community sports clubs.

Nominations in 2020 were open to volunteer sport coaches and club volunteers with non-coaching roles. In Argyll and Bute these volunteers put in hours of their time and are crucial to the running of



**William Mathieson, second right, with the Oban Norseman American Football team.**

clubs and providing sport in communities.

Between May and August, LiveArgyll received nominations from across the region for six categories.

Cyclist Stephen took the Volunteer of the Year title in the Club Volunteer section.

Steven has inspired more people to take up cycling for its physical and mental health

benefits and has gone out of his way to support individuals to take up the sport and to join in club social rides and participate in large cycling events including the Loch Ness Etape, Oban Sportive and the Strathpuffer 24 race.

Stephen told The Oban Times: 'It's really nice to be recognised in this way.

'I just do what I do because

I love doing it if that makes sense and it is great to be able to share my passion with others.'

Without Steven the local cycling club would not be so successful as he has helped to significantly increase the membership of the group, particularly by organising Tuesday night social rides and winter spin classes.

For his work in promoting the game of American Football, Oban Norseman's William Humphries won Volunteer Young Coach of the Year.

The impact of William's work has provided young people in Oban with another choice of sport which is not widely available in Scotland. Without his determination, the club would simply not exist. William never misses a session and has been known to continue sessions with few numbers in horrendous west coast weather.

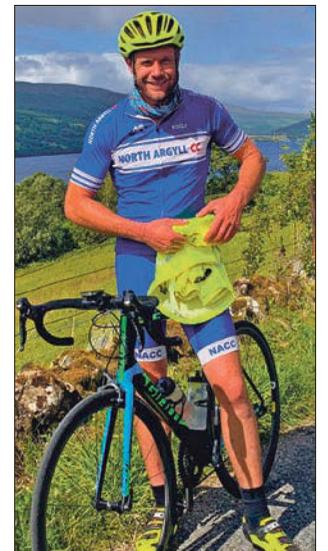
'I didn't even know I had been nominated so was delighted to that I had won,' he said.

Tobermory High School and Isle of Mull Netball Club duo Lily Hargreaves and Orla MacLennan were named joint winners of the Young Volunteer of the Year title.

Lily and Orla have gone above and beyond, giving up their lunchtimes and after-school time twice a week to run netball sessions for peers and youngsters.

Their commitment to the junior, intermediate and senior teams has resulted in success at competitions and has had a positive impact on pupils.

Other winners of the 2020 Volunteer Awards were: Anne MacGregor of Loch Lomond Hockey Club, Helensburgh, Volunteer Coach of the Year; Stewart Maule of Rhu Amateurs Football Club, Volunteer Young Person's Coach of the Year; and Alan Liddel, Bute Shinty Club, Lifetime Volunteer.



**Steven Groom.**



More sport on page 12.

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## & OBAN TIMES

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### Clan Cameron centenary celebrates milestone



### Rotary's 'knitvity' project is taking shape



# Health bosses refute report of infected medic

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Health chiefs say claims a locum doctor continued to work in the Belford Hospital in Fort William after declaring he had coronavirus symptoms have proved unfounded.

The health board carried out an urgent investigation after a report in a national newspaper on Monday caused widespread anxiety according to local MSP Donald Cameron.

The report had prompted the Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP, who is also Shadow Health Secretary, to write to the chief executive of NHS Highland seeking reassurance that Covid-19 protocols were being rigorously observed in the region's hospitals.

Mr Cameron told the Lochaber Times: 'It is very important that patients and staff feel safe and secure when in hospital and I know that people in Lochaber have been very concerned following the recent newspaper reports

on events at the Belford. I very much hope NHS Highland can provide the reassurance I am seeking and that if things have gone wrong that there are procedures in place to prevent a recurrence.'

Asked to comment, NHS Highland confirmed that a locum member of staff in the

**'A very small number of people are self-isolating as a precaution.'**

Belford Hospital had tested positive for Covid-19 one week ago, on Monday September 28.

'All contact with patients ceased when symptoms developed on the 28th,' the health board said in its statement.

It continued: 'NHS Highland investigated immediately, including clinical risk assessments of those who had been in close contact in the days beforehand.'

'A very small number of people have been self-isolating as a

precaution. None have tested positive to date. The member of staff who developed Covid-19 did not report symptoms or feel unwell over the weekend and wore PPE while working, which will have protected others.

'Standard procedures for monitoring and managing the incident are in place to ensure the safety of patients and staff. Usual infection control precautions will continue and all patients, visitors and staff who come into the hospital should wear face masks and clean their hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol gel.'

In an update on the overall Covid-19 situation in the Fort William area, NHS Highland told the Lochaber Times on Tuesday it was aware of a total of 20 cases of the virus within the community, identified over the past couple of weeks. Most of these cases are linked as part of community clusters.

NHS Highland's Health Protection Team has under-

Continued on page six.



## Potter magic for Portree

The visitor boom for the Highlands thanks to the Harry Potter series of books and films looks set to continue, with a special presentation this week of Honorary Quidditch Town status to Portree due to it featuring in a new book by author JK Rowling.

Local councillor John Finlayson, pictured, was joined at The Lump (Sron a' Mhill), overlooking Portree Bay, on Tuesday by Harry Potter fans Seamus MacDonald and Eilidh Murray, along with Isle of Skye Pipe Band drum major Peter MacDonald for the hand over of a special banner.

The event coincided with the publication of Quidditch Through The Ages Illustrated Edition, which is illustrated by Emily Gravett. For the full story, turn to page four.

## Resurfacing of Claggan Road

Essential resurfacing work will take place on Claggan Road next week, on Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13 between 8am and 4.30pm. A one-way system will be in force. There will be no HGV traffic permitted and no access for vehicles turning into Claggan Road from the A82.

## West Highland Way turns 40

Forty years of memories and stories from Scotland's most popular long-distance walking route are being celebrated in an online anniversary exhibition. The event, also featuring a short anniversary film, is available at [www.westhighlandway.org](http://www.westhighlandway.org)

## FSB wants answers

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Scotland has written to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon urging the Scottish Government to outline the support it will provide to firms when new coronavirus restrictions are announced.

With one in 20 businesses remaining shut, the FSB warns new restrictions – however temporary – could increase the number of permanent closures.



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# Fort museum receives largest single donation of commando artefacts

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The child's small knitted rabbit toy has been darned and mended more than once and has clearly been much loved. Not surprising that it is a bit worse for wear after having been carried across battlefields in war-torn Europe and the Far East by its late owner.

The rabbit is just one of a number of items that form the largest ever single donation of commando-related artefacts presented to the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

Among its prized collections, the museum boasts items belonging to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites, alongside actual weapons from the local area's time as a wartime training ground for the commandos.

However, the rabbit toy and a plain cream woollen blanket, which the museum acquired last week, have stories to tell that can rank alongside any of the other more famous items.

The rabbit and blanket will eventually go on display in the museum's Commando Room, which tells the story of how Britain's famous elite wartime special forces and secret agents, came to Lochaber to train at



Steve Nicol presents the stitched Japanese flag to Museum Curator, Venessa Martin. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos; and right, Syd Shadbolt.

various top secret locations. One of the most famous is Achnacarry Castle, ancestral home to the Chief of Clan Cameron, but which during the war served as the Commando Basic Training Centre (CBTC).

On Friday, museum curator Vanessa Martin accepted the donation from Mrs Joan Shadbolt, of Bletchley in England, which had belonged to her late husband, Syd.

Mr Shadbolt, who originally hailed from the London area, died five years ago aged 93, had wanted an appropriate museum to be given a number of his personal items from his period of service with No 5 Commando

during the war. This unit, made up of soldiers from the army – Mr Shadbolt had enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers at the start of the war and later volunteered for the commandos – trained at Achnacarry and went on to see active service in Europe, India and the Far East, including on garrison duties in Hong Kong after the former British colony was liberated from Japanese occupation in 1945.

Shadbolt family friend, Steve Nicol, who now lives in Brechin and himself is a former Royal Marines Commando, had offered to deliver the items to the museum in Fort William and

on Friday he duly handed the collection over to Ms Martin.

Mr Nicol told us: 'It's been five years since Syd passed away but he had always said to his wife Joan that he would like some of his wartime effects to go to a suitable museum.

'If it had been just old socks and mess tins it wouldn't have been of much interest. But some of the stuff has a really interesting story behind it and the history of the commandos.'

Fort the first time the museum will now have a Second World War Denison smock of the type worn by the commandos and another Fairbairn and Sykes pattern commando fighting knife.

Other items in Mr Shadbolt's collection include his two green berets, one bearing the Royal Fusiliers cap badge alongside the commando dagger; a red senior NCO's sash and two silk escape maps of the Far East.

However, three of the most poignant artefacts are the small rabbit stuffed in a pocket of Mr Shadbolt's camouflaged smock; a small hand-stitched flag and the blanket.

Mr Nicol explained: 'The rabbit originally belonged to

Syd's younger brother, Derek, who died when he was aged just four. Syd always carried the rabbit with him and I like the idea of him storming round Europe and Hong Kong with it in his pocket.'

The white flag has the Japanese sun in the centre and a commando dagger plunged through it. It is embroidered with the names of the countries in which 5 Commando saw action. 'I am guessing the flag was given to Syd, a staff sergeant, by other members of his platoon possibly,' explained Mr Nicol.

The largest item among Mr Shadbolt's items is the blanket. Mr Nicol said: 'Syd was in the Military Police while in Hong Kong and served at what had once been the notorious Changi Prison. At the war's end, it was turned into a Commonwealth prison and as well as Japanese soldiers it also held a number of Japanese civilians and families.

'Syd's widow, Joan, told me that he used to smuggle food into one of the Japanese families held there and, while they couldn't do anything for him, they gave him this blanket as a way of thanking him.

'I think it shows that, despite everything Syd experienced during the war, it hadn't brutalised him.'

Mr Shadbolt only revisited Achnacarry once after the war and it came about after first meeting Mr Nicol in Milton Keynes where they were both living, and Syd was chairman of the local Sea and Royal Marines Cadets in Milton Keynes.

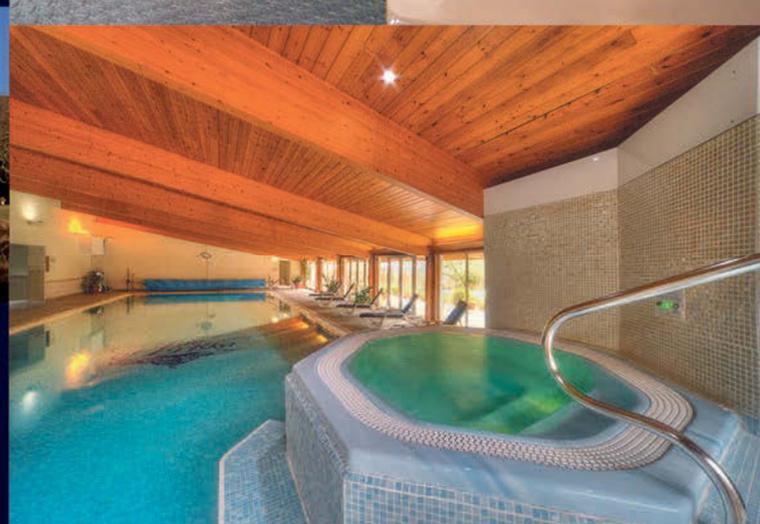
'Some time later, Syd told me he'd always wanted to come back to Achnacarry for a visit. By that time the army commando association had disbanded due to the age of most of the members,' said Mr Nicol. 'So myself and a few friends arranged a weekend trip to take Syd back to his old training ground in Lochaber. That would have been about 2006. Syd had an absolute ball. He loved coming back.'

For her part, Ms Martin said the museum was delighted with the presentation of the items: 'We don't have a Denison smock like this, or an example of a silk escape map for the Far East theatre of operations, or the whistle that Syd used at Changi Prison.'

'So it's wonderful to be given these and to hear the amazing and very moving stories connected to some of the items.'

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

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## Jacobite steam train season extended after TV programme sparks surge in bookings

Scotland's steam-hauled Harry Potter train will carry on running between Fort William and Mallaig into November – thanks to a TV programme at the weekend.

Bookings apparently soared after Sunday's episode of Channel 4's Scotland's Scenic Railways, featured the legendary Jacobite service.

So instead of ending this month it will continue running until Friday November 13.

A spokesman for West Coast Railways, which operates the service, told us: 'The phones went crazy on Monday and haven't stopped ringing since.'

'The demand was so phenomenal that we decided to extend the season and give more people the chance to travel on the train.'

The Jacobite will now run daily until Sunday October 25, and Monday to Friday from then until November 13.

The spokesman added: 'Friday the 13th might be unlucky for some – but not for our lucky passengers.'

The train became world famous after it featured as the



**Florence and her son Lewis who both work on the train.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Hogwarts Express steaming over the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Harry Potter movies.

But the start of this year's operation was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the number of seats reduced because of extra safety precautions introduced to keep passengers, staff and local resident safe.

The Channel 4 show featured the train guard, Florence MacLean, who has worked on the Jacobite for 24 years and even has a first-class coach named after her.

And it is a family affair because her son, Lewis, also works as a fireman on the steam locomotive.

# Lochaber RFC makes pitch for ownership of Banavie ground

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Rugby Club is hoping community asset transfer legislation will allow it to acquire legal ownership of its Banavie pitch, nearby car park and old swing park area.

Chairing the recent meeting of Kilmallie Community Council, deputy chairman John Hutchison explained the club was keen to pursue a community asset transfer.

But one resident who lives close to the rugby ground raised a concern that if the pitch transferred in ownership from Highland Council to the club, it was no longer a public amenity. 'What if they wanted to put a fence round the whole thing or block off the car park? Some people like to take their children and dogs there but if the club owns the pitch, it might want to stop that sort of thing happening,' said Tony Whitelocke.

Community council secretary Russell Leaper added:



'This is something we would need to look at quite closely because any transfer from public to private ownership is a potential concern.'

'I think we need to know why the club feels it is necessary to do this. It seems the council already does a good job maintaining the pitch so I'm not sure why the club feels there is a need for it to be transferred into private ownership.'

Mr Hutchison said the community council had to perhaps

be careful about using the word 'private' when it came to transfer of ownership. 'I think it could be disputed it would be going into private control, as the club is a community organisation. So I think the most sensible thing to do is write a letter to the club just to get a bit more clarity on this point.'

Asked to comment on its proposals, Lochaber RFC told the Lochaber Times: 'We acknowledge, of course, that the options are being looked

**Lochaber RFC wants to take legal ownership of its Banavie pitch.** Photograph:

Abrightside Photography

at by the club and the new committee will continue this thought process and progress these very early discussions around asset transfer.

'As a club we are always looking for ways to develop on and off the pitch. Any future plans have community at the heart of our decision making process and we would like for that to be represented.'

A council spokesman said: 'Initial investigations suggest the council owns the playing field and play area. A title investigation would be required to confirm the extent of the council's ownership and any restrictions on disposal of the land. The council has a clear community asset transfer process available to community groups and officers will assist any group wishing to explore a potential asset transfer.'

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LT

## Magical day as Portree celebrates Honorary Quidditch Town status

Skye's capital Portree was recognised as an Honorary Quidditch Town this week in celebration of the new book, *Quidditch Through The Ages Illustrated Edition*, by Harry Potter author J K Rowling in her new guide to the famous boy wizard's favourite sport.

To mark Tuesday's release of the new book, written by Ms Rowling and illustrated by Emily Gravett, Bloomsbury Publishing presented Skye and Raasay Councillor and chairman of the Highland Council Education Committee John Finlayson with a decorative banner featuring gold Quidditch hoops celebrating the town's fictitious Quidditch team *Pride of Portree*.

*Pride of Portree* feature in the wizarding world's Quidditch league and the banner also bears the town's Quidditch team crest, an eye-catching design featuring a regal gold star.

In an outdoor, socially distanced presentation at The Lump, Councillor Finlayson was joined by Isle of Skye Pipe Band and two young Harry



Councillor John Finlayson was joined by Harry Potter fans Seamus MacDonald and Eilidh Murray, along with Isle of Skye Pipe Band drum major Peter MacDonald, for the presentation of the banner on Tuesday.

Potter fans complete with their 'Nimbus 2000 broomsticks'.

A spokesperson for Bloomsbury Publishing said: 'We're really proud to recognise Portree as an Honorary Quidditch Town alongside 10 other towns and villages across the United Kingdom and Ireland.'

Councillor Finlayson commented: 'We're delighted to be recognised as an Honorary Quidditch Town.'

Seamus MacDonald, aged nine, from Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh and Eilidh Murray, also nine, from Portree Primary School, joined Councillor Finlayson and Isle of Skye Pipe Band drum major Peter MacDonald for the presentation.

Eilidh said: 'I'm obsessed with Harry Potter and dream of playing Quidditch so I'm really happy I now live in an Honorary Quidditch Town.'



Fabrication of the giant Christmas tree is well under way at Macpherson's Welding and Engineering Services.

# Christmas 'Knitvity' taking shape

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Rotary's ambitious community Christmas project, 'Knitvity', is taking shape.

Fabrication of the 13 foot high Christmas tree from steel tube is well in hand at Macpherson's Welding and Engineering Services in Fort William.

The tree will be on display in Fort William from the beginning of December when the frame will be covered by hand-knitted or crocheted items.

Organiser Sheana Fraser told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We are delighted to have offers of help from knitters across Lochaber.'

'If you can knit or crochet, please get in touch as we have yarn which may be used so there is no need to buy any.'

'All items will need to be finished by the end of November and we will let you know nearer the time where to send them.'

Along with every other organisation, Lochaber Rotary has had to change direction in the lead up to Christmas.

The Rotary Christmas

Festival and Craft Fair, which takes place in the town towards the end of November, has become a popular event in recent years with bustling crowds the norm.

However, with current coronavirus restrictions, it became clear that managing activities such as Santa's Grotto, queuing, cash handling and movement around the town's Nevis Centre would prove

**If you can knit or crochet, please get in touch as we have yarn...all items need to be finished by the end of November.**

close to impossible so the idea of 'Knitvity' was born.

People can be involved in several ways, either by knitting or crocheting, by donating yarn or donating money to let Lochaber Rotary buy yarn.

Chunky or double knitting yarns give quick results and Lochaber Rotary is asking people to choose bright colours.

It wants items which will

provide warmth such as hats, scarves and wrist warmers. These will be donated to homeless charities after Christmas.

Lochaber Rotary is also looking for hand-made 'twiddle muffs' for donation to Alzheimer Scotland and local care homes.

Twiddle muffs are knitted muffs with items attached such as buttons and ribbons to keep dementia patients' hands active and busy.

They are a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation.

Yeoman Yarns, Woollyknit, Hobbycraft and Togs in Caol have donated yarn for the project so if anyone needs yarn, please get in touch.

Woolwarehouse, an online supplier, is also offering a 10 per cent discount on orders submitted with a designated code.

If you need more information, contact Sheana Fraser on 07796 687921 or Jenny Cooper 07880 958698.

Rotary President Richard Baxter added: 'This project is off to a good start.'

'The surface area of the tree will be around 500 square feet so we may need 1,000 items!'

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# MSP welcomes work at accident blackspot but wants more done

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Plans to resurface a notorious A82 accident blackspot have been welcomed by road safety campaigner and Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart.

But he is questioning why it is not included in a key study that investigates roads for further safety measures.

Transport Scotland recently wrote to Mr Stewart outlining plans to repair carriageway on bends north of Torlundy.

It comes after repeated calls by Mr Stewart for more to be done to improve safety on the A82.

He said: 'As a road safety campaigner, I am pleased we have got something positive back from Transport Scotland.'

'I welcome its plan to begin resurfacing at Torlundy but want to know why it has not



Left: The A82 stretch at Torlundy has seen a number of serious road accidents. Below: Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart.

Photograph: A Brightside Photography.



spent on the Torlundy-Fort Augustus stretch; £7.9 million between Torlundy-Glencoe;

£1.8 million between the Bridge of Orchy-Glencoe and £6.3 million between Fort Augustus and Inverness.

Mr Stewart added: 'All investment is welcome, but this is not enough. The evidence is clear. The A82 has a history of tragic road deaths and serious injuries and lack of investment is causing unimaginable suffering for families.'

'I have been asking the Scottish Government to do more to upgrade this outdated road. I am not saying all the accidents and fatalities have been caused by the road. But I believe the poor condition of the road surface and the shaking, twisty nature of the road can have a lot to do with collisions.'

'Scottish Government ministers cannot continue to say they are concerned and then spend money on other priorities.'

been identified for further investigation for safety measures through the road agency's annual assessment of the safety performance of the trunk road network.

'I am writing to Transport Scotland on this but the resurfacing is a good proactive

measure in advance of winter.'

Mr Stewart's request for a breakdown of government spend between Bridge of Orchy and Inverness since 2016 revealed just over £23.5 million had gone into repairs and upgrades.

Almost £2.5 million was



Pupils from Rum, pictured, Muck and Eigg will be able to travel home every week while restrictions at the hostel are in place.

## Mallaig school boat to make weekly runs for island pupils

Pupils from the Small Isles who board at Mallaig High School can now return home every week after the decision was made to increase the frequency of the boat that transports the youngsters beyond the fortnightly schedule it has currently been running on, writes Mark Entwistle.

The move by Highland Council follows pressure from the parent council and MSP Kate Forbes.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'I'm pleased to see the weekly school boat is to be continued.'

'This makes such a big dif-

ference to children that have to board at Mallaig and to their families.

'This issue was raised by a constituent and I'm delighted Highland Council has worked to reinstate the weekly boat.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Denis Rixson was also delighted with the decision. 'Everyone is trying their best during this very difficult period but, of course, pupils at the hostel have faced extra restrictions during Covid,' he told The Lochaber Times.

'This will enable them to return home to their families

and some much-needed R&R [rest and recuperation]. It is essential we ensure their lives are as normal as possible despite the pandemic.'

Asked to comment, a Highland Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'The Small Isles ferry will operate weekly as a temporary arrangement while the pupils' restrictions at the hostel remain in force.'

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## Police call on specialists

A new team of specialist officers has been established in Inverness as part of the development of call handling services for Police Scotland.

The new team will provide additional resilience to 101 and 999 services, bringing enhanced local knowledge and experience of policing urban, remote and island communities to the national Contact Command and Control service.

Initially 25 police officers will be working as part of the Resolution Team to provide advice and resolve enquiries from the public over the telephone, by face-to-face appointment, where appropriate in certain areas, or via video link. Every call via 999 or 101 will go through an enhanced assessment providing officers and staff with a wider range of options to offer help based on the needs and circumstances of the caller, including immediate attendance or within a specified timeframe, an appointment with a police officer or assistance over the phone.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

LT

# Family launches new appeal to trace missing man, Tony

The family of a man last seen outside the Bridge of Orchy Hotel three years ago this month has renewed an appeal for information.

Tony Parsons, now 66 years old, travelled from his home in Tillicoultry on Friday September 29, 2017, to Fort William, intending to return home by bicycle and was reported missing on Monday October 2, 2017.

He travelled south on the A82 and was last seen around 11.30pm that night outside the Bridge of Orchy Hotel.

He continued south in the direction of Tyndrum but neither Mr Parsons or his bicycle have been seen since.

The following statement has been released by Mr Parsons' son, Mike Parsons, on behalf of his family.

'None of us ever dreamt that three years ago my dad would have gone on his charity bike ride and we would never see him again,' said Mike. 'As a re-



**Tony Parsons, who has been missing for three years.**

sult, my family and I have been left with so many unanswered questions, that we have to live with every single day, about where he is. As each special family occasion passes and seeing his grandchildren growing up without their grandad, it reminds us of the harsh reality of him not being here.

'I would ask that if you have any information, no matter how small, please contact the police as it may help provide us with the answers we're looking for.'

Extensive searches were carried out to establish where Mr Parsons may have travelled to after leaving the Bridge of Orchy Hotel.

The search has included a number of specialist Police Scotland resources, including the Mountain Rescue Team, Air Support Unit and Dog Unit. Civilian volunteers and members of Killin, Oban and Arrochar Mountain Rescue Teams have also helped with the investigation, which remains ongoing.

Detective Inspector David Macgregor said: 'Tony's family has now endured three years of not knowing where he is or what might have happened to him. Our thoughts are very much with them and we remain entirely committed to providing them with the answers they seek.'

'We want people to be aware that Tony is still missing. If you have any information at all, no matter how small it seems,

please come forward.

'We have never found Tony's bicycle which has a yellow frame and black handlebars. If you think you may have seen this bicycle or any pieces of cycling equipment somewhere out of place then please get in touch as a matter of urgency.'

Tony is described as white, 5ft 9ins, of stocky build, with short greying hair, a moustache and glasses. He has a tattoo of an anchor on his upper right arm and a tattoo of an eagle on his left. He was last seen wearing a red waterproof jacket, a blue long-sleeved cycling top, a high-vis vest, fingerless gloves, with beige combat trousers and walking boots. He was wearing a silver and grey cycling helmet, carrying a silver and blue rucksack and riding a yellow-framed bike with black handlebars.

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland via 101, quoting reference 559 of October 2 2017.

## Heath bosses refute claim of infected medic

Continued from page one.

taken case follow ups in accordance with national guidance. Contact tracing has been carried out with all those identified as close contacts being advised to self-isolate.

With the latest available Public Health Scotland positive rate figures (September 27 to October 3) showing 'Fort William South' area is the second highest in the Highlands, constituency MSP Kate Forbes has called on everyone to be extra responsible and follow the guidance.

She said: 'I am grateful to NHS Highland for investigating so quickly as undoubtedly these reports caused huge anxiety and worry. I am reassured that patient contact ceased as soon as the locum doctor displayed symptoms.'

'Though they are often heroic, it goes to show doctors and nurses are not immune and must follow the same guidance as everyone else.'

'The message is clear: anyone showing symptoms of Covid - regardless of whether they are wearing full PPE or not -

should go home and self-isolate immediately.'

Meanwhile, supermarket giant Morrisons has confirmed a member of its Lochaber team has tested positive for Covid-19.

A spokesperson said: 'A colleague in our Fort William store has tested positive for the coronavirus and we wish them a speedy recovery.'

A positive case of Covid-19 was also diagnosed in a pupil associated with Lundavra Primary School in Fort William this week. The pupil, however, has not attended school recently and Highland Council says its health protection team has advised no action is required by the school.

Vice convener of The Highland Council Councillor Allan Henderson, who is chairman of communities and place committee, said: 'I understand there will be anxieties among the community so there is support and assistance available from environmental health, benefits and welfare and community partners. A leaflet highlights the support available.'

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Andrew Horne.

## Andrew named Lews Castle College Student of the Year

Lews Castle College UHI in Stornoway is hosting a week of online graduation celebrations.

As a result of Covid restrictions, graduations have not been able to take place but the college is doing everything possible to help students celebrate. Throughout the week the college will be celebrating the stories of some of the wonderful students who have been studying with them.

These stories will celebrate how students, with the support of the college, have overcome difficult circumstances created by the global pandemic to continue to excel in their studies.

One such student is 'Student of the Year' Andrew Horne, whose work was described by staff as 'exemplary'.

Richard Hemmings, lecturer in electrical engineering, said: 'Andrew's non-practical work has been completed to a very high standard, gaining 100 per cent grades in all the work he submitted. During lockdown, Andrew and his colleagues had to complete as much work as they could online. This situation was particularly challenging as apprentice courses were never designed for online delivery. I am very pleased they coped so well.'

SVQ Electrical Installation student Mr Horne has been serving his apprenticeship with local company Ace Electrics. Ace company secretary Angela Campbell added: 'ACES Ltd is delighted to hear of Andrew's award which reflects his hard work and we are appreciative of the support he receives from Lews Castle College.'

'We are sure Andrew will continue to progress through his next two years at college with the same work ethic and determination he has shown over the last 18 months.'

'Over the last 18 years, all our electrical apprentices have enjoyed their training at Lews Castle College as part of their SECTT Apprenticeship scheme.'

# Clan Cameron's newest centenarian celebrates

## Milestone birthday marked with piper and a card from the Queen

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

No surname is more closely associated with the lands west of Fort William than that of Cameron and for the last 100 years it has been borne with pride and courage by the famous clan's newest centenarian.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Cameron MC TD, who celebrated reaching his centenary last Tuesday at his home in Auchterarder, is the youngest son of Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who was the 25th Chief of Clan Cameron.

That makes him the brother of the 26th chief, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel and the uncle of the current 27th chief, Donald Cameron of Lochiel.

He is also the great uncle of

Conservative MSP Donald Cameron, who represents the Highlands and Islands.

As befits a former officer with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Lieutenant Colonel Cameron's special day was marked with a visit by a piper from the 7th Battalion (51st Highland), The Royal Regiment of Scotland, which is based in Queen's Barracks, Perth.

This was followed by a family lunch at the Crieff Hydro and a presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross Stephen Leckie of a birthday card from the Queen.

Born on September 29 1920, Lieutenant Colonel Cameron was brought up at the clan's ancestral seat at Achnacarry, near Fort William.

He attended Loretto School,

Musselburgh. In February 1939 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the territorial battalion of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and between 1942 and 1946 saw active service in Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Italy and Greece.

Promoted to Major at the end of the war, he commanded the 4/5 Battalion (TA) Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in Inverness as a Lieutenant Colonel from 1957 to 1960.

In 1948, Lieutenant Colonel Cameron joined Alginat Industries Limited as manager of its seaweed collection operations at its South Uist factory, later becoming general manager of seaweed production.

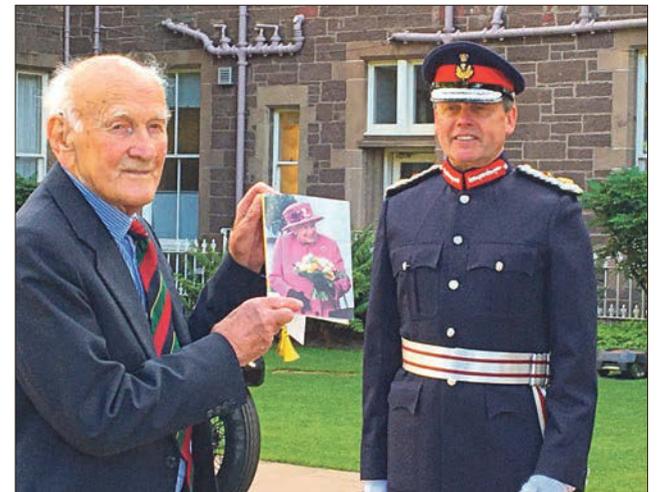
He married Felicia Macdonald, from Tote House on Skye, in 1953 and they had a son and a daughter. Felicia died in 2014.

The following year, he started a seaweed collection factory in North Uist and by 1963 was general manager of the Irish Seaweed Company, in addition to the Scottish factories.

In 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Cameron oversaw the start of a seaweed factory at Keose on Lewis and in 1970 opened an office in Inverness with John Sanderson, previously the company's manager in Orkney.

Lieutenant Colonel Cameron retired from the firm in 1980 and devoted his energies to serving the people of South Uist from 1952 to 1962 and 1965 to 1974 on Inverness County Council. During this time, he chaired the police and landward health committees.

From 1974 to 1982, he was



Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross Stephen Leckie presents Lieutenant Colonel Cameron with his birthday card from The Queen.



A piper from 7 SCOTS performed for Lieutenant Colonel Cameron on his 100th birthday last week.

the member of Highland Regional Council representing Inverness East and Ardersier.

In 1963 and 1965 he also stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Western Isles. He served as Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace from 1956 to 1986 for Inverness-shire.

Between 1982 and 1986 he was manager of the National Trust for Scotland's Highland properties and in 2010 he moved to Auchterarder, from Nairn.

Lieutenant Colonel Cameron's daughter Johanna Wilson told the Lochaber Times: 'It was wonderful to celebrate my father's 100th birthday, which was such a great milestone.'

'The day started with a piper playing outside his house, watched by some of the neighbours. This was followed by a presentation by the Lord

Lieutenant Stephen Leckie of the Queen's birthday card and lunch with family members, including three grandsons and a few friends, at Crieff Hydro. 'My dad enjoyed his day tremendously and our family were delighted to mark the occasion in such difficult circumstances. It was a very happy day.'

And Lieutenant Colonel Cameron agreed it had been a wonderful family occasion: 'My birthday was a great success despite the limitations of the coronavirus.'

'I was honoured to have Pipe Major Reid from 7 SCOTS playing outside my house, as well as the CO [commanding officer] Duncan Mackinnon, who gave me a message from HRH Duke of Rothesay.'

'I enjoyed listening to the piper playing familiar tunes connected to the Cameron Highlanders.'

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is working hard to support local business during the pandemic and is distributing locally-produced hand sanitiser and branded face-coverings to businesses across the region.

As part of a Covid support project funded by the Towns and BIDS Resilience and Recovery Fund, the Chamber has collaborated with local businesses and members Ben Nevis Distillery, The Highland Soap Company and LamontDesign to produce a custom-labelled whisky bottle sanitiser dispenser.

In addition to these 100 dispenser pump bottles, we have been pleased to work with Lochaber Stainless to produce 16 'Lochaber Chamber of Commerce' branded stainless steel foot-operated sanitiser dispensers, complete with The Highland Soap Company sanitiser.

These units have already been distributed to Highland Cinema, Nevis Range and BSW Timber, with more businesses across Lochaber receiving their dispensers in the coming days.

We have also designed and produced 400 buff style face-coverings, also distributed to businesses across Lochaber.

This further practical



The Highland Soap sanitiser.

assistance builds on our existing provision of a contact tracing app solution to help hospitality businesses conform to Scottish Government guidance on collecting and managing contacts entering premises. This solution, #MyOutdoorCapital | Test & Protect, has attracted 50+ businesses across Lochaber to sign up and use the solution to collect contact information of guests to their venue with more than 35,000 check-ins in support of these government measures.

If you need a contact tracing solution for your business contact protect@lochaberchamber.co.uk



Lieutenant Colonel Cameron celebrated his 100th birthday last week.

## Spean Bridge craft lager wins gold

A craft lager brewed in Spean Bridge has been named best premium lager in Scotland.

Glen Spean Brewing Co's 'Snowgoose' Craft Lager was given a Gold accolade at the SIBA Independent Beer Awards which represent the best beer from the UK's independent brewers and are judged by fellow brewers and industry experts.

Crafted by brewing director James Leggett, Snowgoose was launched in the spring of 2019 using the distinctive snowgoose gully on Aonach Mor as inspiration. Ian Peter MacDonald, director, Glen Spean Brewing Co, said: 'It is so great our small brewery in Spean Bridge is getting recognised for making delicious beer by knowledgeable critics from across our country.'

Due to the pandemic, this year's selection process was managed over Zoom, with each judging table managed by a beer expert, following internationally recognised guidelines around beer style, colour, aroma and flavour.

# Mowing granite in Cameron Square leads Model T Ford on right track

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



If you were in Cameron Square last week you may have seen what looked like a robust lawnmower.

But instead of grass it was cutting through granite. This was Iain Blyth of Kinlocheil employing his own hand-built machine designed and constructed from scratch to cut channels through the granite slabs in Cameron Square.

The next day, Powderhall Foundry from Edinburgh installed 33 tyre tracks in bronze leading from the Model T Ford to the door of West Highland Museum.

The tracks show how the car drove out of the West Highland Museum on its way to Ben Nevis which, of course, it did, driven in 1911 by Henry Alexander.

The car on display in the

museum today was the very vehicle carried up Ben Nevis in parts and assembled in a snowstorm by 77 stalwarts on the summit in 2011 to commemorate the original ascent.

The Cameron Square sculpture was delivered to Fort William and unveiled in May 2018 by Mike Munro, grandson of Henry Alexander.

Plans for donors to have their names recognised between the cast tyre tracks took longer than anticipated.

### Casting

The cost of cutting the channel to contain them was prohibitive so much so that many of the individual donations were swallowed up in casting the tyre tracks and potentially in cutting the channel.

Iain Blyth came to the rescue and designed and built the 'granite mower' which recently had its debut in the High Street.

So the channel is now cut

and the tracks are laid and a squiggle track straightens out past the two bollards before turning towards the museum door.

Represented on the tracks are the Highland Council, the Ben Nevis Model T Ford Team – not recognised individually – and the Alexandra Hotel, where Brian Hume and his team donated a room for committee meetings, painstakingly recorded by Margaret Boyd of Voluntary Action Lochaber, and served tea and coffee for five years.

Duncan Grant, the late Provost, is also there, remembered by his daughter Grace MacCallum of Lundavra, and MacFarlane and Sons Chemists of the town for 150 years.

Apart from the wealth of treasures to be found in West Highland Museum, there is a display of Model T memorabilia and an edited version of the



Admiring the new tyre tracks, left, back to front, Bill Cameron, Robbie Robertson and Chris Robinson. Right, May MacIntyre, George Bruce and Iain Blyth, driving. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

film of Henry Alexander in his Model T on Ben Nevis in 1911. The film was discovered in the British Film Archive half way through the fundraising.

Some ask how could the car circumvent the two stainless steel bollards...but a car that can climb Ben Nevis can do anything.



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<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 1</b> Any 10" Pizza + 10" Margherita served with Chips, Onion Rings, 2 Sauces + 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£9.95</b></p>	<p><b>CURRY EXPRESS 1</b> Vegetable Pakora, Chicken Curry, Korma OR Bhoona, Rice &amp; Nan <b>£8.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>	<p><b>EUROPEAN BOX</b> Veg Pakora, 2 Veg Samosa, 2 Veg Spring Rolls, 2 Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings, Chips, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£8.99</b></p>	<p><b>Kids Express 1</b> Chips, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings and Fruit Shoot <b>£3.95</b></p>	<p><b>FAMILY EXPRESS 1</b> Chicken Curry, Korma, OR Bhoona, Rice, 10" Margherita Pizza, Chips &amp; Donner, Cheese Burger with Chips &amp; 2L Pepsi <b>£19.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>
<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 2</b> Any 12" Pizza + 12" Margherita served with Chips, Wedges, Onion Rings, 2 Sauces + 2 Pepsi 500ml <b>£12.95</b></p>	<p><b>CURRY EXPRESS 2</b> Vegetable Pakora, Any Special, Karahi OR Balti Dish, Rice &amp; Nan <b>£9.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>	<p><b>GREEDY BOX</b> Mixed Pakora, 2 Mince Samosa, 2 Mince Spring Rolls, Chips, Popcorn Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£9.99</b></p>	<p><b>KIDS EXPRESS 2</b> Chips, Popcorn Chicken, 2 Mozzarella Sticks and 12oz Ice Cream Shake <b>£4.95</b></p>	<p><b>FAMILY EXPRESS 2</b> Mixed Pakora, Any Special, Karahi or Balti Dish, Rice, 12" Rosara Pizza, Donner Kebab Chips &amp; Cheese and 2L Pepsi <b>£22.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>
<p><b>PIZZA EXPRESS 3</b> Any 14" Pizza + 12" Garlic Bread with Cheese served with Chips, Wedges, Onion Rings, 4 Sauces + Pepsi 2L <b>£17.95</b></p>	<p><b>SHARING CURRY EXPRESS</b> Mixed Pakora, Any 2 Chicken Dishes, Rice &amp; Nan, Slice of Chocolate Fudge Cake &amp; 2 Cans Pepsi <b>£17.99</b> (Lamb +£2)</p>	<p><b>MEATY BOX</b> Chicken Pakora, Battered Chicken Fillet, Spicy Chicken Fillet, Popcorn Chicken, Chicken Bites, Chicken Wings, Chips, Donner, Salad, 2 Pita Bread, 2 Sauces, 2 Cans of Pepsi <b>£11.99</b></p>	<p><b>Sharing Kids Express</b> 10" Margherita, Chips, Onion Rings, Popcorn Chicken and 2 12oz Ice Cream Shakes <b>£9.95</b></p>	<p><b>Family Express 3</b> Mixed Pakora, Any Chicken Dish, Rice &amp; Nan, King Donner Nan, 12" Hawaiian OR Pepperoni Pizza + Chips, Cheese &amp; Chicken Nuggets and 2L Pepsi <b>£29.99</b> (Lamb +£1)</p>

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# Just look what Katie did

An Ardnamurchan High School pupil finished fourth in her first national carriage driving competition.

Katie Cameron, 17, and her family went on a 28-hour round trip to take part in the Ashfields National Carriage Driving Trials in Essex.

The youngster only started competition driving four years ago and is delighted with her result.

'Coming fourth in my first national competition against young drivers who are far more experienced than me at this level is definitely the highlight of my driving career so far,' said Katie.

'I have grown up around ponies and could ride almost before I could walk but, after a bad fall that resulted in me breaking my arm badly when I was three, I preferred to drive rather than ride.

'My mum drove and I always helped and really enjoyed it. I like that you get to focus on three disciplines, not just one.'

The phases Katie talks about are dressage, marathon and cone driving, which are normally done over three days,



**Katie Cameron in action at the National Carriage Driving Trials at Ashfields.** Photograph: Amy Mundell.

with the scores from all three phases combined to give a final result.

Events are run at grassroots, club, national and international level and, having now moved to national level Katie hopes to make the final selection for team GB young drivers who will travel to France next September to compete in the European youth driving championships.

Preparation, training and setting up for competition in her chosen sport is a feat in

itself for Katie. On average in a competition season, she will drive/ride her 13-year-old Gypsy Cob Jim Bob five days out of seven and keeps her self fit by playing shinty and doing online fitness classes.

#### Exercising

In an average day, Katie will spend one hour before school and two after school caring for and exercising her pony.

'It's very much a family affair,' she added.

'Mum [Claire] supports me with my training and driving

competitions while my sisters Amber and Iona help with keeping Jim fit while I am busy with school.

Dad [Jim] and Granpa are great at keeping my carriage and the trailer well maintained.

'When we travel we need to take all of our kit with us for the completion.

'We have our trailer converted to hold all of our kit, the pony and carriage.

'It converts into a stable for Jim and we have a large gazebo that becomes home to mum and I for the duration of the competition.

'It's a lot of hard work setting up when you arrive and making sure the harness, the carriage and all of your outfits are clean and ready.

'Then you need to walk the obstacles so you can plan your route to ensure you get a fast, clear time.'

Katie is currently in her fifth year at high school and is hoping to study to be a vet nurse in Glasgow.

She is looking for sponsorship from local businesses to support her in her journey to represent her country.



**Jim Treasurer, left, and the Junior Section of Lochaber Athletics Club with some of the new equipment bought with a grant from Lochaber Sports Association.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

## Track and field training boost

Lochaber Athletics Club (LAC) junior members were jumping for joy last week after receiving new equipment to help with their training.

Part funded by Lochaber Sports Association, the equipment was handed over to club athletes Fraser Anderson, Dylan Martin, Duncan MacDonald and Heidi Smith by athletics coach Jim Treasurer.

The equipment will be used for a summer track and field league for nine to 15-year-olds next summer if Covid restrictions permit.

Young athletes will compete in one race, a throwing event and a jump.

LAC juniors have been taking part in a virtual Great Summer Challenge with two races at Nevis Range over 5km for under 15 and 13 year olds and over 3.5km for under 11 years. This has been extended to October 26 to allow other youngsters to take part. See the LAC Facebook for further details. All juniors are invited to take part.

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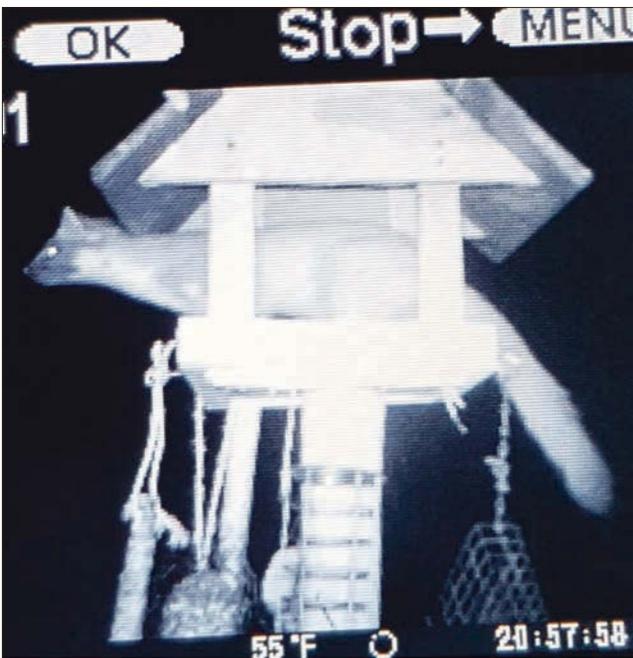
## The Croftless Crofter

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



# Mystery garden visitor caught on camera



The moonlight raider.

Our chickens free range widely. Our flock of eight hens and a cockerel mostly roam together and cover some distance heading out of our garden onto the surrounding croftland to scratch around, find tasty things to eat and inevitably lay their eggs in place we can't find.

They all come back at bed time though and have a pretty secure house to roost in at night. Which is just as well because there has been a mystery visitor to our garden.

The peanut feeder hanging from our bird table was dragged off the hook and up onto the table one night. We assumed a gust of wind had caught it. The next night it was not at all windy but the feeder - empty - was in the middle of the lawn. The following night it had disappeared altogether. Perplexed, we set up our trail

cam on a fence post, filled up a replacement feeder with peanuts and hung it out. Sure enough, the next morning it had gone. And we had video footage and still images of the culprit. A pine marten.

These cute little creatures may look cuddly and certainly delight the tourists and many locals but almost everyone who has kept poultry on the peninsula has a tale of losing chickens to these little ninjas.

Our chickens came with us from our croft on Rum where they lived a wild life. With no ground predators at all on the island, they roosted in trees at night and other than keeping an eye on the skies above - we lost the odd chicken to a buzzard and even one to an eagle - they lived a pretty charmed life in terms of peril.

Shortly after we brought them here, we lost a couple

to a fox but they seemed to have wised up pretty quickly and are alert to danger. They often all leg it under the decking when a buzzard flies over and if our cat spooks them by walking through the bracken too close there is a big hullabaloo and irate chicken noises. The dilemma of a life with greater freedoms but far greater risks versus a safe contained life in a pen is one we have never considered for more than a brief passing moment for our chickens.

To see them roaming freely, demonstrating all their natural chicken behaviour and enjoying the super tasty eggs resulting from their varied diet feels a far preferable option to a possibly longer life in a predator proof cage.

I like to believe it has also encouraged our flock to hone their survival skills. They are

ever alert, often cocking an ear or turning an eye to the sky, moving as a gaggle seemingly taking it in turns to scratch around and eat or be the nominated bird on watch for the rest. They communicate with each other using a staggering array of sounds, seeming to have a vocabulary far beyond just clucking and crowing. I can't deny though, the knowledge that the pine marten is lurking within a few metres of them under cover of darkness each evening is unnerving me a bit. We are definitely keeping the peanut feeder filled at all times in the hope it continues to serve as distraction, appeasement or persuasion that enrichment in the form of unhooking and removing a peanut feeder is far more interesting than chicken coop breaking and entering.

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBReassurance over handling  
of Belford Covid case

It was reassuring to hear this week that reports a locum doctor had carried on working after testing positive for Covid-19 while working at the Belford Hospital in Fort William were unfounded and that all contact with patients stopped when they first developed symptoms and that everyone they were in close contact with was assessed.

It is crucial that patients, often at their most vulnerable, and staff feel safe and secure when in hospital, so it is important the procedures and protocols in place to protect everyone are strictly adhered to.

However, with the latest available Public Health Scotland figures – September 27 to October 3 – showing the 'Fort William South' area is the second highest in the Highlands, we must not be complacent.

The First Minister was expected to announce further restrictions yesterday (Wednesday), as the Lochaber Times went to press and it is important we adhere to them.

There will be very few of us who will not be affected by these. We can all attest to how hard it is not being able to freely see our loved ones as we once did – but the restrictions are there for our protection.

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



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Government arrogance over  
Hate Crime Bill

How arrogant and aloof the Scottish Government is when it brazenly perseveres with its deeply flawed and hated Hate Crime Bill.

Yes, they have agreed to 'slightly amend' the Bill – after mounting pressure by hordes of public agencies, community groups and a train of individuals including academics, respected lawyers, playwrights and newspaper columnists – but lawmakers at Holyrood still can't hear the loud thunderclap of judgement. The masses across Scotland still don't want this insulting and offensive Bill foisted on them.

Not only is it flawed, the proposed legislation has more holes than Swiss cheese, just like the ludicrous Named Persons scheme.

On this occasion, their ill-thought-out scheme threatens to undermine freedom of expression, while debate on controversial issues would also be seriously affected. We remind the government what Mr Alistair Bonnington, a former Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Glasgow who taught the First Minister, said: 'This is yet another example of the SNP failing to understand fundamental principles of Scots law. They have shown an embarrassing level of ignorance as to how we do things in our Scottish system.'

While Holyrood politicians claim hate crime is sadly on the increase in Scotland, the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) has said there is nothing to be gained in implementing new legislation. The laws already in force can deal with the increase.

The General Secretary of SPF has said: 'We do not for one second suggest that prejudice, racism or discrimination are desirable qualities in our society but the need to address those matters when they reach a criminal level is met by laws already in place and the cost to free speech of going further with this bill is too high a price to pay for very little gain.'

With SPF confirming training alone would cost up to a mindboggling £4 million, surely the sanest and wisest course of action for the Scottish Government would be to do what they did with the Named Persons Bill – scrap it.

Mr Donald J Morrison  
Inverness.

## Catering for motorhomes

Ms Sheeran is horrified by the proposal to cater for motorhomes at Ganavan Sands, Letters, 24 September 24. But Oban needs to catch up with the shifting patterns of holiday-making brought about by the increase in pandemic-related 'staycationing' and rapidly make provisions for

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Sèididh aon sròn shalach an clachan a rèir an t-seanfhaicail, agus nach fhada bho chualas daoine ag ràdh 'nuair a nì Ameireagaidh sreathart glacaidh an saoghal cnatan!' Ged nach ann an Ameireagaidh a nochd coròna-bhioras an toiseach tha mise a' sgrìobhadh seo is aire mòr-chuid den t-saoghal air an dùthaich sin is an Ceann-suidhe aca fo chùram ospadail a' fulang le Covid 19, goirid air mìos ron cuid thaghaidhean choitcheann. Far am bheil buaidh phoilitigeach air a h-uile nì, tha amharas às na caochladh aithrisean a thaobh slàinte Mhaighstir Trump, agus ceistean mun bhuidh air an t-saoghal nan strìochdadh e ri tinneas. Tha e cudromach a ràdh nach eil fianais sam bith air lethid sin de chunnart dhan Ceann-suidhe an-dràsta agus tha ceannardan an t-saoghail a' guidhe ùrachadh slàinte sgiobalta dha, ach ann an sgeulachd mhòr eadar-nàiseanta far nach eil fios mionaideach ri fhaotainn nochdaidh teagamhan daonna.

Bidh mòran mothachail air an dòigh annasach san do dhèilig Dòmhnall Trump ri buaidh a' bhiorais feadh Ameireagaidh is e an ire mhath a' dol às àicheadh gun robh e idir a' tachairt, agus gun robh làn-smachd agus buaidh aig an dùthaich air a' bheagan dheth a bh' ann.

Leis a' chliù a th' aige a bhith cur cùl ri rudan nach eil a' còrdadh ris, agus gan càineadh mar "naidheachdan fuadain", cha b' iongnadh cuid a bhith air am mealladh gus eisimpleir a' Chinn-suidhe a ghabhail ann a bhith a' seachnadh brat-gnùise, a dh'aindeoin comhairle eòlaichean mheidigeach an t-saoghail. Lean sin cuideachd

gu cruinneachaidhean mòra luchd-taice phoilitigeach far nach robh, a rèir choltais, feart sam bith ga thoirt dha riaghailtean sgaraidh-sòisealta agus tha a h-uile coltas gur e aon chruinneachadh den t-seòrsa sin aig an Taigh Gheal bho chionn còrr air seachdain a dh'adhbharaich mòran den sgapadh air Covid am measg cho-obraichean agus luchd-taice Dhòmhnail Trump.

Saoidh mi gum bheil adhbhar air a bhith agam an gnathas-cainnt seo a chleachdadh cho bitheanta bho chionn ghoirid, ach gun teagamh bhiodh iomadach neach ga chur air mhanadh dha Ceann-suidhe Ameireagaidh gun robh a chuid dānachd dol a dhioladh air. Is treun fear an eòlais tha aon seanfhaicail ag innse, ach aig an aon àm mar a tha fear eile a' toirt an aire, is trom an eire an t-aineolas! Tha dreuchd Chinn-suidhe Ameireagaidh air fhaicinn mar fhear de na h-oibrichean as cumhachdaiche air an t-saoghal, agus tha e doirbh a chreidsinn gum biodh lethid Trump cho ladarna na chuid iùil air an t-sluagh a tha fo chùram, gun ghuth air a' bhuidh a dh'fhaodadh a mhodh-giùlain a thoirt air slugh ann an ceàrnaidhean eile den t-saoghal. Bidh sinn a' guidhe slàinte dha, agus gliocas bho na dh'fhoghlam e!

As I write Donald Trump is receiving hospital treatment for Covid-19, a virus he claimed was of little concern in America. While wishing him a speedy recovery I also hope he learns from this experience that news is not always 'fake' because he might say so!

Allan Campbell, [ailean@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ailean@obantimes.co.uk)

overnighting, or residents will be increasingly anxious. It is obvious the number of motorhomes on Argyll roads has increased markedly and this pattern looks likely to persist for years to come. Without overnight parking provision, all roads that have no parking restriction will be used, even narrow streets in the town.

Ian Reid, Oban.

## It is the unfairness...

Churches and their congregations in Scotland have been especially hard done by in these virus times. Services were only allowed to be held long after pubs were up and running again. A maximum of 50 parishioners allowed, even in vast cathedrals, and only a few applicants allowed to attend Catholic mass where I attend. Even singing

with masks on, which is uplifting and fantastic for morale is banned.

Churches have been unable to access the government's financial support schemes and, of course, the plate has a fraction of its normal collection. Yet building maintenance, insurance and clerics basic costs remain.

I wrote to Aileen Campbell, the Scottish Government Minister for 'Faith and Belief'. She will have presided over a period that has seen church attendee numbers collapse and quite possibly not return and given no financial support. She must have just told her assistants to 'send him the church letter' as not one of my points was addressed. She should be renamed Minister for 'No faith nor belief'.

Angus MacDonald, Lochailort.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## PLOCKTON

Friends of Plockton Playpark held its annual general meeting at the playpark on September 10. The treasurer submitted a satisfactory report and the following were elected: chairman, Alex Glasgow; secretary, Marlene Maclean and treasurer, Johanna Maclean. Committee members are Ann Margaret Pearson, Aileen Mcghe, Cat Camp and James Krisp.

Hand sanitiser has been installed at the park. More bark will be in place by Easter 2021. Funds have been boosted by a grant from the Kyle Co-op Community Fund and from donations from Plockton Harbour Association. A sign has been ordered.

Plockton Drama Club held its annual general meeting on September 19 via Zoom. Gill James, secretary for the past 22 years, retired and her replacement is Lizzie Baird from Achmore. Gill will continue to produce plays, although the club's future is uncertain at the moment.

Congratulations to 71-year-old retired school teacher Peter Mackenna, Camus An Arbhair, Plockton, who has just completed climbing all 282 Munros.

His many friends in Plockton were sorry to hear of the death of Farquhar Matheson in Glasgow on September 10, at the age of 85. Mr Matheson was a keen fan of Scottish dance music.

His passing was mentioned on Radio Scotland programme Take the Floor. Sympathy is expressed to his wife Maree, also a Plockton native, and sons Ross and Ian. Other recent deaths with local connections were Graham Waugh, Camuslinnie; Christina Anderson (Macgregor), Inverinate, and Billy Finlayson, Kyle. Sympathy is expressed to relatives.

Plockton villagers were delighted to see the white 'keep clear' signs on Harbour Street getting repainted by Highland Council after a two-year campaign by the community council.



Emily, Tanisha and Lirael with their Gold Awards.

## Golden moment for Rainbows and Brownies

Fort William Rainbows and Brownies have held their first face-to-face meeting, outdoors and socially distanced, since March.

Three Gold Awards, the highest award in Rainbows and Brownies, were presented with Tanisha Sanger, right, the first Rainbow in Lochaber to achieve the Gold Award under the exciting new programme.

Lirael Gregory and Emily Groundwater achieved their Brownie Gold Awards through a mixture of the old and new programmes. Nancy Gregory gained her Bronze Award. Pack leader Louise Giles said: 'Congratulations to them all. They have worked very hard. We also said goodbye to our older Brownies who have moved on to join the Guides in Kilmallie.'

During lockdown, those who have been able to have joined Zoom meetings and now all the units in Kilmallie and Fort William are holding a mix of outdoor and Zoom get togethers.



'We can't always rely on the weather,' added Louise. If anyone, adult or girl, is interested in joining in the fun visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to find information and to register.



## Students take global stance

Marking the Global Climate Strike on Friday, September 25, climate strikers from Lochaber High School gathered outside the venue as the campaign to demand action on the global climate and ecological emergency continues.

Strikers in Scotland had two demands for the Scottish Government, both of which are closely linked to the Just Green Recovery Campaign.

Pupil Holly Gillibrand explained: 'One, to kickstart a programme of public green job creation with investment in national green infrastructure projects, including in energy efficiency, sustainable transport and renewable heating and two, no public money to fossil fuel development.'

'These include the false solutions of Carbon Capture and Storage and fossil-fuel derived hydrogen. Instead, a timetable should be set for fossil fuel phase-out and a Just Transition plan should be created to support affected workers.'

In an effort to reduce the risk of Covid-19, strikers maintained social distancing and wore face masks during the strike.

'We decided to go ahead with the strike on Friday despite Covid-19 because the accelerating threat of the nature and climate crisis has not gone away and it is important that we act on both of these crises, especially since we will continue to suffer from zoonotic diseases like coronavirus while we abuse the living world,' added Holly.

# Council's welfare team supports Skye and Lochalsh foodbank

The Highland Council's Welfare Team has been working closely with Skye and Lochalsh Foodbank to provide vital support to people in the community.

The team made contact with Skye and Lochalsh Foodbank in early August and provided an initial supply of 400 food parcels split between Portree and Broadford foodbanks.

Since then, liaison with the foodbank organisers and those behind the community fridge

projects in Broadford, Strath and Trotternish has been continuing.

The work is being supported by food from local supermarkets and other organisations including the growing of community food patches.

Last month the council arranged for three vans to travel to Skye to deliver a further 500 food parcels and a large quantity of stock.

The council's head of revenues and business support Sheila McKandie said: 'Huge concerns

exist that at the end of furlough and the closing down of the tourist season, the west coast and Skye will experience a significant increase in unemployment and this could lead to more families struggling to get by.

### Food

'To support the fantastic work being undertaken in communities, we have offered to provide a further significant supply of food for the foodbanks, outreach centres, community fridges

and help support the resilience cooking initiative which will help the most vulnerable households. Our welfare support team is also highlighting information on the Scottish Welfare Fund and are providing advice and support to help maximise household incomes.

'Community groups and individual households across the Highland Council area seeking assistance with food support should call our helpline so that the appropriate support may be arranged.'

## Vegetable Tagine Soup

A Free tagine-inspired soup with chickpeas, vegetables and a hint of Moroccan spices



### Ingredients

- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- 1 celery stick, roughly chopped
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 3cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and chopped
- 120g prepared butternut squash, roughly chopped
- 50g dried red lentils
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- ½ tbsp mild chilli powder
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 2 vegetable stock cubes, crumbled
- ½ x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 small red pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 1 small yellow pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 200g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- Lemon juice, to taste
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method:

Put all the ingredients apart from the chickpeas, peppers, cauliflower and lemon juice in a large saucepan. Add 850ml boiling water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer for 25 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

1. Blitz until smooth using a stick blender (or use a food processor or liquidiser and return to the pan).
2. Add the chickpeas, peppers and cauliflower, cover again and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the vegetables are cooked, stirring occasionally.
3. Season to taste with lemon juice, salt and pepper and serve hot. Enjoy!

## 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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## Pre-season ends on a high for SLT

Oban Saints GG 1  
South Lochaber Thistle 2  
Pre-season friendly

South Lochaber Thistle drew their pre-season preparation to a close with a good win in a friendly over the Oban Saints second team.

The Kinlochleven outfit were on the front foot from the start. The visitors held the bulk of possession seeing a Stevie Neil goal disallowed for handball from a corner.

Despite the centre half disputing the decision, the referee remained unconvinced by the eloquence of the youngster's thesis and deadlock was maintained.

Stalemate was eventually broken from the penalty spot after Liam Gilchrist surged into the box and was flattened by the Saints defender. Impish winger and penalty specialist Sean Noble stepped up to unleash a trademark shot into the keeper's bottom corner. 1-0 SLT.

The second half saw a raft of changes from the Jags as the game became more balanced.

However, skipper Martin Munro stepped up and pulled off an excellent strike gambling on a lose kick from the home side keeper to move Thistle into a commanding lead.

Despite the inevitable disruption of multiple changes, SLT seemed comfortable and never really looked like conceding. However, Saints were offered a glimmer of hope by way of an own goal, leading to a nervous final ten minutes. The Jags stayed resolute and kept Oban at bay to see out the game.

Covid restrictions permitting, the Jags will begin their league season away to Dumbarton's St Pats FP on Saturday.

# All change at Claggan

Fort William Football Club has been ringing the changes over the last couple of weeks as the Highland League is put on hold until the end of November.

Chairman Peter Murphy and caretaker manager Calum Maclean have stepped down from their posts, making room for a new management team at Claggan Park.

Ashley Hollyer, manager; Paul Coutts, assistant manager; and Scott Gardiner, coach, are the new boys on the block. They are all well known in amateur football circles in the north of Scotland, with a reputation for hard training and grinding out results.

Murphy, who took over as chairman in 2018 after the former board left in its entirety, was one of a handful of former players and supporters who stepped up and worked tirelessly to get a team on the park.

Highlights of his second season included taking Albion Rovers to a draw at home in the Scottish Cup, resulting in the biggest crowd at Claggan Park in recent years, and going on a North of Scotland cup run beating Nairn County and Rothes, before losing to Brora Rangers, who eventually went on to win the competition.

Murphy cited personal reasons for his decision to stand down, adding: 'I've enjoyed the last two years immensely and hope to continue my involvement in this great club to some extent.'

'I wish the club all the very best in the coming season and look forward to seeing the club succeed on and off the park.'

MacLean took over in January last year following



Fort William Football Club's new management team, from left, Scott Gardiner, coach; Ashley Hollyer, manager, and Paul Coutts, assistant manager. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Russell MacMorran's departure. Under his management, he steered the team to a 1-0 win over Clach which saw the Simon Shields Cup return to Claggan.

The league ended abruptly in March with Fort William finishing second bottom.

MacLean had originally wanted to lead the Fort into the next season, but with the delay in starting, has stepped down to allow a new management team the time to build a new outfit.

'It's time for someone younger to enter the mix. The job requires a lot of energy and

**'It's time for someone younger to enter the mix, the job requires a lot of energy and enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing how Ashley and his team do when the league finally gets going'**

enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing how Ashley and his team do when the league

finally gets going,' he said. Vice chairman Colin (Woody) Wood thanked both men for the work they have done for the club and added that an annual general meeting would be held 'as soon as it is sensible to do so'.

Speaking of the effect delaying the season has had on the club, Woody added: 'Obviously, like any other Highland League Club, we rely on spectators and hospitality for our income, so playing behind closed doors simply isn't an option.'

'We are following the guidance of the Scottish Football

Association and we welcome and support the decision to postpone the start of the season.

'Football is very important for the players and spectators and everyone is raring to go, but Fort William FC is a community club and must hold the safety of the wider community over all other concerns.'

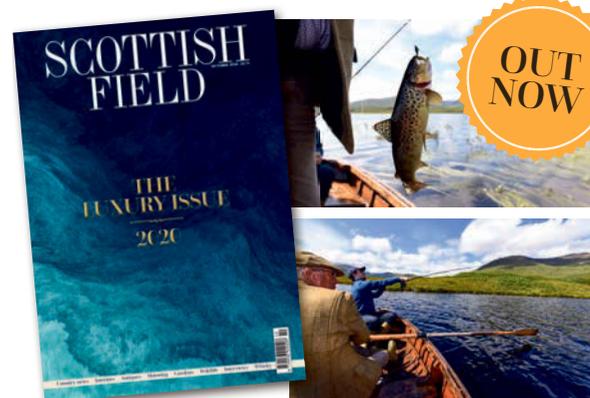


# SCOTTISH FIELD

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