



## Independence trio step out in memory of good friend



## Police Scotland apologises to fish farm campaigner



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# Patient alert as nurse tests positive for Covid

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Lorn & Islands Hospital has launched an investigation after a nurse tested positive for Covid-19 during routine staff screening.

NHS Highland says a small number of patients who the staff member – who wore PPE while working – had been caring for have now been contacted as ‘a precautionary measure’.

The incident triggered an immediate investigation and started standard procedures to keep patients and staff safe.

A spokesperson for NHS Highland confirmed: ‘A member of staff employed and working in Lorn & Islands Hospital in Oban has tested positive for Covid-19. This was picked up during routine staff screening.’

‘We have immediately investigated and initiated standard procedures for monitoring and managing the incident to ensure the safety of patients and staff.’

‘The member of staff concerned wore PPE while work-

ing and this will have protected others.’

‘A small number of patients, who the staff member had been caring for, have been informed of the situation purely as a precautionary measure.’

Usual infection control precautions are continuing across the hospital with all patients, visitors and staff who come into the hospital expected to

**‘The member of staff wore PPE and this will have protected others.’**

wear face masks and clean their hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol gel.

Detailed Covid figures now available on a neighbourhood basis from Public Health Scotland via the Scottish Government website show 10 new cases of the virus were recorded in the Benderloch Trail area from October 11 to October 17, an area that also covers the communities of Taynuilt, Appin, Connel and

Lismore. During those same seven days in Oban North, Oban South and Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree those three areas each confirmed between one and four new cases while Loch Awe had none to report. To protect patient confidentiality, where a neighbourhood has less than five new cases, the exact number is not being given.

Until very recently, only council and NHS authority wide figures were being made public.

Councillor Kieron Green, chairman of Argyll and Bute’s healthcare watchdog, the Integration Joint Board, last month urged officials at NHS Highland and the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Partnership (HSCP) to provide more detailed breakdowns.

The Oban North and Lorn councillor this week welcomed the change to give out cases by neighbourhoods and said it would help people better understand what was happening on their doorstep.

Continued on page two.



## Cinema celebrates films starring people of colour

From the end of October until the end of March on a Friday night or a Monday afternoon, 11 films will be shown as part of a celebration of onscreen diversity at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

The initiative coincides with this year’s Black History Month in October.

Jenny Larney, cinema manager, said the George Street venue is there to represent a ‘wider world’ beyond rural Argyll and offer cinemagoers an eclectic mix.

The run will open with 2019’s Rocks, a British coming-of-age drama.

Full story, turn to page 22.

## Kilbowie motion

An emergency motion to win Kilbowie Outdoor Centre a stay of execution failed to make it to the table at the last full meeting of its owners North Lanarkshire Council.

Supporters wanting to delay bulldozers while they looked at the possibility of a community buy-out had hoped a motion would be heard on October 8, but North Lanarkshire councillor Kirsten Larson who was set to propose it said right-to-buy talks were revealing ‘hurdles’.

## Ganavan debate

Ganavan will be on the agenda for this Monday’s online meeting of Oban Community Council.

Details of the meeting will be posted on Oban Community Council’s Facebook Discussion Group page so the public can join in. The Zoom meeting will start at 7pm. More on Ganavan, page six.

## Accident warning

Argyll and Bute planners have passed a scheme to build two houses on the way into Soroba despite objections.

Heavy traffic from Soroba Estate and Nant Drive, plus issues with burst water pipes were included in objections.

Oban Community council chairperson Marri Malloy warned: ‘This is an accident waiting to happen.’



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OT

## Patients contacted after hospital nurse tests positive for Covid

Continued from page one.

He added: 'It will really help people understand where there have been cases and see that Covid is still a risk and can happen in isolated areas and rural communities, serving as a reminder people need to be compliant with the rules.'

Commenting on the confirmed case of a worker at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Councillor Green said: 'Isolated cases of Covid are to be expected,' which is why routine testing in health settings and the government's test and protect system are so important in the fight against coronavirus.

A statement from doctors at Lorn Medical Centre said: 'Like the rest of the country, we have had an increase in the number of patients testing positive for coronavirus,' and urged: 'We are all facing the possibility of the virus being more active in our communities so we all need to help control the spread by adhering to good hygiene practices and keeping our social interactions to a minimum.'

To get the latest local data go to [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland), go to the local area data and click on the interactive dashboard.

On Tuesday, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon explained the

likely timetable for the roll out of Scotland's new coronavirus restrictions.

New 'tiered levels of intervention' have been drawn up and will be published in a strategic 'draft' framework document today, October 22, or Friday, she said before the heavyweight document goes before MSPs next week to be debated and voted on.

Providing it wins approval across the SNP-controlled chamber, the new tiered system across Scotland would then be effective from Monday November 2.

A mass flu clinic held at the Corran Halls for patients from Lorn Medical Centre inoculated more than 1,700 people in its first week earlier this month with other sessions planned yesterday, today (Thursday October 22) and tomorrow, Friday October 23.

With flu symptoms similar to the coronavirus, the clinics are part of a national drive to make sure more people than ever receive the jab to help limit the impact on NHS services this winter.

### GETINTOUCH

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# Police apologise to fish welfare campaigner

by Ellis Butcher

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



A campaigner has claimed a 'watershed victory' in the public right to access lochs used by salmon farms after winning an apology from Police Scotland.

Don Staniford, director of Scottish Salmon Watch, made a formal complaint following encounters with police officers at Loch Creran in July 2020 and Loch Linnhe a year earlier.

Mr Staniford, aged 49, said the attendance of officers on the day and their advice amounted to police acting as a 'private security firm' for salmon farms.

He has now met with police inspectors at Oban Police Station and received an apology from a police inspector.

His complaint – investigated by a chief inspector – could also see 'learning' being required by police officers to help fill in 'gaps' about the law across the force, according to the official letter he received.

The issue came under the spotlight after he and campaigners twice accessed local lochs to investigate fish farm welfare concerns.

At both incidents, police officers were quickly on the scene – on the shore in the most recent incident and in a



Fish welfare campaigner Don Staniford received an apology from Police Scotland.

spector conceded there was a 'gap in knowledge' among officers about the 'complex' law in relation to fish farms and aquaculture.

Furthermore, Chief Inspector Baillie said the issue is a 'national matter' and that 'learning' from the incidents would be 'shared' across the police service 'with the intention of improving our corporate knowledge and level of response'.

Mr Staniford hailed it as 'watershed victory'.

He said: 'Police Scotland has effectively reinforced the legality of filming at salmon farms. Police Scotland has sent a powerful message to their own officers that they cannot act as private security guards for companies.'

'The public has an inalienable right to navigate – including kayaking and diving – in public waters where salmon farms operate.'

'Despite legal threats of salmon farming companies, the legitimacy of video surveillance and public monitoring of salmon farms is irrefutable.'

boat in the latter. In the most recent incident in July this year, Mr Staniford and Matt Mellen, editor of independent online magazine *Ecohustler*, went to Loch Creran off the A828.

Their 10-minute exchange with officers on the shoreline was filmed, with police telling the pair 'one of the farms' had complained that people were 'in the water, near to the cages' and 'within the exclusion zone'.

Mr Staniford and Mr Mellen were told there were concerns about their safety and warned that if they continued to swim there it could be 'classed as a criminal offence' and a 'culpable and reckless act'.

But Mr Staniford told officers

he had welfare concerns and there was a 'public right' to swim and navigate in 'public waters' around salmon farms and challenged them on the law.

At Shuna in Loch Linnhe in July 2019, Mr Staniford and Andrew Holder of Dip in the Blue, were approached by two officers in a boat. The attending officer said he needed 'permission' from Scottish Sea Farms to film there.

Following his complaint, Mr Staniford has now received a written response from Marlene Baillie, an area chief inspector, who thanked him for bringing the matters to her attention.

In the letter, the chief in-

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## Mull ferry refit to go ahead in Liverpool

The annual refit of the Mull ferry will go ahead in Liverpool next month, despite the city currently being in the highest covid lockdown category in England.

The planned maintenance is to be carried out at the Cammell Laird drydock yard on Merseyside, where the Scottish Government has had a repair contract for the CalMac fleet for many years.

Operator Caledonian MacBrayne this week confirmed the work would go ahead as planned, with a spokesman saying: 'The planned maintenance will not be affected as our ferries are considered an essential service and contractors working on the ferry are given essential worker status. It was the same during lockdown in March when we had some ferries still in overhaul all over the UK.'

Liverpool was the first region of England to be placed under the toughest Tier 3 restrictions in the fight against coronavirus.

# New school dinner rules add to costs

by Ellis Butcher  
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School meal standards are placing an additional strain on Argyll and Bute Council's budget, a meeting has heard.

A report revealed that new food and drink standards from the Scottish Government has handed the council an extra £65,000 every year in costs.

It led council leader Robin Currie to seek clarity on whether this was due to the pandemic.

But executive director Kirsty Flanagan said it was not and that costs and demand had arisen around school meals.

Ms Flanagan said: 'There have been new regulations on what we are allowed to give children as part of a school meal and that has brought about an increase in costs.'

'One example of this would



be that we are only allowed to give pupils a specific type of yoghurt and demand is pushing costs up.'

Councillor Alastair Redman said meagre meals could see pupils seek food from shops.

Fellow executive director Douglas Hendry added that the uptake of school meals had not been at the same level as prior to the pandemic.

Mr Hendry said: 'Schools only opened at the back end of August, but it is looking as if the uptake of meals and income from them is down.

That is something we have an eye on.'

The debate took place as councillors took a long-term look at the budget for 2021-26 at a meeting of the council's policy and resources committee.

A response from the Scottish Government suggested the council was sufficiently funded to absorb new costs.

The council's finance settlement for 2020-21 was £219.7 million to fund local services, a government spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said: 'Taken together with the council's decision to increase council tax by 4.5 per cent, the council had an initial extra £12.5million to support vital day-to-day services in 2020-21 which was the equivalent of an additional 6.3 per cent on 2019-20.'

The government pointed out

that as a result of the pandemic it had also allocated Argyll and Bute an 'additional' £8.4 million, alongside £37 million to support local businesses.

The council is also set to receive a share of £178 million awarded to Scotland's 32 local authorities.

Amended regulations for the provision of school food and drink will also be introduced from April 2021.

They are aimed at making school food 'even healthier' by reducing sugar, increasing the availability of fruit and vegetables and placing a maximum on red and red processed meat that can be served in a school week.

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## POLICE FILES

### Assault charge

About 10.50pm on October 15, at Corran Esplanade, Oban, two men, aged 31 and 32, allegedly assaulted another man. Police arrested and charged the men who were held for court and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal

### Arrested

About 12.10pm on October 15, on the Corran Esplanade, Oban, a vehicle was stopped and the driver, a man aged 28, was arrested for allegedly failing a roadside drug test. Subsequently a blood sample was taken for analysis.

### Curfew allegation

About 9.20pm on October 13, in a house in Catalina Avenue, Oban, a 28-year-old woman allegedly breached bail curfew conditions imposed by the court by failing to present herself to officers. Police charged the woman and a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

■ If you have any information on any of the above, contact your local police station on telephone number 101.



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## New railcard for veterans

A new railcard that will allow Scottish veterans to claim a 34 per cent discount on travel has been welcomed by Maree Todd MSP.

The veterans railcard, initially priced at £21 per year, allows holders to travel across the country at reduced fares.

It is open to those who have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces, regular or reserve, Merchant Mariners and those who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

To encourage uptake, the SNP Government is funding a further discount scheme whereby anyone resident in Scotland registering between now and March 31 2021 will be eligible for a £6 rail voucher making the initial cost just £15.

Ms Todd, who represents the Highlands and Islands, said: 'It is important we recognise the contribution veterans have made in Scotland and this new railcard will help open up opportunities for those who have served – strengthening employment opportunities and travel links with family and friends.'

Visit [www.railcard.co.uk](http://www.railcard.co.uk)

# 'Incredibly generous' donation to Oban RNLI

The generosity of Oban folk shows no sign of slowing after RNLI volunteers gathered at the North Pier on Saturday to keep the donations rolling in for the town lifeboat.

The day kicked off with an 'incredibly generous' donation of £100 in cash, said a delighted Phil Hamerton, chairman of Oban Lifeboat fundraising group, who joined other volunteers for the day to man its distinctive pop-up shop.

At the bright marquee, residents and visitors continued to drop coins in the collection box and snap up a range of quality merchandise and souvenirs with Christmas now just eight weeks away.

Newly-launched Christmas cards proved a big hit, said Mr Hamerton, and they remain on sale at McCaig's Warehouse and will be available at the next RNLI event in town on Saturday October 31.



Mr Hamerton said as well as being an opportunity for people to return Betty's Pots, the event on Saturday was a chance to show the lifeboat service was visible and to remind the coastal community of its need.

He added: 'For an organisation which is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions

genuinely every penny is priceless.'

Yet the year 2020 looks set to prove a lean one for charities UK-wide with fundraising events cancelled, opportunities to donate curtailed and people not tending to shop with loose change in the way they used to before the pandemic.

Donations in Oban remained

**RNLI volunteers Phil Hamerton, Alison Rennie and Jenny McEvoy raising funds for Oban Lifeboat.**

'steady,' he said, and despite the autumnal sunshine, there was noticeably fewer people in town. Mr Hamerton said: 'I think people are subdued and a little bit tentative and numbers in town are not what they were a couple of weeks ago.'

Also on hand was secretary Alison Rennie and volunteer Jenny McEvoy, who clocked up 15 years volunteering in York and 20 years in Oban.

They were joined by volunteer Anne Young and Mike Robertson, chairman of the local management group and a crew member on Oban's first lifeboat, which went into service in May 1972.

Mr Robertson, a senior solicitor by trade and lifelong

sailor, was 27 when he first joined. He said: 'The arrival of the lifeboat followed a terrible tragedy with four people drowned at the Falls of Lora and it triggered a major push to bring a lifeboat to Oban, so when that first boat arrived it was exciting times.'

'In 2022 we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary. Having a lifeboat is such an important part of any maritime community.'

Other fundraisers in the pipeline include Oban Lifeboat Seafood Recipe book – with a recipes submitted by the public and judged by experts from local restaurants. A digital version of the book is expected at the end of November.

People can submit a donation online and a photograph of their prepared dish and recipe.

To take part visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising)

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### Face masks to be worn in communal work areas

Workers are now required to wear face coverings in 'communal workplace' areas such as corridors, toilets and kitchen areas, writes Ellis Butcher.

The move follows changes last week which saw the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announce that anyone in a workplace canteen would have to wear a face covering when not seated at a table - for example if they are queueing or entering or leaving the canteen.

Mrs Sturgeon said: "The responsibility for complying with these measures rests with individuals. But I would urge employers to take steps in their workplaces to explain and promote the new regulations. The new rules are a proportionate additional step, which will help employees to keep themselves and their colleagues that bit safer."

Couples getting married or having a civil partnership will not have to wear a mask.

Mrs Sturgeon said: "This is a small but important change which I hope will be welcomed by anyone about to marry."

# Glen Croe favoured as 'realistic' A83 solution

A route adjacent to the existing A83 has been revealed as Argyll and Bute Council's preferred option to solve problems at the Rest and Be Thankful.

The authority has chosen option one - Glen Croe (existing A83) - as its preferred option of 11 drawn-up by Transport Scotland.

Councillors gathering for a full meeting today, Thursday October 22, will be recommended to support the council's formal response to the consultation which closes on Friday October 30.

Members are also recommended to agree a permanent solution should be completed during the 2021-26 term of the Scottish Parliament.

Argyll and Bute Council is one of many stakeholders to put their choices forward with a decision not due on the route until March next year.

In its response to option one,



the council said the authority was 'ambitious' for the area.

But it added: "That ambition must be tempered with a degree of realism - Argyll and Bute needs a solution to be delivered as soon as possible and the delivery timeline is a key issue in considering all the options."

"That is why the council

supports option one as offering realistic solutions which will increase resilience on the A83 and provide the uninterrupted year-round access that Argyll and Bute needs and deserves.

"This route corridor appears, on the face of it, to offer the most deliverable set of solutions within an option, although these remain engi-

The consultation closes on October 30. People are being urged to have their say if they have not already done so.

neering projects of considerable significance and which will be complex to progress."

The authority has also said, however, a further option to link Arden with Lochgilphead, making use of current roads and building two crossings over water 'may provide merit for longer term consideration'.

Six of the other 10 options will not be supported by the council, while options two to five are also not ruled out if any of these options can be delivered or substantially progressed within an acceptable time frame.

Kirsty Flanagan, executive

director, said in a covering report that only the Scottish Government could provide a solution and that aspects of 'engineering design, construction and affordability' are a matter for them.

"Our focus should be identifying the best strategic fit in terms of deliverability, connectivity and the potential for economic and population growth for Argyll and Bute from the options presented."

Donald Cameron, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said he has received an assurance from the First Minister the timetable would be met.

He urged local residents and business owners to look at the options available and participate.

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OT

## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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My nephew Blair, a keen golfer, was telling me Glencruitten Golf Club was being refurbished and had a surge in membership as it was one of the earliest sports to open up again.

I had a lovely chat with Charlie at the golf course who confirmed this. More than 200 new members and visitors to the town still arriving, though perhaps not in the same numbers as before.

Glencruitten Golf Club is such an asset to our community. On a personal level, it was a favourite with my Dad and Uncle Alfie and it's always been a topic of conversation in our household, I'm delighted to hear its fortunes are improving. The support it has received from members and businesses in the community has been fantastic, with the majority of the work being carried out by members in their own time and much of the supplies provided by businesses.

I'm really looking forward

## WHERE IS THIS?



to seeing the completed project. Some of the popularity could also be attributed to the success of our local hero Robert MacIntyre whose career is eagerly followed by Oban residents, but whatever is causing it I'm delighted for the club.

It is an amazing course, though as a non-golfer I've only enjoyed walking it. The clubhouse has hosted so many weddings, birthday parties and quizzes that it's been a fixture in the social life of Oban for many years and hopefully, when we're able, it will be again.

The photograph last week was of the decked area at The Olive Garden. This week's photograph may be slightly more difficult.

# Ganavan woes sees town centre site favoured

by Ellis Butcher

ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



Councillors have failed to unanimously agree on how to tackle the problem of overnight camping at Ganavan car park.

A special meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee on October 14 saw members deadlocked on the way forward, three votes to three.

Three backed a motion by councillor Julie McKenzie while three supported an amendment by councillor Mary-Jean Devon.

Committee chairman, councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor, used his casting vote to back councillor Devon's amendment.

Councillor Devon's amendment, seconded by councillor Jim Lynch, called for the 'bigger picture' of campervans and caravans to be addressed across Oban, rather than take a piecemeal approach.

Officers will now carry out feasibility studies for potential

sites and report back to the area committee.

The Ganavan solution has been estimated to cost the cash-strapped council up to £43,500 with no allocated budget for it.

'This month it's Ganavan, next time it will be Gallanach Road and next time it will be somewhere else,' said Councillor Devon. 'We don't have the money to look at each area separately.'

She suggested the existing traffic regulation order (TRO) be updated, and overnight parking of caravans and campervans be 'restricted' to a designated area within Oban town centre.

Speaking afterwards, Councillor Devon said no formal site had yet been identified but may include Lochavullin or behind Atlantis Leisure.

Councillor Devon told the meeting that ward four councillors believed it would be more 'beneficial' to utilise land already in the council's ownership. The income generated from

overnight stays would bring in the necessary revenue to cover the cost of providing a waste disposal facility and extra rubbish bins, she said.

However, Councillor McKenzie's proposal – seconded by Councillor Kieron Green – suggested quicker measures, including a temporary TRO from Oban War Memorial Ganavan car park entrance – subject to consultation.

Councillor McKenzie's motion also called for reports from council officers to examine both the costs of the proposed infrastructure plan at Ganavan and a potential site in the town centre, the installation of CCTV at Ganavan, and proposals on the 'management and enforcement' regime for the car park next summer. Furthermore, Councillor McKenzie's motion suggested amending the charging hours at Ganavan to 24 hours but retaining the existing two-hour free parking – subject

to a rigorous TRO consultation. Of councillor Devon's proposal, councillor Green said the aim was 'very laudable' but a town centre site such as Lochavullin would not take away the lure of Ganavan for campers due to its beach location.

Councillor McKenzie said 'time' to do something is not on the council's side and she feared the amendment would be equivalent to kicking the problem at Ganavan into the 'long grass'.

After the meeting she said: 'We have still got the status quo which was not acceptable to anybody and that's why we have tried to take something forward. We have to find a solution.'

Councillor Jim Lynch said he recognised that Ganavan was an 'urgent' matter but that councillors had to consider that any measures there would lead to a knock-on effect elsewhere across Oban.

'That's why I am supporting Mary-Jean's motion,' he said.

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## SCOTTISH FIELD

### November issue



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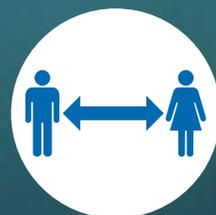
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**HANDS**



**FACE**



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OT

# Avoid Blackpool Scots told as Covid cases rise steeply

Health experts have reported a 'high number' of Covid cases among Scottish residents who have holidayed in Blackpool, writes Ellis Butcher.

Kirsty Licence, chairperson of the Incident Management Team at Public Health Scotland, is exploring the link between cases in Scotland and the Lancashire seaside town.

Blackpool, on the Fylde Coast, is currently at alert level 'high' on England's new three tier system, the lowest being 'medium' and the highest rate 'very high'.

Ms Licence said: 'We know Blackpool is a popular destination, especially for holidaymakers from the west of Scotland.'

'Many of these cases have travelled using group transport, especially coach, but also private transport, and many are of middle and older ages with increased risk of suffering from very severe



Blackpool is a popular destination for visitors from the west coast of Scotland. Photograph: BBC

Covid-19 illness. Our data shows the numbers of Scottish cases who visited Blackpool shortly before their illnesses substantially exceeds those having visited any other place in the UK. Over the past month, since September 14 – when Blackpool was first noted on a case – there have been 286 cases in Scotland whose records note recent travel to Blackpool.' She added: 'These

cases highlight the risk associated with travelling to areas with high rates of infection.

'People in Scotland should not be travelling to or from the health board areas under local restrictions except for essential reasons. If you have to travel, follow all local guidance and restrictions, both where you live and where you are travelling to.'

It follows a warning by First

Minister Nicola Sturgeon who told Scots to avoid non-essential travel to very high or high alert areas under England's new three tier system announced this week.

Ms Licence added: 'Those falling into a group that is at an increased risk of more severe illness should, in particular, consider carefully where and how they travel. Anyone who has one or more symptoms of Covid-19 should immediately self-isolate and book a test. Those who are required to be in self-isolation either as a case or as a close contact of a known case must not travel – which may mean those visiting other areas of the UK are unable to travel out or return home for a significant period of time.'

More information on the UK Government's tier system for England, including a post-code checker to see what level alert an area is under – is available online.



Pedro Mendes, David Lewellan and Fiona Cameron on the Taynuilt to Oban leg of their journey.

## Freedom walkers march on in Argyll, remembering friend

Independence supporters taking part in The Long Walk to Freedom dedicated the Taynuilt to Oban leg of their journey to SNP constituency convener John MacMillan who died suddenly while taking part in a Zoom meeting earlier this month, writes Fiona Scott.

Fiona Cameron, Pedro Mendes and David Lewellan have been on the march since September as part of the nationwide event being run by

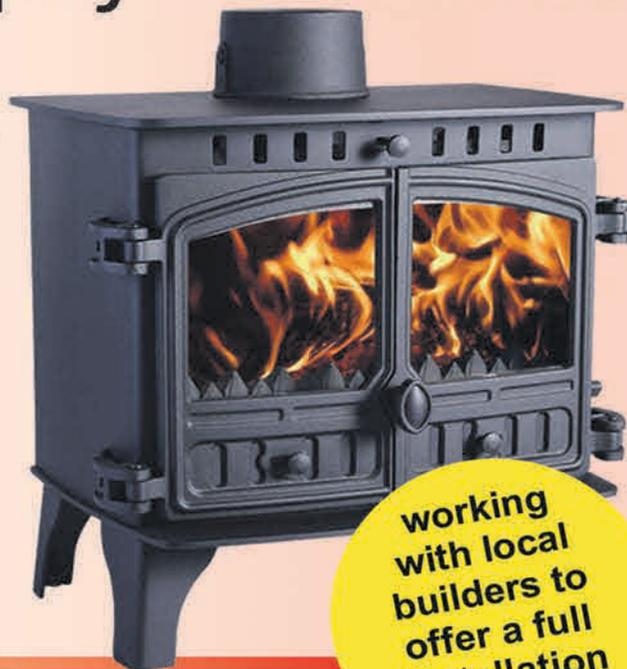
The Round Table 1320 group. The group's aim is to advance the cause of Independence with a new Covenant for Scotland. Walkers taking part are collectively covering a total of 2,420 miles, passing through every city and town in the country.

Physically distanced groups of saltire waving supporters turned out to cheer the walkers on at Connel, Dunbeg and Oban last Thursday, October 15.

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# Farmed salmon escape prompts major study into genetic impact

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A study of wild salmon genetics has begun to gauge the impact of any interbreeding between wild and farm-raised salmon in Scotland.

The multi-year study of 115 sites aims to confirm the current genetic profile of wild salmon and track for potential genetic changes should interbreeding occur.

It has been launched following the recent mass escape of nearly 49,000 mature farm-raised salmon from the Carradale North fish farm off the Kintyre Peninsula in August, operated by Mowi Scotland.

The escape has seen mature farmed fish turn up in rivers across Scotland and England at a time when Scotland's wild salmon populations are already said to be approaching 'crisis point'.



The study – funded by Mowi – and hailed as 'one of the most comprehensive' of its kind, will be managed by wild fish conservation body Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) and supported by the Aberdeen-based scientific division of Marine Scotland.

But fish welfare opponents claim the 'horse has already bolted' and that it is already well established farmed salmon have a 'devastating' impact on wild populations.

Pressure group Inside Scottish

Salmon Feedlots (ISSF) said wild fish are paying the price for mass escapes and represent an unregulated 'form of pollution'.

Since the escape, FMS has been working with members of district salmon fishery boards and fisheries trusts as well as angling associations to 'monitor the situation and mitigate where possible', it said.

This included ensuring any farmed fish are removed from the rivers, humanely dispatched and scale samples submitted to enable accurate identification

## The farmed fish that escaped in August have turned up in rivers across Scotland and England.

that they originated from the Carradale North site.

Dr Alan Wells, FMS chief executive, said: 'It is crucial lessons are learned and that appropriate steps are taken to avoid such escapes happening in future.'

However, Mr Wells welcomed Mowi's 'commitment' to fund a comprehensive genetics study.

Ben Hadfield, chief operating officer for Mowi Scotland, apologised for any 'disruption and concern', adding: 'We have learned the root cause of the escape and acknowledge our responsibility to quickly learn from this event to prevent it from occurring again.'

Yet Corin Smith, founder of ISSF, said farmed fish escapes are 'completely unregulated'

by the Scottish Government and there are 'no penalties'. He said despite welfare issues and escapes, fish farms are being 'encouraged' to expand by the Scottish Government.

Fisheries Management Scotland said it had received around '150 reports' of farmed fish being caught. Anglers are urged to report catches of farmed fish, using the reporting system on its website

The Scottish Government has identified a range of high-level pressures on wild salmon which include over-exploitation, predation, invasive species, habitat loss and quality and inshore commercial fisheries.

In July, Mowi lodged a proposal with Argyll and Bute Council for a site at North Kilbrannan to farm 2,475 tonnes of Atlantic salmon. So far, the application has attracted 56 objections, eight supporters and 10 comments

## New chargers

Twenty-four new rapid charging points will be installed in Argyll and Bute and the west Highlands in a bid to break down the main barriers to ownership of electrical vehicles in rural communities.

HITRANS received £1.5 million in funding and intends to employ two new members of staff to deliver the project, which has attracted Euro funding and support from the Scottish Government. Units will be installed in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles at locations yet to be confirmed.

Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of HITRANS, said: 'We are committed to delivering practical projects which contribute to the greening of transport in our rural area.'

## A84 roadworks

Resurfacing of the A84 at Strathyre has been postponed as a result of weather delays impacting planned work elsewhere on the network.

The project was due to start on Monday October 19 but will now be rescheduled.

The A84 will remain open as normal.



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# Behind the Scenes at Atlantis

The usual signs of the passing of the seasons might be a little different this year but at least nature is still taking its course. With the leaves turning and dropping, read on to find out how the continued restrictions are affecting Atlantis as we enter autumn.

## Centre Life – new pools please

As Covid restrictions remain in place, we've continued to put the time to the best possible use.

Throughout September we've had a variety of skilled trades working around the pool areas.

In light of the latest guidance, this is part of our process to ensure the centre is as safe and as easy to clean as possible. The entire pool-side around both pools has been re-grouted and treated, with tiles replaced or repaired where necessary. The inside of the small pool has also benefited from the same treatment and is looking much better. We recognise



our responsibility to look after Atlantis and ensure everything is in excellent order for your return. While costly and time-consuming, this work is an important part of that.

Last time, we let you know refurbishment work to the wet-side changing rooms was due to start and this is now under way.

Aside from our appointed contractor, some of our own willing Atlantis staff team have

mucked in to help with getting the job done and keeping the project affordable. This is a significant project for Atlantis, made up of mini projects that all have to be completed properly and carefully. Given that these are being undertaken on an aging building, this makes for unforeseen setbacks along the way.

The changing rooms are no exception and have already presented additional chal-

The tiling around both pools has been repaired, regouted and treated. The inside of the small pool has also been improved.

lenges that add cost and delay completion.

Elsewhere in the centre, the roof above the Sports Hall was assessed during September, with a repair booked in for early October.

In the midst of all the uncertainty of Covid-19, we're working hard to make sure all the important planned maintenance work is not forgotten.

## Centre activities – Atlantis awakens

Atlantis is following a phased reopening.

As the government and relevant professional bodies allow, we are gradually bringing more activities back. One of the benefits of that is seeing familiar faces return

to the centre. We thoroughly enjoy hosting our StayActive and Healthy Options friends during the gym hours we've reserved for their exclusive use.

It's encouraging to receive feedback that our diligence and hard work around sanitation and safety precautions is helping people feel safe and welcome when at Atlantis.

Our latest activity to return is the Climb Cube.

This reopened on Monday October 5 and with it we've introduced a new membership designed to make climbing at Atlantis easier and more affordable.

None of us thought the world would still be in the grip of Covid-19 as we head into autumn.

Atlantis continues to be faced by the challenges of reduced income, decreased capacity and the difficulties of redundancy. We firmly believe communities like Oban will get through this by looking out for one another and helping where we can. The Atlantis team is proud to play its part in that.

## Drink driver given chance to reduce ban

An Islay man has been given the chance to cut his drink-driving ban from a year to nine months. Paul Donachie, aged 44, of 5 Birch Drive, Bowmore, appeared before Campbeltown Sheriff Court last week and pleaded guilty to driving when unfit.

His defence agent, Keith Tuck, said: 'He is disappointed in himself and so is his family. He made an error of judgement and drove a very short distance. His family are not at all impressed with him.'

David Glancy, procurator fiscal depute, said the incident happened on September 29 last year when police received reports of bad driving on Main Street, Bowmore.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said this was a deeply unfortunate, serious matter and fined Donachie £375 with a 12-month driving ban. But he said he was 'satisfied by Donachie's otherwise good character' and that he was a suitable candidate for the driver rehabilitation scheme. If successful, his ban would be reduced by three months.

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# Largest network of virus testing facilities covering all of Scotland

The UK Government has put in place the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history, setting up a state of the art network of virus testing facilities across Scotland. In support of the Scottish Government, the UK Government is providing all COVID-19 testing in Scotland outside of NHS settings for people in Scotland. Support

includes six drive-through centres, two new walk-in sites with more to follow, 20 mobile units as well as home testing kits, testing for care home staff and residents, and – highlighted here – the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab, operating around the clock to process an estimated 50,000 swabs each day, hoping to soon hit a daily target of 85,000.

THIS TIME last year, every single one of the estimated 400 people who work at the Lighthouse Lab in Glasgow were doing something else.

There was simply no need for a virus testing lab of this scale and ambition in the UK. What a difference a year makes.

The Glasgow “megalab” that now stretches over four floors of a specially commandeered building in Govan is a vital part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities yet created by any UK government.

As Chief Operating Officer for the College of Medical Veterinary Sciences at the University of Glasgow, Carol Clugston (pictured)

has been involved with the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab since its inception. “The very first day we started, in April,” she recalls, “we did 41 tests. Now we’ve just passed 2.5 million cumulative tests.”

Facilities like the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab are helping to maximise testing capacity in Scotland

and across the UK. Increasing the number of people tested is a key part of easing lockdown restrictions and getting people back to work.

Shortly after the Glasgow lab opened, in May, a partnership deal was struck with medical research specialist BioClavis, whose company president Harper Van Steenhouse became the lab’s new director.

“It’s amazing what people can do,” he says. “We have taken a bunch of bright, motivated, ambitious people and given them a singular focus – almost, quite truthfully, attempting to save the world. It’s going to pull these people through and provide a skilled

workforce for the future. Once the pandemic is over, we’ll have a huge number of skilled people right around the corner.

“As somebody who runs a small business that hires these sorts of people, I’ve keen that they’re learning these skills.”

Let’s hope this ill wind does indeed leave something good behind.



**VIRUS TESTING:** The Glasgow Lighthouse Lab operates around the clock.



## HOW IT WORKS

People get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been asked to seek a test. Their swab is delivered for analysis to the lab.

“Your swab is inside a tube, which is inside a bag, which is inside a bag, which is inside a box,” explains lab director, Harper Van Steenhouse. “The samples get processed out of their packaging.”

Individual patients can’t be identified from swabs. “All we monitor are barcodes. The scientific team only gets the tube, with the swab in it. And it’s the liquid in the tube that is the patient sample,” assured the company chief.

From there lab assistants get the RNA – the virus genetic material – from samples. The data file that comes out the end has the same barcode associated with it.



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If you have symptoms stay at home and get a test to protect your loved ones.

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All together >

OT



Action from last weekend's friendly between Oban Celtic and Inveraray.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

## Shinty friendlies

Oban Celtic entertained Inveraray in a friendly match at Mossfield last Saturday with the yellow and blacks emerging 4-2 winners in an entertaining game.

Glenurquhart emerged 3-1 winners over Beaully in another friendly played at Drumnadrochit last Saturday.



Glenurquhart's Josh Macdonald Haig tackles Beaully's Ryan Mackay.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

# Fifth place finish for John McPhee at Aragon GP

Despite having to take a long lap penalty, handed out after qualifying, PETRONAS Sprinta Racing's John McPhee put in a sensational ride to finish the Aragon GP in fifth.

John made a steady start to the Moto3 race, but soon put the hammer down and was the fastest man on the circuit. The Connel rider took his long lap penalty on lap three, which saw him fall from eighth to 17th.

Fighting back through the field to join the leading group, John was in the podium battle until two laps to go when he ran wide at turn one.

Unfortunately he wasn't able to rejoin the fight for the top three and finished fifth. He finished in front of his rivals for the championship and maintains fifth in the overall standings.

McPhee only has days to wait before he is back out on track at MotorLand Aragón for the Gran Premio de Teruel, October 23 to October 25, the final event in the October triple-header.



John McPhee in action during the Aragon Grand Prix.

After the race John said: 'It was a tough fight today, especially with the long lap penalty as I dropped to 17th. I then just tried to make my way forward, which was tough.'

'Originally I thought about tyre management but after the long lap I just pushed as hard as I could every lap. I was really happy with my rhythm and was

able to catch the front group. Once I got there I struggled a little to have that edge to be in the fight. Then on the second to last lap I lost the group but I'm really happy to be P5 today. It's some good points on the board and it shows we've got a good rhythm.'

'I'm looking forward to the race next week.'

# Saints GG stunned by Jags onslaught

Oban Saints GG	2
South Lochaber Thistle	5
Pre-season friendly	

Oban Saints Greater Glasgow team took on South Lochaber Thistle in a pre-season friendly match under the lights at Oban community 3G pitch last Thursday evening.

The Oban lads were hit by a whirlwind start from the visitors when the Lochaber side raced to a 4-0 half time lead with a first half hat-trick from the impressive Martin Munro and a well-taken strike from Allan Maclellan.

The home side played some good football at times and created several goal-scoring opportunities but unlike their Lochaber opponents, who were clinical, they failed to take the chances created.

With the visitors using their full squad, making six changes at half time, the dynamic of the game was always going to change but they managed to score a magnificent fourth goal by way of a long distance

strike from Martin Munro to take his tally for the evening to four.

Unlike the first 45 minutes, the second half was more evenly contested and again reasonable scoring chances were missed by the home side.

Noble netted a fifth for the Jags, but credit to Saints who battled bravely and finished the game strongly scoring two consolation goals in the last ten minutes through Fraser MacFarlane and Dean Smith.

With five minutes left, South Lochaber lost the services of four-goal hero Martin Munro when he had to be carried from the field with what looked like a bad hamstring injury and will probably keep the talented forward out of action for a number of weeks. Everyone at Oban Saints wishes Martin a speedy recovery. The game was well handled by referee Martin Rae and was played under the strict Scottish FA match day protocols of no changing or showering facilities and no spectators.



## A menu to match the views

### STARTERS

SOUP OF THE DAY £5.50  
Served with a warm bread roll and butter (vegetarian)

SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50  
with warm bread roll and butter

HADDOCK, LANGOUSTINE AND VINE TOMATOES BAKE £9  
with chilli herb and garlic oil served with a warm bread roll

MACARONI CHEESE £7  
with garlic bread - add smoked salmon £1.50

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £12  
3 scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with dressed leaves

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £8  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £10  
Served hot in garlic butter with a bread roll or served cold with salad and garlic mayonnaise

### MAIN COURSES

FISH & CHIPS £13  
in our own beer batter served with tartare sauce

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £21  
baked in garlic butter or served cold with garlic mayonnaise and salad - both served with rustic chips

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £25  
6 king scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with salad and rustic chips

MACARONI CHEESE £10  
with ciabatta garlic bread - Add smoked salmon £3

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £14.50  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

HOT SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN LINGUINE £16.50  
in a white wine and cream sauce, served with garlic bread

HADDOCK, SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN GRATIN £17  
oven baked with a cheese, cream and

leek sauce, topped with breadcrumbs and served with rustic chips

10Z RIBEYE STEAK £28  
served with roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings, rustic chips, salad and peppercorn sauce.

HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER £12  
2 x 4oz burgers served on a seeded bun with salad, onion rings and burger sauce served with rustic chips on the side - add cheese & bacon - £1 each

CURRY OF THE DAY £12  
served with wild rice, popadom, mango chutney & spiced onions

### SIDES

RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.

MIXED LEAF SALAD £3

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LEMON SORBET £4

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fresh haddock fillet in our own batter served with chips

CURRY OF THE DAY £7  
served with wild rice and popadom (curry may be spicy, please ask)

CHICKEN GOUJONS £7  
fresh chicken fillet in our own batter served with chips and beans

4oz BEEF BURGER £7  
served with chips

MINI MOULES MARINIÈRE £7  
with chips

MACARONI CHEESE £7  
served with garlic bread



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Week one: Craignure Golf Club with club captain Steven Wilson.



Week two: Dalmally Golf Club with club captain Graham Mackechnie.



Week three: Taynuilt Golf Club with club secretary Moira MacVicar and captain Carol MacLarty.



The first practice drive at Craignure.

# For the love of Bobcast! I'm learning to play golf

Oban Times journalist and golf beginner Fiona Scott attempts to unravel the mysteries of the local fairways and gain a handicap of 53 by the time she is 53 at the end of June next year.

Whatever it is I'm doing, be it work, home or life in general, I do like to have a purpose.

So it stands to reason that when I was invited to join the Bobcast regulars, I actually found myself a purpose for being there.

For those of you who haven't managed to catch it yet, Bobcast – you can find it at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and on our Facebook page – is

an informal, chatty golfing podcast hosted by Oban Times IT guru and multipotentialite Steevie Day, along with Wyvex Media Group Operations Director Keith McIntyre and finance manager George Graham. And now there's me!

Bobcast has been running since August last year, Keith and George rambling on about golf in general and, in particular, how well Oban golf ace Robert MacIntyre was doing in his rookie season.

'The idea was just to have a bit of a laugh and see if anyone was interested in our

inane witterings about golf and Bob,' explained Keith.

'We recognised that in Bob, we had a potential world star on our hands and that doesn't happen often in a wee place like Oban.'

Since its humble beginnings, Bobcast has developed to include interviews and various segments, as well as occasional appearances from other members of staff who know even less about golf than Keith, George and Steevie.

In terms of golfing credentials, Keith and George describe themselves as 'pretty average players'. Keith plays off eight and George is a com-

plete hacker off 19. George is a member at Glencruitten and Keith at Airdrie where he is currently vice captain.

Back to my purpose then. Well to start with, learn to play golf!

On November 2 the CONGU handicapping system, currently used in Great Britain and Ireland, will change over to a World Handicap System with a maximum of 54. At the end of June next year I become 53. My challenge/purpose? To gain a handicap of 53 by the time I turn 53.

To help me achieve this goal I have enlisted some helpers. I have already visited

Craignure Golf Club where I received lessons from club captain Steven Wilson and advice from secretary Barry Whenman. Next up was Dalmally, where club captain Graham Mackechnie put me through my paces. Then onto Taynuilt, club captain Carol MacLarty and secretary Moira MacVicar being my hosts.

I'm not giving too much away as I will be talking about each visit on the next three episodes of Bobcast, while the hosts on each of my visits have also given an honest account of how I got on.

I will say, however, that my journey so far as been a bit of

a roller coaster. I'm used to multi-tasking but this 'gowf' malarkey is a whole different ball game.

Head straight, eyes on the prize, hips back, back straight, one arm straight and one arm slightly bent, knees slightly bent, draw club back and swoosh. Did I mention keep your eyes on the prize!

Why do it then? When you do manage to hit that 43mm dimpled missile down the fairway towards the fluttering pennant in the distance and then, a few shots later, hear the satisfactory plink of your ball landing in the putting cup, the feeling you get is way over par.

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We love bringing you our Mòd photographs from years gone by, but details of these ones have been particularly elusive. If you know who they are, what year the photograph was taken and what the occasion was, we'd love to hear from you. Email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Allan's Mòd  
ALLAN CAMPBELL

## Drochaid dòchais gus barrachd eòlais!

'Mòd mas fhìor! Am fac' thu an robh mi ann?'. Sin mar a bhios mòran againn a' faireachadh mu Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2020 Air-Loidhne, chan ann idir air sgàth cus dibhe ach ri linn 's gur ann mas fhìor a bha e a' tachairt. Chaidh a dhealbhadh 's a chur ri chèile mar dhrochaid gus luchd-frithealaidh, agus luchd-pàirt, nam Mòdan a ghiùlan thar ùine bacadh a' choròna-bhiorais chun an Dàmhair 2021 nuair a bhios dòchas ri saoghal mar a b' àbhaist. Bidh fiughair oirnn uile ri leithid sin!

Ach ged is e "Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail mas fhìor" a bh' ann cha robh dad mas fhìor air an tàlant a chualas agus a chunnacas, agus an ùidh a bh' aig sean is òg a' foillseachadh na Gàidhlig. Bha e fol-laiseach bho na beachdan a nochd feadhainn den luchd-amhairc air an làrach-lìn gun robh cùisean a' còrdadh fìor mhath riutha, agus tha mi 'n dòchas gun d' fhuair sibhse cothrom tlachd a ghabhail à pàirt air choreigin de na chaidh a chraoladh. Aon rud inntinneach mun Mhòd seo 's e gum bi na chaidh a chraoladh air Facebook agus YouTube, ga ghleidheadh gu buan an tasglann YouTube a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich. Clach mhìle shònraichte agus eachdraidheil dhan a' Mhòd Nàiseanta.

Tha An Comunn Gàidhealach ag amas gum bi a h-uile Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail soirbheachail, agus a bharrachd air sin bidh luchd-eagrachaidh ionadail an dòchas gum fàg an tachartas dileab mhaireannach dhan Ghàidhlig anns an sgìre. Leis nach b' e tachartas àbhaisteach a bh' againn am- bliadhna cha robh buannachd eaconamach ann, ach theagamh gum bheil cothrom air ceanglaichean cànaidh is dualchais a neartachadh ri linn na thachair le Mòd mas fhìor 2020. Fad ùine mhòr tha craoladh bhon Mhòd, rud a th' air a bhith a' dol am meud thar na deichead mu dheireadh, air cothrom a thoirt dhan Chomunn ruigheachd a-mach gu Gàidheil agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig feadh an t-saoghail. Tha sinn moiteil às a' cheangal sin, ach nas moiteile buileach a bhith faicinn, le tachartas na bliadhna seo, an ìre gum faod Am Mòd cothrom a thoirt dha na daoine sin feadh an t-saoghail ruigheachd air ais thugainn le bhith a' cur chlàraidhean dhen cuid seinn, aithris, is ealanta ciùil thugainn. Thàinig còrr air còig ceud gu leth clàradh am-bliadhna, is mòran dhiubh sin bho thaobh a-mach Alba, agus bidh an Comunn a-nise a' beachdachadh gu dlùth air dè ghabhas dèanamh gus an t-slighe ùr taice is coladair seo eadar luchd-cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh, agus fhàs. Drochaid dòchais gus barrachd eòlais oirbh uile!

Virtual technology delivered the 2020 Royal National Mòd online but it was enthusiastic and talented people, of all ages, who made this unique event such a success.

For many years broadcasting and online output from the National Mòd has attracted Gaelic users and supporters worldwide and the 2020 virtual event created a new route back to us. A bridge of pride and hope which An Comunn will wish to strengthen.

Robert's Mòd  
ROBERT ROBERTSON

I often say the success of a National Mòd relies on a good Mòd fringe. I'm a big fan of the competitions – I loved competing and I love adjudicating – but, if the local community in whichever town the Mòd is held has fully embraced the spirit of the festival and filled every bar and hotel with music, then that is where a Mòd becomes truly memorable.

Inverness, where the event was due to be held this year, is usually a safe bet for a good fringe. Plenty of bars to sing in, Eden Court Theatre for slightly more serious events and I remember playing the final dance in the Ironworks in 2014 with Skipinnish, which was a great night. How does this year's virtual Mòd rank as far as its fringe events are concerned? Very highly, I would have to say! In truth, when the Mòd began, it

hadn't occurred to me there would be a fringe at all. The first I knew of it was one night when I was cooking my dinner and my phone started pinging uncontrollably. Either there's been a crazy football result, I thought, or something funny has appeared on social media. It was the latter. Someone at BBC Alba had unearthed footage of 13-year-old me singing at Mòd Loch Abair in 2007 and it was all over its Facebook and Instagram.

Having just adjudicated this year's youngsters, it was an odd experience watching myself singing at that age. And an even odder experience when adjudications of sorts started flying in from family, pals, band mates and fellow Mòd goers!

What soon became apparent was that this clip was a very small part of a much larger strategy from An Comunn and the BBC to put together a virtual Mòd full of footage from the archives to run as a kind of fringe alongside the footage from this year's virtual competitions. A lot of the earliest footage was lost in the infamous fire at the old BBC studios on Queen Margaret Drive, but viewers



across television and social media have nevertheless been treated to a cornucopia of memorable Mòd moments.

From old choir footage such as Back Gaelic Choir in 1995, featuring the McKenzie sisters, or the late George Clavey conducting the Harris Choir to iconic soloists such as Arthur Cormack singing in Sutherland in 1977, Kristine Kennedy in Stornoway in 1989, Margaret Stewart singing in 1993, Kim Carnie singing in Lochaber in 2007 and Joy Dunlop singing for Prince Charles in Caithness in 2010. I particularly enjoyed my good pal Darren MacLean singing in the junior sections in 1993. I hope Darren is reading this article because I would like to point out 1993 was the year I was born!

Great work by An Comunn and the BBC to put together a week of such programmes, however, as I intimated last week, let's hope the real Mòd returns next year – if only to avoid the airing of any more footage of a baby-faced yours truly.

# High praise as curtain comes down on 2020 virtual Mòd

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Singers, musicians and dancers from Oban, Lorn and the Islands took part in last week's Royal National Mòd Online 2020 which drew to a close on Friday night.

The virtual event, run by An Comunn Gàidhealach, was showcased around the world via website and social media with BBC Alba and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal also broadcasting highlights.

James Graham, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We were delighted with how the event went.'

'There was a real sense of community created online despite the Gaelic community not being able to come together in person for the event this year.'

'We were thankful there were no technical hitches with the technology and everything ran smoothly. It was a real joy to showcase some of the fantastic performances of participants that we received. And it was particularly pleasing to see so many participating from around the world.'

Among the many taking part were members of Oban Gaelic Choir (OGC) and Oban Mòd Academy juniors.

OGC president and Mòd



Julie Fowles hosted the Friday night finale, which was curated by Fèis Rois and supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Highland Council Gaelic Team.

Fowles and Charlie McKerron of Capercaillie fame, as well as former Mòd Gold Medal winners, emerging artists and young people who have been through Gaelic Medium Education in the Highlands.

Councillor Calum Munro, chairman of The Highland Council's Gaelic Committee, said: 'I have been watching the Virtual Mòd online and the quality of the submissions which also displays the talent of 'competitors' of all ages is fantastic.'

'The submissions are excellent and include children's artwork, Gaelic singing and the playing of all forms of traditional musical instruments.'

'The Highland Council is also pleased to be supporting and are looking forward to the traditional Royal National Mòd taking place in Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands, in 2021.'

Fiona Dalgetty, chief executive of Fèis Rois, said: 'We are delighted to work with colleagues at Highland Council to showcase talented musicians and singers living across all nine Highland

Council Community Planning Partnership areas.

'It has been a joy to bring this concert together and I am very grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for its investment, which has enabled us to support artists at this incredibly difficult time.'

The concert was hosted by Julie Fowles, who also performed alongside her husband Eamon Doorley. Julie was joined throughout the evening by a host of superb singers including Mòd Gold Medallists Raymond Bremner, 1999, Eilidh Cormack, 2014, and Rachel Walker, 2017.

The concert was intergenerational and saw Angus Mackenzie (Dàimh) and his wife Eilidh (Dòchas), perform alongside their children. Fiddle player Charlie McKerron was also joined by his partner, talented Gaelic singer Sandra Mackay, and their children Seòras and Cailean.

Multi-instrumentalist Mike Vass represented Nairn in the concert, while recent graduates and former Tain Royal Academy pupils Chloe Bryce and Kaitlin Ross represented Easter Ross. Accordionist Megan MacDonald from Lairg, performed with up and coming band Eabhal and Mid Ross was represented by outstanding guitarist and former Dingwall Academy pupil, Innes White.

Academy tutor Mary-Catherine MacLean said: 'Entries this year had to be submitted by the performers themselves so I don't know exactly how many there were but I do know there were quite a few with many of them receiving commendations for their work.'

'The juniors worked really hard to put something together for this year's event which was a real change from how we usually do things.'

'Credit must also go to An Comunn Gàidhealach, BBC

Alba and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal for an excellent week of programming.'

'It was a wonderful week showcasing our love of the language, music and culture.'

'As well as enjoying the online submissions for this year, one of the highlights for me was seeing all the old footage online and the photographs in The Oban Times where we could see friends that are no longer with us and others that we have met along the way and couldn't see this year due to the circumstances.'

'We look forward to seeing them all again in Inverness in 2021.'

Highland Council Gaelic Team joined forces with Dingwall-based Fèis Rois last Friday night to showcase a wealth of talent from across the region as the finale of this year's online Royal National Mòd.

Curated by Fèis Rois and supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Cèilidh na Comhairle featured performances by internationally acclaimed musicians including Julie



Scottish Gaelic Awards  
Duaisean Gàidhlig  
Na h-Alba 2020



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# BUSINESS NEWS

## North Uist energy project on coveted awards shortlist

A development company on North Uist will find out later next month if it has won a pair of Scottish Green Energy Awards.

North Uist Development Company (NUDC) and its UistWind project have been shortlisted as finalists in the coveted best community project award and in the best engagement category.

The awards are run by Scottish Renewables, the voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry, and will be held 'virtually' on November 26.

UistWind is a 1.8MW community-owned wind farm which was commissioned in September 2019.

Less than a year later, the wind turbines have generated more than 6,129,000 kWh of electricity – enough to offset power used by all homes on the Outer Hebridean island.

Director Stuart Hamilton, speaking for Locogen, project managers for the wind farm development, said: 'We're really proud of our work with UistWind.'

'This project is a fantastic example of the value of community renewable energy, delivering significant social and financial benefits to the island.'

'As we look to a green recovery from the current crisis, UistWind demonstrates how even remote communities can drive change and showcases the democratization of our energy system.'

Chris Morris, of Local Energy Scotland, congratulated Ameena Camps, the project delivery manager of the North Uist Development Company and the team.

'It's fitting that the hard work of NUDC and the North Uist community is being recognised.'

'It's more important than ever to celebrate good news and successes during these difficult times,' he said.

More than 100 entries were submitted to this year's awards which will see 44 individuals, companies and projects as finalists across 12 categories.

# £40m business fund opens

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



A £40 million fund to support businesses impacted by tougher Covid restrictions in Scotland opens to applications next week.

The fund from the Scottish Government will be overseen by local councils with details available on their websites from 9am on Tuesday October 20.

Applications will close on Tuesday November 3.

A Covid-19 restrictions fund will be limited to hospitality and other businesses required to close from October 9. The fund aims to help those businesses based across the five different health boards in the central belt.

At the same time, a 'discretionary' business hardship fund – with payments of up to £1,500 –

will also be offered for businesses affected by the October 9 restrictions, it said. Those saw pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes across Scotland told to operate indoors on a 'very restricted basis', effectively amounting to a ban on serving alcohol indoors.

The business hardship fund aims to support businesses which remain open but are 'directly' impacted, including those in the supply chain.

Applicants must be from hospitality businesses or some gyms which are required by the regulations to operate in a restricted way as of October 9.

The rules include that they must be a producer/wholesale business based in Scotland supplying primarily short-life goods or produce to hospitality businesses required by the regulations to close or operate in a restricted way.

Applicants must be able to evidence a 25 per cent reduction in turnover, the rules state.

Regardless of the number of premises in any business, the maximum any one business can receive will be restricted, it said.

The Scottish Government said it is working with local councils to finalise the arrangements.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'I would encourage all eligible businesses who need support to apply. Many businesses are being required to take drastic action to help us to tackle Covid so it is essential we take significant action to help them too.'

Dr Liz Cameron, chief executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, commented: 'Speed and cash out the door is critical if we are to have any chance of saving jobs.'

'It will have been 10 days from when we were forced to close and send our employees home that this support will be available.'

Further details are at [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-fund](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-fund)

## New funding to help improve accessibility

More than £140,000 is being made available by the Scottish Government to improve accessibility on ferries and harbours.

The sixth round of the Ferries Accessibility Fund is open for applications and looks to make improvements for ferry operators looking to go beyond regulatory standards for accessibility.

The awards are made on a match funding basis and applications can come from both the public and private sectors.

### Safer

Paul Wheelhouse, minister for energy, connectivity and the islands, said: 'Previous awards from the Ferries Accessibility Fund have covered a wide range of upgrades, from adapting ships and harbours to make it easier and safer for people with reduced mobility, to train staff in disability awareness and the welcome installation of Changing Places toilets.'

'Scotland's ferry services should be open and accessible to everyone and we want ferry and harbour operators to provide the best passenger experience possible.'



Islands minister Paul Wheelhouse. Photograph: Chris Watt.

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# Good progress on ferry terminal project

A £14.3 million redevelopment of Tarbert Ferry Terminal on the Isle of Harris is progressing well after a 12-week lockdown delay.

Construction work by contractor R J McLeod restarted in mid-June.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) owns the ferry terminal and is managing the overall upgrade.

It has updated the project's timeline which should see the harbour redevelopment completed by autumn 2021.

The new terminal building is now expected in autumn 2022 under a separate project and contract.

John Quinn, senior civil engineer for CMAL, said: 'Construction is progressing well despite the lockdown, temporary site closure and ongoing COVID-19 measures.'

'We are adhering to the guidelines for con-



struction to maintain the health and safety of our employees, contractors, harbour staff and the island community.

'It means additional care is being taken to implement measures on-site that have been in-

tegrated into daily operations and they continue to work well.

'Daily communication at all stages of the project between our contractor R J McLeod, our design and supervision team Wallace Stone, Affric Environmental and CalMac staff has been excellent and helps ensure there are no disruptions to the ferry service as work progresses.'

Mr Quinn added: 'Our aim is to keep the updated project timeline on track.'

'We're coming into the winter months and weather conditions can be harsh around Scotland's coastal locations but, hopefully, we will meet our target completion date next year.'

Key milestones include the demolition of the old terminal building, construction of a new temporary terminal building, where CalMac is now operating from, ongoing demolition of the old pier and reconstruction of the new one.

## Businesses must adapt fast to survive, survey finds

Only half of Scottish businesses have a plan in place for a localised lockdown, according to a study.

A survey found 50 per cent of Scottish businesses had a plan if a localised lockdown was imposed, although just 38 per cent have a plan to deal with the second wave.

The top three business concerns for Scotland include bringing furloughed staff back to work (63 per cent), operating profitably within the government's Covid-19 guidelines (63 per cent) and staff welfare and well-being (50 per cent).

When it came to future working arrangements, a quarter of Scottish businesses have already put policies in place to enable working from home.

A total of 38 per cent anticipate an increase in working from home in the future.

Seventy five per cent expect to replace face-to-face meetings with video calls and 50 per cent anticipate a reduction in travel to meetings using public transport.

Simon Turner, campaign manager, Driving for Better Business, said: 'The economic outlook is uncertain, to say the least, with experts divided over exactly how badly different sectors could be affected.'

'On the whole, however, our survey sample were optimistic. One thing that is certain though, is that firms must adjust quickly to the current environment and take every opportunity to minimise operational costs and improve efficiencies in order to give themselves the best chance of survival and the ability to thrive as soon as conditions allow,' he said.

# Celebratory dram as distillery manager steps down

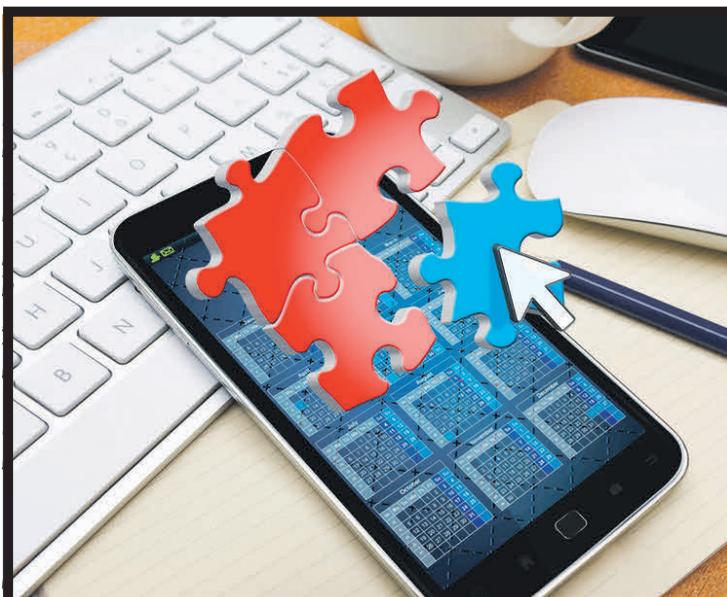
Mickey Heads – Ardbeg Distillery manager for the past 13 years – set down his hydrometer and hung up his hi-vis jacket for the last time earlier this month. To toast his retirement, he was joined by his successor, Colin Gordon, at the distillery for a celebratory dram of Ardbeg Ten Years Old.

However, Mickey won't be going far, for he will be staying on as chairman of the Ardbeg Committee, which brings together thousands of committed Ardbeg fans from around the world.



## GETINTOUCH

email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
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**Wylie & Bisset are giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through the Coronavirus post lock down**

Do you have a business that, through no fault of your own, find yourself confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19?

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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 4HB

## When the going gets tough

Today's front page story about the rise in people testing positive for coronavirus in various areas within Argyll and Bute is not unexpected.

With winter approaching and more people returning after the October break, the NHS, doctors' surgeries and many more will have been preparing for this. The important thing is protocols and procedures have been followed, which is helping minimise the risks.

And that is why, despite many of us suffering from Covid fatigue and worrying about how things will play out over the next few months, we need to stick to the guidelines.

Doctors at Lorn Medical Centre this week have urged: 'We are all facing the possibility of the virus being more active in our communities, so we all need to help control the spread by adhering to good hygiene practices and keeping our social interactions to a minimum.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is expected to explain the likely timetable for the roll out of Scotland's new coronavirus restrictions today or tomorrow, but whatever it brings, we need to support each other and our community to ensure we all get through this as quickly and as safely as possible.

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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## A time to reflect

Churches and their congregations in Scotland have been especially hard done by in these virus times, according to Angus MacDonald, Letters, October 8.

Angus correctly identifies visible and immediate problems for congregations. Collection plate takings are down, while expenses continue to accrue or increase, leaving some churches facing a survival challenge.

C S Lewis wrote: 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world'. The sovereign Lord always has a plan and is never surprised by any turn of events.

The pandemic has reminded us of our fragility and weakness. We have seen moral and political hypocrisy exposed on a grand scale. We have seen modern science and technology fail to deliver us from a minuscule viral particle.

While we are grateful for the benefits of NHS healthcare, and a relatively high standard of living, the pandemic has fixed our minds on deeper existential and spiritual questions. There are abundant evidences in science for a creator God and no serious historian doubts the impact of Jesus Christ on human history, remembered in the three paragraphs of One Solitary Life. The pandemic time period, with its lockdown-type restrictions, has gifted us a precious time to prayerfully reflect upon that One Solitary Life.

Dr James Hardy, Belfast.

## Can your readers help?

After finding out after many years of searching that my grandfather lived at 10 Lundy Road, Inverloch, I would love to know if anyone in that area remembers him and his wife Elizabeth.

He worked at the aluminium factory and after he and my grandmother divorced, he moved from Muirkirk to Fort William, where he remarried. My mother was only a child when she last saw her father but never forgot him.

Neither my brother, sister or I ever saw a photograph of him, so any memory we could find, however small, would be dearly treasured. He passed away in 1968 and his wife in 1980 but I feel certain someone, even now, would have knowledge of them.

Kate Cartwright, [william.cartwright2@btinternet.com](mailto:william.cartwright2@btinternet.com)

## Rest and Be Thankful

As many of your readers will be aware, Transport Scotland is currently engaged in consultation with the public on corridor options for the A83.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha an deasbad eadar an Riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn agus ceannardan chuid de bhailtean-mòra chinn a tuath Shasainn air teasachadh fiù 's barrachd, le casaidean air Ministearan gum bheil burraidheachd agus breugadh ga chleachdadh gus poileasaidh a chur an gnìomh. Bheil cus air atharrachadh ma-thà bhon t-seachdain a chaidh? An e iongnadh a th' ann gum bheil daoine a' fàs pailt cho sgìth de naidheachdan Covid 19 's a bha iad de sgeulachd Brexit fad chòrr air ochd mìosan deug roimhe?

Ach chan eil modh oistric dhan t-sluagh dol a dhèiligeadh ri dùbhlain den t-seòrsa agus tha feum air aonta chiallach bho cheannardan ris an gabh a' mhòr-shluagh. Sin dùbhlain eile! Ged a tha luchd-poilitigs air a bhith a' feuchainn ri slighe èifeachdach a lorg le Brexit agus Covid, tha e fìor cuideachd gun robh iad a' dèiligeadh ri suidheachaidhean annasach air nach robh eòlas aig neach sam bith. Cha do chuir sin stad orra a bhith a' toirt gheallaidhean air adhartas soirbheachail. 'S e pàirt de dhul-nàdair luchd-poilitigs nach eil e cur cus dragh orra nuair nach tig na gheallaidhean gu buil, gheibhear leisgeul air choreigin. Bidh mi a' cuimhneachadh air an sgeulachd aig mo sheann neach-teagaisg Calum MacLeòid mu nach biodh seanalair airm uair sam bith a' tarraing air ais, 's ann a bhiodh e a' tionndadh agus a' dol air adhart!

Eadar na deasbadaidhean air aonta dealachaidh

The Argyll and Bute branch of the Scottish Green party is concerned that the 11 proposed options fail to address the present and future needs of Argyll and Bute, including the need for secure and resilient supply routes to the whole of Argyll and Bute, particularly to island communities; safe, well-maintained roads that go to and from the right places and a joined-up transport policy designed to serve the needs of residents, businesses and visitors to Argyll and Bute. Most alarmingly, the consultation provides no reference to climate change, either as a cause of the current A83 emergency or as a factor to be considered in each of the options.

There appears to have been a process of elimination of options prior to the publication of the consultation, for example, there is no reference to rail links, a tunnel, improved ferry services or alternative routes for freight, and it would be in the public interest to make explicit how this process was undertaken, by whom and whether any

bhon Roinn Eòrpa agus an t-sri an aghaidh a' choròna-bhiorais chunnacas mar-thà iomadh gealladh, bho Mhinistearan, a chaidh a bhri-seadh. Chan eil e soilleir a bharrachd gum bheil na poileasaidhean a thathas a' feuchainn ri chur an gnìomh dol a liubhairt an toraidh as fheàrr dhan dùthaich. Saoilidh mi gum bheil sin a' fàgail ùmhlachd an t-sluagh dha riaghailtean nas dorra a ghleidheadh, ach ged a thuigear sin gu ìre tha e draghail da-rìribh gum biodh uimhir cho beag tùir 's gun siùbhladh iad gu taighean-seinnse anns na Crìochan a choimhead ball-coise air telebhisean. Began tlachd 's dòcha a bhith a' dùbhlachadh Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba, gun ghuth air a' chunnart san robh iad gun cur fhèin 's an teaghlach agus an dùthaich gu lèir.

Chaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2020 seachad air-loidhne, agus ged a chòrd na chunnaic iad ri daoine bha ionndrainn air coinneachadh. Ged a bha i fliuch madainn Dhisathairne seo chaidh nuair a bha còir aig na còisirean a bhith a' cruinneachadh, thog a' mhadainn oirre agus nochd a' ghrian gu brèagha. Ag amharc a' cheò 's an smùid a' dol à sealladh fo bhuaidh theas na grèine bhuail e orm gur dòcha gur e deagh shamhla a bh' ann air na bhios romhainn airson Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021. Bidh sinn beò an dòchas!

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

surveys or studies on the geological, economic, social or environmental impact of each option have been undertaken.

We believe most of the options presented would be so unfeasible in terms of engineering costs that we would be drawn to only one or two that would appear to offer the least challenging short-term solution for restoring a safe and reliable route in Argyll and Bute. If we are correct, this is not a consultation in the true sense of the word. There is no doubt the need to address the A83 crisis of connectivity is an urgent one. However, we must not be driven to actions that might bring even greater problems further down the line. Is it time perhaps for both a short and long-term solution?

We would be interested in hearing the views of your readers and would invite them to contact us at [argyll-bute@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:argyll-bute@scottishgreens.org.uk)

Dennis Archer and Cathy Cameron, co-convenors, Argyll and Bute Greens.

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# DISTRICT NEWS



From left: co-ordinator Eilidh Orr; recipient Bert MacBrayne; Ardchattan Community Council chairman DJ Barr and Roberta Leitch of Tralee Fish and Chips.

## Tralee Bay chippy cheer for Ardchattan residents

Ardchattan Community Council thanks everyone involved in the recent 'Random Act of Kindness' deliveries which took place on September 23.

The project was continued from lockdown with the help of the Masonic Lodge and volunteers. A kind donation from Lodge St Modan 985 (Taynuilt) was used to provide fish and chips to households in Benderloch, Barcaldine and North Connel.

Nominations were received and 24 people re-

ceived a delivery of Tralee Bay Fish and Chips to their doors. The idea behind the project was to spread kindness and to help combat loneliness by sharing community spirit and ultimately make people smile after what has been a tough year so far.

The community council is grateful to the local volunteer drivers who ensured everyone received their deliveries piping hot and without whom the event would not have been possible.

Special thanks also to Angela and Paul at Tralee Bay Fish and Chips for providing a fantastic service and for their kind gesture and donation of a piece of cake along with each of the orders.

## Tidy sum for Sophie's Trust

An Oban woman has been cleaning up to raise funds that will benefit a host of charitable causes.

Lee McKillop has been taking part in litter picks in the area for the last three years and her 2019/2020 effort has surpassed her target of £250 by quite a margin.

Her fourth and final challenge this year took place on Sunday October 11, when Lee was part of a team of 11 that filled 27 bin liners at the Hydro.

At the time of writing, the total raised stood at £819.

All money raised by Lee's challenges will go to the Sophie North Charitable Trust, set up in honour of Sophie North, one of the children killed at Dunblane Primary School on March 13 1996.

'I'm a friend of Sophie's dad Mick and have a number of friends in Dunblane and like to raise money in Sophie's memory,' said Lee.



A total of 27 bin liners were filled by Lee McKillop and the team at the Hydro.

The trust makes payments to other charitable institutions related to children's diseases, children's hospices, breast cancer, care of the terminally ill and conflict resolution/anger reduction.

Lee's 2020/21 challenge will begin in December.



Catriona Petit and Beth Campbell of Hope Kitchen, Oban.

## Plenty food to go around, says Hope Kitchen charity

Hope Kitchen is urging anyone experiencing financial difficulties due to Covid-19 to make use of its food parcel service.

The service is available to everyone in the community and accepts self-referrals or referrals from any organisation. It can cater for all food allergies, such as coeliac, as well as providing vegetarian and vegan diets.

Beth Campbell, New Hope co-ordinator said: 'Hope Kitchen wants to highlight we are a service for everyone in the community.'

'The impact of Covid-19 has meant people who have never experienced financial difficulties are finding it tough to make ends meet. Our food service is easy to access and confidential.'

'If you, or anyone you know, are finding you

don't have enough food please get in touch. People often say to me they don't want to ask as there must be others that need it more. I want to assure people that the community has been very generous and there is more than enough to go round. We don't want anyone suffering in silence.'

The confidential service is open to everyone in the community who is experiencing financial difficulties, families or individuals. If you or someone you know needs help with food please contact Hope Kitchen on 01631 565730, Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm, or drop in to the Soroba Road centre 11.30am-1.30pm. You can also send a personal message through the Hope Kitchen Facebook page.

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# Friends for life: lesson

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Last week I wrote about Donnie Macpherson, Camasachoirce, Loch Sunart-side, and his new collie called Millie. Although Millie arrived in Donnie's life just recently, it must have been obvious to anyone looking at the accompanying photograph that a strong relationship exists between them already.

The scientists refer to it as 'human-canine bonding'. To the rest of us they are bosom buddies and often our closest friends.

The average dog owner, apparently, spends more than £1,000 a year on food, toys, medical care and more and some people would be prepared to pay greater sums, especially on vets' bills if necessary.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in America in 2005, so many people refused to leave without their dogs that Congress had to pass a law requiring disaster contingency plans to make accommodation available for pets. This bond can be traced back at least 15,000 years to bones found buried with two humans in a basalt quarry in Bonn-Oberkassel – a suburb in the Bonn district of Beuel, Germany.

At first they were thought to be those of a wolf but in the 1970s DNA proved they belonged to a domesticated hound and a direct ancestor of today's dogs.

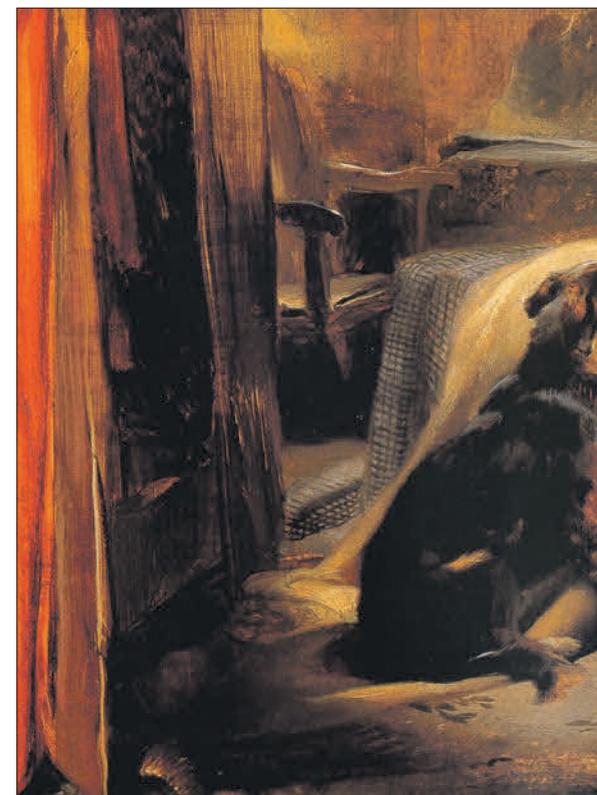
Stories of dogs remaining with the bodies of their owners at the scene of an accident, or by their graves for years afterwards, have been recorded the world over. In the late 1980s, a man made weekly visits to a hospital in Cadiz for dialysis treatments taking his young dog, Canelo, with him. As the hospital did not allow non-service dogs inside, Canelo had to wait outside, tied to a railing, until his master came out and they'd return home together. One day, due to complications during his treatment, the man died. But, as Canelo was none the wiser, he waited outside for a day or two before breaking loose and going home. Not finding his master there he kept returning to the place he had last seen him for the next 12 years and was given food and water by hospital staff and neighbours who knew why he was there. When Canelo



died, the locals were so touched by his loyalty that they named an alley after him and put up a plaque in his honour.

Probably the most famous example in Scotland is Greyfriars Bobby, a Skye terrier belonging to John Gray, who worked for Edinburgh City

Police as a night-watchman. When John died he was buried in Greyfriars cemetery in Edinburgh Old Town. Bobby is said to have sat by the grave for 14 years until he died on January 14 1872 and was buried just inside the cemetery gate, not far from his master's grave. A year later, English



philanthropist Lady Burdett-Coutts was so taken by the story that she commissioned a sculptor called William Brodie to produce a fountain topped with Bobby's statue which can still be seen opposite the entrance to the churchyard.

Robert Johnson, a little known mid 19th-century poet and gold miner living in Tambaroora in New South Wales, Australia, must have felt the loss of a favourite companion keenly when he composed a lovely poem, *The Dog at his master's grave*: *'There's a mourner that mourns in that old churchyard, for he sleeps on that cold damp grave; he heedeth not winter stern and hard, no shelter doth he crave: nor while life shall last, will his memory fail for his old friend dead and gone. He sheddeth no tear, he maketh no wail, but his long night watch keeps on'*.

At Meoble, near Loch Morar in West Inverness-shire, there is a grassy mound marking the grave of the son of a local laird, on which his favourite deer-hound kept her lonely vigil following his early death. Legend has it that for



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 22, 2020** are listed below with differences for major ports listed underneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.19	1.2	09.06	3.4
	15.52	1.3	21.20	3.1
<b>Fri</b>	04.17	1.5	10.12	3.2
	16.56	1.7	22.32	2.7
<b>Sat</b>	05.27	1.7	12.31	3.0
	18.18	1.9	***	**
<b>Sun</b>	02.05	2.7	06.59	1.8
	14.10	3.1	20.10	1.8
<b>Mon</b>	03.23	2.9	08.28	1.7
	15.07	3.3	21.19	1.7
<b>Tues</b>	04.00	3.1	09.24	1.5
	15.38	3.5	21.58	1.5
<b>Wed</b>	04.04	3.3	10.07	1.3
	16.05	3.7	22.30	1.3

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

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

## WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

**FRIDAY**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**

**Saturday**  
Heavy rain and a fresh breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

**Sunday**  
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**FRIDAY FORECAST**



**HIGH 10**   **LOW 7**   **15 MPH**

# s in loyalty



**Main photograph, Greyfriars Bobby.** Photograph: The Oban Times Archives. **Left, Landseer's painting, The Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner.** Photograph: The Victoria and Albert Museum.

Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. For me, his finest and best picture is the Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner.

John Ruskin, one of the most famous art critics of Landseer's day, praised this 1837 work, describing it as 'one of the most perfect pictures which modern times have seen'.

This painting is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. The gallery label tells viewers: 'This scene of the sentimental devotion of a dog won praise and popularity for its famous artist Edwin Landseer. The animals he painted display human feelings and characteristics. One of the important aims of British art of the day was to illustrate love and affection in paintings.'

The Old Shepherd's Chief Mourner hangs in a darkened and crowded hallway of one of the galleries at the V&A. It would be easy to miss if you were not looking for it. The protective glass over the painting makes it difficult to see. Although the label is factually accurate, it leaves out a large portion of the story, namely that it became an important part of animal welfare campaigns in the 19th century.

For example, in March 1881 it was reproduced in the magazine of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Here, in a transposed image of human grief, a Highland collie rests its head on the plain wooden coffin containing the body of his companion, the 'old shepherd'. That this dog refuses to leave his master's side - even after death - highlights the bond these two had. The closeness of the dog's breast against the coffin; the clinging of the legs, which has dragged the coarse woollen blanket off the trestle; the utter hopelessness in the eye; the spectacles marking the place where the Bible was last closed; the sprigs of sweet-scented bog-myrtle on the pall and on the floor; the quietness and serenity of the small room, is about as emotional and powerful as it gets.

To be continued next week.

many years her ghost returned when any of her master's family were about to die.

On November 30 1900, Iain MacDonald, aged 36, a gamekeeper and deer stalker on Ardvorlich estate on the south shores of Loch Lomond, met his death when, accompanied by his dog, he fell off his bicycle and landed in a deep burn below the A85 between Ardlui and Inveruglas. It wasn't until the following morning that a walker found his body, still with his dog by his side, and relayed a message to the police. A stone marks the spot and bears a Gaelic inscription which reads: 'Mar chuimneachan air Iain Mor MacDhomhnuill Sealadair Fhiadh a chaidh a mharbhadh anns an ionaid so mios Samhna 1900' [To the memory of Big Iain MacDonald, deer stalker, who met his death at this spot in the month of November 1900].

Sir Edwin Landseer, the Victorian artist, is best remembered for his stirring painting of a magnificent stag called the Monarch of the Glen and four monumental bronze lions guarding

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Do you know these happy prizewinners? Email us at editor@obantimes if you know their names, the date and what the prizegiving was for.



We have no information about this photograph other than it might have been taken in 1981 and it looks like a cheque presentation at a train station. If you know who these people are and what the occasion was, we'd love to hear from you. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk

We heard from Donald Carmichael about the recent photograph of people ploughing. He said: 'The photo has raised a lot of interest as to where it was taken. A good number here think it was in Appin with local farmer Robert Brown at the wheel.' However, we also received an email from Helen MacVicar who said: 'It is my father, Archie Livingstone, on the tractor and uncle, John Livingstone, following behind.'



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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Ocean Film Festival on tour

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour is bringing a brand-new collection of mesmerising ocean-themed films to our shores this October and November, in its first ever virtual edition.

As well as spell-binding films, viewers will have exclusive access to Q&As with top ocean film-makers and behind-the-scenes footage, and a live prize draw for lots of ocean goodies!

There are two events – running on October 25-27 and November 17-19. Films start at 7.30pm, with audience members invited to explore the virtual foyer from 6.30pm, where they can download the tour magazine, enter the prize draw, take on the ultimate Ocean Film Festival quiz and much more. The show will be available for 48 hours afterwards as well.

To find out more, watch the trailer and book tickets, visit [www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk](http://www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk)

## A celebration of onscreen diversity at Oban cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema is gearing up to show a season of films led by people of colour.

From the end of October until the end of March on a Friday night or a Monday afternoon, 11 films will be shown as part of a celebration of onscreen diversity at the independent George Street venue.

Many will have a question and answer session at the end or a forum for discussion.

The initiative coincides with this year's Black History Month in October and follows the unexpected death in August at the age of 43 of Chadwick Boseman, an actor, producer, writer and director.

Jenny Larney, cinema manager, said the venue was participating in a study about audience development called Amplify run by Film Hub Scotland which aimed to create



Oban Phoenix Cinema marketing manager Marco Pacitti.

a network of venues showing a rich mix of films and welcoming a diverse audience.

Jenny, who is closely involved in programming, said the point

of the cinema was to represent a 'wider world' beyond rural Argyll and offer cinemagoers an eclectic mix.

As an example of the barrier,

she said she had tried to source a British comedy film starring a black British actress only to find one had never been made for the big screen, unlike in the US.

Marco Pacitti, marketing manager, added: 'As a venue that shows a range of films, I think it's important to highlight that talent on screen and it's important for Oban as well.'

The run will open with 2019's *Rocks*, a British coming-of-age drama currently on Netflix.

By *Suffragette* director Sarah Gavron, it stars Bukky Bakray, Kosar Ali, D'angelou Osei

Kissiedu, Shaneigha-Monik Greyson and Ruby Stokes. The run of films will feature contemporaries including 2020's *The Lost Prince* starring French actor Omar Sy, to classics such as 1967's *In The Heat of the Night* with Sidney Poitier as Virgil Tibbs. Poitier became the first black male to win an Oscar for best actor, awarded in 1964.

Other films include 2016's *Fences* starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis, the latter having become the first African-American actress to win the 'triple crown' – an Oscar, an Emmy and two Tony awards, recognising her performances across film, TV and theatre. Chris Tucker's star turn in 1997's *The Fifth Element* is also planned.

Stay updated by visiting [www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com)

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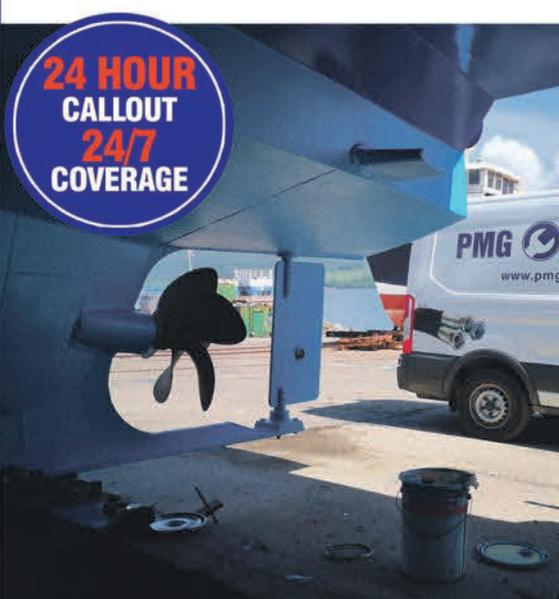
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# Robert in lockdown!

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



This, as far as I'm aware, is my 30th lockdown column.

Hard to believe considering when we first decided to start this temporary replacement to the Glasgow Letter, I only expected it to be for a matter of weeks. Thirty weeks in, however, with Glasgow back to something that resembles a full lockdown and therefore absolutely no events for me to cover in the traditional fashion of the Glasgow Letter, it certainly doesn't feel like we'll be returning to normality any time soon.

Writing a little bit of nonsense in this column each week has been keeping me going, though so I hope some of you have found enjoyment in it as well.

It seems a long time ago since I was regaling you with tales of cutting my Dad's grass. So long, in fact, that he told me last week he has now packed the lawn mower away for the winter.

Let's hope he's stored it somewhere the mice can't reach this time.

Soon there will be a lot less golf being played too on account of the weather. What on earth will I write about then, I hear you ask?

Well, thankfully, there are a few things on the horizon that I plan on covering.

Mánran, for example, announced last week they will be streaming worldwide a 10-year anniversary performance - also their first performance in more than eight months - live



**Manran will be streaming their 10-year anniversary performance worldwide from the Barrowlands Ballroom.**

from the Barrowland Ballroom on Saturday November 14. It is a ticketed virtual event. Tickets are 'donation only' and available from the band's website.

There will be similar streamed events over the coming months, I'm sure, to keep us all going through the winter and I will endeavour to write about as many of them as I can.

Meanwhile, on the television, I am presenting a BBC Alba programme called Na Trads - An Tobar.

This is a look back at archive footage from the Trad Awards over the years and there is some really lovely footage to enjoy - if you can put up with me blethering away.

Readers might recall the trials and tribulations I went through during the filming process including voice overs

recorded from my flat rather than the studio due to Covid restrictions and having to stick Gaffa tape on the backs of my ears to stop the backlighting illuminating them on camera!

The first episode aired last week but I've been too nervous to watch it yet in case the Gaffa tape didn't work and it looks like a programme of traditional music presented by Big Ears.

The programme runs every Wednesday evening up to the night of this year's awards for which, incidentally, voting is still open.

It is lovely to have been nominated for album of the year for our latest Tide Lines album, Eye of the Storm.

Go over and check out the shortlists for all the awards. There will no doubt be multiple bands and artists you will recognise.

# Big Quiz Night countdown starts

Organisers have started the countdown for this year's Big Quiz on Saturday November 14, where teams from around the country will all take part in the biggest nationwide quiz - via the internet.

Due to Covid restrictions, this year's quiz will take place virtually, via Zoom.

Last year 136 quiz-lovers filled the Corran Halls to take part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide fundraiser, with friends, families, church and businesses all helping to make the event a huge success, raising £1,200 for Tearfund.

Money raised this year will go to help change the lives of people living in poverty - such as Alaya, her husband Bazwell and their three young children in Malawi. They rely on growing maize to survive, but the weather patterns that have guided their farming for generations have changed and it's putting everyone at risk



of sickness and starvation. Frequent flooding brings diseases, such as cholera, and damages their home, washing away what little food they have. With Tearfund's partner, AG Care, Alaya and Bazwell are learning new ways of working the land under these tough conditions.

Mary Black, of Oban Baptist Church, who is one of the local organisers, said: 'We are very much looking forward to taking part in the Big Quiz Night, with hundreds of other hosts, bringing our friends and family together to stretch our brains and support the work of Tearfund.'

'The international development charity's Big Quiz team has put a large amount of work into it in advance - we don't have to think up questions or worry about what answers to accept! While we've all taken part in quizzes recently over video calls, this promises to be a real challenge.'

Every pound raised from the Big Quiz Night will go straight to Tearfund via JustGiving.

You can take part on your own, in a family, or as a team of up to eight people, and the quiz has something for everyone.

Mary continued: 'We are suggesting those taking part donate £5 per individual or £40 for a team of up to eight players. Children under 10 are free, and students can enter for a donation of any amount.'

To donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/obantearfundbigquiz](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/obantearfundbigquiz)

The event starts at 7.30pm.

# WHAT'S ON

## AT OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

### FRI 23 - THU 29 OCT



## THIS WEEKEND

### FRIDAY 23 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard!   PG	16:30
The Secret Garden   PG	17:00
The Roads Not Taken   15	19:00
Pixie   15	19:30

### SATURDAY 24 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard!   PG	13:00
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite   U	14:00
The Secret Garden   PG	15:30/16:30
I Am Greta   12A	17:45
The Roads Not Taken   15	18:45
Pixie   15	20:00

### SUNDAY 25 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard!   PG	13:00
Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite   U	14:00
The Secret Garden   PG	15:30/16:30
I Am Greta   12A	17:45
The Roads Not Taken   15	18:45
Pixie   15	20:00

### THE SECRET GARDEN

When Mary Lennox's parents suddenly die, she is sent to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven, on his remote country estate deep in the Yorkshire moors. While exploring, she discovers a hidden magical garden.

### PIXIE

To avenge her mother's death, Pixie masterminds a heist but must flee across Ireland from gangsters, take on the patriarchy, and choose her own destiny.

### I AM GRETA

Greta Thunberg, 15, starts school striking for the climate. She skips school and sits outside the parliament to show the politicians that if they don't care about her future, why should she? A film about acting to stop climate change before it's too late.

## WEEKDAYS

### MONDAY 26 - THURSDAY 29 OCT

Two By Two: Overboard!   PG	16:30
The Secret Garden   PG	17:00
The Roads Not Taken   15	19:00
Pixie   15	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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**MONDAY:** 8am-12pm Breakfast show with Stephen  
5pm-7pm Drive time with Marcus  
12-3pm Lunch with Bob G  
4.45pm-5pm Talking Pages  
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Marcus  
7pm-8pm Highland Fling with Rosemary  
8pm-9pm John McLuckies Show  
9pm David Cullen Show

**TUESDAY:** 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen  
10am-12.30pm Ken Hunter  
1pm-3pm Macky on FM  
3pm-5pm Mental Musings with Mer & Vicky  
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Bob G  
7pm-8pm Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers  
8pm-9pm Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron  
9pm Breakfast Show with Stephen

**WEDNESDAY:** 10am-1pm Comfort Zone with Lesley  
1pm-3pm Doug in the afternoon  
4pm-7pm Drive Times with Campbell  
7pm-9pm Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves  
9pm Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah

**THURSDAY:** 11am-2pm Lunch Show with Steve  
3pm-7pm Drive Time with Stephen  
7pm-9pm Christine's Collections  
9pm-10pm Ann's Ceilidh  
10pm Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:** 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Jay  
10am-1pm The One with Allan  
1pm-1.15pm Talking Pages  
4pm-6.45pm Teeney & Tiny Show with Harry  
6.45pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team  
7pm-8pm Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig  
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Peter Rainnie  
10pm Late Show with Jay.

**SATURDAY:** 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen  
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda  
3pm-6pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc  
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team  
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling  
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs

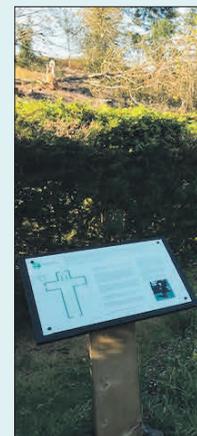
**SUNDAY:** 9am-11am Sunday Morning with Breege  
11am-2pm Sunday Brunch with Stephen  
7pm-9pm New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch  
9pm Drum & Bass with Graham.



Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees was popular with walkers during lockdown.



The Anis bench in the Peace Garden at Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees.



A new information board at Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees.

# Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees

For humans, 99 is considered a great age – a time for slowing down and reflecting on times past.

Trees, however, have a longer life span and for the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees, laid out in 1921, this has been a busy and eventful year.

There has been time to look back but also time to enjoy the present and make plans for the future.

During lockdown, many people chose to spend their exercise hour in and around the Cathedral, enjoying all the signs of spring while small children ran up and down the aisles and explored new areas.

Sometimes there were conversations – always at the appropriate distance – about times past, how it used to look and about family members and others who

once worked there: 'Do you remember Bobby Harris on his bike, with the wee dog in the basket?'

With increased visitor numbers, it became clear information about the history and meaning of the place would be helpful.

So a board with a plan of the site was placed at the entrance, describing the various areas of the Cathedral and offering a mini biography of its creator Alexander Mackay.

Another development has been a new bench in the Peace Garden in memory of Ann Mari (Anis) Wallenberg who died in 2019. Her recently published book 'If the War Comes' was reviewed by The Oban Times in July.

In this, she records happy childhood

holidays at Glencruitten House with her eccentric Mackay relatives. The bench is a copy of a garden seat from that era. It was recreated by Seumas Mcfadyen of Scottish Metal and Wood Crafts, Benderloch, and generously donated by family members in Sweden.

### Challenges

With Covid-19 restrictions, activities planned for the summer had to be cancelled but some of these have now restarted, including groups from Oban High School who will be embarking on their John Muir and RSPB challenges over the coming months.

To support them and other visitors, fundraising efforts are now focussed on improving the surrounding woodlands which were clear felled in 2019 and

**CROSSWORD**

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

**Across**

- Case (7)
- Hysterical (5)
- Looking like you've been dragged through a hedge backwards (9)
- Smart dresser (3)
- Equestrian (5)
- North American rodent (7)
- Hunting dog (6,7)
- Enlisted one (7)
- Way out (5)
- Untilled tract (3)
- Vulnerable hit (9)
- Trunk line (5)
- Refined (7)

**Down**

- Decrease (5)
- Washed-out (3)
- Jump (7)
- Type of plastic which cannot be remolded once heated (13)
- Subject counted at school (5)
- Egyptian queen (9)
- Main town (7)
- Relaxing seat on the beach (4,5)
- Inner floral leaves of a flower (7)
- Leave (7)
- Shadow (5)
- Utopian (5)
- Wrath (3)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

S	O	P	E	H	O	W	E	N	E	I	A	R	C
O	A	O	I	L	N	A							
D	I	S	T	I	N	G	U	I	S	H	E	D	
A	S	P	W		O	E							
S	U	P	O	R	A	N	G	E	M	A	N		
	R	L	M		L	O	C						
P	E	O	P	L	E	D	I	N	G	L	E		
L	D	O	V	M	E								
A	L	U	M	I	N	I	U	M	I	T			
N	C		N	E	E	O							
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	H	O	O	D	
E	N	O		U	E	U	O						
R	O	G	U	E	S	A	D	I	S	T	S		

# New book on one of Oban

A new book has been published covering the Victorian business history of one of Oban's leading public figures and families.

From a Trout Fly to a Steam Yacht: John Munro of Oban & Family, has been written by Tom Lennox, his great grandson, who lives in Crieff.

The book is being made available to the public to help raise funds for RNLI Oban lifeboat.

It takes its title from the family business motto which pledged to supply anything 'from trout fly to a steam yacht'.

John Munro, born in 1847, oversaw the creation of a business empire in the town.

He established an ironmongery business in George Street, Oban, in about 1873.

In response to the yachting 'boom' he expanded to establish a ship chandlers on the North Pier, Oban.



John Munro premises at 94-96 George Street, Oban, circa 1925. Photograph supplied by Jane Everall.

He also had a shipyard at Ardentrive on Kerrera for servicing and supporting yachts.

A yacht agency was also established on Corran Esplanade for the hire and sale of yachts, as well as garages at Breadalbane Street.

The Munro legacy to Oban did not end there.

The father of four was highly regarded for contributing significantly to the development of the town and making a huge contribution to public

life, serving as a councillor and a Justice of the Peace.

He was also a keen educator and supporter of the Gaelic language and his faith was also important. He served the Congregational Church in Oban for almost a quarter of a century as organist, choirmaster and secretary.

Mr Lennox compiled the 78-page book and its publication this year marks the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the family's Munro's

Shipbuilding, Repairing and Engineering Company Limited, established in 1920.

The superbly-researched book draws on historic family photographs, articles from The Oban Times, library records, information from the National Registers of Scotland, original documents, plans and invoices.

It tells the story of a remarkable man and family who served Oban for almost a century in public, religious and business roles.

The report of his funeral in The Oban Times acknowledged John Munro as a 'noted citizen of Oban' and praised his roles in public life as an educationist and church man, as well as recognising the 'great gathering' at his funeral service in September 1915.

Mr Lennox is supporting the RNLI by offering digital copies of the book in return for a donation to the RNLI with a minimum suggested donation of £5.

The book is only available as a digital download and only from the RNLI.

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Information board has been put up at the Cathedral of Trees.

# Trees at 99

planted with native species. This will involve tidying up the brash, creating footpaths and eventually restoring the much overgrown area known as Pagan – a small area surrounded by trees and rhododendrons, planted at the same time as the Cathedral of Trees.

On October 3, the marriage of Thomas Anderson and Ruth Bakos Hodge took place, witnessed by a small group of close family and friends.

Other services have been held in the cathedral in the past, but this was the first wedding ceremony and a happy occasion.

As we move into the centenary year, the Cathedral of Trees (SCIO) looks forward to hosting similar important events.

## Publishing Scotland focuses on nature writing

A new short film sees Scotland's top nature writers calling for people to 'notice' the natural world in response to the climate crisis and the Covid pandemic.

Produced by Publishing Scotland to mark the start of the 2020 Frankfurt International Book Fair, Second Nature is an 18-minute documentary film featuring five award-winning writers talking on the subject of nature and nature writing today: Kathleen Jamie, Jim Crumley, Chitra Ramaswamy, Roseanne Watt and Gavin Francis.

Jim Crumley, author of the BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, The Nature of Summer, said: 'I think nature writing has a duty to address the climate crisis. All the signs are there that we are very close to some kind of tipping point, beyond which the planet as we know it, can't recover. It is the duty of a nature writer to say that as often, and as loudly and as persuasively as possible. There's nothing more important.'

Interviewed in the film, poet and author Kathleen Jamie said: 'Politics is power, it is about a power dynamic. And when we have absolute power over the furtherance of every

other species on the planet, that's political. So, every time we notice another species, every time we admit it into our consciousness, that has to be a political act'.

The film begins with the story of Nan Shepherd's mould-breaking 20th century masterpiece The Living Mountain – written in the 1940s but only rediscovered by a general readership at the beginning of the 21st century – and goes on to consider the role and purpose of nature writing in Scotland today.

James Crawford, writer, broadcaster and chairman of Publishing Scotland, who has written and presented the film, said: 'The subjects being approached by nature writing in Scotland today are incredibly broad and diverse. Yet all these writers share the same sense of immediacy and urgency – and awareness that 'noticing' brings with it the risk, at some point in the future, of "not noticing". Of seeing something, right up until the moment that it is gone. There is a truth and an authenticity to the new wave of Scottish nature writing that is incredibly powerful'.

The film is available to watch at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

# 's key public figures

Oban Lifeboat benefit from digital sales of publication

"From a Trout Fly to a Steam Yacht"

John Munro of Oban & Family (1847-1966)



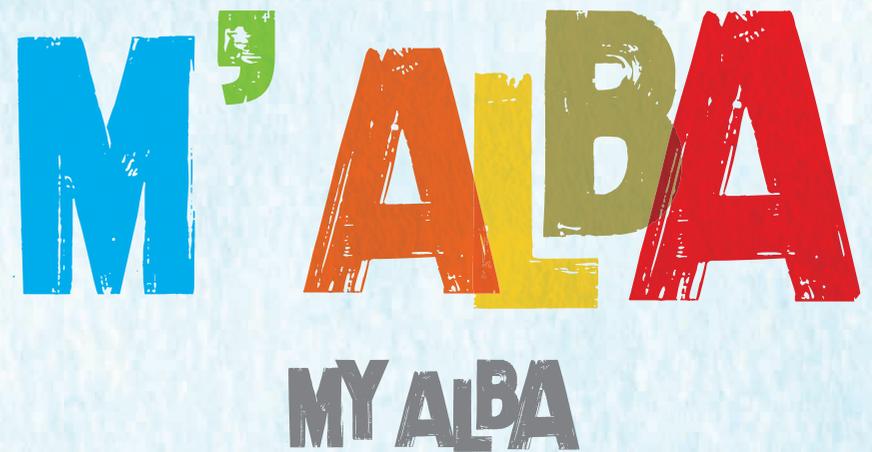
Munro's garage at the corner of Breadalbane Street, circa 1960. Photograph supplied by Tom Lennox Senior.

### 'The RNLI is very grateful to Tom Lennox and the Munro family'

Phil Hamerton, fundraising chairman, said: 'The RNLI is very grateful to Tom Lennox and the Munro family for generously offering the book as a fundraiser to support Oban

Lifeboat. As the lifesaving charity relies on donations from the public, every contribution makes a difference.

'Anyone who wants to read this fascinating account of the development of the family business in Oban can request a digital copy by making a donation to the RNLI at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising-book-promotion2020](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/oban-rnli-fundraising-book-promotion2020) and following the instructions in the thank you message.'



#### DIARDAOIN 22 an Dàmhair THURSDAY 22 October

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.05 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in A Big War) (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Air an Smuid (rpt)
- 21.00 Crodh Gàidhealach an Aird Bhain (rpt)
- 22.15 Port – Druthag Bheag Eile (rpt)
- 22.35 Side nan Seachd Sian (rpt)
- 23.30 Na Trads: An Tobar (rpt)

#### DIHAOINE 23 an Dàmhair FRIDAY 23 October

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.35 Machair (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.20 NEW : UEFA Women's Euro 2021 Qualifiers – Scotland v Albania
- 21.30 Thar na Loidhne / Crossing the Line (rpt)
- 22.00 NEW : The Optimists
- 22.55 Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 23.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)

#### DISATHAIRNE 24 an Dàmhair SATURDAY 24 October

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – News
- 18.00 NEW – Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v Hibernian
- 19.45 Sgeul Slainte (rpt)
- 20.00 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 Fuime (rpt)
- 21.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)
- 22.00 Side nan Seachd Sian (rpt) (rpt)

- 22.50 Dhan Uisge (Firth of Forth) (rpt)
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership – Kilmarnock v Hibernian (rpt)
- 00.50 Celtic Connections (rpt)

#### DIDÒMHNAICH 25 an Dàmhair SUNDAY 25 October

- 14.00 Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 14.10 NEW : Women's Six Nations Rugby – Scotland v France
- 16.15 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – News
- 18.30 Seachd La – News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)
- 20.00 Air an Smuid (rpt)
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair beo (rpt)
- 21.00 Bha mi Latha Samhraidh (rpt)
- 22.00 Seirm S5 (rpt)
- 23.00 The Optimists
- 23.50 Celtic Connections (rpt)

#### DILUAIN 26 an Dàmhair MONDAY 26 October

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 An Solas Buan/Lighthouses of Scotland (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 Thar na Loidhne (rpt)
- 21:00 An Geamhradh – Trusadh (rpt)
- 22:00 Julie Fowlis – Ceol Aig Baile (rpt)
- 22:30 Sar Sgeoil: As the Women Lay Dreaming (rpt)
- 23:30 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)

#### DIMÀIRT 27 an Dàmhair/ TUESDAY 27 October

- 16.05 NEW : UEFA Women's Euro 2021 Qualifiers – Finland v Scotland
- 18.10 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19:05 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (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 Luther 500 : An t-Strì Spioradail (rpt)
- 22:00 An Geamhradh – Trusadh (rpt)
- 23:00 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)
- 23:30 Alleluia! Spiritual Music & verse (rpt)

#### DICIADAIN 28 an Dàmhair WEDNESDAY 28 October

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:00 An Solas Buan (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 NEW- Fuime
- 21:00 A' Sireadh Sascha (rpt)
- 22:00 NEW : Na Trads: An Tobar
- 22:30 Crodh Gàidhealach an Aird Bhain: The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan (rpt)
- 23:50 Celtic Connections (rpt)

#### DIARDAOIN 29 an Dàmhair THURSDAY 29 October

- 17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19:05 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in A Big War) (rpt)
- 19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20:00 An Là – News
- 20:30 Air an Smuid (rpt)
- 21:00 Talamh gu Truinnsear (rpt)
- 22:00 Seoid a' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves (rpt)
- 22:30 Side nan Seachd Sian (rpt)
- 23:20 Dhan Uisge (Isle of Arran) (rpt)
- 23:30 Na Trads: An Tobar (rpt)



[BBC.CO.UK/ALBA](http://BBC.CO.UK/ALBA) | [BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER](http://BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER)

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# Highland Cattle Society annual autumn sale

The Highland Cattle Society Autumn Sale of Pedigree Cattle took place on Monday October 12 at Oban Livestock Centre.

The market was a lot quieter than normal due to Covid-19 restrictions, with only vendors and buyers allowed to attend. Despite the difficulties, the sale went well with most lots sold, including a run of unaltered older cows to 1400 gns. Vendors and buyers went home happy with their day.

Sale leader at 3400gns was Nighean Ruadh of Shellachan, from Mr D Buchanan, Shenavallie, and bred by Lieutenant Colonel Colin Stewart Winter.

Bred out of Proiseag 3rd of Stair by Neil Ruadh of Shenavallie, she is in calf to Geason Dubh of Shenavallie, and heads to Fintry, Glasgow, to Euan MacMillan, Lurg

& Townhead Farms. Next best at 3000gns was a young heifer calve from Mrs Jon H Strickland's Cladich fold. This was Lady Jane White 3rd of Cladich by Dochie 1st of Gartocharn - out of Lady Jane White of Cladich.

Tom Nelson's Glengorm fold from Mull reached 2700gns for the three-year-old heifer Barabel Ban Flath 22nd of Glengorm. By Craigowl 7th of Glamis Castle, out of Ailsa 1st of Glengorm, she was sold in-calf to Philip of Richmondhill, when knocked down to N & M McLellan.

AJ Ewing paid 2200gns for three-year-old heifer Hannah of Rannoch, from Donald & Malcolm MacNaughton, Kelty, Fife. Her sire is a previous reserve champion overall at Oban bull sales who was sold to Germany for £6,000. She is in calf to MacSaul of Balmoral.

Demi 6th of Cladich, from Mrs Jon H Strickland's Cladich Fold, was sold for 2000gns to N & M McLellan, Port Charlotte, Islay, along with two straws of semen from K2 of Cladich, who was the male champion at the Highland Cattle Society Bull Sales in February 2020, a rare opportunity indeed.

Society President Sir Jim Paice said: 'Given that we had to abandon the usual show the sale was well worthwhile and proves there is a good demand for good Highland cattle.'



Sale leader at 3400gns was Nighean Ruadh of Shellachan, above. Next best at 3000gns was a young heifer calve from Mrs Jon H Strickland's Cladich fold, left, Lady Jane White 3rd of Cladich. For other sale results, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

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## CROSS CODE

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

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

### TEST NO ONE'S SLEEPY

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

- Crockford's directory lists members of which profession?
- Dolly Parton's theme park Dollywood is in which US state?
- TV's Inspector Morse drove which make of car?
- What A is a small cloth placed over the backs or arms of chairs to protect the fabric underneath?
- In the hit film Titanic, what was the name of the character played by Leonardo DiCaprio?
- What is the singular form of the word dice when used in board games?
- What is the naval equivalent of an army field marshal?
- In cycling's Tour de France, what does a rider's possession of the green jersey denote?
- Where do troglodytes live?
- The 1940s 'Windrush Generation' refers to immigrants who came to Britain from which part of the Commonwealth?

## NONAGRAM

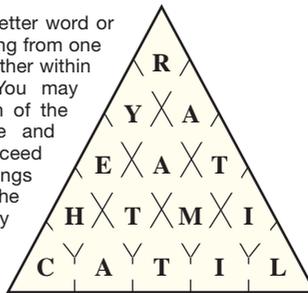
E	T	C
U	S	E
Q	I	N

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:** 22 Good; 26 Very Good; 30 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

PS	HI	IT	CF	TH
IH		AR		WA
AT	ME	NA	ZO	EN
TV		TG		DE
EA	GR	OE	CN	YT

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

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

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

### ACROSS

- Where craftsmen drink in Hertfordshire? (7,3)
- Girl, one with nine others (5)
- Wreckage floats about at 6 Down (7)
- One might admit having heard it (8)
- Friend holds snobbish boy (4)
- Some run back to place an order inside (6)
- Box at home for milk protein (6)
- Girl returns during the ballet (4)
- Being legally qualified, is fit to be chosen (8)
- Indicated that nothing got knocked on the outside (7)
- Type of tent used on hill? (5)
- Model deems upset intrusive (10)

### DOWN

- Peter to appear in brief show at Christmas time (5)
- Bet led Mr Strange to be shaken (8)
- Wrap up in French pleat (6)
- Strung up most of noose shortly (4)
- Variety of sausage used to soften (7)
- Principal leading lady in Berkshire (10)
- Large miner about to be become a skiver (10)
- Jumper that has a pocket (8)
- Mixture produced by poor enamel coating for key (7)
- Promise as security (6)
- Move slightly to cut back on plan for expenditure (5)
- Read endlessly at the horse breeding establishment (4)

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9			
10							
				12			
13	14			15			
16				17			18
				19			
20			21		22	23	24
					25		
26	27			28			
				29			30
31							
				32			

### ACROSS

- Satanic ceremony (5,4)
- Monarch's seat (6)
- Russian emperor (4)
- Woody plant (4)
- Spectre (6)
- Augur (7)
- North American lake (4)
- Withered (4)
- Lair (3)
- Foot digit (3)

### DOWN

- Correct text (4)
- Statutes (4)
- Asphalt (7)
- Linked series (6)
- Skin condition (4)
- Wheel covering (4)
- Reddish brown (6)
- Interchange (9)
- Lease giver (6)
- Clergyman (6)
- Morning prayer (6)
- Hotpot (4)
- Fizzy powder (7)
- Asian desert (4)
- Device (9)
- Monetary fund (5,4)
- Cereal food (4)
- Jeans fabric (5)
- Lifeless (4)
- Tapering flag (7)
- Assimilate (4,2)
- Portable computer (6)
- Sea mammal (6)
- Cain's brother (4)
- Blemish (4)

## SUDOKU

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

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

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

## EQUALISER

13	8
7 ○	5 ○
5	5
15 ○	5 ○
2	3

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 The clergy; 2 Tennessee; 3 Jaguar; 4 Antimacassar; 5 Jack Dawson; 6 A die; 7 Admiral of the Fleet; 8 Leader of the points classification; 9 In caves; 10 The Caribbean.

**CROSS CODE:** 1 G; 2 W; 3 P; 4 V; 5 D; 6 Z; 7 U; 8 O; 9 J; 10 N; 11 C; 12 R; 13 B; 14 L; 15 Q; 16 H; 17 X; 18 T; 19 F; 20 A; 21 E; 22 Y; 23 K; 24 I; 25 M; 26 M

**NONAGRAM:** (1) Across - Pith; Tangon; Agony. Down - Pith; Tangon; Handy. (2) Across - Shift; Amaze; Ercat. Down - Shave; Rate; Tweet.

**MAGIC SQUARE:** 19 Budget; 20 Stud.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:** Across - 1 Pottery Bar; 7 Annie; 8 Flotsam; 10 Doorbell; 11 Paul; 13 Number; 15 Caseln; 17 Ella; 18 Eligible; 21 Denoted; 22 Down - Pith; Tangon; Handy.

**WORD PYRAMID:** Military attaché.

**EQUALISER:** 13 8; 7 ○ 5 ○ 3; 5 5; 15 ○ 5 ○ 3; 2 3

**SUDOKU:** Easy Hard

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**SUBARU OUTBACK fuel economy and CO<sub>2</sub> results (WLTP): Combined 33.0mpg, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 193g/km.** Mpg figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes & may not reflect real driving results. Fuel consumption achieved in real life conditions & CO<sub>2</sub> produced depends on a number of factors including accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles & vehicle load.

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# Helensburgh Motors - your local Toyota experts!

At Helensburgh Toyota, we aim to exceed customer expectations. Since we started over 40 years ago we have won numerous awards for customer satisfaction, including two prestigious European 'Ichiban' awards. We serve a wide area, from Dumbarton to Dalvaig, Clydebank to Campbeltown and have regularly visited Oban with offsite displays at Tesco. Toyota have some great cars.

All New Yaris Hybrid has just collected its first major UK honour by winning the Affordable Hybrid Car of the Year in Auto Express maga-

zine. It has already proven to be a popular vehicle, which is of little surprise due to its affordability, and the technology that comes with it as standard. Available in Icon, Design, Dynamic, Excel and Launch Edition trim, the All New Yaris has a lowered centre of gravity, a wider more muscular stance, giving it a premium stylish look. Even better, fuel efficiency has increased by 22% to 68.9 MPG and you can drive on EV up to 80mph. The All New Yaris has just got better.

Toyota was recently crowned the Best Car Brand at the



2020 Which? Awards and the Toyota Corolla took the title of Best Hybrid Car in the 2020 What Car? Awards, leading a haul of honours for the brand. The awards also saw the Toyota Aygo being named the Best Value Car (priced between £10,000 to £12,000).

The team at Helensburgh Toyota take care of everything each step of the way when matching you with your dream car. From processing all the paperwork for you, offering a 'Click & Collect' system, as well as the option to have your new car delivered straight to

your chosen location. Ensuring a five-year/100,000miles warranty with any new product, the team also offer a specialised Toyota aftersales service to suit your needs. The Helensburgh dealership offers an in-house accident repair service providing a variety of

reasonably-priced aftersales services and a range of servicing solutions for any make or model.

Booking is essential; call one of the team on 01436672779, or for more information visit [www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk](http://www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk)



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Model shown is Yaris Design Hybrid Petrol 1.5 VVT-i Auto £21,850 including optional Pearlescent paint at £880. Prices correct at time of being published. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 57.6 (4.9) - 68.9 (4.1). Combined CO<sub>2</sub> 112-92 g/km. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> produced varies significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). All mpg and CO<sub>2</sub> figures quoted are full WLTP figures. The official CO<sub>2</sub> figures for vehicles have changed, due to a change in the official method of calculation. CO<sub>2</sub> figures are used in the calculation of Vehicle Excise Duty (car tax) for new cars during their first year of registration. As a result, all CO<sub>2</sub> figures, car tax and 'on the road' prices for new vehicles, which were provided or displayed prior to 1 April 2020, may now have changed for vehicles which were not registered before that date. These dates may change, please visit [www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp](http://www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp) for the latest information. Choice of options and accessories fitted (pre-registration) may affect the official CO<sub>2</sub> figures, car tax and 'on the road' price. For details of your preferred model and grade derivative, please contact your local Toyota Centre. \*0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Yaris Hybrid between 1st October 2020 and 15th December 2020 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st March 2021 on a 42 month Toyota AccessFlex (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. By taking a Toyota AccessFlex monthly payment break, you defer that monthly payment until the end of your agreement. You can defer up to 3 monthly payments (but not the final repayment), either consecutively or on 3 separate occasions during your agreement. The term of your agreement will be extended by one month in respect of each monthly payment deferred, up to a total possible extension of 3 months. Payment breaks cannot be taken to assist with financial difficulties, in respect of the first 3 monthly payments due under the agreement, within the 5 working days before the payment due date, or if any sums due under the agreement are unpaid. Toyota AccessFlex is not available for used vehicles or for any finance offers other than 0% APR. The vehicle may be used during any deferred monthly break period. No associated fees charged and monthly payment remains the same. <sup>A</sup>Payment shown is based on a 42-month Toyota AccessFlex (PCP) contract with £5,169 customer deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Participating Toyota Centres. Affordable finance through Toyota AccessFlex (PCP). Terms and conditions apply.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

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

**The Highland Council**  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**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
20/01909/FUL	Development Site Opposite Spean Crescent Spean Bridge	Erection of 28 houses, commercial unit (Class 1, 2, 3 - excluding Hot Food Takeaway, 4 & 10), sports pitch and associated infrastructure
20/03268/PIP	Land to South East Of Elmbank, Acharacle	Erection of house

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

**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
20/01633/LIB	Display of replacement signage including frosted window manifestation (illuminated and non-illuminated)	6 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4AZ
20/01747/PP	Alterations and erection of extension to re-divide units to form pottery shop and workshop (unit 5) and Classes 1, 2, 4 and 5 (unit 6) and installation of air source heat pumps	Units 5 And 6, Baliscate Estate, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QA
20/01687/PP	Erection of workshop building, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Land East Of Torr Na Craoibhe, Ardtun, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01718/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (revised house design to planning permission 19/00057/PP)	Plot 2 Land Adjacent To Ben Hiant View, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
20/01739/LIB	Revised design to listed building consent reference 18/00740/LIB (Refurbishment of former school to form mixed use centre for community wellbeing/arts & culture/heritage and enterprise, demolition of dilapidated WC block and installation of new accessible entrance and ramp, demolition of stair block to make new compliant stair and lift core and general internal alterations). Variations to proposals including demolition of chimney, new boiler flue, omission of ramp to main entrance, variation to openings on south elevation and alterations to internal layout	Former Rockfield Primary School, Hill Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/00787/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage (integrating existing ruins), installation of biodisc treatment plant and formation of access	Logan House, Land Approx 70M South East Of Machair Cottage And Redroofs, Balevullin, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute

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

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

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Martin Boyle trading as MARTIN BOYLE CONTRACTING LTD Of Ardnamara Croft, Knockrome, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XZ Is applying for a licence to use Talatoll Quarry, Clachan, Argyll as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use of 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.

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Eric Walton trading as WALTONS OF OBAN Of 13, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL is applying to amend the Operators Licence OM 1084307 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL from 6 vehicles to 7 vehicles

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use of 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.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Malcolm Campbell MacPhail has registered their croft Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 17th May 2021. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A0479

**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 C7142

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Application  
To apply for this position, please email: [HRInternational@distellinternational.com](mailto:HRInternational@distellinternational.com)  
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For job packs go to our website below or contact Reception Supervisor on 01463 243132 or [l.innes@highlandhospice.org.uk](mailto:l.innes@highlandhospice.org.uk)  
[www.highlandhospice.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.highlandhospice.org.uk/vacancies)  
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**GRANT - MACVICAR** - At Staffin Free Church, Isle of Skye, on October 23, 1970 by Rev Kenneth MacKay, Iain to Chrissie.

**REFFIN** - Joseph and Margaret (nee Ross) were married on October 26, 1970 at Dunblane Cathedral by Rev. John Gray.

## DEATH

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully at home after a long illness Ursula Rose Campbell nee MacFadyen, aged 64 years, of Glenstockdale, Several, Leswalt. Beloved wife of Malcolm, dearly loved mother of Lachlan and Alasdair, much loved gran of Calum, Caithlin and Jenna. Funeral private.

**CROSS** - Peacefully on October 14 2020 after a long battle with ill health, aged 85 years. Peter Cross of Kilmelford, devoted husband to Margaret (recently deceased), dearly loved father of Pamela and Rosemary, respected father-in-law and grandfather. Together with Margaret once

more. Anyone wishing to pay their respects is welcome to do so, while maintaining a social distance, as the hearse leaves the Church Car Park at Kilmelford on Wednesday October 28 at 11am. A private funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, in line with current guidance. Peter requested donations, in lieu of flowers, if desired, should be made to the RNLI (Orkney Station).

**MACLEAN** - Donald. Suddenly but peacefully at home, Roadside, No 2 Kenovay, Tيرة on October 17, 2020 aged 82. Beloved husband of the late Morag Kennedy. Special dad, granpa and brother.

**MACLEOD** - Peacefully at Sir James MacKay House, Edinburgh on Friday October 16, 2020, Jenny (MacColl), wife of the late John, much loved mum, Granny and Great Granny to the family. A family service will take place on Monday October 26, 2020 at Oban Parish Church. Funeral Service will be Private due to current Government restrictions.

**MERRALL** - Mary, aged 96 years, passed away peacefully at her forever welcoming home at Claddach, Portnahaven, Islay on October 15, 2020. Beloved mother of Mairi and Eric, a loving grandmother and great grandmother. Very sadly missed by many.

**STEWART** - Rosemary Janet St Leger (nee Hodgson Wilson) East Bridgeland, Selkirk

Peacefully at Riverside Nursing Home, Selkirk, on October 20 2020, beloved wife of the late Kenneth, loving mother of Fiona, Fenella and Nicola and adored granny of Tom, Hannah, Lucy and Ailsa and great-granny of Logan and Theo. Funeral Service private. Family flowers only please, but donations for The Borders Music and Art Society may be forwarded to Thomas Brown & Sons Ltd, East Port, Melrose TD6 9EE, Tel: 01896 822632.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**GRAY** - Lila died peacefully in Lorne and Islands Hospital, Oban October 11, 2020.

John, Laurie, Janet and families would like to thank all the

staff at Ward B for the great care and attention given to their mother. Grateful thanks to Catriona & Owen at Hamish Hoey's Funeral Directors for all their kind help.

Also, thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy and condolences, for all the cards and flowers received, along with lovely tributes to Lila.

**INGLIS** - The Inglis family wish to thank Connel medical staff and Dr Macphee for all the attention to Ian. The staff of LIGH, community nurses, OT staff, ambulance technician and community nurses for their dedication and care. Thank you very much to Ian MacInnes and everyone at D&A Munn and Brian for his fitting graveside tribute. Many thanks to all who attended the funeral and paid their respects at the entrance to the cemetery. Everyone who sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy. It was very appreciated by all the family, thank you.

**McCONNELL** - The family of Christine McConnell wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours

for all the beautiful cards, mass cards, flowers and messages of sympathy they received. Our heartfelt thanks to them all. A special thank you to Fr David, Fr MacKinnon, Deacon Wynne and Fr Danny for all their visits and prayers prior to Christine's passing. Also for her comforting mass service. A special thank you to Chris Du Plessis for his heartfelt eulogy at the funeral mass. Sincere thanks to Manson & MacBeath for their compassion and professionalism in all aspects of the funeral arrangement. Thank you to Andrew Orr for his lovely piping at the church and graveside. Also another special thank you to Andrew Gault, Jane Moran, Craig Gardener and Margaret Johnston for their kindness, care and support. Finally thank you to everyone who donated in memory of Christine to the Salesian's work in Africa especially their care for orphans. £300 was raised.

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From your ever loving caring wife Ray xxx

**PEARSON** - Tam, Christine, Ailsa and Clare would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours most sincerely for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received following the tragic loss of Kenneth. Thanks also for all baking, meals, foodstuffs and other practical help received. Sincere thanks to Ian of D & A Munn for the very compassionate and personal handling of the funeral arrangements. To the Rev Dugald Cameron for a beautiful service, visits and continuing support. Thanks also to the local Police for their support at this difficult time. Special thanks to the brethren of Oban Commercial Lodge No. 180 and sister lodges for the very dignified and fitting tribute given to Kenneth. Also to those who lined the streets to pay their respects, many of whom had travelled a long distance. To Clare Jordan

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for her beautiful recording of Caledonia and to Niall Jordan for piping, also the Royal Hotel for an excellent lunch. Thank you to all who have donated to Martyn's Monday Club in Kenneth's memory. He is now singing with the Angels.  
**DOYLE** - née power. Precious memories of Avril, who passed away October 26, 2019. Our hearts still ache with sadness  
 And many tears still flow  
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**GIBSON** - In loving memory of our dear dad and grandpa Jimmy, who died October 23, 2014.  
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 Margaret and family, Canada  
**HOLLAND** - In loving memory of Gary James, who died October 24, 1990.  
 You are not just a memory of the cheeky, loving young man or a part of the past  
 But ours to hold and love within our hearts, even after thirty years  
 Love and remember you always  
 Also your dear dad, Robert, who died so soon after you on

March 15, 1991  
 All our love.  
 - Mum, Sharon, Dougie, Jessica, Eoghan and Nathan and all family and friends.  
**MACCALLUM** - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982.  
 We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds  
 Because although tomorrow we cannot share  
 You will always be one of a kind  
 - Inserted by her husband

Donald and family, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban  
**MACLEAN** - Precious memories of Archie our dear dad, grandpa, great grandpa and father-in-law, who passed away on October 28, 2019.  
 Loved and remembered every day.  
 - Marion, Margo and families.  
**WALKER** - In loving memory of Marion, a loving wife and mother who passed away October 26, 2001.  
 Always in our thoughts.  
 - Allan and family

WEDDINGS

West - Currie



Graham West from Sevenoaks, Kent and Catriona Currie from Dunbeg, daughter of Robert Currie and the late Iseabail Macleod were married on October 10, 2020 on Loch Lomond.

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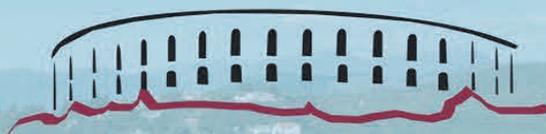


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Back injury  
ends Bob's  
championship  
challenge

There was no happy homecoming for Oban's Bob MacIntyre at St Andrews last weekend when injury forced him to withdraw from the Scottish Championship after only one round.

Following his disappointing score of 78 on Thursday, his management company issued a statement explaining his withdrawal: 'Unfortunately Robert MacIntyre has had to withdraw from the AXA Scottish Championship due to a niggling injury to his hip/back which has been causing him discomfort for the last couple of weeks.'

'Due to current Covid restrictions, EuropeanTour physios can only give each player 15 minutes of treatment per day, meaning Bob has had to withdraw to receive more intense treatment to enable a return to full fitness and be ready to play in the Cyprus Open at Aphrodite Resort, Paphos, from October 29 to November 1.'

The Oban star's withdrawal is a further blow to his chances of qualifying for the season ending Tour Championship in December.

With only the top 60 qualifying, he currently sits in 68th spot and only has two tournaments between now and then to make up the necessary ground. He will be hoping the physio team works wonders to ensure he can tee it up at the end of October and set himself up for a grandstand finish to the season.

# Oban boxer's fighting spirit shines through

An Oban woman with a passion for boxing has faced her own personal battle head on and come out fighting.

Having suffered with cancer and being knocked sideways by historic fractures, Susannah McMillan is back on her feet and running boxing and personal training classes at Atlantis Leisure.

Born and raised in Oban, the inspirational pugilist spent eight and a half years in the Royal Navy and is keen to pass on the skills she learned during her time there to educate others and help them feel fitter and healthier.

Watching Rocky and fighting with her three younger brothers led a young Susannah to training with Sid Cassidy at the Oban Martial Arts Hall, previously above Stoddarts, which sparked an enduring passion for the sport.

But without the option of being able to compete and the training only being once or twice a week, she began to lose interest as a teenager and it wasn't until she joined the Navy as a medic that she discovered her fighting spirit once more.

While training at HMS Drake in Plymouth, Susannah started training for her first bout but kept getting minor illnesses that made her unable to fight.

Just a few weeks later, at the age of 23, she was diagnosed with throat cancer and was told she would never box as



Susannah McMillan with some of her junior boxers.

the tumour was growing in the nerves in her neck.

Susannah was not about to throw in the towel however and after 'pestering' doctors for more than two years she eventually found one who said she could return to the ring.

**Bout**

Four years after training for her initial fight, she finally got the opportunity of an exhibition bout at HMNB Clyde Faslane with coach Jason McEvoy in her corner.

Susannah won her first official bout at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, at the RN Development Championships before deciding to box for Alloa in the hope of getting

more competitive experience. It was with them that she had her next three bouts, including boxing at the Scottish Novices at Ravenscraig.

'I had been fighting off an

**'It's such a good sport to help combat people struggling with mental health'**

injury which I thought was a trapped nerve in my shoulder. After the competition, I told the doctor my symptoms. I had bilateral shocks down my arms, was uncomfortable standing or sitting for long

periods and was in constant pain. I was sent for an emergency MRI scan only to be told I had previously fractured a vertebrae in my neck and had two prolapsed discs that were pressing on my spinal cord.

'That was the end of my competitive boxing days and that week I got a message from the RN squad boxing coach to ask if I wanted to join the squad for the next season. To say I was heartbroken was an understatement.'

**Rehab**

This final blow caused Susannah to struggle with her mental health, unable to even train and undergoing a lengthy rehab programme to rebuild

the strength down her right side. But with sheer determination and help from groups including Martyn's Monday Club, Susannah bounced back and decided she wanted to use everything she had learned to help others as a PT and boxing coach.

Whilst awaiting to be discharged from the military, Susannah completed her Boxing Scotland coach qualification and level 3 personal training courses and is now trying to realise her dream of taking children and adults to compete at the Scottish Novices or further if that is what they want.

'It's such a good sport to help combat people struggling with mental health, give them focus and live a generally more disciplined and health driven lifestyle.'

Susannah currently runs classes for all ages from Monday to Friday, with the option of one to one sessions on request.

To find out more, contact Susannah McMillan at Oban Boxing Fitness on 07825 998038, email susannah@obanboxingfitness.com or visit www.obanboxingfitness.com or Facebook page.



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### Roy Bridge trials rider Ben wins bronze at world contest



### Ardnamurchan teen's academic prowess sees her scoop award



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# Landowners urged to support visitor plans

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highland landowners have been warned they are not living in the 19th century when they could pretty much do as they pleased, after reports of gates on rural paths being locked and boulders left along verges to block access to tourists and visitors.

The comments came from Caol and Mallaig councillor Denis Rixson, a member of Highland Council's tourism committee, which last week gave the go ahead for the local authority to produce a five-year visitor management plan aimed at addressing the 2021 tourism season and visitor demands in future years.

Committee chairwoman Councillor Maxine Smith said councillors agreed experiences in Highland communities this summer have clearly demonstrated the need for a visitor management plan.

'We must be able to respond positively on the front-

**'I am hearing stories of gates locked on rural paths and I have seen numerous examples of boulders and other material left to block verges. Some of these are downright dangerous.'**

and-welcoming-foot to the increasing numbers of visitors to Highland,' she said. 'A clear direction on where we will allocate our resources on visitor management will help alleviate pressures on infrastructure at visitor attractions, beauty spots, rural roads and locations, and in our villages and towns. The need to plan this over the longer term is also vital.'

Members agreed that a council officer working group

**Continued on page two.**



## Wild swimmers' appeal to 'Coney no dae that!'

Lochaber wild swimmers, from left, Sharyn Morgan, Bill Cameron, Debbie Reynolds and Gina Hough are fed up wading through rubbish which is regularly thrown in the water by people walking along the roadside above them. Full story: page six.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Strontian Primary School's a winner

Strontian Primary School has won the top spot in this year's Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards.

The awards celebrate community-led environment projects that have transformed their locality.

**Full story: page four.**

## Grant funding for those self-isolating

The Scottish Government is paying out £500 grants to help individuals who need to self-isolate during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the £500 grant is to help ensure people who have tested positive for the virus and their close contacts self-isolate for the required period to stop the spread of the virus.

Details of eligibility criteria and the application form can be found on local authority websites.

## All or nothing for woodland project

Morvern Community Woodlands (MCW) has launched a Crowdfunder campaign to try and raise the £1.7m required for a community buy-out of Killundine Estate.

**Full story: page eight.**



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# Landowners urged to support visitor plans

Continued from page one.  
be continued as a cross-service visitor management group.

Since the ease of lockdown, Highland Council services and partners, including Police Scotland, have experienced rapidly increasing visitor demands on roads, parking and transport; amenity and waste; outdoor access and environmental and public health which caused a range of issues.

To try and address some of the issues being experienced during the summer, In July Highland Council met with the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism, councillors and community bodies in Ward 11 – Caol and Mallaig.

Ward 11 has been a hotspot for pressure from tourist numbers with wild camping, parking and litter problems at popular sites, including Traigh beach at Arisaig and beaches at Morar.

A multi-agency environmental health group was also established to co-ordinate enforcement and communications on 'dirty camping' issues and to share best practice.

Members agreed last week a short-term plan for 2021 will be presented to a meeting of the tourism committee at the earliest opportunity and that longer term ambitions will be developed as part of a five-year visitor management plan.

Caol and Mallaig member Denis Rixson, a member of the



MSP Kate Forbes, left, visited Morar Sands to see for herself problems associated with wild camping. Also pictured, from left, are: Pamela Burns, Road to the Isles Marketing Group; Sine Davis, Road to the Isles Marketing Group chairperson and owner West Highland Hotel, Mallaig; Iain MacNiven, Arisaig Community Council; Sandra McLean, Mallaig Community Council; and Dave Newnham, Morar Community Council.



Councillor Denis Rixson.



Councillor Allan Henderson.

committee, told the Lochaber Times the summer had seen many tensions regarding the influx of tourists – often in motorhomes: 'I welcome the

co-operative spirit shown by Highland communities as they adapt to the stresses and strains in the midst of a pandemic. I urge landowners

to play their full part in this,' he said.

'Throughout the Highlands, there are landowners, individual and institutional, who are rising to the challenge and looking to find new solutions. Unfortunately, that is not always the case.

'I am hearing stories of gates locked on rural paths and I have seen numerous examples of boulders and other material left to block roadside verges. Some of these are downright dangerous.'

And he cautioned: 'Landowners have a great deal of residual power in the Highlands. But we are no longer living in the 19th cen-

tury. We need solutions which work for whole communities – not just some individuals.'

Fellow Caol and Mallaig ward councillor Allan Henderson, also a member of the committee, says problems caused by soaring visitor numbers is something that has to be handled at a local level as a 'one-size fits all' approach would simply not work.

'One thing is certain, with the sale of 14,000 new campervans per year, cheap tents, Access Code and Covid restrictions, camping and motor-homing is here for the foreseeable future, creating issues we will have to manage at a local level because it is unlikely broad national guidelines would be adhered to and one size does not fit all.

'The meeting we had with the tourism minister, while on the surface successful, saw only the council increase spend to

improve services. To manage a visitor management plan, cash has to be generated and wardens – managers – employed. Even a modest warden scheme could cost £50,000 per year which is £500,000 over 10 years, drained from improvements to infrastructure and infrastructure improvements is the key to managing successfully.'

He continued: 'So I believe Highland Council needs to give up central control of parking fees to allow areas to invest that money from day one. We are years behind the curve as ideally a visitor management plan would have preceded the boom.'

'Even if it becomes possible to collect fees from roadside camping, solid lines of parked up vehicles are not acceptable for road safety or travel.

'Clearways – a blanket ban on road parking, but not roadside – is not a feasible answer. Neither is banning as alternatives and displacement will exacerbate the problem.'

'Hence the only way forward is a visitor management plan, with the council and public partners engaged with private land managers.'

'Just as land is managed for its current use, innovative management plans need to be implemented to address the current crisis. Proposals for Rhu, Kinloids road end are all steps in the right direction to protect the fragile beaches.'



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## Transport Scotland still committed to improving the A82

Transport Scotland remains committed to improving the A82 stretch between Tarbet and Inverarnan, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport has told Kate Forbes MSP.

In a letter to Lochaber's constituency MSP, Michael Matheson said, 'this significant undertaking requires careful, in-depth planning and design so we deliver the right scheme which will bring improved road safety and journey time reliability, whilst maintaining the natural beauty of this key lifeline.'

Ms Forbes has continued to campaign for upgrades to the A82 at various points, including Tarbet to Inverarnan and a Fort William link road.

Mr Matheson said in his letter: 'Transport Scotland is currently taking forward the detailed development

and assessment of the preferred option. This preparation work is essential to ensure a robust scheme is produced in line with existing legislation, which considers the needs of individuals, road users and the community.

'While there is still a lot of development work to be carried out, which is being informed by our enhanced understanding of the specific complexities associated with improving this iconic route, we continue to push forward to deliver this scheme as soon as possible.'

Ms Forbes added: 'Many of my constituents depend on the road as they travel between Fort William and Glasgow.'

'Whilst the pandemic held up a lot of capital works, it's important these works progress.'

# Morvern timber transport boost

A public and private partnership project in the Highlands has received nearly £1million from the Scottish Government to move maturing timber over a new forest road to a floating pier to be built on the Morvern peninsula.

Under the Strategic Timber Transport Fund, more than £987,000 has been awarded to the project, with additional contributions from three private sector forest owners.

The plan is to build a forest road connecting three timber producing forests on Morvern, which will take the timber to a floating pier where the timber can be loaded onto ships.

The new initiative will mean an estimated 12,000 lorry trips will be taken off the narrow B849, which is used by the Drimnin and Lochaline communities.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing commented:

'Forestry is an important industry which is key to our green recovery. It generates around £1 billion to the Scottish economy each year and supports around 25,000 jobs, many of these in rural areas.'

'This new public and private project is a winning solution for everyone. It allows the forest owners to get their timber to market for the benefit of the local and national economy, but in a way which minimises impacts on local communities.'

Scottish Forestry, the agency which administers the funding, is keen to see innovative solutions to tackle timber transport issues. By moving the timber by sea, the number of lorry trips needed are reduced, which is also a benefit in tackling climate change.

In total, it is estimated around 163,000 cubic metres of timber will be moved by sea

in the new project, avoiding the use of small narrow rural roads used by the Morvern and Ardnamurchan communities.

Derek Lewis of Drimnin Estate said: 'This project represents the culmination of many years of effort to find an environmentally sensitive way of exporting timber from Morvern's forests.'

'It will remove the long-standing threat of large volumes of timber traffic on Morvern's fragile roads and the adverse impact that would have on residents, the environment and the tourist economy.'

'We are very grateful for the support of Scottish Forestry, the Scottish Government, the Highland Council and Morvern Community Council in realising the wishes of the community.'

Malcolm MacLeod, the Highland Council's Executive Chief Officer for Infrastructure

and the Environment, said: 'It would have been very costly for the council to upgrade the public road and work would have caused disruption for anyone living and working in the peninsula.'

'We are delighted as not only does this project provide welcome investment but by reducing timber transport on the local road network it will make a significant difference to those living in the community.'

'The Strategic Timber Transport Fund has brought great benefits to the Highlands in recent years and we will continue to work together with the private sector to develop projects to resolve identified timber transport problems.'

The partners involved in the project include Scottish Forestry, Highland Council, Drimnin Estate and the owners of Carnacailliche and Auchnasaul forests.



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## Man snared by online vigilantes spared jail

### COURT

A 60-year-old bachelor who was snared by paedophile hunters after he sent sexual communications to what he thought was a 13-year-old girl has been punished by unpaid community work.

Inverness Sheriff Court was told last Wednesday, October 14, that Arthur Laurie had become a virtual recluse in his remote community of Lochaline because of the reaction of locals to his crime.

Defence solicitor advocate Mike Chapman said his client lived with his doors and windows locked, with curtains drawn to avoid the public gaze.

Mr Chapman successfully persuaded Sheriff Margaret Neilson not to jail Laurie, saying: 'He has experienced considerable hostility in the small community he lives in and has been advised by police to stay at home.'

'He suffered a challenging childhood, having cognitive difficulties and has never had an intimate relationship. He is thoroughly ashamed of what

he has done and recognises it was a serious offence. He is assessed by an experienced social worker as being of low risk of reoffending.'

Laurie was ordered to carry out 225 hours of unpaid work and will be monitored by social workers for three years, with the same period on the Sex Offender's Register.

An earlier court hearing was told the teenage girl with whom he thought he was communicating was in fact a 44-year-old woman.

She was using the name Angel Dev and was a member of the online vigilante group Decoy North.

Laurie admitted communicating with the woman from May 14 2018 to July 22 2018.

Fiscal deputy Robert Weir said that after a period of general conversation when he admitted he was 58 and the woman indicated she was a teenager, it became sexualised.

'Members of the organisation confronted him about his indecent communications and Police Scotland were informed simultaneously,' said Mr Weir.

## Strontian primary wins My Place award

Strontian Primary School has been named the winning project in the Scottish Civic Trust (SCT) My Place Awards 2020, writes Fiona Scott.

The My Place Awards celebrate community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality and are supported by the Scottish Government.

SCT chairwoman Sue Evans said: 'Yet again, the My Place Award winner and commended projects show just what can be achieved when local people come together to improve their place, be it for education, health and well-being or community economic development.'

'It is wonderful to celebrate projects which I hope will inspire others to take action too.'

Faced with the possibility of the village school becoming temporary modular units, parents and Strontian residents worked with the Highlands Small Communities Housing



**Strontian Primary School was opened by Scotland's Deputy First Minister John Swinney last August.**

Photograph: Rona McIntyre.

Trust to come up with the idea of the community building a school and leasing it to the council.

They set about fundraising and tendering the construction, eventually choosing a design based on four housing units, giving the site flexibility to be converted to quality, affordable housing in the future.

### More space

The new school has transformed the educational experience of pupils by providing more space and ensured the

retention of young people in the remote village.

'In undertaking this project, the Strontian community has demonstrated immeasurable courage, pioneered an innovative new route for community-led built environment projects and produced a beautiful building with flexibility for current and future uses,' added Ms Evans.

Full details on all the projects and short films about the winning projects can be found at [myplacescotland.org.uk](http://myplacescotland.org.uk)

## Police name woman who died in A82 crash

Police have released the name of the woman who died following a crash on the



A82. Melina Rosa Päppler, 24, from Luneberg in Germany, died when the blue Citroen C3 in which she was a front-seat passenger, collided with a grey Honda CRV travelling north on the A82 near Borlum Farm, Drumnadrochit, on October 12. Her family is aware.

The 27-year-old male driver of the Citroen C3 and the 56-year-old female driver of the Honda CRV were taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, where medical staff describe the man as serious but stable and the woman as stable.

Officers are still appealing for any witnesses to the crash and to those who may have dash-cam footage to come forward. Information can be passed to road policing officers at Dingwall Police Station via 101. Please quote reference number 1838 of October 12 2020.

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# Emergency responses need to be faster says XR group

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An online conference to discuss the regional, national and global response to climate change has been welcomed by campaigners, although the length of time taken to organise the event has been compared to 'Nero fiddling while Rome burned'.

Last year Highland Council announced a climate and ecological emergency in recognition of the serious and accelerating changes to the world caused by climate change.

The Highland Climate Change Conference will take place on November 2 and will feature knowledgeable speakers including Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Dr Roxane Andersen, Senior Research Fellow at the Environmental Research



Roseanna Cunningham MSP.

Institute of UHI; David Whiteford, chairman of North Highland Initiative; Lord Thurso, chairman of Visit Scotland; Graham Neville, Area Manager, Northern Isles and North Highland of NatureScot; and Dr Marco Springmann, Senior Researcher, Oxford University.

Four sections, Biodiversity and Habitat, The Bigger Picture, Personal

Responsibility and The Green Recovery, each tackling an important component of the climate and ecological emergency, will take place and the conference will conclude with online workshops on each of the four themes.

While the local branch of Extinction Rebellion (XR) welcomes the discussion, they feel valuable time has been lost since an 'emergency' situation was declared 18 months ago.

'Serious emergency responses need to be faster than this - as demonstrated with the Covid-19 pandemic - with less procrastination and more resources. But the four strategic themes do at least touch on some important issues,' said an XR spokesperson.

'Our core message to Highland Council is that if you emerge from this conference feeling anything like satisfied with your achievements to date, then you are in denial

about the scope and seriousness of the situation and the urgent actions that are needed to tackle the climate and ecological crises.'

Chairwoman of the Climate Change Working Group Councillor Trish Robertson said: 'The conference will focus on four vitally important topics, including personal responsibility and the actions we can each take in Highland to help have a positive impact on the climate emergency.'

'We hope the conference will not only be interesting and engaging, but also highlight how taking action against climate change can also be rewarding and fun.'

The conference and associated workshops will take place online on the same day and will be free to attend.

Details on how to join the conference and workshops can be found on the Highland Council website.

# Cameron writes to health minister with further Belford Hospital concerns

Further concerns over the proposed new Belford Hospital in Fort William have been flagged up by Lochaber-based Highlands and islands MSP Donald Cameron following a question about the future of the project was raised with Health Secretary Jeane Freeman.

A recent media report suggested there may be even further delays and that the new hospital may not have surgical capacity.

The Conservative MSP and his party's shadow health secretary at Holyrood raised these issues in a written question to Ms Freeman, but says he was told the Scottish Government will review the business case of the Belford Hospital when it is submitted and that NHS Highland was already building new hospitals in Aviemore and Broadford.

Mr Cameron said: 'It has been more than five years since land was purchased for the new Belford and yet we are



Mr Cameron wrote directly to Jeane Freeman.

still no further forward with securing a new hospital for the community.

'Many are worried the new hospital will lack surgical capabilities and I am disappointed the Health Secretary failed to give such a commitment.'

'New hospitals in Aviemore and Broadford are welcome for those communities, but they will be of little use to people in Lochaber who want an up to date local hospital that can provide a range of services.'



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### 'Coney no dae that!' urge wild swimmers

A group of Fort William wild swimmers who take a daily dip in Loch Linnhe added an extra activity to their morning ritual – cone rescue.

Fed up at the rubbish which is regularly thrown in the water by people walking along the road above them, the swimmers thought enough was enough when traffic cones were consigned to a watery grave. The 15 orange and silver cones had been used to protect an area of pavement being worked on by BEAR Scotland, but vanished to become temporary playthings in the loch.

Swimmer and teacher Bill Cameron told the Lochaber Times: 'We have collected various things in the past, but the traffic cones are just going too far. They were visible at low tide and didn't fit with the beautiful scenery around us, quite apart from the fact they were installed beside the roadworks as a safety measure.'

'I have one simple message for whoever threw them in and the many others who just ditch their junk in the loch – 'Coney no dae that!'

# Power project approved but concerns remain

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Scottish Government ministers have approved plans for a massive increase in the scale of an already consented hydro-electric pumped storage generating station at Coire Glas on Loch Lochy near Spean Bridge.

Eight years ago, SSE Generation Limited was granted consent to build and run a 600 MW hydro-electric pumped storage generating station at the location.

However, the company later said that it needed to maximise the potential of the site and submitted a new application for a project more than twice the size – a potential storage and generating capacity of 1,500 MW.

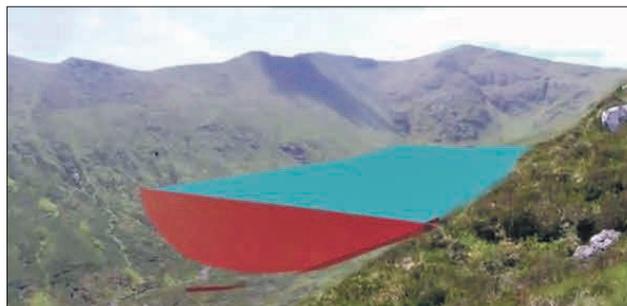
The increase in size mainly pertains to the underground waterway system and cavern



Lochaber councillor Ben Thompson. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

power station, although the external lower control works have also meant a larger footprint, with a construction timescale of approximately seven years.

If it had gone ahead, SSE's original £800 million scheme would have been the biggest hydro power plant constructed in Britain in more than 40 years. The new scheme will have a storage capacity of up to 30-GWh, almost twice the UK's existing pumped



How the new reservoir in Coire Glas would look.

storage capacity of 24-GWh. Coire Glas will also be the largest capacity hydro project constructed in Scotland and the first new pumped storage scheme built in the UK since 1974.

The changes to the scheme, now consented to by Holyrood ministers, are mainly to do with the amount of excavation work needed to house the larger turbines. That means thousands of tons of extra rock and spoil will need to be carted

off site and it was this aspect, with the potential massive increase in lorry movements on local roads, that had concerned members of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said he is pleased the government has given the green light to the mammoth project but warned the contentious issue of the spoil removal still had to be satisfactorily dealt with.

'If SSE does decide to press on, Coire Glas will be a massive impact on the Lochaber economy for a decade at least. It is one of the biggest Highland industrial projects in a generation or more,' Councillor Thompson told the Lochaber Times

'However, there is still a lot of important detail to be ironed out. The removal of the spoil is a massive concern locally. It is fundamental SSE comes forward with a spoil plan that has the backing of local residents and the wider community.'

'There should be substantial opportunities for employment and training of local staff at Coire Glas.'

'However, the significant transport and environmental disruption the north Lochaber community may face for the many years of construction also needs to be compensated for and I expect SSE to properly recognise that.'

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

### A bright future for biking in Lochaber

We're sure you've noticed cycling has become increasingly popular during the Covid pandemic, so you won't be surprised to hear that Lochaber, already a world-renowned cycling destination, is gearing up for a bright future.

Last year our friends at Sustrans developed a comprehensive study into the levels of awareness and use of the Caledonia Way. This route is one of Scotland's classic scenic cycle routes, taking in stunning Lochaber landscapes along the way. Also known as Scottish National Cycle Route 78, the Caledonia Way links Campbeltown to Inverness on a mixture of road, forest track, cycle paths and canal towpaths and is suitable for all levels of bikers.

More than 400 cyclists were interviewed between July and October, giving an invaluable insight into the user experience on the route. In addition, a representative mix of 23 businesses from along the route contributed their experiences, views and perceptions of the Caledonia Way.



The findings have provided a clear picture of the vast economic potential of the route and identified new opportunities for promoting economic vibrancy along the Caledonia Way.

In November we will be hosting an event to share those findings and explore how Lochaber businesses can make the most of this wonderful resource in 2021 and beyond.

There's more good news coming up in the biking world, with the announcement of the Scottish MTB Gathering 2020 as a virtual event on November 25.

Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland is pleased to present this virtual gathering of the mountain bike industry and community which will include sessions exploring opportunities to develop the sector, examining case studies of good practice and planning for a new future after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Topics include trails, destina-

tions, innovations and health and sport. There will also be a session on the UCI World Cycling Championships 2023, investigating trail development models and highlighting good practice in making the most of our trails.

The new 'UCI World Cycling Championships' will come to Scotland in 2023 and it will offer a huge boost for biking and mountain biking in Lochaber when Nevis Range hosts the world-renowned downhill racing event as part of the championships.

This is the jewel in the crown of mountain bike racing events and it is fantastic it is coming back to Lochaber in this new even bigger cycling event.

The new UCI Cycling World Championships will bring 13 UCI World Championships together in one place every four years starting from 2023.

We're delighted Scotland will host the 2023 inaugural Cycling World Championships, with races at Nevis Range as well as in Glasgow and Tweed Valley.

Find cycle route ideas and blogs at [www.outdoorcapital.co.uk](http://www.outdoorcapital.co.uk) and more about how your business could benefit from the biking boom at [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

# All or nothing for Killundine project

Morvern Community Woodlands (MCW) has launched a Crowdfunder campaign to try and raise the 1.7m required for a community purchase of Killundine Estate by the end of the month, writes Fiona Scott.



350-strong community's plans that it has promised to contribute £1 million – but this is subject to finding the remaining £1.7m before the end of October.

Unfortunately, the project has been hit by hurdles, problems and delays as a result of the pandemic and has been unable to move forward on a number of fronts. But there is no way to delay the promise of this funding. It's now or never.

The Crowdfunder 'all or nothing' campaign enables people to pledge an amount of money which will only be taken if promises for the whole target amount are secured. In addition, the project team will only move ahead and take the pledged cash if the community ballot currently taking place votes in favour of the project.

To secure this amount of

money through small pledges would require nothing short of a miracle, particularly at such short notice, but the team is putting its faith in people power.

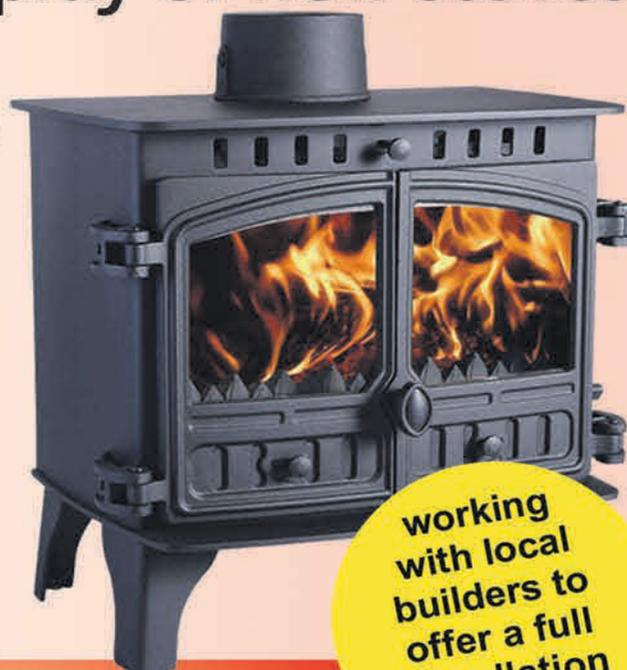
Alasdair Firth, MCW chairman, said: 'Anyone who thinks Scottish land should be in the hands of communities not absentee landlords, anyone who thinks that 'building back better' means creating sustainable homes and jobs and anyone who wants small communities to remain viable, should be supporting this project.'

'We might be just one small, remote, rural community, but this project, and ones like it, have the potential to make a big difference in protecting biodiversity and tackling climate change.'

Anyone wishing to pledge an amount can do so at [morverncommunitywoodlands.org/home/contact](http://morverncommunitywoodlands.org/home/contact)



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## Update sought on visitor levy

Members of The Highland Council's Tourism Committee have agreed that the council will write to the Scottish Government to ask for an update on the government's future position on Transient Visitor Levy.

Councillors were informed this week that the Transient Visitor Levy Bill that was about to be introduced in Easter 2020 was paused by the Scottish Government and since then the Programme for Government has been published and the Transient Visitor Levy has not been included in the current programme for government, while there is only six months left of this government's term of office.

Committee chairwoman Councillor Maxine Smith said: 'We are fully aware of the pressures tourism and hospitality businesses are currently under due to the coronavirus pandemic so what we are asking the Scottish Government for is to clarify their long-term



future position in years to come for the Transient Visitor Levy.

'I stress, we are forward thinking. We are not asking for this to be introduced now or anywhere in the near future but if we want to be able to invest in tourism infrastructure in many years to come we need to have a means to do this. If tourism wants to continue with its expansion post-Covid, at some point in the future there needs to be a direct income to allow us to invest massively, whether this is from a tourist tax or a direct fund from either government.'

# Tourism study identifies gaps and opportunities

A draft audit of tourism infrastructure in The Highland Council area has been welcomed by councillors at a meeting of its tourism committee.

Chairwoman of the council's tourism committee, Councillor Maxine Smith, said it was clear a huge amount of work had gone into getting the audit to this draft stage and she commended everyone involved.

'Local members will have a clear interest in their own communities and whether the audit has captured the publicly provided tourism infrastructure in their areas. How we move forward now with this plan is critical in making it as accurate a reflection as possible of the region's current and future potential tourism infrastructure,' said Councillor Smith.

'We need further considera-

tion of the audit plan at a local level and will discuss this in our ward business meetings as soon as possible to be ready for our initial changes for the 2021 season.'

The audit includes publicly provided infrastructure normally delivered by the local authority and its partners or through communities rather than commercial provision.

Carried out over 2019/20, the audit looks at existing provision, proposed projects and possible gaps in tourism infrastructure including: car parking; electric vehicle charge points; public toilets; motorhome waste disposal facilities; public wifi services and paths and trails.

Councillors considered a draft audit report that listed in excess of 300 parking areas where visitors would normally leave their vehicle to visit a community, beach or other

natural attraction. Possible gaps in existing parking provision were highlighted at more than 70 locations across the region where parking exists but is not adequate for demand.

Ten locations were also identified in the audit which are now seeing more visitors but where no dedicated parking is available and passing places or road verges are increasingly being used, including locations in Skye and Lochaber.

The audit outlined existing dedicated overnight parking provision for motorhomes and electric vehicle charge points, proposed new locations and possible gaps in provision for both.

Eight new public toilet projects were highlighted in the report with two completed at Bla Bheinn on Skye and Traigh Beach in Lochaber and five in progress at Helmsdale, The Storr on Skye, Mallaig, Lower

Falls (Glen Nevis), on the Isle of Eigg and one planned at Corrieshalloch Gorge by the National Trust for Scotland.

An additional 20 locations where comfort schemes might provide for visitors have been identified. The limited provision of facilities for the disposal of motorhome waste except on formal sites was highlighted for just 19 sites, with seven locations currently with plans or work under way to provide new facilities and another 13 communities seeking Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Funding to provide waste facilities. Further gaps have been identified by communities expressing an interest in providing such facilities at 28 villages or towns.

Members discussed how further gaps in the draft audit could be identified and who the council might involve further in the audit process.



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## New railcard for veterans

A new railcard that will allow Scottish veterans to claim a 34 per cent discount on travel has been welcomed by Maree Todd MSP.

The veterans railcard, initially priced at £21 per year, allows holders to travel across the country at reduced fares.

It is open to those who have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces, regular or reserve, Merchant Mariners and those who have seen duty on legally defined military operations.

To encourage uptake, the SNP Government is funding a further discount scheme whereby anyone resident in Scotland registering between now and March 31 2021 will be eligible for a £6 rail voucher making the initial cost just £15.

Ms Todd, who represents the Highlands and Islands, said: 'It is important we recognise the contribution veterans have made in Scotland and this new railcard will help open up opportunities for those who have served – strengthening employment opportunities and travel links with family and friends.'

Visit [www.railcard.co.uk](http://www.railcard.co.uk)

# Motorhome and wild camping tourism in committee spotlight

Members of The Highland Council's Tourism Committee will continue to work with partners, national agencies and communities to meet the challenges and opportunities that exist in the region for motorhomes and wild camping tourism in 2021, writes Mark Entwistle.

Councillor Maxine Smith, tourism committee chairwoman, said that while coronavirus and the increased demand for staycations in the UK have played a large part in the massive increase in demands placed on the Highlands from across the UK, evidence shows motorhome ownership and hire has been increasing over recent years.

'These factors and the relatively cheap availability of tents and mass tent ownership all point to the need for joint management plans to meet tourism needs next season



Highland Council tourism committee discussed various issues, including the boom in camper van numbers.

and for future years, she said. 'We will continue to work with partners in Scottish Government, NatureScot, VisitScotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, SEPA, Scottish Water, The Campervan and Motorhome Professional Association (CAMPA) and local groups to ensure we maximise the opportunities for tourism in the Highlands

while minimising risks to our communities.

'The council is also open to hearing from landowners interested in providing simple short stay sites known on the continent as Aires.

'It may be you are a farmer with a spare field or someone with an extra-large garden, but we need to start thinking more commercially as well as trying

to alleviate issues caused by motorhomes.

'We welcome tourists in the Highlands, but we need to make sure we have the right infrastructure in place for them. Anyone with initial queries about Aires should email the council's tourism officer [colin.simpson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:colin.simpson@highland.gov.uk).'

Councillors also discussed the problems experienced throughout the Highlands largely since the easing of lockdown in mid-July onwards with a marked increase in the number of visitors 'informally' camping in motorhomes and wild camping in tents.

Members noted the legal differences between the two activities and the differing approaches required to address them. Members discussed a range of issues experienced in Highland that have been created by informal motorhome camping including overnight

parking, waste disposal, refuse and recycling.

Lochinver, Helmsdale, Bonar Bridge and Cromarty have plans to develop more dedicated overnight parking sites for motorhomes through the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund such as those already provided at Kinlochbervie and Keiss.

Members also discussed the much-misunderstood legalities and terminology of 'wild camping' and the effects of irresponsible behaviours experienced this season.

Members supported further investigations into provision of more formal campsites, bins and toilets; better promotion of good camping behaviour; more advice and guidance; restrictions on alcohol consumption and better parking in certain locations and more robust enforcement of wild camping not compliant with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

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## Second year of benefit for young carers

Young carers are being encouraged to check if they are entitled to further awards as the Young Carer Grant marks its anniversary.

The Young Carer Grant of £305.10 is available on an annual basis for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds who spend an average of 16 hours a week caring for someone who receives a disability benefit.

Those who have already had a payment are able to apply again if a year has passed since they received their money.

Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: 'Young carers play a vital role in the lives of many people across Scotland and I am glad we can use our social security powers to provide them with the extra support they deserve. As we approach the time where many young carers will once again become eligible for the payment, I strongly encourage them to re-apply if they still meet all the eligibility criteria and for new young carers to apply for the first time.'

## View from The Edge

CATH MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

In my last column, some time ago, I wrote of the effects of lockdown on our rural community – on tourism and hospitality businesses, which in March, before it began, had been looking forward to welcoming tourists over the summer, and of the effect of lockdown on people living on their own.

With restrictions being strictly adhered to, there were no reported cases of Covid-19 in the Western Isles in the summer. We had been fortunate in the Outer Isles in that no one had been hospitalised due to coronavirus.

I, like other campsite owners and businesses, had decided

not to open as we did not want visitors who might bring Covid-19 into our communities and islands.

It was a good, thoughtful decision but then there came what might be called a downside. Many campers continued to come to the islands. Indeed, it was felt many more than usual had chosen to come to the islands and Highlands, rather than go to European countries.

This caused problems. Some public facilities were closed and there was nowhere for the campers to get rid of waste, which normally would be deposited in campsite bins. Some toilets were also closed. People

became angry at the damage being done to the environment by waste being deposited in inappropriate places.

As we neared the end of August, things were improving with the numbers of those affected by coronavirus going down.

I heard a campsite on the west of the island might be opening in September and after a helpful chat with the person preparing for the opening, my feeling was that I should be doing the same, opening our campsite to make it possible for some tourists to find a place where they could have the use of campsite services such as toilets and waste bins.

I decided to open the campsite, but to make it available to only one family per night, as this would make physical distancing easier. A substantial sum was spent on sanitizers, disinfectant and other hygienic items.

There were many requests for bookings which have had to be refused due to the plan to limit the number on the site per night.

Having spent months in lockdown with no tourists or family members arriving to visit in spring or summer as they have been for years, it was a relief and a pleasure to welcome those who came to spend a night or more on the

campsite. After they left, toilets were disinfected before the next visitors came. Those who have come have so far greatly enjoyed their time here and were grateful for having been given a place on the site.

The campsite has now closed, slightly later than it usually does at the end of September.

Community meetings continue to be held by Zoom as do our church services here, available by Zoom or phone.

Sadly, the news about Covid-19 is that numbers are going up again.

We can only hope the restrictions being put in place will be effective and that a vaccine will be found before long.



## Projects urged to apply for Scotland Loves Local funding

Projects in Lochaber are being urged to apply for a new £1 million fund to help promote town centres and online businesses and encourage people to spend locally.

Grants of between £500 and £5,000 will be given out as part

of the Scotland Loves Local scheme, which aims to enable visitors and residents to safely shop, eat and relax within communities.

The funding will support small-scale improvements that will help motivate people to

shop, eat and relax within their community whilst ensuring public health safety.

It can be used for measures such as protective screens, physical distancing markers, hand sanitising equipment and personal protective equip-

ment. Kate Forbes, constituency MSP for Lochaber said: 'It's now more important than ever to consider shopping locally and supporting the brilliant businesses in Lochaber.'

'Businesses need us right now, after months of trying to

survive during lockdown. This £1 million fund, delivered by the Scottish Government, is an opportunity for local projects and locally-based online businesses to support town centres and promote their community.'



## A menu to match the views

### STARTERS

SOUP OF THE DAY £5.50  
Served with a warm bread roll and butter (vegetarian)

SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50  
with warm bread roll and butter

HADDOCK, LANGOUSTINE AND VINE TOMATOES BAKE £9  
with chilli herb and garlic oil served with a warm bread roll

MACARONI CHEESE £7  
with garlic bread - add smoked salmon £1.50

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £12  
3 scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with dressed leaves

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £8  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £10  
Served hot in garlic butter with a bread roll or served cold with salad and garlic mayonnaise

### MAIN COURSES

FISH & CHIPS £13  
in our own beer batter served with tartare sauce

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £21  
baked in garlic butter or served cold with garlic mayonnaise and salad - both served with rustic chips

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £25  
6 king scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with salad and rustic chips

MACARONI CHEESE £10  
with ciabatta garlic bread - Add smoked salmon £3

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £14.50  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

HOT SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN LINGUINE £16.50  
in a white wine and cream sauce, served with garlic bread

HADDOCK, SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN GRATIN £17  
oven baked with a cheese, cream and

leek sauce, topped with breadcrumbs and served with rustic chips

10Z RIBEYE STEAK £28  
served with roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings, rustic chips, salad and peppercorn sauce.

HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER £12  
2 x 4oz burgers served on a seeded bun with salad, onion rings and burger sauce served with rustic chips on the side - add cheese & bacon - £1 each

CURRY OF THE DAY £12  
served with wild rice, popadom, mango chutney & spiced onions

### SIDES

RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.

MIXED LEAF SALAD £3

ONION RINGS £3

2 WARM BREAD ROLLS AND BUTTER £2

GARLIC BREAD £3

### SOMETHING SWEET

BANOFFEE PIE £6  
biscuit base with toffee sauce & bananas topped with fresh cream

WARM CHOCOLATE BROWNIE £6  
with chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream

TODAYS CHEESECAKE £6  
with toasted oats and fresh raspberries

### WEE ISLE DAIRY ICE CREAM

1 SCOOP £2 // 2 SCOOPS £4 // 3 SCOOPS £6  
Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry & Salted Caramel

LEMON SORBET £4

### CHILDREN'S MENU

FISH AND CHIPS £7  
fresh haddock fillet in our own batter served with chips

CURRY OF THE DAY £7  
served with wild rice and popadom (curry may be spicy, please ask)

CHICKEN GOUJONS £7  
fresh chicken fillet in our own batter served with chips and beans

4oz BEEF BURGER £7  
served with chips

MINI MOULES MARINIÈRE £7  
with chips

MACARONI CHEESE £7  
served with garlic bread



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Week one: Craignure Golf Club with club captain Steven Wilson.



Week two: Dalmally Golf Club with club captain Graham Mackechnie.



Week three: Taynuilt Golf Club with club secretary Moira MacVicar and captain Carol MacLarty.



The first practice drive at Craignure.

# For the love of Bobcast! I'm learning to play golf

Oban Times journalist and golf beginner Fiona Scott attempts to unravel the mysteries of the local fairways and gain a handicap of 53 by the time she is 53 at the end of June next year.

Whatever it is I'm doing, be it work, home or life in general, I do like to have a purpose.

So it stands to reason that when I was invited to join the Bobcast regulars, I actually found myself a purpose for being there.

For those of you who haven't managed to catch it yet, Bobcast - you can find it at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and on our Facebook page - is

an informal, chatty golfing podcast hosted by Oban Times IT guru and multipotentialite Steevie Day, along with Wyvex Media Group Operations Director Keith McIntyre and finance manager George Graham. And now there's me!

Bobcast has been running since August last year, Steevie's idea after he heard Keith and George rambling on about golf in general and, in particular, how well Oban golf ace Robert MacIntyre was doing in his rookie season.

'The idea was just to have a bit of a laugh and see if anyone was interested in our

inane witterings about golf and Bob,' explained Keith.

'We recognised that in Bob, we had a potential world star on our hands and that doesn't happen often in a wee place like Oban.'

Since its humble beginnings, Bobcast has developed to include interviews and various segments, as well as occasional appearances from other members of staff who know even less about golf than Keith, George and Steevie.

In terms of golfing credentials, Keith and George describe themselves as 'pretty average players'. Keith plays off eight and George is a com-

plete hacker off 19. George is a member at Glencruitten and Keith at Airdrie where he is currently vice captain.

Back to my purpose then. Well to start with, learn to play golf!

On November 2 the CONGU handicapping system, currently used in Great Britain and Ireland, will change over to a World Handicap System with a maximum of 54. At the end of June next year I become 53. My challenge/purpose? To gain a handicap of 53 by the time I turn 53.

To help me achieve this goal I have enlisted some helpers. I have already visited

Craignure Golf Club where I received lessons from club captain Steven Wilson and advice from secretary Barry Whenman. Next up was Dalmally, where club captain Graham Mackechnie put me through my paces. Then onto Taynuilt, club captain Carol MacLarty and secretary Moira MacVicar being my hosts.

I'm not giving too much away as I will be talking about each visit on the next three episodes of Bobcast, while the hosts on each of my visits have also given an honest account of how I got on.

I will say, however, that my journey so far as been a bit of

a roller coaster. I'm used to multi-tasking but this 'gowf' malarkey is a whole different ball game.

Head straight, eyes on the prize, hips back, back straight, one arm straight and one arm slightly bent, knees slightly bent, draw club back and swoosh. Did I mention keep your eyes on the prize!

Why do it then? When you do manage to hit that 43mm dimpled missile down the fairway towards the fluttering pennant in the distance and then, a few shots later, hear the satisfactory plink of your ball landing in the putting cup, the feeling you get is way over par.

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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Planning ahead for next year's visitors a good move

This summer saw a huge number of problems in communities across Lochaber due to a massive influx of visitors putting an unexpected amount of pressure on infrastructure at visitor attractions, beauty spots, rural roads and locations and in our villages and towns.

Many communities were left to clean up the mess so it's not surprising some landowners have had enough and locked gates on some rural paths and placed boulders along verges to block access to everyone, including responsible visitors and locals.

However, this is not the answer and we are behind Highland Council's proposal to produce a five-year visitor management plan aimed at addressing the 2021 tourism season and visitor demands in future years.

When lockdown restrictions were lifted during the summer and visitors started to return to the region, it was a welcome boost for businesses, but if staycations are on the rise and we can expect the same level of visitors next year, we need to improve our infrastructure and allay local fears, making sure our communities, wildlife and environment are not the ones paying the price of a lack of foresight.

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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## A time to reflect

Churches and their congregations in Scotland have been especially hard done by in these virus times, according to Angus MacDonald, Letters, October 8.

Angus correctly identifies visible and immediate problems for congregations. Collection plate takings are down, while expenses continue to accrue or increase, leaving some churches facing a survival challenge.

C S Lewis wrote: 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world'. The sovereign Lord always has a plan and is never surprised by any turn of events.

The pandemic has reminded us of our fragility and weakness. We have seen moral and political hypocrisy exposed on a grand scale. We have seen modern science and technology fail to deliver us from a minuscule viral particle.

While we are grateful for the benefits of NHS healthcare, and a relatively high standard of living, the pandemic has fixed our minds on deeper existential and spiritual questions. There are abundant evidences in science for a creator God and no serious historian doubts the impact of Jesus Christ on human history, remembered in the three paragraphs of One Solitary Life. The pandemic time period, with its lockdown-type restrictions, has gifted us a precious time to prayerfully reflect upon that One Solitary Life.

Dr James Hardy, Belfast.

## Can your readers help?

After finding out after many years of searching that my grandfather lived at 10 Lundy Road, Inverloch, I would love to know if anyone in that area remembers him and his wife Elizabeth.

He worked at the aluminium factory and after he and my grandmother divorced, he moved from Muirkirk to Fort William, where he remarried. My mother was only a child when she last saw her father but never forgot him.

Neither my brother, sister or I ever saw a photograph of him, so any memory we could find, however small, would be dearly treasured. He passed away in 1968 and his wife in 1980 but I feel certain someone, even now, would have knowledge of them.

Kate Cartwright, [william.cartwright2@btinternet.com](mailto:william.cartwright2@btinternet.com)

## Rest and Be Thankful

As many of your readers will be aware, Transport Scotland is currently engaged in consultation with the public on corridor options for the A83.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Tha an deasbad eadar an Riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn agus ceannardan chuid de bhailtean-mòra chinn a tuath Shasainn air teasachadh fiù 's barrachd, le casaidean air Ministearan gum bheil burraidheachd agus breugadh ga chleachdadh gus poileasaidh a chur an gnìomh. Bheil cus air atharrachadh ma-thà bhon t-seachdain a chaidh? An e iongnadh a th' ann gum bheil daoine a' fàs pailt cho sgìth de naidheachdan Covid 19 's a bha iad de sgeulachd Brexit fad chòrr air ochd mìosan deug roimhe?

Ach chan eil modh oisric dhan t-sluagh dol a dhèiligeadh ri dùbhlain den t-seòrsa agus tha feum air aonta chiallach bho cheannardan ris an gabh a' mhòr-shluagh. Sin dùbhlain eile! Ged a tha luchd-poilitigs air a bhith a' feuchainn ri slighe èifeachdach a lorg le Brexit agus Covid, tha e fìor cuideachd gun robh iad a' dèiligeadh ri suidheachaidhean annasach air nach robh eòlas aig neach sam bith. Cha do chuir sin stad orra a bhith a' toirt gheallaidhean air adhartas soirbheachail. 'S e pàirt de dhual-nàdair luchd-poilitigs nach eil e cur cus dragh orra nuair nach tig na gheallaidhean gu buil, gheibhear leisgeul air choreigin. Bidh mi a' cuimhneachadh air an sgeulachd aig mo sheann neach-teagaisg Calum MacLeòid mu nach biodh seanalair airm uair sam bith a' tarraing air ais, 's ann a bhiodh e a' tionndadh agus a' dol air adhart!

Eadar na deasbadaidh air aonta dealachaidh

The Argyll and Bute branch of the Scottish Green party is concerned that the 11 proposed options fail to address the present and future needs of Argyll and Bute, including the need for secure and resilient supply routes to the whole of Argyll and Bute, particularly to island communities; safe, well-maintained roads that go to and from the right places and a joined-up transport policy designed to serve the needs of residents, businesses and visitors to Argyll and Bute. Most alarmingly, the consultation provides no reference to climate change, either as a cause of the current A83 emergency or as a factor to be considered in each of the options.

There appears to have been a process of elimination of options prior to the publication of the consultation, for example, there is no reference to rail links, a tunnel, improved ferry services or alternative routes for freight, and it would be in the public interest to make explicit how this process was undertaken, by whom and whether any

bhon Roinn Eòrpa agus an t-sri an aghaidh a' choròna-bhiorais chunnacas mar-thà iomadh gealladh, bho Mhinistearan, a chaidh a bhri-seadh. Chan eil e soilleir a bharrachd gum bheil na poileasaidhean a thathas a' feuchainn ri chur an gnìomh dol a liubhairt an toraidh as fhearr dhan dùthaich. Saoilidh mi gum bheil sin a' fàgail ùmhlachd an t-sluagh dha riaghailtean nas dorra a ghleidheadh, ach ged a thuigear sin gu ìre tha e draghail da-rìribh gum biodh uimhir cho beag tùir 's gun siùbhladh iad gu taighean-seinnse anns na Crichean a choimhead ball-coise air telebhisean. Began tlachd 's dòcha a bhith a' dùbhlachadh Prìomh Mhinistear na h-Alba, gun ghuth air a' chunnart san robh iad gan cur fhèin 's an teaghlach agus an dùthaich gu lèir.

Chaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2020 seachad air-loidhne, agus ged a chòrd na chunnaic iad ri daoine bha ionndrainn air coinneachadh. Ged a bha i fliuch madainn Dhisathairne seo chaidh nuair a bha còir aig na còisirean a bhith a' cruinneachadh, thog a' mhadainn oirre agus nochd a' ghrian gu brèagha. Ag amharc a' cheò 's an smùid a' dol à sealladh fo bhuaidh theas na grèine bhuail e orm gur dòcha gur e deagh shamhla a bh' ann air na bhios romhainn airson Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2021. Bidh sinn beò an dòchas!

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

surveys or studies on the geological, economic, social or environmental impact of each option have been undertaken.

We believe most of the options presented would be so unfeasible in terms of engineering costs that we would be drawn to only one or two that would appear to offer the least challenging short-term solution for restoring a safe and reliable route in Argyll and Bute. If we are correct, this is not a consultation in the true sense of the word. There is no doubt the need to address the A83 crisis of connectivity is an urgent one. However, we must not be driven to actions that might bring even greater problems further down the line. Is it time perhaps for both a short and long-term solution?

We would be interested in hearing the views of your readers and would invite them to contact us at [argyll-bute@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:argyll-bute@scottishgreens.org.uk)

Dennis Archer and Cathy Cameron, co-convenors, Argyll and Bute Greens.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Covid sees cancellation of Fort Remembrance events

The Dawn to Dusk Vigil scheduled by the Fort William and District branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland for Saturday November 7, along with the Fort William Remembrance Parade planned for Sunday November 8, have had to be cancelled as a result of current Covid-19 restrictions.

Branch president Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Lane MBE, told the Lochaber Times the decision had not been taken lightly.

'We fully understand the significance of this day to a great many of those within Lochaber,' he said.

'I can assure readers that much dialogue was held between the council, the police and our chairman before it was agreed we could not police a gathering such as this without putting



Fort William's Remembrance Service in 2018.

people at risk. As unfortunate as this is, we feel honour bound to pay homage to the fallen of

Lochaber so we would still like to encourage people to pay their respects by standing outside their home and observing a minute's silence with us at 11am on Sunday November 8.

'If anyone takes photographs of this tribute, please send them to us and we will attempt to have as many of them as possible published.'

Lieutenant Colonel Lane went on to say that if there were any individuals or organisations wishing to lay wreaths or crosses at the Fort William War Memorial, they were encouraged to do so under their own arrangements.

But he cautioned: 'We would ask that everyone observe the rules for social distancing and only gather in accordance with the current advice and restrictions as laid down by the Scottish Parliament.'

## First regional archaeology festival held online hailed a success

Highland Council's first virtual archaeology festival, which came to an end last week, attracted more than 1,600 participants from across Scotland, the rest of the UK and as far afield as Australia and the United States.

The festival comprised a series of 12 online evening talks organised by the council's Historic Environment Team, celebrating recent archaeological discoveries and the heritage of the Highlands.

Chairwoman of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Trish Robertson, expressed her gratitude to the event organisers and to everyone who took part.

She said: 'Ordinarily, we would have had two weeks of events and hosted more than 160 delegates for two days at the Highland Council chamber for the annual conference.'

'For many people interested in Highland's history and heritage or who work in the sector, the Archaeology Festival is the highlight of the year and the only opportunity to hear about the work of others, to exchange ideas and network.'

'Despite the current restrictions, we were determined to hold the festival in 2020.'

And she added: 'This year the rich heritage of the Highlands has been promoted to a wider audience than would normally have been possible.'

'Those that attended praised the council for going the extra mile in these difficult times with many urging us to continue with virtual talks next year, even if restrictions are relaxed.'

'Our historic environment team did a terrific job in adapting how the conference was delivered and I sincerely thank everyone who took part.'



## Ardnamurchan High School's Bethan wins academic achievement award

Ardnamurchan High School pupil Bethan White has been awarded the annual Lochaber Housing Award for academic achievement.

Bethan gained five awards at A - four at Higher and one Advanced Higher - in S5. This is in addition to achieving six awards at A in S4 - two at Higher level and four at National 5).

Bethan is now studying at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

'Bethan has been an exceptionally dedicated and hardworking student and this award is well deserved in recognition of her excellent

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig presented the 2020 Lochaber Housing Association award to Bethan White.

academic achievements. We wish her well in her studies in Dundee,' said head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig.

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## Saints march in following football league postponement

Oban Saints GG 2  
South Lochaber Thistle 5  
Pre-season friendly

Newly-reinstated Covid restrictions meant South Lochaber Thistle's league campaign was delayed again, so Oban Saints' second team kindly offered this hastily arranged Thursday night friendly - the second in as many weeks between the two sides.

The Oban lads were hit by a whirlwind start from the visitors when the Lochaber side raced to a 4-0 half time lead with a first half hat-trick from the impressive Martin Munro and a well taken strike from Allan MacLellan.

Noble finally scored from open play for the first time in ages in the second half.

Oban finished the game strongly, scoring two consolation goals in the last ten minutes through Fraser MacFarlane and Dean Smith.

Injuries to Gordie MacCredie with a rolled ankle and a suspected pulled hamstring for Munro in the last five minutes tarnished an accomplished performance from the Jags.

Manager Alan Gray said of the game: 'Tonight was an opportunity to give all the lads game time.'

'The squad is committed and there are plenty of players which gives us good headaches as we head towards league football which is scheduled to start on Saturday October 31 with a tough away game against St Pat's FPs in Dumbarton.'

# Trials and celebrations as Ben takes world bronze

Roy Bridge trials rider Ben Dignan has put Scotland on the map with his third place finish in the FIM World Trial125 Championship.

The Lochaber youngster was awarded his bronze FIM World Trial125 Championship medal on the podium in Italy on Sunday October 11, alongside French Beta rider Leo Guiraud, second, and fellow Vertigo rider Pau Martinez from Spain

in first place. The weekend had been a great finish to the 2020 season for the young Scot as he finished day one in fifth having dropped 80 points.

On day two Ben pulled it back with a nail-biting finish just one point behind fellow Brit Jack Dance on the Gas Gas TXT, putting him on the podium in second.

Alexz Wigg, Ben's mentor and former Junior World

Champion, commented: 'After a rude awakening in the first round, Ben settled into his riding and grew with confidence as the season progressed.'

'He kept working hard and was improving with every trial. He really kept his cool on numerous occasions especially during the round in Andorra, which he won, and the last day in Italy which secured his third place.'

'I am very proud of how far he has come in our short time working together.'

### Happy

Ben added: 'I can't put into words how happy I am to say I finished third in the world. It's a bit surreal, especially in such a competitive championship.'

'This year wouldn't have been possible without the support of my mentor Alexz Wigg, Dougie Lampkin and the Vertigo team, my family and my sponsors. Thank you everyone.'

Ben has been riding trials since the age of four and has competed for a number of years in the Scottish Championship and the ACU Trial GB Championship. In 2019, he was crowned the ACU British Trial125 Champion as well as being the first Scottish rider to finish third in the FIM Trial European Championship.

### Signed

Earlier this year, the 17-year-old signed for 12 times Trial World Champion Dougie Lampkin's Vertigo factory team and set his sights on competing in the FIM Trial125 World Championship. Across



World bronze for Ben in FIM Trial125 Championship.

the four rounds, Ben has achieved top 10 finishes in every round including a third in Spain and a win in Andorra.

Dougie commented: 'Ben has done brilliantly in what has proved a very competitive class.'

'At the start of the season, few would have put his name in the mix to take home a medal, but he has shown great maturity and consistency and coped amazingly well under pressure when it counted.'

'Third place overall and a GP win is a great reward for all the work he has put in over recent months.'

Ben's efforts now turn to winter training in Europe with mentor Alexz Wigg.



Ben in action during the World Trial125 Championships in Italy.



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