



## Oban tot says thank you to cheery binman

### West Highland Yachting Week – get the lowdown on this year's event

#### Bombshell as Chalmers closes

Shocked staff at Chalmers in Oban have thanked customers for their support after the bombshell news that the iconic store on George Street is now closed.

The five staff members were told on Tuesday July 20 and it apparently follows a decision by the landlord following negotiations over the future of the lease.

Chalmers manager Helen Hetherington said: 'We are all in a state of shock and packing up boxes. We just want our customers to know that it has not been anything we've done and we are going to miss them all.'

• Full story [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

#### Cracking job, Bob



Oban golfer ties in eighth at Open in top weekend.

• See back page for more

## SAY 'YELLOW WELLIES!'



Look who popped up to support Oban lifeboat this weekend, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Holidaymakers Harris and Rosie Booth were with dad Tom, a member of Keswick lifeboat crew, when they spotted the RNLI pop-up stall and went to say hello.

The youngsters, aged nine and six, were all smiles for this jolly yellow welly snap.

Oban fundraisers set a record for knitting pairs of mini yellow wellies in May this year and challenged other stations to have a go at beating it in 2022.

Tom, who is also a systems training and support officer for the RNLI, will be rallying contenders to take up the challenge when he gets back to work.

A pair of these record-setting mini-wellies can be yours in return for a donation - just go to the next pop-up stall on the North Pier on July 31, August 14 or on August 28, from 10am to 4pm.

## Perfect match for life

Taynuilt's Lorne Gilles gives stranger a second chance 20 years after bone marrow transplant saves his brother

A Taynuilt man is about to make a donation that could be a stranger's last chance of survival, writes Kathie Griffiths.

More than two decades after a bone marrow transplant saved his big brother's life from Leukaemia, Lorne Gillies is thanking that act of kindness by becoming a donor too.

When a random London number flashed up on his phone in March this year, little did the 28-year-old know it was a call from a lifesaving charity that he signed up with five years ago -

telling him he was a possible match for a patient in need.

It was Lorne's mum Ishbel who suggested he and sister Kirsty, who lives in Kilmelford, sign up as potential donors with The Anthony Nolan Charity, but neither heard anything back after sending off blood samples from a DIY home kit that came in the post.

'It felt a bit alien four or five years after to have someone on the other end of the line out of the

Continued on page 7.

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## Men's group meet for first time since lockdown

Ganavan was the perfect spot for a catch up when Oban Hospice's Dove Centre Men's Group met face-to-face for first time since last year's lockdown, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Bacon rolls, cake and tea were donated from Dougie Dan's van as members also tucked in to a mix of chat and music.

The men had been getting together weekly on Friday morning at the Dove Centre since it opened in 2017, but the activity was suspended in lockdown.

Covid did not stop the men staying in touch, with regular phone calls, weekly Zooms and a WhatsApp group, but nothing could match meeting up face-to-face, said Dove Centre co-ordinator Peter

Darling, adding: 'It was also the opportunity for all those who have become involved since the lockdown to meet everyone else. For those who were able to come along, it was a great boost for their wellbeing.'

Call 01631 561315 for more details on the group, email enquiries@obanhospice.org.uk or contact the Dove Centre via personal messenger at the Oban Hospice Facebook page.

Peter added: 'As we ease out of lockdown the Dove Men's weekly get togethers will be held in appropriate indoor or outdoor locations, or on Zoom, as well as the ongoing WhatsApp group and phone calls. There is no requirement to register for the Dove Men's Group.'

**Friendly chat, fresh air and free bacon rolls when the Dove Centre's Men's Group met at Ganavan recently.**



# New bike-friendly train stops in Oban

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

A piper, local cyclists and official dignitaries gathered at Oban railway station to herald the arrival of a new era of train travel for the UK.

After two years of development involving a host of agencies, ScotRail's Highland Explorer, the first of five trains to be fitted out with a new dedicated 'active travel carriage,' pulled in on Monday afternoon.

The spacious area makes it a cinch for visitors to store a range of different sized bikes and bulky hiking equipment, as well as incentivising them to leave the car at home. It also features tables showing popular cycling routes across Argyll and Bute.

Just before 2pm, the service, which will run twice a day



along the West Highland Line from Glasgow Queen Street, made its first stop in Oban.

It was met by local piper Jamie MacGregor; Bid4Oban chief Andy Spence; Carron Tobin of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative; and Councillor Elaine Robertson, of Argyll and Bute Council.

Joining the welcoming party were members of North Argyll Cycle Club, which has helped with the project, including local cyclists Moira and Ruaridh Newiss, of Connel; and Steven Groom, who lives near Benderloch.

Among the throng of cyclists getting off was Markus Stitz, founder of Bikepacking

**The welcoming party at Oban Railway Station on Monday, July 19.**

Scotland, who helped with the initiative, and declared the carriage 'great' and the journey 'lovely'.

Sustrans, working with Scotrail and AITC have produced Rail & Trail, a new initiative promoting leisure cycling and the Caledonia Way from the railway.

■ Visit [railandtrail.co.uk](http://railandtrail.co.uk)

For more information about routes go to:

■ [www.visitscotland.com/see-do/active/cycling/sustrans-cycle-map](http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/active/cycling/sustrans-cycle-map)

■ [www.komoot.com/user/2184913606963](http://www.komoot.com/user/2184913606963)

■ [bikepackingscotland.com/argyll/](http://bikepackingscotland.com/argyll/)

## Driver guilty of careless driving

A delivery driver for a wholesale food company was found guilty of careless driving when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Damian Michael McAuley of 10e Miller Road, Oban, denied dangerous driving on the Isle of Mull which left another driver with a broken wrist and a written-off car.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told the 29-year-old at the end of his trial that while he did not find him guilty of dangerous driving, his driving 'had fallen below the standard expected' and found McAuley guilty of careless driving, imposing a fine of £700, with a victim surcharge of £40 and added nine points to his licence.

'You are now one endorsement away from losing your licence,' the sheriff warned.

The incident happened on September 20 last year on the A849 near to Leob Cottage, Pennyghael, and McAuley was charged with driving at excessive speed for the road conditions and crossing into the opposing carriageway and colliding with an on coming car.

His defence agent Kevin McGinness questioned how McAuley could cross into the opposing carriageway as this was a single-track road.

The driver of the other car, a



community nurse based on the island, was on her way home from Craignure travelling towards Fionnphort and saw the van coming towards her.

'I slowed down and pulled in at a passing place,' she said. 'I had almost stopped and then the van just came towards me, it wasn't going to stop.'

The force of the impact between the two vehicles pushed them 100 yards, each off the road and onto the verge.

She said McAuley had said to her: 'My brakes aren't working very well' and also 'I was in a hurry for the ferry'.

McAuley denied this. He told the court that he had seen the other car pull into the passing space and then start to come out of it when he was 'within three seconds' of the vehicle.

He told the court he had said 'My brakes aren't that good' meaning that he could never have stopped in the seconds

between her car pulling out and the impact. And he added that his delivery run to Iona and back had been delayed by the Iona ferry being suspended for three hours and he had already telephoned his employer to make arrangements to stay on the island.

'There was no hurry, it is just not true,' he said, adding that he had slowed down when he saw the oncoming car and was doing 15 mph when the car pulled part way out of the passing place.

But procurator fiscal James Dunbar pointed to one of the crash-scene photographs shown to the court and said: 'Are you telling me that amount of damage to a Ford Fiesta was done at 15mph?'

McAuley's defence agent said that type of question could only be answered with expert advice. He also argued that there was no case to answer as McAuley had not been cautioned before being questioned by the police officer interviewing him; the sheriff did not uphold this argument.

'I accept the evidence of the Crown witnesses and I am satisfied that you caused this accident,' the sheriff said to McAuley, but he added: 'I am conscious of the demands and pressures drivers like yourself are subject to.'



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## Service with a smile receives sweet reward

Binman Sean MacVicar collects more than just garbage on his weekly rounds – he picks up plenty of smiles too.

The cheery chap's friendly waves and hellos have made him a Facebook hit after one mum went online to say a big thank you for making her little girl's day every week.

Four-year-old Evie Mackinnon's mum Ailsa wanted to say thank you to the 'Young bin man who wears a bucket hat and glasses', so put up a post on Information Oban to let him know what his waves mean to the tot.

'I just wanted him to see it on Facebook so he could realise how much it means to her when he waves.

'It's been going on for months now. She gets excited as soon as she hears the lorry coming from the next street and rushes to the window to look out for her "friend", said Ailsa.

It seems Evie is not the only one who appreciates Sean's waves. Ailsa's original post got almost 400 likes.

Another mum posted: 'My



The highlight of the week for four-year-old Evie Mackinnon is when Sean waves to her.

three stand at the window every week in Taynuilt and the same guy waves every time! They love it! Thank you!

He has also been described as 'an absolute legend' and 'a very polite, obliging young man', making his mum Deirdrie MacVicar proud: 'This is my boy!' she replied on Facebook.

Sean's bosses at Argyll and Bute Council also had praise.

# Barrier call after runaway car at Ganavan beach

by Ellis Butcher  
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A horrifying near miss at Ganavan Sands involving a runaway car and a family on the beach has prompted calls for an urgent risk assessment and safety barrier.

The vehicle, which had been parked in the busy car park, rolled down the slipway and veered off towards an oblivious family gathered on the beach on the afternoon of Wednesday July 14.

Horrified onlookers yelled for them to get out of the way and the party, including a young baby, managed to escape, although its buggy ended up under the front of the out-of-control vehicle.

And an older member of the party – who eyewitnesses believe may have stopped the car from going any further – was



injured in the collision and taken to hospital.

Dougie Graham, who has run a snack bar at the car park for five years and serves as a member of Oban Community Council, has now said something needs to be done to prevent vehicles from rolling off the car park.

Mr Graham said: 'Since I've been here this type of incident has happened about four times now. I would fully support working with anyone to rectify this and make it safer. People

go there to enjoy the beach and they would never suspect a terrible accident.'

Mr Graham, who was among those calling 999, said very heavy motorhomes, weighing between three and seven tonnes, use the car park and the outcome could have been very different.

The day before had been a warmer day with far more people on the beach, he said, adding that sunbathers were sitting either side of the slipway with their backs to the car

The car rolled down the slipway and landed on the beach where a family with a baby had been sitting seconds before.

park and using the slope as a windbreak. With wheelchair users unable to get on to the beach, some parked their wheelchair on the slipway to be near their family, but would not have been able to get out of the way in time had the incident happened then, he said.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said police were called to a report of a man being injured at 3.10pm and that enquiries are continuing.

Argyll and Bute Council, which runs the car park, said: 'This is an ongoing investigation, we are waiting to hear from Police Scotland to determine the cause of the incident.'

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## Ballet West vice principal charged with 16 sex offences

Jonathan Barton, former vice principal of Ballet West, Taynuilt, appeared on petition at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday July 14.

Barton, aged 39, has been charged with 16 sex offences including assault and rape, and indecent assault.

The press and public are not allowed into petition hearings and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service issued a statement

last week following the court appearance saying that Barton made no plea and has been committed for further examination and released on bail.

## Man fined over threatening behaviour

Sebastian Woznica, aged 30, formerly of Connel, was fined £375 at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

Woznica, who was not present in court, but represented by a defence agent, had admitted behaving in a threatening or

abusive manner at an address in Connel on February 24 this year.

Procurator fiscal James Dunbar said that Woznica had gone to the address uninvited and repeatedly shouted, swore and was aggressive to the occupants. The police were called to attend.

His defence agent, Jane McLaren said Woznica and his partner were both now living and working at a hotel in Argyll and intended to return to Poland once this matter was concluded.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes also ordered that Woznica pay a £20 victim surcharge.



Pat Knight, Orla Sedgwick and Jess Hill with one of Ellenabeich's overflowing public bins, which they have been emptying themselves.

## Call for 'urgent summit' over Mull ferry crisis

Long-standing concerns about the resilience of local ferry services have blown up again after the sudden withdrawal of the Isle of Mull's second vessel.

The MV Coruisk, which can take up to 40 cars and 250 passengers, was taken off schedules due to an engine problem, with the smaller 35-year-old Loch Linnhe drafted in as a relief vessel by CalMac, but only capable of transporting 12 vehicles.

It saw cancelled services and meant the bulk of those who would have used the MV Coruisk having to go overland via Corran Ferry, through Lochaline to Fishnish to catch that ferry.

The MV Coruisk was back in service by Friday July 16 but the incident follows hard on the heels of Pentland Ferries withdrawing from talks over the use of the MV Pentalina catamaran as a back-up.

Campaigners have called the stop-start situation a 'crisis,' with the RMT union calling for an urgent summit

Joe Reade, chairman of the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee, said: 'This can't go on for much longer. Additional ferries need to be brought into the fleet urgently. The islands are suffering, and urgent action is needed.'

For the full story, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

# Village step up to DIY bin duty

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Octogenarian Pat Knight is stepping up to bin duty after claims that Argyll and Bute Council has let down heritage village Ellenabeich.

Mrs Knight, whose window looks straight out onto one of the problem bins, got so fed-up with council refuse collectors only emptying the public bins every three weeks that she literally took the matter into her own hands.

The 83-year-old was one of a number of other, including 20-year-old Orla Sedgwick and Jess Hill who runs Seafari Tours, who took on the litter-busting job they wanted the council to do more often.

Within hours of the refuse lorry calling, the bins were overflowing once again.

There has been repeated calls for help from the council to up its collections and provide more bins but nothing happened and the litter was getting worse as more and more staycationers descended.

This week, after more calls including enquiries from The Oban Times, Seil Community Council got an email from Argyll and Bute Council saying the public bins would be added to the collection list for the commercial round that empties The Oyster Bar's waste.

A new wheelie bin also reappeared near the public toilets, after it was removed by Argyll

and Bute Council last year. But there is still a stink about the council's 91-space car park on the sea front where there are no bins at all, says Seil Community Council chairman Zim Knight. Campers pitching up on the car park are stuffing their waste in residents' bins instead.

When the public bins are brimming, people are also dumping rubbish bags next to them. Seagulls are swooping in and scattering it, even ripping open dog poo bags in the hope of finding scraps to eat.

Argyll and Bute Council has a £500,000 budget to help deliver a range of facilities needed to support staycations and that includes extra waste disposal facilities.

Mr Knight said: 'It's disgusting we've been left in this mess. They've got money to sort this out, so give us some of it.'

'We are a tourist hot-spot in Argyll - we have wildlife sea tours, kayaking, the Slate Islands museum, the pub, incredible walks.

'We've got so much to offer but our requests for help to manage the huge number of

visitors have not been listened to, although there seems to be some movement now that we've put even more pressure on.

'It's not right the community is having to empty public bins and do the job for them. This would not happen in Oban, at least there they have a street-cleaner - we do not!

'If they won't give us extra bins in their own car park then maybe be they should hand the car park over to us so we can run it, charge for it and use the money to provide the bins we desperately need.'

The community council will keep working with councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green to make sure they see positive change.

'The situation needed upgrading to whoever is at the top and makes the actual decisions to give us more bins. If this does not happen, we will report it as a hazard to environmental health,' Mr Knight added.

The community council has already supplied its own bin at Seaview's scenic layby that has to be emptied daily and wild campers on the shore near Dunearn have been using up space in the school's bin.

There have also been reports of campers using car parks and gardens as a toilet.

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# Community rallies round Dalavich house-fire family

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Crowdfunders have raised thousands of pounds for a Dalavich family who lost everything in a house fire.

More than £6,000 has been donated so far to a crowdfunder online for Irene MacClounnan whose house burned to the ground.

Taynuilt Post Office is also being used as a drop-off point for donations and contributions as part of an effort by elders and parishioners at Muckairn Church that has links with Dalavich and Kilchrenan.

Session Clerk for Muckairn Church Ann Scott said people in and out of the church family all wanted to help: 'This is what happens at terrible times like this - the whole community wants to help,' she said.



**Dramatic photographs as fire took grip of Irene MacClounnan's pink house on the edge of Dalavich, left, and the shell that was left.** Photographs: Luis Maria Gonzalez Araujo

Irene, her granddaughter Lauren and friend Luis were left with just their nightclothes after the blaze broke out in the early hours of July 8.

It is believed it started

after a wax melt in a jar was accidentally knocked over and shattered. Wax spilled on to bedding and the house 'went up so quickly', Irene told The Oban Times.



try and get basic home essentials and clothing to help the devastated family get back on its feet.

Irene, 70, who has stood down as chairperson of Dalavich Improvement Group so she can concentrate on rebuilding a future, said: 'I'd like to thank everyone who is helping us. It really does mean the world.'

'Everything on the walls had sentimental value. I lost things belonging to my mother, wedding presents from my first marriage, a Royal Albert china set, so much has all gone but at least we are still here and have our lives.'

'I was asleep when it happened. It was terrifying how it all went up so quickly.'

You can make a donation at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dalavich-house-fire](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dalavich-house-fire)

After check-ups at the hospital they were given the all clear and allowed out, although Lauren needed treatment for minor burns. Irene, also relieved to be reunited with

her four pets, is now staying at a relative's home in the village until she can start rebuilding her house.

Her niece Alison Wright set up the Crowdfunding page to



Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Technology Bites

No, my headline is not miss-spelt! Last month I looked at some amazing technology that can save your eyesight. This month I want to examine how technology can bite us and cause long term detrimental damage to our eye sight.

It's the end of my financial year and I have spent many hours each day on my laptop getting my paperwork ready for my accountants. Combine that with the hours spent on screen at work I reckon I am spending 10 or 11 hours per day on screen. I am sure I am not alone spending excessive time on screen. Thankfully, I don't "do" social media and I don't have Netflix etc. As adults we make informed choices about time spent on screen. Children are under massive pressure to be online,



whether using smartphones or computers. In school they regularly use computers to assist their learning. At home most homework is now online, plus time spent on social media.

Using computers for learning is a necessary evil. I have two major concerns about kids and computer based learning. From a social viewpoint what about families that cannot afford

a computer. Children can be evil and stigmatise their fellow pupils who cannot access a home computer. From an optometric viewpoint we are raising a generation of tech savvy kids who are developing myopia at an incredible rate. Children's eyes typically develop and grow to focus naturally on what they spend most time looking at...in this generation of kids that's smartphones and computers. It means everything beyond arms-length appears blurred. I am seeing more and more kids developing myopia due to excessive near vision work. Research has shown our kids need to spend much less time on-line and much more time outdoors to help their eyes develop naturally with good all-round vision.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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It's fantastic news that this week Scotland moved to Level 0, another step in our journey back to normality, but it's up to us to be sensible and keep doing what we're doing.

The good weather we've been having has made it much easier to meet up with others outdoors and the fact that so many places now have outside seating is really adding to the holiday atmosphere, even if you live here.

I must admit to being very partial to a beer garden on a nice day and luckily we have lots of them to enjoy and plenty of lovely outdoor seating in the cafes. I hope this continues after the pandemic is over as it's really enhanced the town centre.

On Monday we were also

delighted to welcome another enhancement for Oban with the first of Scotrail's Highland Explorer Active Travel carriages. This is the first of the carriages to be rolled out, with space for 20 bikes, lots more room for luggage and charging points for electric bikes. As well as making it much easier for visitors to bring their bikes to explore Argyll it will also allow Obanites to travel to other stations along the line to Glasgow and enjoy days out with their bikes.

The carriage looks fantastic too – it's decorated with various images, including of Kilchurn Castle. It's going to turn heads as it travels between Oban and Glasgow.

The photograph last week was of the beautiful flower planters at St John's Cathedral, and this week – I've already given you a hint.

# Oban volunteers win TSI awards

by Fiona Scott

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Volunteers from across the region put on their best bib and tucker on Friday night for the online Argyll and Bute TSI Volunteer of the Year Awards.

A total of 78 nominations were made across the nine categories, with judges having a tough time selecting the winners due to the exceptionally high standard.

Takki Sulaiman, CEO of Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, said: 'We are lucky that in Argyll and Bute there is a strong culture of volunteering and during the past 18 months our communities benefitted from an increase in those coming forward as demand soared.

'These awards provide a platform for acknowledging the important contribution of all volunteers and not just those

who were lucky enough to win.'

Jenni Minto, MSP for Argyll and Bute, was one of the guest speakers on the night along with Ishbel Smith (Founder of Heart in Mouth and a trustee of Mary's Meals), Andrew Nisbet (chairman of Live Argyll) and Pete McDill (chairman of Argyll and Bute TSI).

Depute Provost and councillor Roddy McCuish was remotely on hand to present the Young Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Regional Hero awards were split into six areas (Helensburgh and Lomond, Cowal and Bute, The Islands, Mid Argyll, Oban and Lorn, Kintyre).

Colonsay's Kevin Byrne won the Islands category.

Nominated by Sheena Nisbet, Kevin has worked tirelessly to keep Colonsay litter free for the last 20 years.

He organises islanders, visitors and his own family to pick up rubbish - much of it coming from the sea.

He does weekly pick-ups regardless of the weather and when he was the school bus driver he would stop and pick up rubbish from the roadside thus making the young people aware of the need to keep the island litter free.

'He was way ahead of the current drive to keep our beaches and surroundings clean and as a result Colonsay is a beautiful island,' said Sheena.

Alan Macdougall from Oban collected the Oban and Lorn Regional Hero Award.

Alan was nominated by Hope Kitchen

service manager Catriona Petit who described him as a 'stalwart of Oban's volunteering community' for his voluntary work at Dunollie, his involvement in the setting up and facilitating of groups at Martyn's Monday Club (now Argyll Wellbeing Hub) and his support of the Rockfield centre, as well as his service to Hope Kitchen.

Volunteering in sport was also given recognition on the night, with Live Argyll giving their backing to four awards.



Oban High School (OHS) duo Poppy MacKillop, pictured above, and Isla MacGillivray were among the first to be honoured for their endeavours on the sports field.

Both were nominated for the Young Sports Coach of the Year award by OHS principal teacher of PE Murray Hamilton after being involved with rugby at the school for a long time.

On learning there was a gap in coaching provision for the new girls Poppy and Isla approached Murray to ask if they could take the lead.

The girls have more than doubled the playing numbers of young girls in Oban, delivering sessions every week, organising and planning competitive matches, throughout the pandemic and managing all of this within the strict Covid guidelines.

Faraid Winterton picked up the award for Young Primary Sports Leader after being nominated by Adventure Oban's Ben Sunderland who stated that the youngster had been instrumental in galvanising Dunbeg Primary School to participate in the One Million Miles initiative run by his group.

'She has inspired and encouraged her school mates to contribute miles to the project and in turn motivated her teachers to renew commitment to school-wide activities such as the Mile-A-Day initiative,' he added. 'Faraid's attitude and determination has led Dunbeg to set an example that many of the other local schools have subsequently followed.'

Adventure Oban scooped the next award in their own right. The Community Sporting Hero of the Year accolade is awarded to an individual, group or sports club that has made a significant impact on or contribution to the development of physical activity in the community.

A new community group launched during Covid, Adventure Oban was formed by volunteers in the Oban Community Sports Hub and nominated by Live Argyll's Stacey Holloway.

The objective of the group is to encourage residents to make full use of the natural playground their local area has to offer. Through the projects the group have run in the past year they are breaking down some of the barriers to taking part in outdoor physical activity and sport, especially during the pandemic.

Depute Provost and councillor Roddy McCuish presented Oban's Aiden Macleod with the Young Volunteer of the Year (under 25) award.

Aiden was nominated by Fiona Ferris and

has been volunteering with Hope Kitchen, for five years. Initially he used to arrive after

school to wash dishes or entertain customers with his ukulele. Over the years Aiden has continued to be part of the team and among other things, he has sole responsibility for collecting donated food from a local supermarket and does this once or twice a week as required.

Last but not least in a packed evening of celebration was the Lifetime Achievement Award which went to Mull's very own Colin Morrison.

Nominated by Helen Murray, Colin has a long history of leading or volunteering for numerous organisations on the island. His passion and vision for the community is obvious to anyone who speaks to him.

Colin has been a volunteer with numerous organisations since at least 2000. He was involved in the initial meetings with what eventually became Wild Scotland, was on the Dervaig Village Hall committee and the Dervaig Community Renewables Trust, has sat on the Mull and Iona Community Council, he is a First Responder, chairman of Visit Mull and Iona, he has sat on the Ferry Committee and was part of Mull's Covid Crisis Management Group.

Since 2014 he has been a volunteer on Mull for the Scottish National Party and gives up so much of his time, freely and willingly.

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# Get hands-on at Ardchattan

Members of the public can have designs on turning Ardchattan's old schoolhouse into a heritage hub, writes Kathie Griffiths.

All will be revealed as part of an open day at Ardchattan Centre in Bonawe on Sunday August 8, where people will have the chance to sign up and get hands-on with two upcoming projects, including working on wallpaper designs for the perfectly preserved Victorian schoolhouse.

The Wallpaper Project will bring the community together to work alongside professional artists and designers to come up with their own patterns as part of the schoolhouse's refurbishment.

As well as still having many of its original features, the house has a fabulous selection of vintage wallpapers but they are peeling off the walls and the property is in need of a makeover.

'The idea is that inspired by the house and the surrounding environment, the wallpaper group will take on the interior design

of the house, and will work with designers and artists to research, design and create new wallpaper patterns, lampshades and soft furnishing textiles,' said the centre's Breege Smyth.

Over the next three to five years the aim is to develop the school house into a heritage hub and a showcase for visitors.

Hundreds of volunteer hours have been notched up so far to transform it and the school building next door into new spaces for the community and you are invited to take a peek and see the progress made since the successful community buy-out back in the spring.

'We would like everyone to come and see all the work that's been done and the fabulous spaces which will very soon be available for all sorts of activities,' said Breege.

The date of August 8 is a definite for diaries, there will be plenty of cake and teas in an outdoor marquee and the day has been carefully planned for social distancing to keep people safe and comfortable.

The deal to buy it, and the school house next door, from Argyll and Bute Council was sealed in March this year after four years of hard work and belief that the defunct property could be brought back to life as a community hub. Major refurbishment work is likely to start in 2024, with lots more fundraising ahead.

Over the past years the public's input has played a major part in shaping the old school's future – exploring how it can be best

put to use, from meeting venues and events to providing spaces for workshops and a weaving co-operative, plus a potential base for small businesses.

Now Covid restrictions allow, the centre is going back to the community to update on what is happening there and to give people another say in shaping up the venue's future.

While refurbishment continues, a collection of tales and photographs recalling stories of the old schools will make up a



second community projects to eventually go on display. To get involved in The Wallpaper Project or Our Stories, email theardchattancentre@gmail.com

Ardchattan Centre board member Lindsay Vare with a piece of vintage wallpaper from the school house sitting room

# Perfect match: Lorne offers the gift of life

Continued from page 1.

blue tell you that you could be about to save someone's life,' said the 28-year-old.

An Anthony Nolan Charity nurse later visited Lorne, right, at home to take blood samples and after a couple of weeks he was invited to a London hospital for a pre-donation medical.

At the start of August he will make the journey south once again to give the donation which will be taken via a needle in his hip under general anaesthetic. Lorne was expecting to donate stem cells but doctors have now told him the same patient needs his bone marrow instead.

He will have to stay over in hospital after the procedure and has been told it could take weeks to recover but after taking just one planned day off after he gets home, Lorne wants to be back at work as a labourer as soon as possible.

'It wasn't great when we were growing up. We know what it is like to have serious illness hang over you. Malcolm lost his teenage years being treated for Leukaemia in hospital. Mum was with him and dad worked away, so we were brought up by grandma and

grandpa during the week then dad at the weekends, but we managed,' said Lorne.



Malcolm is now a fit and healthy 40-year-old living in Oban.

'I hope my bone marrow will help give someone that gift of life too,' said Lorne, who wants

this story to inspire others to register with the Anthony Nolan Charity.

'I know absolutely nothing about the person I'm donating to. I think they have up to eight years to make that decision. Just knowing I am giving them chance of new life is enough for me.

'So far it's all been straight forward. It's a small price to pay to help someone who is in such desperate need of help,' he added.

Lorne has been getting excellent support from the charity as a donor.

Founded in 1974 as the world's first stem cell register, the Anthony Nolan Charity was motivated by a mother's determination to save her son. More than 45 years later, three people a day are now given a second chance of life, thanks to generous funders and an ever-growing stem cell register.

To find out more about how you could help, go to [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)



TRANSMISSION



Virtual Event

## Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Virtual Public Consultation

SSEN Transmission invites you to share your views with us

### What is being consulted on?

We would like to invite you to join our virtual consultation exhibitions to share your views and feedback on our proposals for our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy which aims to enable the connection of new renewable generation to support the transition to net zero emissions. This strategy is comprised of three elements:

**1 Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection**  
Following previous rounds of consultation on this project, we are now looking to hear your views on our Preferred Alignment for the overhead line within the selected route (Route Option 3). This event will also be the first formal public consultation for the Creag Dhubh substation Pre-application Notice (PAN).

**2 Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line**  
This is a new project which would involve between 8-12 km of new 275kV overhead line constructed between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line. We are inviting views as to our Preferred Route Option, within which the replacement overhead line will be located.

**3 Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations**  
To complete the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy all the connected substations require upgrade to 275kV capability, as a result we are progressing with a new project which would involve construction and operation of four new 275kV electricity substations, south of Inveraray. We are inviting views regarding preferred Site Options identified for each of these substations.

The team will be available for live instant message chat sessions on:

Thursday 29th July 2021  
10am-1pm & 5-7pm

### How can I get involved?

The virtual consultation exhibitions are part of a 5 week long consultation and have been designed to be fully interactive, allowing for presentation of key project information and plans, as well as providing an opportunity to engage directly with the project team via the chat sessions. The virtual consultation portal, the consultation brochure, other supporting documents and feedback forms can be accessed on the project webpage: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

Consultation starts on Monday 12th July 2021 and closes on Friday 13th August 2021. We kindly request that feedback forms are submitted by 13th August.

If you have any questions about the project or are unable to join the virtual consultations and you would like a paper copy of the consultation brochure please contact the Community Liaison Manager by email, phone or post:

Helen Batey  
Community Liaison Manager  
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ  
[Helen.Batey@sse.com](mailto:Helen.Batey@sse.com)  
01925 800 833 / 07778 453 993

OT

## Lismore hopeful Covid can be contained

Lismore is hopeful a recent covid outbreak can be contained.

Several people have tested positive in the past week or so and have been self-isolating, says Dr Mandie Currie from Lismore Community Council's Emergency Response Group 'So far, we are not aware of any further cases and are hopeful the outbreak can be contained,' she said.

Businesses affected closed voluntarily, ahead of the test and trace system being initiated.

An increase in visitors made it 'probably inevitable' infections would reach the island eventually, said Dr Currie, who urged people to keep up their guard by washing hands, social distancing and letting fresh air in to buildings.

She added: 'We welcome visitors here to enjoy our beautiful island, but please remember to take your rubbish, recycling and human waste with you when you leave.'

# Dog safe and well after van 'rescue'

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

Members of the public stepped in on Monday afternoon to release a dog from a locked van as it appeared to be 'distressed' in the hot weather.

As temperatures hit 24°C across the area, the female Staffordshire bull terrier was spotted inside a van at Ellenabeich on the Isle of Seil.

Eyewitnesses told The Oban Times a pair of skylight windows had been left open an estimated two centimetres, with water left behind for the pet too.

But the heat was described as 'intense', with the dog believed to be 'crying and distressed'.

It attracted a crowd of concerned people including a Royal Mail worker and staff from nearby Seafari Adventures.



People, including firefighters, attempt to open the van to let the dog, left, out, which they eventually did, treating it to an ice cream.

concerns for the animal. A spokesperson said the dog was 'found to be fine and in a well ventilated van' and that no further action was required.

The SSPCA advises people not to 'risk' leaving a dog in a vehicle on hot days as they can develop heatstroke or go into cardiac risk.

It said: 'It only takes a dog a few minutes to overheat in a car. In direct sunlight, temperatures rise quickly inside.'

A fire crew from Oban attended the scene as did police officers.

Three local residents are said to have managed to dismantle a skylight window on the van without causing any damage to set the dog free.

The eyewitness said: 'The first priority was a call of nature, then she graciously accepted an ice cream - kindly donated by Seafari staff from the local shop.'

Police Scotland confirmed it had received reports of

## Sunday rail strikes until September

Ongoing industrial action will continue to wipe out Sunday services on the West Coast Main Line between Glasgow Queen Street and Oban, pictured, until 'at least' September 5, writes Ellis Butcher.

RMT union members remain in dispute with Abellio, the operators of ScotRail, over what it describes as a 'long running battle for pay justice and equality'. But ScotRail has called for the strikes to be called off, saying industrial action during a pandemic is 'reckless and wrong'.

The stand-off has dragged on since March and affected the availability of trains on Sundays, with conductors and ticket examiners taking action.

Recently, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was quizzed about the action. She said: 'It is really important that the employer tries to resolve the situation...I hope that we will see a resolution as quickly as possible.'

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## Eagle-eyed Ulva keeps nest watch on chick

Residents on tiny Ulva are on eagle-watch after a pair of white-tails decided to set up home, writes Kathie Griffiths.



The Ulva white-tailed chick.

Photograph: Steve Bentall

To keep an eye on the nest where the pair are currently feeding a large chick, neighbours have turned a garden into a pop-up watching post.

The adult eagles have moved into Ulva, which lies off the west coast of Mull, for the first time this year.

RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton said: 'Watching sea eagles soaring over Ulva lifts our spirits, especially in these uncertain times and it's wonderful that they're being cherished and protected locally by island residents.'

When the RSPB climbing and ringing team visited the Ulva sea eagle nest they were faced with a very large chick.

As the nest was not discovered until late on in the season it was impossible to know exactly how old the chick was. Expert bird ringer and climber Justin Grant calmed the chick down and

managed to ring it, saying it was the biggest chick he had ever ringed in the nest in several decades.

The Ulva chick will stay in the area for several months so there is still a good chance of seeing it and the parent birds either from the watching post in Barry George's garden, close to the pier, or from trips with Mull Charters.

Recently, 11 sea eagle chicks have been ringed and two were collected from around Mull for a reintroduction project on the Isle of Wight.

Mr Sexton added: 'The pop-up Ulva Eagle Watch project is also an excellent initiative and as we know from Mull Eagle Watch, sea eagles can bring significant economic benefits for the island and local groups. I look forward to working with the Ulva management team in the months to come to see how this can be developed further.'

# Oban hotel welcomes court decision to protect its brand

An AA four-star hotel in Oban has welcomed a legal ruling preventing a nearby establishment from using 'Oban Bay' in its brand.

The Oban Bay Hotel, which has a rich history dating back half a century and a strong reputation in the town, is owned and managed by Crerar Hotels. The group took legal action when a nearby two-star property changed its name from the 'Regent Hotel' to the 'Muthu Hotel on Oban Bay'.

In a court hearing, evidence was presented on the reputation and goodwill built up over many years by the Oban Bay Hotel.

The court was satisfied that there was a case to answer; that members of the public had been led by the use of the words 'Oban Bay' into thinking that the former Regent Hotel is in some way associated with the Oban Bay Hotel/Crerar Hotels.



The four-star Oban Bay Hotel is owned by Crerar Hotels and has a rich history dating back half a century.

It granted an interim order preventing Oban Regent Management (registered at Belstead Brook Muthu Hotel, Ipswich) from using 'on Oban Bay', 'the Oban Bay Hotel' or any other name and sign comprising that phrase, such that it might cause confusion.

The decision was welcomed by Paddy Crerar CBE, chairman of Crerar Hotels. He said:

'We pride ourselves on the AA four-star high quality experience offered at The Oban Bay Hotel and our sterling reputation which has been built up and established over many years.'

'It therefore concerned us greatly that members of the public - particularly those visiting Oban for the first time or using online reviews prior

to booking - would likely be confused by the renaming of hotel of a lower grading, as the Muthu Regent is a self-graded two-star property.

'The Muthu Regent is no doubt a very popular hotel and we wish them every success, we all need to do the best we can for our guests and that, in our view, is by firstly being clear and honest with how we bring our hotels to the attention of future guests.'

'We are pleased to see this was recognised in today's ruling.'

A further hearing will take place at Oban Sheriff Court on Thursday July 29 by teleconference.

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OT

# New event gives nod to Lorn Show

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Lorn Show is cancelled for this year but crafters and artists have come up with a fun alternative as a nod to the much-loved event.

Outdoor markets at Barcaldine's new Racer Cafe have proved such a winner that the venue will be hosting a show of its own on August 7 instead.

The event will coincide with the venue's official opening.

Instead of real animals on show in rings, each exhibiting crafter, artist and car booter with a stall is being asked to put forward an animal of their own – knitted, carved or created in any other way. There will also be a barbecue, live music and children's entertainment.

There will be a Best of Show competition and winner, said Joy Cameron, who is one of the organisers. Benderloch's popular Bookends Festival



will be just one of the stalls there.

Joy told The Oban Times: 'We thought it would be a nod to an event that we all love very much and will

be sad to miss this year. Hopefully the Lorn Show will be back bigger and even better in 2022.

'Apparently there was one year – it might've been Foot

and Mouth – that animals were not allowed at the show so people dressed up as them instead, we're taking a bit of inspiration from that!'

Kilmore vet Scott Burden

Look back at the 2019 Lorn Show when Duncan Buchanan from Achnacloch Farm showed the overall cattle champion – a three-year-old heifer.

has been invited to go along as a Best in Show judge and organisers hope to get a judge along representing the Lorn Show as well.

It starts at 10am and finishes at 3pm, with judging at 2pm. The plan is to auction off the Best In Show entrants.

The idea is for the Barcaldine event to finish in time for people to head over to Oban for the Rotary Club's Duck Race.

The annual race was cancelled because of the pandemic last year but is back this year raising funds for good causes.

Hundreds of plastic ducks will race along the Black

Lynn from the Combie Street bridge to Oban Bay via the tunnel adjacent to the Lismore pier.

It involves 500 of them in red, green, blue and yellow, and numbered one to 125 in each colour. Each duck is sold three times at £2 a go which means there could be three firsts, three second and three thirds. First, second and third ducks win £50, £25 and £15 respectively.

Duck tickets will go on sale in various shops in town and also at Tesco and Bossards on July 30 and 31, and on August 6 and 7, the latter up to 3pm.

This year the Rotary Club is introducing an extra 50 super ducks sponsored by local businesses at a cost of £50 each with a winner-take-all prize of £250.

A decision will also be made this week as to whether Dalmally Agricultural Show will go ahead as hoped on Saturday September 4.

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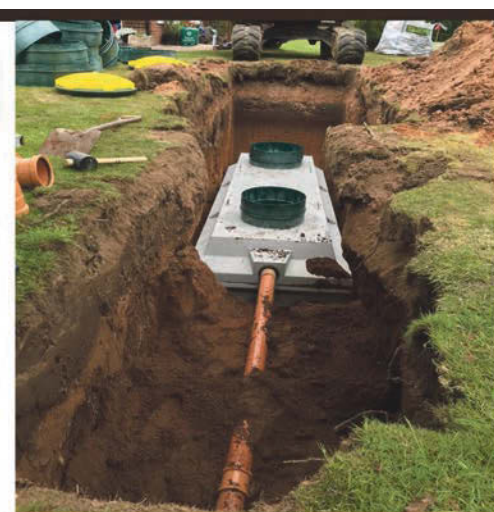
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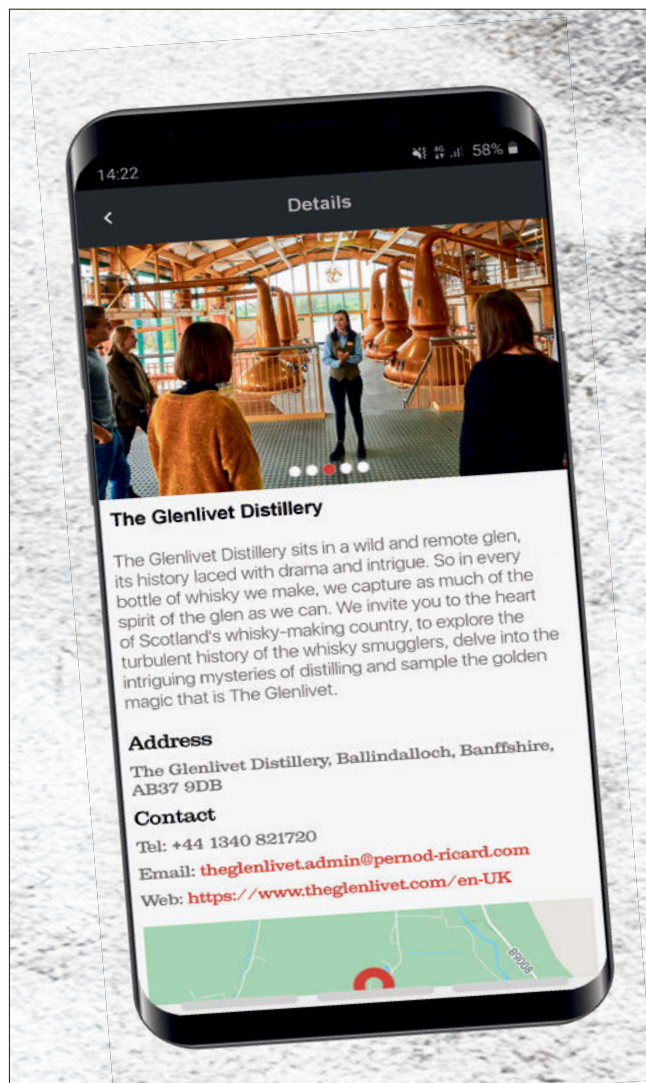
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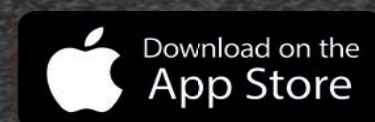
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OT

## Mull's starring role in movie 'masterpiece'

Pennyghael featured alongside Moy, Duart and Torosay Castle, Carsaig Bay, Achnacroish on Lismore and the Corryvreckan whirlpool in the forgotten post-war box-office hit *I Know Where I am going!*, writes Sandy Neil.

Martin Scorsese, director of some of the greatest films ever made, including *Goodfellas*, *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*, said: 'I reached the point of thinking there were no more masterpieces to discover, until I saw *I Know Where I'm Going!*'

The 1945 film stars Wendy Hiller as Joan Webster, a 25-year-old middle-class Englishwoman with an ambitious, independent spirit. She knows where she's going, or at least she thinks she does.

She travels from her home in Manchester to the Hebrides to marry Sir Robert Bellinger, a wealthy, much older industrialist, on the fictitious Isle of Kiloran, based on the Isle of Colonsay. When bad weather postpones the final leg of her journey, she is forced to wait it out on the Isle of Mull, among a community of people whose values are different from hers.

There she meets Torquil MacNeil (Roger Livesey), a naval officer trying to go home to Kiloran for some shore leave. The next day, on their way to catch a bus to Tobermory to find a telephone, they come upon the ruins of Moy Castle. Joan wants to take a look

inside, but Torquil refuses to go in. When she reminds him that the terrible curse associated with it only applies to the laird of Kiloran, Torquil introduces himself: he is the laird, and Bellinger only leased his island.

As the bad weather worsens into a full-scale gale, Torquil spends more time with Joan, who becomes increasingly torn between her ambition and her growing attraction to him. Joan asks Torquil for a parting kiss before they go their separate ways.

Torquil enters Moy Castle and the curse takes effect almost immediately.

Centuries earlier, Torquil's ancestor had stormed the castle to capture his unfaithful wife and her lover. He had them bound together and cast into a water-filled dungeon with only a small stone to stand on. When their strength gave out, they dragged each other into the water, but not before she placed a curse on the lairds of Kiloran.

From the battlements, Torquil sees Joan marching resolutely toward him. They meet in the castle and embrace. We're told the curse: if a MacNeil of Kiloran dares step over the threshold of Moy, he shall be chained to a woman to the end of his days, "and will die in his chains". Torquil and Joan walk away together along the lane arm in arm.

# Home By The Sea: ruined Mull pile once owned by Genesis on sale for £5M

by Sandy Neil  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

For some people, the Ross of Mull's abandoned Pennyghael House will be haunting and creepy. For others, it's part of rock and movie history. But for the right buyer, this eight-bedroom wreck, alongside its 8,700-acre estate, presents an opportunity.

Five million pounds is all it will cost, far more than its name implies. Pennyghael means the Pennyland of the Gael: a land valued by the penny or section of the penny. Now it will cost you half a billion pennies.

The new buyer will be joining a long list of owners over the last 500 years, including the English rock group Genesis, though their presence left a somewhat invisible touch.

'The interest in the estate has been phenomenal,' Paul Nicoll of Argyll land managers The Estates Office told The Oban Times, 'even though it has only just come to the market with several viewings already



Pennyghael House, once owned by Genesis, but now needing full restoration or demolition.

lined up and many more enquiries coming forward.'

For centuries Pennyghael lay in the hands of the McGilvrays, from the first recorded Laird of Pennyghael, Archibald McIluray, who died in 1565, to the last, Hugh McGilvray of Pennyghael, who sold the estate in 1801. A Canadian William MacGillivray of the North West Company, Montreal, then bought Pennyghael Estate and built its present house in 1819, but died before he could move in.

In 1920, Pennyghael Estate was purchased by the Pettigrews, who added the house's two wings and then, when Mrs Pettigrew died, sold it to a Mr Harold Flower, in whose family it remained for the next two generations.

The Buildings At Risk Register For Scotland noted Pennyghael House lay 'largely unoccupied between 1957-1971' and then in 'erratic use' before it was bought in 1986 by Genesis, famous for hit songs, *Home By The Sea* and *Invisible Touch*.

An inspection in 1992 found the house 'rapidly becoming derelict, with the front door lying rotten and unsecured', and 'livestock often gaining access'. In 1993 the band undertook repairs to make the house wind and watertight, but four years later, another inspection revealed rot and 'the hall used for hay storage'

Genesis sold the house later in 1997 to Dutch firm Epsilon, but, after a decade, it was reported to be in such an 'advanced state of dilapidation', with a leaking roof and 'a sapling growing on the porch', that it required '£500,000 worth of repairs'. The last inspection in 2012 found parts of the roof had collapsed and 'evidence of vandalism'.

Visitors in 2017, in a spoof *Homes Under The Hammer* video on YouTube, described

### Visitors in 2007 shot a spoof *Homes Under the Hammer* video

the property as 'perfect for any aspiring axe-murderer: it's creepy, vacant, and you could make a killing.'

Today, though, Pennyghael Estate 'offers a multitude of opportunities to buyers', according to Knight Frank's sales brochure, 'whether it's sporting, creating a farming business, eco-tourism development, woodland creation, rewilding or natural capital'.

The 'derelict' house is 'a beautifully-positioned former lodge in need of full restoration or replacement', it continues, with a 'potential site for a new lodge'.

The estate is 4.2 miles long and 4.7 miles wide, comprising 8.7 miles of rugged coastline

facing the Firth of Lorne to the south and Loch Scridain in the north - which includes a floating pier and timber-loading facility excluded from the sale.

It also includes the ancient farms of Beach, Torrains, Killunaig, Pennycross and Pennyghael - though there are currently no farm operations - and five houses: Killunaig Farmhouse and Killunaig Bothy, The Old Post Office, Torrains House, and a Keeper's Cottage attached to an Estate Office.

There is one full-time employee who acts as the estate manager and lives on site, with the brochure saying: 'The purchasers would be required to take on the current employee.'

As a sporting estate, it offers red deer stalking, trout fishing, and game shooting for pheasant, partridge, ducks, geese, woodcock and snipe.

There are also wild goats and soay sheep on the hill.

It also presents a number of 'potentially valuable carbon capture opportunities', with four potential hydro schemes identified on the Rivers Beach, Leidle, Abhainn an Easa Mhoir and Abhainn nan Torr.'

'That's All', as Genesis might say.

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# Move to level zero broadly welcomed in Oban and Lorn

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

Tourism leaders have broadly welcomed plans for Scotland to move to level zero from Monday.

While it is not a complete lifting of restrictions, the drop down to zero does provide more freedom, with social distancing indoors and outdoors reduced to one metre.

Hospitality businesses can remain open until midnight – providing their current licence permits.

And pre-booked slots at pubs and restaurants will also no longer be required, although providing contact details for test and protect remains.

Under level zero all cafés, pubs and restaurants can



The two-metre distance rule reduces to one metre indoors.

open, including tourist accommodation, visitor attractions and nightclubs.

Most restrictions in Scotland are expected to be entirely removed from

August 9 – although this is subject to a review.

Linda Battison, of Oban Tourism Group, broadly welcomed the move but said some tourism operators

would still not be able to operate at maximum capacity.

She said: 'Oban's tourism industry will be greatly relieved to see that cautious progress continues to be made towards the removal of all remaining restrictions.'

'It's good to see that the data supported a move to level zero for all of Scotland, but having different rules in different parts of the UK is challenging.'

She added: 'Clearly there will be disappointment from some small businesses, especially those in marine tourism who were expecting the complete removal of social distancing restrictions in outdoor settings.'

'They will now miss the peak weeks for the English summer visitors and a short summer season will sadly

become even shorter.' Mrs Battison said the town would continue to promote its 'Obanminded' message, a visitor charter which sets out tips on keeping safe.

Marc Crothall, of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, said level zero represented 'the most normal conditions' since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Mr Crothall said: 'I know that the news of physical distancing requirements being reduced indoors to one metre will be a boost for those not yet permitted to trade with this measure in place, particularly the visitor attraction sector which has been hit particularly hard by regulations around social distancing; it remains the hope for all in the sector that social distancing requirements will be removed

altogether from August 9.'

He added: 'It will be disappointing news that the one-metre distancing will remain outdoors for many of those business operating in the outdoor adventure and marine sector, especially as their counterparts south of the border are able to trade without this condition.'

'Self-catering businesses will also be disappointed that there has been no forward movement in terms of the numbers permitted to stay in larger properties; by the time this next change hopefully comes on August 9, it will be too late for larger self-catering properties as our peak season will have started to wind down and they will have lost the opportunity to recoup some of their losses over the summer.'

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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Giving a stranger a second chance at a healthy life

There are times in everyone's lives when we need help from someone. Usually it is a friend or family member who is there to lend a helping hand.

But this week Lorne Gillies has stepped up with an outstretched, potentially life-saving, hand to help a complete stranger.

More than 20 years ago, a bone marrow transplant saved his brother's life and at the start of August, Lorne will do the same to help a person who desperately needs his help. Lorne told us this week: 'It wasn't great when we were growing up. We know what it is like to have serious illness hang over you. Malcolm lost his teenage years being treated for leukaemia in hospital.'

Thankfully brother Malcolm is fit and healthy and everyone will be hoping for the same outcome for the recipient of Lorne's donation.

We all think it's a standout thing Lorne is doing, but it is something we could all potentially be able to do – give the gift of life.

To find out more on how you could get involved and potentially save a person's life, visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)

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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## Ardnamurchan access issues

I am responding to the articles on Ardnamurchan access issues in the Lochaber Times of July 8.

For over two years, the estate has locked several deer gates, effectively closing two historical Rights of Way. One is from Acharacle to Glenborrodale and the other from Ockle on the North Ardnamurchan coast to Glenborrodale.

The locked gates are impossible to climb, are dangerous, potentially forcing walkers to return to the start of their long walk.

I have walked from Acharacle to Glenborrodale, for more than 50 years, with family and friends.

At Glenborrodale, there were two access points – the old tradesman's entrance at the Castle, through an area on which the estate has recently constructed a timber yard, and then branches to Ockle and Acharacle. The other starts at the farm cottages and then rejoins the Glenborrodale to Acharacle route.

The estate owner simply has to allow one of these exits, both under his control, to be re-opened and used.

The empty threat to close the distillery is unnecessary. Fassfern Estate welcomes walkers with a car park and signed walking paths, one of which passes between their workshop and their woodchip processing yard, a similar layout to Glenborrodale.

The estate has locked deer gates in the fences surrounding tax funded forestry plantations, breaching conditions to provide 'kissing gates' to ensure access.

I would suggest that anyone wanting a break this summer should walk through the hills to Glenborrodale – you are entitled to remove any obstructions.

Dr Michael Foxley, Achaphubuill, Ardgor.

## Check your wages

Sir,  
Students and seasonal staff are being reminded by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to check they are being paid the National Minimum Wage.

All workers, including temporary seasonal staff, are legally entitled to be paid the National Minimum Wage. Last year (2020-21) HMRC helped 155,000 workers across the UK to recover more than £16 million in pay which was due to them.

HMRC is reminding workers to check their hourly rate of pay and any deductions or unpaid

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Thoir spèis dhan mhuir, agus cuimhnich daonnan air cumhachd an uisge! B' e sin comhairle a chuala mi tric nam òige, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gun do dhruidh sin na bu mhotha leis gun robh e tighinn bitheanta bho inbhich a thug ùine mhòr dem beatha aig muir. Far nach eil gainnead ann dheth faodar a bhith a' dio-chuimhneachadh gum bheil uisge na bhunait beatha air an t-saoghal is nach biomaid beò às aonais, is tha e doirbh dhuinne nach do dh'fhuilig mòr-thiomachd làn-bhuaidh tairt a thuigsinn. Ach a bharrachd air beatha a thoirt dhuinn tha cumhachd an uisge air a bhith na ghoireas luachmhor dhan chinne-daonna fad linntean, bhon a chaidh a chleachdadh an toiseach gus rothan mhuilnean a thionndadh chun an latha an-diugh far am bheil an aon neart a' cruthachadh dealan dhuinn. Air taobh an iar na dùthcha, is mi a' sgrìobhadh seo, tha mi a' coimhead a-mach air latha glas le ciùrach uisge, agus mi ag èisteachd aithris air rèidio mu theas grèine feadh a' mhòr-chuid eile de dh'Alba! Chan eil aimsir fhliuch na annas air an taobh an iar agus theagamh gur ann ri linn sin a tha muinntir na sgìre cho buailteach a bhith a' gearan mun t-side. Ach ag èisteachd ri naidheachdan mun sgrios uabhasach a thug grad-thuiltean air pàirtean den Ghearmailt, a' Bheilg, agus an Òlaind, theagamh nach bu chòir dhuinne a bhith cho deiseil gu bhith cràmhan.

Chaill mòran a h-uile càil a bh' aca, chaill cuid am beatha! Ma bha riamh teagamh air

cumhachd an uisge tha fianais dhòrainneach air bualadh air a' chuid seo den Roinn Eòrpa le ceud gu leth air an dearbhadh marbh aig an ìre seo, agus ceudan eile air nach eil ròs fhathast. A rèir eòlaichean aimsire dh'adhbharaich gluasad neo-àbhaisteach anns an iarmailt gun do thuit dòrtadh uisge air an aon sgìre seo de thaobh an iar na h-Eòrpa fad uairean a thide, chuir na h-aibhnichean thairis is sgaol na tuiltean cho luath is nach robh ùine aig daoine deasachadh sam bith a dhèanamh ma choinneamh mòr-thubaist. Seallaidhean a tha cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach le bunaithean thogalaichean sgairteil air an sguabadh air falbh le cuideam shruthan fiadhaich uisge, agus gun ach càrn bhioran agus chlathan air fhàgail air làraich nan taighean. Far an robh bailtean beaga eireachdail air stèidheachadh thar linntean chan eil a-nise ach tobhtaichean air an tachdadh gun tròcair le eabar agus sprùilleach.

Chan iongnadh gum bheil ceannardan poilitigeach air a bhith ag ràdh gur e lèirsgrìos a th' air tighinn air na dùthchannan aca, agus cha mhotha na sin a tha e na annas gum bheil a' faighneachd an e blàthachadh na cruinne màthair-adhbhar na thachair. Eadar an sgrios mhillteach seo san Roinn-Eòrpa agus an teas mì-nàdarra a th' air caoban mòra de thalamh ann an Ameireagaidh a chur nan smàl, saoilidh mi gum bheil clàr chusean agus co-dhùnaidhean cho-labhairt COP ann an Glaschu san t-Samhain a' fàs nas èiginniche gach latha thèid seachad.

working time. The National Minimum Wage hourly rates are currently:

£8.91 - Age 23 or over (National Living Wage)  
£8.36 - Age 21 to 22  
£6.56 - Age 18 to 20  
£4.62 - Age under 18  
£4.30 - Apprentice.

We want to ensure Scotland's seasonal workers and students are being paid what they are entitled to and, as the economy re-opens, help employers if they are unsure of the rules.

Workers should check their hourly rate and look out for any deductions or unpaid working time which would reduce their pay. It could take them below the minimum wage.

HMRC investigates every complaint made

about the minimum wage, so whether you are selling sun cream, giving a hotel room a clean or serving a strawberry smoothie, if you think you are being short-changed you should get in touch. Anyone not being paid what they are entitled to can complain online at [www.gov.uk/minimum-wage-complaint](http://www.gov.uk/minimum-wage-complaint).

If they want to speak to someone, they should phone the Acas Pay and Work Rights Helpline on 0300 123 1100, who may transfer the call to HMRC.

Employers can also contact the Acas Helpline for free help and advice or visit GOV.UK to find out more.

Steve Timewell, director, individuals and small business compliance, HMRC.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## SEIL



Members of the Kayak4Heroes team.

### Kayakers stop off on Seil

Easdale's Royal British Legion Branch welcomed a team of intrepid adventurers to Seil as they kayaked 1,400 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise £100,000 for armed forces veterans.

Kayak4Heroes aim to become the first adaptive team to complete the iconic challenge by kayak and in doing so tackle some of the UK's toughest waters. The hope is to reach their destination in 35 days, overcoming their own injuries and

disabilities. Seil was a stop-off on their way as they passed through Seil Sound.

Money raised will go towards the Armed Forces Para-Snowsports Team that helps wounded, injured and sick military personnel still serving and veterans by reintroducing the spirit of challenge and competition they were accustomed to in normal service life.

Easdale branch chairman Ron Hetherington said: 'It's an amazing challenge they have taken on and an incredible feat. We wish them well and at our next meeting we will be proposing we make a donation.'

To make a donation go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kayak4heroes](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kayak4heroes)



The Kayak4Heroes flag hangs proudly off the Bridge over the Atlantic at Seil.

## OBAN

### Discarded masks are rubbish

Mum Luna Martin and her two-year-old daughter Rosy are urging people to bin disposable facemasks responsibly or take them home.

Luna and Rosy go on weekly waste-busting walks around the town and have noticed a massive increase in facemasks littering the shore and streets.

'I wanted to highlight the importance of disposing of your facemask properly and the damage not doing this can have on our wildlife.

'A facemask can take 450 years to decompose and will eventually break down and turn into micro plastics which will enter our rivers and

oceans,' said Luna. While Luna picks the litter, little Rosy helps by pointing it out.

'It's going to be her beach and her future so that's why we go out litter picking. I know some of the rubbish might blow out of bins or be picked out by seagulls, but sadly some of it is because people just don't care.

'We hope our message will help people to bin their used facemasks carefully or just take them home.'



Luna and Rosy Martin collecting litter from Oban beach.

## ARGYLL AND BUTE

### Alexa – is it bin day?

If you struggle to remember when to put your bins out, you can now call on Alexa to tell you.

Argyll and Bute Council has come up with an additional feature, for people who already use Alexa at home, that supports its online bin calendar.

It is part of the council's commitment to delivering new useful digital services and means people can ask their smart device when their council bins will be collected.

Over the next year, other council-related information will be added.

To access the service you will need an Amazon account and a smartphone/tablet or an Amazon Alexa device.

In the Alexa App, click on the 'browse skills' button and search for Argyll and Bute Council. It should be the first result you see.

Or on the Amazon website sign in with your Amazon Account – [ww.amazon.co.uk/Argyll-and-Bute-Council/dp/B0943RNFP5/ref=sr\\_1\\_1](http://ww.amazon.co.uk/Argyll-and-Bute-Council/dp/B0943RNFP5/ref=sr_1_1).

## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



### Deserved star status

After more than 40 years in newspapers, I've met my fair share of movers and shakers and so-called 'stars' from the world of music and entertainment.

You'd be forgiven for thinking, in fact, that I might be something of a cynic when it comes to the cult of celebrity.

I am a bit of a cynic, yet I find myself thrilled over the ongoing success of the Skerryvore boys, whose new single, Together Again, I have just heard on Ken Bruce's BBC Radio 2 show.

It's an excellent song – I'd expect no less from Skerryvore – and it's a fitting follow-up release to their massive hit of last year, entitled You & I, which introduced the Tíre band to a vastly wider world than their principal and traditional stamping ground in the Highlands and Islands.

Many readers will know that Skerryvore brothers Martin and Daniel Gillespie are also the guys behind the absolutely wonderful Oban Live two-day music festival which was in its embryonic years and held each June until the pandemic put paid to it, temporarily, I hope fervently.

I've met Martin and Daniel and lead singer Alec Dalglish a few times, heard them live on a number of occasions and interviewed them, including when they were patient enough to give me a video chat outside Aulay's bar for 'The Oban Times' website.

The point of this is that the Skerryvore boys are as down to earth as can be. They have enjoyed enduring popularity in their home territory for years now and that parochial success has been well-earned. I'm delighted their brilliant blend of trad music with a rock/pop vibe – forgive me, guys, if that's not the description you'd use yourselves – is now wowing a much wider audience. Skerryvore are fantastic entertainers with a significant body of work that really deserves to be heard across a broader spectrum.

I am chuffed to bits for them that they are at last winning national and international recognition.

What do you think? Send your comments to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# HAVE YOUR SAY

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# Your chance to own an ancient estate for the cost of a London terrace

by Sandy Neil  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

An Argyll castle owned by the same Campbell family for almost 500 years is on sale for £650,000.

Kilberry Castle in South Knapdale has belonged to the Campbells of Kilberry since 1550 when the land was forfeited by the MacDonald Lords of the Isles, and was recently the home of the late archaeologist and historian Marion Campbell, who died in 2000.

The price, the equivalent of a two-bedroom terraced house in London, will buy the historic, B-listed, four-storey 15th-century tower house with 14 bedrooms, five reception rooms, four bathrooms, billiard room, orangery, a three-bedroom holiday cottage, walled garden, and 21 acres of land near a beautiful white sandy beach, with stunning coastal views to Islay, Jura, Gigha and the Mull of Kintyre.

If you need more space a short distance away, within a spinney of woodland, there is planning consent to construct a four-bedroom house.

Paul Nicoll of Argyll land managers The Estates Office, which brought the castle to market with estate agent Knight Frank, said: 'Obviously, at that price, we are expecting considerable interest, however, the castle does need significant repair and renovation, although in many ways this is an advantage as all of the features of the castle are still within the property, and it provides the opportunity for an individual to renovate, subject to the necessary consents, in their own image.'

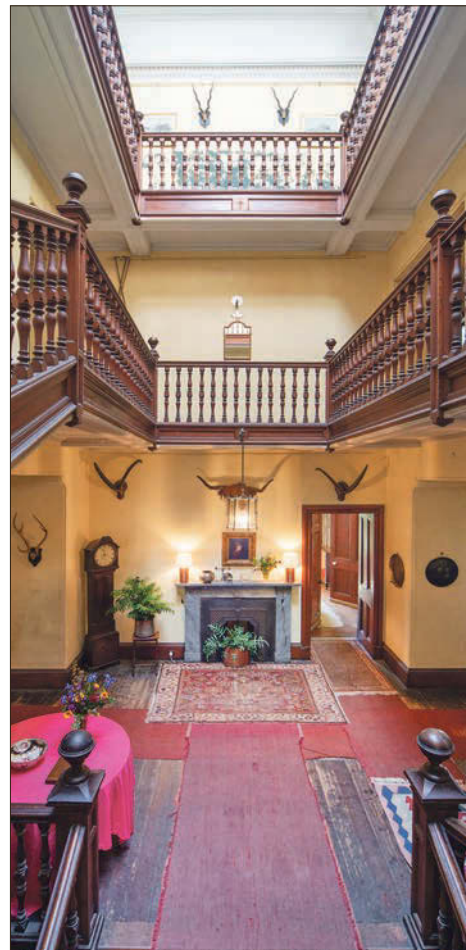
'Whilst the castle has fallen into a state of disrepair it has retained many historic features throughout its four floors. The fireplaces in the library and the drawing room are made of Italian marble. They were custom made for John Campbell the 10th of Kilberry and his new wife during their honeymoon tour of Italy in 1871. Two of the bathrooms are located within the turrets.'

The sale is the latest chapter in Kilberry Castle's long history dating back more than 1,000 years. The name Kilberry means 'cella (cell or chapel) of Berach'. St Berach reputedly never visited Kilberry but was named after him in honour by a pupil. Most place names containing the element



'Kil' were formed by the ninth century, and there was almost certainly a church at Kilberry by then, probably where the ruins of the medieval church lie buried between the castle and the Campbell mausoleum.

Local tradition claims a monastery also – perhaps a small Celtic Christian community. There is no hard evidence for a medieval monastery, despite tales of a 'stone room where the monks ate' and rumours of treasure buried on the hill to escape raiders. Perhaps the castle began as a defensive work to guard the church and its peo-



ple from the Viking raids that swept the coasts from 800 AD.

In 1493 the Lord of the Isles forfeited his Knapdale lands to the crown, and James IV ordered the Earl of Argyll, his chancellor, to install reliable tenants – junior family members of the Campbell clan. The Campbells of Kilberry took up the 'middle management' of its lands in about 1550 and it has been in the family ever since.

Captain Proby, an English pirate, attacked and burned the castle in 1513 – an event recorded above the front door. During the civil war 1643-



Kilberry Castle retains many of its historic features, including pages from the London Illustrated News, from when you scarlet fever. The beautiful sandy beach offers stunning

45 the castle was besieged by a royalist contingent from the islands. The Campbell mausoleum was built by Dugald Campbell of Kilberry, a privateer, in 1733. Through surviving family letters there are all sorts of tantalising glimpses of mysteries. He started off with a privateer's commission and reputedly somehow got into a fortune and lived in Florence as a captain – thanks no doubt to that old naval toast 'a long war and a sickly season' ensuring promotion.

Captain Dugald Campbell later had command of the 'Walpole' in the Mediterranean and had

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# ient Campbell don semi...



...ing marble fireplaces and the wall papered with  
...ng Archie Campbell was confined to bed with a bout of  
...views to Islay, Jura, Gigha, and the Mull of Kintyre.

been captured and held in a Turkish prison from which he escaped with the aid of a beautiful Turkish lady he wanted to bring home and marry – but while he was in prison the British consul in Genoa, a Mr Crowe, embezzled all his prize money so he couldn't rescue his 'fair Turk'. His career at sea was closely aligned with his cousin 'Great Daniel of Shawfield and Islay' who became one of the richest and most influential Scots of the 18th century.

The castle burned down in 1773 during the time of Colin Campbell of Kilberry. He was

controversially involved in a duel/murder on the island of Martinique with ensign McHarg. He fought in the battle of Culloden with the Argyll militia. He was lampooned in later life in Kays book of Edinburgh worthies. He assumed the title of Lord Berners of which he had some justification.

The castle then lay semi-derelect until 1843 when John Campbell ninth of Kilberry restored the ruins and added the tower and northern extension. The last total renovation was undertaken in 1873 by John Campbell 10th Kilberry using his wife's dowry. The heyday of the estate lasted until his death in 1908. He kept a daily diary of life on a West Highland estate.

A poignant piece of family history remains on the top floor of the castle. In 1885 a young Archie Campbell contracted scarlet fever and was confined to his room for several months. To keep him entertained he and his nurse papered the walls with pages from the London Illustrated News, mostly political cartoons. One wall remains virtually intact today. His unfortunate sister did not survive the outbreak and is buried in the mausoleum.

After retiring as an Indian High Court judge, he became one of the giants of 20th century piping and his famous Kilberry book of Ceol Mor, although the subject of some controversy when it was first published, has since gone on to be the biggest selling piobraireachd book of all times.

The original 16th century Kilberry estate stretched from Loch Stornoway in the south, all the way north to Achahoish and included the present Ormsary estate. It consisted of 20-30,000 acres. Over the years family sub-divisions and sales reduced the estate to approximately 10,000 acres in the middle of the 19th century.

Finally, in the 1950s Marion Campbell sold off the remaining five farms and all that remained was the castle and its immediate policies. Marion Campbell, the Argyllshire author and archaeologist, lived at Kilberry Castle all her life. She was a landowner, farmer, politician, district councillor and historian. She helped to set up the local antiquarian society and she was a leading figure in the formation of the Kilmartin museum and the Auchendrain township. The present owner inherited Kilberry Castle from her.



They were moved from the basement to the current purpose-built shelter in 1951.

## The Kilberry Stones unearthed

The Kilberry stones, now in the care of Historic Scotland, are a collection of early Christian and medieval gravestones, discovered within the grounds of Kilberry Castle.

They are now housed in a shelter at the top of the drive. Some in the past had been put to practical use as bridge supports. Kilberry's sculptured stones collection is thought to have come from the site of the medieval parish church on the Kilberry Castle estate, a little to the east of the castle itself.

The church is first mentioned in about 1350. It was burned down in the 1640s by the Campbells of Kilberry to prevent the besieging Royalist force of Alastair McDonald making use of it. The church yard fell into disuse in the following century and probably lies under the Victorian bowling green.

The stones which were propped up against the outside of the Campbell mausoleum were moved to the castle's basement in 1948 by Marion Campbell, who invited Historic Scotland to take them into state care. They were moved from the basement to the current purpose-built shelter in 1951. The collection comprises 26 sculptured stones. The stones cover a range of styles and eras – from early Christian to late-medieval grave-slabs. The centre piece is the Kilberry Cross.



The church's burial ground may lie beneath the bowling green of the castle as human bones were recovered during work on a drain beneath the green in the 1920s. A cement facsimile of the Kilberry cross stands outside the Campbell mausoleum, and a pilgrim's penitence cup is etched into the stone base. A collection of fonts and a crescent-shaped stone from the medieval period lie besides the entrance of the castle.

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Loganair goes carbon neutral

Loganair, the UK's largest regional airline, has announced its GreenSkies environmental programme as it commits to being fully carbon neutral by 2040. It becomes the first UK regional airline to take such an ambitious step towards managing and mitigating the environmental impact of flying.

The GreenSkies initiative encompasses an immediate programme of carbon offsets to remove the same amount of carbon from the environment as that generated from each and every Loganair flight. At the same time, the airline is tackling the long-term goal of introducing sustainable aircraft into its fleet – with live trials taking place in the Orkney Islands this summer on developmental aircraft powered by hydrogen and renewable electricity as the first step to fully converting Loganair's fleet to net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

The new carbon offset programme was launched on July 1, and becomes the first of its kind in the UK to directly relate the cost of flying to its environmental impact. A £1 Carbon Offset charge will be included in the ticket price for every customer's flight from summer 2021. By harnessing the collective power of everyone flying with Loganair, carbon neutral flying can be achieved through the offset programme at a practical and modest cost per passenger.

Funds raised through the GreenSkies charge will be invested in projects across the world to remove the same amount of carbon from the atmosphere as is generated by Loganair flights. These include initiatives such as reforestation projects and wind farms that will replace carbon-heavy coal and gas-fired power stations.

Later this year, Loganair will also establish a new fund to provide grants to help with the cost of establishing renewable energy projects in the communities that it serves.

# Brexit's 'existential threat' to Argyll seafood sector

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk

The seafood sector on the west coast of Scotland faces an 'existential threat' as a result of Brexit rather than the 'sea of opportunity' that was promised, an MP has told parliament.

Firms from Islay to Oban are facing 'huge' transport and logistical problems, falling prices, loss of markets, red tape and labour shortages, according to MP Brendan O'Hara.

Mr O'Hara, who represents Argyll and Bute for the SNP, said the feedback came from no fewer than four businesses based in the constituency.

These are Easdale Seafoods at Balvicar; Fiona McFarlane's Islay Crab Exports; Jamie McMillan's Lochfyne Langoustines, Tarbert; and Jonathan McAllister's fishing business in Oban.

He made the comments on Tuesday July 13 during a Westminster Hall debate called by Alistair Carmichael, the Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland.

Mr O'Hara said: 'From Oban in the north to Islay in the south, they all tell a story of an industry struggling with falling prices, loss of markets; an industry drowning in bureaucracy and red tape, and one struggling to cope with labour shortages and facing huge transport and logistical problems.'

'This is an existential threat to the industry in the west coast of Scotland.'

He said the prices for catches for Jonathan McAllister's business had 'fallen by a third' since 2019. What was once a 'routine' job of landing catches in Northern Ireland had become 'wrapped up in customs red tape,' said Mr O'Hara.

Staff at Easdale Seafoods now required a 'forensic knowledge' of French customs procedures and VAT regulations. The firm had needed to adapt quickly and 'spend an awful lot of money to stay afloat in this sea of opportunity,' he said.



**Brendan O'Hara MP spoke during the debate about fisheries management after Brexit.**

The firm also had to pay VAT in advance and then reclaim it from the French authorities, said Mr O'Hara, although very few UK banks were set up to use the system the French used.

It meant the company had 'thousands of Euros tied-up with the French authorities and no idea when they are getting it back,' Mr O'Hara told the debate, which was called 'fisheries management after the UK's departure from the EU'.

A shortage of qualified HGV drivers had added another layer of complication to the issues facing Easdale Seafoods and Islay Crab Exports, he said.

Mr O'Hara told the debate: 'Most pressing (on Islay) is the shortage of workers. Jobs that were once filled by EU nationals now lie unfilled and they now desperately need double the

number of processors that they currently have. Economically we live in a very fragile constituency and this situation is unsustainable and it was laid out starkly by Jamie McMillan, of Loch Fyne Langoustines. He employs 23 people in the village of Tarbert.

'His exports are down 40 per cent and the cost of getting it to market has soared, with three hours of every day now dealing with Brexit-related paperwork, and his costs are £300 to £500 a day on customs fees alone.'

'That is the reality of Brexit for the fishing communities of Argyll and Bute. That's the reality of the sea of opportunity. That's why we voted against Brexit.'

Mr O'Hara directly quoted Fiona McFarlane of Islay Crab Exports.

'If people had all the information and knowledge of what Brexit really meant they would have voted differently. Someone should be held accountable to the country for misleading the people.'

Mr O'Hara said: 'She is absolutely right.'

A Defra spokesperson said: 'The UK and the EU have agreed an historic Fisheries Framework Agreement that reflects the UK's new status as an independent coastal state, and works to protect and promote the rights of fishermen across the UK.'

'Whilst the export situation has improved since January, we know there are still challenges for the seafood sector, including additional costs and administrative burdens. We are therefore working with industry on longer-term opportunities to improve export systems and reduce certification burdens, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.'

'The UK Government's commitment of up to £23 million has provided targeted support to Scottish businesses – and a further £100 million has been dedicated to rejuvenating the industry and coastal communities across the UK in the longer term.'

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# 'Never more important to choose local businesses' as campaign launched

A rallying cry has been issued for people to back the region's local businesses this summer, writes Ellis Butcher.

The latest wave of the Scotland Loves Local campaign has launched with the message that it has never been more critical to 'choose local' in places including Argyll and Bute and the Highlands and Islands.

Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP) is spearheading the campaign with support from the Scottish Government.

Phil Prentice, STP chief officer, said: 'The power of choosing local and supporting the region's businesses should not be underestimated. As individuals, making the right choice has never been more important for our communities.'

'People throughout Argyll and Bute have really embraced the spirit of Scotland Loves Local. As more options open up, we cannot afford to overlook the people and businesses who have been there when we needed them most during the pandemic.'

'We need people to make a conscious decision to support those around them, whether for shopping, services, a meal with friends or a day out. By choosing local we will make a tremendous difference to the fabric and fortunes of our communities.'

The Scotland Loves Local (SLL) campaign launched last summer. The choose local message is being supported by a major marketing campaign in which local businesses and organ-

isations are being urged to get involved at [www.lovelocal.scot](http://www.lovelocal.scot).

This summer will see the rollout of the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card, which will give people another way in which to support businesses in their home region.

Purchases are processed via the Mastercard network, with the initiative supported by the Scottish Government.

Tom Arthur, community wealth minister, said: 'In the coming months we will further bolster the SLL campaign with the second tranche of our SLL Fund, helping communities revitalise their towns or neighbourhoods, building wealth and delivering greater, greener and fairer prosperity.'



Leona Currie joins the Oban team.

## New member joins Dawsons' team

Dawsons Estate Agents are pleased to announce that Leona Currie has joined the agency as a lettings assistant in response to the increasing expansion of its residential lettings and management services.

Leona is local to the town and brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the lettings field having previously worked for West Highland Housing Association for the past four years since leaving school.

Mandy Carmichael, owner of Dawsons, said: 'I am delighted to welcome Leona who will be a huge asset to our lettings department.'

'With increasing demand for our bespoke lettings services I decided the time was right to further expand this aspect of the business.'

'We are looking forward to introducing Leona to our existing clients and welcoming new clients to our management portfolio.'

# Argyll tourism recovery plan secures £350,000 to help create new jobs

A three-year project to rebuild the tourism sector across Argyll and the Islands has secured £350,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and aims to create new jobs.

The £350,000 funding comes from £3million approved by HIE in September 2020, to support strategically important tourism destination management organisations (DMOs), as part of wider support for the sector's recovery.

The project, by Argyll and Islands Tourism Co-operative (AIRC), will deliver a series of initiatives 'aimed at inspiring, enabling and delivering destination recovery', HIE said.

'It will encourage collaboration among businesses, communities, public and third sector partners, and will create 6.5 new full-time equivalent posts within the group itself.'

'AIRC will provide support, advice and signposting to communities looking to improve



conditions for visitors. It will also help tourism businesses to make sure they have the skills and knowledge to rebuild their operations, access new markets and embed resilience in their approach.'

Morag Goodfellow, HIE's area manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'Tourism is so important to this area, for the local economy

and for rural employment. It is also one of the sectors that has been hardest hit by the pandemic. It's important we do all we can to help the industry recover and that's what this funding is about.'

'AIRC provides valuable co-ordinated support for businesses and communities involved in providing visitor services. Our funding is about making sure the group is as effective as possible in rebuilding the sector post-Covid.'

Iain Jurgensen, chairman of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative, said: 'Tourism in Argyll and the Islands had been growing year on year prior to the onset of Covid-19. HIE's investment will enable AIRC to significantly increase our work on the ground throughout the area, with communities, businesses and sector groups, working together to get tourism back on its feet and equipped to face the future.'

## YOURSTORY

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Connel's Joy Dunlop teams up to present SpeakGaelic

BBC presenters and social media stars Joy Dunlop and Calum Maclean are to lead SpeakGaelic, a new language learning initiative aiming to increase take-up of the language.

SpeakGaelic's exciting and ambitious new Gaelic learning resources will provide a comprehensive framework for Gaelic language learning across TV, iPlayer, BBC Sounds, web, face-to-face classes, YouTube and other social media to attract and inspire learners and speakers.

Joy Dunlop, from Connel in Argyll, is familiar to many who watch BBC Scotland and BBC ALBA as a regular weather presenter, musician and programme contributor.

A fluent Gaelic speaker, with an honours degree in Gaelic language and culture, Joy has fronted a range of shows for BBC ALBA including *Cuirim@Celtic Connections*, *Na Trads: Hall of Fame and Bannsean*. Since 2020, she has co-presented the final of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition.

Joy is also a multi-award-winning Gaelic singer, winning the coveted Royal National Mòd Gold Medal and The Oban Times Gold Medal and releasing multiple highly acclaimed albums. She also conducts the Alba Choir, Scotland's first and only Eurovision entry, which took part in the 2019 Eurovision Choir of the Year finals in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Commenting on her new role, Joy said: 'As a lifelong learner, I know how much of a rewarding challenge learning a language is, so to be part of a project that will be stimulating learners to put their Gaelic skills to use across such a wide array of learning methods is so exciting.

'I'm regularly asked 'what is the best way to learn Gaelic?' What is so ingenious about SpeakGaelic is that it offers a choice in how you learn, finding the way that suits you.'

Calum Maclean is known to social media regulars for his outdoors content, including his unforgettable 'midge challenge', and in BBC ALBA's *Dhan Uisge*, he showcases his passion for wild swimming



SpeakGaelic's new presenters Calum Maclean and Joy Dunlop

in the seas, lochs and rivers around Scotland.

Calum, who will be contributing outdoor features to the SpeakGaelic programmes, said: 'Just playing a part in helping other people learn and enjoy Gaelic is a privilege, particularly as this is a huge

moment in what we offer to people who want to join us in being Gaelic speakers.

'I really love being able to pass on knowledge to those who are curious, particularly doing it my own way, building Gaelic into the great outdoors. The language, and the pull it

has for so many people, is rooted in our natural surroundings in Scotland so it's a natural step for the future of Gaelic learning to be coming from there too.'

SpeakGaelic's project board chairwoman, MG ALBA's Iseabail Mactaggart, said:

'SpeakGaelic is the most comprehensive Gaelic learning initiative in a generation. It is a hugely exciting moment to be revealing that Joy and Calum – two brilliant and dynamic personalities – will be presenting the programmes.

'SpeakGaelic will be for all those with an interest in speaking the language, whether it is those whose learning journey is already under way, those who are less confident about their ability to speak, those new to Gaelic or those of us whose Gaelic learning journey will be lifelong.

'All of us in the partnership are excited about creating the opportunities through SpeakGaelic for everyone in the Gaelic community to #cleachdi! – to use their Gaelic.'

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## August

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# Robert in lockdown

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



One of the many world-changing events of the last two years has been the rise of the social media platform TikTok.

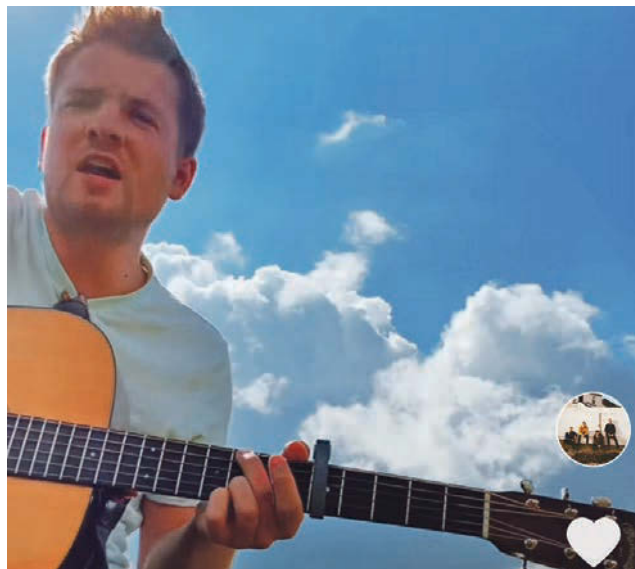
As engagement on the platform soared at the beginning of lockdown, Tide Lines thought we should get involved just as Donald Trump was considering banning it because it was owned by the Chinese!

After well over a year of using it, TikTok still remains a mystery to me. Until very recently, it required all videos to be under a minute – confines that prove very challenging for someone as verbose as me.

Our own profile on the platform is basically full of me singing short versions of songs: some Tide Lines; some Gaelic; some Scots; and some pop or rock covers. I also go live on the platform now and again for wee concerts from my flat and – at one point, I even attempted a 'chat show' where I invited other users onto my live stream. You can see why I haven't quite got my head round it.

It has a very young usership and, for the first time in my life, aged 27, it has made me realise there are now generations below me with whom I am almost completely out of touch. This must be how my Mum and Dad felt when they first discovered Facebook – a good few years after anyone under 30 had moved onto Instagram and largely left Facebook behind!

I actually saw a video



on TikTok recently where someone was asking if anyone remembered 'the old days' when you had to buy music rather than stream it. I felt like saying: yes – partly because I'm a full-time musician and partly because I wasn't born yesterday. The first music I bought was on cassette after all.

Anyway, the reason I am telling you all this is that, in the name of TikTok, I have been trying to go to picturesque places for my short videos. When I was back home during lockdown, this was easy enough. I could have a different view of the Ben each day and, now and again, throw in a nice shot by the River Lochy.

In Glasgow, however, it is slightly more difficult because

all the photogenic spots in the city tend to be busy.

With this in mind, in the nice weather last week, I set off for the Campsie Hills. Stopping at the car park just above the Campsie Waterfall, I set off, guitar in hand like Julie Andrews, up the small hill directly above it. Half way up, I found the perfect rock to perch my phone and film myself singing a few songs.

No sooner had I started than a lovely Indian family appeared and sat down and had a picnic – the young lad offering me some chocolate peanuts from his lunch box! They gave me a round of applause and, thus, became only my second live audience since March 2020. It's a funny old world these days!

# Author to share how personal experience led to publication

Writers are being invited to join literary agent Jenny Brown when she sits down with author Bridget McNulty in a webinar hosted by creative support organisation XpoNorth.

Bridget will be sharing her insights into how she turned a need for support into an internationally published book, *The Grief Handbook*, at the event on Wednesday July 28.

When Bridget lost her mum suddenly, she couldn't find the support she needed. Looking to help others facing a similar problem, she set about writing *The Grief Handbook* to ensure there was practical and sympathetic advice for anyone navigating grief.

The *Grief Handbook* was published in South Africa, the UK and the US on July 13 and is the first grief handbook to combine personal, lived experience with expert guidance for navigating loss.

When writing the book Bridget, from South Africa, consulted professional experts and learned the art of writing about personal experience and how to make that marketable.

Talking about the webinar Alex Smith, project manager at XpoNorth, said: 'It will be a fascinating insight into how to effectively channel personal experience through written



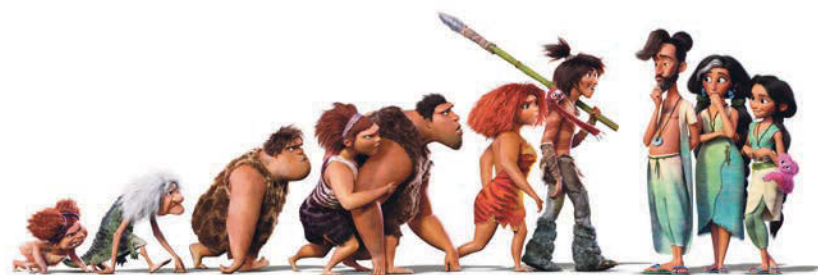
**Bridget McNulty.**

word. Bridget will be joined in conversation by one of Scotland's top literary agents, Jenny Brown, who will bring practical advice and support for writers looking to get published.'

Sitting Down With The Author: *The Grief Handbook* by Bridget McNulty takes place on Wednesday 28 July at 11am. It is free to attend and tickets can be booked via EventBrite.

## What's on at Oban Cinema

# THE FUTURE AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE



## THE CROODS 2 A NEW AGE

### THIS WEEK

**Friday 23 - Thursday 29 July (closed Mon-Tue)**

The Croods 2   U	12:00/14:45
Peter Rabbit 2   PG	12:15
Black Widow   12A	14:45/17:15/20:30
Frankie   12A	18:00
The Father   12A	20:15

#### FRANKIE

Unfolding over the course of a late summer's day in the fabled resort town of Sintra, Portugal, *FRANKIE* follows three generations who have gathered for a vacation organized by the family matriarch (Isabelle Huppert). In this fairy tale setting, husbands and wives, parents and children, friends and lovers, stirred by their romantic impulses — discover the cracks between them, as well as unexpected depth of feeling.

#### THE FATHER

A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality.

*THE FATHER* warmly embraces real life, through loving reflection upon the vibrant human condition; heart-breaking and uncompromisingly poignant -- a movie that nestles in the truth of our own lives



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Matthew Bourne's interpretation of the classic fairy tale has, at its heart, a true war-time romance. A chance meeting results in a magical night for Cinderella and her dashing young RAF pilot, together just long enough to fall in love before being parted by the horrors of the Blitz.

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<b>MONDAY:</b>	8am-12pm 12-3pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Lunch with Bob G Drive Times with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary Calum McLuckies Show David Cullen Show
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-12.30pm 1pm-3pm 3pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Ken Hunter Macky on FM Mediation with Heartfelt Change Drive Times with Archie Darling Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-2pm 2pm-3pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Steve Mediation with Heartfelt Change Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 4pm-6.45pm 6.45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil The Brunch Show With The One Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 2pm-4pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham.

**ORGAN RECITAL by Paul Wood**

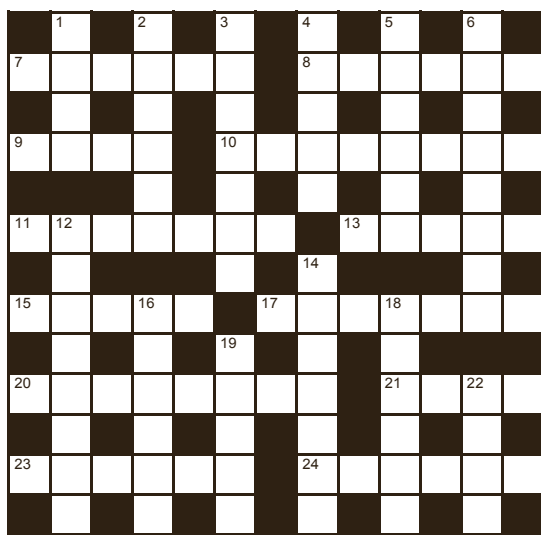
Sun 25th July, 3-4pm

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

Free

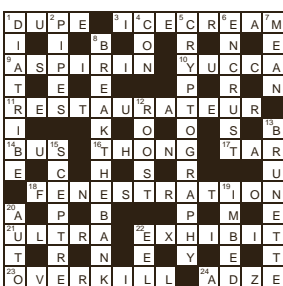
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**CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 7 Common (6)
  - 8 Set of advantages (6)
  - 9 Found on the cob (4)
  - 10 Served with cheese sauce (8)
  - 11 Introduce an idea (7)
  - 13 One of your five a day (5)
  - 15 Parasitic insect (5)
  - 17 Farewell (7)
  - 20 Car jacker? (8)
  - 21 Vaulted recess (4)
  - 23 Distinctive flag (6)
  - 24 Gain after taxes (6)
- Down**
- 1 Toad (4)
  - 2 Seasonal drink (6)
  - 3 Argument (7)
  - 4 Plant of the agave family (5)
  - 5 Money lender (6)
  - 6 Being oneself (8)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



# Blas Festival offers £3,000 for new commission

Organisers of this year's Blas Festival are seeking proposals from musicians and composers from the creation of a new piece of music.

The festival, which began in 2004 and celebrates Highland music, Gaelic language and culture, will host the premiere of the new work between November 19 and 27, hopefully with a live audience after last year's festival was held online due to the pandemic.

Blas is organised by Gaelic arts organisation Fèisean nan Gàidheal, in partnership with The Highland Council, and has commissioned many new works over the years including pieces from Mike Vass, Julie Fowles, Margaret Stewart, James Ross and Mischa Macpherson.

The musician awarded this year's commission will have a budget of £3,000 to support them compose new material or arrange existing material.

Arthur Cormack of Fèisean nan Gàidheal said: 'The Blas Festival has commissioned many Highland artists over the years to produce new musical work and we are looking forward to what this year's musicians will come up with.'

'It is 200 years since the birth of Màiri Mhòr nan Òran and the Covid pandemic has meant celebrations of that milestone have been limited. While not being prescriptive, we would be particularly interested in proposals which celebrate her work, or new music inspired by the values Màiri Mhòr demonstrated through her songs, many of which are relevant today; fighting injustice, land ownership, crofters' rights, shinty, wool working, spinning, nursing and the active involvement of women in political activities.'

Màiri Mhòr nan Òran (Big Mary of the Songs), or Mary Macpherson, from the Isle of Skye, was a nurse and prolific

songwriter, known for her powerful songs of protest, praise, exile and hope. Many of her songs focussed on the land struggle, a subject as relevant today as it was then. The songs, rich in imagery, are still popular with Gaelic singers, musicians and audiences today.

Arthur Cormack added: 'While regulations in place to deal with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic will dictate the final format, at this time we hope the majority of Blas concerts and events will be live, with an audience. I'm sure this will be a welcome experience for our audiences after the last 18 months.'

'In addition, we will hold a series of online workshops, lectures and other events after last year's online festival welcomed audience members from around the world; many for the first time.'

This year's Blas Festival will feature around 40 events in venues across the Highlands



Great Mary of the Songs with her spinning whorl.

and online. As always, significant birthdays of some of Scotland's most treasured musicians will be celebrated and further details of those, and other events, will be available soon.

Further information and commission guidelines can be found at [www.blas.scot/commission-2021-beurla](http://www.blas.scot/commission-2021-beurla) and proposals should be emailed to [chrisie@blas.scot](mailto:chrisie@blas.scot) by Friday July 30.

## Exhibition spotlight on Nicolson's Kiosk

From the late 1960s to the early 1990s, Nicolson's Kiosk stood on the plot of land now occupied by An Lanntair.

A staple of Stornoway life and an early example of the small businesses servicing the tourist trail through the Hebrides, the kiosk sold the 'gifts, souvenirs and fancy goods' which featured in its annual catalogue. Entirely reliant on local suppliers and makers, its range of items was a testament to Hebridean ingenuity and idiosyncrasy.

As visitors return to Scotland's post-pandemic landscape, shopping for new memories, a collective of artists, designers and makers speculate on what the kiosk might have in stock today.

The 2021 collection, and its accompanying catalogue, is 'in turn unexpected, funny, surreal and beautiful', An Lanntair said. Artists Philippa C Thomas and Hector MacInnes have been relishing the chance to dig down through the layers of local history, stories, myths and memory that surround Nicolson's Kiosk.

'Souvenirs are such potent, magical objects. We all give them these special powers

over our memories and our sense of place, but often the objects themselves seem arbitrary and mass produced. The items that used to be on sale at the kiosk totally went against the grain in that respect - they had a real locality and a complete lack of cynicism, which they perhaps carried forward from earlier traditions like Barvasware. But they also had no pretensions to being more than 'just' souvenirs.'

'Clearly, these qualities emerged from a time when the islands were scrambling to come to terms with an explosion in tourist numbers and a collapse in more traditional ways of earning a living and this played to the strengths of island communities: improvisation, hospitality, multi-tasking and humour. So, with tourists who can't get abroad flooding to a fragile post-covid Hebrides, it seems like the perfect time to rekindle the spirit and the attitude of Nicolson's Kiosk.'

'We've been so excited to see how different artists, makers and thinkers have responded to being asked to restock the kiosk in 2021. Everyone's taken a different approach and taught us something really

important. We really think the old bodach Nicolson would be proud.'

The exhibition might also bring back a few memories for locals. Maryanne Macleod remembered Bùth MhicNeacail very well. 'It used to be across from the old Gazette offices,' she said, 'where An Lanntair is now. You would see the tourists coming and going up and down the wee steps, usually when they were waiting for the ferry to come in. But you saw plenty Leodhasachs popping in and out as well, maybe if there was a birthday they'd forgotten about last time they were over in Inverness.'

'The kiosk had souvenirs and knick-knacks and things made on the island. Things to take away that would remind folk of their holiday or make a good gift. It was a way for local people to make a bit of money on the side. Some of it was clever and well-made. They used to send a small catalogue round the island. No-one does that any more, it's all online now. But I worked there for a summer in the early days in 1979 so maybe if I come along to An Lanntair I might get my old job back!'



# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAIN 22 An t-Iuchar / THURSDAY 22 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (Four on the Cuillin)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Fuine (Home Baking)
- 21.00 Peann a Chlachair/ The Stonemason's Pen
- 21.45 Binneas/Na Nads
- 22.00 Air An Rathad/On the Road
- 22.30 Mor-Longan:Biastan nan Cuantan/Superships-Giants of the Sea
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge
- 23.30 FUNC (S1 Ep1)

### DIHAIONE 23 An t-Iuchar/ FRIDAY 23 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 NEW Dàn
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 Tir is Teanga
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits
- 21.00 Opry le Daniel
- 21.50 Binneas-Na Trads
- 22.00 Grace Harte/ Drama
- 22.55 Folk Prom

### DISATHAIRNE 24 An t-Iuchar/ SATURDAY 24 July

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.45 An Là – NEWS
- 18.00 My Life as a Courgette
- 19.05 Peann a Chlachair/ The Stonemason's Pen
- 19.50 Binneas/Na Trads
- 20.00 Tir is Teanga
- 20.30 An Lot S5
- 21.00 Folk Prom

- 22.00 Ceol Duthchasach/Ken Burn's Country Music
- 00.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 00.30 Colin Macleod-An Ceol/Colin Macleod-The Music

### DIDÒMHAICH 25 An t-Iuchar/ SUNDAY 25 July

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – NEWS
- 18.30 Seachd Là/ News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia
- 20.00 Fuine/Home Baking
- 20.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coast Path
- 21.00 Tarraing nan Tonn/Chasing Waves
- 22.00 Mor-Longan:Biastan nan Cuantan/Superships-Giants of the Sea
- 22.50 Celtic Connections
- 23.00 Grace Harte/Drama
- 23.45 Dealbh is Slighe

### DILUAIN 26 An t-Iuchar/ MONDAY 26 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Puirt-adhair/Highland Airports
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits
- 21.00 Trusadh – An Aonarachd Gar Marbhadh/Loneliness is Killing Us
- 22.00 Cuirn aig Celtic/Bard Mhealboist
- 22.30 Prois Tartan/Tartan Pride
- 23.30 Air an Rathad

### DIMÀIRT 27 An t-Iuchar/ TUESDAY 27 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann/Four on the Cuillin
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language

- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 21.00 Ionad Hìort-Oir an Dochais
- 22.00 Trusadh – Tha Aonarachd Gar Marbhadh (Loneliness is Killing us)
- 23.00 Dàn
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.35 Alleluia

### DICIADAIN 28 An t-Iuchar / WEDNESDAY 28 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Puirt-adhair/Highland Airports
- 19.30 Speaking our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Lot/The Croft S5
- 21.00 Tommy Burns
- 22.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 22.30 Cuirn aig Celtic/Bard Mhealboist
- 23.00 Opry le Da
- 23.50 Dhan Uisge

### DIARDAIN 29 An t-Iuchar/ THURSDAY 29 July

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann/Four on the Cuillin
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/ History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Fuine
- 21.00 Seobhrach as a' Chlaich
- 21.45 Binneas/Na Trads
- 22.00 Air an Rathad/On the Road
- 22.30 Mor-Dhrochaidhean/Mega Bridges
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge
- 23.30 FUNC S1



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

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Geraldine van Heemstra and Clare Dudeny.

## Voyage of creative discovery

Two artists have set out on a voyage of creative discovery to explore the remote and beautiful coasts, islands and seas around the Inner Hebrides.

Geraldine van Heemstra will be turning the physical experience of sailing aboard the 50-foot yacht Whimbrel into artwork. She will be making wind harps, known as aeolian harps, that will respond to the sea breezes and using a device she made using driftwood, and which responds to the movement of the boat and the air, to create etchings.

'It will be like trying to conduct an unruly orchestra of wind, rain and sea. A lot of my art is about our relationship with nature and this emphasises how it's not something we can control. We have to collaborate: it's very humbling,' she said.

Geraldine, who learned to sail growing up in Holland, and fellow artist Clare Dudeny have been awarded a week's residency aboard the Bluewater catamaran thanks to a collaboration between Visual Arts Scotland (VAS) and Whimbrel's owners.

The voyage began at the weekend when Whimbrel set sail from Ardfern, south of Oban, and has been funded by Marchmont House, in the Scottish Borders, as part of its wider work to nurture contemporary artists and celebrate nature, art and creativity. Clare, a weaver, wood carver, painter and qualified sailor from London, hopes to produce artworks that reflect the time aboard and the experiences it brings. She said: 'This voyage will allow me to feel connected to the environment – the wind, the waves and the geology.'

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# Oban Food & Drink Trail

## PART 1



Follow Soroba Rd, turn left towards Rockfield Primary then left onto McCaig Rd.

**Oban Food & Drink Trail**  
PART 1

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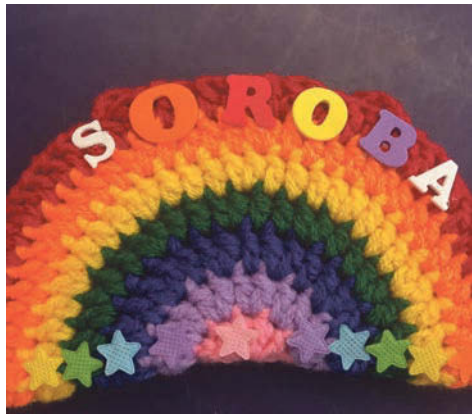
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)





**1. SOROBA SHOP**

Your local one stop shop for all your essential shopping supplies  
 Open: Monday-Thursday 8am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 9am-10pm, Sunday 10am-9pm  
**Address: McCaig Rd, Oban PA34 4YD**



**2. BIRCHWOOD GARAGE**

Stocking a vast range of food, wine, groceries, confectionery and newspapers. As well as supplying hot & cold filled rolls.  
 Open: Monday-Saturday 6.30am-8pm  
**Address: Soroba Rd, Oban PA34 4JF**



**3. ALDI**

Retail chain selling a range of grocery items, meat & dairy. Don't miss the middle isle special buys including beauty products, gardening items, household furniture and more that changes every week.  
 Open: Monday-Saturday 8am-10pm, Sunday 9am-7pm  
**Address: Lynn Rd, Oban PA34 4PH**



**4. LIDL**

Providing customers with the highest quality products at the lowest possible prices, and working closely with suppliers to make this possible.  
 Open: Monday-Saturday 8am-10pm, Sunday 8am-8pm  
**Address: 9 Soroba Rd, Oban PA34 4HY**



**5. LONDIS - OBAN FILLING STATION**

Not only supplying fuel but also stocking essential supplies and serving hot filled rolls, pies, sausage rolls, etc  
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**6. MARKS AND SPENCER**

M&S is a leading British retailer bringing quality, great value food, clothing and homeware to millions of customers around the world.  
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**7. TESCO**

A British multinational groceries and general merchandise retailer including household goods and clothing.  
 Open: Monday-Saturday 7am-10pm, Sunday 8am-8pm  
**Address: Lochside St, Oban PA34 4HP**



**8. TASTE OF ARGYLL**

From local producers, fresh and frozen fish, meats, veg, milk, breads, jams, coffees, soaps, flours, pasta, cakes, etc...  
 Open: Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm  
**Address: 29 Combie St, Oban PA34 4HS**



**9. GO NAKED VEG**

A plastic-free and organic shopping experience, right in the heart of Oban. Fresh, Organic vegetables and fruit delivered to your door.  
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**Address: Stevenson St, Oban PA34 5NA**



**10. IAIN DARLING/WYNNE BUTCHERS**

A family butchers just a short walk from the top of Tesco car park, turning right at Bossard cafe, they deliver to businesses with-in and out with the town, and also do home deliveries  
 Open: Mon-Sat 9am-2pm  
**Address: 4 Combie St, Oban PA34 4HN**



**11. MILLSTONE WHOLEFOODS**

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**Address: 15 High St, Oban PA34 4BG**



**12. ALBA KITCHEN GARDEN**

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**Address: 6 Albany St, Oban PA34 4AR**



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## Around the markets

**United Auctions, Stirling, Thursday July 15:** sold 3751 prime sheep comprising of 2330 spring lambs to average 260.58ppk and 149 prime hogs selling to average 163.70ppk also 1272 ewes and rams.

West and Central Suffolk club show of prime lambs ably judged by Mr W Shearer, champion pen from Mr Smith, South Flanders realized £139.00 and Reserve champion from M/s Dun, Catcune sold to £130.50

New Season Lambs (2330) – Errol Enterprises (Tex) £146.00, £140.00 & £139.00; South Flanders (Suf) £139.00 x3; Catcune (Suf) £130.50; Claish (Suf) £130.00; Doune Farms (BTex) £138.00 & £134.00; South Dundonald & West Park (BTex) £133.00; South Dundonald (BTex) £131.00; Faulds (Cont) £135.50 & £134.50; Balmyre (Cha) £123.00, Shanry (Cha) £117.00; Priestfield (Che) £122.00; High Gameshill (Che) £121.00; Priestfield (Che) £118.00 x2; Auchenerivoch (Mule) £119.50 & £115.50.

New Season Lambs (2330) – Wester Kepadowie (BTex) 310.00ppk; Calfward (BTex) 308.00ppk; West Park (BTex) 306.00ppk; South Flanders (Tex) 295.00ppk; 3 Birch Av (Tex) 294.00ppk; Lands of Drumhead & West Park (Tex) 293.00ppk; Faulds (Cont) 288.00ppk, 279.00ppk & 274.00ppk; Wallaceon (Cha) 276.00ppk; Shanry (Cha) 266.00ppk & 260.00ppk; Catcune (Suf) 269.00; Law (Suf) 268.00ppk; Whitehill, Tillyrie & Starlaw (Suf) 267.00ppk; Priestfield (Che) 261.00ppk; Auchenerivoch (Mule) 242.00ppk; Starlaw (Mule) 232.00ppk; Kepculloch & Auchenerivoch (Mule) 226.00ppk.

Ewes (1272) – Hatton Knowe (Suf) £158.00; Chalmerstone (Suf) £135.00 & £130.00; Woodhead of Mailer (Tex) £155.00; Chalmerstone (Tex) £154.00; Pitmurthly (Tex) £150.00; South Dundonald (Tex) £149.00; Assloss (BFL) £152.00; Over Finlarg (BFL) £125.00 & £118.00; West Park (Cont) £142.00; South Dundonald (Cont) £138.00; Halkerston & Pathhead (Suf) £129.00; Brampton (Hamp) £140.00; South Dundonald (BTex) £137.00; Chalmerstone (BTex) £125.00; Ormiston Mains (Chev) £131.00; South Park (Chev) £120.00; Silverwells (Chev) £119.00; Lochend

(Mule) £130.00; Woodhead of Mailer (Mule) £123.00; High Gameshill (Mule) £120.00; Kepculloch & Orchard (Mule) £119.00; Gartincaber (BF) £105.00; Starlaw (BF) £100.00; Halls & Highland Livestock (BF) £90.00.

Tups – Ormiston Mains (Chev) £148.00; South Dundonald (BTex) £134.00; Groan (BTex) £127.00; Groan (Tex) £125.00; Sturk (BF) £90.00.

**Caledonian Marts Ltd, Stirling, Thursday July 15:** sold 76 Cattle comprising of 38 Bullocks, Heifers and Young Bulls, 37 OTM Cattle. Prime Bullocks averaged 238p at 652kg. Prime Heifers averaged 240p at 610kg.

Prime Heifers sold to 282ppkg for a Limousin from M Orr & Sons, Penston, MacMerry purchased by R Brown, Butchers, Stenhouse-muir and to £1690 for a Limousin from J & N Kerr, Bankhead, Aberdour purchased by H A Black & Sons, Butchers, Stirling. Prime Bullocks sold to 280ppkg for a Limousin from A Pettigrew, Faskine, Airdrie purchased by D Campbell, Butchers, Callander and to £1708 for a Limousin from J & R Kerr, Bankhead, Aberdour. Heifers per Kg – 282p Penston, 268p Riggs, 262p Penston, 260p Bankhead, 258p Gelvan View.

Bullocks per Kg – 280p Faskine, 272p, 270p & 268p Penston, 268p Faskine.

Heifers per Head – £1690 Bankhead, 1494 Annfield, £1483 & £1474 Riggs, £1472 & £1466 Penston.

Bullocks per Head – £1708 Bankhead, £1672 & £1641 Penston, £1632 Molemound, £1620 & £1624 Classloch, £1610 Penston Also forward were 37 OTM Cattle. OTMs averaged 157ppkg selling to 192ppkg for a Limousin from JF & MB Teague, Buteland and to £1510 for a Charolais from H Greer, Gelvan View.

Dairy Cows averaged 134ppkg selling to 139ppkg for an Ayrshire from J & J Kinloch, Walton and to £940 for the same beast.

Beef OTMs per Kg – 192p Buteland, 176p Gelvan View & Pathcondie, 173p Gelvan View, 171p Buteland.

Beef OTMs per Head – £1510 Gelvan View, £1410 Buteland, £1290 Gelvan View, £1250 Pathcondie

## NO SHORTAGE THIS YEAR

### A fine field of green timothy hay from the Carse of Stirling up to 6 feet high.



Iain Campbell got in touch with The Oban Times this week to highlight the fantastic growing season many farmers have been enjoying this year, telling us that while he had seen hay grow to around five feet, he had never seen it reach six feet high. If all our farmers are enjoying such success, livestock will not be in need this coming winter.

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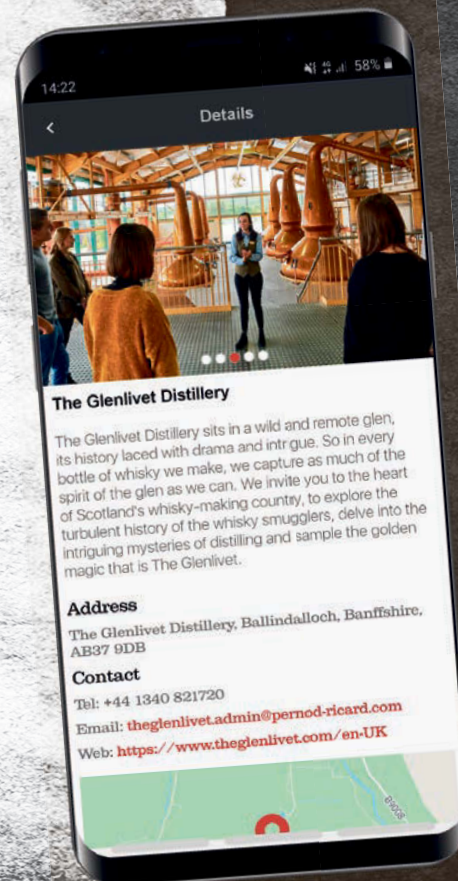
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# Fighting fatigue on the farm

Ahead of Farm Safety Week (July 19-23), Aberdeen University PhD student Ilinca Tone has used NFU Scotland's blog to outline the clear link between fatigue and our industry's appalling record on safety. She also provides top tips to tackle fatigue.

Ilinca recognises that extreme tiredness and high workloads are common in farming – lambing, calving, harvest – and that has a direct connection to the risk of accidents, putting farmers, their families and their staff in danger. Supporting this point, the many farmers from the UK who have taken part in her research projects frequently reported that the incidents which they were involved in boiled down to fatigue or rushing. Farmers taking part



in the study have helped identify strategies that are useful to tackling fatigue.

■ First and foremost, the moment you feel the first signs of fatigue, take a break. Don't wait until you are falling asleep during the job. Put your tools down and take a breather, even if it is just for a short while. You will come back to the task refreshed and more productive.

■ Or even better, take a quick nap in a safe space. This is especially crucial if you are

feeling fatigued while driving, as your ability to react will be impaired.

■ It is also important and perfectly normal to occasionally take time off, preferably to get away from the farm, even if just for an hour or two. Farming is unique, because your workplace is most likely your home as well, so going away from it all from time to time can really make a difference.

■ In defence aviation, one of the preferred strategies to tackle fatigue is slowing down

the job. You may feel like you need to rush to get the job done when you are tired. However, because you are not as alert, going slow actually allows you to catch errors and not have to go back and fix things.

■ Postpone non-essential tasks or pass these on to somebody else if working in a team.

■ Finally, when working while fatigued, it is important to keep in touch with others, not only so you can get help in case of an emergency, but also to keep yourself alert.

Ilinca concludes: 'Remember that nobody is a superhuman (or a superfarmer!) and we can all be affected by fatigue at some point in our lives.'

Read the full blog at: [www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/farmers-must-fight-fatigue-to-improve-farm-safety--guest-blog](http://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/farmers-must-fight-fatigue-to-improve-farm-safety--guest-blog)

# Delivering on farming support payments

Farming support payments exceeded target across all schemes in 2020, Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon has confirmed.

More than £530 million was paid out by June 30, 2021, with all schemes exceeding the regulatory target of 95.24 per cent and outperforming 2019 levels.

A total of 99.5 per cent of Basic Payment Scheme, Greening and Young Farmer funds were paid by the end of June, with the 95.24 per cent target having been met by the end of February – four months earlier than the previous year.

The Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme, Upland Sheep Support Scheme and the Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme also delivered more than 99 per cent of

payments by the end of June. Ms Gougeon said: 'The pandemic and impacts of Brexit continue to make this an incredibly challenging time for Scotland's farming community.'

'Financial stability is more critical than ever, which is why I am delighted that we have delivered improved performance across all scheme payments compared to 2019. We have paid more than half a billion pounds ahead of target and, in many cases, months before we did so in the previous year.'

'I would like to thank everyone who has supported this process, helping us provide our farmers and crofters with much-needed certainty, clarity and above all else, financial stability.'



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- 3000mm (3m) long
- Includes all joining pins/stakes

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- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
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- 3000mm (3m) long
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- 14 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
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- 12 x joining pins/stakes
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# WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK

**CRAOBH, OBAN AND TOBERMORY  
31ST JULY – 6TH AUGUST 2021**



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# WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK RETURNS FOR 2021



After the absence of West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) in 2020 as a result of the COVID pandemic, competitors are once again gearing up for the return of this much-loved regatta.

Starting on July 31 and running till August 6, the format will remain nearly the same as previous years with Craobh,

Oban and Tobermory the host ports. The Joint Regatta Committee (JRC) which runs the event says it aims to give a full week's racing. However, with the race committee likely to be working with restricted numbers, the emphasis will be on passage racing over the six-day series.

Two feeder races take place

on Saturday July 31 to Craobh Marina where the fleet muster for the start of WHYW. The Gigha feeder caters for boats from the south, whilst those from the north take part in the Oban to Craobh race.

On Sunday, the fleet race round Shuna off Craobh Marina and, after a second night at

Craobh, compete in the passage race north to Oban on Monday August 2.

The ever-popular Round Lismore race returns to WHYW on Tuesday. This year the tides suit an island circumnavigation. On Wednesday, the fleet race north to Tobermory up the Sound of Mull.

Thursday sees racing 'round

the cans' off Tobermory before the return to Oban on Friday August 6 in the Tobermory to Oban race to complete the points series.

The WHYW committee has committed to making the event happen despite restrictions imposed by COVID. However, no formal social events have been

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We would like to wish all competitors and everyone associated with WHYW 2021 every success

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organised and competitors will have to work to the guidelines imposed by host ports.

Gavin Marshall, chairman of the JRC, said: 'We are all committed to seeing WHYW 21 take place. The JRC has worked hard to make this happen and accommodate all racing preferences. In addition to the normal spinnaker and white sail classes, we are offering two classes for shorthanded crews with boats with no more than two people aboard. For those who like their 'bubbles' small, this may be an attractive option.'

This will be the 73rd birthday of the event run under the auspices of the Royal Highland Yacht Club and Oban Sailing Club. The only other regattas missed since the event's inception in 1882 were the war years.

It is an historic event and Tunnock's is once again committed a front-line sponsor, marking their long support of the regatta.

Gavin continued: 'Regardless of coronavirus restrictions, WHYW is able to go ahead largely due to the generosity of our main sponsor Tunnock's. Other sponsors include Owen Sails, Noble Marine Insurance, Scottish Sea Farms and Islay Gin. We are extremely grateful for their support.'




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Sir Boyd Tunnock, grandson of founder Thomas Tunnock, who heads up the renowned teacake and biscuit confectioners, has been a regular and successful WHYW competitor in his Moody 38 Lemerac.

Sir Boyd said: 'After missing last year's event due to Coronavirus, Tunnock's is delighted to be back as the main sponsor of this famous regatta. We have been supporting the event for well over a decade now. The team on Lemerac always look forward to competing and will enjoy racing again this year.'

He added each boat would receive a goodie bag of Tunnock's products, something that each competitor should not consider racing without!

The heart of the success story of WHYW is the format of a 'moving regatta' linking the three ports of call – Craobh, Oban

and Tobermory. Racing is normally complemented by an excellent apres sail social programme but this will not be happening this year to help safeguard competitors.

WHYW has always offered something for everyone, including families, to take part in. This can either be in the restricted sail or white sail classes or, for those seeking on the edge competition, the spinnaker classes.

The Joint Regatta Committee wishes to underline the importance of adhering to COVID guidelines for each port of call and keeping safe throughout the event.

Craobh Marina manager Alistair Spence said: 'The Craobh Marina team look forward to the challenge of accommodating the WHYW fleet for the opening two nights of the regatta and wish all competitors fair winds and fair weather.'

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Services for yachts before and after the regatta are also available at nearby Kilmelford Yacht Haven, Ardfern Yacht Centre and Crinan.

Oban Marina, the North Pier pontoons, Oban Bay Community

Berthing, Dunstaffnage Marina and Oban Marina on the Isle of Kerrera have long played host to the visiting fleet when in Oban as well as the visitor moorings and landing stage off Dungallan Parks

run by Oban Community Berthing Limited.

**Fleet**

The North Pier pontoons also complement the facilities in Oban for the fleet. See websites for

information on Covid-19 advice and facilities - [www.obanmarina.com](http://www.obanmarina.com), [www.northpierpontoons.com](http://www.northpierpontoons.com), [dunstaffnagemarina.co.uk](http://dunstaffnagemarina.co.uk) and [obanbayberthing.co.uk](http://obanbayberthing.co.uk)

When the fleet is in Oban,

please note new buoyage in place and adhere to Oban Bay Code of Safe Navigation. See [www.obanharbour.scot/navigation-marine-safety/navigation](http://www.obanharbour.scot/navigation-marine-safety/navigation)



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# TOBERMORY HARBOUR

Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) is urging all competitors to take notice of the restrictions advice on its website <https://www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk> Mary MacGregor of THA

said: 'We are delighted to be welcoming West Highland Yachting Week back for 2021. We would urge WHYW participants to follow instructions from our marine staff when they approach

the pontoons and follow their directions.

Many sporting events are just getting started again after the pandemic lockdown restrictions and the West Highland Week

Joint Regatta Committee has put a huge amount of effort into making 2021 happen.

Gavin Marshall said: 'Despite the uncertainty of organising such an event, the sun has

been shining on the west coast this summer, so please get your entry in if you have not already done so. It promises to be a great event so come and join in.'



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Full results on [www.whyw.co.uk](http://www.whyw.co.uk)  
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Photographs of WHYW from Yachting Images  
Ron and Graeme Cowan have been regular photographers of WHYW since 2009.  
A selection of their photographs is available on [www.yachtingimages.co.uk](http://www.yachtingimages.co.uk) as well as [www.whyw.co.uk](http://www.whyw.co.uk)

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# Set sail for a career at sea

A career in the maritime industry opens up endless opportunities. If you're looking for a hands-on role, enjoy a challenge and have an interest in working at sea, Argyll College's Maritime Skills NQ course is a great place to start.

The introductory course offers a broad overview of what to expect when working at sea, whether on a small or large vessel. With many practical units, students describe it as being great fun. They get first-hand experience out on the water on a power boat and get to practice manoeuvres on the RHIB. There are practical sessions at the swimming pool and in the classroom, learning ropework, first aid and navigation. With teamwork being a fundamental skill for those working in the industry, there's also a focus on group work, which helps to develop crucial life skills such as communication and problem solving.

Interested? Join us at our in-person Maritime Taster Sessions on Wednesday July

28 at Oban Sailing Club, from 10am to 4pm, to find out more.

You'll have the chance to meet our friendly teaching staff and learn all about what this practical course involves. Prospective students can even try their hand at the helm of our RHIB and take a spin around Oban Bay.

Places are limited due to social distancing so be sure to visit our website to book your spot.

Argyll College UHI lecturer Abi never expected a career on the high seas was ahead of her when she first went to college aged 16. To this day, her career's taken her all over the world and she now shares her skills and passion with young people wanting to follow in her footsteps.

Abi's passion for all things maritime began after making friends with a group of Sea Cadets in her halls of residence. When she learnt about the exciting opportunities a cadetship could offer, she decided it was right for her and set sail for a life at sea.

As well as getting involved

with the day-to-day jobs required for ship maintenance, the cadetship allowed Abi to gain crucial experience undertaking more advanced tasks on the ship, such as working with the captain on navigation and anchoring operations.

Despite being very hands-on and sometimes having to work long hours, Abi claims you can't beat the tranquil atmosphere of being at sea. 'The best part of being at sea for me is the peace and tranquillity.

'You can go on to the monkey

island and lie and look at the stars. You can go to the bow of the ship whilst there's nothing but ocean and just be there and then there's a dolphin.'

Now, hoping to inspire the next generation of seafarers, Abi teaches across our maritime courses

helping people progress onto a variety of career paths including cadetships, modern apprenticeships or by securing employment in the industry.

For further information or to book your place at our Taster Sessions visit [www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/opendays)



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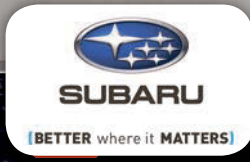
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**I. About**

Good Omens Series 2, produced by BBC Studios together with Amazon Prime, are committed to providing equal opportunities for all employees and increasing diversity in the Film and TV industry. We encourage applicants from underrepresented backgrounds and therefore would like to offer the opportunity to one applicant from the Highlands and Islands to join our trainee scheme on Good Omens Series 2. Accommodation and travel will be provided for the successful applicant. This production is based near Bathgate and will be filming in studios and locations in the Central Belt of Scotland.

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Due to Covid-19 all trainees must be able to travel to the production base and the locations safely which means ideally avoiding public transport. In addition, some of the roles, for example camera, AD, grip or locations will require travel to a variety of different locations outside of towns and cities early in the morning and possibly late at night so are likely to necessitate being driven or driving yourself. For the successful candidates provisions will be made for those who are unable to drive or who do not have a car.

Filming will commence in October and the trainee will have some prep time before the filming begins. The scheme will finish on or around 11th March. There will be a three week hiatus over Christmas.

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Continuity Trainee	Start Date 11th October 2021
Video Assist Trainee	Start Date 13th October 2021

**III. The Roles Explained:**

If you are unfamiliar with any of the above job roles, please go on this link to the ScreenSkills website which will explain what each of the above job roles are and what they do:

<https://www.screenskills.com/starting-your-career/job-profiles/film-and-tv-drama/>

No previous TV/Film experience is required, but please do have a look at the above jobs and have a think about which job you would like to apply for. Think about your skills and interests and which jobs would lend themselves to your experiences so far. In your cover letter, please let us know how you think your skills could transfer to that job role and why you would like to gain experience in that department. If you are interested in more than one department please note this in your CV and cover letter.

**IV. Applying:**

If you would like to apply to any of the above positions, please email your CV and a cover letter to [GO2Highlands@gmail.com](mailto:GO2Highlands@gmail.com) with the subject reading your NAME followed by the JOB ROLE. For example JOE SMITH PRODUCTION TRAINEE.

Please make sure your CV is clearly labelled with your NAME and the JOB ROLE. E.G JOE SMITH PRODUCTION TRAINEE. Please can you also include in your CV your address.

If you are applying for all other Traineeships – Please send all CVs by Friday 30th July 2021. The interviews will take place from the week of the 16th August 2021. All interviews will be done via Zoom.

\*\*Please do not resubmit your CV if you have already sent it. We have received it. Thank you!\*\*

**Reporter**



An exciting opportunity has arisen for a bright, passionate and self-driven reporter to join The Oban Times' busy team.

The person we are looking for will have an NCTJ or similar qualification, including shorthand, and be multi-media literate. Previous experience of subbing copy would be an advantage.

We are passionate about good local journalism and like our reporters to get out into the local community, meeting people face-to-face, sourcing the best stories.

You should be bursting with ideas and have an eye for a good story, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing your patch, and be capable of working on your own initiative as well as part of a team.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

A full driving licence is essential.

As well as writing for the newspaper of record for Argyll and the West Highlands, you will be expected to take photographs on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels and podcasts.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: [personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



**Chief Reporter**

The Oban Times Newspaper Group wants to recruit an experienced, dynamic, and ambitious senior journalist to take up the role of Chief Reporter of the Group's stable of weekly newspapers in the West Highlands.

This role has been created for a talented and ambitious manager to lead the reporting teams at Head Office in Oban and various satellite offices. The successful candidate will be a clear thinker, who will add further zest to our team, and have the ability to use their knowledge and expertise to mentor, encourage, and develop the reporting staff.

They will require:

- A good news sense, be organised, and have an impeccable eye for detail
- A passion for accuracy and able to understand and conform quickly to house style
- Ability to work effectively and enthusiastically, leading the team on several projects simultaneously
- Experience of working on digital platforms
- Effective communication skills
- Digital and social media awareness
- A full driving licence is essential

The Chief Reporter's duties will include:

- Sourcing major news stories and developing investigative reports
- Working with the editor and sub-editors to ensure all titles are published on time and that the news desk runs smoothly and efficiently
- Ensuring that all articles are subbed and are ready for publication
- Sourcing the most appropriate images for articles
- Making best use of social media

The successful candidate will live and work in one of the most beautiful areas of the West Highlands, and local knowledge would be an advantage. Other benefits include a generous salary, contributory pension scheme and resettlement assistance.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: [personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:personnel@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



**We have an opportunity to work within our Oban Branch**

Salary is subject to experience.

We are looking for either someone that wants to learn about Tool and Plant Hire and make a career within the Industry or Someone that has experience within the industry.

You will be expected to help in all aspects of serving customers for both hire and the trade counter. Computer key skills are required together with a clean driving licence.

**For further information please send your CV to Mary Ann at Hire and Supplies 1 Mill Lane or give her a call on 01631 566306.**

**Covid-19 restrictions are in place**



**Accounts Assistant  
Full-time (Maternity Cover  
– Fixed Term 12 months)**

We are looking for an individual to join our accounts team for a fixed term. The candidate should have a pleasant and professional manner. The role involves preparation of financial accounts to draft stage for a varied portfolio of clients. Being qualified or part qualified as AAT, CA or similar would also be advantageous. Salary offered will depend on level of experience and qualifications.

Please send CV and a covering letter by 9 August 2021 to:

**The Staff Partner at  
Albany Chambers, Albany Street,  
Oban PA34 4AL  
or by e mail to [mail@simmers.co.uk](mailto:mail@simmers.co.uk)  
[www.simmers.co.uk](http://www.simmers.co.uk)**

**Lancaster Hotel**

**Bar/Reception staff wanted**

Permanent full time position – all year round

**Please contact 01631 562587 or  
[lancasteroban@btconnect.com](mailto:lancasteroban@btconnect.com)**

**Career opportunities**



The Construction Industry is an exciting place to be right now.

Due to expansion we have the following vacancies

- **Skilled Labourers – Oban Area**
- **Joiners – Oban & Lochgilphead**
- **Bricklayers – Oban, Lochgilphead, Islay & Jura**
- **Labourers – Islay & Jura**

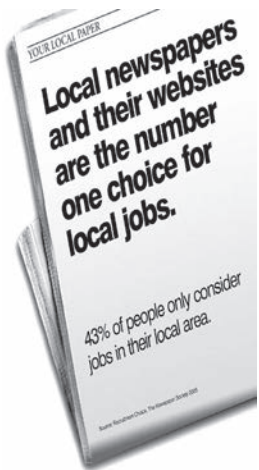
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A competitive salary. Access to training and development to develop your career with us. A workplace where no day is the same and you will get to see and work on projects that are helping to develop communities across Argyll.

**Call us on 01546 602989.  
Send C.V to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)**







## NOW HIRING

After a £3million renovation, John De Villiers, new General Manager at the Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa is looking for talented individuals to join the team.

Flexible working patterns available, accommodation & transport provided plus an extensive benefits, training & development programme.

### DRIFTWOOD SPA MANAGER

£35,000 PER YEAR PLUS UP TO £3,000 SERVICE CHARGE

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support for people with disabilities at home and in the community.



### Fort William

Could you be Key?

## Support Worker

(Various hours up to 39 per week) hourly rate: **£10.03** (£9.50 induction rate)

Relief Register (Bank)

hourly rate: **£10.03**, £9.50 induction and sleepover rate  
ref: SWR/HIGH/10271

Due to the ongoing growth and development of our personalised support services we currently have a number of exciting job opportunities.

Working locally, join one of our teams delivering great quality individualised support where every day is different in this challenging but rewarding role.

If you are caring, reliable, flexible and passionate about getting alongside people providing support to achieve the life they want then... you could be Key!

In turn, you will receive:

- 31 days annual leave
- Occupational Sick Pay
- Access to Employee Counselling Service
- Excellent Training
- Support to achieve a SVQ 2 qualification

No experience necessary! Full training and support will be given to help you achieve your full potential.

If you would like to get involved in support work but cannot commit to a contract due to other commitments, we also have opportunities for you to complement our existing workers by joining our relief register of bank support workers. This will mean you can work in a way that best suits you and fits with your life.

We would encourage you to submit your application at the earliest convenience as we may be able to offer interview at an earlier date to shortlisted candidates. If you would like to arrange an informal chat to find out more do not hesitate to get in touch!

For an application form and job description please visit our website at [www.key.org.uk](http://www.key.org.uk); email: [jobs@key.org.uk](mailto:jobs@key.org.uk) or telephone: 0141 342 1892.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 6th August 2021.

Key, Key Support and Key Housing are names used by Key Housing Association Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC006652.



### North Argyll House

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

Currently recruiting for:

#### Senior Carer

Qualification; Nursing or SVQ level 3 in health and social care essential. £12.12 per hour

#### Care Assistant

From £9.50 to £10.00 per hour

#### Housekeeping Assistant

£9.00 per hour

Salaries under review.

Full and part-time permanent positions.

For an application form

contact 01631 562168

Email [info@northargyllhouse.org](mailto:info@northargyllhouse.org)



We require the following personnel



### Apprentice Electricians

Successful candidates will follow a 4 year apprenticeship, working on a variety of large projects. College attendance will be spread over various blocks at West of Scotland College, Paisley.

### Trainee Contracts Surveyor

This role will suit an individual who has a mechanical, or electrical background.

Renewables experience would be welcome.

Full training on our bespoke commercial systems will be available. Applications with a copy of latest CV, by e-mail to.

Angus MacPherson, Managing Director, OES Ltd  
[amacpherson@fes-group.co.uk](mailto:amacpherson@fes-group.co.uk)

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## Collections Assistant

This is a 2-year project funded post ideally suited to a new graduate with the possibility of further extension.

**£25,000 per annum**      **37.5 hours per week**

Kilmartin Museum are seeking a full-time Collections Assistant to assist the Director/Curator with general day-to-day curatorial work and additional work required to develop the collections, prepare and install a new exhibition and assist with the move back into the Museum's new facilities.

For further information and to apply, please visit [www.kilmartin.org/jobs](http://www.kilmartin.org/jobs).

Closing date: 5pm 16th August 2021

Interviews: c24th & 25th August 2021

## Care Support Staff Required

We are looking for Support Staff to work on the Isle of Luing - Seil and Oban area  
Staff will need to be drivers – car can be provided if required

### Enhanced Work Conditions

- Start Up Bonus paid
- Block Hours per day (12hrs)
- All Travel Expenses
- Free Accommodation in the area
- Paid Holidays – 28 days per year
- Staff Pension Scheme
- All Training Provided

If Interested please contact: **Careplus ( Bute )**  
Tel: 01700 502650 Email: [info@careplusbute.com](mailto:info@careplusbute.com)

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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
21/02933/FUL	The Moorings, Camusnagaul, Fort William, PH33 7AJ	Erection of conservatory extension, conversion of garage to letting unit
21/03265/FUL	Land 70M NE of Braeside, Arisaig	Erection of house and garage
21/03336/FUL	Land 120M South of Banada, 4 Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge	Erection of house and installation of 3 no holiday pods
21/03340/FUL	Land 400M NE of Invereolan, Glenetive	Extension and improvement of the parking area 12
21/03349/FUL	Land 120M South of 16 King's Way, King's Way, Mallaig	Site servicing: provision of infrastructure to approved house plots
21/03391/FUL	Land to North East of Oak Cottage, Alma Road, Fort William	Installation of 3 holiday pods

**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)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**PROPOSE TO CONSTRUCT 3 PAIRS OF SPEED CUSHIONS ON C1164 LUNDAVRA ROAD, FORT WILLIAM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **The Highland Council**, in terms of the powers contained in section 36 of the **Roads (Scotland) Act 1984** as amended, The Road Humps (Scotland) Regulations 1998, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf proposes to construct 3 pairs of speed cushions on the C1164 Fort William as follows:

- First pair of speed cushions is 30 metres Southwest of U1914 Argyll Terrace, C1164 Lundavra Road Junction, Fort William
- Second pair of speed cushions is 94 metres Southwest of U1914 Argyll Terrace, C1164 Lundavra Road Junction, Fort William
- Third pair of speed cushions is 170 metres Southwest of U1914 Argyll Terrace, C1164 Lundavra Road Junction, Fort William

The speed cushions will be 75mm in height (max), 1700 mm wide and 1900 mm in length with approach ramp gradient of 1:8 and slope gradient of 1:4.

In terms of Section 7 and Schedule 6 Part 3 paragraph 9 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, the Council has decided not to make the schedule and plans available for public inspection or publicise them other than by electronic means because to do otherwise may give rise to a significant risk of the transmission of coronavirus. A copy of the schedule, plan and statement of reasons may be found at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/roadsafety> and selecting "Road Safety Consultations" or by copy documents may be requested by emailing [road.safety@highland.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@highland.gov.uk), calling 01349 886601 or writing to Lisa MacKellaich, Road Safety Officer, Road Safety Team, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

All objections to the proposals must be made in writing and must specify the grounds of objection on or before 23rd August 2021 to the following:

Lisa MacKellaich, Road Safety Officer, Highland Council [road.safety@highland.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@highland.gov.uk) or Lisa MacKellaich, Road Safety Officer, Road Safety Team, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

22nd July 2021

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**  
**DECROFTING APPLICATION**

1. D. Colthart, 4 Ardconnel, 0.199 ha for a dwelling house (110891)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 20/08/21 at [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

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**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**MARINE FARM, SHUNA ISLAND, LOCH LINNHE, ARGYLL**

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

Cost	£3,500,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Shuna Island,	56° 35.983 N	005° 22.646 W
Loch Linnhe,	56° 35.762 N	005° 22.661 W
Argyll	56° 35.778 N	005° 23.393 W
	56° 35.999 N	005° 23.377 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3ytzuoh>. Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot) within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00009254 and Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

**Fair Processing Notice**

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

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

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

Duncan MacNeil trading as D-Mac Services Argyll Ltd of 7 Kerrera Terrace, Dunollie, Oban, Argyll PA34 5AT is applying for a licence to use Oban Livestock Centre, Upper Soroba, Soroba, Oban PA34 4SD as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. 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.

**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
21/01157/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Port A Mhuillin, Baugh, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/01158/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of The Coalree, Kenovay, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/01256/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Plot 1 Land North West Of Ach-Na-Craoibh, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01225/PPP	Site for the erection of croft house	Land North Of Tirlaggan House, Achnacraoish, Isle Of Lismore, Argyll And Bute
21/01020/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of catering trailer	Land At Car Park, Scarinish, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/00937/PP	External alterations and use of basement level as separate flat with additional separate entrance and construction of plant room	Calgary Castle, Calgary, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QU
21/00936/LIB	Internal and external alterations and use of basement level as separate flat with additional separate entrance and construction of plant room	Calgary Castle, Calgary, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QU
21/00940/PP	Erection of 2 whisky maturation warehouses and formation of vehicular access	Laphroaig Distillery, Laphroaig Distillery Road, Laphroaig, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7DU
21/01037/PPP	Site for the erection of 16 dwellinghouses	Land North Of Achnagaradh, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, 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 Council's 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**

**Proposed Assignment of a Croft**

Peter Shaun Sinclair is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Dalrannoch, Ardchattan & Muckairn to Kirsty Sarah Sinclair of Abernethy's, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PA

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) by 4th January 2018

**First Registration of a Croft**

Colonsay Community Development Company has registered their croft Port Mòr at Lower Kilchattan, Isle of Colonsay 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 25th December 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 C7571.

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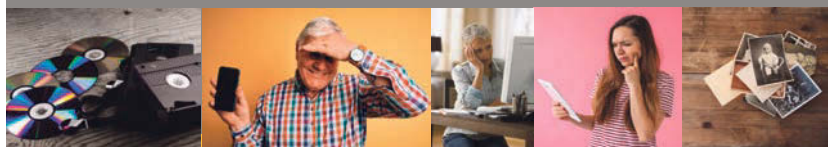
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or call 0788 6661458

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GRADUATION



Andrew O'Donnell graduated from Glasgow  
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in Computing Science. Andrew is the son of  
Martin and Catherine O'Donnell, Glasgow  
and grandson of John and the late Nan  
MacPhee, South Uist and Barra and Patrick  
and the late Anna O'Donnell, Glasgow.

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## DEATHS

**BALL** - It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jean Ball on June 30, 2021 (née McAllister), the daughter of Archie (Geids) and Isabella McAllister. Jean was born in Oban in November 1937. Her love of Oban never left her and she visited nearly every year. She died at her home in Walsall, with her daughter holding her hand.

**MACDOUGALL** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, aged 45 years, Lorraine Catherine MacDougall, beloved daughter of Joan and the late Duncan MacDougall, a dear sister of Fiona, Derek, Louise and Alison, and cherished auntie, niece, sister-in-law and cousin. Sorely missed by all who knew her. Rest in peace.

**MACKENZIE** - Flora (Robertson). Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow aged 92 years. Devoted wife to John Graham MacKenzie, former Area Manager Caledonian MacBrayne Oban. Dearly loved mother to Jim and Mairi Ishbel and mother-in-law to Joyce and Alan. Treasured grandmother to Calum, Alasdair, Morna and Kirsty. Flora's family celebrated her life at The Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on Thursday, July 22. Flora will be brought back home with her ashes being interred at Tobermory Cemetery, Isle of Mull in the near future.

**MATHIESON** - Dr Denys, of Appin, Argyll, died peacefully at home on July 16, 2021 with her family by her side. Much loved wife, mum, granny, cousin, GP,

School Doctor and friend to so many, Denys will be greatly missed and never forgotten. Funeral service to take place at Holy Cross, Portnacroish, Appin on Monday (July 26, 12 noon), followed by a reception at the Appin Hall. A cremation ceremony at Cardross Crematorium will take place on Tuesday (July 27, 1.15pm). Very special thanks to Denys' devoted carers - Tina, Tricia, Christine, Michelle, Nicole, Susan, Anna and Amanda.

**SINCLAIR** - Suddenly at his home, 56 Ardenslate Crescent, Kirn Dunoon, on June 21, 2021, Duncan Sinclair in his 74th year. Formerly of Tigh Chladdich, Crarae, Argyll. Beloved husband of the late Fiona Campbell and adored Father of Elizabeth. Much respected father-in-law of Steven.

Cherished Seonair of Jennifer, Louise and Cameron. Dearly loved brother of Christine and the late Alan. A dear uncle, brother-in-law and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and work colleague to many. A Graveside Service will be held at Kilevin Cemetery, Crarae, Minard at 12noon on Friday July 23, 2021. Please observe social distancing, in line with current guidelines.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**CARMICHAEL** - The family of the late Katie Mary Carmichael would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy through flowers, phone calls, home baking, messages of support and the many cards received following the recent sad loss of Katie Mary. Thanks to Rev Beaton for the moving service at the church and graveside. Special thanks to Ian of D&A Munn for care, compassion and professionalism; also thanks to hospital staff and carers; Petals for beautiful floral arrangements; Colin, Joan and staff at The Olive Garden for a lovely meal and all who donated to funds for Oban Free High Church in lieu of flowers. God bless you all.

## MEMORIALS

**ARCHIBALD** - In loving memory of our loving daughter, sister, niece and auntie Michelle, died July 25, 2002.

As time goes by without you and the days turn into years They hold a million memories and a thousand silent tears No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you're always there Loved and remembered every day - Mum, Dad, Lisa, Angus and Mila.

**CARGILL** - In loving memory of my dear husband John, dad and papa, who died July 25,

2019. Always in our thoughts and in our hearts. - From Jean and family.

**GAULD** - In loving memory of my dearest husband John, who passed away on July 22, 2020, dearly loved and remembered every day, always in my heart. 'It broke our hearts to lose you But you did not go alone, A part of us went with you, The day God took you home'.

Thinking of you always, - Margaret and all the family.

**HAMILL** - In loving memory of my parents, Margaret who passed away July 27, 2014 and Frank, passed away on his birthday June 30, 2010. Always in my thoughts. - Kevin

**KERR** - Lovely memories of our dear mother, mother-in-law and granny Flora, who died July 26, 2004.

- Love John, Morag and family x

**MACDONALD** - Kayla Mary (Our Angel)

We'll never see your face again Or hear your gentle voice We had to let you go For we had no other choice We've searched out hearts for answers

And asked endless questions why Yet still we cannot understand No matter how we try.

In life you were loved dearly In death we love you still There'll always be a place in our hearts

That only you can fill. - Mum, Ruairidh and Ronnie xxxx

**MACDONALD** - Beloved and treasured memories of my darling daughter and our sister Kayla, taken away too soon on July 23, 2017.

If I could have a lifetime wish And one dream that could come true I would pray to God with all my heart

Just to see and speak to you A thousand words won't bring you back

I know because I've tried And neither will a million tears I know because I've cried You have left behind my broken heart

And precious memories too But I have never wanted memories

I have only wanted you. - Inserted by her sorrowing Dad and brothers Ruairidh and Ronnie.

Your lifetime a beautiful memory Your absence a silent grief Our beautiful and beloved granddaughter.

- Pappa and Granny, Tیره.

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- Magga, Tearlach, Sandra and Lachie, Tیره.

**MACDONALD** - Kayla

Our Kaylas arms around our neck Our cheeks still warm from her kiss

If we could only bottle a memory

I am certain that it's this

Our Kaylas love was a blessing so precious, warm and true

We wish we had you back in our arms to tell you that we love you.

Love you forever darling girl

-Grampa and Lorraine xxxxxxxx

**MACDONALD** - Kayla Mary MacDonald

Four years gone by and still every day we wonder why?

Precious angel, we miss you more than we could ever say and our hearts break every single day.

Love you forever.

- Gaga and Uncle Ewen x

**MACDONALD** - Kayla

They say there is a reason

They say that time will heal

But neither time nor reason

Will change the way we feel

For no one knows how many times

We have broken down or cried

We want to tell you something

So there won't be any doubt

You're so wonderful to think of

But so hard to be without

Love and miss you so much

Kayla

-Uncle Ewen, auntie Caitlin and

Uncle William xx xx xx xx

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**MACDONALD** - Remembering Caroline, who passed away July 15, 2015. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always In our thoughts forever - Ken, Iona and Catherine.

**MACKICHAN** - In loving memory of my much beloved and adored husband Cameron, who passed July 24, 2014. Your life was a blessing Your memory a treasure You are loved beyond words And missed beyond measure. - Your loving wife Ann.

**MACPHERSON** - Ann Elizabeth MacPherson, Camuschorr, Strontian, who sadly passed away July 14th 2020. A devoted and much loved wife to Donnie MacPherson. Loved and remembered every day.

**MADEJ** - In loving memory of Jean who passed away July 24, 2007.

I will always love you Miss you every day I know you are watching over me Never far away. - Husband Stan

**SWAINSON** - Cherished memories of a precious daddy Tony Swainson. Back in mammy's arms Heavenly father hear our prayer Guide our daddy with tender care Love him in Heaven As we did at home The dearest daddy this world could hold You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true Is the way we'll remember you. Please take care of Paul, daddy. Love and miss you so much. - Jacqueline and Marie xxx

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Have you felt the pleasure of rediscovering something you once loved, which had somehow disappeared from your life? I had that experience on holiday recently. I rediscovered the joy of wild swimming, enjoying daily dips in the North Sea while on holiday in Fife.

No wetsuits for me. Put on a pair of swimming shorts and get into the sea, knowing it will be freezing and that it will be a fairly quick dip before heading for a warm towel and a hot coffee. That's my preferred technique.

In my early years, I was constantly in and out of the sea. Back then, it wasn't wild swimming - it was just swimming.

Over the years it just became less and less part of my life. Perhaps I might brave the

waves on holiday once or twice a year, but that was it.

How good it felt to return regularly to something I once loved.

Many people have faith stories like my experience of swimming/wild swimming.

There was a time when their faith was alive and vibrant, important to them, but for no obvious or planned reason, it just became less and less part of their lives. Maybe it was moves of location, changes

in family responsibilities, new jobs. Maybe something changed or went wrong in a church or faith group. Maybe finding the opportunity to share a service or make time to pray just slipped down the agenda.

As someone who recently discovered the joy of something I once loved which had unintentionally slipped out of my life, can I urge you to rediscover whatever it was about your faith that you once loved

but which disappeared along the way?

The letters to the churches in the last book of the Bible contain reminders that there isn't much satisfaction in a lukewarm faith and an encouragement to rediscover the joy of our first love.

What might rekindle that fire for you?

**Reverend Richard Baxter  
Fort William Kilmallie  
and Kilmonivaig Church of  
Scotland.**

## Can adopting new habits save time and lead to healthier you?

Can adopting new habits save us time?

A habit is just a behaviour that has been repeated enough times to make it an automatic response.

As we move through life, we encounter specific situations and challenges that require us to stop and ponder a solution or desired outcome. This is often a period of high brain activity as we move through a period of trial and error until we find the desired solution or reward.

Our amazing brain catalogues the response which produced the desired outcome and discards the movements which were unaffectionate and, hey presto, a habit begins to form.

Once a habit has had time to develop, the brain activity associated with the original challenge or situation decreases



### Lorn Healthy Options weekly health tip

es dramatically and the brain produces a response on an unconscious level via a mental shortcut we know as a habit.

So habit formation can be incredibly positive when it comes to avoiding a bottleneck in the brain and frees up our minds to be more spontaneous or creative. Yet many believe

the adoption of new health related habits such as being more active and eating healthier will leave them with less time in their busy lives.

Habit formation can do the opposite so that we don't have to consider how we will get some exercise, what foods should I buy, what meals should I eat and when should I eat them.

The key is to ensure we use strategies which aid the production of new good habits and make our existing bad habits less attractive and that's what we will consider next week.

For the full message, go to the free resource section on the [lornhealthyoptions.co.uk](http://lornhealthyoptions.co.uk) website.

**Rob Graham,  
Lead Exercise Professional,  
Healthy Options.**

## POLICE FILES

Between 11pm on July 13 and 6am on July 14 at Bonawe Road, North Connel, a 26-year-old man was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman. The man was charged and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. About 3pm on July 14, the man allegedly breached his bail conditions. He was arrested, charged and kept in custody to appear at Oban Sheriff Court the next day.

Police were called to Ulva Road, Oban, about 3.30am on Thursday July 15 to reports of a disturbance. A man, aged 29, was subsequently arrested for assaulting another man. He was charged and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 2.30pm on Friday July 16 in Taynuilt, police received a report of a man with a knife behaving in a threatening manner and driving under the influence of alcohol. Police attended and quickly traced the vehicle nearby. The driver, a man

aged 32, was searched and allegedly found in possession of a knife. He subsequently failed a roadside breath test and was arrested and charged for allegedly driving whilst under the influence of alcohol. A report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 8.45pm on Saturday July 10 at Longsdale Road, Oban, a man, aged 23, allegedly assaulted a female. He was arrested, charged and a report sent to the Fiscal.

About 8pm on July 17 at Shore Street, Oban, a man, 52, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner and threw a mobile phone not belonging to him in the water. He was charged and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

About 10.10am on July 17 in Tesco Car Park, Oban, a silver Volkswagen Passat collided with a Suzuki motorbike causing damage to the handlebars. Police are investigating and are appealing for any witness or anyone with any information to contact them on 101.

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OT

# Shinty round up

The Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup took centre stage on Saturday July 17. South shinty

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – first round

### Southern Section Ballachulish 2 Bute 3

Bute are through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup second round following their hard fought 3-2 victory over Ballachulish at Jubilee Park.

Cain MacPhee was free to play for Ballachulish ahead of a two-match suspension.

Bute took the lead when Ryan James Clark's long free-hit dropped for Thomas Morrison just inside the penalty spot and his backhand shot beat the keeper at his right post.

The islanders added a second just a minute later when Scott Harvey played a smart one-two with Craig Fisher before scoring on his backhand from left of centre.

Scott Harvey got his second and Bute's third when he ran left to get onto Marcus Planck's long free-hit before turning inside and shooting low into the net to make it 3-0 at the break.

Ballachulish introduced John MacDonald at half back and he helped turn the tie in the hosts's favour.

David Grant got Ballachulish back into it when he gathered Cian MacPhee's free-hit with his back to goal and quickly turned before tucking the ball into the net with a backhand shot from the left.

Things got interesting when Michael Slezas made it 3-2,

turning the ball home from a tight angle on the left.

Bute stayed in front, however, and they now travel to Kilmallie for their second round tie this Saturday, July 24.

Bute's James Craig said: 'I watched Ballachulish in Oban last week and thought they stepped their game up this week. We looked like we'd win quite convincingly in the first half but they put John MacDonald on at half back and he tidied things up at the back. But we got there in the end and it was a job well done.'

Ballachulish's Alan Clark added: 'I'd like to congratulate Bute and wish them all the best in the next round. It was a game of two halves. They were the better team in the first half but we came into it in the second half and if the game had gone on for an extra 10 minutes, I think we could have got an equaliser to take it to extra time.'

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – second round

### Southern Section Oban Celtic 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

Mowi National Division side Oban Celtic recorded one of their best results over recent seasons, coming from behind to beat Mowi Premiership side Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) 3-2 at Mossfield.

Craig MacMillan made a surprise return from injury for Oban Celtic, taking his place at half back where he played the 90 minutes in a defence also containing Peter Currie, David



Ross MacMillan scores the third goal for Oban Celtic in the Camanachd Cup tie at Mossfield on Saturday to give Celtic a 3-2 victory. Photograph Kevin McGlynn.



Ross MacMillan celebrates with his brother Daniel after scoring the winner for Oban Celtic. They both got on the score sheet in the Camanachd Cup second round tie. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Hill and Andy MacDonald. Lewis McPhee was on holiday.

GMA were without Garry Luke and Ally McKerracher, the latter missing the chance to face his former club. Stewart

Grant returned and manager Mark Bain was one of his side's two substitutes. Oban Celtic made a powerful start to the game, forcing two early corners and testing visiting keeper Jonathan Oates.

Daniel MacMillan, in particular, was causing the GMA defence problems, testing marker Jon Don MacKenzie with his pace.

So when GMA broke the deadlock on 21 minutes, the goal came against the run of play. The ball was initially played up the middle before being spread out to the left and back in where Ewan Fraser finished well with a low, hard shot.

Oban Celtic scored a deserved equaliser on 33 minutes. Andy MacDonald, who was solid with a good range of passing throughout, drove a long ball out of defence to Daniel MacMillan who got by Jon Don Mackenzie before sending a shot screaming into the net from 30 yards.

Neil Carmichael at centre, flanked by Dylan Cooke and George MacMillan,

ensured Oban forwards Ross MacMillan, Daniel MacMillan, Lennon Campbell and Duncan MacDonald, who were full of running, saw plenty of the ball.

Oban Celtic lost Daniel MacMillan on 43 minutes. He suffered a blow under the knee-cap just a couple of minutes after suffering a foot injury so youngster Ewen Campbell, a similar type of player, came on in his place.

GMA, who moved Oliver MacRae up front from centre, started the second half well, pinning the hosts back as they enjoyed their best spell of pressure in the tie. Allan Duncan in the Celtic goal had to save well on a couple of occasions to keep his side level.

It was Oban Celtic's turn to score against the run of play on 63 minutes. Dylan Cooke sent the ball across to Ewen Campbell who lost his marker and, from a tight angle on the right, Campbell rifled the ball into the opposite top corner of the net to follow up the previous week's debut goal in the Macaulay with one in the Scottish.

Oban Celtic had to make another change when Andy MacDonald was hit in the mouth. William MacEwan came off the bench to go onto the wing, with George MacMillan moving to half back where he again did well. MacDonald tried to come back on but the bleeding wouldn't stop sufficiently to referee Des McNulty's satisfaction.

GMA drew level with just 14 minutes to go. A ball into the home defence was only cleared as far as Oliver MacRae and the former Kinlochshiel player fired the ball low into the net to make it 2-2.

But Oban Celtic's response was immediate and they were back in front just a minute later. Neil Carmichael won the centre, playing the ball to William MacEwan. MacEwan's ball forward found Ross MacMillan who beat his marker before racing in on goal and flicking the ball past advancing keeper Jonathan Oates.

Daniel MacMillan came back on for the injured Dylan Cooke.

GMA pressed in an attempt to take the tie into extra time, but Oban Celtic dropped deep and the home keeper and defence stood up to the challenge.

The sides are scheduled to meet again this Saturday in a Mowi Senior League C clash at Peterson Park.

With Dougie MacIntyre still unavailable, Les Kinvig again took the side, assisted by Allan Duffy, making it two wins out of two. Speaking afterwards, Les Kinvig said: 'We didn't do anything different. It was the same players in the same positions but it just shows what

the boys can achieve when they are on their game.

'It was a good all-round performance and it wouldn't be fair to pick anyone out. We deserved to win and other than a spell at the start of the second half when we struggled a bit, it was a great performance.'

'We have a busy week ahead with the first team playing GMA again and the seconds at Kilmallie. I'm particularly pleased for the seconds as the youngsters are desperate to get regular games.'

Oban Celtic and Oban Camanachd have agreed to play their Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter final tie at Mossfield on Wednesday July 28. Lachie Wood will be the match referee.

### Fort William P Oban Camanachd P

There was disappointment for Fort William and Oban Camanachd as their much anticipated tie at An Aird was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

The tie has been rescheduled for this Saturday.

### Kyles Athletic P Inveraray P

Kyles Athletic and Inveraray were left idle as their 3pm throw up at the Playing Fields, Tighnabraich, was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

## HIS Sutherland Cup – first round

### Section 4

### Kyles Athletic P Glenorchy P

The clash between Kyles Athletic reserves and Glenorchy at the Playing Fields, Tighnabraich, was another Covid-related cancellation on Friday afternoon.

## Mowi South League A

### Taynuilt P Lochside Rovers P

Taynuilt and Lochside Rovers agreed to reschedule their match at the Taynuilt Sports Field to Wednesday July 21.

### Inveraray P Col Glen P

The tie between the Inveraray seconds and Col Glen at the Winterton was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

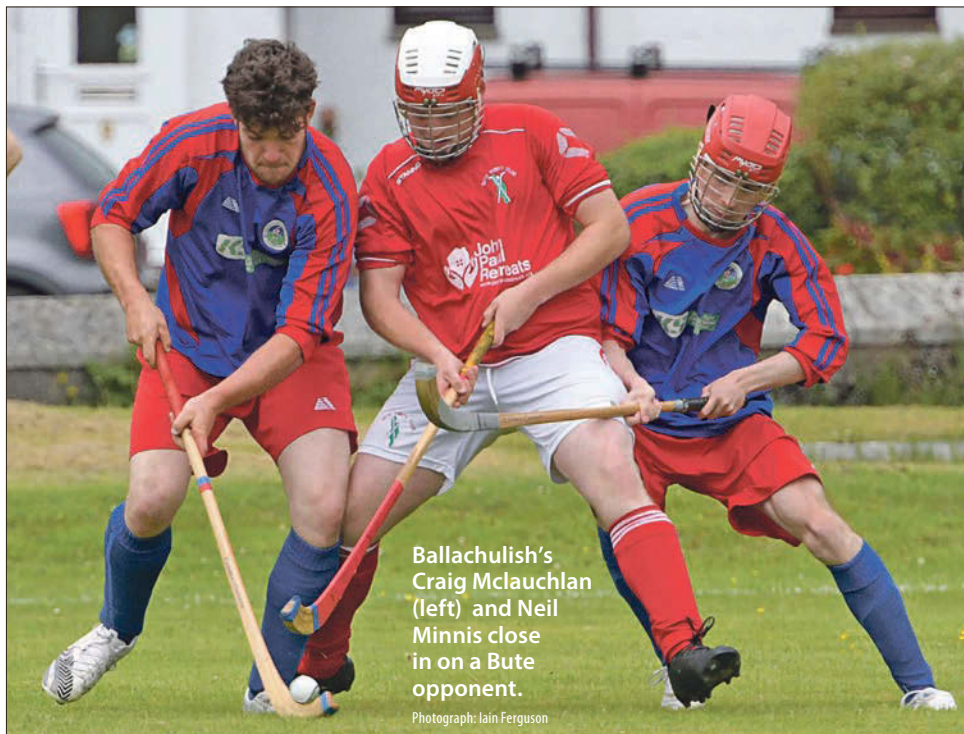
## Mowi South League B

### Glasgow Mid Argyll P Aberdour P

The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts and the Aberdour colts were due to meet for the second successive Saturday, this time at Peterson Park. However, the game was another Covid-related cancellation.

## Mowi Central League

Kilmory P Ardnamurchan P Kilmory's 2pm throw-up with Ardnamurchan at MacRae Park was postponed because of the current travel restrictions.



Ballachulish's Craig Mclauchlan (left) and Neil Minnis close in on a Bute opponent.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

## Everyone needs good neighbours at Oban Bowling Club

It was a postcode lottery at Oban Bowling Club on Sunday when teams were drawn in accordance with their address to compete for the Innisfree Cup.

Eight rinks took part with some friendly neighbourhood rivalry throughout the day. In the end, it was the Soroba/Oban South quartet of Semple and Lillian Barrie, Gary Gemmel and Sandra Grieve who put the Connel Crusaders - Iain and Isobel Boyd and Rosemary and Iain Miller - to the sword in the final.



From left, Team Soroba: Gary Gemmel, Lillian Barrie, Sandra Grieve and Semple Barry beat Connel Crusaders Iain and Isobel Boyd and Rosemary and Iain Miller in the final of the Innisfree Cup.

## Kick-starting the rugby season in style

Excitement is at fever pitch this week as Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club (RFC) gets ready to stage a feast of rugby for all ages.

The club will kick-start its 21/22 season on Saturday August 7 with an extravaganza at its Glencruitten ground, with the help of funding from Scottish Rugby.

'The idea is to re-open the clubhouse and get the community involved again,' said Oban Lorne RFC secretary Murray Hamilton. 'We are hoping to have rugby for everyone, music and food. And the bar will be open.'

Garnock RFC, Lochaber RFC and Mull RFC are joining the party and will play the senior men's team, while the women's team will have training and an interclub game including players from across Argyll.

The fun will kick-off with mini rugby at 11am before Under 14/15 Oban High School boys and girls play one of their Bulls v Sharks matches. A re-match for the Jolomo Cup between North and South Argyll U16s is also in the pipeline.

'We are calling on all players young, old and anywhere in between to come along and

support their local rugby club,' added Murray. 'We will also have a veterans game on the day so players from all over Argyll are welcome to dust off the boots and look out the Deep Heat!'

The day will end with the showing of the British and Irish Lions test match against South Africa in the clubhouse at 5pm.

Club officials will be available throughout the day to help with player registration for the SRU SCRUMS system and players, families and supporters can pay their memberships on the day. All covid guidelines

will be followed and the club ask that everyone attending uses the QR codes displayed to check in when they arrive and check out when they leave.

The timeline for the day will be finalised nearer the time and advertised on Oban Lorne RFC's social media channels.

September sees the re-start of league competitions with the men's team playing host to Clydebank on September 4 in a West Region Division Two clash, while the ladies begin their West Region Division One campaign with a home game against Greenock on September 19.

## Saints hold off the pirates

Oban Saints 6  
Cambuslang FA Pirates 1  
Pre-season friendly

A first run-out on the Glencruitten turf for ten months saw the D&K Lafferty sponsored Saints play host to Glasgow Colleges Football Association side Cambuslang Football Academy Pirates in an entertaining encounter on Saturday.

Saints had their noses in front inside five minutes, Lewis Cameron opening the scoring.

The home side doubled their advantage two minutes later after good work on the left by the evergreen Ross Maitland, who found Gavin Forgive on the 18-yard line, whose curling net bound effort was deflected off a defender's back completely wrong footing goalkeeper Scott Matthews before nestling in the bottom corner of the net.

Scott Matthews did well to narrow the angle and block



Kyle Cooper scored the first of his two goals with this shot.

Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

a Maitland effort but luck deserted him when the loose ball fell to the feet of Rory Dowd who gleefully rolled the ball into the unguarded net for Saints' third goal. Lewis Cameron took full advantage of a dead ball opportunity and curled a delightful finish over the four man Cambuslang wall and into the postage stamp corner to give Saints a 4-0 lead at the break.

Saints' netminder Graham Douglas parried a shot to his right from a well-struck David

Lynass effort but the loose ball was well out of his reach and was pounced on by Gordon Wynne who, much to the delight of the boisterous crew on the touchline, tucked the ball underneath the Saints keeper's dive to raise the visitors' hopes.

Gaffer Willie Gemmell made the first of two changes in the 56th minute replacing Kenneth Black with Fraser MacFarlane, and Cammy Hill with the latest graduate from the Oban Saints Youth set-up Kyle Cooper, for the closing

half hour. The home side extinguished any hopes of a Cambuslang comeback when Kyle Cooper notched the first of his two goals in the 75th minute - a well-struck right foot shot from 18 yards.

Despite the scoreline, Pirates keeper Scott Matthews had a steady match but left his team mates all at sea in the 81st minute. An under-hit Matthews pass out from the back intended for Andy Bonham was intercepted by Rory Dowd who carried the ball into the Pirates box before squaring to the unmarked Kyle Cooper who rolled the ball into the unguarded net for his second and Saints sixth goal of the afternoon. The build-up to the new season continues this Saturday when Saints welcome old adversaries Thorn Athletic to the Oban Community 3G pitch for the first non competitive meeting of the two former Scottish Amateur Football League sides. Kick-off 2pm.

## Innes warms up for world record run

Oban 'gym guy' Innes Hughes will be turning up the temperature in October when he attempts to set a new world record for running the length of Iceland.

The 24-year-old personal trainer is aiming to be one of the first from Scotland to achieve a Guinness World Record by completing the Run of Fire and Ice in under 10 days.

Like any athlete, Innes will have a top team behind him and will be travelling to Iceland with friends Cameron Scott and Katie Shepherd, also from Oban.

Innes's girlfriend Natalia will be supporting from her home in Glasgow, while coach Carla Molinaro, women's LEJOG world record holder, is making sure he is physically and mentally ready to take on the challenge.

Once the trio get to Iceland, Cameron will be in charge of logistics while Katie will document the attempt. So all Innes needs to do is run.

'It has been a difficult year for me so far,' said Innes, who was stopped in his tracks during his attempt at the Fort William 100, in aid of Martyn's Monday Club - now Argyll Wellbeing Hub - in December due to issues arising from a gallbladder operation. He had planned a re-run on June 30 this year but that, too, was cancelled when he caught Covid 19 in May.

'It took me three weeks to recover,' he told The Oban Times, 'so I decided to put the

100 miler on hold to allow me to be ready for October.'

When asked why Iceland, Innes's response is 'why not?'

'Iceland is a once in a lifetime opportunity compared to the 100 miler which will still be there later in the year.'

'Once I've conquered Iceland, I'll come back and hopefully not too long after re-run the 100 miler.'

The team will fly out to Iceland on October 26 and Innes will begin the run on October 28. He plans to complete the 704km - almost 438 miles - route on November 5.

To keep in line with Guinness requirements, Innes's attempt will start from Dyrhólaey lighthouse on the south coast and finish at Hraunhafnartangi lighthouse on the north coast.

He plans to beat the current record of 10 days 13 hours 11 minutes, set by the UK's Tom Whittle in 2018, by at least 24 hours and to do so will run 50 miles every day for nine days.

Innes has been in touch with Tom, who has wished the Scot all the best in his endeavour.

'Tom has been a great support and said he really hopes I do it,' added Innes.

'And, with the help of the fantastic team I have around me, I'm quite confident I can.'

While the Iceland run is a personal challenge, Innes intends to raise funds from it and will name his chosen charity in the coming weeks. He is also seeking sponsorship from local businesses.

## Two Scott shoot-out for Craignure trophy



Scott receives the trophy from Craignure Golf Club captain Steve Wilson.

The MBS Garmony Open, one of the main events of the season at Craignure Golf Club, was played on Sunday with an excellent turnout.

Scratch competition: 1 Scott Paterson 77; 2 Scott McCracken 77; 3 Iain King (Junior) 80. The trophy was won by Scott Paterson on the first play-off hole after he holed his second shot for an eagle.

Strokeplay handicap: 1 Barry Whenman 63; 2 Colin Newton 64; 3 Scott Paterson 65. Nearest the pin was won by Scott McCracken.

The club thank everyone who turned out and MBS for sponsoring the event.

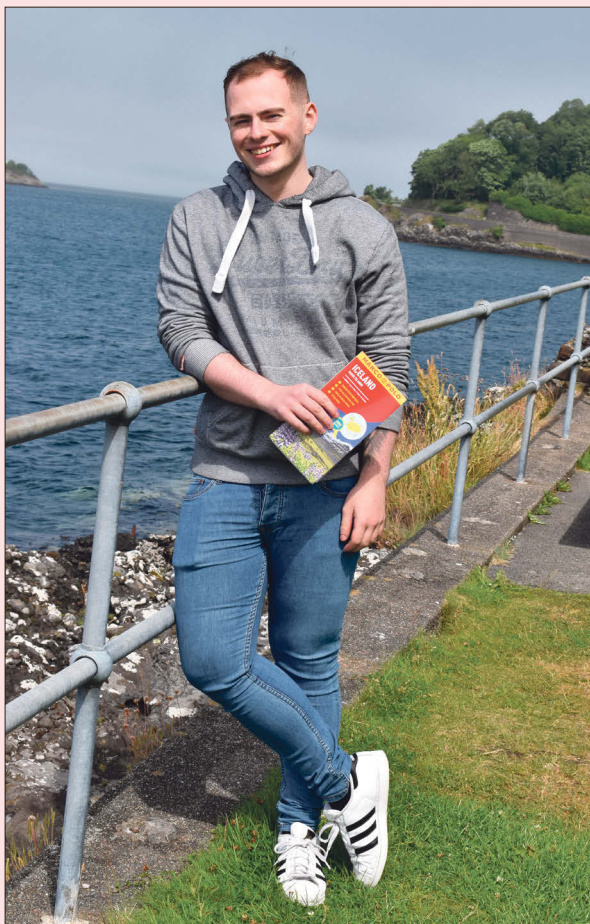


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# Bob sizzles at Sandwich to finish Open in eighth



**Oban 'gym guy' Innes warms up for world record in land of fire and ice - see page 47.**

As quotes goes, it probably sums up perfectly the refreshing attitude Oban's Robert MacIntyre brings to the game of golf.

After a brilliant weekend saw him tie for eighth place in the Open, he declared: 'My face may not show it yet, but once I reflect on this I'll be absolutely delighted with the finish.'

And delighted he should be. As the sole Scot in the field, he had the entire nation chewing their finger nails on Friday when he held his nerve to hole a ten-foot putt to qualify for the weekend right on the cut line.

That putt may be the most important he will hole all season as it set him up for a turbo-charged weekend where rounds of 65 and 67 saw him race through the field and for one brief moment on Sunday afternoon fans harboured thoughts he might actually win the most famous trophy in golf.

Back-to-back birdies at 12 and 13 got him within three shots of the lead and, with the par five 14th to come, anything seemed possible. Unfortunately a snap hook saw his ball crash out of bounds and the dream will have to wait for another year.

Bob said afterwards: 'At 14, I wasn't committed to the shot and I got punished for it.'

He went on to praise his caddy Mike Thomson for helping

him recover and stop him from 'exploding' and, despite dropping a shot, he recovered to finish with four pars to secure his second top-ten finish in only two appearances at the Open.

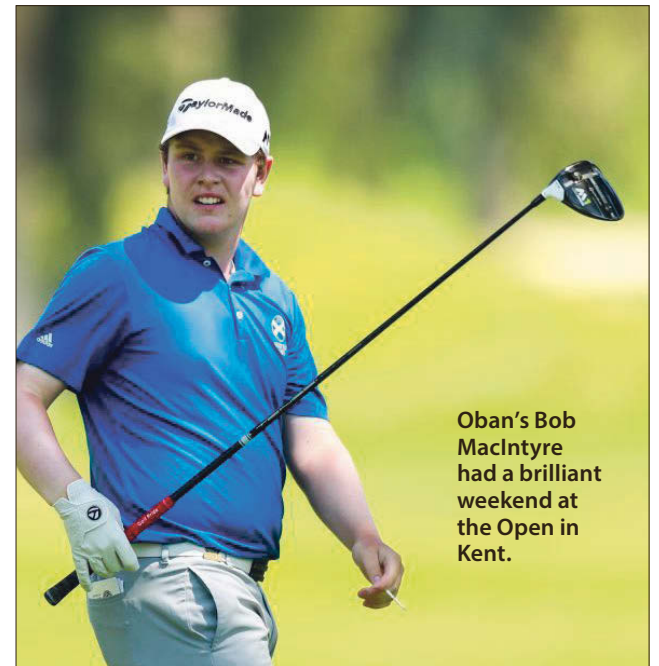
Afterwards Bob was in no mood to rest on his laurels. 'I want to win one of these,' he said. 'I feel I've got the game to win an Open. I'm yet to show it, but I'm young and I've got plenty time.'

**'I want to win one of these. I feel I've got the game to win an Open. I'm yet to show it, but I'm young and I've got plenty time.'**

That confidence is well-founded. Of the seven players who finished ahead of him at Royal St George's, Sandwich, Kent, five are in the top ten in the world rankings, including newly-crowned Champion Golfer Colin Morikawa and world numbers one and two, John Rahm and Dustin Johnston.

The Oban left-hander is playing among the world's elite golfers.

His eighth-place finish had the added bonus of securing a spot in the 3M Open in



**Oban's Bob MacIntyre had a brilliant weekend at the Open in Kent.**

Minnesota which starts this Thursday, July 22.

Not only will this give Bob the chance to improve his world ranking points and help his bid for an automatic place in the Ryder Cup team, it will be another step on the way to securing full playing rights on the PGA tour.

While playing more in the USA is an immediate goal, Bob was keen to stress he will always be an Oban boy at heart. 'I've not got full playing rights in the US yet, so my base is in Oban. It always will be. When the time is right, I'll get

a place out there, but I'm not in a rush.'

As he settles back for his flight across the Atlantic, Bob will have a proper chance to reflect on his stunning performance last week. This time you can be sure his face will show it.



The Oban Times: 95p



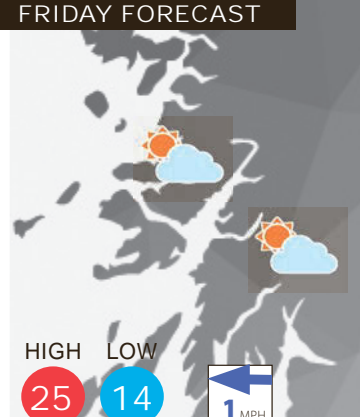
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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 22 July, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>22</b>	0411 3.5 1027 1.1 TH 1640 3.7 2246 1.0	<b>24</b>	0549 3.7 1203 0.7 SA 1807 4.0 O	<b>26</b>	0115 0.8 0709 3.7 M 1327 0.7 1928 4.1	<b>28</b>	0238 1.0 0820 3.5 W 1447 0.9 2043 3.8
<b>23</b>	0504 3.6 1117 0.9 F 1725 3.9 2341 0.8	<b>25</b>	0029 0.8 0630 3.7 SU 1246 0.7 1848 4.1	<b>27</b>	0158 0.8 0746 3.6 TU 1408 0.7 2006 3.9	<b>29</b>	0318 1.2 0853 3.3 TH 1526 1.1 2120 3.5

OBAN WEATHER	FRIDAY FORECAST
<b>Thursday</b> Sunny and light winds Temperatures 14°C to 26°C.	<b>Friday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 25°C.
<b>Friday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 25°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 19°C.
<b>Saturday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 19°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 21°C.

**FRIDAY FORECAST**



HIGH 25 LOW 14  
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# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES

No 8573

Thursday 22 July, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



## May celebrates 50 years at Fort hotel

### West Highland Yachting Week – get the lowdown on this year's event

## Council blunder



Disappointment as family's house offer scrapped.

• See page 6 for more

## Honour for Hope



Lochaber charity presented with Queen's award.

• See page 3 for more

# FAITH IN THE FUTURE



The Salvation Army has a new Corps Officer at its base in Fort William, after Major Janet McIntyre, pictured, who also heads up the organisation's work in Kinlochleven, was installed by Captain Peter Renshaw on Sunday. Major McIntyre takes over from Major Elaine Turner after the latter took up a new post in Thurso last week.

For the full story, turn to page 7.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

# Google maps changes

## Mountaineering Scotland and the John Muir Trust in talks with online giant over 'potentially fatal' route up Ben Nevis.

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Online giant Google is reportedly making changes to its popular mapping service after Mountaineering Scotland and the John Muir Trust both voiced fears that walkers might mistakenly attempt a 'potentially fatal' route up Ben Nevis.

The John Muir Trust, which looks after the

upper reaches of Ben Nevis, had become concerned at an increasing number of visitors using Google Maps to direct them to a route up Ben Nevis. Depending on how someone searched for the route, Google Maps may have directed them to the car park nearest the summit as the crow flies, indicating a route described by experts as 'highly dangerous, even for experienced climbers'.

Continued on page 2.

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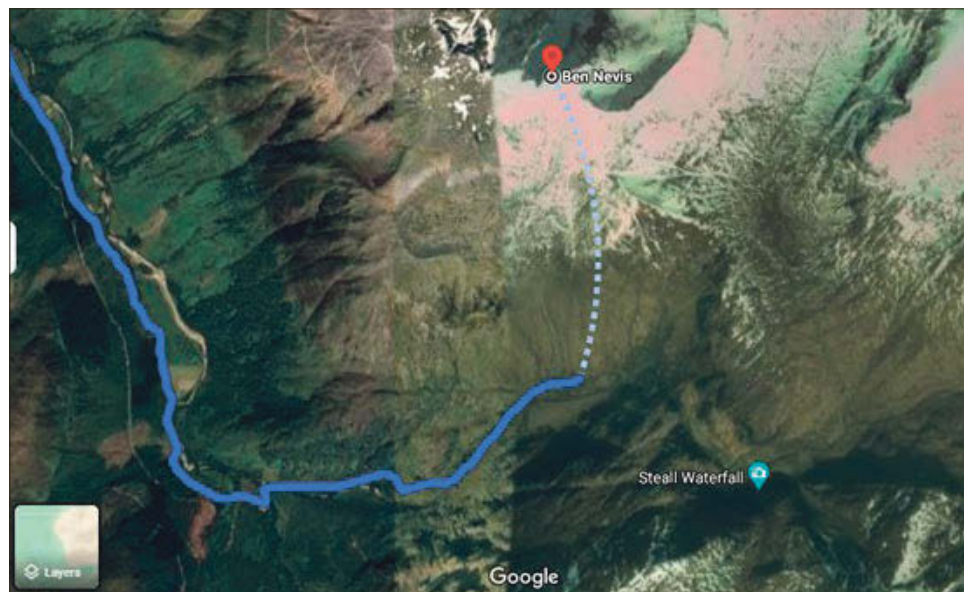
# Google 'aware' of potentially fatal map mistake for Ben Nevis route

Continued from page 1.

News of the concerns saw the story feature last week on media outlets across the globe, including the US television network CNN and the New York Times.

A plea from Mountaineering Scotland and the John Muir Trust last week to Google to consult with them to ensure this potentially life-threatening information was removed from their system was initially met with silence.

However, a spokesman for Mountaineering Scotland, Neil Reid, this week told the Lochaber Times there had now been discussions with Google and that these had been 'very positive' and that the company was aware its driving directions took people to a car park where a dotted line showing distance to the summit could



A screenshot showing the potentially dangerous route up Ben Nevis.

walkers heading towards Steall Falls or up the south slopes of Ben Nevis believing it is the route to the summit.'

Heather Morning, Mountaineering Scotland's mountain safety adviser, added: 'For those new to hill walking, it would seem perfectly logical to check out Google Maps for information on how to get to your chosen mountain.'

'But when you input Ben Nevis and click on the 'car' icon, up pops a map of your route, taking you to the car park at the head of Glen Nevis, followed by a dotted line appearing to show a route to the summit.'

#### Difficulty

'Even the most experienced mountaineer would have difficulty following this route.'

'The line goes through very steep, rocky and pathless terrain where even in good visibility it would be challenging to find a safe line. Add in low cloud and rain and the suggested Google line is potentially fatal.'

And it is not just on the UK's highest mountain where

walkers can be lead astray, said Mountaineering Scotland. Many other popular Munros have fallen foul of the same - likely computer-generated - line luring the unwary into life-threatening terrain.

For An Teallach in the north-west, a 'walking' route was input into the search engine and the line offered would take people over a cliff.

Ms Morning continued: 'It's all too easy these days to assume that information on the internet is all good stuff, correct, up-to-date and safe. Sadly, experience shows this is not the case and there have been a number of incidents recently where following routes downloaded off the internet have resulted in injury or worse.'

'Modern navigation technology brings some amazing advantages for hill walkers, but this example is clearly not one of them. Walkers and climbers with even a little experience will know to read information from a map, whether digital or paper, and if they are looking for downloadable routes know to use reputable sources and check several sources to ensure the information they are accessing is the right route for their level of experience and ability.'

'But, especially on Ben Nevis, many people are not aware of where to get reliable information and may quite naturally assume Google Maps, which got them from their home to the foot of the mountain, can carry on and do the job right to the top. This is not the case.'

#### Distance

Google did not respond to an enquiry from the Lochaber Times, but told the New York Times that the map's dotted line from the parking lot to the summit was meant to indicate the distance to the top, not a walkable trail.

'Our driving directions currently route people to the Nevis Gorge trailhead parking lot - the lot closest to the summit - which has prominent signs indicating that the trail is highly dangerous and for advanced hikers only,' the statement said.

Google said it has updated driving directions to bring people to the visitor centre, where they can speak to staff members about the best route to take.

be misinterpreted by users. In future, the maps will direct drivers to a visitor centre

instead. 'We have now spoken with Google to express our concerns and the company

seems to have taken that in a very positive way and we are now just waiting to hear back from them on a potential solution to the problems,' added Mr Reid.

Speaking last week, the John Muir Trust's Nevis Conservation Officer Nathan Berrie explained: 'The problem is that Google Maps directs some visitors to the Upper Falls car park, presumably because it is the closest car park to the summit.'

'But this is not the correct route and we often come across groups of inexperienced



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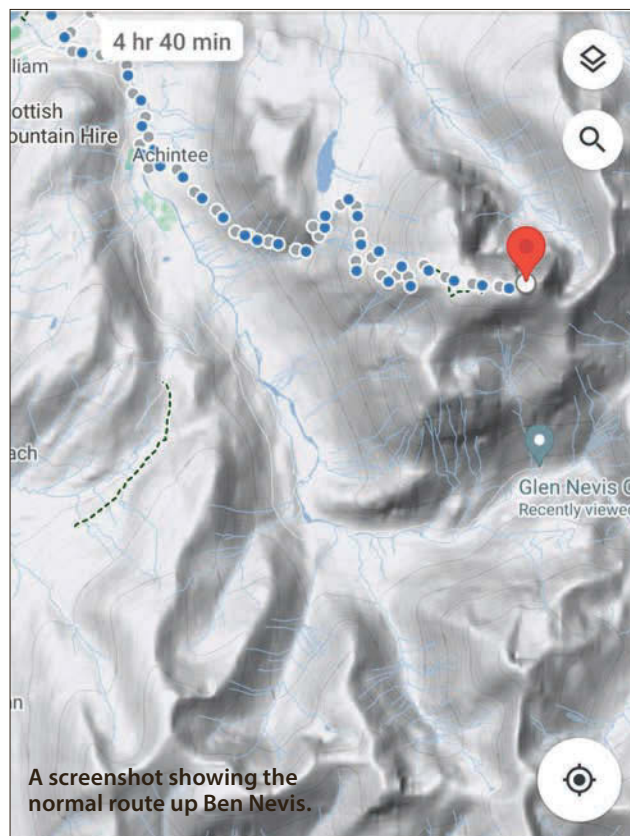
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A screenshot showing the normal route up Ben Nevis.

## Hope receives voluntary service award



Lord Lieutenant of Inverness Donald Cameron of Lochiel CVO, centre, presents the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Alyson Smith and colleagues from Lochaber Hope on Tuesday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Stag and Buck hairdressing skills reach new heights

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Barbers at Fort William's Stag and Buck salon are renowned for their 'height of fashion' haircuts, but last weekend they took this to a different level, cutting hair on the summit of Ben Nevis.

Taking their work to the top of the UK's highest mountain, shops owners Terri Nicolson and Sharon Sweeney, along with Nina Walker and Cerys Allan, trekked the 4,413 feet, complete with equipment and models Zander Campbell, Michael Nicolson, Cal Brown and Andrew Carvil, to raise funds for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

This charity helps critically-ill children and those with life-threatening conditions to fulfil an ambition by organising and funding an event for them.

Once on top of the Ben, the girls picked suitable rocks to use as barbers chairs, laid out their tools and gave each of the



Stag and Buck's team plus their models took haircuts to new heights atop Ben Nevis at the weekend.

volunteer models the 'highest' quality haircut they have ever had.

Cerys also cut the long locks of Andrew Carvil, to be donated to the Little Princess Trust, which supplies wigs for children and young people

who have lost their hair as a result of cancer treatment. Donations are still coming in but, to date, the girls – and boys – have raised £1,500 for the charity.

Terri told the Lochaber Times: 'We delayed the climb from the week before when heavy rain was predicted and that was certainly the right thing to do as the weather was much better last Sunday.'

'Thanks to everyone who took part and donated money to this very worthwhile cause. We will also be hosting 'Barberside 2021' at the shop this August when a motorcycle convoy tours barbers across the country, also raising money for Make-a-Wish.'

Details on the ride and how to make a donation to the Make-a-Wish Foundation can be found on the Stag and Buck Facebook page.

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# Belford above average on patient turnaround

Fort William's Belford Hospital is consistently beating the national average when it comes to the number of patients admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours.

The positive results come in a statistical analysis of the four-hour standard in national and regional hospitals by Public Health Scotland.

The analysis, released every week and publically available on the Public Health Scotland website, highlights accident and emergency attendance trends and the percentage of patients that are admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours.

In the latest figures, comparing statistics for the week ending Sunday July 4 2021, the number of people attending accident and emergency departments in Scotland was 26,080. The percentage of



The Belford Hospital in Fort William.

patients seen within four hours was 81.6, well below the Scottish Government's target of 95 per cent.

Across Highland region, the figure was slightly better at 86.3 per cent, while Belford Hospital, which admitted 225 patients, stood at 89.9 per

cent. Other hospitals in the NHS Highland region, such as Caithness General Hospital and Lorn and Islands Hospital, fared much better, with 92.3 per cent and 95.2 per cent respectively, while Raigmore Hospital lagged behind with 81.8 per cent of patients being



Jamie Halcro Johnston is calling for a one-off injection of £600 million to help tackle hospital waiting times.

attended to within four hours. Belford Hospital, while currently at 89.8 per cent, has previously not dropped below 90 per cent since Sunday May 31 2020 when the percentage was 89 per cent. At the start of the year, for week ending January 10, 2021, the figure was an impressive 99.1 per cent.

Commenting on accident and emergency waiting times, Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie Halcro Johnston said: 'While 86.3 per cent of people in the NHS Highland region being seen within four hours at accident and emergency departments is higher than the national average, that figure is still considerably short of the Scottish Government's target of 95 per cent.'

'We also have to bear in mind the greater travelling times in the Highlands compared to other parts of Scotland, with

people often having had to take even longer to actually get to a hospital in the first place.

'There is real pressure on many of our hospitals – and wider health services – and SNP ministers can't just rely on pushing already hard-pressed health staff to work harder.'

'The Scottish Conservatives want to see a one-off £600 million investment in our NHS to specifically tackle waiting times, ensuring more people are seen quicker and the experience of people requiring treatment improved.'

'SNP Ministers should consider backing our plans, as well as looking at the self-isolation rules for fully vaccinated NHS staff to reduce the risk of key departments in our hospitals being left under-resourced.'

While the figures released by Public Health Scotland show no health board on Scotland's mainland attained the Government's target, it is important to note patients attending any of the 91 locations providing accident and emergency services across Scotland are triaged first to assess the seriousness of their condition.

Depending on the patient's condition, diagnostic tests may be carried out and treatments given within the emergency department before the patient is admitted to hospital, directed to another service or discharged.

## Level 1 hospital visiting rules remain in place

Visiting hours at NHS Highland hospitals, including the Belford Hospital in Fort William, will remain within Level 1 of the Scottish Government's Covid-19 framework for now, it was announced on Monday.

Kate Patience-Quate, NHS Highland's Deputy Director of Nursing, said: 'We know this will be disappointing for many people, however, we believe this is the safest option at this time as cases of Covid-19 remain widespread and pressures on the health and social care system are at an unprecedented level.'

'We appreciate the co-operation of our patients and their loved ones during this time.'

The guidance on hospital visiting within Level 1 of the Scottish Government's Covid-19 framework recommends that family support from at least two visitors is permitted per patient. Ms Patience-Quate continued: 'We would once again remind visitors that face coverings must be worn at all times in the hospital and to follow hand hygiene guidance.'

You can still visit someone in hospital or accompany someone to appointments if you are:

- a birth partner supporting a woman during hospital visits
- visiting someone receiving end-of-life care
- supporting someone with a mental health issue, dementia, a learning disability or autism, where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed
- accompanying a child

## Traffic on the A82 was at a complete standstill for almost seven hours as a result of the accident.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



## Police appeal after biker dies in crash

Police in Fort William are appealing for witnesses following a fatal road crash on Saturday July 17.

The incident happened around 3pm on the A82 at Achintore Road and involved a white Triumph Tiger motorcycle and a grey Audi S3 car.

A 56-year-old man, the motorcyclist, was taken to the Belford Hospital in Fort William but died of his injuries. His next of kin have been informed.

The road was closed for around six-and-a-half hours to allow emergency services to attend and enquiries to be carried out.

Police Sergeant Alasdair Mackay of the Road Policing Unit said: 'Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the man who lost his life in this crash.'

'Enquiries are continuing to establish the full circumstances and I would urge anyone with dashcam footage of the incident, or any drivers who may have witnessed what happened, to please get in touch with us as soon as possible.'

'I would also like to thank the public for their patience while diversions were in place.'

'Anyone with information should call Police Scotland on 101, quoting reference number 2302 of July 17.'



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## Strike to affect Loganair flights at six airports

Loganair will be unable to provide flights at airports operated by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) on Thursday July 29 after air traffic controllers announced a one-day strike.

The industrial action will affect six airports - Inverness, Sumburgh, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Benbecula and Dundee. Loganair says it will be cancelling all flights on that date to and from the five airports. Customers booked to travel on this date will have the option of transferring their booking without any change fee or difference in fare to another Loganair flight - on an alternative route if they wish - or obtaining a full refund.

All customers on affected flights were due to receive an email from Loganair on Tuesday this week setting out these options and providing the link to manage

their booking online via the Loganair website.

To help customers with their travel arrangements before and after the strike, there will be extra services on the evening of Wednesday July 28, departing Kirkwall at 7pm and arriving into Aberdeen at 7.50pm, and from Aberdeen to Kirkwall on Friday July 30, departing at 6.10am and arriving into Kirkwall at 7am.

Loganair also plans to operate larger aircraft on several other services on Wednesday July 28 and Friday July 30 to provide additional seats to help customers re-arrange their travel plans.

Flights to and from Islay, Barra, Tiree and Campbeltown will be unaffected as the Flight Information Service officers who oversee arrivals and departures at these airports are not part of the dispute.

# Liaison meeting for giant hydro scheme

## Group hears update on pumped storage plant

An inaugural meeting of the Coire Glas Community Liaison Group (CLG) was held last week via video conference.

The CLG is an opportunity for representatives of the community to contribute to the progress of Coire Glas, a proposed pumped storage hydro centre near Loch Lochy, which would be the first scheme of its type to be built in the UK for more than 30 years.

The inaugural meeting was chaired by Councillor Ben Thompson, whose Caol and Maillaig ward includes the Coire Glas site, and attended by representatives from Glengarry Community Council, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, Highlands

and Islands Enterprise and residents who live within five kilometres of the proposed site.

An update on the project was provided by SSE Renewables and terms of reference for future meetings were agreed.

Coire Glas received planning consent in October 2020 and SSE Renewables is currently conducting necessary investigative work before a final decision is made on whether to proceed with its construction.

The scheme would create enough capacity to power three million homes for periods of up to 24 hours and make a significant contribution towards Scottish and UK Government zero emission targets.



Councillor Ben Thompson.

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Councillor Thompson said: 'I welcome SSE's commitment to meaningful community engagement on the Coire Glas project and enjoyed chairing the inaugural meeting of the CLG. Our discussions were productive and should form a solid basis for effective dialogue throughout the Coire

Glas development. It's exciting to see a Scottish firm, with strong links to Lochaber and the Highlands, developing an ambitious project in this area that could have a profound impact on providing a greener energy network for future generations.'

Ian Innes, Coire Glas project director, added: 'Coire Glas has the potential to play a significant role in the delivery of reliable, clean energy to Scotland and the UK. The project is still in the early stages of development but, by initiating the CLG at this point, we will ensure the community is heard throughout the process.'

'We are grateful to everyone who took time to attend the inaugural CLG. It marks the start of a new chapter in our engagement on Coire Glas and we look forward to working with the group as the development progresses.'



Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Technology Bites

No, my headline is not misspelt! Last month I looked at some amazing technology that can save your eyesight. This month I want to examine how technology can bite us and cause long term detrimental damage to our eye sight.

It's the end of my financial year and I have spent many hours each day on my laptop getting my paperwork ready for my accountants. Combine that with the hours spent on screen at work I reckon I am spending 10 or 11 hours per day on screen. I am sure I am not alone spending excessive time on screen. Thankfully, I don't "do" social media and I don't have Netflix etc. As adults we make informed choices about time spent on screen. Children are under massive pressure to be online,



whether using smartphones or computers. In school they regularly use computers to assist their learning. At home most homework is now online, plus time spent on social media.

Using computers for learning is a necessary evil. I have two major concerns about kids and computer based learning. From a social viewpoint what about families that cannot afford

a computer. Children can be evil and stigmatise their fellow pupils who cannot access a home computer. From an optometric viewpoint we are raising a generation of tech savvy kids who are developing myopia at an incredible rate. Children's eyes typically develop and grow to focus naturally on what they spend most time looking at...in this generation of kids that's smartphones and computers. It means everything beyond arms-length appears blurred. I am seeing more and more kids developing myopia due to excessive near vision work. Research has shown our kids need to spend much less time on-line and much more time outdoors to help their eyes develop naturally with good all-round vision.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Fort mum slams council over alleged house blunder

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Fort William single mother has slammed Highland Council after she says the local authority scrapped an offer of a new house which she had been waiting two years for - just a fortnight after originally making the offer.

Alisha Lindsay says she is furious with the way she has been treated by the council.

'After waiting for two years to move into a new property, the council made me an offer of one elsewhere in Fort William which I accepted,' Ms Lindsay told the Lochaber Times.

'Then just two weeks later they informed me they were withdrawing the offer because they had realised the property in question was a bungalow rather than a house and that single-storey properties had



to be reserved for people with disabilities.

'I understand that people with disabilities need certain

types of accommodation but they use a points-based system and I qualified.

'I was originally told I'd be of-

fered the next three-bedroom property that came along and when it did I accepted it. How can it be legal for them to make

**Alisha Lindsay says she was offered a new house and then had it withdrawn.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

an offer, for me to accept it and then for the council to take it back, to just rip that away from us?

'My children and I have been waiting two years for this and they were all excited about the move and looking forward to getting away from where we are at the moment and then this happens.

'I find it frankly unacceptable. We had packed up all our stuff ready to move and then I had to disappoint the kids telling them we weren't going.

'I have contacted my MP, Ian Blackford, and hope he can help us because this just isn't fair.'

The Lochaber Times contacted Highland Council for

a comment on Ms Lindsay's situation. However, the local authority told us it was unable to comment on individual circumstances.

But a council spokesperson did tell us: 'Our housing allocations policy is a points-based process designed to allocate suitable available properties to those applicants in the greatest housing need.'

'Where a ground-floor property becomes available in a particular area, the priority will therefore be to allocate to the applicant with the greatest ground-floor accessible need.'

'The council can confirm that all offers of allocation are provisional and are subject to change depending on circumstances. This is to ensure that the council and its Highland Housing Register partners make the best use of the available housing stock.'

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## Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI called into action twice in one day

The volunteer crew at Kyle RNLI were called out twice on Saturday, going to the aid of a yacht which had run aground at Applecross and then three hours later they were on their way to rigid inflatable boat (rib) in trouble north of Duirinish, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Kyle lifeboat Spirit of Fred. Olsen first launched at 12:40am after the yacht issued a Mayday call in the Applecross area after losing all electrical power, dragging its anchor and ending up aground on rocks.

After battling rough conditions, the lifeboat arrived on scene at 1am, and with the assistance of another nearby yacht, managed to locate the stricken vessel which was completely in darkness.

A crew member was put onboard the yacht to assess the situation and make sure the two people on board were not injured. The lifeboat then managed to tow the yacht free, and the crew managed to recover the dragging anchor onto the vessel.

After it was established that there was no major damage or water ingress, and with the yacht's engine running, but no



Kyle RNLI lifeboat which was in action twice on Saturday.

Photograph: Kyle RNLI.

other electrical power meaning they had no navigation equipment or lights, it was decided the safest course of action was for the yacht to follow the lifeboat back to Kyleakin harbour.

At 3.30am the yacht was safely escorted into the harbour and the lifeboat returned to the station at 3.45am.

It was 12 hours later, at 3.51pm, that the crew pagers sounded once again, after a seven-metre rib with five people and a dog on board, broke down in the Duirinish area and drifted

onto the rocky shoreline. The lifeboat arrived on scene at 4.15pm and managed to attach a tow to the casualty vessel, before proceeding with it slowly through rough seas towards Kyleakin harbour. At 5.15pm they arrived in Kyleakin where a local UK Coastguard unit was waiting to assist.

With the vessel secured and all persons and the dog safe, the lifeboat was then stood down and returned to station where it was refuelled and made ready for service by 5.40pm.

# Baton handed on for The Salvation Army in Fort

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

For more than 150 years, The Salvation Army has worked to aid those most in need and today is active in virtually every corner of the world, pledging to offer 'God's hope and love' to all those in need without discrimination.

And that sense of compassion and duty was very much on display on Sunday in Fort William at the organisation's local base in Belford Road when a new Corps Officer was installed for the town.

Major Janet McIntyre, the current Corps Officer for the Salvation Army in Kinlochleven, has now added Fort William to her remit following the departure of Major Elaine Turner.

The latter took up a new position for the organisation in Thurso last week after what she told the Lochaber Times was 'seven happy years' in Fort William.

Major McIntyre was installed as the Corps Officer at Fort William Salvation Army by Captain Peter Renshaw.

The installation saw Major McIntyre preach from 2 Timothy: 1 of The Bible and speak about 'handing on the baton'. She thanked Major Turner for her previous seven years ministry at the corps and encouraged the congregation to continue working together for the 'good of the Kingdom'.

Major McIntyre told the Lochaber Times she felt the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown had underlined the need more than ever for an organisation such as The Salvation Army.

But she said she intends to take things slowly when it comes to building up the Fort William branch as the country eases its way out of lockdown.

'Quite a number of folk who come are living on their own and the pandemic has been a long, long time for them because most of them have been self-isolating due to their age or health conditions or both.'

'We need to work out what's needed in the area as I don't



Major Janet McIntyre, pictured, at the event at the Salvation Army Hall in Fort William on Sunday.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson

want to just jump in with two feet and regret it afterwards!'

Although there is only a small number in The Salvation Army in Fort William at the moment, Major McIntyre said she hopes to build on this.

'Folk are still nervous about being out and about, so we will have to work to gradually get them to get out again,' she said.

On Major Turner's move to Thurso, Major McIntyre said: 'We wish her and the family, her husband Stanley, her son Daniel and her daughter Gemma, all the best as she takes responsibility there.'

'I would like to thank her for all the work she and the family have done in reaching out to the people of Fort William. In leading the Church; in managing the community side of things - cameo club, lunch club, craft class, children's clubs and so much more. They will be missed by many people. I wish them well and pray God's richest blessings on them.'

Asked how she felt about leaving Fort William, Major Turner told us: 'Myself and my family arrived in Fort William in July 2013 and served the Corps and community of Fort William for seven very happy years. My reason for our move to Thurso is in line with Salvation Army principles that we only normally stay in an appointment for five years, but due to personal circumstances we were granted a two-year extension.'

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

The Young Person's Guarantee was launched late last year to help support young people through the pandemic recovery. It is a Scottish Government commitment to bring together employers, partners, and young people.

The aim is to connect every 16- to 24-year-old in Scotland to the opportunity of a job,

placement, training, or volunteering with employers committed to the Guarantee.

As the host organisation of Developing the Young Workforce West Highland, we're delighted that many of our Lochaber Chamber of Commerce members have already signed up to offer their support to the Guarantee,

including MOWI and BSW Timber. The scheme offers real benefits to employers - it helps to develop a future pipeline of skills and experience, with young people at the heart of the workforce. Young people bring organisations a wealth of talent, creativity, and enthusiasm, critical now and for future success. It also shows young people considering their options that companies are committed to developing opportunities for young people within their organisations.

Whether you currently provide opportunities for young people or you would like to start getting involved, the team at DYW West Highland will be more than happy to offer guidance and answer any questions. It's easy to sign up and take part - there's no 'one size fits all' approach: you can offer opportunities that work for your business.

Email the team on: info@dywwesthighland.org



Virtual Event

## Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy Virtual Public Consultation

### SSEN Transmission invites you to share your views with us

#### What is being consulted on?

We would like to invite you to join our virtual consultation exhibitions to share your views and feedback on our proposals for our Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy which aims to enable the connection of new renewable generation to support the transition to net zero emissions. This strategy is comprised of three elements:

**1 Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection**  
Following previous rounds of consultation on this project, we are now looking to hear your views on our Preferred Alignment for the overhead line within the selected route (Route Option 3). This event will also be the first formal public consultation for the Creag Dhubh substation Pre-application Notice (PAN).

**2 Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV Overhead Line**  
This is a new project which would involve between 8-12 km of new 275kV overhead line constructed between the proposed new substation at Creag Dhubh, and a connection point on the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line. We are inviting views as to our Preferred Route Option, within which the replacement overhead line will be located.

**3 Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Substations**  
To complete the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Strategy all the connected substations require upgrade to 275kV capability, as a result we are progressing with a new project which would involve construction and operation of four new 275kV electricity substations, south of Inveraray. We are inviting views regarding preferred Site Options identified for each of these substations.

The team will be available for live instant message chat sessions on:

Thursday 29th July 2021  
10am-1pm & 5-7pm

**How can I get involved?**  
The virtual consultation exhibitions are part of a 5 week long consultation and have been designed to be fully interactive, allowing for presentation of key project information and plans, as well as providing an opportunity to engage directly with the project team via the chat sessions. The virtual consultation portal, the consultation brochure, other supporting documents and feedback forms can be accessed on the project webpage:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-strategy/)

Consultation starts on Monday 12th July 2021 and closes on Friday 13th August 2021. We kindly request that feedback forms are submitted by 13th August.

If you have any questions about the project or are unable to join the virtual consultations and you would like a paper copy of the consultation brochure please contact the Community Liaison Manager by email, phone or post:

Helen Batey  
Community Liaison Manager  
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ  
Helen.Batey@sse.com  
01925 800 833 / 07778 453 993

# Wild Words

KIRSTEEN BELL

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Eleven years ago, when we first moved into this house, by July we would be getting woken at 4am each morning by the chattering of dozens of swallows.



Their garbled song was like a tape running backwards. We see a few passing now overhead, but none stop for long.

The house martins still visit though, wee black and white birds, distinguished from swallows in flight by their shorter, blunt tails.

The martins usually arrive with the warm air, that also ensures their diet of flying insects have emerged. We did see a few zipping briefly across the sky in May, but it only opened with more wind and rain, and seemed to wash them away again.

Pairs will normally build nests in the east and west gables of our roof. Once

cliff dwellers, they have adapted: their name comes from the habit now of nesting on houses.

By the middle of June however, thanks to the late arrival of spring and summer, I had given up on even that happening.

A small part of me was relieved they hadn't used the west gable, as the nests there frequently collapse. These little architects use mud to build. But, under the pressure of the prevailing weather and the weight of almost fledged chicks, the little feather-lined domes often fall to the grass below.

This time last year I had already attempted to rescue

the first of two lots of chicks. With most young birds, if they appear unharmed they should be left where they are: the parents will find them.

In this situation though, I read that the young house martins need a head of air to be able to take their maiden flight. Their parents are also unlikely to come to the ground to feed. I was given the advice that these black and grey bundles of feathery fluff should be returned to the nest – except in this case their nest was no more.

I tried them at the top of the slide, on windowsills – anything to keep them out of reach of the cat and the pine marten, and to raise them closer to their parents. The chicks would still be there each morning, shivering and silent with what looked like fear, and no sign of attention from the older birds.

In the end, I put them in a tiny cardboard box along

with the fallen nest. Using masking tape, I fixed it to the outside of the upstairs window, as close as I could get it to the original location. This attempt was successful. Rehomed, the mother and father heard their calls, continuing to feed the young birds until they were able to fledge.

At the other end of the house, the nest at the east gable was still whole at the end of last winter. It would only have needed a little fixing up to be ready for a new brood in the summer. All the same, this year it has no occupants.

Instead, one pair has finally made a stand again in the west. Just one unreliable, late nest. There are no chicks to be heard yet, but there is still time for one or two clutches before the martins begin their migration back south. I've got my cardboard box and masking tape at the ready.

# Lochaber new trail plan boosted by agreement

Outdoor trails in Fort William will be upgraded, maintained and developed thanks to an agreement between Lochaber Trail Association (LTA) and Forestry and Land Scotland which have agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will see both groups working together to facilitate community-led development of trails, writes Colin Smeeton.

With the MOU in place, the newly formed LTA is now in a position to plan organised dig days, the first of which is planned for the start of August.

The volunteer event will take place at one of Leanachan forests oldest mountain bike routes, Hole in the wall. This particular trail was selected as it has a well-known safety concern where it exits onto the track below. The trail is frequently used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and the Saturday Kids Club and LTA aim to improve the trail to better meet the needs of younger and less experienced

riders. Anyone wishing to assist with rerouting the exit of the Hole in the wall trail can book their place at eventbrite.co.uk by searching for LTA Hole in the wall dig day.

Volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult and the event is scheduled to take place from 10am to 1pm on Sunday August 1.

All work will take place according to Covid guidelines and a short brief and tool talk will be given prior to work starting.

Further information about LTA can be found on their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/LochaberTrailAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/LochaberTrailAssociation)

## CONTACT US

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# Finlay sets sail with eye on coveted Green Beret

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

When Finlay Dempster joined Lochaber Sea Cadets, TS St Christopher, at the age of 10, he had his sights firmly set on making a career in the Senior Service.

Now, having just turned 17, he is instead swapping his cadet uniform for one of the Royal Marines instead of the Royal Navy.

Other than giving Finlay a grounding in some of the skills which will give him a head start in military training, he has also been an exemplary, award-winning cadet.

The teenager is the current record holder for the Cadets' Commando Speed March with an astonishing time of 43 minutes 17 seconds.

Contested annually with Sea Cadet groups from across the North of Scotland, the contest-



Lochaber Sea Cadet Finlay Dempster prepares to set off for Royal Marine training.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

ants run the seven-mile course carrying a 16lb pack and thanks to Finlay and several predecessors, the winner's cup has never left Lochaber.

Also setting him in good stead for what is to come, he went on to run the same Achnacarry course with

members of the Royal Marines Association in an hour and two minutes carrying a full 36lb pack.

Sea Cadets Commanding Officer, Derick Campbell, said: 'We have seen Finlay really coming on and developing since he joined the Sea Cadets.

'He has always played an enthusiastic part in all of our activities.

'The whole ship's company wish him the best of luck as he sets off for his Royal Marine basic training this week in preparation to earn the coveted Green Beret.'

## May celebrates half a century at Fort hotel

In 1971 a young mother attended an interview, babe in arms for a waiting job at the Clan MacDuff Hotel in Fort William's Achintore Road, writes Mark Entwistle.

Now, 50 years on, May Dempster, now a grandmother – including to Finlay, left – celebrated her unbroken record of employment at the hotel with a special reception and thank you arranged by owners, the Fyfe family, friends and colleagues.

Presenting her with flowers and a gift, manager Angus Fyfe said: 'Who would have thought at that interview you would still be here after 50 years, more like a part of our family.'

'A big thank you is never going to be enough for all your

help and commitment, doing us so many obligations and little extras that have helped us solve problems and give numerous guests such excellent service.

'In 50 years you have never taken a day off work, even when you felt unwell and that is just tremendous.'

The hotel itself has always been family-run, adapting to the many changes required over the years to keep up with changing demands of customers, with May also playing her part in retaining standards.

She told us: 'It has always been a great place to work, being treated as part of the family. I have always enjoyed being here and cannot believe 50 years have passed already.'



Angus Fyfe presents flowers and a gift to May Dempster.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

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# Vet warns of summer risk of adder bites

Crown Vets in Fort William are warning people that the recent sunny spell of weather combined with more time being spent outdoors, has again resulted in a heightened risk of people and their pets being bitten by adders.

More active during the day-time over the warmer summer months, adders usually shy away from humans, only attacking when confronted by humans and animals, or if they feel threatened.

And while the risk of humans being bitten is not particularly high, the curious nature of dogs means there have already been a number of cases of adder bites in the Highlands this year.

Crown Vets, which has clinics in Fort William and Inverlochy, and a number of satellite clinics in and around Lochaber, say they have treated a number of cases of adder bites this year.

'Urgent treatment may be needed if your dog has been bitten', they warn via their Facebook page, 'so contact the



The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust estimates there are around 50-100 adder bites to people each year and around 100 for dogs. Photograph: Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.

vets as soon as possible. The sooner your dog sees a vet, the better their chances of making a full recovery.'

They also provided some useful advice to follow if your dog has been bitten, this includes: carry your dog to reduce the spread of the adder's venom around your dog's body; bathe the wound in cold water to help control the swelling; keep your dog calm and quiet as you

transport them to the vet and don't attempt any first aid as this can do more harm than good.

According to the Scottish Wildlife Trust, 'The adder is Britain's only venomous snake, but its poison is generally of little danger to humans: an adder bite can be very painful and cause a nasty inflammation, but despite stories is really only dangerous

to the very young, ill or old.' The NHS advises people to call 999 or to go to A&E immediately if you have been bitten by a snake.

Their advice includes: stay calm – most snake bites in the UK are not serious and can be treated. Keep the part of your body that was bitten as still as you can; lie in the recovery position if you can; take paracetamol for any pain and

to try to remember the colour and pattern of the snake to tell the doctor.

They also advise people who have been bitten to: not go near the snake, or try to catch or kill it, do not try to suck or cut the poison (venom) out of the bite; do not tie anything tightly round the part of the body where the bite is; and do not take aspirin or ibuprofen as they can make bleeding worse.

Adders are relatively easy to recognise, they have a distinct dark zigzag that runs down the length of their bodies as well as an inverted V shape on their neck. The males are usually white or light grey with a black zigzag while the females are brown with a darker brown zigzag pattern. They can, however, also be completely black and adults usually grow to about 35 inches or just under 89cm.

The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust provides the following advice to avoid being bitten: 'When walking in areas where adders occur, it is best to keep to well-used

paths or other open areas, wear shoes or boots (rather than sandals or bare feet), walk slowly, and look closely where you are walking. Bites to walkers are very rare, but when they do occur it is usually when people walk through long vegetation with little protection on their feet. If picking up objects from the ground, watch where you put your hands. Adders are typically resting underground between November and February, often longer in northern parts of Britain, and most sightings of adders tend to be in spring or summer.

Do not attempt to handle adders. If you see one on a path, do not attempt to shoo it off – simply walk around it leaving plenty of space, or if that's not possible to do safely, seek another route. Make sure that children know not to catch snakes. You are less likely to see adders in heavily shaded places such as dense woodland, or in extensive areas of very short vegetation such as parks.'

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# Skye and Raasay tourism recovery boosted by HIE

A three-year strategy to help the tourism industry in Skye and Raasay recover from the pandemic has secured £350,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Destination management organisation (DMO) SkyeConnect Community Interest Company will use the funds to deliver its long-term recovery plan to restore confidence and resilience in Skye and Raasay's tourism sector.

The islands-wide recovery strategy will 'reach across and beyond sector boundaries to engage communities, enable product and supply chain developments and to enhance skills within the economy'.

There will also be specific engagement with food and drink producers to work with operators to showcase and sell the area's world-class produce to a global audience.

The funding is from £3m approved by HIE in September 2020 to support strategically important tourism DMOs over the next three years, as part of wider support for the tourism sector.

Alison Gainsford, head of business growth for Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, said the importance of the tourism industry for Skye and Raasay could not be overstated and has provided an important source of employment.

'During the Covid-19 pandemic, SkyeConnect was an extremely effective voice for the industry in our area. This funding will allow the organisation to develop and implement their sustainability plan for the future, while continuing to support Skye and Raasay's tourism industry,' she added.

Dave Till, chairman

of SkyeConnect, said: 'SkyeConnect is delighted to have secured this funding commitment from HIE. It is an endorsement of the important role of DMOs in general and the huge amount of work carried out by the volunteer board of SkyeConnect throughout the pandemic.'

'SkyeConnect provided a voice for every sector of the industry along with hard data to back-up appeals for industry support. We are in no doubt we have a long road ahead of us in leading the industry through the recovery phase.'

'The commitment from HIE will assist us in implementing the commitments made in the Skyeconnect manifesto to develop our industry in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner so that Skye remains a truly great place to live, work and visit.'



Tourism is vital to the economies of Skye and Raasay.

Photograph: Isle of Raasay Distillery.

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Chartering the freight vessel MV Arrow for the Stornoway to Ullapool route will allow the MV Loch Seaforth to provide additional passenger sailings at busy times during the summer.

# Charter agreed for Stornoway/Ullapool freight ferry route

News that a charter has been agreed for the freight vessel MV Arrow for the Stornoway to Ullapool route has been welcomed by Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan.

The Scottish Government has confirmed the vessel will operate a number of overnight freight sailings, allowing the MV Loch Seaforth to provide additional passenger sailings at busy times during the summer.

The MV Arrow completed berthing trials over the weekend and CalMac will confirm details of its deployment soon.

The islands MSP has repeatedly called for more capacity on the route and had raised the availability of the vessel with the Transport Minister.

Mr Allan said: 'This vessel will provide much-needed additional capacity on a route which is coming under significant pressure – especially in the summer.'

'I am grateful to the Transport Minister for listening to the representations I, and others, have been making on this issue.'

'The lack of bookable ferry



**'We are doing everything we can to support CalMac to maximise available capacity across the network'**

capacity has been having a real impact on all aspects of island life.

'I hope the extra capacity this vessel will free up, along with the easing of the social distancing rules over the next few weeks, will make it much easier to get on and off island.'

'Clearly this does not address every problem the ferry service is currently facing. I am conscious of the pressures on other routes to and from the Western Isles, which I continue to raise with CalMac and

the government, but the MV Arrow represents an important step forward.'

Minister for Transport Graeme Dey said the Scottish Government recognised communities' frustration at the recent disruption and the impact it is having.

'We are doing everything we can to support CalMac to maximise available capacity across the network,' he added.

'The Scottish Government will continue to engage with ferry operators and island stakeholders on issues impacting the recovery of the island economies from the impact of the Covid pandemic.'

Robert Morrison, Operations Director for CalMac, said: 'We have been working closely with Transport Scotland to investigate the feasibility of leasing extra vessels and the addition of the MV Arrow is extremely welcome.'

'The chartering of the MV Arrow will help provide much-needed resilience at a time when Covid restrictions remain in place and there is high demand for spaces on board our ferries.'

## MP to go on trial on dangerous driving charge

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil is to go on trial on a charge of dangerous driving.

The SNP MP has been charged with causing serious injury after a collision involving a motorcyclist on Barra's A888 road, near Castlebay

Community School, in October last year. A not guilty plea was recorded at Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on Tuesday July 13 and another hearing is scheduled for September, with the trial due to take place in October.

# New service for patients needing physiotherapy

NHS Western Isles has introduced a new First Contact Physiotherapy Service.

The service, launched last week, means patients presenting to a GP practice with a Musculoskeletal (MSK) condition, for example, soft tissue, muscle and joint pain, may be assessed by a highly skilled physiotherapist without seeing a GP first.

This will improve patient care by accelerating their MSK assessment, treatment plan and, if appropriate, referrals for further investigation.

#### Need

The service, which will be offered by telephone, virtually or face-to-face depending on patient need, is run by physiotherapists Alana MacPhee, based in Uist, and Eleanor Maule, based in Stornoway.

The First Contact Physiotherapists will:

- assess you and diagnose what's happening

- give expert advice on how best to manage your condition

- recommend exercises and other approaches to deal with the issue

- refer you on to a specialist service, if necessary.

The First Contact Physiotherapy Service is not the same as the self-referral/direct access to the physiotherapy service.

Current arrangements for self-referral to the physiotherapy service and standard NHS physiotherapy service provision will remain the same.

#### Appointment

Anyone who wishes to be seen by the First Contact Physiotherapist should contact their GP practice to request an appointment.

Practice staff may ask for further information to ensure



**Alana MacPhee, First Contact Practitioner Physiotherapist, Uist and Barra.**

the service is right for you.

Patients who have already been referred to the local

physiotherapy service and are awaiting an appointment, or who are being seen by a phys-

iotherapist, should not request an appointment with the First Contact Practitioner.

## Students home for summer urged to get Covid vaccine

NHS Western Isles is calling on students aged 18 or over who are returning home during the summer to contact them for a Covid vaccination appointment.

Students who have not yet received their first dose of vaccine, or those due their second dose, are urged to contact NHS Western Isles to book an appointment.

NHS Western Isles Chief Executive Gordon Jamieson said it is important everyone eligible comes forward as quickly as possible and that everyone gets both doses of the vaccine to get the maximum protection against Covid.

'Covid can affect people of all ages. You can get seriously ill from Covid-19 at any age and the virus can cause serious long-term effects regardless of age. Please take steps to protect yourself and get the vaccine,' he added.

To book an appointment in the Western Isles, contact 0808 196 8383 or email [wi.covidvax@nhs.scot](mailto:wi.covidvax@nhs.scot) and leave your contact details.

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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

## Congratulations

It's a week of congratulations and well wishes this week. Firstly, we'd like to congratulate Lochaber Hope on receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which was presented to Alyson Smith and colleagues by the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness Donald Cameron of Lochiel CVO.

And a Lochaber family also had plenty to celebrate.

May Dempster features in the paper this week, celebrating her unbroken record of working for the same family hotel for 50 years. That really is some achievement. It not only highlights May's hard work and commitment over the years, but also what a great place the Clan MacDuff Hotel is to work.

And completing the good news in the Dempster family, 17-year-old Finlay Dempster, May's grandson, sets off this week to start his Royal Marine basic training in preparation to earn the coveted Green Beret.

An enthusiastic member of Lochaber Sea Cadets, Finlay has been an exemplary, award-winning cadet and the current record holder for the Cadets' Commando Speed March of 43 minutes 17 seconds.

Congratulations to all three. We love being able to share such good news.

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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## Ardnamurchan access issues

I am responding to the articles on Ardnamurchan access issues in the Lochaber Times of July 8.

For over two years, the estate has locked several deer gates, effectively closing two historical rights of way. One is from Acharacle to Glenborrodale and the other from Ockle on the North Ardnamurchan coast to Glenborrodale.

The locked gates are impossible to climb, are dangerous, potentially forcing walkers to return to the start of their long walk.

I have walked from Acharacle to Glenborrodale, for more than 50 years, with family and friends.

At Glenborrodale, there were two access points – the old tradesman's entrance at the castle, through an area on which the estate has recently constructed a timber yard, which then branches to Ockle and Acharacle. The other starts at the farm cottages then rejoins the Glenborrodale to Acharacle route.

The estate owner simply has to allow one of these exits, both under his control, to be re-opened and used.

The empty threat to close the distillery is unnecessary. Fassfern Estate welcomes walkers with a car park and signed walking paths, one of which passes between their workshop and their woodchip processing yard, a similar layout to Glenborrodale.

The estate has locked deer gates in the fences surrounding tax-funded forestry plantations, breaching conditions to provide 'kissing gates' to ensure access.

I would suggest that anyone wanting a break this summer should walk through the hills to Glenborrodale – you are entitled to remove any obstructions.

Dr Michael Foxley, Achaphubuill, Ardgor.

## Check your wages

Sir,  
Students and seasonal staff are being reminded by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to check they are being paid the National Minimum Wage.

All workers, including temporary seasonal staff, are legally entitled to be paid the National Minimum Wage. Last year (2020-21) HMRC helped 155,000 workers across the UK to recover more than £16 million in pay which was due to them.

HMRC is reminding workers to check their hourly rate of pay and any deductions or unpaid

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

Thoir spèis dhan mhuir, agus cuimhnich daonnan air cumhachd an uisge! B' e sin comhairle a chuala mi tric nam òige, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gun do dhruidh sin na bu mhotha leis gun robh e tighinn bitheanta bho inbhich a thug ùine mhòr dem beatha aig muir. Far nach eil gainnead ann dheth faodar a bhith a' dìochuimhneachadh gum bheil uisge na bhunait beatha air an t-saoghal is nach biomaid beò às aonais, is tha e doirbh dhuinne nach do dh'fhuiling mòr-thiormachd làn-bhuaidh tairt a thuigsinn. Ach a bharrachd air beatha a thoirt dhuinn tha cumhachd an uisge air a bhith na ghoireas luachmhor dhan chinne-daonna fad linntean, bhon a chaidh a chleachdadh an toiseach gus rothan mhuilnean a thionndadh chun an latha an-diugh far am bheil an aon neart a' cruthachadh dealan dhuinn. Air taobh an iar na dùthcha, is mi a' sgrìobhadh seo, tha mi a' coimhead a-mach air latha glas le ciùrach uisge, agus mi ag èisteachd aithris air rèidio mu theas grèine feadh a' mhòr-chuid eile de dh'Alba! Chan eil aimsir fhliuch na annas air an taobh an iar agus theagamh gur ann ri linn sin a tha muinntir na sgìre cho buailteach a bhith a' gearan mun t-side. Ach ag èisteachd ri naidheachdan mun sgrios uabhasach a thug grad-thuiltean air pàirtean den Ghearmailt, a' Bheilg, agus an Òlaind, theagamh nach bu chòir dhuinne a bhith cho deiseil gu bhith cràmhan.

Chaill mòran a h-uile càil a bh' aca, chaill cuid am beatha! Ma bha riamh teagamh air

cumhachd an uisge tha fianais dhòrainneach air bualadh air a' chuid seo den Roinn Eòrpa le ceud gu leth air an dearbhadh marbh aig an ìre seo, agus ceudan eile air nach eil ròs fhathast. A rèir eòlaichean aimsire dh'adhbharaich gluasad neo-àbhaisteach anns an iarmailt gun do thuit dòrtadh uisge air an aon sgìre seo de thaobh an iar na h-Eòrpa fad uairean a thide, chuir na h-aibhnichean thairis is sgaol na tuiltean cho luath is nach robh ùine aig daoine deasachadh sam bith a dhèanamh ma choinneamh mòr-thubaist. Seallaidhean a tha cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach le bunaithean thogalaichean sgairteil air an sguabhadh air falbh le cuideam shruthan fiadhaich uisge, agus gun ach càrn bhioran agus chlachan air fhàgail air làraich nan taighean. Far an robh bailtean beaga eireachdail air stèidheachadh thar linntean chan eil a-nise ach tobhtaichean air an tachdadh gun tròcair le eabar agus sprùilleach.

Chan iongnadh gum bheil ceannardan poilitigeach air a bhith ag ràdh gur e lèirsgrìos a th' air tighinn air na dùthchannan aca, agus cha mhotha na sin a tha e na annas gum bheilear a' faighneachd an e blàthachadh na cruinne màthair-adhbhar na thachair. Eadar an sgrios mhillteach seo san Roinn-Eòrpa agus an teas mì-nàdarra a th' air caoban mòra de thalamh ann an Ameireagaidh a chur nan smàl, saoilidh mi gum bheil clàr chuissean agus co-dhùnaidhean cho-labhairt COP ann an Glaschu san t-Samhain a' fàs nas èiginniche gach latha thèid seachad.

working time. The National Minimum Wage hourly rates are currently:

£8.91 - Age 23 or over (National Living Wage)  
£8.36 - Age 21 to 22  
£6.56 - Age 18 to 20  
£4.62 - Age under 18  
£4.30 - Apprentice.

We want to ensure Scotland's seasonal workers and students are being paid what they are entitled to and, as the economy re-opens, help employers if they are unsure of the rules.

Workers should check their hourly rate and look out for any deductions or unpaid working time which would reduce their pay. It could take them below the minimum wage.

HMRC investigates every complaint made

about the minimum wage, so whether you are selling sun cream, giving a hotel room a clean or serving a strawberry smoothie, if you think you are being short-changed you should get in touch. Anyone not being paid what they are entitled to can complain online at [www.gov.uk/minimum-wage-complaint](http://www.gov.uk/minimum-wage-complaint).

If they want to speak to someone, they should phone the Acas Pay and Work Rights Helpline on 0300 123 1100, who may transfer the call to HMRC.

Employers can also contact the Acas Helpline for free help and advice or visit GOV.UK to find out more.

Steve Timewell, director, individuals and small business compliance, HMRC.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## GLENFINNAN

### Busy agenda at July meeting of community council

Glenfinnan Community Council (GCC) recently held its July monthly meeting recently.

Items discussed included:

■ **Village signs:** Taped and turned signs at the A830/Pier Road junction have been removed. Pauline Donaldson is to be contacted again about signs to help prevent large vehicles entering Pier Road - no turning and no parking. There have been new signs placed at Bracara and Rhu.

■ **Village bins:** Thanks to Highland Council for placing bins at the pier and a bin and a recycling bin at the new car park.

■ **Visit Glenfinnan** has been updating the walks of Glenfinnan map and feedback suggested including the position of village bins. GCC agreed that Neil McLeod should be contacted to ask for bins to be excluded to avoid fly tipping.

**Police report:** There have been six calls to the Glenfinnan area since the last meeting.

Among them were:

■ An osprey found dead – evidence points to natural causes

■ A drink driver, not local

■ A mountain rescue on Sgurr nan Coireachan, one male walked off hill

Ingrid Henderson's update on the work of Glenfinnan Community Facilities Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which was presented by David Grieve, highlighted the new community car park is working well and making a positive difference to village life in the village.

The aim is to recruit a car park attendant soon but, in the meantime, the SCIO would welcome volunteers to help guide traffic and welcome visitors at busy times. New signs to help with visitor flow are also being planned.

The phone box door has been renovated and reinstated and there are plans to have a second defibrillator in the village.

There is now a lease agreement for the Pier Hut - the former MOWI shorebase - and an agreed plan which has been shared with the village. Dialogue is ongoing with building control and costings will be undertaken soon for a funding application.

Chairperson's report: Thanks were extended to Emily Bryce and her team from the National Trust for Scotland for cutting down branches

and bushes at the A830/Pier Road junction to improve visibility.

Secretary's report and correspondence: A letter was received from Alison Gordon on behalf of Scottish Forestry which included the West Region Land Management Plan Amendment for Callop and Drumfern Forest. The work is to remove non-native conifers as they are an undesirable seed source for the native woodland. This is within the SSSI and Special Area of Conservation.

An email was received from Ingrid Henderson expressing concern about the condition of the lower road surface, especially at the junction with the A830 but also potholes/ deterioration by the junction at Innis Aluinn and along the Pier Road past Grianan. GCC agreed an email would be sent to Pauline Donaldson in Highland Council's roads department.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday August 4.

## MORVERN



The Nc'nean distillery near Lochaline.

### Distillery UK's first net zero emission whisky producer

A Morvern distillery has become the UK's first net zero emission whisky distillery, beating the Scotch whisky industry target by 20 years.

With the industry's net zero target 2040, Nc'nean distillery at Drimnin by Lochaline is one of only two whisky distilleries in the UK powered 100 per cent by renewable energy.

Nc'nean whisky is bottled in a 100 per cent recycled clear glass bottle which reduces each bottle's carbon footprint by 40 per cent. Nc'nean is certified organic and only uses organic barley sourced in Scotland.

Nc'nean's founder Annabel Thomas said: 'This feels like our greatest achievement so far. From the moment we started out on this adventure, there have been plenty people who told us that using renewable energy would be too hard and



Kate Forbes MSP meeting Scotland's Towns Partnership chief officer Phil Prentice in Fort William.

### Call for people to back businesses in their community

A call for people to 'choose local' was being made on Fort William's High Street this month.

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes was out in the town showing her support for the Scotland Loves Local campaign when she met Phil Prentice - the man charged with leading it - on Fort William High Street recently.

Ms Forbes said: 'The Scotland Loves Local campaign is so important for our economic recovery, locally and nationally, because it encourages people to spend their money locally and support local businesses. They have been key throughout the pandemic in helping us get through it, so now is the time to repay that and support them.'

The MSP, who is also Scotland's Cabinet

Secretary for Finance and the Economy, has urged businesses across the country to sign up to accept the new Scotland Loves Local Gift Card, which is being rolled out nationally.

She added: 'I would encourage all businesses to sign up for the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card because it encourages people to spend their money locally.'

Phil Prentice, chief officer of Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP), the organisation leading the Scotland Loves Local campaign with the support of the Scottish Government, said: 'The need for us to choose local and support the businesses around us has never been more important. Doing so protects shops, services and livelihoods in our communities. It's a positive individual decision from which we can all benefit.'

that organic barley would be impossible to work with. Many even said using a 100 per cent recycled glass bottle wasn't the done thing in premium spirits.

'I am incredibly proud of our small team who have put their hearts and souls into overcoming all these barriers to create a delicious whisky with the lowest possible footprint - and 20 years ahead of the industry's target.'

'It is my hope our work will inspire others in our industry. We want more companies to look at their mode of operating and make improvements where they can.'

Net zero status has been achieved by powering Nc'nean with 100 per cent renewable energy and offsetting the remaining few emissions through

partner Highland Carbon. The distillery uses woodchip from a commercial forest two miles from the distillery to power its biomass boiler which in turn heats its copper stills. All trees are replanted.

This ethos is evident throughout the business with its commitment to zero waste - 99.97 per cent of waste is recycled or reused. Leftover barley - draff - is fed to the cows on the farm.

Specifically designed to use 80 per cent less water than a traditional distillery, Nc'nean's cooling water is continuously recycled via a natural cooling pond, which means the distillery can use the same water over and over again without the need to use energy to cool it down or chemicals to keep it clean.



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# Robert in lockdown

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



One of the many world-changing events of the last two years has been the rise of the social media platform TikTok.

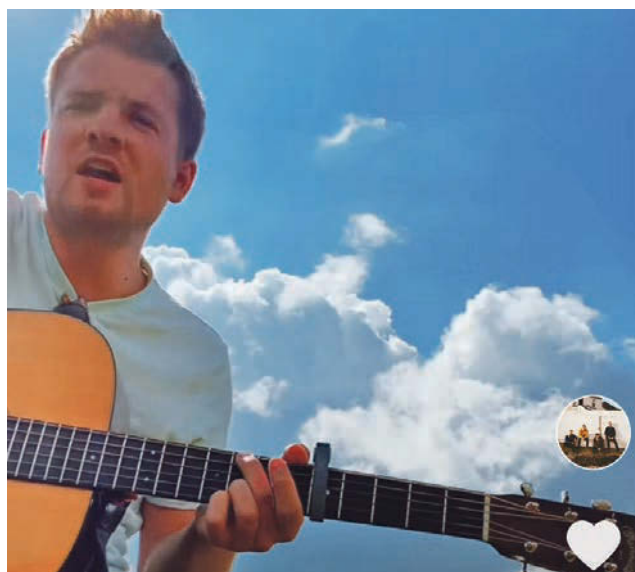
As engagement on the platform soared at the beginning of lockdown, Tide Lines thought we should get involved just as Donald Trump was considering banning it because it was owned by the Chinese!

After well over a year of using it, TikTok still remains a mystery to me. Until very recently, it required all videos to be under a minute – confines that prove very challenging for someone as verbose as me.

Our own profile on the platform is basically full of me singing short versions of songs: some Tide Lines; some Gaelic; some Scots; and some pop or rock covers. I also go live on the platform now and again for wee concerts from my flat and – at one point, I even attempted a 'chat show' where I invited other users onto my live stream. You can see why I haven't quite got my head round it.

It has a very young usership and, for the first time in my life, aged 27, it has made me realise there are now generations below me with whom I am almost completely out of touch. This must be how my Mum and Dad felt when they first discovered Facebook – a good few years after anyone under 30 had moved onto Instagram and largely left Facebook behind!

I actually saw a video



on TikTok recently where someone was asking if anyone remembered 'the old days' when you had to buy music rather than stream it. I felt like saying: yes – partly because I'm a full-time musician and partly because I wasn't born yesterday. The first music I bought was on cassette after all.

Anyway, the reason I am telling you all this is that, in the name of TikTok, I have been trying to go to picturesque places for my short videos. When I was back home during lockdown, this was easy enough. I could have a different view of the Ben each day and, now and again, throw in a nice shot by the River Lochy.

In Glasgow, however, it is slightly more difficult because

all the photogenic spots in the city tend to be busy.

With this in mind, in the nice weather last week, I set off for the Campsie Hills. Stopping at the car park just above the Campsie Waterfall, I set off, guitar in hand like Julie Andrews, up the small hill directly above it. Half way up, I found the perfect rock to perch my phone and film myself singing a few songs.

No sooner had I started than a lovely Indian family appeared and sat down and had a picnic – the young lad offering me some chocolate peanuts from his lunch box! They gave me a round of applause and, thus, became only my second live audience since March 2020. It's a funny old world these days!

# Author to share how personal experience led to publication

Writers are being invited to join literary agent Jenny Brown when she sits down with author Bridget McNulty in a webinar hosted by creative support organisation XpoNorth.

Bridget will be sharing her insights into how she turned a need for support into an internationally published book, *The Grief Handbook*, at the event on Wednesday July 28.

When Bridget lost her mum suddenly, she couldn't find the support she needed. Looking to help others facing a similar problem, she set about writing *The Grief Handbook* to ensure there was practical and sympathetic advice for anyone navigating grief.

*The Grief Handbook* was published in South Africa, the UK and the US on July 13 and is the first grief handbook to combine personal, lived experience with expert guidance for navigating loss.

When writing the book Bridget, from South Africa, consulted professional experts and learned the art of writing about personal experience and how to make that marketable.

Talking about the webinar Alex Smith, project manager at XpoNorth, said: 'It will be a fascinating insight into how to effectively channel personal experience through written



**Bridget McNulty.**

word. Bridget will be joined in conversation by one of Scotland's top literary agents, Jenny Brown, who will bring practical advice and support for writers looking to get published.'

Sitting Down With The Author: *The Grief Handbook* by Bridget McNulty takes place on Wednesday 28 July at 11am. It is free to attend and tickets can be booked via EventBrite.

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

**FRI 23RD - THUR 29TH JULY**



**FRIDAY 23RD JULY**

*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 11am + 2:15pm.  
*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 11:15am, 1:30pm + 4:30pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 4:45pm + 7:30pm. *Supernova* (15) 8pm.

**SATURDAY 24TH JULY**

*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 11am, 2pm + 4:15pm.  
*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 11:15am + 1:45pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 4:45pm + 7:30pm. *Another Round* (12a) 7:45pm.

**SUNDAY 25TH JULY**

*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 10:15am + 4:15pm.  
*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 11:15am, 1:45pm + 4:30pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 1:15pm + 7:15pm. *Fast & Furious 9* (12) 7pm.

**MONDAY 26TH JULY**

*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) *Bairns Box Office: 10:30am* + 4:15pm.  
*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 11am + 2pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 1pm + 7pm. *Supernova* (15) 5pm. *Sweat* (15) 7:30pm.

**TUESDAY 27TH JULY**

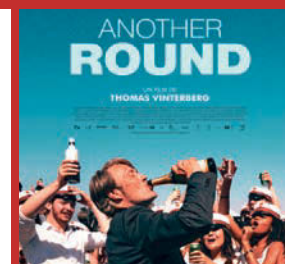
*Highlands From The Air* (U) 12:45pm. *The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 1:45pm + 4:45pm. *Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 2pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 4:15pm + 7:30pm. *Fast & Furious 9* (12) 7:15pm.

**WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY**

*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 10:45am + 2pm.  
*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 1:45pm + 5pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 4:15pm + 7:30pm. *Another Round* (12a) 7:45pm.

**THURSDAY 29TH JULY**

*Space Jam: A New Legacy* (U) 11am + 4:30pm.  
*The Croods 2: A New Age* (U) 11:15am, 2pm + 4:45pm.  
*Black Widow* (12a) 1:45pm + 7:30pm. *Fast & Furious 9* (12) 7:15pm.



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# Shinty round up

The Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup took centre stage on Saturday July 17.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – second round

### Northern Section

**Newtonmore 0 Kingussie 2**  
Newtonmore and Kingussie met at the Eilan for the second successive Saturday, this time in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup.

A 3-1 win saw Kingussie progress in the Artemis Macaulay Cup a week earlier and they did it again, knocking holders Newtonmore out of the Scottish with a 2-0 triumph.

Newtonmore had Steven Macdonald back following suspension and Savio Genini returned for Kingussie following injury. Thomas Borthwick, however, looks set for a spell on the sidelines following his knee injury against Newtonmore the previous week.

There was a strong wind which made it difficult for both sides.

Kingussie took the lead a couple of minutes before half-time. Roddy Young's corner from the left was knocked down but only as far as Ruairidh Anderson on the left who swept the ball to Savio Genini on the left of the 'D' and he took a touch before turning and lashing the ball into the net.

There were just a couple of second half minutes gone when Roddy Young added a second. Ruairidh Anderson's corner from the right went across field where it was gathered by Fraser Munro. Munro's low ball found Roddy Young on the left of the 'D' and he made enough space to turn and shoot home.

Owen Fraser in the home goal made several very good saves throughout.

### Glenurquhart 0 Kinlochshiel 3

Kinlochshiel scored three times in the first half to beat Glenurquhart 3-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart full back Lachie Smith had been unwell ahead of the game but opted to play. There were places for Finlay Robertson, Liam Robertson and Fergus Robertson as well as Chris Mack in a much-changed line-up for this season, with John Barr on the bench.

Mark MacDonald, knee, and Conor Cormack, hand fracture, were missing from the Kinlochshiel defence. With David Falconer also unavailable, Duncan Matheson



Newtonmore keeper Owen Fraser keeps his eye on the ball. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

dropped back to wing back where he caught the eye with a determined performance and a real desire to get to the ball first. Jonnie Macaskill also came into the starting line-up and he, too, was effective.

A first senior goal from Arran Jack gave Kinlochshiel the advantage on 10 minutes and John MacRae doubled their lead on 20 minutes.

With five first half minutes remaining, a Kinlochshiel ball forward may have been going out of play, but Lachie Smith chested it infield where it fell for Ali Nixon who finished from close range to make it 3-0.

The closest Glenurquhart came in the first half was a Connor Golabek effort which went over the top.

There were no goals in the second half and although Kinlochshiel continued to have most of the play, Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh dealt with everything that came his way. Lachie Smith did well for Glenurquhart who are using this season to give important game time to several promising young players.

Donald Nixon was again excellent for Kinlochshiel in the middle of the park.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill will be concerned to have lost Keith MacRae early in the match with what appeared to be a hamstring injury.

### Caberfeidh 3 Beaulieu 3, after extra time

**Beaulieu won 3-1 on penalties**  
Caberfeidh and Beaulieu drew 3-3 after extra time before the visitors ran out 3-1 penalty shoot-out winners in their tie at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh put measures in



Roddy Young celebrates the second goal for Kingussie.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

place to allow 224 spectators from both clubs to attend, subject to certain restrictions.

Beaulieu's Ryan MacKay was suspended so missed the chance to face his former club.

Beaulieu started well, although Caberfeidh's Craig Morrison had an effort ruled out for a 'kick' in the lead-up.

Beaulieu went back on the attack though, with Sean Stewart giving them the lead on 21 minutes after Iain McCall's initial save wasn't cleared.

Caberfeidh fought back though. Craig Morrison turned his marker before blasting home on 37 minutes and Kevin Bartlett lost his man to net on 42 minutes, giving the hosts a 2-1 advantage at the interval.

Beaulieu went back on the attack from the restart and David MacLean made it 2-2 on 67 minutes.

With no further scoring, referee Deek Cameron took the tie into extra time.

Beaulieu went back on the offensive and Robbie Brindle took advantage of a poor clear-

ance to put Caberfeidh back in front on 97 minutes.

But Craig Morrison notched his second goal of the game with a rocket-shot on 104 minutes and it finished 3-3 after two hours of shinty.

Beaulieu keeper Duncan Fraser made the difference in the penalty shoot-out as his side won 3-1 to take a place in the quarter final draw.

**Skye Camanachd P Lovat P**  
Skye Camanachd's tie with Lovat at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, was postponed as the islanders are in the second week of a two-week shinty suspension - a precautionary measure taken due to a rise in Covid cases in the area.

### Southern Section Fort William P Oban Camanachd P

There was disappointment for Fort William and Oban Camanachd as their much-anticipated tie at An Aird was postponed because of Covid restrictions. The tie has been rescheduled for this Saturday.

## Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – first round

### Lochaber 3 Inverness 0

The Lochaber first team took the field for the first time this season and made a winning start, beating the Inverness senior side 3-0 at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber took the lead on 37 minutes, with Ben Delaney scoring.

The tie remained in the balance until the closing stages. Pat Toal added a second on 86 minutes with Ben Delaney getting his second a couple of minutes later.

## HIS Sutherland Cup – first round

### Section 3

#### Inverness 0 Strathglass 5

The Strathglass colts overcame the Inverness colts, winning 5-0 at the Bught Park.

Sam Cumming from Strathglass was banned following his red card against the Beaulieu seconds last month.

Steven Hyslop got the visitors off to a great start with a goal after three minutes. Cammy Price gave Strathglass a comfortable 3-0 advantage at the break with goals on 21 and 45 minutes. Ali Rothe on 52 minutes and Innes Hood on 61 minutes completed the victory.

### Glenurquhart P Skye Camanachd P

The tie between the Glenurquhart seconds and the Skye Camanachd seconds was postponed due to Covid restrictions introduced by Skye.

## Strathdearn Cup – Second Round

### Glenurquhart 0 Newtonmore 2

The Newtonmore second team ran out 2-0 winners against the Glenurquhart second team in their noon throw-up at Blairbeg.

Newtonmore broke the deadlock five minutes before the break with Glen MacKintosh scoring, the ball taking a deflection on the way past Iain MacLeod in the Glenurquhart goal.

Somhairle Thomson ran in with the ball to make it 2-0 on 54 minutes.

### Kingussie 5 Kinlochshiel 1

The Kingussie colts came from a goal down to defeat the Kinlochshiel colts 5-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at the Dell.

Kingussie were able to field Martin Dallas after his appearance for the first team against Newtonmore the previous week and he put in a man-of-the-match performance.

Kinlochshiel manager Willie MacRae lost three players to the first team, leaving him short of options in attack.

However, it was the visitors who took the lead with Archie MacRae scoring on 29 minutes. Kingussie responded well though and Michael Slimon netted on 32 and 38 minutes to give his side a 2-1 lead at the turnaround.

Martin Dallas on 49 minutes and Iain Fraser on 62 minutes made it 4-1 before Michael Slimon completed his hat-trick seven minutes from time.

## Mowi Senior League B

### Strathglass P Lovat P

The encounter between Strathglass and Lovat at Cannich was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

## Mowi North League A

### Glengarry 4 Lochcarron 1

Glengarry bounced back from their defeat to the Fort William seconds the previous weekend to defeat Lochcarron 4-1 at Craighard.

Shaun Nicolson gave the hosts the lead on 25 minutes but Sean MacCuish netted on 33 minutes to make it 1-1 at the break.

The second half belonged to Glengarry though with Nick Dalgety putting them back in front a minute after the restart and Raymond Robertson's brace on 56 and 63 minutes made the final score 4-1.

## Mowi North League B

### Lovat 3 Caberfeidh 1

The meeting between the Lovat seconds and the Caberfeidh seconds at Balgate was brought forward to Friday July 16 with a 7pm throw-up.

Lovat edged in front on 15 minutes through Raymond Rennie.

However, Ruairidh MacLeman netted for the second successive Saturday to equalise 10 minutes later.

Lovat regained the lead on 34 minutes through Ryan Ferguson and it remained 2-1 until the break.

Cammie MacMillan found the net on 70 minutes to give the hosts a two-goal cushion and they stayed in front until the end.

## Mowi North League C

### Aberdeen University P Beaulieu P

Aberdeen University's game with the Beaulieu second team at Balgowrie will be rescheduled because of travel restrictions affecting the Beaulieu side.

## Mowi Central League

### Kilmallie 1 Lochaber 0

The Kilmallie reserves edged out the Lochaber reserves 1-0 in their derby clash at Canal Parks.

With no senior game, first team manager Martin Stewart was given a run out for the seconds and he made the difference, scoring the only goal of the game on 55 minutes. A nice ball over from Ross Mackenzie caught out the Lochaber defence and Martin Stewart took the ball on the volley, firing it past keeper from the penalty spot to make it 1-0.

Kilmallie are playing well, with a run of games under their belt. A few of their young players have stepped up and may well have played their way into the senior squad to face Bute this Saturday.





Enthusiastic youngsters try out their skills. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Youngsters hone skills in Fort club's street league

Shinty was right at home at An Aird last Wednesday night when around 70 primary school-aged children tried out their skills at the weekly Fort William Shinty Club Street League.

The idea behind the league is to encourage young people to get outside to exercise while teaching them the rules and skills of the game, which may result in future players.

Organised by Fort William Shinty Club Development Officer Willie MacDonald, such was the turnout at the first session, that for week two he drafted in extra coaches - Ian Kennedy, John Macleod, Richard Shaw and Adi Robertson - to help with each age group, along with Maddison MacMillan and Emma Kennedy who gave extra assistance with the P3/4 section.

Each group were introduced to some basic skills using the stick, agility and outline rules

of the game, before taking the field with enthusiastic play.

Everyone taking part was presented with a free water bottle by Off Beat Bikes to keep them hydrated. Part of the project was financed by Mowi through their Children and Young Person Development Fund.

Willie MacDonald told the Lochaber Times: "The Street League takes place every Wednesday evening between 6pm and 8pm and is free for all children from P1 to P7.

"It is proving to be very popular. I was amazed at the length of the queue waiting to get in for the first week and it was just as busy at the second.

"There is obviously a huge demand and we would welcome donations of suitable equipment including sticks and helmets."

For more information contact Willie on [fortshintydevelopmentofficer@gmail.com](mailto:fortshintydevelopmentofficer@gmail.com) or call 07788585850.



## Scaled down orienteering event still on track

Lochaber 2021, the Scottish 6 Days Orienteering event planned for the start of August, will go ahead as two three-day events rather than the usual six-day competition.

The scaled down orienteering competition, which has been staged every two years since 1977, will now take place in two stages with all the ancillary events and services removed entirely.

Despite the First Minister announcing all areas of Scotland will be moving to Level 0 from Monday July 19 - meaning sporting events can be run with unlimited participant numbers - event organisers decided to alter

the usual format and are limiting numbers to 1,000 per day.

Colin Matheson, assistant co-ordinator, Scottish 6 Days, Lochaber 2021, said: "1,000 participants at level one had been signed off with sportscotland and with full support from all the main stakeholders, the Scottish Orienteering 6-Day Company Ltd and the Scottish Orienteering Association met and agreed the best way forward was to stage two three day events. Most competitors had already booked accommodation and there was overwhelming support that some orienteering was better than none.

"Delivering a quality event is now the top priority."

A Scottish 6 Days Company spokesperson added: "We realise this is disappointing, but feel this is a responsible approach given the 6 Days will be one of the first mass participation events in the Highlands this summer and that many other events in the area have been cancelled. We look forward to seeing you in Lochaber in August."

The 23rd Scottish 6 Days Orienteering event will take place in Lochaber between August 1 and 7 and 2,065 participants have already entered the competition.





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\*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.



## Lochaber yacht crews top events

Lochaber Yacht Club members have been riding the crest of a wave at two away competitive events.

Jon Gay and Amanda Henderson travelled to Findhorn to take part in the RS400 Scottish Traveller series. With light winds and six races to compete in, they came first overall.

This was a great result and much-needed training for the RS400 Nationals in August as they have done so little sailing over the past year.

Marian Austen and her crew of Sandy and Moyra Austin, Julie French and Chris Oliver also came out top in the Round Mull race in 'Scintilla of the Sea'. A three-day event, this is one of the highlights of the west coast yachting calendar. The scenery is stunning and is some of the best sailing in the world. Congratulations to both crews from everyone at Lochaber Yacht Club.

Anyone wishing to take part in sailing can go along to the club on a Thursday evening or Saturday afternoon. The club has so much knowledge and experience to share amongst members and can be found on Facebook and Instagram or go to the website [www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk) for more information.

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## It's coming home...street shinty in Fort William that is!

Dozens of enthusiastic young shinty players are flocking to An Aird on Wednesday nights to hone their skills in the weekly Fort William Shinty Club Street League. The idea behind the league is to get young people exercising outside, while teaching them the rules and skills of the game. Full story and more photographs on pages 46 and 47. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



## Fort appoint MacKintosh as new club captain

Fort William Football Club have appointed Danny MacKintosh, left, as club captain and Aidan Taylor vice captain.

The appointments came after former long-term player and captain John Treasurer departed for Nairn County.

Fort manager Ashley Hollyer, centre, told the Lochaber Times: 'John has been a loyal Fort player and captain for many years, but felt it was time for him to move on.'

'The management team wish him all the best and

welcome Danny and Aidan into their new roles, for which they are well suited. They are both strong, dedicated players, keen to do their best for the club and will set a good example to everyone in the team.' Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos




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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 22 July, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>22</b>	0411 3.5	<b>24</b>	0549 3.7	<b>26</b>	0115 0.8	<b>28</b>	0238 1.0	Ardrishaig	-5.35
	1027 1.1		1203 0.7		0709 3.7		0820 3.5	Campbeltown	-5.30
TH	1640 3.7	SA	1807 4.0	M	1327 0.7	W	1447 0.9	Crinan	-0.47
	2246 1.0	○			1928 4.1		2043 3.8	Islay Port Ellen	2.00
<b>23</b>	0504 3.6	<b>25</b>	0029 0.8	<b>27</b>	0158 0.8	<b>29</b>	0318 1.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30
	1117 0.9		0630 3.7		0746 3.6		0853 3.3	Mallaig	+0.25
F	1725 3.9	SU	1246 0.7	TU	1408 0.7	TH	1526 1.1	Portree	+0.55
	2341 0.8		1848 4.1		2006 3.9		2120 3.5	Tobermory	+0.16
								Dover	+5.30

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny and light winds

Temperatures 14°C to 26°C.

**Friday**

Sunny intervals and light winds

Temperatures 13°C to 25°C.

**Saturday**

Sunny intervals and light winds

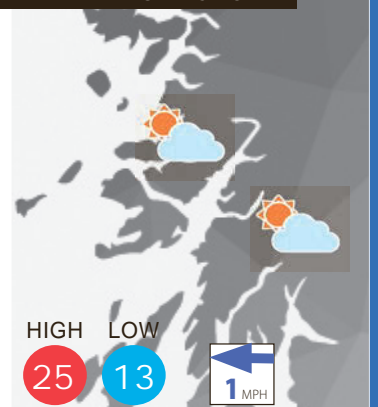
Temperatures 13°C to 23°C.

**Sunday**

Sunny intervals and light winds

Temperatures 14°C to 23°C.

### FRIDAY FORECAST



HIGH 25 LOW 13

1 MPH