



Make a date to buy hospice calendar

See Inside: Macaulay Cup, Oban Games, Oban Rotary Golf Am-Am

ON WITH THE SHOW!

Mull's Salen Show returns to the farming calendar taking first prize for a great family day out.



● FULL STORY PAGES 4 & 5.

Angus and Elsie MacDonald keeping an eye on sheep from Glengorm at Salen Show.

Marion's musings



Popular Oban FM programme moves to new slot

● See page 10 for more.

Chalmers reopens



Iconic store taken over by company based in capital

● See page 7 for more.

● CAUTION URGED AS COVID CASES ON THE RISE IN ARGYLL



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OT

Caution urged as Covid cases on rise again in Argyll

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

NHS Highland is urging members of the public to remain cautious as cases of Covid-19 rise.

The warning came last week as people across Argyll and Bute began to enjoy their new freedoms with restrictions going beyond Level 0.

Sports clubs across the region have already felt the effect of the surge in cases.

Following its rugby re-start day on Saturday August 7, Oban Lorne RFC were forced to close down all activities for 10 days when several players returned positive PCR tests. Visiting players from Lochaber, Garnock and Mull were also affected.

Club president and Covid-19 co-ordinator Darrell Williams told The Oban Times: 'It's

disappointing but probably something we are going to have to learn to live with in the weeks and maybe months to come.

'We have had great support from NHS Highland and Scottish Rugby over this and are following guidelines strictly. All our players are PCR tested before matches and training but we cannot control what is happening outside the confines of our club.'

Last Saturday's Central Scottish Premier Division match between Oban Saints and Drumchapel also had to be called off when it was discovered one of the Saints squad had Covid-19 symptoms.

Club secretary and Covid Officer David Buchanan said: 'We were preparing to leave Station Square for the fixture when it became apparent one of the players was unwell. They

'During the first week in August we had more than 400 cases which is quite a significant increase compared to previous weeks. It has been a very challenging few months...'

were sent for a PCR test which subsequently proved positive.

'We immediately contacted the match secretary of the Central Scottish AFL who instructed us not to travel and the match was called off.'

Saints were due to travel to take on Drumchapel PYM last night (Wednesday) and should have hosted St Patrick's FP in Oban on Saturday but in accordance with Scottish FA and Central Scottish AFL guidance both these games have also been called off and the Central Scottish team have cancelled training this week.

All Saints players have been

asked to take lateral flow tests and PCR tests if necessary.

Everyone at the club wishes the player, who has to isolate for 10 days, a speedy recovery and would also like to thank the three opponents for their understanding and good wishes.

The Oban side's next fixture is now scheduled for Saturday August 28.

Talking about the rise in cases, Dr Tim Allison, director of Public Health for NHS Highland, said: 'During the first week of August, we had more than 400 cases which is quite a significant increase

compared to previous weeks. It has been a very challenging few months for everyone and it is right the new found freedoms we now have should be enjoyed. However, with relaxing of the restrictions and schools going back we are expecting a further rise in cases.

'I would make a plea that we all still remain vigilant over symptoms to ensure that these new found freedoms are not short lived.'

A number of care homes, businesses and events held in the NHS Highland area are also continuing to feel the impact of Covid.

Dr Allison added: 'I am acutely aware the majority of people will want to move forward and we can still do that.'

'However, we need to be aware of what symptoms to look out for and, if you have them, the importance of

isolating immediately and arranging for a PCR test.

'Finally, I'd encourage everyone eligible to please come forward for their vaccine when invited.'

'The programme in NHS Highland continues to do well with more than 90 per cent of over-18s having received their first dose.'

'The vaccine really is our way out of this pandemic and I hope when invited you decide to get vaccinated.'

Typical symptoms of Covid-19 are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or fever and a loss of, or change in, normal taste or smell.

However, people with Covid-19 can present with a wide range of symptoms including headache, sore muscles and joints, tiredness, sore throat, cold-like symptoms and diarrhoea and vomiting.

OBAN SHERIFF COURT

'Frank and honest' driver loses licence

A young motorist effectively handed himself in to the police after drink-driving.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Owen MacKinnon, aged 26, of Kenmore Villa, Soroba Road, Oban, called the police in the early hours of July 20 this year.

When officers went to Glenshellach Road, Oban, they found his Ford Fiesta in the middle of the road leaking oil. MacKinnon accepted he had been driving, then failed a roadside breath test.

At Oban Police Station, a subsequent test gave a reading of 79 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath; the legal limit is 22.

His defence agent Jane McLaren said: 'He himself contacted the police as the car had gone off the road.'

She added: 'He understands that he will lose his licence today; he has been completely frank and honest.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes noted that MacKinnon had pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity. He fined him £300 with a £20 victim surcharge and disqualified him from driving for 12 months.

MacKinnon was told if he completes a driver rehabilita-

tion course successfully at his own expense his driving ban would be reduced by three months.

Fisherman banned from road after falling asleep at the wheel

A 21-year-old share fisherman was found fast asleep in his car which was in a ditch with the engine running, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Iain Neil Callan, of 19 South Road, Port Glasgow, was asleep at the wheel. He pleaded guilty to being in charge of a vehicle while being unfit to drive through drink or drugs.

Procurator fiscal James Dunbar said the car was found partly in a ditch on the B8073 near Ulva Ferry on the Isle of Mull on the afternoon of May 9 last year.

'The engine had been running and a member of the public removed the keys,' the fiscal said.

'Police attended because of a report of a vehicle being in a ditch. They observed the accused asleep in the driver's seat of the vehicle.'

They tried to rouse him repeatedly and Callan had to leave the car via the passenger side.

'It became apparent to the officers he was heavily intoxicated but they could smell no alcohol,' said the fiscal, who added that Callan was unsteady on his feet. 'He was unable to tell the police how he got there.'

On the journey to Craignure Police Office he became more coherent.

Callan's defence agent Ruben Murdanigum said the fisherman had driven to Mull via the Lochaline-Fishnish ferry and had driven through the night to start work. He had taken a sleeping tablet, prescribed to a friend who had given it to him, as he was tired and wanted to get some sleep.

Callan told the court he had taken the tablet about 11am.

But Sheriff John Hamilton was not impressed: 'That's nonsense,' he said. 'I am not accepting your account at all.' He did not accept that someone who had driven through the night and was exhausted would need to take something to help him sleep.

Mr Murdanigum said in mitigation that as a share fisherman, Callan travelled all over the country for work and needed his licence and asked the sheriff for leniency.

Callan was fined £200 with a £10 victim surcharge and disqualified from driving for 12 months.



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Police appeal after nine Oban firms broken into

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Detectives are appealing for information after nine Oban businesses were broken into.

Enquiries are at an early stage to establish the full circumstances surrounding the incidents in the Mill Lane and Lochavullin Road area, which are believed to be linked and happened between midnight and 3.30am on Wednesday August 11.

Detective Sergeant Kirsteen McDaid said the break-ins appear to have been 'pre-planned' and extensive enquiries are under way to establish exactly what has been taken from each premises, and identify the people responsible.

'Information from the local community is going to be absolutely essential to this investigation and I would appeal to anyone who noticed anything at all suspicious in the early hours of the morning to please get in touch.

'I would also urge any motorists with dash-cams who were travelling through the area to check their footage in case they have managed to capture anything which could be of significance.

'I would like to reassure the public that additional patrols



will be in the Oban area, focusing especially on business premises and industrial estates, in an effort to prevent any further break-ins,' said Det Sgt McDaid.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland through 101, quoting incident number 0409 of Wednesday August 11. Alternatively people can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Fabio Alvadia says he was lucky only the door to his car cleaning business was damaged and nothing was stolen.

'They must have used an iron bar or something to force their way in but nothing was taken. We had car keys, money,

laptops here but they took nothing. I don't know if they got disturbed or something.

'I came to work and saw police tape everywhere. I thought 'My God what's happening?' You don't expect to see this in Oban.

'Whoever did this had it all organised. Our businesses were targeted, it was all planned. They even cut CCTV cables in the street,' he said.

Munro's garage was broken into as was Walton's food distribution and storage services.

Eric Walton said a safe containing a three figure-sum of money was stolen after a fire escape door lock was burst open. Stock was not taken but damage was done to other

Detectives said the break-ins appear to have been pre-planned and more patrols would focus on businesses premises and industrial estates in Oban in an effort to prevent further break-ins.

doors and a cabinet where the safe was attached was ripped apart.

Cables from the business's 12 cameras were also 'carefully removed' and CCTV hard-drive taken, said Mr Walton. But the crime has not stopped the business functioning.

'They knew what they were doing. Sadly it's part of normal life but it's not so prevalent up here,' he added.

Family-run Hazelbank Motors was also able to open as usual. A spokesperson from the business confirmed it was another of the break-in victims but said it was 'in the hands of the police now'.

Ceremonial honours for recasting of Kilbride Bell

A specialised team will forge a replica of the 18th-century bell from Kilbride Kirk in an outdoor furnace on Saturday, August 28, writes Fiona Scott.

The event will be a demonstration of this ancient craft and will include a full explanation of the processes involved.

The original bell, from which the cast will be taken, will be piped down the old Drove road from Cologin at 2.30pm to Historic Kilbride, where it will be given a ceremonial welcome. The pour will require three people, one to lift and support the crucible full of molten bronze, one to direct the pour, and one to control the flow of metal into the mold, involving three specialists: Rosy Adams, Irene Gunston, and Bryn Richards.

There will be no charge for the event, though donations to Friends of Kilbride will be encouraged, and there will be opportunities to tour the ruined Kirk, churchyard and MacDougall Memorial Burial Aisle after the event.

Visitors will also see the extent of the recent renovations



which have been undertaken by stonemason Michael Hogg, supervised by architect Shauna Cameron and archaeologist Clare Ellis.

Friends of Kilbride are grateful to Clan MacDougall for the loan of the bell, and to Tesco and to Historic Environment Scotland for their financial support which has made this unique event possible.

Parking at Kilbride will be limited to those with mobility issues as the furnace will be situated in the usual car park, and those wishing to attend are advised to park at Cologin, and reserve a table for refreshments at the Barn Bar (01631 564618 or barnbar2019@gmail.com).

Young driver's crash 'every parent's nightmare', says sheriff

An inexperienced young driver lost control of his car on a bend when driving at speed, rolling it repeatedly.

Twenty-one-year-old Ryan MacDougall and his two passengers were all taken to hospital after the accident early in the morning of September 19 last year; none of the young men was seriously injured and they were not kept in hospital. They were all cut and grazed; MacDougall injured his wrist, one passenger needed staples in a 5cm head wound and the other had a swollen hand and an injured shoulder.

At the town's sheriff court last week MacDougall, of 12 Hazeldean Crescent, Oban, pleaded guilty to driving dangerously and at an excessive speed whilst approaching a

sharp bend on the A85 near to Dunbeg, losing control of the vehicle so that it entered the opposing carriageway, repeatedly overturned and entered a field. The car came to rest on its wheels.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said incidents like this were the nightmares of many families as soon as young men and women obtain driving licences.

'Three young lives could have been lost because of this,' he said as he fined MacDougall £670, saying that he had considered custody. MacKinnon was banned from driving for 14 months and must pass the extended test before he can regain a licence.

Procurator fiscal James Dunbar said the accident happened on the sharp bend,

travelling west, after Poppies Garden Centre near Dunbeg. MacKinnon's speed was said to be around 80mph.

When charged he told police: 'I put my life and others in danger, I am very sorry.'

Defence agent Jane McLaren said that MacDougall's inexperience had led to the accident; he had passed his driving test just before lockdown, reducing the reasons for driving.

'He was a very inexperienced driver at the time; he had only really been driving for three to four weeks at that time,' she said, adding: 'he panicked when he started to approach the bend and braked too hard.'

MacDougall was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £40.

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OT

Winning place for farming show as

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mull's Salen show returned to the farming calendar taking first prize for a great family day out, attracting competitors and spectators from near and far.

The Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society event attracted a good crowd after missing last year because of Covid.

It signalled a joyous return of normality for those who came with livestock in the hope of taking rosettes home - and for those who just wanted to take in the happy sight with neighbours, friends and families.

Proceeds from show parking went towards Tobermory's new Scout hut, on track to be built and open in time for Christmas.

Show convener Jim Corbett said there had been lots of



Erain and Riean MacLeannan from Corry, Fishnish, with their show-class poultry.



Mull & Morvern Agricultural Society Show president Robert McDougall and Salen Show convener Jim Corbett.

'Apart from Bute Show, it's just us in Argyll that's gone ahead so far. We had to reduce it in size, we had no produce tents, but we're hoping next year we will be back in

business with a full show.' As well as sheep classes for cattle, poultry, horses, ponies and dogs.

Even though it was Robert

uncertainty whether or not to go ahead with the event but in

the end the well-attended day had rewarded the efforts of

everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

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Shirley Strachan from Calgary with Highlander Robina.



George and Alfie Adams with Cu the dog at Salen Show.



Robin Stanley-Wright and friend with mountain and moorland class.

Salen event makes welcome return

McDougall's second year as president, this was his first show in the role. He said: 'It's been great to see so many people come and support us.'

One of the show judges was Robert Rennie who made the trip from Yetholm in the Scottish Borders to cast an expert eye over the Cheviot sheep.

'It's good to be back in a show ring again - the animals look pretty happy about it too,' he said.

Geoff Adams from nearby Arle was showing his Hebridean sheep. He said: 'There's a definite element of normality about being here. The old life is returning. It's so good to be getting it back.'

The show, founded back in 1832, was run in line with government guidance. Everyone attending was asked to take a lateral flow test.



Left, Ross Shaw and Asha Nelson from Glengorm getting ready for the sheep judging; above, the event attracted a lot of families; right, Robert Rennie travelled from the Scottish Borders to be one of the judges at Salen Show.



Fees from the show's car park went towards Tobermory's new Scout hut appeal.



nd Catriona Cameron who entered the on horseback.



The judges had a hard task in the judging pen at Salen Show.

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD
editor@obantimes.co.uk

One of my favourite things when trawling the internet is coming across old photographs and videos of Oban - ones from the late 1800s to those from the 1980s, which doesn't seem that long ago until I look at the photographs and see the fashions.

So much of the town has remained unchanged, with our beautiful Victorian villas and grand hotels topped by the crown of McCaig's Tower. It's a shame that the old railway station is no longer here. In my memories it was filled with light and flowers, but despite its loss Oban is still a well preserved Victorian town with lots of new features to enhance the old.

I love that Oban has embraced café culture in such a big way, with the improvements to Stafford Street meaning so many more people can make use of it and enjoy the fantastic views. Apparently that area of Stafford Street used to be called George Square, perhaps it would be nice to go back to the original name

WHERE IS THIS?



now that it's not really a street anymore.

Speaking of old Oban, I'm delighted to see Chalmers reopened with some of the same lovely ladies and a few new friendly faces. Although not the same business it's still called Chalmers and I thoroughly enjoyed my wee browse round and the nice welcome we got - always the most important thing when you go into a business.

The photograph last week was of the top of the entrance to the Whisky Vaults beer garden, which I really like. This week it's one of my favourite things to watch.

Make a date with charity calendar

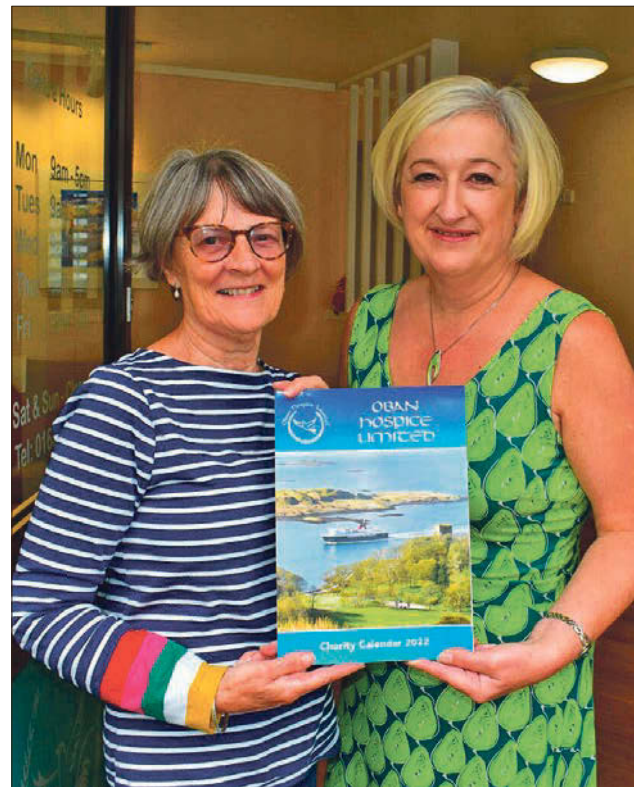
by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Get ahead for 2022 with a new charity calendar going on sale soon to support people living with cancer.

The grand launch of Oban Hospice Ltd's picture-perfect fundraiser is planned for Saturday August 28 in Gibraltar Street.

The calendars will then go on sale at The Dove Centre in Stevenson Street and from sponsors' counters at Button Nose Gift Boutique in Airds Crescent, Roxy's Coffee & Tea House in Argyll Square, Amore Hairdressing in George Street and D&A Munn in Breadalbane Street.

Dove Centre co-ordinator Peter Darling took all the photographs and out of about 1,800 in his ever-growing cam-



Anne May and Shiralene Cave with Oban Hospice Ltd charity calendar 2022; and below, the photograph of Dalmally station from the calendar. Photographs: Peter Darling

should contact Shiralene Cave on 07826 542000, Anne May on 07748 576840 or email fundraising@obanhospice.org.uk

'A special thank you to Susan MacKinnon of CGL (Oban) Ltd for her support and patience in helping us create the calendar, she has been a gem and we're delighted with the result. Fingers crossed, the calendar will raise a fantastic amount of money for the hospice and the services they provide,' said Mrs May, who is chairperson of Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of Oban Hospice Ltd.

Funds raised will benefit The Dove Centre, which provides a safe and comfortable space for therapies, group sessions and one-to-one support for anyone affected by an illness, including family members and carers.

Peter is there Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm with the kettle on for people to pop in to have a cuppa and a chat.

Calendar proceeds will also support Càirdeas, an outreach community service which provides social and emotional support to people at home who are living with cancer or life-limiting conditions.

Càirdeas co-ordinator Lucy Hunt offers a person-centred service working with the whole family. In partnership with Highland Hospice, Lucy is also developing a volunteer befriending service.

era collection, gave a selection panel the choice of 97 images.

There were 13 chosen in the end, one for each month and for the front cover a stunning shot of Dunollie Castle and the MV Isle of Mull ferry coming into the bay as seen from the top of Battleship Hill.

December's image is the charity's Light Up A Life tree outside the Corran Halls.

Sunset over the esplanade and over Mull, bluebells in the woods, a charming shot of Dalmally railway platform, street scenes from Oban and more are all included.

What started out as a lockdown project to help boost funds missing from a year of Covid inactivity has involved

lots of teamwork and joint effort from the Friends group and Oban Hospice Ltd.

So far 1,000 copies have been printed and will cost £10 each. Thanks to sponsors all of the profits from sales will go directly to the work of the hospice drop-in and community services.

Fred Spreadbury Welding, Highland Fasteners Ltd, Howdens Oban, Morham & Brotchie, Stevenson Kennedy, Alan May Electrical, Forteith Refrigeration & Heat Pump Solutions and D K Lafferty & Co Ltd are the other sponsors.

The committee hopes other businesses and venues will also come forward to help sell the calendars. Anyone interested

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ACHA land on Coll sold in error

ACHA is trying to put right an error that wrongly sold off land near Coll's Free Church Manse, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The housing association says it was a mistake within a formal deed transferring the ownership of the manse's one-bedroom ground-floor flat to a new buyer earlier this year. It is believed the sale went through for £65,000. ACHA is now taking steps to rectify the position.

A spokesperson for ACHA said: 'There was an error within the disposition in that the plan attached to it included an area of land not comprising part of the property being sold.'

'The association's position

is that the transfer of land adjacent to Free Church Manse was made in error and was not part of the agreed sale contract. The association is taking steps to rectify the position.'

Two ACHA properties built in 2017 are on the land affected, but the housing association says the transfer does not relate to them. Those two and three-bedroom family homes, which added to ACHA's other nine properties on the island from the 1960s, were built with funding from Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA itself to an overall project value of £505,000.

Original estate agent details selling 1A Free Church Manse described it as sitting 'in a delightful island location within the village of Arinagour'. The property had been empty for some time and was showing signs of neglect it said, advising potential buyers to study the housing report before viewings.

Officers responded to a call around 8.50pm and the casualty was taken to Oban's Lorn & Islands Hospital where they were treated for a cut to the hand before being discharged.

Enquiries into the incident are ongoing.

Man injured at Oban taxi rank

Police were called out to the taxi rank in Oban last Thursday, August 19, after a man was found injured, writes Fiona Scott.

Bright future for iconic George Street store

Only one month after Edinburgh Woollen Mill (EWM) announced it was shutting up shop on George Street, Chalmers of Oban has re-opened under new ownership, writes Fiona Scott.

The popular retail store has been bought by Edinburgh-based company B&GS Landa Ltd and will continue trading as Chalmers, keeping all its traditional values and retaining three full-time members of staff from its previous owners.

Manager Helen Hetherington is currently working out her notice for EWM at its McCaig's Warehouse store but is overseeing the running of Chalmers in the evenings and at weekends. Helen will join supervisors Mary McKie and Kimberley Fairbairn permanently on the shop floor.

'I can't put into words how



Manager Helen Hetherington is excited to oversee the re-opening of Chalmers of Oban.

happy I am that Chalmers has been bought over and will continue to trade in Oban,' said Helen, who has worked in the 18th-century store for 13 years. Chalmers re-opened on Saturday August 14 and staff have had a great response from local shoppers and tourists.

As well as owning multiple retail units in Edinburgh,

B&GS Landa also has branches in St Andrews, Aviemore and Inverness. Director Bindi Landa told The Oban Times: 'The Chalmers unit in Oban is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase the great product range we have to offer. We have been lucky enough to have been able to re-employ the staff who worked in the store for some

years and who come with a wealth of experience. We are looking forward to many successful years in Oban.'

Helen revealed the store will be closing temporarily in January for 'a major renovation', but that the new owners are keen to keep the traditional features in place.

BID4Oban's Andy Spence said: 'BID4Oban are delighted at the speed in which Chalmers of Oban has re-opened under new ownership. This is a significant and iconic business in George Street and its closure caused much concern around the town. We wish the new owners the very best of luck with their new venture.'

Helen is also looking for part-time staff to join the Chalmers team. For further information email helenhetherington@gmail.com.

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OT

Feis Latharna Saturday classes are back

Weekly instrumental tuition classes for youngsters in Oban and Lorn area return on Saturday, August 21.

Classes are available for eight to 18-year-olds, from complete beginners to advanced, and run from 10am-1pm. Instruments are available.

Classes are held in: Accordion, Church Centre, Oban; Fiddle, Church Centre, Oban; Chanter/Bagpipes – info to follow; Guitar, currently online; and Clàrsach, currently online

A number of free places are available for families in receipt of certain benefits through support from ACHA. Please contact organisers for further information.

Fèis Latharna's team of tutors are experienced in tutoring at every level and fully PVG certified.

Places are limited, so to secure a place for your child in a new class, email saturdays@feislatharna.org or phone 07714 853410 or 07813 525053. Organisers will then confirm class times and availability.

Communities urged to make views known on Island Bond

A proposal to offer large financial incentives to attract people to islands threatened by depopulation has stirred up debate in Argyll, writes Fiona Ross.

The Scottish Government plans to create and fund an Islands Bond to encourage population retention and growth in island communities. Before going ahead with the plan, it is inviting the public to give their views.

The consultation paper aims to identify islands where population decline is becoming critical. In addition, the government says it is keen to work with young islanders to identify actions to encourage them to stay on or return to islands. It hopes also to ensure that policies aim to retain and attract Gaelic speakers to live and work in Gaelic speaking communities.



Rhoda Grant MSP believes the £50,000 incentive could make matters worse, rather than better.

that has been consistently raised across them is how do we encourage young islanders to stay and how do we ensure we have good homes for them.'

The problem of jobs and housing for young people was also raised by Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant, however, she explained she thinks the £50,000 incentive could, in fact, exacerbate the situation.

She said: 'We must ensure that policies devised to halt depopulation do not have the opposite effect. I am concerned this will simply inflate house prices and attract those who do not have a realistic idea of island life, while further pushing house prices out of reach of young people.'

'I firmly believe the way to halt depopulation is to create jobs, provide further education and build homes to provide opportunities to enable young

Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto has urged the community to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on its Island Bonds policy, which proposes offering 100 bonds of up to £50,000 to young people and families to stay in or to move to islands currently

threatened by depopulation.

She said: 'One of the main priorities of the Islands plan is to increase population and especially to encourage younger people to move to or return to islands. Providing financial help in the form of the Island Bond might be one way of achieving this. The Scottish Government is proposing to invest £5million to encourage island repopulation. In the last couple of weeks, I have visited ten of Argyll and Bute's 23 populated islands. A subject

people to stay. Currently those who live on our islands are often forced to work several jobs to make a living. Many of those are precarious and do not count towards income when being assessed for a mortgage. That is why even in our island communities we see people migrating to towns to try and secure a decent living.'

Concerns such as Rhoda's are, Jenni Minto believes, the reason why as many people from the communities affected should get involved with the consultation.

She said: 'Personally I don't think there is one simple solution which will tackle these challenges. So we must look at all possible solutions carefully in the context of what we hope to achieve. It is therefore important that those with the best experience and insight, those who live on or have grown up on the islands, make their voices and opinions heard in this important consultation.'

The Island Bonds consultation is available at consult.gov.scot

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Wheels in motion for new Dunbeg to Connel cycle path

Plans for a two-and-a-half-mile cycle and pedestrian path linking Dunbeg and Connel have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council, writes Fiona Scott.

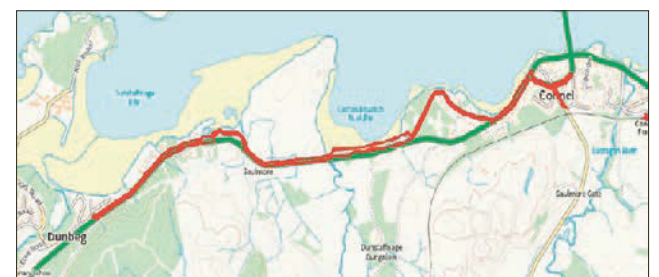
The proposed shared-use facility would follow the route of the existing A85 road and is aimed to deliver a new sustainable link between the two communities.

Council planning chiefs are expected to deliver their verdict by the middle of September, with the public now able to view the plans and submit comments.

The planned route will also join existing footpaths at Dunbeg and North Connel in order to serve recreational and long-distance users.

A supporting statement by planning consultants Ironside Farrar, representing the applicants, the Scottish Association for Marine Science, gave more detail on the proposal.

A spokesperson said: 'Delivery of the dual-use



pathway will, in places, involve technical works to highway infrastructure, including the widening of existing footpaths and the creation of a signalised crossing in Connel, and associated road-markings.

'Existing culverts will be crossed and extended in some locations. In other sections, the pathway would be supported by retaining wall structures within the verge/embankment to provide a level route.'

'Sections of the proposed route which crosses existing wetlands will require appropriate drainage infrastructure in the form of swales. Isolated tree removals are required to

clear the pathway route.'

The statement added that the aim of the proposed pathway is to deliver a new sustainable link between the communities, providing additional access options to primary education establishments, places of employment, transport interchanges nodes, and the amenities in the respective towns.

The proposed development has been reviewed against policies contained in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan.

The adopted supplementary guidance and proposed Local Development Plan 2 have also been considered.

Mission accomplished for Selkie man, James Armour

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Oban-based adventurer James Armour has become the first person ever to swim, run and cycle the length of the Outer Hebrides in one attempt.

The 25-year-old combined his twin passions of endurance sports and the environment to raise money for, and the profile of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), based in Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull.

Beginning at Barra Head Lighthouse on July 30, The Selkie, named after the mythological seal-folk that could shed their skin and walk on land, ended at the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse on August 1. James completed the gruelling challenge, which incorporated 20 miles of swimming; 60 miles of running and 112 miles of cycling in 52 hours and 52 minutes only stopping for food and water breaks.

Speaking to The Oban Times after his epic carb busting challenge James said: 'I really had some low points before the Sound of Harris and seriously doubted I was going to actually make it over the crossing.'

'The only thing that got me through was Coca Cola and sweets!'

Despite the intensity of the challenge, however, The Selkie hasn't taken too much out of the European Iron Man competitor.

'Mostly it's a sore tongue



Left, The 60 mile run wasn't always plain sailing; and right, the route that James took on his epic challenge.



whales and dolphins here. 'I care a lot about the planet and our environment, and I have been lucky to travel all around the world,' he added.

'But it was only quite recently that I recognised what we have here in front of us on the West Coast - from killer whales to minke whales and Risso's dolphins - and I was completely oblivious.'

At the time of writing James had raised a grand total of £14,059.32 for HWBT. To contribute to his fundraising effort, visit uk.virginmoney-giving.com/JamesArmour

and scars from the neoprene vest that linger the most, with my muscles feeling relatively OK,' he added.

The Selkie contains six swims:

- Sound of Berneray 1 Mile
- Sound of Mingulay 2 Miles
- Sound of Pabbay 3 Miles
- Sandray to Vatersay 1 Mile
- Sound of Barra 6 Miles
- Sound of Harris 7 Miles

Two-legs of the race make up the cycle:

- The Uists 60 Miles.
 - Harris (Leverburgh to Achmore) 52 Miles
- There are three running stages in the Selkie:
- The southern isles 6 Miles.

- Barra 18 Miles.
- Lewis (Achmore to Butt of Lewis) 36 Miles

Originally from Edinburgh, James has competed in European Iron Man competitions and cares passionately about the environment having worked in Denmark as a project manager for a clean technology company.

Having travelled the world and marvelled at different species of animal, The Selkie is all about recognising the abundance of marine life on Scotland's west coast and supporting the trust which raises awareness, protection and the conservation of



James had company on the cycling leg of the Selkie challenge.

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OT

Marion getting message out on mental health front

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Trained psychologist Marion Elkin-Greener first hit the Oban FM airwaves in December 2019. Now - a pandemic later - Mental Health Musings by Mer is about to get a shake up with the busy mother of three from Barcaldine extending her reach through podcasting and social media and taking over a brand new slot on the radio.

Marion's popular show will now air from 3pm to 5pm on a Sunday three times a month with regular podcasts on her Facebook and Instagram pages scheduled to begin in the autumn.

'Everything was going well until Covid came along,' she told us.

'I took a bit of a break then but I'm back now and looking



forward to the start of a new journey.

'I have such a love of music myself I will be weaving some

tunes in throughout the programme as well as focusing on mental health and wellness in general.

'I will be talking a lot about how the pandemic and how coming out of it has affected people and what we can do to help ourselves.'

As well as the radio program Marion will be hitting social media hard and her Mental Health Musings by Mer can be found on both Facebook and Instagram.

Educated and trained in the US, Marion started work in the mental health and addiction field around 25 years ago. She is a licensed psychologist in mental health, addiction and

Marion's popular radio show on Oban FM is moving to a Sunday afternoon slot three times a month.

trauma. She added: 'I have a huge passion in wanting to help others and also of taking away the stigma of mental health and getting people talking about it.'

'Ideally, I would like people to talk about their mental wellbeing the same as they would with any physical ailment that they have. We have all struggled with our mental health at sometime or other so why shouldn't we talk about it?'

'I think people have felt really isolated during the pandemic and are now worried about coming back out into the world. Everyone talks about the virus but you can't physically see it and it's very scary doing something I really want to start a conversation about.'

Looking ahead Marion is working to start her own business, taking Mental Health Musings to the next level.

Working with Glasgow-based branding company Smallfish Co, Marion is looking to take her work out to the

community offering bespoke services to help more people understand mental health and to reduce the stigma.

'I'm really excited about this,' she told us. 'My husband Steve has been urging me for years to do this and I have finally taken the leap.'

'I am hoping to work with children as well as adults. It's very new and I'm only at the very early stages but I hope within the next couple of years I can get something of the ground.'

A mother of three, Marion is juggling her career around her seven-year-old son and very lively four-year-old twin boys so knows first hand how difficult and stressful life can get.

She told us: 'It's very important to me that my boys understand and talk about their emotions and be comfortable with it, and I would like to go into schools and talk about mental health with other children so that it becomes a normal conversation.'

'They need to know that it is OK to be angry, upset, sad or a bit lost but that it is OK to talk about it.'

Join Marion for her show at Oban FM 103.3 on Sundays 3-5pm, online at obanfm.scot or find her on Facebook - The Mental Health Musings

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Popular walkway in Oban town centre to receive funded facelift

A pedestrianised area of Oban town centre is set to receive £250,000 of funding from a Scottish Government place-making initiative, writes Fiona Scott.

The grant from the Place Based Investment Fund has been earmarked to improve landscaping and the appeal of the heavily trafficked pedestrian thoroughfare located between Tesco car park and Oban town centre, pictured right. The proposed grant is part of a package of £561,000 allocated to projects across Argyll and Bute through the Scottish Government fund.

Councillors agreed the recommended allocations at a virtual meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's policy and resources committee last Thursday, August 12.



In a covering report, council executive director Kirsty Flanagan said: 'This pedestrian area is a key intersection between the town and the retail park. It is currently not a particularly attractive space and would benefit from public realm enhancement in the

form of quality hard landscaping and a green wall. Working in partnership with Bid4Oban and Tesco, it is proposed to develop and deliver an enhanced public realm project to both improve access to Oban town centre and enhance this key gateway for businesses, shoppers and visitors.

'Although the annual share for Argyll and Bute is yet to be confirmed, the value is likely to be substantial and as such it is important to identify future projects,' added Mrs Flanagan.

'Working with members and the community, it is therefore intended to develop a four-year plan and return to the policy and resources committee in February 2022 with a report recommending at least one priority project for each of the four years.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon led the sessions that helped bring in the substantial amount of funding to improve traffic management in the Mull town.



Traffic mission brings £1M improvements to Tobermory

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Tobermory Traffic Management Group has helped bring in £1,207,000 to improve the town since its mission started almost two years ago.

As the group approaches its second anniversary, members wanted to give an update on how far it has come to resolving problems, with traffic in Ledaig Car Park and on the Main Street.

An inaugural meeting in September 2019 at Tobermory Fire Station brought the community together to come up with a traffic management plan.

It was advertised on social media and also by word of mouth to include as many people's opinions as possible.

Argyll and Bute council's director of development and infrastructure, now chief executive officer, Pippa Milne attended the meeting, as well as councillors Elaine Robertson, Jim Lynch and Mary-Jean Devon, who led the session.

Also, there were directors from Tobermory Harbour Association, 15 businesses

and representatives from the emergency services, as well as several members of the public.

'The attendees were all in total agreement that a plan had to be produced as we couldn't experience another summer of the traffic chaos which brought many health and safety concerns,' said Councillor Devon.

'Agreement was reached that this group would work in collaboration with Argyll and Bute councillors, roads engineer Jim Smith, Stewart Watson who is the Senior Officer responsible for car parks and the Director of Economic Development Fergus Murray.'

The meetings happened on a monthly basis with update published on social media giving the wider community a chance to have their say, receiving many positive comments, added Councillor Devon.

One of the first jobs was to look at Main Street parking. A detailed survey was carried out by Hylda Marsh and others which identified the lack of parking for residents and people working there and flagging up spaces needed

by hotels, restaurants and accommodation providers.

The group produced a document identifying the problems and another one with solutions.

A breakdown of the financial contributions the group has brought to the town, working with Argyll and Bute Council includes £300,000 for Phase 1 for waterfront town railings and flood defence, £3700 for shopfronts on Main Street, £20,000 for Ledaig flood gate and £85,000 for a new car park at Beadoun.

When the new car park is finished, the second phase of railing work will be completed.

'Working collaboratively with Argyll and Bute Council, the group has produced a robust strategic statement going forward. Work will also start on the new car park site at the beginning of November and will be completed by the start of next year's season,' said Councillor Devon.

She added: 'A special thanks goes to Brian Swinbanks. Under his leadership, his commitment, his perseverance and passion a solution has been identified.'

'Thank you Brian.'

Niki warms to new wellness role at The Rockfield Centre

Well known Oban woman Niki Currie has become the newest member of the team at The Rockfield Centre, writes Fiona Scott.

Niki takes on the role of Creative Wellness Worker which will deal with community wellbeing, one of the four key areas addressed in the newly refurbished venue.

Niki said: 'My passion is in uplifting the wellbeing of our community in a creative and nurturing approach whatever age and stage we are at in our life.'

'I wanted to be involved in the wellness programme because I personally feel the Rockfield Centre is the heart and soul of the town. The building is outstandingly beautiful and has such a warming energy.'

'It's just a great space to be a part of.'

Niki started in her role by running a very successful series of taster workshops during July. These were tailored for those who have experienced



Creative wellness worker Niki Currie has become the latest addition to the Rockfield Centre team.

feelings of isolation and loneliness, and were designed to help enhance and support the wellbeing of participants in the community.

She added: 'Art therapy can produce therapeutic results through the creative process.'

'It can provide freedom to express yourself through creativity and provide the opportunity to work with others in the community as a group.'

'Developing a creative ability can assist in the healing process of mental health as well as calming the mind and relaxing the body.'

After the success of the first workshops Niki now plans a programme of art-based workshops with the prospect of an exhibition to share the work of the participants.

Full details on www.the-rockfieldcentre.co.uk

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OT

Seil Hall gets ready to open its doors

Plans are in the making for a gala day to celebrate the re-opening of Seil Island Hall, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Volunteers were needed to help run children's activities and a cafe at the hall on Saturday August 28 to celebrate its doors opening once again after they were shut by the Covid pandemic.

The island's playgroup is teaming up with the Royal British Legion Scotland's Easdale Branch who are also hosting a special event that day with the help of piper DJ MacDougall.

DJ will be piping four miles from the Bridge Over The Atlantic all the way down to the seafront at Ellenabeich while playing the pipes to raise funds for Armed Forces charities supporting both veterans and serving personnel and



DJ MacDougall will be doing a fundraising pipe walk.

their families.

To make a donation towards DJ's epic challenge to raise £1,000, you can go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/djpipesovertheatlantic

On the same day but miles away in Callander, other islanders Willie Munro, Tracy White from Seil and Alison Young from nearby Luineag are taking part in the 2021 Rob Roy Mighty Hike in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The route will take them on foot from Callander to Killin with a number of pit stops on the way. The trio hope to raise £750.

You can find their justgiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macmillianmightymeander

Musical Margo

Margo Marr is the soft-spoken presenter behind Margo Till Midnight 10pm a studio in the centre of town goes live, drawing listeners

Margo Marr is the soft-spoken presenter behind Margo Till Midnight, an eclectic late night show broadcast on Oban FM.

Every Thursday at 10pm in a studio in the centre of town, a red lightbulb goes live – drawing listeners from Scotland, England and even Australia.

Reporter Ellis Butcher meets the woman behind the voice.

'I had always wanted to come back to Oban,' says the unmissable Margo nursing a coffee at Roxy's Tea and Coffee House.

'My friend said that I got my braces caught in the door of Oban – and I did.'

Spending the first nine

years of her life in Australia, Margo has a soft north east lilt betraying her years in County Durham.

The mum-of-three returned to Oban in 2010 at the age of 55, moving to Taynuilt first and now living on her beloved Isle of Seil.

She first fell in love with Oban in 1977 at the age of 23 when she 'ran away' and began working as a waitress. Not in a cocktail bar as a certain song goes, but at McTavish's Kitchen.

She lived in a one-bed flat above what is now Roxy's and during those three years she worked at the fruit and veg shop in Stevenson Street and a nearby bookmakers.

Oban worked its magic and 'fixed her,' she recalls.

For nightlife, she would visit The Mantrap near McTavish's, revelling in what she hailed as 'the best jukebox in town'.

'People would come up from Glasgow and put new records on and when they chucked the old ones out, the boss used to let me have them. I've still got a lot those.'



Musically, she was inspired by her 'hero' grandfather Arthur McKenzie who was blinded in the First World War and played the radio

religiously down under. Mum Betty, originally from Hartlepool, was into dance and band music. Father Fred enjoyed classical music

Former Islay schoolhouse for sale

Argyll and Bute Council is looking for a buyer for the former Port Ellen Schoolhouse on Islay.

Close to Port Ellen Primary School, the property is for sale at offers over £95,000 and will appeal to buyers keen on a renovation project.

Built in 1965, the schoolhouse is a single storey, detached four-bedroom bungalow with private off-road parking.

Port Ellen is the second largest town on Islay after Bowmore and amenities include a supermarket, hotels, restaurants and pubs, as well as its three world famous whisky distilleries – Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig.

Alongside beautiful scenery and wildlife and its appeal for lovers of Scotland's national drink, Islay offers a wide range of outdoor pursuits and cultural activities.

Due to the current Covid restrictions, viewings for the property are being carried



The house would suit those keen on a renovation project.

out online – a 'Virtual Tour' is available at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/property/former-port-ellen-schoolhouse-islay>

The council are seeking expressions of interest which should include the prospective purchaser's contact information and an outline of their proposed development. Full details are available at the above link.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Policy Lead of Business, Regeneration and Commercial

Development, who also lives on the island, said: 'The lifestyle on Islay epitomises everything that is good about Argyll and Bute with easy access to the mainland for those who want to enjoy what the area has to offer.'

'There is a genuine community feel about the island and a real sense that people enjoy a good work/life balance, all of which is complemented by excellent schools, great amenities and a rich cultural and leisure appeal.'

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CITY
PLUMBING

Margo shares her love of Oban

Fill Midnight, an eclectic late night show broadcast on Oban FM. Every Thursday at 11pm, attracts listeners from worldwide. Reporter Ellis Butcher meets the woman behind the voice.



Margo's love of music began at an early age, while her love of Oban began in her 20s, with her moving back to the area in her 50s.

and Gilbert and Sullivan. Margo began collecting music from the age of 11. Her first full price new album was The Beatles' 1969 Abbey Road; paying a pre-decimalisation 37/6.

Her collection now runs to a 'few hundred' vinyl records and 'thousands of CDs'.

Margo's cassette tape collection alone was so vast that her beloved late father built her a 6ft tall, four-sided carousel to

store them. It was so heavy, it didn't make the move to Oban.

Margo's middle child Marcus, aged 23, presents Oban FM's drive time show on Monday and her eldest James used to run a music shop.

Margo can play the piano and fondly remembers learning to play the ukulele with her daughter Mary.

Her show – running for 12

years now – is impossible to second guess.

Broadcast over two hours, it is often built around a unique theme such as 'In My Wardrobe'.

Margo identifies tracks to underpin the proposition – raiding her own shelves, researching on YouTube, or taking recommendations from a Facebook group.

She can't remember missing many Thursday nights – apart from health reasons or the time when the A85 was blocked by a tree fall.

Margo said: 'Not everyone wants to do late nights on the radio but I am a night owl. At that time of night people tend to genuinely listen to the music, which I like.'

'I just love playing it. When do you ever sit and listen to two hours of your favourite music intensely?' she asks.

Months of lockdown won the show new admirers as people, especially those on their own or separated from families, tuned in to hear a very warm human voice.

Margo links her records

with a winning mix of humour and pathos, and always has a surprise musical find up her sleeve.

Yet there's several genres of music she won't touch: Rap, hip hop, trance, garage, rave.

'I know people love them but they don't appeal to me. I'm 66 and I play new stuff all the time, but not that. I like what I like and nobody's gonna tell me otherwise. If I like one song by The Backstreet Boys – which I do – then I do!'

One 'overhyped' artist, who shall remain nameless here, brought out a track that made Margo feel physically sick.

'Three minutes of hell!' she

tuts, shaking her electric red hair.

Her favourite artists are Tom Waits, Joni Mitchell and The Pixies. She recommends an early Tom Waits song: I Hope That I Don't Fall In Love With You.

In a hint of the trademark honesty that is her presenting style, Margo admits the last line of that track makes her cry.

She explains: 'Music takes you back to a time and a place. It will whisk you back there. I'll hear a song from 1962 and remember hearing it when I was wee, sitting at my grandpa's table.'

She was always a big fan of DJ John Peel and regularly listens to BBC Radio Six.

More than 20 years ago, Margo was lined up to enter broadcasting with her own folk programme on BBC Radio Cleveland but a last minute change of management saw that opportunity agonisingly fall through at the 11th hour.

Instead, it was Oban that gave her the big break in radio and she remains forever grateful for the chance.

Says Margo: 'I've still got a tape of the first programme I did and I swear you can hear my knees knocking and my teeth chattering. But that show has got me through so much. That little two hours on a Thursday night has been my own beacon in the darkness.'

Fundraising pair head home – 1,040 miles later

Fundraising couple Fiona and Alan Patterson have reached their final destination and are heading home.

The pair, who live near Taynuilt, walked 1,040 miles from Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge to John O'Groats and back, raising awareness and money for leading men's health charity Prostate Cancer UK.

They set off from Bristol on May 18 inspired by a friend who has the disease, setting their goal at £2,500 but so far have made £3,570 plus gift aid for the charity.

To make a donation you can go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Fiona-Alan-LEJOG 'We have had a great adventure and are looking forward to coming home,' said Fiona.

Fiona and Alan Patterson make it back to Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge after their mammoth fundraising walk for a cancer charity.



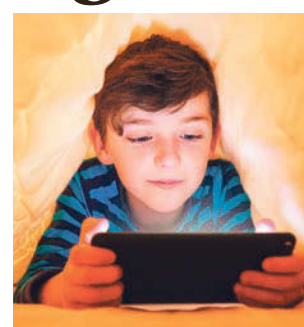
Advertorial



Eye to eye with John Wallace

A Short Sighted View

Last month I looked at how technology can make life easier, but a heavy cost to our children's eyesight. The latest indications from world leading research universities and the World Health Organisation suggest at least 50% of the world population will be myopic (short sighted) by 2050. In some Asian countries this number has long since been exceeded. In Singapore and Taiwan around 90% of the population are now myopic. That high level of myopia results from a combination of factors:- genetic and environmental. In years to come gene therapy may help minimise myopia levels. Currently, the main causes of this myopia epidemic are environmental factors. You just have to look at our children or grandchildren to



notice they spend hours every day on their smartphones or online playing games. Combine that with the intensive reading children have to undertake for their school-work and you have a recipe of a major vision emergency. Until the late 1980's the assumption was about 30% of children would become myopic. This tended to happen as they hit puberty. Today I am seeing children becoming myopic at

six. These children are guaranteed to become highly short sighted by age 20. If you are of East Asian ethnicity that will happen even faster.

Does it really matter if your child or grandchild is myopic? YES, it does. Myopia has become the largest cause of preventable blindness in the world. Can anything be done to prevent this epidemic? Absolutely! Apart from the obvious of reducing time spent on close-work and online, encouraging our children to spend at least 90 minutes a day outdoors has been shown to be beneficial. Optometrists specialising in myopia management can dramatically reduce the rate of myopia development in youngsters. It's an area I have specialised in since 2007 and it certainly works.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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DISTRICT NEWS



Fun and games raising funds for the Breast Cancer Now charity.

Fundraisers are champion

Neighbours raced ahead with a fundraiser and made £455 for a breast cancer charity.

Jane Issac, Steven Groom and Gillian Stewart got together on Saturday August 7 to put on a barbecue and race day with plenty fun and games in South Shian, near Benderloch, for family and friends.

Steven and Iain MacDonald, known as Mogli, were the winning team in the blindfolded wheelbarrow obstacle event. Ronnie Hogg and Roddy Campbell also deserved a prize for entertainment value - managing to get lost on the course.

Jane said: 'We all had a great time. People were very generous. We're pleased with the money we made for Breast Cancer Now.'

You can find out more by visiting www.breastcancer.org

Green party sprouts Hope Kitchen funds

A fundraiser organised by the Argyll and Bute Green Party raised more than £150 for Oban's Hope Kitchen.

The event included a bake sale, raffle and a hamper giveaway in the town's Rockfield Centre. Tea and coffee was also served.

Donations can still be made via this link: gofund.me/e0d94bbe



Broadford Youth Club on Skye was a beneficiary of CalMac Community funding.

West coast groups encouraged to apply to CalMac community fund

West coast groups supporting the needs of their communities are being encouraged to apply to the CalMac Community Fund.

Supported by Foundation Scotland, the fund is making awards of up to £2,000 to organisations tackling social isolation, loneliness and/or poverty and poor mental health.

In 2019, Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh received an award to help improve mental health and buy play therapy boxes for school pupils. Broadford Youth Club, Mallaig Parent Council and Mallaig Football Club also received backing.

This year, applications are also being welcomed from non-profit organisations encouraging community re-engagement following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples of what else could be supported include:

- Youth or elderly outreach projects, befriending services, family support groups, key community clubs and important community events

- Counselling services, active or creative projects which help people improve mental health and health and lifestyle projects

- Support for community halls to re-open to enable groups to re-start activities, community gardens or orchards.

Gordon McKillop, Corporate Social

Responsibility Manager for CalMac, said: 'The CalMac Community Fund was created to make a difference to those most in need across our West Coast communities. It is also a fantastic way for us to connect with our communities.'

'The last 18 months has placed a huge strain on people's lives and grass roots community groups have stepped up magnificently to help those affected.'

'We would love to hear from these groups and would encourage those eligible to apply for an award.'

In 2019, the CalMac Community Fund supported 76 groups benefitting the lives of children and young people and last year supported 60 groups tackling social isolation, mental health, loneliness and/or poverty.

Helen Wray, Head of Philanthropy and Programmes for Foundation Scotland, added: 'We are really delighted to be working in partnership with CalMac to deliver their 2021 CalMac Community Fund.'

'The fund will provide vital support to charitable organisations that are working hard to reduce isolation and support better mental health in their community.'

Applications for the CalMac Community Fund opened on August 16. More information can be found at calmac.co.uk/community-fund.

At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



The right road

I am a huge fan of the Isle of Kerrera. I've lost count of the number of times I have taken the wee ferry across to Oban Marina for revelry, both aboard boats tied up there and at the Waypoint Bar and Grill.

I have also travelled on numerous occasions from Gallanach across the short hop to the island, in most recent times on the new-ish ferry Carvorra.

The walks from there down to the south of the island are awesome, though I haven't done it this year because of the Covid crisis.

It is, however, one of my favourite days out to hike down to Gylen Castle and stop for refreshments at the Kerrera Tea Garden.

Now a new road is being built to provide a link between the two principal ferry point destinations on the island. Not before time. The good folk who live on the island will finally have a proper way to travel between the two areas. Well done to the people behind the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust for working so diligently for ages to bring this work to reality.

Step forward

Another initiative which I would urge people to support is the Keep Oban Beautiful (KOB) Doorstep Challenge, which pretty much does what it says on the tin.

KOB is asking locals to take a critical look at their own environs and consider what they could do to tidy up or improve it.

It's such a simple suggestion but one that could potentially make a significant difference to our communities - and at little or no cost.

We should all care for the way our towns and villages look and do our best to improve them if possible. KOB is asking people to share ideas, actions, comments and questions on its Facebook page. I would echo that and encourage as many of you as possible to do so. It's a blooming good idea.

What do you think?

Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

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New film asks public to choose rewilding

An alliance of nature charities in Scotland is ramping up its call on the Scottish Government and people to choose rewilding at a critical moment in the country's political and environmental history with the launch of a new short film.

Despite Scotland's reputation as a place of natural beauty, from the dramatic peaks of Skye's Trotternish Ridge to the vast sweep of Glencoe, the Scottish Rewilding Alliance says the science tells a very different story: that Scotland is one of the most nature-depleted places in the world.

As part of its campaign to make Scotland the world's first Rewilding Nation – a move backed by more than a dozen MSPs and 76 per cent of polled Scots, it says – the Alliance has launched its new film Choices, which presents its audience with a number of choices about their relationship with nature.

Do we choose to expand our natural pine forests into huge areas of trees, shrubs and wildflowers – a place full of bird song and wild animal tracks? Do we choose to have flower rich meadows in our towns and cities, and create places where our children can develop, explore and play? Do we choose to ensure oceans are teeming with fish, whales and dolphins – full of food and supporting coastal communities who rely on nature for their living? The Alliance says people can help achieve these aspirations by supporting rewilding, which is the large-scale restoration of nature.

Steve Micklewright, Convenor of the Scottish Rewilding Alliance and Chief Executive of Trees for Life, said: 'As Scotland readies itself for the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow later this year, the Scottish Government needs to demonstrate global leadership by prioritising rewilding. If the SNP makes a deal with the Scottish Greens to create a majority in Holyrood, we're asking that it includes a promise to rewild at least 30 per cent of Scotland's land and sea by 2030.'

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

Watersport visitors urged to keep distance from seals

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Scotland's nature agency, NatureScot, is urging people not to get too close to seals, after a series of recent incidents at seal haul-out sites across Scotland.

'It's vital to avoid disturbance at this time of year while harbour seals have pups,' the agency said. 'Disturbance can mean pups are separated from mothers, resulting in young seals being abandoned, stranded or orphaned.'

'Recently, paddleboarders, kayakers and canoeists have caused harbour seals to rush off sand banks at Loch Fleet, near Dornoch. A paddleboarder was reported to have even landed on a sandbank to try to take a selfie with seals.'

'Most harbour seals use more isolated areas to pup, but with the increase in water activities, even some remote sites are seeing human visitors. In the northern areas of Scotland, people sometimes rush to the shore to see killer whales, not realising there may be a seal haul-out below or in front of them. This leads to seals being flushed into the water while a predator approaches, leaving seals without escape options.'

NatureScot is also asking people to keep dogs away from seals and on the lead when walking near seal haul-outs.

Adam Rose, NatureScot's Loch Fleet NNR manager, said: 'We don't usually have an issue with water sports, but there has been a surge in use of paddleboards, canoes and kayaks since lockdown eased. We all love to watch wildlife, but we also need to protect it. We're asking people to stay well clear of the seal haul-out sites. If you are out on the water then stay at least 150 metres away and if one or two heads come up, that means you're close enough.'

Paddleboards, kayaks and canoes may disturb seals more than motorised boats as seals are unaware of these vessels until they are too close. Seals may react quite strongly, flushing straight into the water. With a motorised boat, seals will often hear the engine and start to react from a greater distance, giving the boat operator time to stop and back off if needed.



Paddleboarders and kayakers are being asked to take care to not disturb seals that have hauled out of the water to rest or nurse their pups. Photograph: Lorne Gill

Loch Fleet NNR is one of 194 designated seal haul-outs around Scotland, which includes a number on Mull, Islay and the Outer Hebrides, where seals come ashore to rest, moult, breed and have pups. It is an offence to harass seals at these haul-outs.

When watching seals, be quiet, avoid sudden movements and be responsive to their behaviour. Back off if it looks like the seals may enter the water. Be especially cautious if there are pups present; seals can move surprisingly quickly

and they may bite if they feel threatened. Never separate pups from mothers, as females can be particularly aggressive when they have young.

Leave lone pups alone: the mother may only be away foraging for food and if you approach or touch the pup while she is gone she may abandon it on her return.

Don't crowd or encircle seals. If you are in a group, keep the whole group to one side of the animal, preferably the landward side, so that the animal still has access to the water.

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Max takes plunge to support ocean advocate's campaign

by Stacey Holloway
 editor@obantimes.co.uk

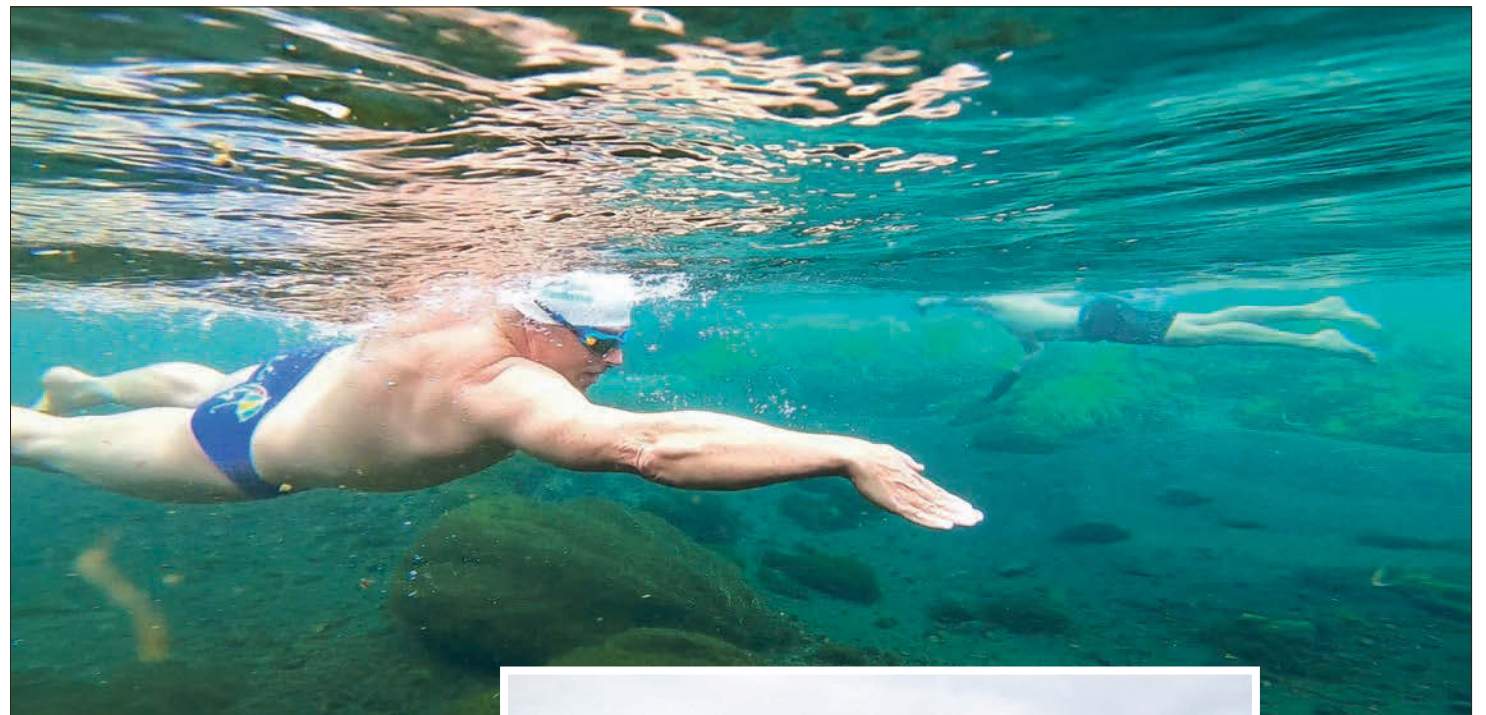
Local sea swimmer and ocean scientist at the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences in Dunstaffnage has joined the UN Patron of the Oceans, Lewis Pugh, for his training camp ahead of his next climate campaign swim.

With a background competing with GB Olympic sailing squad and PhD researching the melting of sea ice in Antarctica, the keen open water swimmer Max Holloway was an easy pick by Lewis to join him for a training camp in the Outer Hebrides in January 2020 prior to the Covid pandemic. This summer Lewis asked Max to join him again, this time for a training camp in Iceland as he prepares for his longest and coldest swim yet.

For the past two months Max has been preparing to join Lewis in Iceland to help him train to swim the 10km across the Ilulissat Icefjord in Greenland, fed by the world's fastest moving glacier and in water temperatures as low as -1.7 degrees.

This swim is ahead of the climate negotiations at COP26 being held in Glasgow in November where global leaders will set out actions to reach net zero carbon emissions to meet the goal of keeping global warming below two degrees. The recent IPCC report shows that several of the Earth's systems, such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, are reaching a tipping point where further melting could not be prevented. If the entire Greenland ice sheet were to melt we would see a 7m global sea rise. Lewis says the message is clear, 'The Greenland ice sheet is ground zero. No ice, no life'.

No one has ever attempted a multi-day swim in the polar regions and to ensure Lewis will be ready for this endeavour he will be training with Max for 10 days in Iceland. In preparation for the training camp Max was sea swimming two to three times a week, including at Ganavan Sands at the local Saturday morning Oban Seals swim meet-up, swimming up to 5km along the coast between Wee Ganavan and Big Ganavan. Max also swam several times a week at Atlantis Leisure's pool, as well as land-based weight



training. Max said: 'The training has gone well in Oban, but I did have some challenges outside of my control. I was quite worried when the Atlantis pool shut again for 10 days due to isolating staff, and a week before flying to Iceland I swam face first into a Lion's Mane Jelly fish!'

While in Iceland, Max will be training with Lewis each morning in local outdoor swimming pools, keeping Lewis's distance and technical swimming high. In the afternoons they will seek out water sources fed by ice sheet melt water to acclimatise to temperatures similar to that in Greenland, between -1.7 and 4 degrees Celsius.

The training camp is from August 10-20, after which Lewis will travel to Greenland and undertake the 10km swim across the mouth of the Ilusfet icefjord, between August 25 and September 5.

Follow Lewis's progress and read more at lewis-pughfoundation.org/greenland-swim-2021



Main photograph: Lewis and Max during their training in Iceland as Lewis prepares for his longest and coldest swim yet; and left, the pair in the Isle of Lewis in January 2020 when Max joined Lewis for the first training session.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Council launches recovery support to complement growth support

Argyll and Bute Council has added recovery support to its existing programme of business assistance, helping more businesses in Argyll and Bute to get their ambitions back on track following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many businesses have scaled back their growth ambitions or have had to identify new customers or markets to survive. In response, the council has worked with the Scottish Government to add recovery support to the existing Argyll and Bute Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme.

The recovery support is aimed at existing small and medium sized enterprises either aiming to restore their annual turnover to pre-Covid levels within three years, or aiming for modest growth (an increase in turnover below £50,000).

Growth support also remains in place from the programme. Despite the impact of the pandemic, many businesses in the region are growing and have come forward to access support. Since the first lockdown, 23 SMEs have secured grant support totalling more than £104,000.

Businesses access recovery or growth support by first applying to register for the Local Growth Accelerator Programme and discussing plans with a Business Gateway business adviser to identify relevant support. Find out more at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/bglgap

Once registered, businesses can apply for recovery or growth grants of £1,000 to £5,000, training grants of £250 - £1,500, trade fair grants of £250 - £1,500, accreditation grants of £250 - £1,500 and specialist advice (one to three days).

Business can apply for one type of each grant and up to three specialist advice sessions, as required to support their recovery or growth plans. Recovery grants can be used to fund tools, machinery, consultancy, marketing, premises refurbishment or other expenditure clearly related to business recovery or resilience.

The recovery grant cannot be used for wage subsidy, working capital, statutory costs or to repay debts.



Linda Macdonald at work in her studio. She received digital support through Business Gateway to help develop her e-commerce.

Business Gateway support is the perfect piece for local jeweller

A jewellery designer based in Cardross, Argyll and Bute, has enhanced its e-commerce offering in response to the pandemic with support from Business Gateway via DigitalBoost, Scotland's national digital upskilling programme, and grant support from Argyll and Bute Council

Led by husband-and-wife team Linda and Matt Scott, Linda Macdonald Jewellery specialises in hand-crafted silver and gold jewellery. The business benefited from Business Gateway support during Covid as it navigated retail store closures along with wholesale and supplier issues.

With more than 100 stockists in the UK and overseas, the team have been working with the service to grow the business for almost 10 years. Most recently, Linda approached Business Gateway for support as the online retail side of the business grew during the pandemic. Through DigitalBoost, Linda and Matt accessed one to one support from a digital expert as well as digital webinars and online resources.

Linda Macdonald Jewellery also secured recovery grant funding from the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme to help with the cost of enhancing the existing e-commerce platform and the development of a hard copy trade brochure and digital display, as Covid restrictions ease and in-person events are back on the cards.

The Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund 2014-20 Structural Funds Programme.

Linda said: 'It's been great to have the support of Business Gateway during what has been a very challenging period to run a business. Through DigitalBoost, we were able to access expert help which was invaluable as we started the process of improving our e-commerce offering. Additionally, the recovery grant secured through the Local Growth Accelerator Programme was

particularly helpful, allowing us to invest in upgrading our website and marketing materials as our focus shifts to recovering post-pandemic and getting back to business as usual.'

Jen Smith, business adviser for Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, said: 'It is rewarding to see how this package of support has shaped Linda and Matt's digital journey, and we're pleased they have increased confidence to move to a greater focus on digital capabilities.'

'Having a strong online presence will continue to be vital for businesses as we emerge from the pandemic. Through the DigitalBoost programme, digital specialists are available to help businesses across a range of issues with free, expert, impartial advice. Our Local Growth Accelerator Programme can now help businesses to recover from the pandemic, as well as those looking to grow.'

Find out more about Linda Macdonald Jewellery at lindamacdonaldjewellery.com



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West Coast hospitality facing the best and worst of times

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Hospitality businesses on Scotland's west coast are in crisis: facing their busiest ever staycation boom and, at the same time, their worst ever staff shortages due to Brexit, Covid, and burnout, forcing some to close just as social distancing ends, unable to recoup last year's lockdown losses.

Calum Ross, owner of the Loch Melfort Hotel, said it was 'just as busy as ever (it can't be any busier than full)', and its food and beverage service had also 'never been busier' - but 2021 has been the 'most difficult year yet' for staff shortages, especially chefs.

'We're still turning people away every night. Many establishments close to us are unable to open fully (every day of the week, or all day parts), and some still have very restricted numbers - all due to staff (mainly chef) shortages.

'Front of house, we have had to rely on local students who have done a fantastic job, but start to return to education from Monday. The rest of August/the season is going to be very chal-

lenging without them. Employment costs are up significantly as we have chosen to invest in our core team to ensure we keep them.'

While no social distancing should mean more tables and diners, he added, 'many businesses are not increasing capacity, as they can't recruit enough staff to service them.'

Meanwhile Archie MacLellan, who runs The Creggans Inn in Strachur, said this is their 'most difficult year in 15 years': 'Since opening in late April with a full complement of staff, all local and returning from furlough, we now find ourselves in a very difficult staffing situation.

'We have lost chefs and waiting staff, who have cited mental health and burnout complaints. This I feel is due to the huge demand from the well-publicised staycation market, and therefore increased workload.

'We are finding it near impossible to supplement and replace these staff. Normal channels of recruitment don't work, and recruitment



Iain Jurgensen, left, chairman of the AITC, and Calum Ross owner of the Loch Melfort Hotel.

agencies have no staff. We are now working to reduced capacities, with resulting reduced turnover, reduced wages paid, and reduced taxes paid.'

He blamed the loss of the foreign workforce on Brexit and Covid, 'but where is the local workforce?' he asked: 'Rates of pay and working conditions are good. There seems to be a massive imbalance between workers and non-workers.

'I call on the government to support hospitality (and other struggling sectors) to incentivise non-workers to return to well-paid positions that are available throughout the country.'

Further down the coast, Iain Jurgensen, managing director of Portavadie, Loch Fyne, said: 'We are currently looking for 10 crew members - wages we would like to pay total are around £200K per annum. That's with two food outlets still closed, and a further 10 people required to

staff these, which is not possible as all of our staff accommodation is now allocated for the current vacancies.

'We have been forced to reduce capacity until staffing levels improve and/or other areas of the business see reduced demand. We have now stopped serving non-residents completely in the restaurant, leisure and spa for the time being, and reduced our forecast revenue by 60K this month.

'I think that, even at the end of furlough, there will be no tsunami of applicants or job losses. I think many have already left the sector and/or returned to the EU already. Very worrying times. We need the government to urgently look at an EU working visa for hospitality now.'

However Portavadie's Iain Jurgensen, chairman of the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative, also pointed out the 'huge positives' of Brits holidaying on their doorstep.

He said: 'If we can hold on and build on this demand created by the pandemic, underlined with sustainable tourism involving reduced carbon footprint, this could well be the model for growth in tourism at home.'

AITC appoints its first chief executive

Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) has announced a significant appointment in the hiring of Cathy Craig as its new chief executive.

The newly created appointment will see Cathy will lead the ambitious growth plans to boost visitor numbers to Argyll and the Isles, building upon the strong Wild About Argyll brand. It comes in the same week the destination is awarded £350,000 from Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) for a three-year project to rebuild the tourism sector across Argyll and the Islands following the pandemic.

Cathy brings more than 20 years' experience with highly skilled roles in marketing and business development. She has played a key role in AITC in recent years following a four-year stint as volunteer director and has been on the board of VisitScotland for six years, bringing great experience of national strategy and an understanding of the challenges for Scotland.

Cathy has a wealth of experience from her commercial and marketing director roles at CalMac and ScotRail and most recently, four years as commercial director at Entrepreneurial Scotland. Now living in Inverclyde with her family, she's very passionate about the area.

Cathy is considered a positive change-maker, working collaboratively with others, naturally customer focused and always in

pursuit of the mutual outcomes required. Speaking about her new role, Cathy said: 'I am very proud to have been selected to lead AITC's ambitious delivery plans over the coming years. My passion to see Scotland succeed economically and socially combined with my deep affection for Argyll and the Isles equips me with the drive needed to deliver in this role. I'll be joining an amazing team and working with our many supportive partners to realise our collective goals.'

The role is funded for three years by HIE to support strategically important tourism DMOs, as part of wider support for the sector's recovery.

For more on this story, visit www.obantimes.co.uk



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Musician embarks on epic pilgrimage

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Celebrated Scottish Gael Mary Ann Kennedy is following in the footsteps of St Columba, embarking on an epic journey of musical discovery as part of a landmark collaboration with Scotland's singing festival, St Andrews Voices.

In the 1,500th anniversary year of the Celtic Saint's death, Mary Ann will journey along the historic 200-mile pilgrimage from Iona to St Andrews, honouring the route inspired by the legendary missionary and marking a welcome return to singing for communities across the breadth of Scotland.

The first leg of the project entitled Triall - Gaelic for journey - takes Mary Ann from Iona to Tyndrum.

Over five days the acclaimed Scottish singer is visiting and reconnecting with fellow singers, composers and musicians.

Mary Ann visited the island of Iona on Sunday, recording



Mary Ann visited Iona Abbey where she recorded a special version of her song Eadar-Thìr on voice and harp.

a special version of her song Eadar-Thìr (Between-Lands) on voice and harp at the sacred Iona Abbey - the first Celtic church built by St Columba (Colum Cille in Gaelic). The song is inspired by the island, described by the founder of

the Iona Community, the Reverend George MacLeod, as a 'thin place'.

Next she will travel back to Mull by boat, courtesy of local musician Sorren Maclean, to undertake a vocal workshop with Mull Gaelic Choir. From

there she will pass through Oban to Taynuilt, visiting long-time collaborator and friend and the leading choral director and composer Sileas Sinclair of Oban Gaelic Choir to record the song Taynuilt (Taigh an Uillt).

Later in the week Mary Ann will head to the banks of Loch Awe to meet broadcaster and musician Andreas Wolff of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir to reflect on the magical loch-side section of St Columba's Way. Andreas has written a lockdown travelogue on the St Conan's pilgrimage route which forms the first part of this journey. Mary Ann will then continue by bike to Glen Orchy before finishing the final section to Tyndrum by walking along the West Highland Way.

The singer and writer will undertake two further legs of her journey between now and October, travelling exclusively by boat, rail, bicycle and on foot between Tyndrum and Perth in September, before finally sailing up the River Tay to the Fife seaside town of St Andrews in October.

Mary Ann's pilgrimage is being captured by Nick Turner and Reece Mackay from Watercolour Music and

will culminate in a stunning concert as part of this year's St Andrews Voices. It is the first performance of the festival's diverse programme to be unveiled.

Mary Ann said: 'It's such a joy to be back out meeting singers and to see them finding their voices again as we come out of lockdown. So many of us have been desperate to start singing again and there is something profoundly spiritual about connecting with musical communities across the breadth of Scotland, taking in spectacular Scottish scenery and culture as we go.'

'It's truly special to be undertaking this momentous journey with St Andrews Voices and I am looking forward to seeing how it unfolds as we look towards the festival this October.'

St Andrews Voices will take place between October 14-18, with more details of this year's programme to be unveiled in the coming months.

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NOTICEBOARD

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This group is particular aimed at those without children or family nearby

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome back: The Glasgow Letter!

Eighteen months ago, as the country was plunged into lockdown and every event in the city was cancelled or postponed, it would have been impossible to continue with the same style of Glasgow Letter that has existed for generations. There was simply nothing to report on or even look forward to.

For 72 weeks, therefore, the column morphed into Robert in Lockdown which dealt with literally any nonsense that had happened to me throughout the week. And that turned out to be quite a lot of nonsense.

Now that one of the strangest years in history has passed, I am delighted to return this column to a (slightly!) more factual and informative column which will aim, as ever, to keep the good people of Glasgow and the West Coast up to date with all the goings on in the city.

It is a particularly exciting time down here – with the whole place awakening from a long hibernation and events (both new and old) finally getting confirmed in people's diaries. On a large scale, TRNSMT is set to go ahead in Glasgow



Glasgow's Barrowland Ballroom is reopening for business – and fun!

Green from September 10-12, with massive acts such as Liam Gallagher, Snow Patrol, and The Courteeners taking to the stage. One of my own favourite bands, Keane, are playing on the Saturday. Tide Lines are playing in Orkney that night so I'll unfortunately miss them. The Thursday before TRNSMT, Biffy Clyro are doing a gig on the same stage.

On a slightly smaller scale, things like The Riverside Festival are once again being advertised all round the city and will take place the first weekend in September. On a smaller scale still, although possibly of more interest to Glasgow Letter readers: all our favourite West Highland bands will be gigging in Glasgow over the coming

months.

Trail West have their postponed 10th anniversary concert coming up in the Barrowlands on Saturday September 18. Nothing like a 10-year anniversary concert taking place 11 years after you started!

Peat and Diesel return to the same venue on October 7 and 8 and Skipinnish do the same on October 15. Just as well there is no such thing as too many shows in the Barrowlands! Especially after a year and a half without live music. I dare say there will be people who head along to the famous venue for all four of these gigs!

On October 8, my own band (Tide Lines) play a show in the Kelvingrove Bandstand which I will write more about nearer the time. As this is an outdoor venue, I'm just hoping the Scottish autumn weather behaves itself.

As well as these events, I imagine most of the island association gatherings can now go ahead and I know live music is returning to the famous pubs of the Teuchter Triangle very soon.

The Glasgow we all knew and loved before coronavirus is coming back! And, right on cue, so is the Glasgow Letter!

New KASAB dance classes launched in Oban and Taynuilt

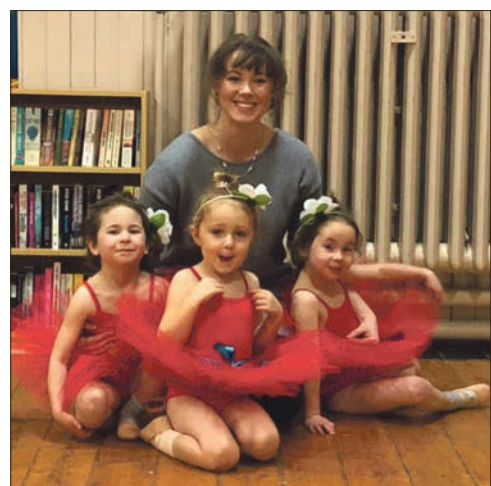
KASAB School of Dance opened the doors to welcome new pupils this week at the Rockfield Centre on Tuesday and in the Taynuilt Village Hall on Thursday.

KASAB is run by Katherine Blyth who holds a first-class Honours degree in dance, is a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Dance, a Registered RAD teacher and who teaches Dance for Oban High School's School of dance.

The KASAB classes are a different concept in dance as they offer an extensive range of core disciplines and styles all within the one class and choreographed to music from across the world.

Using a mixture of popular dance styles, pupils experience the benefits of each style, increasing their knowledge and creating more intelligent all round dancers.

Katherine says: 'I am so excited to open KASAB to share my love and joy of dance. Through careful guidance, I will pass on technical knowledge and skills with students to develop their individual performance art-



Katherine Blyth launches her dance school in Taynuilt today, having opened in Oban on Tuesday.

istry. My aim is to build every pupil's confidence in their dance abilities and develop their inner joy of dance.

'Dance is so beneficial. It is proven to improve physical and mental wellbeing along with being such a fun way to keep fit. It improves muscle tone, strength, balance, flexibility, co-ordination and memory skills, and it is also a great way to meet new friends.'

Places are still available. If your children or you are inter-

ested in learning and enjoying the timeless elegance of ballet, freedom of contemporary, rhythms of Latin, happiness of jazz, flare of hip-hop, timings of tap, passion of Flamenco and stamina of commercial, visit the KASAB Facebook page or telephone 01866 822319 or email: katherine.dance@btinternet.com

Oh, and if you are wondering what KASAB stands for - you'll need to go along to a class to find out!

What's on at Oban Cinema

NOWHERE SPECIAL



THIS WEEK

Friday 20 - Thursday 26 August (closed Mon-Tue)

The Croods 2 U	11:45
Paw Patrol: The Movie U	12:00/14:15
Space Jam: A New Legacy U	14:15
Jungle Cruise 12A	16:30
EIFF: Pig 15	16:30
The Suicide Squad 15	19:00
Nowhere Special 12A	19:30

Paw Patrol: The Movie (U)

Adventure/Family

Ryder and the pups are called to Adventure City to stop Mayor Humdinger from turning the bustling metropolis into a state of chaos.

The Croods 2 (U)

Comedy/Family

The prehistoric family the Croods are challenged by a rival family the Bettermans, who claim to be better and more evolved.

Space Jam: A New Legacy (U)

Comedy/Family

A rogue artificial intelligence kidnaps the son of famed basketball player LeBron James, who then has to work with Bugs Bunny to win a basketball game.

Jungle Cruise (12A)

Adventure/Fantasy

Based on Disneyland's theme park ride where a small riverboat takes a group of travelers through a jungle filled with dangerous animals and reptiles but with a supernatural element.

EIFF: Pig (15)

Drama

A truffle hunter who lives alone in the Oregonian wilderness must return to his past in Portland in search of his beloved foraging pig after she is kidnapped. As part of the Edinburgh International Film Festival on tour.

The Suicide Squad (15)

Action/Adventure

Supervillains Harley Quinn, Bloodsport, Peacemaker and a collection of nutty cons at Belle Reve prison join the super-secret, super-shady Task Force X as they are dropped off at the remote, enemy-infused island of Corto Maltese.

Nowhere Special (12A)

Drama

John, a 35-year-old window cleaner, devotes his life to raising his 4-year-old son Michael, as the child's mother left them immediately after his birth. Their life is a simple one, made up of universal daily rituals, a life of complete dedication, and innocent love that reveals the strength of their relationship. But John only has a few months to live. Since he has no family to turn to, he will spend the days left to him looking for a new and perfect one to adopt Michael, trying to protect his child from the terrible reality.

Face coverings must be worn when moving within the building. Once seated you can remove your face covering. All showtimes are subject to availability and change. Updates can be found on our Facebook page.

obanphoenix.com 01631 562905

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For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

MONDAY: 8am-12pm Breakfast show with Stephen
12-3pm Lunch with Bob G
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Marcus
7pm-8pm Highland Fling with Rosemary
8pm-9pm Calum McLuckies Show
9pm David Cullen Show

TUESDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-12.30pm Ken Hunter
1pm-3pm Macky on FM
3pm-5pm Mediation with Heartfelt Change
5pm-7pm Drive Times with Archie Darling
7pm-8pm Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers
8pm-9pm Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron
9pm Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal

WEDNESDAY: 8am-11am Breakfast Show with Stephen
11am-1pm Comfort Zone with Lesley
1pm-3pm Doug in the afternoon
4pm-7pm Drive Times with Campbell
7pm-9pm Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
9pm Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah

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

FRIDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil
10am-1pm The Brunch Show With The One
4pm-6.45pm Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet
6.45pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 8am-10am Breakfast Show with Stephen
10am-1pm Saturday Morning Live with Linda
2pm-4pm Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc
6pm-7pm Sports View with the Dream Team
7pm-8pm Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling
8pm-10pm Evening Show with Dave Hobbs

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

The Night Before Morning

A gripping tale of Nazi

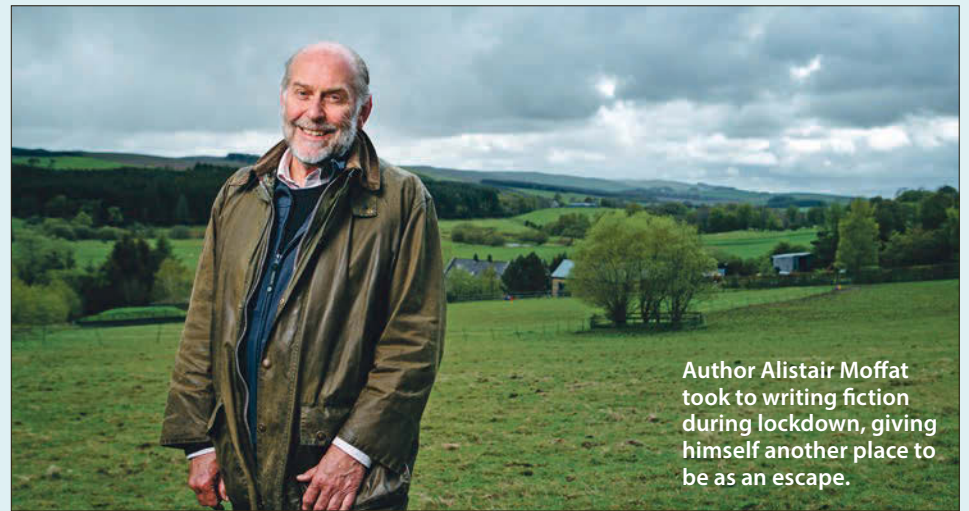
by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

That's the theme of a gripping tale *The Night Before Morning*, the first novel by the Scottish historian Alistair Moffat.

Moffat, a Gaelic-speaking Borderer and author of 20 historical books, including *Before Scotland*, *Scotland's Last Frontier*, *The Highland Clans*, *The Sea Kingdoms*, and most recently *The Secret History of Here*, chose a new challenge as a diversion during lockdown: writing fiction.

In *The Night Before Morning*, he wonders what would have happened if the Nazis had triumphed in 1945?

Despite the dark subject matter, it is superb comfort reading, writes the masterful



Author Alistair Moffat took to writing fiction during lockdown, giving himself another place to be as an escape.

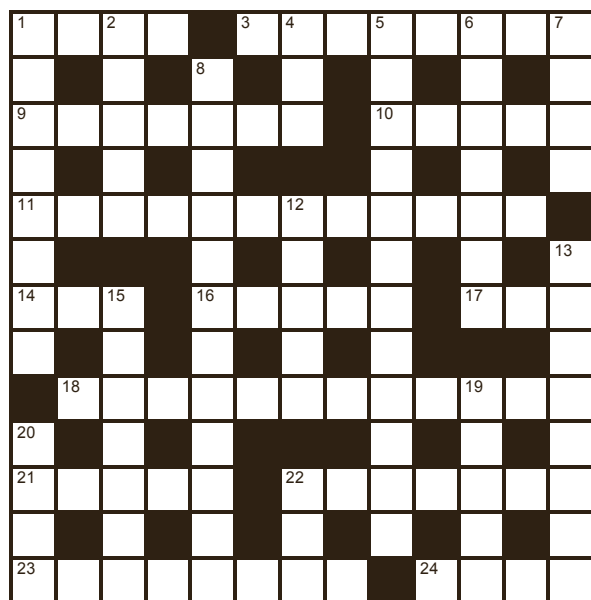
Scottish storyteller of historical fiction Allan Massie CBE in a review: 'He might modestly call it "a shocker", John Buchan's term for his

adventure novels. Well, it's a very good shocker. Altogether, it's a fine act of homage to Buchan.

'Like Buchan he knows that

action must be interrupted by quiet passages and he offers these by dwelling lovingly on the scenery and atmosphere of the Borders and St Andrews.

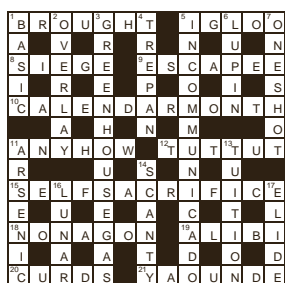
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Pear-shaped instrument (4)
 - 3 Time-related (8)
 - 9 American government (7)
 - 10 Wooden house (5)
 - 11 Cane (7,5)
 - 14 Silent assent (3)
 - 16 Parasitic skin disease (5)
 - 17 Word said with a salute (3)
 - 18 Deliberate evasion of clarity (12)
 - 21 Cover (5)
 - 22 Lack (7)
 - 23 Outdoors (8)
 - 24 Neither black nor white (4)

- 6 Mathematical bases (7)
- 7 Wranglers alternative (4)
- 8 Puggy in Scotland (5,7)
- 12 Lost cause (5)
- 13 Quickly (8)
- 15 Obtain knowledge from (7)
- 19 Bring upon oneself (5)
- 20 Tibetan priest (4)
- 22 Healer (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



- Down**
- 1 Political side (4-4)
 - 2 Of the sea (5)
 - 4 Wriggly fish (3)
 - 5 Artist's blade (7,5)

Mànran release new single written by newest members

Gaelic trad-rock Mànran are releasing a 'touching' new single *Crow Flies* written by its newest members, ahead of the launch of their upcoming fourth album ÛRAR, and a concert at Oban's Corran Halls, writes Sandy Neil.

Crow Flies will be out on Friday 27 August, and is Mànran's first material to be released since Scottish songstress Kim Carnie and guitarist Aidan Moodie joined their ranks, marking an exciting new chapter for the group.

'The single has a delicate and uplifting sound, with Kim's inimitable vocals at its heart and carries a loving message about leaning on and finding comfort from loved ones in uncertain times,' a band spokesperson said.

Crow Flies is the first single taken from Mànran's new album ÛRAR (pronounced oo-rar), meaning 'fresh' or 'flourishing'. The new record will be released on October 1 and features a mix of new material in English and Gaelic. Alongside Kim's soaring lead



The band will play the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday September 18.

vocals, Aiden's backing vocals and intricate guitar playing can be heard throughout the new single alongside Ewen Henderson on fiddle, Gary Innes on accordion, Ross Saunders on bass guitar, Ryan Murphy on whistles and Mark Scobbie on drums.

Gary said: 'As Scotland and the UK open up once again, Mànran are so excited to be back sharing our brand new material with everyone. We were delighted to welcome

Kim and Aidan to the band back in 2019 and it's wonderful to release our first body of work featuring them both - it's even more special that they co-wrote this new single.

'*Crow Flies* has a soft sound yet carries a real effervescence that we hope will delight old and new fans alike and hopefully gives a nice taste of what's to come on the new album.'

Kim added: 'It was a joy to write *Crow Flies* with Aidan and create something that cel-

brates close bonds and people coming together. The song is soft yet buoyant and I really can't wait to see what people make of it. We've been itching to release the new album and start performing again so we're really looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year holds.'

With 10 years at the heart of the traditional music scene and three studio albums under their belt, ÛRAR will be Mànran's fourth studio album. Hot on the heels of appearances at Wickham Festival and Glasgow's Piping Live!, the band will appear at Capers in Cannich on Friday 17 September and The Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday September 18 before embarking on a tour across Germany in October.

Morning – A is in Scotland

There are brutal, chilling, and all too credible moments.'

'This is fascism in operation in Scotland,' Alistair told The Oban Times. 'One of the most horrific scenes is young people hanged on St Boswells Green. It is a reminder of what can happen here. If you think fascism is just a label, it is not. That is what happens when fascism is let out its cage.'

The tale concludes dramatically on the west coast.

'It resolves on the Morar peninsula near Arisaig,' Alistair said. 'The reason for that is because of lockdown: we could not go anywhere. I wrote this in March, April, May last year. The road from Arisaig to Morar is the most beautiful in the world. I knew it well so I was comfortable setting it. I found by writing

fiction I could escape into the world of that book. I was giving myself another place to be. It stopped us going crazy. I wrote it as an escape, a yarn.'

How did he find writing fiction for the first time?

'It is very different from writing history and non-fiction,' he said, quoting the broadcaster and writer Sally Magnusson: "In non-fiction, if you climb to the top of a tree, the next thing you will be thinking is how do I get down? With fiction, you know you can fly."

'The team at [the publishing house] Birlinn told me that you must create a completely credible world. I learned the phrase 'plot holes'. They are inconsistencies that the reader will feel uncomfortable with, that you have to fix.

'I just had the central idea. I knew where it was going to get to. It was a real fairground ride. I just asked guys: do you want to know what happens next?'

'I just thought it was something I could do,' he added, advising all aspiring novelists to take up their pens too. 'Have a go,' he said: 'Just start. You do not know where your pen or keyboard will take you.'

'And keep going. I talk about the page 70 syndrome: you get to page 70, you think what a load of crap, give up! The hero of every scribbler is Sir Walter Scott: just get on with it. When he was bankrupt, he said: 'My own right hand shall do it.' You must do it. Get it down on paper and keep going.'

Alistair has now finished three more works of fiction.

One woman's wartime journey: from Loch Ewe to Moscow

An Talla Solais in Ullapool has launched its final exhibition in its current venue.

The gallery on West Argyll Street closes its doors in late September, although organisers are hoping to have more positive news in the coming months.

The final exhibition sees the gallery showing a body of work by Susie Reade, whose inspiration comes from her mother's journey from Loch Ewe to Moscow across the Arctic Circle in 1944.

It was early spring 1944 when Lavinia Ponsonby, a young woman of just 24 years, was asked to take up a job on the other side of the world for the British Embassy in Moscow.

While much of Europe was under German occupation, the usual travel routes were closed and so Lavinia took the treacherous journey from Scotland to Moscow by merchant ship, through the Arctic Circle.

The ships assembled just west of Ullapool, in Loch Ewe, and were protected by Royal Navy vessels, forming Arctic Convoy number JW58.

Lavinia was among the first women ever to undertake this journey, made all the more perilous by the ever-present threat



A piece from the exhibition.

from German torpedoes. Later it was described by Winston Churchill as 'the worst journey in the world.' Fortunately, Lavinia survived and reached the port of Arkhangelsk before taking the train 700 miles south to Moscow.

It is thanks to Lavinia's daughter, artist Susie Reade, that there is an insight into this remarkable woman and her extraordinary journey.

Seventy-five years after that early spring departure Reade retraced her mother's steps from Scotland to Moscow. It is this journey that has allowed

Reade to capture a visual record of the inhospitable environment that her mother experienced. What could have easily been romanticised, is instead translated through large-scale oil paintings in stark monotone palettes, referencing the harsh and hostile landscape of the Arctic Circle.

Reade has also filled in some of the gaps in her mother's diary through extensive research in archives and museums, resulting in a body of work that is full of both history and emotion.

It seems fitting that Reade's upcoming solo show, which includes extracts from her mother's diary, should be exhibited at An Talla Solais in Ullapool, so close to where Lavinia first stepped on board the JW58.

It is through Lavinia's diaries that this journey has been immortalised, but it is through Susie Reade, that we are able to step back in time and experience it.

The exhibition JW58 will run until September 19 at An Talla Solais Gallery, West Argyll Street, Ullapool. The opening hours are Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm with a 30-minute closure from 1.30pm.

M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAIN 19 An Lunasdal / THURSDAY 19 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Fuine (Home Baking)
- 21.00 Obair Ealain (Street Art)
- 22.00 Air An Rathad/On the Road
- 22.25 Runrig-The Last Dance

DIHAOINE 20 An Lunasdal / FRIDAY 20 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 Dàn
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Binneas – Na Trads. Tide Lines
- 20.00 Prosbaig
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits
- 21.00 Opry le Daniel
- 21.50 Binneas – Na Trads
- 22.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 22.45 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Feis Rois. Concert

DISATHAIRNE 21 An Lunasdal / SATURDAY 21 August

- 16.00 Live Shinty. MacAulay Cup Final
- 18.10 An La
- 18.25 Wallace and Gromit. The Curse of the Were-Rabbit
- 19.45 Port
- 20.00 Prosbaig
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Skipinnish aig Barrowland
- 22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail /OMost Dangerous Ways to School
- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe

- 23.00 Opry le Daniel
- 00.15 FUNC
- 00.45 Binneas – Na Trads

DIDÒMHAICH 22 An Lunasdal / SUNDAY 22 August

- 16.00 Wallace and Gromit/Dluth-Bhearradh/A Close Shave
- 16.30 Blas/Mischa @Blas
- 16.45 An Là
- 17.00 Seachd Là
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership 2021/22 /Hearts v Aberdeen
- 19.45 Binneas / Na Trads
- 20.00 Alleluia!
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Gaidhlig Obar Dheathain/Aberdeen, Gaelic and the Gaels
- 22.00 Bannan Pilot Ep1
- 22.30 Bannan Pilot Ep2
- 23.00 The Valhalla Murders

DILUAIN 23 An Lunasdal / MONDAY 23 August

- 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 S13, Togail-A-Listers in Lewis and Harris
- 22.00 Bannan /Ep 3 (Pilot)
- 22.30 Tannadice '87
- 23.30 Air An Rathad

DIMÀIRT 24 An Lunasdal / TUESDAY 24 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft

- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach
- 22.00 Trusadh – Togail- A-Listers in Lewis and Harris
- 23.00 Eadar Chluich
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Alleluia

DICIADAIN 25 An Lunasdal / WEDNESDAY 25 August

- 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 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Third Lanark
- 22.00 Bannan S1 Ep1
- 22.30 FUNC
- 23.00 Obair Ealain/Street Art

DIARDAIN 26 An Lunasdal / THURSDAY 26 August

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh/History Shorts
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Gàrraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Na Gleidheadairean/ The Animal Keepers
- 22.00 Air an Rathad/On the Road
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 FUNC



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VISITING OBAN? COME WITH US ON THIS WEEK'S TRAIL

Oban Gift Trail PART 3

Oban Gift Trail PART 3

This week we continue the search for the perfect gift. Here in Oban, we are blessed to have such a plethora gift shops for every occasion, from artisans, local artists, national retailers to jewellery & clothing even furniture, the list is endless. With so many to choose from we split our trail into 5 weeks!

Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk

23. NEWLOOK



Shop the latest trends and ranges of women's and teen fashion. Browse 1000's of new lines added each week.
30-32 George St, Oban PA34 5SB
www.newlook.com/uk

24. FATFACE



Fashionable chain retailer selling outdoor casual wear and accessories for men, women and children.
Unit 1, 38 George St, Oban PA34 5NL
www.fatface.com

25. MACINTYRES OF OBAN



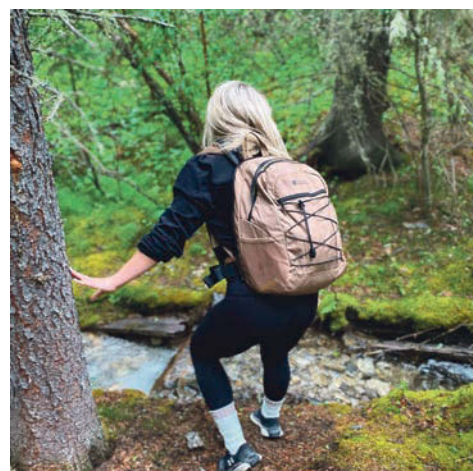
Situated in the West Coast of Scotland, stocking a range of high-end countywear brands including Dubarry, Barbour, Schoffel, Fairfax & Favor, Musto, Laksen and more
38 George St, Oban PA34 5NL
www.macintyrescountrywear.co.uk

26. WHSMITH



Browse a great range of books, stationery, gifts, magazines & more. The UK's most popular bookseller & stationer. Home to the Richard & Judy Book Club.
Address: 42 George St, Oban PA34 5SD
www.whsmith.co.uk

27. MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE



Specialist chain retailer selling clothing, shoes and equipment for outdoor and sporting activities.
Address: 58 George St, Oban PA34 5SD
www.mountainwarehouse.com

28. THE MODERN CROFT



Stocking a wide range of craft, design & homewares from Scotland and beyond.
North Pier, Oban PA34 5QD
www.facebook.com/TheModernCroft

29. WEE GALLERY



Here you will find a wide and varied selection of artwork by local artists. Everything from original watercolour paintings of Scottish scenery and animals to unique jewellery produced in Oban.
Stafford St, Oban PA34 5NJ
www.facebook.com/the.weegallery.oban

30. ROOM 15



A small, independent gift shop selling a range of quirky, Scottish and handcrafted gifts, together with more renowned labels.
15 Stafford St, Oban PA34 5NJ
www.facebook.com/Room-15-Oban-949036331777567

31. ROGERSON SHOES



Shoe Store stocking women's & men's footwear from Paul Green, Rieker, Merrel, Josef Seibel. Free Delivery or Store Collection
66-68 George St, Oban PA34 5SD
www.rogersonshoes.com

32. HIGHLAND SOAP COMPANY



A family-run maker of soap and skincare products. The products are handmade in their workshop, in Fort William. Our beautiful highland landscape has always been the source of inspiration for our products.
64 George St, Oban, PA34 5NJ
www.highlandsoaps.com

33. RETROPHENIA



Vintage clothing and retro items, Partnered with Talamh coffee and brownies.
71-75 George St, Oban PA34 5NN
www.facebook.com/Retrophenia-Talamh-coffee-oban

DON'T FORGET TO BUY & USE YOUR LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS



EVENT FULL!

Event-uually we have got some semblance of normality returning and we can all meet up and enjoy some of the West Highland's favourite events.

Covid restrictions are lifting and hopefully commonsense and lower case numbers will prevail.

Now is the time that the West Highlands can enjoy some of the events that have made it through the storm of Covid cancellations.

The big one has to be The Argyllshire Gathering with its internationally famous piping competition, Highland games and social events. The first gathering was held in 1871 and 150 years later it has only ever failed to take place in war time and last year's pandemic crisis.



With so many of our other Highland games cancelled this is going to be a joy for all to attend and for the regular competitors on the games circuit, so go along and give them your support.



Not only are these events enjoyed by our tourist visitors, they are also such great social events for us all. There is nothing like bumping into old friends on a games day.

We have all been missing sporting events, so it is great to see that the calendar is coming back to life.



At the forefront of these is shinty's Artemis Macaulay Cup Final when Kyles and Kingussie will be in action on Saturday, August 21, at Oban. The competition was established in 1947 by Flora Macaulay, editor of The Oban Times; the cup competition features the highest-placed league teams, both north and south, so it is your chance to see the cream of shinty's players in action.

For the golfers there is the Oban Rotary Club Am-Am on August 29. The Am-Am, and the raffle held alongside it, is the club's major fundraiser and it attracts entries from all over Scotland.

Not only is it a great day's golf it is also a fantastic social event, and both golf and a good get together have been sadly missing from all our lives during the lockdown, so please turn out and support them – and get those raffle tickets bought!

One of the major recipients from the fundraising is Mary's Meals the Argyll-based charity which does so much to help provide meals for under-privileged children in places around the world.



Culturally we have the growing phenomena that are the artists' studios open days to look forward to with Artmap Argyll and Cowal Open Studios, where an incredibly diverse range of talents are on display – all inspired by, and reflecting, the beauty of the West Highlands.

Musically there is no better example of inspiration than Mendelssohn on Mull.

Young professionals from the string chamber music world spend a week being taught and mentored by leading musicians. The public are invited to hear them at concerts; this being an added bonus for the musicians as it increases their performance experience and a delight for all who attend.

Slowly but surely we are getting back to normal and the re-introduction of artistic and social gatherings is a sure sign of that.

The Royal National Mòd in Inverness in October is going to be tailored to circumstances by being more of a cultural showcase with fewer competitions.

We will have to wait and see what shape our Christmas and Winter festivals will take but one thing is for sure – we are on our way out of the pandemic and the good times are ready and waiting for us.

THANK YOU

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So every time you pick up a copy of The Oban Times you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses



we



local



Forthcoming Events!

It happened – EVENTually – now that you can, make the most of it with some fun, laughter, food and music, and a bit of culture thrown in for good measure. Here's just a few to whet your appetite.

MOKFEST

Wed 18th-Sun 22nd August
mokfest.com



ARTEMIS MACAULAY CUP FINAL

Kingussie v Kyles Athletic
Sat 21st Aug
Mossfield Stadium, Oban



ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING (Oban Games)

Thurs 26th August
obangames.com

OBAN ROTARY GOLF AM-AM

Sun 29th August
Glencruitten Golf Club
www.obanrotary.org.uk

ARTMAP ARGYLL OPEN STUDIOS

Friday 20th Aug-Mon 23rd Aug
Sat 28th Aug- Sun 29th Aug
artmapargyll.co.uk

MENDELSSOHN ON MULL

Sun 5th Sept - Fri 10th Sept
soundwavesscio.org.uk

COWAL OPEN STUDIOS

Fri 24th Sept-Mon 27th Sept
cowalopenstudios.co.uk

TARBERT FESTIVALS - MAKING A COMEBACK!

It's one of the things Tarbert is known for...great events! Planning for the Tarbert Music Festival 2021 is under way along with talks about Christmas! Watch this space or visit www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk

THE FREDDIE & QUEEN EXPERIENCE

Fri 17th Sept
Corran Halls, Oban
liveargyll.co.uk/event



FORT KNOX PROMOTIONS presents

Loki the Scottish Rapper / Becci Wallace /
Damaged Goodz-HIP HOP / Kim Wilson /
The Romanas / DK ZEENY
Sat 18th Sept
Live in the Crofter Bar, Fort William

HELENSBURGH & LOMOND WEDDING FAIR

Sun 26th Sept
Victoria Halls
liveargyll.co.uk/event

TOBERMORY BOOK FESTIVAL

Fri 29th Oct-Sun 31st Oct
westoversea.co.uk

GARY MEIKLE – COMEDIAN

Thurs Nov 4th
Nevis Centre, Fort William
neviscentre.co.uk



RIVER TO SEA SCOTLAND

Live in Lochaber?
Come and take part in our 'not-for-profit' locals only events. Try Caoneing, White Water Rafting and Kayaking. Fantastic offer from a local company if you live in the Highlands. Visit FB: 'River To Sea Scotland' and tag a friend before 4pm on Thursday 19th August to book.

The 150th OBAN GAMES Thursday 26th August

The countdown is on for the Oban Games and the committee are excited to deliver a safe and special 150th anniversary event for the town. The Tug-O-War is always a highlight of the day, so please gather your teams of five and be ready for 2.30pm to pit your strength and skill against the other teams.

There may not be the usual medals this year for piping, but the 150th Invitational Competition is sure to be a special event. Starting at noon in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Wednesday 25th August with the Piobaireachd, the MSR and the Medley will follow. Entry is free to this event, so please come along but be sure to follow all Covid guidelines and wear a mask. All seven pipers are previous Argyllshire Gathering medal winners and are delighted to be playing in the event. Willie MacCallum, Finlay Johnston, Angus MacColl, Sarah Muir, Alasdair Henderson and Stuart Liddell will be performing from noon.

The Games Committee are indebted to EventScotland for support in order for the event to go ahead. Paul Bush OBE, director of events for VisitScotland: We are delighted to support The Argyllshire Gathering and Oban Games through Scotland's Events Recovery Fund. Highland Games are an intrinsic part of Scottish culture and these Games will celebrate our traditions in style with a packed programme of Highland dancing, piping, athletics, heavy weight events and much more.
www.obangames.co.uk



150th Oban Games Mossfield Park, Oban Thursday 26th August 2021

March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

HIGHLAND DANCING | TRACK & FIELD EVENTS
TRADITIONAL HEAVY EVENTS | PIPING

Tug O' War | Fun Races | Heritage Tent
Trade Stands & Food Stands

150th Oban Games
Invitational Piping Competition
Argyllshire Gathering Halls
Wednesday 25th August

Admission: £12 | Child (under 14) £6 | Family £30
tickets available at Park, Oban iCentre and BID office

Come and celebrate the 150th year of the Oban Games.
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information @obangames



2021 Artemis Macaulay Cup Final

Saturday 21st August

The Artemis Macaulay Cup has been inextricably linked to Oban since the inaugural final in 1947 when the famous trophy was first presented to winners Newtonmore by Flora Macaulay, then editor of The Oban Times.

The competition is unique in that it is run by the Macaulay Association rather than the Camanachd Association and brings together the top eight teams from the north and top eight from the south in a separate knock-out format, so is the only competition to guarantee a north versus south final. The final is played on the expansive Mossfield surface, attracting a large crowd and it will also be broadcast live on BBC ALBA.

This year's finalists, Kyles Athletic and Kingussie, are shinty's form teams. Kyles Athletic are 12-times winners of the Macaulay and they have come out on top in all six of their fixtures this season. Their path to the final started with a walk-over against Aberdour then narrow wins over Glasgow Mid Argyll (3-2) and Oban Camanachd (1-0).

Kyles boss Robert Baxter said: "We are the underdogs with Kingussie firing in goals all over the place at the moment, so we know we'll be up against it. But we have a good defence and if we can keep them at bay for the first 45 minutes; that will give us something to build on. Unfortunately Scott MacDonald will be out for 4-6 weeks with a broken thumb so Neil MacVicar will start in his place. Thomas Whyte and George Thomson have knocks, whilst Callum Miller twisted his knee at work which is why we couldn't fulfil the GMA game. We'll assess them all at training this week."

Kingussie have won all nine of their matches so far this season. Their Macaulay run consists of a Kilmallie walk-over followed by victories over Newtonmore (3-1) and Lovat (4-0). The Kings are no strangers to a Macaulay Final with the current holders having notched a record 24 successes.

Kingussie manager John Gibson said: "Finals are always an opportunity for both teams but we just need to concentrate on our own game. Calum Grant and Fraser Munro have knocks but I think they'll be OK. We'll also have Rory MacGregor and Alexander Michie back as both missed the win over Kilmallie. We are all very much looking forward to the final."

Throw up is at 4.10pm and Calum Girvan is the match referee.

Kingussie Camanachd Club



Alexander Michie (Kingussie) with Ross M

Rory MacKeachan captain of Kingussie.

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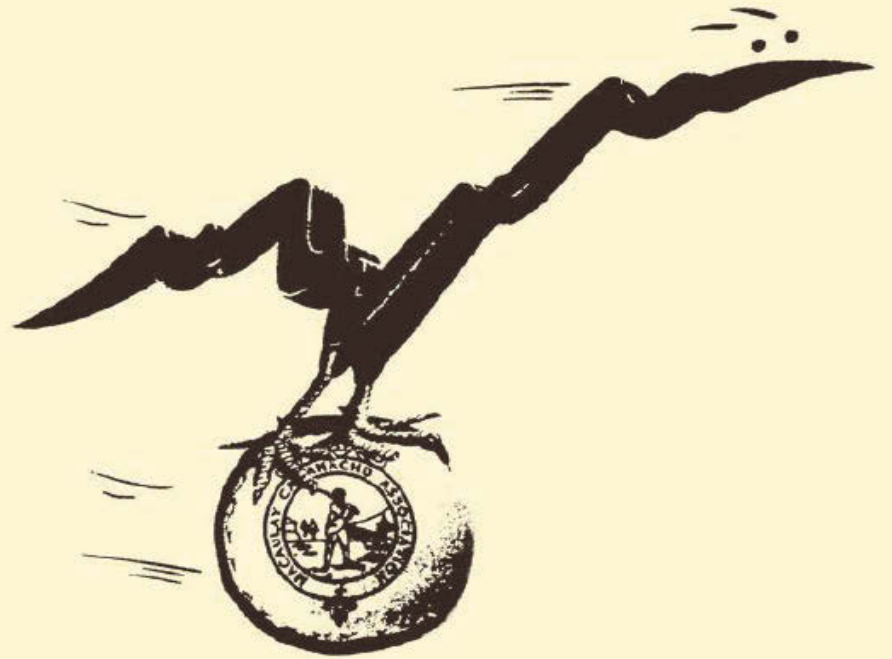
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Macrae (Kyles). Photograph: Neil G Paterson



Kyle's Athletic Captain Roddy MacDonald.

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Good Luck to Kyles on Saturday in the Macaulay Cup Final

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Oban Rotary Club's Golf Am-Am competition Sunday 29th August



Finlay O'Rourke chips on to the fourth green.

Oban's amateur golfers will once again be given the opportunity of teaming up for Rotary Club's Am-Am competition which is scheduled for Sunday 29th August when good weather is hoped for.

This will be the 35th time that the competition has been run and it normally features players from as far afield as Dunblane, Crieff, Glasgow and Stirling.

Due to coronavirus the competition could not be held last year and although it had originally been planned for early June this year, due to lockdown not relaxing as quickly as had been anticipated it did not go ahead then. But due to the generosity of the committee and members of Glencruitten Golf Club, they have again made the course available for the annual running of the competition on the last Sunday of August.

Since the first running of the competition in 1985 the event has raised almost £200,000 for local good causes making it the main fundraiser for Oban Rotary Club – accounting for approximately 60-70 per cent of the charity's annual funds.

Normally about 45 teams would participate in the competition and it is hoped that team entries will match that number. A team consists of four golfers with the best two scores from each hole being counted.



Rotarians from Oban Rotary Club and golfers who took part in the 2015 Am-Am gather at the 19th hole



Mary's Meals receive a cheque from funds raised at the 2019 Oban Rotary Golf Am-Am.

All funds generated from the Am- Am competition are utilised for the benefit of local charities.

The competition supports many popular local events including the Highlands & Islands Music and Dance Festival and also many youth and sporting activities in the Oban area.

Oban Rotary regularly contribute to the Laurinburg School Exchange as well as High School outdoor trips and events.

A couple of years ago Oban Rotary

made a commitment to support the North Argyll Young Carers Centre by contributing some £12,000 to the centre to be distributed over a three-year period.

This funding has had a domino effect for the centre which supports young carers in the area through respite care.

It helped the charity secure £83,836 from BBC Children in Need which will also be distributed over a three-year period.



of Glencruitten Golf Club.

Rotary Funding has also helped West Highland Tennis Week, Glencruitten Junior Golf Coaching, Oban High School and its Pipe Band and the Dove Centre.

Obviously, because of coronavirus, Oban Rotary have not had the opportunity of generating income and it is hoped that this year's Am-Am competition will be a good kickstart to the

club's fundraising activities, which are primarily designed to assist organisations within the local community.

In addition to the support from the club's members the event this year will be assisted by the Oban detachment of the Sea Cadets whose young members will be helping in the important role of ball spotting which enables the competition to run smoothly.



In the pink – ladies loving the Oban Rotary Am-Am.



Morham & Brotchie are delighted to support Oban Rotary's Golf Am Am and wishes everyone involved the best of luck.

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AULAY'S BAR

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Proud to sponsor the 2021 Rotary Am Am



Oban Rotary Club's Golf Am-Am competition Sunday 29th August

The competition of course relies on the co-operation and assistance of the members and greenkeeping staff of Glencruitten Golf Club whose help is quite invaluable to the holding and smooth running of the competition.

Oban Rotary is very thankful for the many local businesses who provide sponsorship and donations. Although many of the local businesses will have suffered as a result of the coronavirus situation it is hoped that they will all continue to contribute in the very generous manner as they have done in previous years.

On the day of the event a raffle is held in support of Mary's Meals which supports children throughout the world. Last year's tournament raised £12,000 and of that £650 went to Mary's Meals. This leaves a not inconsiderable amount available for Oban Rotary to distribute to local charities and good causes. Generally the financial assistance is between £50-£500, but occasionally it is more – if there is a particular need which is identified and which Oban Rotary can assist with, the funds are made available due to the generosity of Oban businesses and the local community.

The original Am-Am came about as a result of Oban Rotary receiving an invitation from Dunblane Rotary to send a team of four to their inaugural Am-Am. It was decided that Oban Rotary could start a similar event and the Oban Am-Am has been in existence every since – and grown. From initial modest beginnings Oban Rotary's Annual Golf Am-Am competition has gone from strength to strength having raised approximately £200,000 for local causes during the years of its existence.

It is hoped that more than 100 sponsors and nearly 200 players will participate in this year's event and Oban Rotary wish to thank all those businesses, sponsors and participants for their support.

All photographs courtesy of Kevin McGlynn



An important bunch! Ball Spotters 2019.



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**Wishing the Rotary Club Am Am
a successful event this year**

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Willie Gillies, Taynuilt, plays to the fourth green. Phil Menteith plays to the 18th green.



Neil Armour chips on to the 18th rotary Am-Am.

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Good luck to all participants of the **Oban Rotary Club's Am Am Golf Tournament** on the 29th August
Proud to support the good work of the Rotary Club

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Wishing everyone participating in the **Oban Rotary Golf Am Am** a brilliant day and lots of success

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Around the markets

Oban, United Auctions, Tuesday August 10: sold 4774 Ewes and Lambs at their opening sale at Oban Livestock centre. With exception of a few consignments, most lambs forward showed the effects of a long and wet spring when lambs lacked bloom, nevertheless, trade was buoyant to level out at £71.35 recording a rise of £7.49 per head on the corresponding sale last year. Trade was topped twice by lambs from Barra selling to £96. A strong force of buyers was in attendance.

Lambs - SuffX - £88.00, Ardencaple; £88.00, Frackersaig; £85.00, Strongorm; £85.00, Achnacree Beag; £85.00, 16 Eoligarry, Barra; £85.00, Mid Farm; £84.50, Glenstrae; £83.00, Frackersaig; £81.00, Achnacree; £80.00, Glenmachrie.

TexX - £96.00, 123 Craigston, Barra; £96.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £93.50, Barguillan; £93.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £92.50, Kames Beag; £90.00, Dalmore; £89.50, 83 Borve, Barra; £88.00, Saulmore; £87.50, Achuaran; £87.00, Poltalloch; £87.00, Balligarve; £86.00, Baligrundle; £86.00, 58 Tangasdale, Barra; £85.50, 123 Craigston, Barra; £85.00, Saulmore; £85.00, Bailuacraich; £84.50, Balnagown; £84.50, 83 Borve; £84.00, Ardachy; £84.00, 16 Eoligarry, Barra; £83.50, 58 Tangasdale, Barra; £83.00, Dalmore; £81.00, Bailuacraich; £81.00, Strontolier; £80.00, Baligrundle; £80.00,



A pen of lambs from Shane Cadzow, Ardlarach, Isle of Luuing, up for auction at Oban last week.

4 Balure, Chev - £85.50, 99 Upper Borve, Barra; £84.50, Achnacree Beag; £84.00, 85 Borve, Barra. Cross - £86.00, Strongorm; £83.00, 85 Borve, Barra. Lley - £80.00, Ardlarach. Mule - £78.50, £78.00, Achuaran; £76.00, Poltalloch; £75.00, High Ranachan. BF - £58.00, Duntarrin. Ewes - SuffX - £71.00, 85 Borve;

£61.00, 67 Tangasdale. TexX - £89.00, 67 Tangasdale; £75.00, 99 Upper Borve. Chev - £88.00, Dunach Estate; £77.00, Strontolier; £77.00, Braefoot; £76.00, Strongorm. **Tiree, United Auctions, Saturday August 14:** sold 4967 lambs to average £77.41 (+£6.63) and 228.54p/kg (+18.64p/kg). Unlike some other centres, lambs were

shown in excellent bloom with the average weight recorded at the sale being the same as last year. A good following of buyers ensured all stock was cleared at satisfactory levels for consignors.

Leading prices per Head
SuffX - £104.00, Mannal; £101.00, 6 Crossapol; £98.00, 8 Cornaigbeg; £97.00, 10 Crossapol; £95.50, Salum; £95.00, 8 Cornaigbeg; £94.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £93.50, Benview; £93.00, 6 Crossapol; £93.00, Druimasaidh; £93.00, 4 Heanish; £92.50, Hough; £92.00, Croish; £92.00, 31 Balephetrish; £89.50, 2 Heylipol; £88.50, 9 Barrapol; £87.50, Salum; £85.50, 9 Barrapol; £85.50, 15 Crossapol; £85.50, 6 Crossapol; £85.00, Ardeas; £85.00, 4 Kilkenneth. BeltX - £117.00, Heylipol Farm; £113.00, Hillcrest; £110.00, Ardmay; £105.00, Heylipol Farm; £100.00, Sandaig; £100.00, Hillcrest; £98.50, Ardmay; £96.00, Ardmay; £96.00, Heylipol Farm; £95.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £95.00, 94.00, Braeside; £94.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £94.00, Braeside; £94.00, 12 Crossapol; £90.00, Heylipol Farm; £89.00, £88.00, Hillcrest; £87.00, Ruai; £86.00, Benview. TexX - £110.00, Braeside; £104.00, £100.00, Heylipol Farm; £100.00, Hillcrest; £96.00, Mannal; £96.00, 12 Crossapol; £95.50, Whitehouse; £95.00, 12 Crossapol; £95.00, 6 Crossapol; £95.00, Lochphuil; £94.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £94.00, Lochphuil; £93.00, Hough; £93.00,

4 Heanish; £92.50, 3 Balevullin; £92.50, 6 Crossapol; £91.50, Druimasaidh; £91.00, Lochside; £91.00, 3a Caolis; £91.00, Ruai; £90.00, Heylipol Farm; £90.00, 3 Middleton; £90.00, 24 Balephetrish; £90.00, Hillcrest; £88.50, Ruai; £88.00, Mannal; £88.00, 7 Balinoe; £87.00, Heylipol Farm; £87.00, Ruai; £86.00, Clachan; £86.00, 5 Kilmoluaig; £85.50, 3 Balevullin; £85.00, 7 Kilkenneth; £85.00, 3a Caolis; £85.00, 34 Balepherish. Chev - £97.00, Vaul; £84.50, Ardeas; £79.00, 4 Heanish; £78.00, Scarinish Farm; £77.50, 3a Caolis; £77.50, Vaul; £77.00, Skipinnis; £74.00, Croish; £72.00, 3 Balevullin; £70.00, 3a Caolis. Cross - £91.50, Whitehouse; £86.00, 8 Balevullin; £84.00, 1 Kenovay; £83.00, 12 West Hynish; £82.00, Whitehouse; £74.00, Clachan; £73.50, 12 West Hynish. Mule - £89.50, Braeside; £85.50, 3 Balevullin; £83.00, Lochside; £79.00, 3a Caolis; £77.50, Mannal; £77.50, Ardmay; £76.50, Ruai; £76.50, Braeside. Chev Mule - £92.00, 2 Heylipol; £81.00, 8 Kilkenneth; £79.50, Ruai; £76.00, 8 Kilkenneth. BF - £70.00, Ardmay; £60.00, Lochside.

Leading prices per Kilo
SuffX - 262p, Garaphail; £259p, 6 Crossapol; 258p, Scarinish Farm; 250p, 2 Heylipol; 247p, Ardeas; 246p, Salum; 241p, 15 Crossapol; 240p, Garaphail; 236p, 2 Heylipol; 233p, Druimasaidh; 232p, 31 Ba-

lephetrish; 232p, Croish; 231p, Whitehouse; 228p, Hough; 227p, 4 Kilkenneth; 227p, 15 Crossapol; 227p, Druimasaidh; 225p, Ardeas; 223p, 9 Barrapol; 222p, Scarinish Farm; 221p, 2 Heylipol; 220p, 9 Barrapol; 220p, 8 Cornaigbeg. BeltX - 316p, 289p, 12 Crossapol; 275p, Braeside; 275p, 4 Kilkenneth; 273p, Heylipol Farm; 260p, Ruai; 259p, Hillcrest; 258p, 255p, 254p, Heylipol Farm; 252p, Sandaig; 249p, 4 Kilkenneth; 249p, Braeside; 247p, Ardmay; 246p, Ardmay; 245p, 4 Kilkenneth; 245p, Ruai; 245p, Braeside; 244p, 8 Kilkenneth; 244p, Heylipol Farm; 244p, Ardmay; 243p, Hillcrest; 242p, Ruai; 242p, Heylipol Farm; 241p, Ruai; 241p, Ardmay. TexX - 302p, Sandaig; 270p, 12 Crossapol; 264p, Lochphuil; 260p, 10 Balevullin; 256p, Clachan; 254p, Hough; 253p, 10 Balevullin; 253p, Braeside; 253p, Lochphuil; 250p, 6 Balevullin; 249p, Hough; 249p, 7 Kilkenneth; 248p, Heylipol Farm; 247p, 245p, Clachan; 245p, Dunbeag; 244p, 34 Balephetrish; 243p, Crothouse; 241p, 34 Balephetrish; 241p, Dunbeag; 241p, Lochphuil; 240p, Heylipol Farm. Chev - 262p, Vaul; 246p, Ardeas; 233p, 3 Middleton; 230p, Vaul. Cross - 253p, Garaphail; 247p, 3a Caolis; 238p, Skipinnis; 229p, 3a Caolis; 225p, Clachan; 222p, 12 West Hynish. Mule - 275p, Lochside; 230p, Braeside. Chev Mule - 232p, 8 Kilkenneth. BF - 196p, Lochside; 194p, Ardmay.

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11 Castle Douglas
13 Oban
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18 Portree
21 Lanark - Shearlings
22 Lanark - Lambs

NOVEMBER

4 Lanark
5 Fort William

WETHER LAMBS

AUGUST

24 Dumfries
25 Forfar
25 Stirling (UA)
25 Loughash Farm Sale
28 Lanark
29 Longtown
30 Hexham

SEPTEMBER

6 Stirling (UA) Show
7 Oban Show
11 Dalmally Show
17 Dingwall Show
23 St Boswells Show
24 Lanark Show
25 Forfar Show

OCTOBER

19 Longtown Show

EWELAMBS

SEPTEMBER

3 Hexham
4 Stirling
6 Castle Douglas
8 Lanark
11 Dumfries
14 Stirling
16 Huntly
17 Hexham
21 Oban
23 St Boswells
24 Dalmally
29 Longtown

OCTOBER

6 Thainstone
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THE NEXT STEP

To uni or not to uni?

That is the question – and could a modern apprenticeship be the answer?

While all your mates are scrambling around finding places through UCAS or accepting the offers they have been given already, pause for a while and think: is university right for you, right now?

We are not saying never – maybe just not now. Is this the right season of your life to be going to university? Would your life plans and ambitions be better served with a modern apprenticeship?

It could well be that with your apprentice qualifications under your belt, in a few years' time you will have a better idea of which direction you want your career to progress and the addition of a degree to your portfolio of knowledge and skills would be an advantage.

We are now entering, hopefully, the post-pandemic era and the changes this has wrought on the workplace means that a changed mind-set is a must. Add to this a jobs market up-ended by Brexit and the all too-real impact of climate change, and there is a whole new world of work developing for the coming decades.

It is all about making a sound investment in yourself and ensuring all the time and

money is well spent and 'future-proofs' your working life. If the tried and tested route to university is the one for you then take it and enjoy every minute and experience of student life. But if you have the slightest doubt then taking the time to study all that modern apprenticeships have to offer will be time well spent.

Skills Development Scotland is the driving force behind the nation's apprenticeship schemes.

There are more than 80 different apprenticeship categories; think of a profession, service or industry and it almost certainly has apprenticeships available. They come in four different levels and some are the equivalent to a degree.

And best of all these paid apprentices are not just for school leavers – there are plenty of adult apprenticeships too, so if you feel your working life needs a change of direction or a boost this could be an answer.

The apprenticeships are developed by the skills councils involved in each category; your training is designed for the workplace by the leaders in that workplace.

Young Person's Guarantee

DYW West Highland helps inspire the workforce of the future

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) is a Scottish Government Youth Employment strategy. Our local team, DYW West Highland, is one of 21 regional DYW groups in Scotland, leading and driving change in the way employers connect with young people, schools, and colleges.

DYW West Highland is hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and funded by the Scottish Government. The team engages with secondary school pupils and employers throughout Lochaber, Skye, and Wester Ross. The team now includes eight part-time 'School Coordinators' based in our local high schools to help create closer connections between young people and local employers.

Developing the Young Workforce is all about highlighting the opportunities that are available to young people, by linking them up with local employers to create the win-win scenario of making young people better equipped to make positive career choices and giving employers access to a pool of young local talent.

Have you heard about the Young Person's Guarantee?

The Scottish Government's new 'Young Person's Guarantee' aims to give all young people in Scotland the chance to succeed despite the economic impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19).

It's easy to sign up and is a great way for businesses to show their support of young people. Organisations backing the Guarantee make five pledges to help young people at this critical time:

- Prepare young people for the world of work through work experience, volunteering and work-based learning opportunities.
- Engage with and provide opportunities to young people who face barriers to work.
- Create work-based learning, training, and upskilling opportunities for young people.
- Create jobs and opportunities for young people through apprenticeships, paid internships, and work experience.
- Create an inclusive workplace to support learning and enable young people to meet their potential.

Contact the team at DYW West Highland on info@dywwesthighland.org to find out more about opportunities to help young people and local businesses.

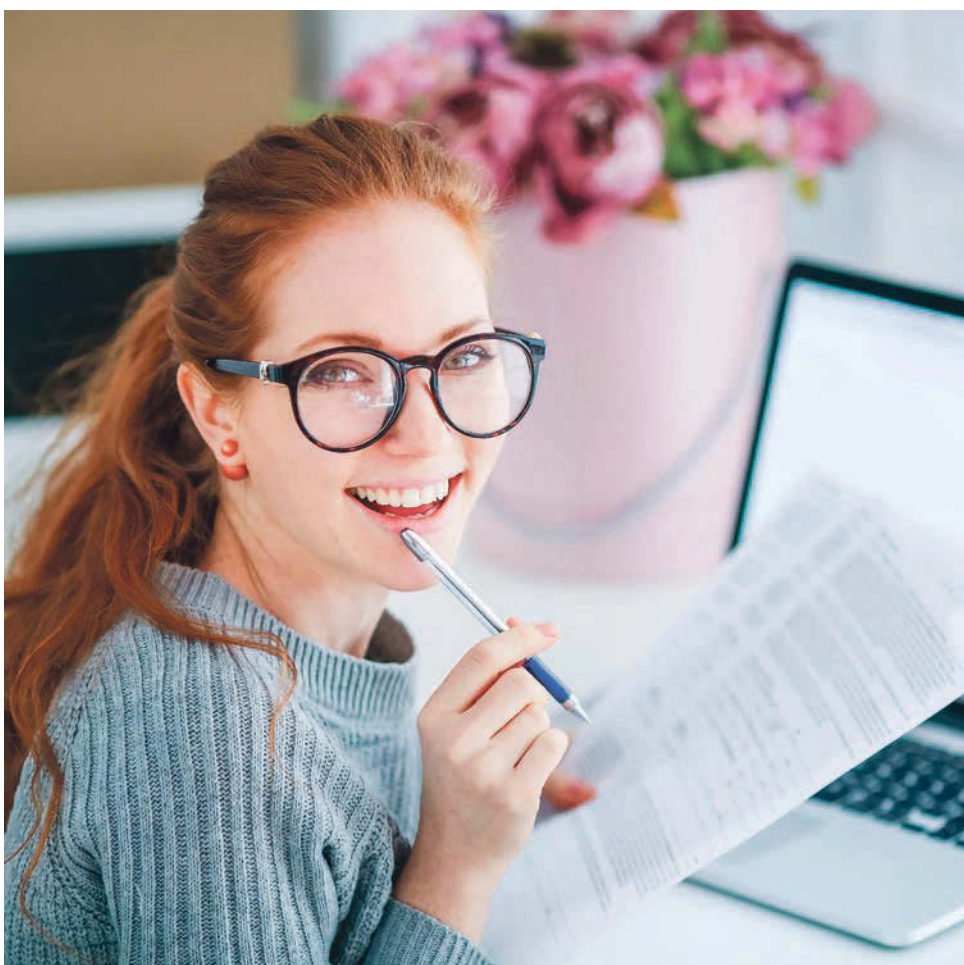
Get in touch.
Find out from DYW West Highland how your business will benefit from the drive, energy and diversity that young people bring to the workplace

Head to www.dywwesthighland.org or email info@dywwesthighland.org

Young Person's Guarantee

CONGRATULATING LEARNER ACHIEVEMENT

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Last Tuesday almost 137,000 young people from across Scotland received the results for their Nationals, Highers, Advanced Highers, and a whole series of other courses, certificates, and awards.

Everyone at SQA congratulates you on your achievements and hard work in what has been an exceptional year.

These are a strong set of results, and reflect your skills, knowledge and understanding, and whether you continue with your learning at school or move on to further/higher education, training or employment, you and your parents/carers can be proud of your achievements.

You can also be confident that your results are credible and fair, and are what employers, colleges, and universities are looking for. You can find out more about the credibility of this year's qualifications,

and how the national standard was applied at – www.sqa.org.uk/learners and blogs.sqa.org.uk/awarding2021/

The whole Scottish education system, including learners, parents and carers, has worked together to develop and deliver this year's alternative certification model that made sure that you received the qualifications you deserved.

Qualifications will always be a crucial part of an individual's learning and training experience. They give you a goal to work towards, prove to others what you know and what you can do, and help us distinguish ourselves from our peers. How they are delivered can vary according to circumstances, and preferences, but they will always align to the required standard. Qualifications are there to help us unlock the path ahead of us, and there is real value in that.

SUMMARY OF SUPPORT

Questions about your results or appeals:

If you have any queries about your results, or want to appeal one or more of your grades, speak to your school, college, or training provider in the first instance.

Questions about your certificate:

Contact our Candidate Advice Line on 0345 279 1000. Alternatively, visit www.sqa.org.uk/results for further information and support.

Questions about college/university applications:

Contact UCAS on 0800 100 900.
The helpline is open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturday for two weeks from 09 August to 20 August.

Questions about further education opportunities and careers:

Contact SDS at www.myworldofwork.co.uk/

Support for your mental health and wellbeing

Our support and resources webpage – www.sqa.org.uk/learnersupport – contains information to assist you as you plan your next steps, including links to organisations which are on hand to support your mental health and wellbeing.

Qualifying Scotland's skills



At every stage: school, college, work, volunteering: SQA's qualifications prove skills

T: 0345 279 1000 W: www.sqa.org.uk



Be proud of your achievements UCAS



LET'S GET THIS CLEAR...

Clearing is how universities and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses through UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

'Students can expect to be well supported by UCAS and universities as they make their decisions over the summer. Universities and colleges continue to be flexible, as they have been throughout the pandemic, and have worked hard to be able to welcome more students onto their courses,' Clare Marchant, chief executive of UCAS, has said.

'Whatever their individual circumstances, there will be a range of options for students to choose from. Thousands of undergraduate courses have vacancies in clearing, and our apprenticeship service is also ready to help students who are considering this career pathway. UCAS is ready to help students make the right choices for them, leading to the next successful steps in their learning and careers.'

Up until the October 19 deadline, you can apply for a course using UCAS if you do not already have an offer from a university or college and the course still has places.

You can use UCAS clearing if you did not receive any offers, or none you wanted to accept or you cannot meet the conditions of your offers.

'Students can expect to be well supported by UCAS and universities as they make their decisions over the summer. Universities and colleges continue to be flexible, as they have been throughout the pandemic, and have worked hard to be able to welcome more students onto their courses. UCAS is ready to help students make the right choices for them, leading to the next successful steps in their learning and careers,' Clare Marchant, chief executive of UCAS has said.

There has been a unique set of circumstances for students sitting their Highers this year, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, but they have been resilient and can be proud of their achievements.

Once again West Highland pupils have performed well.

Here in the West Highlands, Argyll and Bute pupils outperformed national averages; Higher results were 90.15 per cent, which was 2.9 per cent above the national average and Advanced Highers are 91.41 per cent at 1.2 per cent above.

'I never cease to be amazed by the talent and ability shown by our young people here in Argyll and Bute, said Councillor Yvonne McNeilly who leads the council's education.

Councillor John Finlayson, who chairs the Highland Council education committee said: 'This year's data reflects the resilience and hard work of all of our young people, their families and their teachers as they delivered the Alternative Certification Model.'

This year's results were marked using the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) after the Higher and Advanced Higher exams were cancelled on December 8.

Teachers and lecturers used a range of assessment evidence to decide results but if you disagree with the grades given you can appeal to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

It has a free appeals service which is available directly to learners for the first time, and is the fifth and final stage of the Alternative Certification Model.

Broadly speaking appeals can be made against the academic judgment; an unresolved administrative error or on grounds of discrimination.

SQA says teachers or lecturers can submit an appeal on a student's behalf until Friday August 27 and for the priority service appeal before Tuesday August 24.

UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is the 'matchmaker' between university or college places and the exam results and ambitions of students.

UCAS

At the heart of connecting people to higher education

If you have a question, or want to know more about what's happening at UCAS, there are different ways to get involved.



ucasonline



@ucas_online



ucas_online

www.ucas.com

Take the next step with an apprenticeship

Whether making a subject choice as a senior phase pupil or taking the next steps after school, Scottish Apprenticeships can create more opportunities.

Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships offer great career prospects in a range of industries with jobs in demand.

Apprenticeships at school

There's still time for pupils going into S5 or S6 to choose a Foundation Apprenticeship, which provides industry experience while gaining a work-based learning qualification up to the same level as a Scottish Higher.

There are 12 types of Foundation Apprenticeship to choose from at SCQF Level 6. They typically take two years to complete, however, some can be completed in one year.

With a Foundation Apprenticeship, pupils gain industry knowledge and experience whilst developing skills employers look for like creativity, problem solving and communication. They also involve teamwork and help develop organisational skills. Completing a Foundation Apprenticeship has also been shown to boost confidence too.

A Foundation Apprenticeship helps towards getting a job such as a Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship and the indus-



try-recognised qualification will boost a CV, helping individuals to stand out in job interviews or personal statements.

As a recognised qualification across Scotland, a Foundation Apprenticeship can also strengthen college or university applications

Get a job and get qualified

An apprenticeship can offer the chance to work, learn and earn.

Modern Apprenticeships are jobs for people over 16 who have left school. This type of apprenticeship offers paid work with an employer whilst learning with a college or training provider.

There are more than 100 different Modern Apprenticeships across hundreds of jobs.

A Modern Apprenticeship enables you to learn on the job to put skills being taught to the test right away.

Apprentices get the best possible training, designed with employers and industry in mind whilst getting the relevant experience employers are looking for.



Through a Graduate Apprenticeship people over 16 can work, get paid and get qualified up to Master's degree level at the same time.

A Graduate Apprenticeship combines a qualification and valuable workplace experience as an employee in some of Scotland's most exciting industries.

They are designed by employers and available in a wide range of growth sectors, all with great career prospects.

There are 13 different types of Graduate Apprenticeships available across Scotland in subject areas including ICT/Digital, Cyber Security, Data, Civil Engineering and Business Management.

Most of the time on a Graduate Apprenticeship will be spent learning on the job and the rest spent learning at university or college. Depending on the subject, the qualification can take between two to five years to complete.



Additional support available

There is support for anyone from all backgrounds and abilities to take an apprenticeship.

Individuals with disabilities or learning difficulties may be eligible for additional support, such as Access to Work grants.

Find the right apprenticeship for you

Information about Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships are available on apprenticeships.scot

Pupils can also speak to a school careers adviser about the range of Foundation Apprenticeships available to start this term.

There is also a live vacancy search at apprenticeships.scot to find and apply for hundreds of Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships available across Scotland.

Skills Development Scotland

Set yourself up for a bright future with an apprenticeship

Visit apprenticeships.scot

Skills Development Scotland

10 reasons to join

Finding a company that's the right fit for you is the first step to a happy career. Here are just some of the reasons to choose Scottish Sea Farms.

1 It's an opportunity to make a positive impact.

With the world's population estimated to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, the race is on to produce enough food to ensure no one goes hungry. Farmland is already under pressure, so too are wild fish stocks, which is why more and more people are looking to farmed fish as part of the solution. One of the country's leading salmon farmers, Scottish Sea Farms provided the equivalent of 98.7 million meals in 2020 – with a growing team, we're hoping to provide even more.

2 Sustainability is key.

Like many food producers, we're working hard to minimise any impact from our activities on the environment: from reducing the use of polystyrene and

repurposing fish waste, to trialling greener energies and installing electric vehicle charging points at each of our mainland hubs.

3 There are more careers than you think.

Think salmon farming is simply about, well, farming? Think again. There are more than 50 different roles within Scottish Sea Farms, across 15 departments. Everything from environment, engineering and IT to quality control, processing, sales, and supply.

4 There are different pathways into the company.

Perhaps you're a school-leaver with no previous experience of salmon farming. Or maybe you're a graduate with a relevant degree, MSc or PhD. We welcome



applicants from all ages and life stages, including those looking to switch sectors or return to work after a career break.

5 We'll help you learn and develop.

Landing the job is just the start of your career journey with Scottish Sea Farms. You'll find plenty of opportunities to learn, develop and thrive: from on-the-job training, online courses and Modern Apprenticeships, to one-

to-one coaching or tailored support for those transitioning to a supervisory role.

6 There's plenty of scope to advance further.

Big ambitions to become a senior manager one day? There are several schemes that could help you get there, including our own in-house Management Academy and various programmes run by our partners, the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre.

7 We are an increasingly diverse team.

We want to attract – and retain – the best people for the job. It's why we introduced our Young People's Council to help ensure that the third of our workforce aged 28 or under have their voices heard when it comes to how the Scottish Sea Farms of the future could and should look.

8 Our policies are more family friendly.

Think you'd like to start a family one day? Then maternity and paternity pay is something worth considering when comparing employers. Scottish Sea Farms offers enhanced packages for working parents with one or more years' service, helping make life that little bit easier.

9 We care about your wellbeing.

From a cycle-to-work scheme, discounted gym membership and My Healthy Advantage app, to an appointment with our company nurse – you'll have access to all this and more, thanks to our programme of employee health and wellbeing benefits.

10 We don't just say it, we mean it.

Our ongoing investment in jobs, training and employee wellbeing has recently been accredited with three prestigious Investors in People Awards. Seen as the global benchmark in people management, the awards are your guarantee that when we say we invest in our people, we mean it.



Grow your career with us.

To find out more about the range of careers available, contact recruitment@scottishseafarms.com.

Or for the latest vacancies, including trainee roles, visit scottishseafarms.com



DYW

WEST HIGHLAND

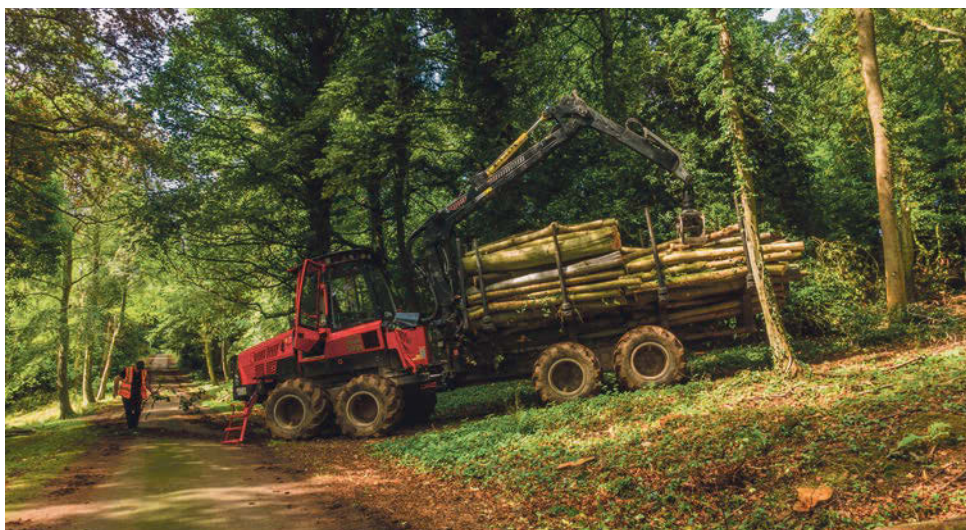
Developing the Young Workforce

Unearth job and training opportunities with DYW West Highland

Developing the Young Workforce West Highland, hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, works hard to bring opportunities, key information and supporting young people for the world of work.

Over the coming months you will get the chance to hear about the day-to-day roles, top tips for success and what current training and job opportunities are open for you to explore. You will hear from forestry and land, renewables and health and wellbeing sectors and from organisations including SSE, NatureScot, West Highland College UHI and UNESCO Biosphere.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in hearing about, head over to www.dywwesthighland.org today and sign up to our next careers insight session taking place on Wednesday September 1 at 2pm. If you're in school you can still join, the team will be speaking to all secondary schools in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross as part of their School Coordinator network and get your class access to the session live or recorded.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1 September
Forestry and land career and training opportunities

3 November
Renewables sector overview and career opportunities

15 December
Mental health and wellbeing career opportunities

The DYW West Highland team can be seen in schools across the region as the School Coordinator programme continues to build momentum on the return on students as their work to bring benefits to young people continues.

Keep up to date with the latest advice, events and updates from the team by following them on social media @DYWWestHighland or online at www.dywwesthighland.org

DYW West Highland presents...

FORESTRY & LAND

Careers Event 1 September at 2pm

SIGN UP ONLINE FOR FREE!



Trainee & Modern Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Opportunities:

The Scottish Salmon Company produces Scotland's Finest Sea Loch Fresh Salmon at over 60 sites across the beautiful Scottish Highlands and Islands. If you enjoy biking, hillwalking, wild swimming or other outdoor activities, our opportunities will be perfect for you...

Freshwater

Fantastic opportunities available across our flagship Applecross Hatchery where we are building a world-leading Recirculating Aquaculture System - (RAS). You will be part of a team that's working on introducing cutting-edge technology to the way we look after our Scottish Salmon.

Marine

Numerous opportunities available across the business, including Skye and Torridon areas along with the Isle of Lewis & Harris. You will be working as part of a proactive team, looking after the health and welfare of our fish, along with operating boats and forklift trucks.

Processing

Various opportunities within our Processing operations including across our Technical, Hygiene and Engineering teams in both Marybank in Stornoway and Cairndow in Argyll. You will be working as part of a team to support the production of our finest quality Scottish Salmon.

Amazing Benefits:

- Professional development and training opportunities, including a variety of courses that provide with numerous transferable skills
- Modern apprenticeship opportunities across Aquaculture and Processing
- Industry leading Marine and Freshwater competency framework to support your career progression
- Competitive salary with regular reviews
- Relocation and accommodation support
- Cycle to work and retail discount schemes including Dell Computer discounts
- Market-leading pension scheme
- Employee assistance programme
- Critical illness and life cover

Take Your Next Step at Scottish Salmon:

- Previous experience is not required – all necessary training will be provided, but enthusiasm and a desire to learn are essential
- For more information, please contact workwithus@scottishsalmon.com and visit our website www.scottishsalmon.com

Case Study:



Donnie, Marine Area Manager, Tarbert, Argyll

What has been your career path to your current role and what experience do you have?

I started working in Aquaculture when I was 19 because one of my friends told me it would be challenging and interesting. Working on marine sites was a complete change for me but being able to work outdoors and being out on the boats was, and still is, a real thrill. My colleagues have helped me progress through various roles to become Marine Area Manager at Loch Fyne.

What is the best thing about your job?

The challenge! I like to be able to think on my feet as every day is a new challenge.

What interested you in a career in Aquaculture?

The industry changes and progresses so quickly. The way in which we farm today is totally different to how we farmed 10 years ago as a result of the advances in science and technology.

Why would you encourage others to think about a career in Aquaculture?

There's a skill to fish farming which, with the right support and training, can become a vocation. There's plenty of opportunities available. I have achieved more than I ever thought I would by being interested and keen to learn.

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Looking for motorhome or caravan.
First time buyers.
Any make or condition considered.

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WANTED

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

Tel: 07546 788945



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Fully fitted out, with new wiring and fuse box.
New gas pipes and fittings, new gas certificate issued Q1 this year.
Approx 9 feet x 6 feet, not including towing bar, two empty gas bottles included.
Spare wheel included. Lot of extras, please call for more details. Any inspection welcome.

First £7000 secures.

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WANTED 4X4S FOR CASH



WANTED ALL 4X4'S & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

We buy for retail, breaking and export so no matter the age or condition we can make a cash offer. Young or old, all makes and models, engine problems, farm used, accident damaged, mot failures etc.

**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE, FAST PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.
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All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards. We do not dispose.

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For immediate cash payment and free collection.

All types of 4x4 vehicles, double cab & single cabs pickups. Shogun landrover defenders, Isuzu, Landcruiser, Navara, L200 Toyota Hilux, Discovery, any vehicle considered old or new. Any condition running or not. High miles, rotten chassis, or over heating top. so any condition.

Price paid without any hassle we also buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial vans and trucks.

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ask for Robert**

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Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

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

WANTED 4X4

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc. We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

**T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

WANTED 4x4 VEHICLES

Landrover, Toyota, Isuzu, All single and double cab pickups. Any age or condition considered. Also buying motorhome and caravans. Immediate payment and collection

**Please call or WhatsApp James on
07789 138028/ 07487 548703
Email: wanted4x4s@gmail.com**

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All types of 4-wheel drive vehicles & pickups, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford and MOT failures, non-runners, etc. Will travel and collect.

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RECRUITMENT



S and C Crawford Building Contractors LTD are a progressive building company based in Lochgilphead Mid Argyll. A number of positions are now available and we would welcome enquiries and applications with CV in writing for the following positions.

**Scaffolder/Labourer
Skilled Labourer
1st Fix Joiners
2nd Fix Joiners**

For all of the above positions a full driving license is essential. Accommodation for rent may be available if required by successful candidate.

For informal enquiries and terms and conditions please contact Stuart Crawford at the number or e mail

Stuart Crawford
S & C Crawford Building Contractors Ltd
Tel: 07557123804
sccrawford1@hotmail.com
www.sccrawford.com



**Sales Assistant Vacancy
from now until Christmas**

We have a vacancy for a full time sales assistant from now until Christmas, no previous experience necessary, however computer skills would be an advantage.

Please send details and CV to job@iona.co.uk



Housekeeper / General Assistant

Aggregate Industries is a leading manufacturer and supplier of concrete and aggregate products to the construction industry and part of the global LafargeHolcim Group.

Reporting to the Canteen / Accommodation Supervisor, you will be a team member and responsible for efficiently carrying out your duties in a safe manner, as per company policy and guidelines

Responsibilities

- Accommodation block, Glensanda House and office areas to be cleaned to a high standard including bedrooms, communal areas, gym and canteen / kitchen
- Wash dry and store linen and laundry for distribution to accommodation rooms.
- Maintain and use a stock of cleaning materials making sure that COSHH guidance is used.
- Comply with food hygiene legislation.
- Assist Chef as and when required.
- Assist with receipt and storage of stock deliveries.
- Assist with cleaning of Kitchen and equipment
- Assist with room bookings for onsite accommodation.
- Assist with meal bookings.
- Carry out other duties within your competence.

This position is on a 7on\7off shift basis and you will require to live on site when on shift.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send a copy of your CV as well as a covering letter to glenn.brookes@aggregate.com

Closing date: 30th August 2021.

Your Career Right Here



**Freshwater Operatives
Full Time, Part Time, Weekends
Location: Our Applecross Hatchery, Kishorn**

Salary: £19,772 – £29,072 per annum dependent on experience (pro rata for Part Time), plus on call premiums and overtime at an enhanced rate

Why work with us?

- £150 million turnover
- 650 + staff (continually growing)
- We sell to over 26 countries around the world
- We are an internationally recognised pioneer in Aquaculture
- Sustainability is at the core of all our activities

The Scottish Salmon Company produces Scotland's Finest Sea Loch Fresh Salmon with Pride and Passion. With our head office in Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, we breed, rear and process superior salmon exclusively in the pristine waters of the Scottish Western Highlands and Islands. Our customers appreciate our product quality, service excellence and provenance guarantee. We are also the proud recipients of multiple industry awards recognising our commitment to Scotland, our industry and staff.

We are always looking for ambitious and motivated individuals to join our passionate team so if you want to test yourself in a challenging workplace, look no further...

Due to significant growth within the company, we are looking to recruit Freshwater Operatives to work as directed by the Freshwater Site Manager in the day-to-day operation of our flagship Freshwater Recirculation Site, where we look after Salmon from egg to smolt. It is also a great opportunity to be part of the first team in Scotland leading the way into post-smolt production with the development of a new facility.

Duties:

- Technical Standards – operate to the highest standards of husbandry, biosecurity, food safety and quality standards and support the Site Manager & Senior Freshwater Operatives to ensure that these are embedded through the site. Highlighting and reacting to issues when appropriate in areas such as: Production, Environment, Quality, Health and Safety, Fish Welfare, Biosecurity and Hygiene.
- Site Operations – meet the highest quality standards, following all Standard Operating Procedures.
- Measurement & Control – understand the site targets and support the team to ensure that these goals are used to improve site performance.
- Health & Safety – follow safe working practices and, as a team member, ensure a safe working environment exists for all employees on the site, meeting and exceeding the standards set out in the Group Health & Safety policy.

- Skills Training – attend all courses as required and only operate machinery when authorised and trained to do so. On the job and specific job-related training will be provided as required.

Skills/Experience:

- Previous experience is not required as training will be provided.
- A background or interest in aquaculture or biology would be beneficial.
- Technical expertise in aquaculture and fish husbandry, preferably previous hatchery work, is desirable.
- Experience of working in a recirculation facility is desirable.
- Good practical and problem-solving skills.
- Team player – experience of working co-operatively within a small team and communicating effectively.
- Able to demonstrate good numeric and IT skills.
- Ability to be flexible with working hours preferable as weekend and on-call rotas are in place.



Employee Benefits

In return we offer over 15 employee benefits, including:

- Relocation & accommodation support
- Competitive salary package with regular salary reviews
- Market leading pension scheme
- Cycle to work scheme
- Retail discount scheme
- Employee assistance program
- Critical Illness Cover – also for Spouse and Partner
- Occupational health service
- Professional development opportunities

How to Apply:

Please complete the application form available on our website or send your CV and Cover Letter to workwithus@scottishsalmon.com

You can also check out our current vacancies on our website www.scottishsalmon.com



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J. & A. MITCHELL & CO. LTD.

Personnel Manager

J&A Mitchell & Co Ltd owns and operates the world-famous Springbank Distillery and its sister companies Mitchell's Glengyle Ltd and William Cadenhead Ltd.

Our whiskies are known and loved the world over and our drive to produce the best whisky we can is only matched by our commitment to our staff.

To that end, we are looking for the right candidate to take on the newly-created role of Personnel Manager to play a key role in the company's employee relations.

Key Duties:

- **Act as a point of contact for both management and staff to ensure a consistent, two-way flow of information between J&A Mitchell and its employees.**
- **Provide support to senior and line managers on all employment matters, including but not limited to absence, discipline and performance monitoring.**
- **Liaise with external partners on HR issues and prepare and issue Statements of Main Terms and job descriptions.**
- **Lead on the organisational aspects of recruitment and new employee induction to ensure that the right people are found and looked after when they are hired.**

Person Spec:

- ✓ **Friendly, trustworthy and approachable, with excellent written and verbal communication skills.**
- ✓ **Being able to listen attentively and respond with empathy and understanding when dealing with others will be crucial to your success.**
- ✓ **Your organisational abilities will be first class and the ability to process and record information accurately and sensitively is essential.**
- ✓ **You will be happy to operate in both formal and informal environments and be able to distinguish between the two as appropriate.**
- ✓ **You will be required to provide both a sympathetic ear one day and firm, clear guidance the next in order to help employees at all levels feel valued and supported.**

To apply, send a CV and covering letter outlining why you would be the right person to join our company by email to jobs@jandamitchell.scot by the closing date of 5pm on Friday 27th August 2021.

Established in 1994, Colin Broolly Forestry Ltd is a family owned and run timber harvesting business based in Achnabreac, Lochgilphead operating mainly throughout Argyll and the Islands.



SERVICE ENGINEER

Due to an increasing work load we require an experienced engineer to join our team to assist with the maintenance and repair of our fleet of forestry machinery, both onsite and within our workshop.

The successful applicant must hold a full UK driving licence and should be self-motivated and reliable. Experience of forestry, agricultural or heavy plant machinery would be desirable.

This is a full time permanent position, and salary will be dependent on the successful candidate's knowledge and experience.

If this position is of interest or for further information please contact Jude Broolly on jude@colinbroollyforestry.co.uk

Chef/House Manager

For large shooting lodge/family holiday house near Dunoon - includes 3 bed cottage in peaceful lochside location. Full time, permanent, but seasonally busy so flexible working required. Own transport essential

Email nicola@fentonbarns.com for more information

Bonnar Sand & Gravel Job opportunities

Tipper Driver

Current Class 2 LGV Licence
Experience essential

Quarry & Plant Operator

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Out of office: 07860 522906

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Freshwater Engineer (Electrical Bias)

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Duties:

- First point of contact for all Engineering requirements at sites.
- Accountable as part of the skilled electrical team on site.
- Ensure all work is correctly logged in the CMMS system.
- Accountable for tracking engineering issues and accurately reporting cause and actions to close out.
- Compile weekly reports and send to the department coordinator.
- Ensure departmental compliance with all Health and Safety and Technical requirements.

- Lead the way with modern manufacturing techniques – 5s, RCA, CI, focus groups.
- Assist the Engineering Coordinator in maintaining the current asset register.
- Overnight stays may be required to support with rotational on-call shifts.

Skills/Experience:

- Electrician with strong mechanical skills and background.
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Please complete the application form available on our website or send your CV and Cover Letter to workwithus@scottishsalmon.com

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Tuesday 24th August 2021.

You can also check out our current vacancies on our website www.scottishsalmon.com

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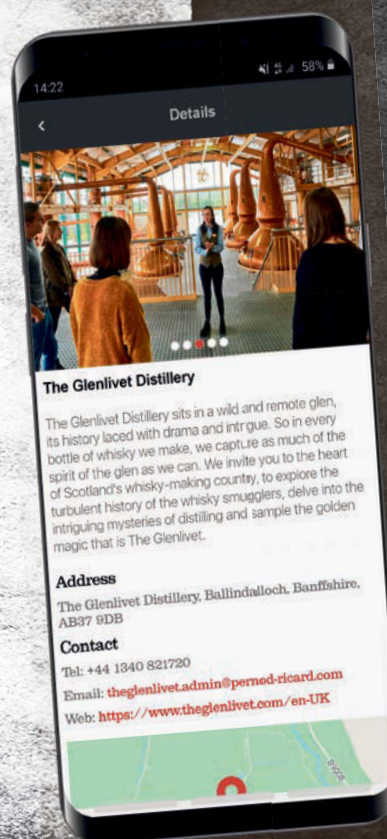
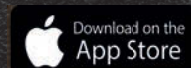
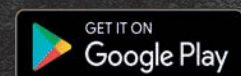
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- The chance to sample 2021's winning whiskies at tasting stations (winning whiskies ranging in price from £40 to £700).

29 OCTOBER 2021

7pm arrival

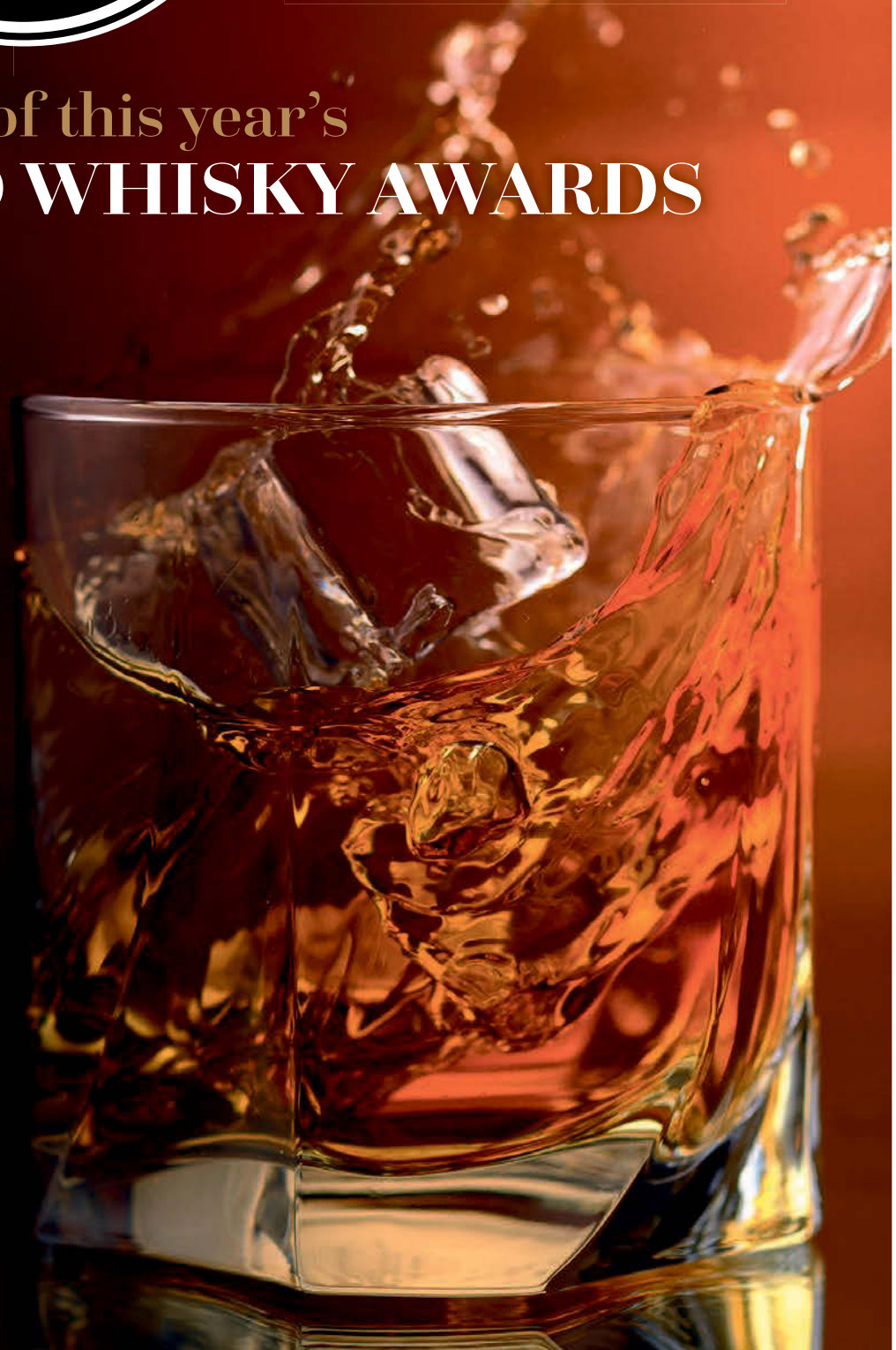
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For more information contact jboyle@scottishfield.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01240/PP	Alterations and extension to guesthouse	Wellpark, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AQ
21/01241/LIB	Internal and external alterations and extension to guesthouse	Wellpark, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AQ
21/01424/PP	Erection of single storey dwellinghouse, installation of oil tank and formation of access	Land East Of Achadh Na Mara And Burnside, Fionnphort, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01426/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 5, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01427/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01428/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01429/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01430/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 4, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01117/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Seaside, Vaul, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/01432/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot A, Land At Former Lorn Sawmills Site, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
21/01213/PP	Erection of agricultural building	21 Kenovay, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UU
21/01468/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of An Tigh Eama, Keills, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
21/01337/PP	Demolition of redundant water tank, erection of dwellinghouse and installation of waste water treatment plant	Land South East Of Tigh Na Speur, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay
21/01381/PP	Erection of warehouse for storage of large goods for sale by Islay Home Stores	Showroom SSE Retail Ltd, Flora Street, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7JX
21/01469/PP	Erection of extension to rear porch of dwelling to create wet room accommodation	16 Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7TX
21/01470/LIB	Erection of extension to rear porch of dwelling to create wet room accommodation	16 Main Street, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7TX

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

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



Blast site: **Banavie Quarry**
Fort William

Date of Blast: **Friday 20th August**

Time of Blast:

12:00hrs – 14:00hrs

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)

THE PROPOSED CLYDEPORT (COP 26 etc.) HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2021
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A HARBOUR REVISION ORDER

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Clydeport Operations Limited ("the Applicant") has applied to the Scottish Ministers for a Harbour Revision Order under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act").

2. The Order will:

- (α) permanently extend the port limits to expressly include the docks and works;
- (β) temporarily extend the port limits to include the part of the River Kelvin and another area (shown on the 'Temporary Port Limits Plan') during the COP 26 period (27th October 2021 to 11.59 p.m. on the 15 November 2021), and permit the Applicant to exercise its statutory harbour powers over that area during that period;
- (γ) set out general functions of the Applicant as statutory harbour authority;
- (δ) confer powers of general direction and special direction on the Applicant and provisions relating to the enforcement of such directions;
- (ε) amend the Clydeport Authority Order 1965 to modernise the definition of vessel contained within it and to update the charging power contained in article 67.

3. No works are proposed and no land is proposed for compulsory acquisition and there are no proposals to extinguish or divert any public right of way over a footpath or bridleway.

4. The application does not relate to a project which falls within Annex I or II to Council Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment ("the Directive") not being a construction of a port installation. Accordingly, no environmental statement has been supplied.

5. Paragraph 16 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act (which requires information to be supplied concerning a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Great Britain and in another European Economic Area State) does not apply to the application.

6. A copy of the draft Order, the deposited plans which accompanied the application, the Statement of Support dated 18 May 2021 (updated 4 August 2021), the Clydeport Authority Order 1965 and the Clydeport Authority Order 1969 may be downloaded free of charge from the following website: <https://www.peelports.com/marine/our-ports/clydeport>

Or inspected free of charge by prior appointment only (due to Covid-19) until the expiry of the forty-two day period referred to below at the offices of the Applicant at:

Location

Clydeport Operations Limited, 16 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DS.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 5.00pm

7. Any person requiring further information concerning the proposed harbour revision order, or wishes for a hard copy of the proposed Order and accompanying documentation to be sent to them, should apply in writing for that information, or the application documentation, to Ashfords LLP, Ashford House, Grenadier Road, Exeter, EX1 3LH offices quoting reference 'Clydeport (COP 26 etc.) Harbour Revision Order.'

8. Any person wishing to make an objection or representation to the Scottish Ministers concerning the application should write to Karl Zaczek, Ports Policy Co-ordinator, Ports and Harbours Branch, Transport Scotland, Area 2F North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ or email harbourorders@transport.gov.scot within forty-two days from the date at the foot of this notice quoting 'Clydeport (COP 26 etc.) Harbour Revision Order' stating the grounds of their objection or representation and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection or representation may be sent.

9. All objections or representations made, including personal information provided to Scottish Ministers, will be shared with the applicant who may contact you to discuss your concerns. Names and the text of any representation may also be published on Transport Scotland's website due to Freedom of Information requirements. If you wish to discuss any issues relating to the use of your personal data please contact the person specified in paragraph 8 of this notice.

10. If an objection is duly made to the application and not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers may, before making their decision (i) cause an inquiry to be held, or (ii) give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by them.

Ashfords LLP

Solicitors acting on behalf of Clydeport Operations Limited
19th August 2021

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (THE ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING, OBAN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2021

On Monday 9th August 2021, Argyll and Bute Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, made the above named Order, which will make it unlawful, for any person to wait on any of the lengths of road as described in the schedule below.

The restrictions imposed by this Order, which are desirable because of considerations of public safety and convenience during the event, will be in operation between 0800 and 1700 hours on the 26th August 2021.

SCHEDULE – NO WAITING AT ANY TIME/NO LOADING AT ANY TIME

Name of Road in Oban	Extent of Restriction
Glencruitten Road	On both sides between Soroba Road and the access road to the Golf Club
Mossfield Avenue	On both sides between Glencruitten Road and Glencruitten Drive
Quarry Road	On both sides from Glencruitten Road for a distance of 30 metres or thereby.
Mossfield Drive	On both sides from Glencruitten Road for a distance of 30 metres or thereby.

The Order can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders>
Roads and Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD.

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Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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The Oban Times LOCHABER TIMES

DEATHS

FLETCHER - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Margaret, who passed away peacefully at Lorn and Islands hospital, on August 7, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Alex, mother of Ian, Bobby, Anne and David and a loving granny. Donations to Oban Lifeboat if desired.

HOWIESON - Suddenly at home on Sunday, August 1, 2021, aged 80 years, Alexandra Jane Howieson (Sandra). Beloved wife of the late Billy and much loved sister of Peter and Charlie and the late Hamish. A loving sister-in-law, aunt and grand-aunt. Sorely missed by her family and all her many friends and neighbours.

LOBBAN - Margaret Buchanan

(née MacDonald) (Edinburgh, formerly of the Isle of Lismore). Margaret Buchanan Lobban, (Mairead), died peacefully at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on August 11, 2021. Beloved mother of Mairead and Seumas, dear sister to Lachlan and an enduring inspiration to her grandchildren, Ailsa and James, their mother Kate, Margaret's extended family and very many friends. Church service at Greyfriars Kirk Edinburgh, Thursday, August 26 at 2.30pm and graveside service at the Isle of Lismore parish church Friday, August 27 at noon.

MACALISTER - Calum. Former geography teacher in Lochaber High School passed away peacefully on Friday, August 13, 2021, aged 92 years. Funeral will be held in Kilmallie

Hall, Corpach on Thursday, August 26 at 11am followed by interment in Kilmallie Cemetery. Family flowers only please or donations may be made to Lochaber Mountain Rescue in Calum's memory.

MACPHERSON - Peacefully in the care of Bruach House, Nairn and formerly of 12 Lovat Road, Kinlochleven on August 16, 2021, Mary (née MacGregor), aged 99 years, beloved wife of the late John (Johnnie) MacPherson. Much loved mother of Jessie, Gregor and Mairi and treasured grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service will take place at Kinlochleven Church of Scotland on Friday, August 20 at 1.00pm and afterwards to Innis Na Birlinn Cemetery, Onich.

McKINNEY - Peacefully, at home on Friday, August 13, 2021, aged 92 years, Ileene McKinney, beloved sister and auntie. May she rest in peace.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

BLAKENEY - Melody. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mel will be held at Kilbrandon Church, Isle of Seil on Wednesday, September 1 at 3p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACAULAY - Cameron, Janice, Iain and families wish to express their heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their expressions of love and sympathy by cards, telephone calls and messages received following their recent sad loss of Anna. Special thanks to H1, Cameron Court and all nursing teams for their care and support for Anna over the years. To Tom Ross & Sons for their professional, efficient and

discreet funeral arrangements, to Rev. Sonia Palmer for her words of comfort and a beautiful, touching service, to Alistair Hardie for his thoughtful musical reflections and to the Ramnee Hotel for the excellent catering provided. Finally, thanks to all who generously donated to Alzheimer Scotland.

MACLEOD - Adrian and the family of the late Archie MacLeod would like to thank all the carers who looked after Archie at home, the staff at Etive House and ward I. Thanks to Catriona at Hamish Hoey's and to Penny Earle the celebrant for a very personal celebration of Archie's life, and to everyone who attended at Pennyfuir.

MCCUBBIN - The family of the late Elma McCubbin wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many flowers and cards received in her memory. Thanks to those who paid their respects as the cortège made its way through Glencoe

Village, Ballachulish and Kentallen to her final resting place at Duror Cemetery, and to John MacCallum who played the pipes on the way through Ballachulish. Thanks to Rev. Malcolm Kinnear for conducting the service at Nether Lochaber Church and for his comforting words. Special thanks to the Home Carers, District Nurses and Ballachulish Medical Practice who supported Elma through the last weeks of her illness, as well as Belford Hospital for the final days of excellent care. Thanks also to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their compassion, care and professionalism. Finally, thanks to the Isles of Glencoe Hotel for their excellent provision of refreshments.

PETTIGREW - Dorothy and Lesley wish to thank everyone for the kind messages of sympathy received following the sad loss of their brother John. Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their tender care and also to Karine Devlin (social work) for help and support. Sincere thanks to the Rev. Tom Telfer for comforting words at the graveside and to family and friends who attended the funeral.

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WEDDING



CRERAR - BLYTHE

In the gardens of Ardchonnell House, Oban, on Saturday, July 10, Ailie, daughter of Alan and Anne Crerar, Isle of Mull, granddaughter of Jeanette and the late Bill Crerar, Oban, to Joseph, son of Gerald Blythe, Glasgow, and Julia Strehle-Lynch, Florence. A joyful celebration filled with sunshine and laughter.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear auntie, Tootsie, (Sarah), who died August 16, 1989. Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever.
- Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

CRUICKSHANK - Treasured memories of Flora, August 22, 2013 and Duncan, August 15, 2015. Never far from our thoughts.
- Love Catherine and family xx

GAMBLE - Joan, (Sinclair), August 21, 2011. Ten years have passed since you left us
Ten years and sadly missed every day
We think of you every day and

MEMORIALS

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shed a simple tear
For you, Joan, the one we forever
will love and hold so dear.
- Jim and Linda.

MACGILLIVRAY - Katherine.
Mum seven years have passed
since you left
Miss you and think about you
every day
You've left me with so much care
and love that will last forever
You will always be by my side.
- Paul MacGillivray.

MACKAY - Remembering
Donnie, our wonderful Dad and
Papa, who died August
18, 2018.

There are no tomorrows for us to
share
But yesterday's memories are
always there.

- Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and
families. xxx

OWEN - In loving memory of
our dear mum, gran and great-
gran, who passed away on
August 18, 2016, and our dear dad
and grandpa, who passed away on
August 25, 1997.

Forever in our thoughts and
prayers.

- Tom, Lily Elizabeth and
families.

ROBERTSON - Loving
memories of my dear wife
Heather, who passed away August
17, 2007.

No tomorrows for us to share
But yesterday's memories will
always be there
Dearly loved and sadly missed
- Donald.

WELLS - Remembering our dear
son and brother Gary, who died
tragically August 19, 2014.
Always in our thoughts.

- Mum, Dad, Sharon, Dawn, John
and Aine xxxxxxx

In loving memory of our dad who
we miss and love each day.
- Lewis, Robert, Jack and Niamh
xxxx

Dr John Gordon OBE – 17.12.1942-4.6.2021

Not every scientist gets to
make the lasting impact that
Dr John Gordon, right, made
during his time at the Scottish
Association for Marine
Science (SAMS) – previously
known as the Scottish Marine
Biological Association.

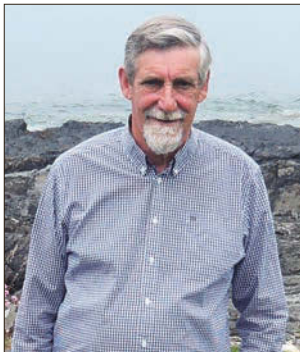
On hearing of his death on
June 4 this year, tributes came
from far and wide, such was
the international reputation of
the deep-sea scientist, nearly
20 years after his retirement.

An expert on Atlantic fisher-
ies, Dr Gordon became one of
the world's foremost research-
ers in deep-sea ecology and
remained a SAMS Fellow until
his death.

Born in Edinburgh, Dr
Gordon lived in Easdale, Isle
of Seil, and spent his whole
research career at SAMS
after completing a PhD at
Edinburgh University.

Dr Gordon began his re-
search in the shallow waters
of the Firth of Lorn but, with
the commissioning of the RRS
Challenger in 1974, he moved
into deeper waters (500 to
1,500 metres) to the west of
Scotland's continental slope,
working on the biology of the
bottom-living fish, which were
later commercially fished.

His work over the next dec-
ade, in particular, contributed



greatly to our knowledge of
food chains in the deep sea
and how commercial trawling
affects fish populations in
deeper water.

From 1975 to 1985 he
comprehensively sampled
the deep-sea demersal fish
populations of the Rockall
Trough and adjacent areas in
the NE Atlantic before the
onset of any commercial fish-
ing activity. In so doing, John
generously offered ship time
on RRS Challenger to Nigel
Merrett, then of the Institute
of Oceanographic Services
(IOS). This began an intense
series of 11 joint sampling
cruises over a six-year period,
studying both the Rockall
Trough and the adjacent
Porcupine Seabight areas.

Dr Merrett said John's warm
and amicable leadership

through fair weather and foul -
mostly foul - typically knit to-
gether the small team involved
and ensured the success of this
fruitful collaboration well into
the future.

This period of sampling
led to Dr Gordon's unique
description of the distribution,
abundance, age, growth, diet
and reproduction of 70 species
of fish in their pristine state
before human exploitation.
In no other fishing ground in
the world, shallow or deep,
are such pre-fishery baseline
data available against which to
measure impacts of man and
climate change.

Commercial deep-sea
fisheries began in the Rockall
Trough in 1989 and by 1993,
the most valuable fish species,
the Orange Roughy, had been
fished close to extinction and
other species were being
depleted. In 2003 Dr Gordon
wrote that, 'The Rockall
Trough is probably one of
the best studied deep-water
ecosystems ... is now being
subjected to Unsustainable
Fish Activity'.

Since then, Dr Gordon
worked tirelessly contributing
to reports, working groups,
national and international
bodies to implement effective
regulation of deep-water

fisheries. His early data have
repeatedly been used in assess-
ments of long-term changes in
deep-water fish populations in
the North-East Atlantic.

Former colleague Professor
Monty Priede said: 'John sam-
pled in all seasons of the year
including heroic mid-winter
trawling when the small
ship had to hide from storms
behind Hebridean islands
and head out to grab fishing
opportunities in rough seas
behind weather fronts. John
seemed unperturbed by such
working conditions, carefully
measuring, counting, and
sorting specimens as the ship
tossed and turned around him.

'He became a master of the
art of scientific deep-water
trawling obtaining consistent
calibrated samples of numbers
of fish per unit area of sea floor,
techniques which he later
passed on to new generations
of fishery scientists.

'John's pre-1989 data set
stands as a stark reminder
of what we have lost in the
uncontrolled rush to exploit
the deep-sea. Now we have
also lost John Gordon himself,
the staunchest advocate for
sound science-based fishery
management.'

For the full obituary, visit
www.obantimes.co.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

My late mum's cooking was
always a little bit of a hit and
a miss, and all of my family
would agree that sometimes
we were better off on the days
she opened a can or prepared
a processed meal of some type.

But generally, she got by and
as an adult I now appreciate
the work that sometimes went
into the meals she prepared.

However, the never to be
forgotten day was the time
she accidentally put salt into
custard...can you imagine?

But of course, many foods
taste much better with a little
salt. It doesn't take much. In
fact, when you are cooking, a
recipe often calls for 'a pinch
of salt'. Just a pinch. But that
little pinch of salt makes a big
difference to the flavour.

Jesus once said to his disci-
ples: 'You are the salt of the
Earth' - Matthew 5: 13.

He used the example of this
familiar household commodi-
ty to teach a profound spiritual
lesson. If we will show the love
of Jesus in all that we do, we
can be 'the salt of the Earth',
just as He called us to be. We
can do this by improving the
quality of life of those we meet
each day, simply by showing
love, care and kindness - even
in the smallest of ways.

There is a lot of hatred and
bitterness in our world today,
but just a little pinch of good-
ness can go a long way to make
things better.

Rev Marion Kinnear,
Auxiliary Minister,
Nether Lochaber.

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OT

Shinty round up

Three of the four Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finalists are known following the shinty action on Saturday August 14.

Oban Camanachd P Lovat P

The 3pm throw-up between Oban Camanachd and Lovat at Mossfield was postponed on Thursday because of a Covid outbreak affecting the Oban side.

The match has been rescheduled for this Saturday, August 21, at Taynuilt Sports Field at 1pm as Mossfield is hosting the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final later in the afternoon.

The eventual winners from the tie between Oban Camanachd and Lovat will play Kingussie at An Aird in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals on Saturday September 4.

The semi-final between Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic takes place a week earlier on Saturday August 28 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Both semi-finals will be broadcast live on BBC Alba. Throw-up 4.10pm.

Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – quarter finals

Skye Camanachd 5

Aberdour 0

Skye Camanachd eventually broke down a spirited Aberdour side to win 5-0 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

With Jordan Murchison, Will Cowie, Ross Gordon and James Pringle injured, Skye manager Kenny MacLeod called up Somhairle MacDonald, Archie MacDonald, U17 captain Taylor Matheson, second team skipper Iain MacPherson and Calum Gibb.

Aberdour boss Lisa MacColl was without Angus Thorburn, Stuart Downey, Jack Mitchell, Craig Grant and John Martin



Ross McLean, Ballachulish, left, and Coll MacKay, Inveraray, in action in their Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup quarter final tie at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish, on Saturday.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Philips. Youngster Logan Adam debuted as their only substitute.

This was the first time these clubs had met in Portree and Aberdour were no push-overs.

Skye made the breakthrough on 59 minutes following an Aberdour set-piece around the Skye goal area when youngster Taylor Matheson marked his senior team debut with a goal, turning home a rebound off impressive keeper Craig Callaghan. William MacKinnon made no mistake from close-in a couple of minutes later when Aberdour failed to clear a Jamie Gillies corner from the right.

Jamie Gillies then took centre stage as his turn and shot flew into the net on 71 minutes to make it 3-0. Jamie Gillies got his second and Skye's fourth on 82 minutes when he smashed the ball home from just right of centre after his initial effort

was blocked. With three minutes remaining, Jamie Gillies completed his hat-trick with the goal of the match. There seemed little danger when Gillies gathered the ball wide on the right but his bullet-shot rose high into the net past a helpless keeper.

Ballachulish 0 Inveraray 8

Inveraray secured their place in the semi-finals by beating Ballachulish 8-0 at Jubilee Park.

The first half was scoreless but Inveraray took control as they scored seven times in a devastating 23 minute spell.

Ruaraidh Graham broke the deadlock on 50 minutes and Allan MacDonald made it 2-0 a minute later. Ruaraidh Graham got his second on 58 minutes with Fraser Watt scoring on 61, 63 and 70 minutes to complete a quick-fire hat-trick.

Campbell Watt made it 7-0 on 73 minutes and Craig

Taylor completed the scoring on the stroke of full time.

Bute 2 Strathglass 1, after extra time

Bute edged out Strathglass 2-1 after extra time at the Meadows.

The islanders got off to a great start when Leon MacMillan volleyed home a ball from a corner on eight minutes. Penri Jones pulled Strathglass level on 20 minutes and that's the way it stayed after 90 minutes.

The goal that made the difference came on 110 minutes when Craig Fisher drove the ball home to send Bute into the semi-final draw.

Mowi Senior League C Glasgow Mid Argyll P Kyles Athletic P

The clash between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Kyles Athletic was postponed as the visitors were unable to raise a team.

HIS Sutherland Cup – third round

Newtonmore 13 Kyles Athletic 1

The Newtonmore seconds were ruthless as they thumped the Kyles Athletic seconds 13-1 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore had supporters back for the first time this season and Craig MacLeod gave them the lead on eight minutes. Two goals in two minutes from Sorley Thomson and Glen MacKintosh on 12 and 13 minutes extended Newtonmore's lead before Craig MacLeod got his second on 16 minutes.

Fraser MacKintosh on 19 minutes, Craig MacLeod's hat-trick goal on 23 minutes and a second from Sorley Thomson made it 7-0. David Martin netted to give Kyles some consolation on the half-hour but Newtonmore continued to turn the screw with Glen MacKintosh completing his

hat-trick with efforts on 32 and 43 minutes.

There was still time for Sorley Thomson to complete a first half hat-trick, scoring a minute before the break to make it 10-1 at half-time.

Sorley Thomson got his fourth a minute into the second half with Craig MacLeod getting his fourth 60 seconds later. There was some respite for Kyles with Craig MacLeod's fifth goal of the afternoon on 69 minutes their only other score.

Beaully w/o v Kilmory

The Beaully second team were given a walk-over as Kilmory were unable to fulfil their tie at Braeview Park.

Lochside Rovers P

Kinlochshiel P

The 12.15pm throw-up between holders Lochside Rovers and the Kinlochshiel second team at Mossfield was postponed on Thursday because of a Covid outbreak in Oban.

The tie has been rescheduled for this Saturday, August 21, at Ganavan.

Bullough Cup – second round

Oban Celtic 3 Inveraray 3

Oban Celtic won 2-1 on penalties

The Oban Celtic second team edged out the Inveraray second team on penalties following their 3-3 draw at Mossfield on Wednesday August 11.

This 7pm throw-up was a really entertaining contest between two youthful sides.

Keegan McPhee put the Oban side in front on seven minutes but Craig Taylor equalised on the half-hour and it remained that way until the break.

The visitors took the lead a couple of minutes into the second half with Euan Donan netting. However, Keegan McPhee got his second on 54 minutes to make it 2-2.

Celtic regained the lead four minutes later with Scott Burnett scoring but the end-to-end nature of the scoring continued with Craig Taylor getting his second on 71 min-



utes to level the tie at 3-3.

There wasn't enough daylight to complete extra time so the sides went straight to a penalty shoot-out which Oban Celtic won 2-1. Keegan McPhee and Craig Taylor netted their teams' opening penalties but whilst Ewen Campbell scored Celtic's second, keeper Rebecca McPhee saved from Rhys Williams. And it remained 2-1 until Rebecca McPhee saved Inveraray's final penalty to send Oban Celtic through to the semi-finals where they will play Lochside Rovers.

Mowi South League A

Inveraray 1 Col Glen 7

Col Glen were too strong for the Inveraray colts, winning 7-1 at the Winterton.

Andrew MacVicar on seven minutes and Cally McNaughton on 11 minutes had the visitors 2-0 ahead before Andrew MacVicar scored on 24 minutes to make it 3-1 at the break. Cally McNaughton got his second four minutes into the second half and although Kane Kirkhope pulled a goal back on 74 minutes, Charlie Ferguson made it 5-1 three minutes later. Jamie MacVicar on 81 minutes and J Campbell on 88 minutes

Les takes up new role with Camanachd Association

Oban Celtic's Les Kinvig has been appointed to one of two new Camanachd Association roles aimed at bolstering the development of the sport.

Les, who currently coaches Oban High School's School of Shinty, has been hired as Regional Development Officer (West) which will be based in Argyll and Bute.

The post will focus on supporting clubs in their efforts to restart shinty, on creating new opportunities to engage the wider community and to support the continued effort to provide organised and high-quality experiences in

shinty. Commenting on his new role, Les said: 'I am delighted to be joining the Camanachd Association and getting to work to enhance opportunities to play shinty in Argyll and Bute. I already have strong relationships with many of the clubs in the area and look forward to fostering them and driving progression in the region.'

Newtonmore's Iain Robinson has been hired as Regional Development Officer (Growth) with a focus on developing opportunities to get involved in shinty in new areas or areas of potential.

The two new additions take the total number of staff at the Camanachd Association to 10.

Derek Keir, chief executive officer of the Camanachd Association, said: 'Our capacity to recruit for these roles is down to the work and effort that our staff, board and sponsors put in to help us overcome the challenges of 2020. Our focus throughout our strategic plan has been to grow capacity internally and externally to create opportunities in shinty.'

Roddy McCuish, Camanachd Association communications and

facilities director (South), said: 'This is great news, not just for the association but for shinty as a whole and demonstrates the commitment and continuing promotion of our game at all levels.'

'I am excited to see the investment in Argyll and Bute. This will be a great boost to the many volunteers who put so much work into our sport every week. I welcome Les and look forward to working closely with him in my role as director. Furthermore, the continued partnership working with Argyll and Bute Council is essential to all we do in supporting our national game.'



Les Kinvig.



Left: Iain MacKechnie, of Oban Celtic's second team, left, clears despite the attention of Arin MacKeachie, Glenorchy, at Mossfield Stadium, Oban. Glenorchy won the Mowi Central League game 4-0.

rounded off the 7-1 victory.

Mowi South League B Aberdour 1 Bute 4

The Bute seconds were 4-1 winners against the Aberdour seconds at Silversands.

Ben Watson gave Bute the lead on 24 minutes, only for Martin Cameron to level five minutes before the break.

The islanders went on to clinch victory in the second half with a second from Ben Watson on 57 minutes and an Aiden MacGregor goal on 62 minutes making it 3-1.

Steven Dunn netted four minutes from time to make the final score 4-1.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Tayforth P

Tayforth were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up against the Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves at Peterson Park.

Mowi Central League Oban Celtic 0 Glenorchy 4

The meeting between Glenorchy and the Oban Celtic second team was switched from Mart Park to Mossfield.

This was a game of two halves with Kieran MacKay scoring on 10 and 16 minutes to put Glenorchy 2-0 ahead.

Arik MacKechnie on 22 minutes and Connor Sartain on 32 minutes doubled Glenorchy's advantage. Celtic came more into it in the second half but were unable to turn their pressure into goals. The Oban Celtic seconds have no scheduled fixture this Saturday, whilst the senior side has a Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup second round tie against Inveraray at the Winterton.

Ardnamurchan 0 Kilmallie 6

The Kilmallie seconds ran out 6-0 victors against Ardnamurchan at Strontian.

Shane O'Rua got the opener on nine minutes - the only goal of the first half. Ross MacKenzie grabbed a hat-trick with goals on 50, 53 and 81 minutes before Khai Barr on 85 minutes and Ryan MacLeod a minute later made it 6-0.

Saints' GG beaten in league cup opener

Continued from page 56.

retains its characteristic steep slope across the pitch and iconic wooden clubhouse.

Saints made a bright start on the tight bumpy surface with Keir Maclean and Cammy Clark both putting decent openings wide of target and Nathan Allan forcing Rhu keeper Gemmell into action with a stooping header.

But for profligate finishing and some excellent saves from both goalkeepers the scoreboard from the neighbouring Helensburgh Cricket Club would have been required to keep track of proceedings.

The hosts got the high scoring under way in the 13th minute. Twins Adam and Kyle Sharkey combined with Kyle evading three Saints' challenges on the left before picking out Adam in the box who slammed high into the net past Murdo MacKenzie.

The hosts doubled their advantage three minutes later after referee Chris Irving had ruled Keir Maclean offside when through on goal. Keeper Gemmell launched the ball upfield which was flicked on by Callum Dods and picked up by Ross Jeffrey. Dangerman Jeffrey skipped past Nathan Allan and fired a right foot shot into the postage stamp corner.

Saints' front pairing of Keir Maclean and Robert Johnstone combined well with Maclean, this time getting a right foot effort on target which keeper Gemmell saved well at his near post.

Rhu increased their lead when a suspiciously offside looking Ross Jeffrey was allowed to continue and had his effort parried by Murdo MacKenzie with the loose ball landing at the feet of Kyle Sharkey.

Sharkey's shot came back off the post but into his stride allowing him to square to Jeffrey for the wide man to complete his brace.



Saints striker Keir MacLean, number 9, shoots wide. Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

Kerr Newbigging pulled up with a hamstring strain and was replaced by Alex Craik for the final few seconds of a disappointing first half for Saints.

Half time changes saw Saints gaffer Donald Black send on Thomas McCrindle and Gary MacCuish to replace Aidan Campbell and Ruaridh Munro, also pushing Martin Bonar forward to join Keir Maclean and Robert Johnstone in a front three.

Saints started the second 45 with a higher tempo and Rhu net-minder Gemmell was finally beaten in the 52nd minute when Martin Bonar fired into the roof of the net from 14 yards after good work on the right by Craig Livingstone.

All of the good early second half work was unfortunately undone after an uncharacteristic error by the otherwise steady Murdo MacKenzie. The Saints GG number one dropped a Caldwell right wing cross at the feet of Ross Jeffrey who had the simplest of tasks to roll the ball into the unguarded net.

MacKenzie redeemed himself immediately after the re-start making a point blank save to deny Caldwell.

Saints made their final change in the 64th minute with Lewis Buchanan replac-

ing Nathan Allan. Cammy Clark failed to connect with an attempted overhead kick after Keir Maclean had beaten keeper Gemmell in the air to head a Kenneth Black free-kick across the face of goal.

Lewis Buchanan and Keir Maclean combined well on the Saints left in the 75th minute and the Saints striker was unlucky to see his shot slip just wide of Gemmell's left hand post.

Sixty seconds later Saints halved the deficit when Robert Johnstone followed in at the back post to slot home Martin Bonar's cutback from the right.

The visitors got themselves within touching distance of completing an unlikely comeback with 10 minutes remaining. Robert Johnstone did well to win possession midway inside the Rhu half and played the ball out to Craig Livingstone on the right. Livingstone worked his way into the Rhu box and squared to Martin Bonar who rattled home for Saints' third.

Skipper Kenneth Black carried the ball out from the back in the 81st minute and was allowed to continue deep into Rhu territory before sending a thumping left foot drive just over Gemmell's crossbar.

Saints' pursuit of an equaliser

left them man for man at the back and Rhu exploited this vulnerability to devastating effect in the 82nd minute. Caldwell outpaced Kenneth Black on the Rhu right and fired a low cross along the six-yard line which was turned into his own net by unfortunate youngster Thomas McCrindle who had done well to match the run of Ross Jeffrey.

This proved to be one blow too many for Saints who, despite attempts from Lewis Buchanan and Keir Maclean, were unable to further test Gemmell in the Rhu goal and had to rely on Murdo MacKenzie for one more save to prevent flying right winger Caldwell from notching a sixth for the home side.

It is Division One opposition for Saints GG again this Saturday, August 21, when they host Lochwinnoch-based Calderglen in another difficult President's League Cup Section One match.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

Last Sunday's Glasgow and District YFL League Cup results:

Under 13s 5, Dumbarton Riverside 3. Scoring for Saints were Kuba Ruzska, 2; Corey Pyper; Donald Campbell and Scott Campbell.

Dunoon 1, Under 15s 4. On target for Saints were James Muir, 2; Kai MacKechnie and Owen Lloyd.

League - Under 16s 4, East Kilbride Gold 1. Saints goalscorers were Preston MacIntyre, 2, and Zander Craik, 2.

Under 17s 2, Southside Star 4. Cooper MacIntyre and Kyle Cooper netted for Saints.

This Sunday's fixtures: League Cup - Under 13s v Campbelltown Pupils; Under 15s v Campbelltown Pupils. League: Under 16s no game; Kilbowie Union v Under 17s.

John battles to seventh place in Austrian Grand Prix

Last Sunday's Moto3 race at a sunny and warm Spielberg saw Oban's John McPhee work his way through the field to end the Austrian Grand Prix in seventh place.

A good start for John saw him hold onto his 14th place on the opening lap, before he started to make his way up the order.

Holding station inside the top ten, he worked with his team-mate in closing the gap to join the leaders on lap 14.

After trading places with Binder several times, John ultimately found himself adrift of the riders ahead and ended up seventh. He moves to 13th in the world championship with 49 points.

The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing squad will now enjoy a short rest before heading to Silverstone for the British Grand Prix, August 27 to August 29, John's home race.

The second half of the 2021 Moto3 season kicked off on Sunday August 8 at a damp Spielberg. After taking a gamble on slick tyres, due to the appearance of a dry line in places, John ended the Styrian Grand Prix in 13th.

Echoing his team-mate with slicks tyres on his Moto3 machine, John lost positions off the line, finding himself 19th after contact on the opening lap after starting 11th. Despite damage to his bike, the Scot was able to hold his place on the track, before starting to increase his pace at the halfway point.

Battling hard to make his way through the field, John started claiming places and crossed the line inside the points in 13th position.

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Entries open for Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally

Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally is open for business again - with entries for the history-making Scottish island classic available from Monday August 16.

Cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, drivers, co-drivers and teams from around the world are delighted at the news the roads of Mull will once more echo to their most distinctive soundtrack from October 8 to October 10.

Last time Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally ran in 2019, all 150 entries sold out in 54 minutes. With that in mind, the organisers instigated a new

entry ballot system where most of the entries will be drawn at random after 48 hours. This eliminates the need to rush to get entries in and takes pressure off the website mullrally.org. All entries must be made online.

Clerk of the course Andy Jardine said: 'It's been a long wait, but finally we can say entries are open for the Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally.'

'We've been really fortunate in the past to run with a full entry and a lot of support. Can we expect the same this year? Obviously we'd very much like to think so - the event remains similar in format to previous years, not much has

changed on that front - but these things are very hard to predict. The world is a slightly different place to what it was when we last ran the rally in 2019.'

This year's event includes 148 competitive miles across 17 stages split into three legs. Starting out of Tobermory at 7.30pm on Friday October 8, the crews go straight into the first of five stages before an overnight halt at Salen shortly after midnight. An 11.20am re-start from Garmony is the precursor to eight more stages through Saturday afternoon, before a five-hour break and a final five-test loop ending with the classic run up Glen Aros and back across

the Lochs to a finish in Tobermory just before 2am on Sunday morning.

For the first time, the event is a qualifying round of the British Rally Championship (BRC) - which opens up Britain's ever closed-road rally to its premier series.

Andy added: 'It's great to have the BRC runners with us this year. Some of them have competed at Beatson's Building Supplies Mull Rally before, of course. But for those who haven't been up here, we're hoping it'll be the first of many trips to the Inner Hebrides for what we still firmly believe to be the best rally in the world.'



Oban Saints GG beaten in league cup opener

Rhu Amateurs GGP	5
Oban Saints GG	3
GGPL League Cup - Section One	

Oban Saints GG got their Greater Glasgow Premier League season underway at the DCF Park, Rhu, last Saturday afternoon where hosts Rhu GGP came out on top in an eight goal thriller.

Two goals from Martin Bonar and one from Robert Johnstone kept Saints GG in touch right until the end of an entertaining President's League Cup Section One encounter, however, the lack of any form of pre-season action for the Saints' second string was evident with the fitter and sharper hosts running out deserved winners.

In April this year, Helensburgh Amateurs were brought under the wing of Rhu Amateurs and rebranded as Rhu GGP. The new addition to the Rhu stable will take Helensburgh's place in the Greater Glasgow AFL. Also undergoing a rebranding is Rhu's famous old grass park. Formerly known as Ardenconnel Park, Rhu's home pitch has been renamed DCF Park in honour of the club's sponsor, however, it still

Continued on page 55.

**SEE PAGES 54
AND 55 FOR
MORE SPORT**

Dalmally golf champions



Angus MacGillivray, left, handicap champion, and Graeme MacKechnie, scratch champion.

Ten hardy golfers battled it out to decide the Dalmally Gents Club Championship on Sunday August 8.

Held over four preliminary rounds, with the best three scores from these being taken into the final, the ten players made the cut to contest the final.

Despite rain and lightning being forecast, the day proved to be ideal golfing weather with cool temperatures and a light breeze to keep the midges and clegs at bay.

The championship, which combined handicap and scratch competitions, had been closely contested throughout the preliminary rounds with Jim Livingstone leading in the handicap and club captain Graeme MacKechnie leading in the scratch.

With Graeme holding onto his lead, Angus MacGillivray, who had been sitting in second place before the final, played out of his socks with a

masterclass in chipping and putting to seize the lead in the handicap and eventually take the trophy by four strokes.

Final positions in the handicap competition were: 1 Angus MacGillivray; 2 Jim Livingstone; 3= Gary Wilson and Billy Ross; 5 Billy McKay.

Graeme MacKechnie was the convincing winner of the scratch competition, retaining the trophy for the fifth consecutive year, with Angus MacGillivray runner-up.

This added to Angus's current winning streak after he and his team mates, Gary Wilson and Rhuraidh MacKay, took the club's Three Person Stableford competition the previous Sunday as first gents team.

Linda Gibson, Judith McGregor and Maud Marshall took the prize for the first ladies team.

Disappointment for golfer Bob in Carolina

Robert MacIntyre's run of tournaments in America came to a disappointing end on Sunday when successive rounds of 71 over the weekend left him in a tie for 65th at the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina.

The result sees the Oban left-hander drop two places in the world rankings to 51st.

Bob will take some comfort from the battling qualities he showed on Friday afternoon when, looking like he would comfortably miss the cut, he produced a sparkling finish to birdie three of his final five holes to qualify on the cut line at -3.

With a tightly packed field going into the weekend, a couple of good scores would have rocketed Bob up the leaderboard, but it wasn't to be and his weekend woes left him 14 shots behind winner Kevin Kisner, who triumphed in a six-man playoff.

Bob now has a week off before returning to action in the Omega European Masters at the Crans-Sur-Sierre Golf Club in Switzerland on Thursday August 26.

After that there are only two more Ryder Cup qualifying tournaments before the final team is announced. No-one will know better than Bob that a big finish is required to secure that coveted place on the team.

North Argyll cyclists lap up road race



North Argyll Cycle Club's Shona McLauchlan travelled with Nick Charlton and Andre Paul Van to take part in Elgin Cycling Club's Miltonduff Road Race.

The route was 12 laps of a fast, flat circuit, totalling 55 miles.

Left: Shona McLauchlan, Nick Charlton and Andre Paul Van from North Argyll Cycle Club at the road race in Elgin.

Despite a terrible forecast, the weather was kind to the riders but the timing chip system went down on the day which meant only the top ten men and women got a confirmed result.

This was Andre's first road race and he performed really well with an average speed of 25mph, finishing just outside the top ten. Nick also performed well after maintaining a healthy speed for a few solo laps. Shona was placed fifth woman and second category 4 female.



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 19 August, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

19	0328 3.1 0925 1.4 TH 1555 3.4 2148 1.3	21	0512 3.5 1110 0.9 SA 1721 3.9 2337 0.9	23	0018 0.8 0618 3.8 M 1231 0.6 1832 4.2	25	0133 0.8 0719 3.8 W 1345 0.7 1938 4.1
20	0429 3.3 1023 1.2 F 1642 3.7 2249 1.1	22	0546 3.7 1152 0.7 SU 1756 4.1 ○	24	0057 0.8 0649 3.8 TU 1309 0.6 1905 4.2	26	0207 0.9 0747 3.7 TH 1418 0.9 2009 3.9

OBAN WEATHER

Thursday Light cloud and light winds Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.	Friday Light cloud and a moderate breeze Temperatures 15°C to 19°C.	Saturday Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 15°C to 19°C.	Sunday Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 20°C.
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FRIDAY FORECAST

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

HIGH 19 LOW 15 11 MPH

LOCHABER TIMES

& OBAN TIMES

Thursday 19 August, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



Leanne puts best foot forward for Mum

See Inside: Macaulay Cup, Oban Games, Oban Rotary Golf Am-Am

You are a star, Josh



Teenager stages fundraising show for foodbank

• See page 7 for more.

Plockton Regatta



Family fun as sailors come back for seconds

• See pages 10 and 11 for more.

WHAT A LEGACY!



• FULL STORY PAGE 5

AFGHANS WELCOME HERE

Lochaber politicians say the region is ready to do its bit to welcome refugees fleeing the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

Refugees would be made welcome in this area as part of any resettlement scheme for those fleeing from the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, writes Mark Entwistle.

This pledge has been made by MP Ian Blackford, MSP Kate Forbes and senior Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter.

There has been shock at the speed of the collapse of Afghan security forces in the face of the Taliban advance, which saw the

Islamic fundamentalist group occupy Kabul on Monday. It has led to chaotic scenes at the Afghan capital's main airport where thousands of American, British and French troops are trying to ensure all of their countries' citizens can leave Afghanistan, along with as many Afghans as possible whose lives may now be in danger as a result of their work with coalition forces over the last two decades.

Continued on page 2.



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Clunes Forest School and land bought by community

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Arkaig Community Forest has announced that the purchase of the Clunes Forest School buildings and around six hectares of adjacent land has been completed in the last few weeks.

The acquisition was accomplished with funding from the Scottish Land Fund and the ABC Community Group Community Benefit Fund.

The site has been acquired from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) following a successful community asset transfer request and a great deal of hard work by volunteers and community consultation which has been under way since 2017.

The purchase will secure the future of this valuable



community service and will provide a base for the charity plus a venue for management and interpretation of the Loch Arkaig Pine Forest in partnership with Woodland Trust Scotland.

The project will enable the development of a variety of

projects and activities including a deer larder, firewood sales and a tree nursery, as well as continuing to maintain and develop the community garden, play area and willow nursery which have been run by the community under a management agreement

The purchase will secure the future of this valuable community asset. Photograph: ACF.

with FLS since 2016. David Austin, chairman of Arkaig Community Forest SCIO, said: 'The purchase of the Clunes Forest School site is the culmination of many years of hard work by community members who have worked together for more than a decade to manage and maintain the building and the willow nursery and surrounding native woodland.'

'The site had been effectively mothballed for many years by the Forestry Commission (now Forestry and Land Scotland) but has continued to provide a valuable meeting space for the ABC Group since it was formed in 2008 and for Arkaig Community Forest,

which was formed in 2014. We are looking forward to maintaining and developing the forestry connection as the buildings will form the base for managing the Loch Arkaig Pine Forest in partnership with Woodland Trust Scotland and we are sure community ownership of the site here at Clunes will contribute to the resilience and sustainability of our community in the longer term.'

Craig Millar, FLS's national community advisor, added: 'The community has made use of the buildings as a base for events and activities in recent years so the transfer to them of the Clunes Forestry Offices is the obvious next step for the buildings and surrounding woodland.'

'This is the latest in a long line of successful asset

transfers that have brought opportunities to communities across Scotland.

'We wish the team at Arkaig Community Forest every success and look forward to working with them as a new neighbour.'

Jon Hollingdale, chief executive officer of the Community Woodlands Association, said: 'We are delighted to hear Arkaig Community Forest has completed the acquisition of the Clunes Forest School buildings and the adjacent Tom an Eireannaich woodland after much hard work over the last few years.'

'ACF has exciting plans to develop and manage the buildings and land to deliver a wide range of community benefits and we look forward to supporting them in any way we can.'

Forbes, Blackford and Baxter say Afghan refugees welcome

Continued from page 1.

The comments from Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Mr Blackford and Caol and Mallaig councillor Mr Baxter, came this week as Mr Blackford urged the UK government to introduce an urgent and ambitious Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to provide safe routes to the UK for refugees affected by the humanitarian crisis.

Speaking on the radio, Mr Blackford said Scotland is 'ready and willing to do our bit', and that the swift implementation of such a scheme should be a key focus of a four nations UK summit on Afghanistan refugee resettlement.

The SNP Westminster leader believes the scheme should emulate – but be much quicker than – the 2014 Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which provided increased funding per person to encourage local authorities to have refugees settle in their area.

Under the proposed scheme, the UK would work directly with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and international partners to ensure those in the greatest need can be identified and

brought to the UK, including people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, women and children and those who have worked with UK forces.

'The harrowing scenes in Afghanistan must kick the UK Government into urgent action. It is essential it shows leadership and provides immediate safe routes for Afghan refugees, as other countries have already pledged to do,' the MP said. 'Scotland is ready and willing to do our bit – just as we did during the Syrian refugee crisis.'

'The UK Government must work with the devolved governments to identify those in the greatest need and bring them to the UK without delay.'

He added: 'While it should draw inspiration from the Syrian resettlement scheme, it is crucial this scheme moves far more quickly so vulnerable Afghans aren't waiting for up to five years to get to safety.'

'The world is watching and the UK Government bears its share of responsibility for the crisis. It must not leave vulnerable Afghan people without the support they need.'

Asked if his comments meant he would be happy

to see a number of Afghan refugees resettled in Lochaber or Skye, Mr Blackford told the Lochaber Times: 'Very much so. The ensuing humanitarian crisis requires a unified effort across the UK. As such, the devolved governments and local authorities must be allowed to play their part as resettlement plans are put in place.'

Mr Baxter echoed Mr Blackford's sentiments, telling us: 'Lochaber has previously welcomed refugees from war-torn Syria. They were part of our community. I hope we can play our part in providing a safe haven to those fleeing Afghanistan – particularly those who have put themselves at risk by working for the British military or embassy.'

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'The Highlands have historically been a welcoming and hospitable place. The Afghan people have been through the most horrendous period and there are many who will be particularly fearful of the Taliban.'

'That includes religious minorities, such as Christians and women. We've got plenty of space to welcome them here to live in freedom.'



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Kinlochleven to have its say over £50,000 play park spend

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven villagers are to be consulted on how a £50,000 allocation for play areas should be spent, following last week's meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee.

The committee approved the funding from the Place Based Investment Fund for three community initiatives at its meeting last week.

The £50,000 investment in play provision in Kinlochleven is to be 'progressed in partnership with the community', according to the council, and to be matched with external funds where possible.

Councillors agreed the spend should be guided by and agreed with the community and the funding prioritised in line with these discussions. It is hoped



this will greatly improve both physical and mental wellbeing of young people in the ward as well as developing capacity within the community.

There is also a £20,000 investment in the feasibility study for Upper Achintore Community Hub.

Members heard the provision of this play park will address

previously unmet needs of a large community and will build shared, local pride and a sense of community.

This project has been identified as the highest priority project within the locality plan and is being led by the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group (UARG).

Commissioning of the fea-

Councillor Andrew Baxter in one of Kinlochleven's play parks. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.

photos

sibility study by UARG is the first step. In addition, Ward 11 (Caol and Mallaig) has projects under the themes of play provision, youth facilities and physical and mental wellbeing which are currently being developed.

Chairman of Communities and Place Committee, Caol and Mallaig ward councillor Allan Henderson, said the three proposed projects agreed will benefit a wide range of people living within Fort William and Ardnamurchan.

'The community spirit throughout Highland has been incredible during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those living in the area are at the heart of the

community and are best placed to gauge the most suitable projects to support recovery,' said Councillor Henderson.

'Play-based outdoor activities for young people and safe spaces for people to reconnect after a long period of restrictions, isolation and for many a time of loneliness will be of real benefit. They will provide support against the harms of Covid-19 in areas of mental health and wellbeing.'

Councillor Andrew Baxter said he was delighted that other councillors had supported his suggestion to award funding to improve play areas in Kinlochleven, adding: 'I'll be fighting to make sure that we get our fair share of new funding from the Scottish Government for play parks and that this doesn't get swallowed up by the council in Inverness.'



Nevis Hill Walking Club

Saturday August 21, Loch Earn – Ben Vorlich (985m, Munro), hill of the bay; Stuc a' Chroin (975, Munro) - peak of the sheepfold

Two classic Munros located in the southern part of the Highlands. Bounded to the north by Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig to the west, they are extremely popular with excellent distant views of the lowlands to the south. 14km, 1160m ascent.

For a shorter day, omit Stuc a' Chroin returning from the summit of Ben Vorlich by the outward route. 10km, 887m ascent.

GET INVOLVED
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Health board urges caution as Covid cases rise in Fort William

A mobile Covid testing unit (MTU) will be in Fort William today following the rise in cases in the area.

Based at Fort William Shinty Club, the MTU is for members of the public who have Covid-19 symptoms and testing is by appointment only. Tests can be booked at NHS Inform.

The MTU has been there since Friday August 13 and will be open today, Thursday August 19, between 11am and 4pm.

A number of care homes, businesses and events held in the NHS Highland area are continuing to feel the impact of Covid, a reminder the virus is still here and can still do damage.

Fort William, in particular, saw an increase with 56 cases in the area since Friday August 6 and the rate in Lochaber is currently 444 per 100,000.

NHS Highland is urging members of the public to remain cautious as cases are expected to rise further over the next few weeks.

Dr Tim Allison, director of public health for NHS Highland, said: 'During the first week of August we had more than 400 cases which



is quite a significant increase compared to previous weeks.

'It has been a very challenging few months for everyone and it is right the new found freedoms we now have should be enjoyed.

'We can now catch up with family and friends and travel bit more. However, with relaxing of the restrictions and schools going back, we are expecting a further rise in cases.

'Everyone has worked so hard to keep Covid at bay. It is thanks to everyone's hard work that we are where we are but I would make a plea that we all still remain vigilant over symptoms to ensure that these new found freedoms are not short lived.'

'I am acutely aware the majority of people will want to move forward and we can still do that. However, we need to be aware of what symptoms to look out for and, if you have them, the importance of isolating immediately and arranging for a PCR test.'

Typical symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or fever and a loss of, or change in, normal taste or smell. However, people with Covid-19 can present with a wide range of symptoms including headache, sore muscles and joints, tiredness, sore throat, cold-like symptoms and diarrhoea and vomiting.

'I'd also encourage LFD testing for those without symptoms which will help us keep on top of those who could have Covid but do not have any symptoms,' added Dr Allison.

'Finally I'd encourage everyone eligible to please come forward for their vaccine when invited. The programme in NHS Highland continues to do well with more than 90 per cent of over-18s having received their first dose. The vaccine really is our way out of this pandemic and I hope when invited you decide to get vaccinated.'

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LT

Three Lochs festival goes ahead against all the odds

It's been touch and go right up until the beginning of this month but barring last-minute restrictions Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival is set to go ahead on the weekend of August 28 and 29.

This small but perfectly formed festival began shortly after its host venue, Ardnamurchan High School and The Sunart Centre opened in Strontian in 2002, and since then has developed into a highly-regarded biennial event.

As with many public activities last year, the festival was postponed from 2020 but since then the committee has been determined to proceed in 2021, if at all possible.

Current committee chairman Veronique Walraven told the Lochaber Times: 'We felt that it was essential to go ahead with the festival, even if it had to



be reduced in size and scaled-back, to help demonstrate that life can go on.'

The festival has a coastal and environmental flavour this year, alongside a heavy dose of crime – both fact and fiction.

Well-known environmental-

ist Mark Avery will be talking about the state of nature conservation today and what more needs to be done; Hugh Raven will be discussing the hurdles his charity Open Seas is facing in trying to get greater protections for the marine

environment, and Annabel Lawrence will be talking about how she helped to get the local area designated as the first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot in the UK, part of a network of 200 worldwide sites.

Perthshire-based author Mark Bridgeman will be discussing his fact-finding mission to uncover real historical crime stories, including those in and around Lochaber for his book *Blood Beneath Ben Nevis*, and inviting an audience to determine the outcome of a case in his Trial by Jury event – with a prize if anyone is right.

Covering crime fiction will be multi-award winning author Abir Mukherjee, who specialises in crime thrillers based in 1920s India.

The Indian theme is also addressed by historian Andrew Mackillop from Harris, who

will be discussing his book, the Highlands and Imperial Wealth.

As usual the festival will have a small pop-up bookshop, this year being supplied by Waterstones in Oban.

The festival is well-known locally for hosting 'something special' on the Saturday night – this year Hannah Rarity (BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, 2018), pictured right, will be in concert with regular accompanist Innes White, and also Mull-based musician and Gaelic academic Alasdair Whyte, together creating a unique and unusual set specifically for the festival.

Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival has always been run as a small, relaxed, and non-commercial event, primarily for the benefit of Lochaber residents.

Even during 'normal' times, access to high quality arts events can be challenging and costly, particularly for those living in our remote communities, so the festival works to bring a little of that magic to us.

'This is not a money-making venture,' states Walraven, 'we simply want to bring top quality arts and literature events to our area and that is more important than ever this year.'

'We really hope that people will show their support and come along – rest-assured that all necessary Covid precautions will be in place.'

Restricted capacity means all events should be reserved in advance by email to info@three Lochs.co.uk.

More information can be found at www.threelochs.co.uk, and on the festival Facebook page - @threelochsfestival

Lochailort artist Rob Fairley curates global exhibition at Resipole Studios

Creative people are often asked about the people who have inspired them in their work. Often the influence can be seen or heard in their writing, music or art if they are well known, but sometimes the influence is more subtle or not even visible at all, writes Nic Goddard.

Alongside a solo exhibition of the first new work in a decade by Lochailort artist Rob Fairley at Resipole Studios, near Acharacle, sits IF – International Fairley.

It has been curated by Fairley himself and showcases an eclectic assembly of works from artists worldwide who have had an influence on his work.

Fairley, who was the founder of Room 13 in Caol, has a strong connection to the land and the wilderness, having travelled extensively, worked as a mountain guide, crofter and spent a solitary few years on Shona Beag in the 1970s.

This is reflected in the landscapes and animals in his work but his connection to people is apparent too, whether as subjects for his work or inspirational people he has happened upon along the way.

In 2019 the story of a chance meeting with a small girl some 27 years previously was told in



The exhibition on view at the Resipole Studios this month.

his book *Prinaka*. Whilst only in her company for a few hours the legacy of that

connection and the openness to learning from others which Fairley showed then, with his work with children during Room 13 and continues to this day is demonstrated beautifully in IF - International Fairley.

The exhibition, which is on display until August 27 in Resipole Studios shows many powerful pieces of art, side by side in the gallery connected by their association with Fairley.

Some are the work of artists who Fairley knows well, others from people he has never met in person, but all have had an

impact and an influence on him and his work.

Fairley explained: 'When I began to put together this exhibition I dreamed that the preview might allow me to meet and introduce to each other many of the friends who impress and inspire me. Covid-19 has destroyed that dream for at least this year.'

With many of the artists who have work featured in the exhibition scattered across the globe few will see their work on display here in this remote corner of the Highlands.

Gallery manager Kerrie Robinson explained: 'We are so thrilled to be showing the work of so many artists from around the world in this exhibition. The show really does give an insight into the many influences on Rob's work too.'

With pieces of art including sculpture, collage, ink, oil and watercolour, calligraphy and cartoons it is apparent that there is certainly no one single influence on Fairley.

Visiting the exhibition this weekend I could not manage to decide on my own favourite piece on a single wall, let alone of the whole show. Varied influences they may be, but they sit beautifully together alongside each other.



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Amy Fulford one of the flowers grown from Vic's dahlias, right, and with the flower and produce cup she won at the 2019 Lochaber Agricultural Show; and top right, Vic won trophies for both vegetables and flowers at Caol flower show in 2008.

Photograph Iain Ferguson



Blooming legacy for Lochaber gardener Vic



Corran Ferry replacement project making 'good progress'

Lochaber Area Committee was presented last week with an outline business case update prepared by Highland Council's Corran Ferry Project Team.

The project was established to review the options for securing replacement ferry vessels and for considering the preferred way forward for the future operation and management of the Corran Service.

At the end of June, the council approved £1.6million to enable the project team to begin work on the feasibility and preliminary design of two vessels – in conjunction with Transport Scotland/CMAL Small Vessel Replacement Programme (SVRP); and two new slipways and supporting infrastructure. CMAL recently appointed a naval architect and the SVRP is on course to move to procurement of the first tranche of vessels in the next 12 months, subject to completion and approval of an outline business case.

Chairman of Lochaber Area Committee Councillor Andrew Baxter said the council's approved £1.6m feasibility

and preliminary design work was a 'significant milestone' and demonstrated a positive commitment to residents, businesses and visitors.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, chairman of HITRANS, said: 'The current service, operated with an ageing vessel and limited crew numbers, is no longer sustainable.'

Dr Michael Foxley, vice chairman of Ardgour Community Council, said the need for a ferry carrying more than 30 cars/lorries was emphasised at the area committee meeting, adding that 563 responses had been received, from businesses and residents, by consultants carrying out a socio-economic study: 'This evidenced the catastrophic socio-economic impact if the ferry service was not fit for the future for the communities in our peninsulas as well as for Lochaber, Skye and Mull. The alternative, a double track road between Kinlocheil and Ardgour, would cost £190million with a huge impact on ancient woodlands and crofts.'

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A Fort William man renowned for his green fingered expertise has been given a lasting legacy - the seeds of which were sown in his very own garden.

A legend of the growing and produce sections on the local agricultural show circuit, Vic MacPherson died in April this year at the age of 87.

A winner of the Lochaber Agricultural Show cup for veg and flowers seven years in a row, Vic was also well known and respected as a judge at shows around the Highlands. Through the Lochaber Rural Education Trust he also passed his gardening knowledge on to many local youngsters as well as organising and nurturing planters in Caol and Lochside.

And thanks to his protege and friend Amy Fulford, Vic's memory will live on in gardens all around Lochaber.

Amy moved to the region 17 years ago with her husband George. The couple have three sons, Ben, Freddy and Ronnie, who from young children have helped their parents in the garden.

The aspiring horticulturalist first met Vic at the Lochaber Agricultural show when she was the proud winner of the Vic Macpherson Dahlia cup.

'I was always fascinated with the items on show in the



handicraft and produce tent,' explained Amy.

'I was impressed with the vegetables and beautiful flowers on display, and once the prizes were issued it revealed the winner of most entries was Vic MacPherson.

'So I began to enter, starting with sweet peas and Dahlias, and I was amazed when I won the cup. Vic was the first person to congratulate me.

'I went on to grow more vegetables and would often call in to see Vic in his garden to get advice.'

That encouragement and advice on vegetables saw Amy winning the Hunter trophy for most points in garden produce and flowers the very next year. Her name follows the seven inscriptions for her mentor while she also won it at the last Lochaber Agricultural show in 2019.

'Vic was always encouraging and a true gardening friend,' she added.

A senior staff nurse at the Belford Hospital, Amy looked

after Vic during his time in the hospital. She told us: 'Even as a patient he gave me gardening advice and plant catalogues.'

It was following Vic's death that his son Andrew contacted Amy and asked if she would like to dig up his Dahlia tubers which had been left in the ground at his Lochside home.

'We were unsure if they would grow or just rot but I took them anyway and potted them up,' she said.

Such was the quantity of the tubers that Amy shared them out with friends around Lochaber to see if they could grow them.

'It has been a lovely few months with friends communicating on a gardening WhatsApp group to compare the progress of Vic's dahlias,' she added.

'These last few weeks especially has seen fantastic blooms emerging. It has given us all a lovely memory to think of Vic and his flowers, and for us to enjoy growing beautiful flowers in Lochaber.'

Andrew told us: 'It is heart warming to know that dad's dahlias will be growing all over the region for years to come.'

The Fulford family are now looking forward to the next Lochaber Show which will hopefully be in 2022. Perhaps some of Vic's Dahlias will be among the entries.

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LT

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Did you know that Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Premium Member, West Highland College UHI (WHC) is about to open an amazing new resource for our business community?

The new Advancing Manufacturing Centre (AMC) will be centrally based in the Ocean Frontier building by the main WHC campus in Fort William, and will help businesses across the region develop new manufacturing techniques and benefit from expert help and advice at zero cost.

If your business needs access to equipment and technology that might be too expensive to source yourself, or you'd benefit from professional management input into research, development or design, then the AMC can help you.

All their services are offered

at zero cost to your business and they can even bring portable equipment to you and provide face-to-face training at your premises.

The project will target support for SMEs and micro-businesses involved in manufacturing across different industry sectors, including Food and Drink, Construction, Aquaculture, Metals and Timber Products.

You can find out more about the range of services on offer by coming along to an informative webinar hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday August 25 at noon.

No matter what you make, or are planning to start making, come along to find out about the free help on offer. Book your ticket for this free event on www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events



Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk

We all know that doing something for others has the added benefit of making us feel good.

Whether it is seeing someone's face when they unwrap the perfect present from you, the inner glow from a random act of kindness, the feel-good feeling from donating to charity or the knowledge that you have helped others with your time, your ideas or your actions through volunteering.

Doing something good for others also does us good – it's a win:win situation.

There has been a huge upsurge in the numbers of people volunteering over the pandemic. One of the positives that people have taken from the uncertainty and tumultuousness of the last 18 months has been the restoration of community spirit, helping our neighbours and looking out for other people.

There have also been many more of us finding that we have accepted help or support from others.

As the world begins to open



Hugh Asher in his special 'sit spot'.

back up again and some of the volunteering opportunities that were specific to lockdown cease to be so necessary you may be looking for other ways to help.

Research shows that helping others is so beneficial for our own wellbeing in connecting with other people, as well as giving us a sense of purpose and self worth. There are so many ways to get involved in volunteering – from informal offers to pick up something from the shops for a neighbour, to spending time with

people who are lonely or socially isolated.

You will best know yourself how you are able to offer help. If you have a skill or talent in crafts, languages or music why not offer to share it by teaching others? There are often calls for donated knitted or baked items to local organisations or opportunities for volunteer drivers, dog walkers or other such support services.

Another option is to gain some news skills as part of your way of helping others.

Local mental health and wellbeing charity Ewen's Room offers free training for volunteers on their helpline, text line and telephone befriending services. This includes useful skills such as active listening, building rapport and showing empathy.

Ewen's Room Volunteer Co-ordinator Hugh Asher explains: 'You don't need any formal qualifications or experience to volunteer with us as we offer full training and support.'

'If you are a good listener and are able to offer your time then this might be a good way to help others.'

Hugh is running a volunteer induction session via Zoom on August 24 from 6.30-8pm where you can find out more about what volunteering would involve. You can get more information by contacting Hugh by email hugh@ewensroom.com.

For other voluntary opportunities you can contact Voluntary Action Lochaber and join the 3,000 plus people in the area who get involved in making our community a supportive, inclusive and rewarding place to live – valochaber.org/volunteering

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CalMac standby queues are no-go for motorhomers

Caravans, campervans and motorhomes that do not have a booking are being banned from CalMac's standby queues.

The new rule, which came into force on August 9, includes any vehicle regardless of size that has sleeping or cooking facilities and will help free up space for islanders needing to travel last minute.

Islanders who run sleeper vehicles as their only transport will be exempt from the standby ban as long as they can prove residency - a utility bill will do.

Finlay MacRae, Head of Operations for CalMac, said: 'To optimise deck space at the end of loading, motorhomes, campervans and caravans will no longer be given a standby or waitlist position on all bookable routes - either at the reservation stage or on the day of sailing.'

'Restricting larger vehicles in standby lanes will allow us to make the best use of any

remaining space for smaller vehicles, whose occupants may not have alternative accommodation options. It will also remove the issue of larger vehicles filling up standby lanes and smaller vehicles having to be pulled out of car lanes if that is all that can be shipped at the end of the loading process.'

'This does not apply to motorhomes, caravans and campervans that belong to island residents who will continue to be able to use standby options. Island residency will be confirmed at the point of booking or point of application to join the standby queue and can be evidenced with a proof of address from a utility bill or similar.'

Increasing ferry fares for those kind of sleeper and cook-in vehicles is also being explored as part of a package of other short-term options.

The new standby rule is a small step forward but appreciated by representative groups from across the island network

who have been pushing for changes to the current booking system.

Alasdair Allan, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, said: 'The turn-up-and-go capacity on ferries, while limited, is aimed primarily at helping islanders, since they more often need to travel at short notice. Visitors tend to book far in advance.'

'I have been receiving reports of motorhomes parking in the standby queues at ports overnight, exploiting the fact they are able to sleep in their vehicles and queue ahead of everyone else.'

'This isn't what the turn-up-and-go tickets are supposed to be for and I am glad to see this particular loophole closed.'

Transport Scotland said in communication with Mull and Iona Ferry Committee that it was a real challenge supporting the tourism industry on which many islanders rely, while preserving the option for islanders to travel at short notice.



Boost for foodbank as Josh delivers the greatest show

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William's Josh Higginson may experience difficulties when it comes to learning but when expressing himself on the stage he's absolutely A+.

On Friday, August 13, the 17-year-old handed over £120 to the Lochaber Foodbank after holding a 30-minute socially distanced show in his garden.

During lockdown Josh spent a lot of his time online listening to and watching all the music and dance videos that people were producing. That was where the idea of staging his own performance came from and preparations for The Greatest Show began.

Ideas for songs, costumes, creating the poster, location, raffle prizes and snacks were all his own, while the talented



Josh Higginson hands over the cash he raised to Lochaber Foodbank manager, Alex McConachie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson; and right, Josh displays his marching skills during the show.

teenager also decided who was to be invited as the numbers were to be decided by Covid restrictions.

Support worker Elaine Malcolm was roped in as an extra and the pair set about

rehearsing, firstly online and then as restrictions eased they would go through the set while out walking.

The show consisted of three songs (The Greatest Showman, Amazing Grace



and Take Me Home Country Roads), a march to Scottish pipe music and a sword dance. Audience participation was also encouraged in the Macarena dance.

Josh loves to perform and

is keen to take part in all kinds of activities where he can make people happy and laugh,' said gran Ruth.

'Elaine has been fantastic and has encouraged him every step of the way. Josh said he really enjoyed performing with an audience and that was clear from his enjoyment when doing this.

'The idea of raising money for the foodbank came when he and Elaine were planning the show. He was watching the news about how Covid was affecting people in the community and said he wanted to help.'

Josh attends Glencoe House, Lochaber High School and the UHI college Fort William, and has recently secured employment as a litter picker at the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre.

His main passion is music of all kinds but his favourite

is Scottish pipe band music. Before Covid he started teaching himself how to play the drums through watching YouTube videos before taking drumming lessons. The innovative youngster also taught himself to throw the mace when marching and listening to pipe band music on his earphones.

A keen member of the Duncansburgh and McIntosh Boys Brigade Josh, with the support of the captain and officers, has obtained his Queens Badge and is currently taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, having previously earned his Silver and Bronze.

Josh is supported by Reach4Reality, a charity that works with children who need support in the community. He has also learned canoeing and camping.

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Centre has all the latest technology - and it's free

A new centre in Fort William is to offer businesses free resources to improve the way they manufacture products.

Small and medium-sized companies in Lochaber will soon have access to advanced manufacturing technology and expertise thanks to the new West Highland College UHI development.

The college recently took over the lease on the Ocean Frontier building in Fort William which it has refurbished.

The new Advancing Manufacturing Centre (AMC) will boast state-of-the-art computerised numerical control (CNC) equipment, which has been bought by the college and will be installed over the next few months.

The college says the new centre will provide 'fantastic' resources to businesses looking to improve the way

they manufacture products and those moving towards Industry 4.0.

Wiki defines Industry 4.0 - the Fourth Industrial Revolution - as 'the ongoing automation of traditional manufacturing and industrial practices, using modern smart technology.'

'Large-scale machine to machine communication and the Internet of Things are integrated for increased automation, improved communication and self-monitoring and production of smart machines that can analyse and diagnose issues without the need for human intervention.'

All businesses will be eligible to use the centre and its resources, from a one-person operation seeking to perfect a prototype, to an organisation looking to redesign an entire assembly line involving 200

employees. It will provide access to manufacturing equipment including 3D printing, 3D scanning, computer-aided design, computer-aided manufacturing, machining and an Industry 4.0 suite.

Items can be manufactured to order or portable equipment can be delivered to businesses along with the appropriate training and support from an experienced team across a range of research, design and project management and technical advice.

Solutions

It will also provide a risk-free 'sandpit environment' where businesses can delve into problems and uncover innovative solutions without needing to invest in equipment, as well as being a unique base for businesses operating in remote communities away from the Central Belt.

David Campbell, Project Director STEM, was appointed by the college nine months ago from his post as National Apprenticeship Development Manager with Rolls Royce.

He brings more than 30 years' industrial training experience from one of the UK's biggest engineering companies with him to assist the college and businesses in moving skills and workforce development in STEM sectors to a new level.

Mr Campbell explained: 'Having won the bid for the £1.6 million Advancing Manufacturing Challenge in 2020, it's been a massive task to put the right people and resources in place.'

'We are nearly there and can now offer amazing opportunities for access to specialist equipment and expertise to the business community of the West Highlands.'

'We are looking forward to making new links between West Highland College and businesses in the area to create an innovative environment which can help bring prosperity to our communities.'

'We have been given a significant amount of funding that we aim to pass on in the form of free advice and access to specialist equipment to businesses within the next 18 months.'



The Advanced Manufacturing Centre's team of Margaret Weir and Andy Harpur outside the refurbished premises in Fort William.



Margaret Weir and Andy Harpur with Industry 4.0 equipment.

'There are no catches. If you're a one-person business or a factory of 150 people come and talk to us.'

The centre team will be holding a seminar on August 25, hosted by Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, to give more detail about what the centre is offering and how it can be applied to any size of business and any size of problem at no cost.

Project manager and engineer Margaret Weir and tech-

nician Andrew Harpur will give a presentation, answer questions and take notes of interest from businesses wishing to get involved. They are also happy to speak to businesses at any time.

You can contact them on amc.whc@uhi.ac.uk or find out more at whc.uhi.ac.uk/amc

Details of how to register for the seminar are on the college website and the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce website.

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Gritting priorities approved

The order in which Lochaber roads and footpaths will be gritted this winter has been approved by members of Lochaber Area Committee.

A report, available at highland.gov.uk, outlines the current position on Highland Council's delivery of its 2021/22 winter service and highlights potential impacts that still may arise due to Covid-19.

Lochaber Area Committee chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'To prepare for winter in the Highlands, a great amount of planning is required to ensure the gritting policy, winter maintenance team and the equipment and supplies required are in place and ready to be implemented when winter weather arrives.'

'The Highland Council has an approved list of priority routes for treatment and would

encourage the public to familiarise themselves with the gritting maps for their area.'

'It isn't possible to treat every road and path, however, the dedicated Lochaber team work extremely hard to maintain a challenging geographical area.'

Lochaber Area Committee members have approved a plan which includes priority routes and maps. Primary routes are treated first, followed by secondary routes, then all 'other' routes as resources permit.

Councillors discussed the priorities, timings and resources available for gritting the Lochaber area network of primary routes, secondary routes and other routes across both Lochaber wards.

Councillor Baxter added: 'Community self-help will continue to be encouraged under the council's 'Winter Resilience' scheme where com-

munities can submit an application via their community council to carry out footway gritting operations.'

'The council will continue to provide the community with salt/grit, bins, scrapers and reflective waistcoats.'

'It is important to note this does not replace the service provided by the council but allows the community to provide an enhanced level of service.'

'People should think about this now and apply as soon as possible. Particularly with the uncertainty of Covid-19, it would be wise to be plan ahead and be prepared for winter weather.'

Applications for the Winter Resilience scheme can be made at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/99/roads_information/7

Mission accomplished for Selkie man James

Oban-based adventurer James Armour has become the first person to swim, run and cycle the length of the Outer Hebrides in one attempt.

The 25-year-old combined his twin passions of endurance sports and the environment to raise money and the profile of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT), based in Tobermory.

Beginning at Barra Head Lighthouse on July 30, The Selkie, named after the mythological seal-folk that could shed their skin and walk on land, ended at the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse on August 1.

James completed the gruelling challenge, which incorporated 20 miles of swimming; 60 miles of running and 112 miles of cycling, in 52 hours and 52 minutes, only stopping for food and water breaks.



James, right, had some company on part of his 112 mile cycle.

Speaking to the Lochaber Times after his epic carb busting challenge, James said: 'I really had some low points before the Sound of Harris and seriously doubted I was going to make it over the crossing. The only thing that got me through was Coca Cola and sweets!'

Despite its intensity, however, The Selkie hasn't taken too

much out of the European Iron Man competitor.

'Mostly it's a sore tongue and scars from the neoprene vest that linger the most with my muscles feeling relatively okay,' he added.

The Selkie contains six swims: Sound of Berneray, one mile; Sound of Mingulay, two miles; Sound of Pabbay, three miles; Sandray to Vatersay, one

mile; Sound of Barra, six miles; and Sound of Harris, seven miles.

Two legs of the race make up the cycle: The Uists, 60 miles, and Harris - Leverburgh to Achmore - 52 miles.

There are three running stages in the Selkie: The southern isles, six miles; Barra, 18 miles and Lewis - Achmore to Butt of Lewis - 36 miles.

Originally from Edinburgh, James has competed in European Iron Man competitions and cares passionately about the environment having worked in Denmark as a project manager for a clean technology company.

Having travelled the world and marvelled at different species of animal, The Selkie is all about recognising the abundance of marine life on Scotland's west coast and sup-



James Armour completed a 20 mile swim en route from Barra Head Lighthouse to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse.

porting the trust which raises awareness, protection and the conservation of whales and dolphins here.

'I care a lot about the planet and our environment and I have been lucky to travel all around the world,' he added.

'But it was only quite recently that I recognised what we have here in front of us on the West

Coast - from killer whales to minke whales and Risso's dolphins - and I was completely oblivious.'

At the time of writing, James had raised £14,059.32 for HWDT.

To contribute to James' fundraising effort, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesArmour.



Highland Hospice Staff Nurse Leanne Scott celebrates her success at completing the West Highland way to raise money for the charity. She was joined by a small welcoming committee at the Sair Feet statue which marks the end of the journey.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Leanne completes Highland Hospice fundraiser in memory of late mum

A Highland Hospice staff nurse has battled injury and the elements to complete a challenge dedicated to her late mum.

Leanne Scott from Inverness was met at the West Highland Way finishing point in Fort William by staff from the local Highland Hospice shop last Wednesday, August 11, 11 days later than anticipated.

Along the way Leanne suffered an infected toe and had so much swelling and blistering on her feet she couldn't get her trainers on. Having stopped and started up again, her attempt to

walk the 96 mile route, with a climb up Ben Nevis to heighten the challenge, was again scuppered on Sunday August 8 due to adverse weather.

Having joined the Highland Hospice team in 2019, Leanne was raising money in memory of her late mum who died in the hospice in 1999, aged just 37. Leanne was just five at the time.

'I feel very privileged to be a part of such a vital service providing palliative care for the Highlands,' she said.

'I like to think I can give back the loving care that

we as a family and my mum received while she was in the hospice.

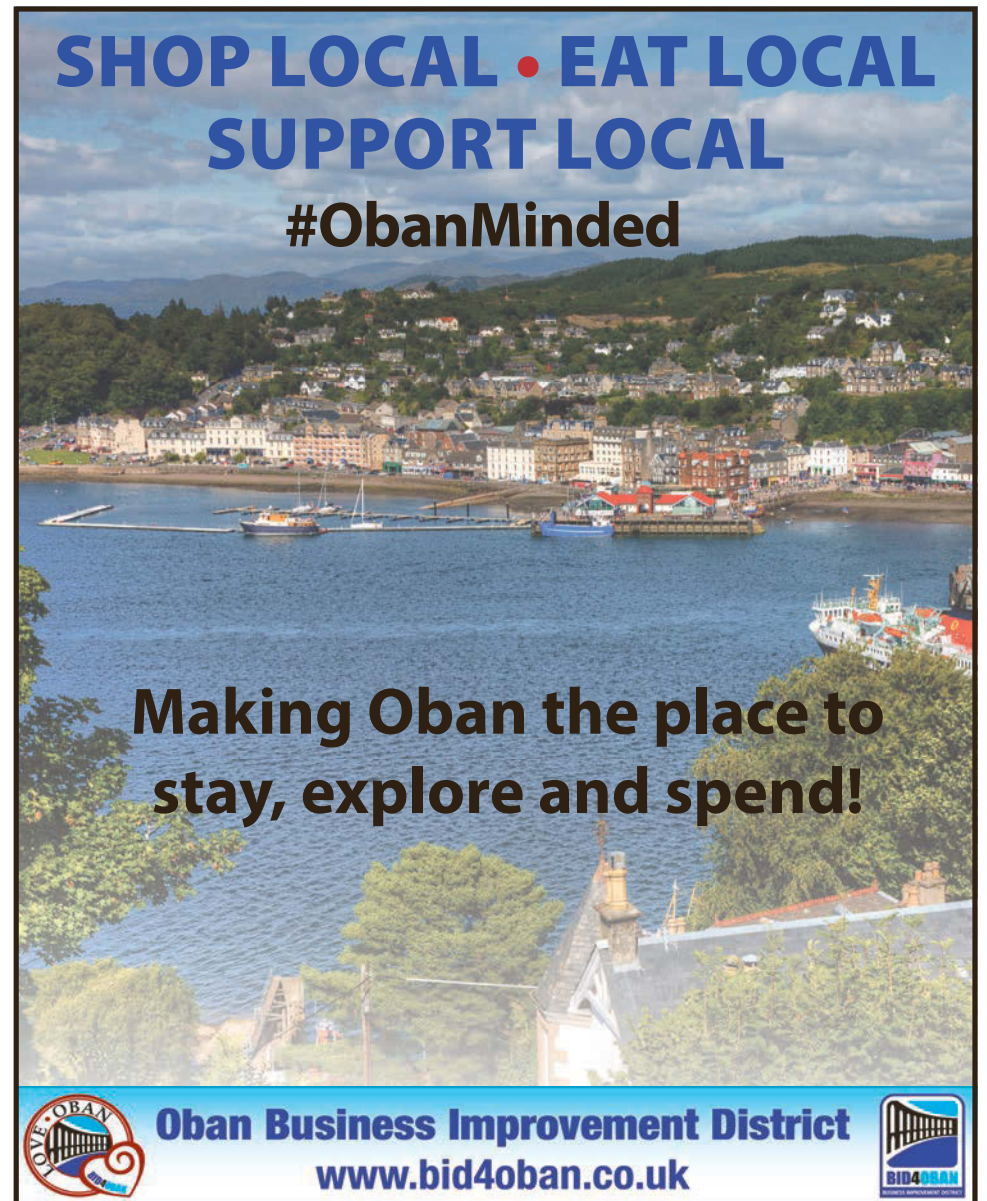
'This year our mum should be celebrating her 60th so I took up the challenge in celebration and in memory of her life.

'I will be doing this challenge on my own, however, I know my mum will be with me each step of the way.'

To read more about Leanne's story or to donate go to highlandhospice.enthuse.com/pf/Leanne-scott

At the time of writing Leanne had raised £2,148.

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The Eala Bhan.

Sun shines as club sails ahead with small boat regatta

The second week of the Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club Regatta Fortnight began on August 2 in glorious sunshine.

The first race of the afternoon was the Ladies Centreboard Race. Only two boats entered, Imogen Smith and her mother Katherine from Sheffield, for the Achwurrin Rose Bowl. The race was won by Imogen in a Laser, beating her mother Katherine in a Wayfarer.

In the evening, seven boats raced for the second Plockton Trophy Race for Local boats.

Result: 1 Alexander MacKenzie, Eala Bhan; 2 Neil MacRae, Rona; 3 Malcolm MacKenzie, Taeping.

Seven Centreboards also

sailed in the fourth Ulluva Cup Race and first Sgeir Bhuidh Cuo Race, which resulted in a first and second for the Smith brothers - no relation to the Smith girls. Result: 1 James Smith, Inominate; 2 Robin Smith, Conundrum; 3 Andy Hutchinson, D-Zero.

On Tuesday morning three Toppers sailed for the Fossil Trophy over three short races. Result: 1 Calum Hay; 2 Alasdair Stewart; 3 Scott Peters.

On Tuesday, evening five Local Boats sailed for the ex-Commodores Tray. Result: 1 Ian Hay, Seolta; 2 Neil MacRae, Rona; 3 Graham Sharp, Saranna C.

Five centreboards sailed for the fifth Ulluva and second Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup. Result: 1 James Smith; 2 Robin Smith; 3 Imogen Smith.

On Wednesday evening, the fourth and final race for the Plockton Trophy had six starters on a calm, and the first wet, evening. Only three boats finished inside the two and a half hour limit. Result: 1 Malcolm MacKenzie, Taeping; 2 Alexander MacKenzie, Eala Bhan; 3 Ian Hay, Seolta.

As a result of the four race series, the winner of the Plockton Trophy was Alexander MacKenzie in Eala Bhan, the boat he bought this year from Morag Amos, giving him his fifth trophy this season. He won with four points. Runner-up and winner of the Fred Allen Galleon was Malcolm MacKenzie in Taeping with seven points.

Other results: 3 Ian Hay 8 points; 4 Neil MacRae 12 points; 5 Michael Hay 13 points; 6 Graham Sharp 16 points; 7 Laura Hamilton 19 points. Also held was the sixth



Commodore Fiona MacKenzie presented brother Alexander with the Plockton Trophy Race for Locals prize.

and final Ulluva Cup Race and third Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup. Result: 1 Andy Hutchinson, D-Zero; 2 James Smith, Inominate; 3 Robin Smith, Conundrum.

As a result of six races, the Ulluva Cup was won by James Smith with 14 points. Imogen Smith also had 14 points but James had the most firsts. Guy Smith was third with 16 points.

The result of the three race series for the Sgeir Bhuidh Cup was: 1 James Smith 4 points; 2 Robin Smith 7 points; 3 Imogen Smith 11 points.

On Thursday evening both Local boats and Centreboards sailed together for the race in aid of RNLI. Six Local Boats and five Centreboards took part. Result: 1 Michael Hay, Nan; 2 Alexander MacKenzie, Conundrum; 3 Andy Hutchinson, Seola.

On Friday, on a wet and windy day, only two boats ventured out for the Fishing Competition. Winner of the most and heaviest catch: Mick

Gray, Duirinish. Winner of heaviest single fish: Ewen Cameron, a mackerel.

Top prizewinner was Alexander MacKenzie who bought the Eala Bhan last year and won five trophies. It was a big few weeks for Alexander as his partner Fiona had a son on June 7.

On Saturday, despite all the bad forecasts, the Childrens' Ragamuffin Race was held on a warm, cloudy morning. Only three boats took part, with three races deciding the overall winner. Result: 1 Alasdair Hay, Nan; 2 Chloe McLaughlin, Taeping; 3 Ben Anderson, Ajax).

After the race, the club's prizegiving was held outside for the first time, as the usual concert could not be held because of the pandemic.

Commodore Fiona MacKenzie presented the 35 trophies and announced the winner of the Perch Trophy for rowing was won by Kenneth and Neil Macrae in 25 minutes 15 seconds.

Kenneth has now been in the winning team for the past eight years.

The Junior Endeavour Trophy went to Alasdair Stewart and the Starminx Starters Cup to Ian Hay.

Fiona also thanked everyone who had made the fortnight such a success.

The annual general meeting is next month.

The club is still looking for a Commodore for next year.

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The regatta silverware.



Douglas and Alasdair Tindall had a lovely family tale to tell about the Ragamuffin race.

Young crew member's family tie with Ajax

Of the many lovely stories to come from this year's event a tale from the Ragamuffin Race stood out.

Crewing in the Ajax was Alasdair Tindall, aged 7, from Ullinish, Skye. His father Alexander was brought up in Plockton and his grandfather Frank sailed for many years in the regatta.

His other grandfather, the late Donald Mackinnon from Ullinish, once owned the Ajax and used the boat to ferry sheep to an island.

The boat is a Mackenzie boat and when the club heard it was for sale they bought it.

Douglas Hamilton, ex-Plockton shopkeeper, then bought it from the club and fitted it out for sailing.

The boat was skippered by Douglas' grandson Ben and this was Alasdair's first time in the Ragamuffin. Lovely that he was able to take part in his Skye grandfather's old boat.

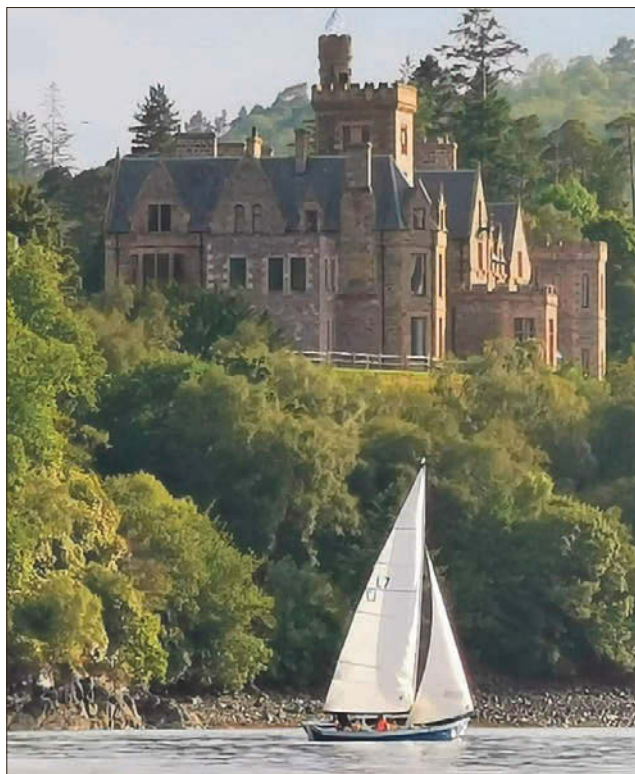
The following day Alasdair's mother Catherine surprised his father Alexander with a present for his 40th birthday of another Plockton boat, The Seaforth.



Above: Commodore Fiona MacKenzie presented all the prize winners with their trophies on the final night.



The Seolta in action.



Stunning scenes from the Seolta.



Right: Eala Bhan sailed by Alexander MacKenzie, right, and crew David Skilling, won five trophies at the regatta.

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Don't lose your voice on decision that effect you

Residents in the Highlands and Islands are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With elections taking place in Highland and Western Isles in May 2022, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The Electoral Registration Officer will be getting in touch with every household to check that the electoral register is up to date, and to identify any residents who should be registered but are currently missing.

Bill Gillies, Electoral Registration Officer for Highland and Western Isles said: 'Residents need to keep an eye out for messages from the Highland and Western Isles Electoral Registration Office so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in these local authority areas and you are

able to vote in any forthcoming elections.

'You might not have been able to vote before the extension of the voting rights last year, but you may be able to vote now – but only if you are registered.

'If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. We will send you a form for you to respond to. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or we'll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.

People who have moved recently are also particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages and check the details.

Information on registering to vote is available on the Electoral Commission website.

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at 0800 393 783.

MOWI cleared over fish welfare concerns

RSPCA Assured have cleared fish farmer MOWI following an investigation into welfare complaints by an activist that included secret footage of 'lice-infested and dead salmon'.

The complaint had been filed by Scottish Salmon Watch. Anti-fish farm campaigner, Don Staniford, a director of SSW, said the photographs and videos were secretly filmed at four Mowi-run farms - two in Shuna Sound and two in the Sound of Jura - over the weekend of July 16-17.

RSPCA Assured said: 'We were concerned by some of the images that were shared with us. As soon as they were brought to our attention, we immediately launched an investigation into those farms we understand are featured in the footage.

'These farms have now been



The RSPCA officer inspection at one of the Mowi farm sites.

visited by a specially trained RSPCA farm livestock officer and an RSPCA Assured assessor. During their visit they did not find any of the problems highlighted in the images and were satisfied that the fish they saw were being properly managed and cared for.

'Any allegations of animal welfare issues or breaches of the RSPCA Assured membership agreement are taken very seriously and always thoroughly investigated. Thankfully, welfare concerns on RSPCA Assured certified farms are extremely rare and many millions of farm animals are having a better life thanks to the work of the charity.'

A Mowi spokesperson told The Oban Times this week: 'Every day, all farmers work tirelessly to put the wellbeing of their animals first. No farmer wants to see their animals

doing poorly.

'Our company, and the entire Scottish salmon sector, welcomes auditors, regulators and professional health and welfare experts to our sites daily to ensure we are meeting or exceeding our own values.

'So, we were pleased to once again be given assurance by third-party and professional organisations that we are meeting the high expectations for animal welfare.

'What we don't appreciate is individuals that choose to purposely misrepresent what actually occurs on a farm. This year alone, one activist has logged 10 separate complaints of numerous salmon companies, with each follow up investigation finding no evidence of wrong doing, but rather concluding that the fish under our care are 'properly managed and cared for'.'

Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) commented, following its investigation: 'These investigations by FHI, which include considering sea lice information collected weekly from all sites, have concluded that there are no obvious sea lice or mortality issues at a population level at any of the sites involved in the allegation and that appropriate measures are in place to control sea lice, remove mortalities and ensure adequate fish health management at the sites in question.'

'The Scottish Government takes fish health and welfare seriously and the complaint has been discussed with the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) who are responsible for investigating allegations of poor animal welfare on farms.'

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Island projects urged to apply for Loves Local funding

Projects in the Western Isles aimed at transforming towns and neighbourhoods can now apply to a new £10 million multi-year fund.

The Scotland Loves Local Fund, launched by the Scottish Government, aims to encourage people to think local first, and support businesses and enterprises in their community. Community shops, digital marketing schemes, or larger construction projects could all be eligible for support.

The fund will provide match funding of between £5,000 and £25,000 for projects run by groups including town centre partnerships, community and



charity trusts, and chambers of commerce.

MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Alasdair Allan, welcomed the news: 'The financial support available through this fund will help build local wealth by bringing new creative projects and activities to towns and neighbourhoods, supporting local enterprises to improve the areas in which they are based.

'As local businesses and

communities throughout the Western Isles begin their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, schemes such as the Scotland Loves Local fund will enable projects to access the support they need in order to create a stronger and more sustainable future for our towns and local areas.

'I would urge local projects to apply for the Scotland Loves Local Fund and encourage people in the Western Isles to continue to support local businesses at every opportunity.'

Applications for the funding are now open at lovelocal.scot and will close at 5pm on Friday October 1.

Planning members slam SEPA's 'doomsday' warning

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

A former post office building on Skye has opened the floodgates to an almighty planning row between Highland councillors and SEPA.

At a meeting of Highland Council planning committee last Tuesday, August 10, members voiced concern that flood risk assessments from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) could have a 'devastating impact' on coastal communities.

The application in question looked low-key in planning terms.

A family living on Kyleakin on the Isle of Skye had applied for permission to replace a former Post Office shed on their land with a new 1.5 storey home. However, while planning officers said they had no concerns about the application, SEPA objected on the grounds of the area being at risk of flood.

According to SEPA maps, the site is at risk of one in 200-year and one in 1000-year coastal flooding events.



The former Post Office building in Kyleakin, the Isle of Skye.

The applicant's family had lived in the house for several generations and there has been no flooding in that time.

Nonetheless, the objection from SEPA led to the application being recommended for refusal at the north planning applications committee.

Members spoke passionately about the dangers of writing off coastal development based on climate change modelling.

Skye councillor John Gordon said: 'I went onto the SEPA website expecting to see some localised high risk flooding areas - instead you see the

whole area around our coast classified as high risk.

'Well, they've been high risk since time began!

'SEPA has an important role but it has to be accountable too, and it should work more with local communities and local members.

'This family has lived here for generations. The planning authority and the Scottish Government need to question if we will weaken coastal and fishing communities in the decisions we make. The impact could be devastating.'

Members from the other

side of the Skye Bridge agreed. The debate was fuelled by questions of risk and common sense.

Highland Council declared a climate change emergency in May 2019 and officers advised the committee that they should keep one eye to the future in deciding applications.

'Fifteen years ago this wouldn't have been an issue, but with improved climate change data we will be faced with difficult questions and challenges more frequently,' said planning manager Dafydd Jones.

'Just because this property has never flooded before, doesn't mean that it won't. It's important we have regard for that.'

Noting that Highland Council had granted other planning applications for Kyleakin recently, Mr Jones said the council was not trying to prevent expansion in coastal areas, but had to be careful in its decision-making.

He added that SEPA is a legal consultee but is offering advice only, and members could choose to disregard that advice.

Committee chairwoman

Maxine Smith took a pragmatic view.

She said that if the application had been a new development of 10 homes it would be reasonable to refuse.

However, as the applicant was one family building on their own ground - and any flood risk would be detailed in future property sales - she felt the application could be granted.

John Gordon's motion to approve the application was seconded by Callum Macleod and unanimously passed by the committee.

Because SEPA is a national government agency, the decision to approve will now be referred to Scottish ministers.

However, while some members referred to this as a test case, Mr Jones emphasised that each application has to be made on its own merits.

Comhairle congratulates SQA students

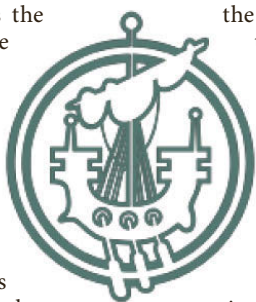
Young people across the Western Isles have been congratulated after receiving the results of National Qualifications undertaken earlier this year.

Pupils were all informed of their provisional awards in June with the results being notified last week acting as final confirmation.

A Comhairle spokesperson said: 'In another year of challenge and disruption to qualifications caused by Covid-19, the Comhairle would like to recognise and congratulate the effort, commitment and achievement of all our young people, whatever the results received today.'

Across National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, the rate of A-C passes achieved was 91.6%, from a total of 2,730 presentations. The equivalent rate of passes across Scotland for the same awards in the region of 88.7%.

After the cancellation of



the 2021 exams, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) implemented an alternative model to determine awards for students that involved schools

gathering a range of assessment evidence from course work, lesson activities and assessments.

Teachers then made professional judgements based on the available evidence about the level of award to make. These judgements were based on detailed national guidance and were subject to numerous moderation and quality assurance checks before being notified to pupils and submitted to SQA.

'As well as success in academic assessment being shared today, it important to us to recognise the many achievements of our pupils, in areas of applied learning,

sport, culture, heritage and community service,' added the spokesperson.

'We also understand that one of the most important measures of success is the ability for pupils to go on to positive destinations after they leave school, equipped for the next step in the journey into employment, training or study.'

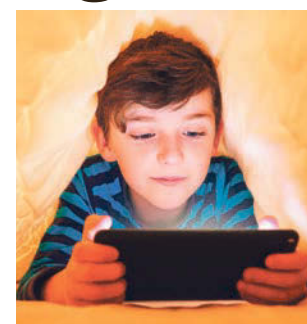
Chairman of the Education, Skills and Children's Services Committee, Cllr Paul Steele, added: 'In addition to congratulating and recognising the work and achievement of pupils, we would like to express our thanks to parent, carers and staff for your commitment to supporting our young people to achieve in challenging and changing circumstances.'

The Comhairle also conveyed their understanding that some pupils may not have received the results that had been hoped for and said that school staff were available to provide support and guidance.

A Short Sighted View

Last month I looked at how technology can make life easier, but a heavy cost to our children's eyesight. The latest indications from world leading research universities and the World Health Organisation suggest at least 50% of the world population will be myopic (short sighted) by 2050. In some Asian countries this number has long since been exceeded. In Singapore and Taiwan around 90% of the population are now myopic. That high level of myopia results from a combination of factors:- genetic and environmental. In years to come gene therapy may help minimise myopia levels. Currently, the main causes of this myopia epidemic are environmental factors.

You just have to look at our children or grandchildren to



notice they spend hours every day on their smartphones or online playing games. Combine that with the intensive reading children have to undertake for their schoolwork and you have a recipe of a major vision emergency. Until the late 1980's the assumption was about 30% of children would become myopic. This tended to happen as they hit puberty. Today I am seeing children becoming myopic at

six. These children are guaranteed to become highly short sighted by age 20. If you are of East Asian ethnicity that will happen even faster.

Does it really matter if your child or grandchild is myopic? YES, it does. Myopia has become the largest cause of preventable blindness in the world. Can anything be done to prevent this epidemic? Absolutely! Apart from the obvious of reducing time spent on close-work and online, encouraging our children to spend at least 90 minutes a day outdoors has been shown to be beneficial. Optometrists specialising in myopia management can dramatically reduce the rate of myopia development in youngsters. It's an area I have specialised in since 2007 and it certainly works.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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LETTERS

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

Afghan refugees would be welcome here, says MP

The rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the unfolding humanitarian crisis as the Taliban speedily took control of the country – finally taking Kabul on Monday – has left many of us shocked and troubled.

It has led to chaotic scenes at the Afghan capital's main airport where thousands of British, American and French troops are trying to maintain some kind of order to ensure the safe evacuation of their citizens, along with as many Afghans as possible whose lives may now be in danger as a result of their work with coalition forces over the last 20 years.

Thankfully, many countries, including our own, are offering a safe haven to refugees fleeing the Taliban. And three of our Lochaber politicians have told the Lochaber Times that refugees would be made welcome in this area as part of any resettlement scheme.

There are no doubt many terrified people desperate to leave the country, so let us hope, as Ian Blackford says, the UK Government can set up an Afghan Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme quickly and not leave people waiting in a life-threatening situation.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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

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A proactive approach is needed to housing problem

Short time lets and second homes are a healthy part of any economy. I have no experience of either. However, good positive control would keep a healthy, successful balance.

Slackness in approaching the problem can lead to many problems in the future, some serious.

An examination of the problems created in Wales in the 1960s and 70s would prove interesting. The influence of the Midlands on property sales in Wales caused many problems. It gave rise to many acts of violence by a small group of Welsh activists. This included using explosives to damage the water pipeline and pump stations into Birmingham.

I have experience of that having walked the pipeline many a night looking for explosives. I am not suggesting anything like that could happen in Scotland in this day and age but no-one should be sitting on their hands when looking at the problem now.

Those who have the skill and expertise in these matters should be putting them to vigorous use now.

Tom Cullen, Ardfern.

Speeding at Soroba

Vehicles of different sizes have been clocked at speeds between 44mph and 47mph in the 30mph hazardous narrow area where HGVs and buses have to sometimes stop to pass each other as they come down the main road from upper soroba hill, between the turn off at lower soroba into the Soroba House area, then to the fire station in Oban.

Please slow down, particularly at the blind bend, as this is the area at the turning into Soroba where people and children cross the road.

Stephen Jones, Oban.

Don't blame cyclists

Sir,
The article published in the August 6 edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser seems to suggest the Kilberry Loop Sportive has increased the number of cyclists on the B8024 as entrants practice and train for the event, making life hard for residents.

I feel it will be more dangerous for the cyclists than the drivers, but the reality is the build-up

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Rud nach coisinn modh, cha choisinn mi-mhodh! Le lasachadh air riaghailtean Covid ann an Alba agus Sasainn, agus le ciad ceann-bliadhna ogha a' tachairt, thug sinne cuairt gu deas bho chionn ghoirid. Abair gun do chòrd sin rinn, agus bha an dòigh san robh luchd- frithealaidh a' dèiligeadh rinn na phàirt mhòr den tlachd sin.

Chan eil teagamh nach fhaod siubhal a bhith na uallach, agus mar a tha drip agus cunnartan an t-saoghail a' dol am meud tha an an-fhois an lùib gluasad astar mòr sam bith a' fàs cuideachd. Ged a tha e furasta tuigsinn mar a tha luchd-faire is eile aig leithid phuirt-adhair fo gheas buaidh nam miltean dhaoine a tha a' sruthadh seachad orra gach latha, feumaidh mi aideachadh gum bheil mise mar iomadh neach eile air a bhith gu math cronachail orra thar nam bliadhnaichean airson an cuid beag foighidinn agus gu math tric mi-mhodh.

Ach bhon a' chiad choinneachadh le luchd-obrach aig port-adhair Inbhir Nis air an turas seo bha a h-uile neach gasta, modhail, agus cuideachail. Canaidh feadhainn, le ceartas, gum bheil modh-obrach den t-seòrsa sin na dhleastanas ann an seirbheis sam bith agus nach bu chòir dhuinn a chaochladh a shùileachadh, ach 's e firinn na cùise gum faca is gun d' fhuiling mòran againn frithealadh gu math eadar-dhealaichte, bitheanta, thar nam bliadhnaichean.

Faodaidh an sgrùdadh-dion aig puirt-adhair a bhith car eagalach is brògan, criosan, agus meatailt sam bith a tha nad lùib ga sgrùdadh, is

tu uaireannan a' strì gus do bhriogais a chumail gun a bhith mud chasan chun am faigh thu tron sganair! Ach 's e fàilte laghach, "gabhaibh air ur socair", a bh' aig an tè air ceann cùise sgrùdaidh an Inbhir Nis, agus lean an aon seòrsa coibhneis tron t-seirbheis. Fiù 's nuair a cheannaich mi cofaidh agus rolaichean, ghiùlain an tè a bha gam fhrithealadh am biadh chun a' bhùird aig an robh sinn nar suidhe.

Nise tha mi mothachail gum bheil sinn nas aos-ta na bha sinn agus gur dòcha gum bi feadhainn gar faicinn feumach air taic shònraichte ri linn sin, ach chan eil mi den bheachd gum bheil sinn idir cho lapach sin fhathast, agus saoilidh mi gur e bha sinn a' faicinn an seo ach aire shuimeil aig luchd-obrach dhan luchd-dèiligidh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil trèanadh na phàirt mhòr den atharrachadh modh seo agus abair gun robh port-adhair

Inbhir Nis na thlachd dhuinne, ach bha an aon seòrsa coibhneis a' nochdadh air a' phlèan aig Easyjet is tè dhen chriutha-frithealaidh a' gluasad nam màileidean againn nas fhaisge air na suidheachain againn gus am biodh cùisean nas sgiobalta dhuinn nuair a laigh sinn ann an Lunnainn!

'S cinnteach gum bheil sinn uile mì-fhoighidneach agus greannach aig amannan, agus gu h-àraid nuair a tha sinn fo uallach siubhail, ach mar fhear a bha thall 's a chunnaic tha mi moiteil aithris gun cuir modhalachd frithealaidh snuadh tur eadar-dhealaichte air a' chuimhne bhios air turas sam bith.

to this event has a very small impact on the number of cyclists using this route.

As event organisers, we take our responsibilities seriously. A sportive is a non-competitive event. This event is British Cycling approved. The police are informed, as are all residents. All entrants are made aware they must abide by the Highway Code and show courtesy to all other road users on pain of disqualification and censure from British Cycling.

The demographics of the entrants show a good number are drawing their pension – or will be soon.

I have lived in Tarbert for 35 years and regularly cycle along this B road. There may be a few

more cyclists around this summer, the majority of whom are on touring bikes, carrying all their worldly possessions, going at a leisurely pace enjoying the scenery. To suggest the road is a 'dangerous nightmare' and a 'race track' is as sensationalist as it is absurd.

While it is unacceptable the resident is 'too scared to leave her home' those responsible for the hedgerows should fulfill their responsibilities and make the B8024 safe for all users - residents, cyclists and drivers – but don't blame the cycling event for her fears.

John Hardie, event organiser, Kilberry Loop Sportive, endorsed by Colin MacFarlane, president of Mid Argyll Tri and Cycle Club.

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DISTRICT NEWS

CalMac welcomes Community Fund applications

West coast groups supporting the needs of their communities are being encouraged to apply to the CalMac Community Fund.

Supported by Foundation Scotland, the fund is making awards of up to £2,000 to organisations tackling social isolation, loneliness and/or poverty and poor mental health.

In 2019, Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh received an award to help improve mental health and buy play therapy boxes for school pupils. Broadford Youth Club, Mallaig Parent Council and Mallaig Football Club also received backing.

This year, applications are also being welcomed from non-profit organisations encouraging community re-engagement following the Covid-19 pandemic. Examples of what else could be supported include:

- Youth or elderly outreach projects, befriending services, family support groups, key community clubs and important community events

- Counselling services, active or creative projects which help people improve mental health and health and lifestyle projects

- Support for community halls to re-open to enable groups to re-start activities, community gardens or orchards.

Gordon McKillop, corporate social responsibility manager for CalMac, said: 'The fund was created to make a difference to those most in need across our west coast communities.'

'It is also a fantastic way for us to connect with our communities. The last 18 months have placed a huge strain on people's lives and grass roots community groups have stepped up magnificently to help those affected. We would encourage those eligible to apply for an award.'

In 2019, the CalMac Community Fund supported 76 groups benefitting the lives of children and young people and last year supported 60 groups tackling social isolation, mental health, loneliness and/or poverty.

Helen Wray, head of philanthropy and programmes for Foundation Scotland, added: 'We are really delighted to be working in partnership with CalMac to deliver its 2021 CalMac Community Fund. The fund will provide vital support to charitable organisations that are working hard to reduce isolation and support better mental health in their community.'

Applications for the fund opened on August 16.

Giant step back into the swing of things at Nevis Centre

Aerial dancers took to the skies in Fort William recently when the Nevis Centre hosted a grand outdoor spectacle.

Swinging back and forth and shimmying up and down five-metre long ropes with some great acrobatics, performers Danuta Ramos and Claire Cook enthralled the audience at each of their three performances on a giant swing.

Still socially distanced, a lucky few in the audience enjoyed the Lochaber sunshine during the half hour long shows before being invited to have a go themselves and have fun swinging to a unique soundtrack, activated by movement.

As the artistes said: 'Life was never better on a swing, the higher the better.'

'Feel the rush of air past your face and be inspired with what you can do with a swing.'

As part of its 2021 tour, The Swings have been travelling all over Scotland, with Skye and Oban also part of its Highland itinerary.



Aerial artists Danuta Ramos and Claire Cook entertain the Nevis Centre audience. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

BEAR steps in to help Skye-based otter charity

BEAR Scotland has donated £1,000 on behalf of all staff to Skye-based charity International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF), a firm dedicated to the conservation, protection and care of otters.

BEAR Scotland Environmental Adviser Sarah Rauch-Lynch nominated IOSF due to her passion for looking after the environment and her knowledge of the importance of the work and research IOSF carries out.

Sarah said: 'I nominated the IOSF because they are a charity based on Skye which works hard to protect otters and raise awareness of the species in Scotland and worldwide.'

'Otters are one of Scotland's most iconic native species and we regularly encounter them on the north west trunk road network along our coasts, rivers and canals. We are equally as passionate about protecting otters in the team here at BEAR, so it is great to support such a fantastic charity.'

Last week, Fraser Struthers, BEAR Scotland's Ardelve depot supervisor, met with IOSF's



Fraser Struthers from BEAR Scotland with Helen Stephenson and Ben Yoxon from the IOSF team.

development officer Helen Stephenson and ducation and Research Officer Ben Yoxon to hear about the work they carry out to protect otters.

IOSF director Grace Yoxon said: 'We were

delighted to receive £1,000 from BEAR Scotland towards our work on Skye.'

'This will be used for our Team Otter club for children and our new otter hospital, which will help to provide specialist veterinary care for otters.'

BEAR Scotland regularly carries out otter surveys to determine whether projects may impact otters or their resting places. If an otter resting place is found near a proposed BEAR Scotland project, camera traps are put up, which helps monitor otter use of the site. Mitigation measures are then put in place to reduce any impacts of work on otters so that they continue to thrive in waterways and coastal areas.

International Otter Survival Fund is the third charity this year to benefit from a new BEAR Scotland charity initiative which focuses on local and regional causes across the country. Staff from all areas of BEAR Scotland were invited to nominate charities which were most important to them.



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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome back: The Glasgow Letter!

Eighteen months ago, as the country was plunged into lockdown and every event in the city was cancelled or postponed, it would have been impossible to continue with the same style of Glasgow Letter that has existed for generations. There was simply nothing to report on or even look forward to.

For 72 weeks, therefore, the column morphed into Robert in Lockdown which dealt with literally any nonsense that had happened to me throughout the week. And that turned out to be quite a lot of nonsense.

Now that one of the strangest years in history has passed, I am delighted to return this column to a (slightly!) more factual and informative column which will aim, as ever, to keep the good people of Glasgow and the West Coast up to date with all the goings on in the city.

It is a particularly exciting time down here – with the whole place awakening from a long hibernation and events (both new and old) finally getting confirmed in people's diaries. On a large scale, TRNSMT is set to go ahead in Glasgow



Glasgow's Barrowland Ballroom is reopening for business – and fun!

Green from September 10-12, with massive acts such as Liam Gallagher, Snow Patrol, and The Courteeners taking to the stage. One of my own favourite bands, Keane, are playing on the Saturday. Tide Lines are playing in Orkney that night so I'll unfortunately miss them. The Thursday before TRNSMT, Biffy Clyro are doing a gig on the same stage.

On a slightly smaller scale, things like The Riverside Festival are once again being advertised all round the city and will take place the first weekend in September. On a smaller scale still, although possibly of more interest to Glasgow Letter readers: all our favourite West Highland bands will be gigging in Glasgow over the coming

months.

Trail West have their postponed 10th anniversary concert coming up in the Barrowlands on Saturday September 18. Nothing like a 10-year anniversary concert taking place 11 years after you started!

Peat and Diesel return to the same venue on October 7 and 8 and Skipinnish do the same on October 15. Just as well there is no such thing as too many shows in the Barrowlands! Especially after a year and a half without live music. I dare say there will be people who head along to the famous venue for all four of these gigs!

On October 8, my own band (Tide Lines) play a show in the Kelvingrove Bandstand which I will write more about nearer the time. As this is an outdoor venue, I'm just hoping the Scottish autumn weather behaves itself.

As well as these events, I imagine most of the island association gatherings can now go ahead and I know live music is returning to the famous pubs of the Teuchter Triangle very soon.

The Glasgow we all knew and loved before coronavirus is coming back! And, right on cue, so is the Glasgow Letter!

New KASAB dance classes launched in Oban and Taynuilt

KASAB School of Dance opened the doors to welcome new pupils this week at the Rockfield Centre on Tuesday and in the Taynuilt Village Hall on Thursday.

KASAB is run by Katherine Blyth who holds a first-class Honours degree in dance, is a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Dance, a Registered RAD teacher and who teaches Dance for Oban High School's School of dance.

The KASAB classes are a different concept in dance as they offer an extensive range of core disciplines and styles all within the one class and choreographed to music from across the world.

Using a mixture of popular dance styles, pupils experience the benefits of each style, increasing their knowledge and creating more intelligent all round dancers.

Katherine says: 'I am so excited to open KASAB to share my love and joy of dance. Through careful guidance, I will pass on technical knowledge and skills with students to develop their individual performance art-



Katherine Blyth launches her dance school in Taynuilt today, having opened in Oban on Tuesday.

istry. My aim is to build every pupil's confidence in their dance abilities and develop their inner joy of dance.

'Dance is so beneficial. It is proven to improve physical and mental wellbeing along with being such a fun way to keep fit. It improves muscle tone, strength, balance, flexibility, co-ordination and memory skills, and it is also a great way to meet new friends.'

Places are still available. If your children or you are inter-

ested in learning and enjoying the timeless elegance of ballet, freedom of contemporary, rhythms of Latin, happiness of jazz, flare of hip-hop, timings of tap, passion of Flamenco and stamina of commercial, visit the KASAB Facebook page or telephone 01866 822319 or email: katherine.dance@btinternet.com

Oh, and if you are wondering what KASAB stands for - you'll need to go along to a class to find out!

HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 20TH - THUR 26TH AUGUST



FRIDAY 20TH AUGUST
Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:30am. The Sparks Brothers (15) 10:45am. Free Guy (12a) 1:30pm, 4:30pm + 7:30pm. Limbo (12) 2pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 5pm. The Forever Purge (15) 8pm.

SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST
Spirit Untamed (U) 11:15am. Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 11:45am. Free Guy (12a) 1:45pm + 7:45pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 2:45pm. The Suicide Squad (15) 4:30pm. Highlands From The Air (15) 5:45pm. Iorram (Boat Song) 7pm.

SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST
Space Jam: A New Legacy (U) 10:45am. Spirit Untamed (U) 11:15am. Jungle Cruise (12a) 1:30pm. Free Guy (12a) 2pm, 4:45pm + 7:30pm. Limbo (12) 5:15pm. The Forever Purge (15) 8pm.

MONDAY 23RD AUGUST
Limbo (12) *Bairns at the Box Office: 11am.* Highlands From The Air (U) 11:45am. The Sparks Brothers (15) 1pm. Jungle Cruise (12a) 1:45pm. Free Guy (12a) 4:15pm + 7pm. The Forever Purge (15) 5pm. I Never Cry (15) 7:30pm.

TUESDAY 24TH AUGUST
Jungle Cruise (12a) 1:30pm. The Sparks Brothers (15) 1:45pm. Limbo (12) 4:30pm. Free Guy (12a) 5pm + 7:15pm. The Forever Purge (15) 7:45pm.

WEDNESDAY 25TH AUGUST
The Suicide Squad (15) 10:15am. The Sparks Brothers (15) 10:45am. Free Guy (12a) 1:30pm + 7:30pm. Limbo (12) 2pm. Spirit Untamed (U) 4:30pm. The Forever Purge (15) 5pm. EIFF Presents: Here Today (12) 7pm.

THURSDAY 26TH AUGUST
Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:30am. Limbo (12) 11:30am. The Sparks Brothers (15) 1:30pm. Free Guy (12a) 2pm + 8pm. Our Ladies (15) 4:45pm + 7:30pm. The Forever Purge (15) 5:15pm.



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LT

Shinty round up

Three of the four Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finalists are known following the shinty action on Saturday August 14.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – quarter finals

Kingussie 11 Kilmallie 0

Kingussie marched through to the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals following their 11-0 triumph over Kilmallie at the Dell.

Kingussie went into the game with a 100 per cent record so far this season. They were missing keeper Rory MacGregor and defender Alexander Michie, so Craig Dawson played in goal and Calum Grant returned to defence after recovering from an ankle injury.

This was always going to be a big task for Kilmallie and their cause wasn't helped with Innes Blackhall serving the second match of a seven game suspension whilst Ryan Stewart and Liam Cameron were also missing. Steven Stewart returned from suspension though and former Lochaber player Stuart Callison made his debut.

Kingussie opened the scoring from a set-piece on eight minutes. James Falconer ran onto Savio Genini's measured ball to the right where he hit a low, 20-yard shot past Shane Gillies in the Kilmallie goal.

Roddy Young made it 2-0 on 22 minutes when he hammered home James Falconer's cut-back after Falconer had gone on a wonderful solo run.

Roddy Young got his second and Kingussie's third on 30 minutes when he got away from Steven Stewart before running in to score.

Savio Genini made it 4-0 on 38 minutes. This time Roddy Young ran at the visiting defence and with full back Robbie MacFadyen coming out to challenge, the ball deflected to Savio Genini on the left who needed no second invitation to whip the ball home.

Roddy Young got his second on 44 minutes when he controlled Ryan Borthwick's ball forward, getting by Steven Stewart and cutting in on goal before firing low into the net and, just a minute later, Savio Genini's free-hit from a central position sent James Falconer running out to the left and he struck the ball on his left side for his second goal of the match to make it 6-0 at half-time.

James Falconer completed his hat-trick on 50 minutes. James Hutchison's free-hit wasn't cleared by the Kilmallie defence and Falconer sent the ball high into the net from the Kingussie left.



Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies and Cam Clark deal with the threat from James Falconer, Kingussie.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Kingussie substitute Iain Fraser made it 8-0 with 10 minutes remaining. Fraser turned home a ball from the left from close range on his backhand with his effort bobbling into the net on the keeper's right.

James Falconer got his fourth goal of the afternoon a minute later. Kieran MacPherson volleyed the ball forward to Iain Fraser who picked out Falconer's diagonal run to the right and he hammered home a head-high shot.

Dylan Borthwick added two more goals on 85 and 87 minutes to make the final score 11-0. First Borthwick was unmarked at the back post as he turned home Iain Fraser's corner from the right. Then Borthwick took down James Falconer's high ball forward before spinning and smashing the ball high into the net.

Shane Gillies made some good saves in the game, preventing Kingussie from adding further misery.

Kingussie will now play the winner of this Saturday's quarter final tie between Oban Camanachd and Lovat in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals. This semi is scheduled for An Aird on Saturday September 4.

The other semi-final between Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic takes place a week earlier on Saturday August 28 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Both semi-finals are live on BBC ALBA, throw-ups 4.10pm. **Oban Camanachd P Lovat P** The 3pm throw-up between Oban Camanachd and Lovat at Mossfield was postponed on Thursday because of a Covid outbreak affecting the Oban side.

The match has been rescheduled for this Saturday, August 21, at Taynuilt Sports Field at 1pm as Mossfield is hosting the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final later in the afternoon.

The eventual winners from the tie between Oban Camanachd and Lovat will play Kingussie at An Aird in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup semi-finals on Saturday September 4.

Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – quarter finals

Skye Camanachd 5 Aberdour 0

Skye Camanachd eventually broke down a spirited Aberdour side to win 5-0 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

With Jordan Murchison, Will Cowie, Ross Gordon and James Pringle injured, Skye manager Kenny MacLeod called up Somhairle MacDonald, Archie MacDonald, U17 captain Taylor Matheson, second team skipper Iain MacPherson and Calum Gibb.

Aberdour boss Lisa MacColl was without Angus Thorburn, Stuart Downey, Jack Mitchell, Craig Grant and John Martin Philips. Youngster Logan Adam debuted as their only substitute.

This was the first time these clubs had met in Portree and Aberdour were no push-overs with a committed performance in the first half which finished scoreless.

Skye made the breakthrough on 59 minutes following an Aberdour set-piece around the Skye goal area when youngster Taylor Matheson marked his senior team debut with a goal, turning home a rebound off impressive keeper Craig Callaghan.

William MacKinnon made no mistake from close-in a couple of minutes later when Aberdour failed to clear a Jamie Gillies corner from the right.

Jamie Gillies then took centre stage as his turn and shot flew into the net on 71 minutes to make it 3-0.

Jamie Gillies got his second

and Skye's fourth on 82 minutes when he smashed the ball home from just right of centre after his initial effort was blocked.

And with three minutes remaining, Jamie Gillies completed his hat-trick with the goal of the match. There seemed little danger when Gillies gathered the ball wide on the right but his bullet-shot rose high into the net past a helpless keeper to send Skye through to the semi-final draw.

Inverness 0 Beaulieu 10 Jack MacDonald scored six times as Beaulieu thumped Inverness 10-0 at the Bught Park.

The visitors led 3-0 at the break with Jack MacDonald scoring on 23, 32 and 41 minutes. Jack MacDonald got his and Beaulieu's fourth a couple of minutes into the second half whilst Conor Ross made it 5-0 on 50 minutes.

David MacLean added goals on 55 and 65 minutes whilst Jack MacDonald became the day's top scorer with efforts on 72 and 87 minutes.

David MacLean completed his hat-trick a minute later to take Beaulieu into double figures.

Bute 2 Strathglass 1, after extra time Bute edged out Strathglass 2-1 after extra time at the Meadows.

The islanders got off to a great start when Leon MacMillan volleyed home a ball from a corner on eight minutes. Penri Jones pulled Strathglass level on 20 minutes and that's the way it stayed after 90 minutes.

The goal that made the difference came on 110 minutes when Craig Fisher drove the ball home to send Bute into the semi-final draw.

Mowi Senior League A Glenurquhart 2 Fort William 2 Jed Stoddart's goal a couple

of minutes from time earned Glenurquhart a 2-2 draw with Fort William at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart made three changes from the side which lost to Skye the previous weekend. Ally MacKintosh and Finlay Ralston were missing with John Barr dropping onto the bench. Michael Fraser came into the starting line-up with David MacLennan and Charlie MacLeod coming off the bench to start.

The game came too soon for Fort William's Alexander MacMillan, whilst Lewis Clark was still unavailable. However Lachie Shaw was back after missing the Lochaber victory a week earlier.

Fort William were favourites going into this game and they enjoyed the early pressure without working Stuart MacKintosh in the Glenurquhart goal. Victor Smith and Arran MacPhee both had early chances but both sent shots over the top.

There were eight minutes on the clock before Glenurquhart full forward David MacLennan got a touch of the ball.

The best early chance fell to Glenurquhart's Connor Golabek on 23 minutes but his 20 yard strike went narrowly past keeper Paul MacKay's right hand post.

The match burst into life with three first half minutes remaining. David MacLennan was about to shoot but Alexander Cameron dived to the ground and diverted the ball for a corner on the Glenurquhart left. The corner came to Connor Golabek 18 yards out. Golabek's scuffed a shot goalwards and Fort keeper Paul MacKay reacted to a defender's shout of 'leave it' but instead of going out for a goal-hit, the ball trundled just inside the keeper's left post to give Glenurquhart a fortuitous lead.

Rather than feel sorry for themselves, Fort William fought back and were level within a minute. Straight from the restart, the ball came to Jack Fraser on the left wing and he pinged a pass over to Lewis Morrison on the right. Morrison turned his marker before drilling the ball inside Stuart MacKintosh left post to make it 1-1.

The excitement continued into the second half and Connor Golabek came within a whisker of putting Glenurquhart back in front when he got away from his marker on 51 minutes but he saw his shot cannon off Paul MacKay's left hand post.

Glenurquhart substitute James Hurwood spurned a couple of opportunities within the space of five minutes but it was Fort William who took the lead for the first time in the match on 83 minutes. Some good play from Arran

MacPhee on the left saw him pick out Calum Shepherd around the penalty spot and he hit a rasping shot which took a deflection off Lachie Smith on its way past a helpless Stuart MacKintosh.

The home side kept pressing and John Barr's introduction helped create a couple of opportunities before they got a leveller with a minute to go. Michael Fraser lobbed the ball into the 'D' where John Barr's flick to the right found Jed Stoddart and his unstoppable shot flew past the keeper on his right side to make it 2-2.

This was a competitive encounter. Both teams played very well with a draw probably a fair result.

Glenurquhart full back Lachie Smith was the man of the match with a flawless performance, whilst Michael Fraser worked hard in the centre of the field. Connor Golabek was again impressive up front.

Fort William's best players were Alexander Cameron at full back and Jack Fraser on the left wing.

Kinlochshiel P Lochaber P

This clash was a Saturday postponement as Lochaber were able to field a team for their 2pm throw-up against Kinlochshiel at Rèaraig.

HIS Sutherland Cup – third round

Newtonmore 13 Kyles Athletic 1

The Newtonmore seconds were ruthless as they thumped the Kyles Athletic seconds 13-1 at the Eilan.

Newtonmore had supporters back for the first time this season and Craig MacLeod gave them the lead on eight minutes. Two goals in two minutes from Sorley Thomson and Glen MacKintosh on 12 and 13 minutes extended Newtonmore's lead before Craig MacLeod got his second on 16 minutes.

Fraser MacKintosh on 19 minutes, Craig MacLeod's hat-trick goal on 23 minutes and a second from Sorley Thomson made it 7-0.

David Martin netted to give Kyles some consolation on the half-hour but Newtonmore continued to turn the screw with Glen MacKintosh completing his hat-trick with efforts on 32 and 43 minutes.

There was still time for Sorley Thomson to complete a first half hat-trick, scoring a minute before the break to make it 10-1 at half-time.

Sorley Thomson got his fourth a minute into the second half with Craig MacLeod getting his fourth 60 seconds later. There was some respite for Kyles with Craig MacLeod's fifth goal of the afternoon on 69 minutes their only other score.

Lovat 7 Aberdeen University 1

The Lovat colts overcame Aberdeen University 7-1 at Balgate.

Former Lovat first team boss Fraser Gallacher put the hosts ahead on 20 minutes and a first goal at this level from Angus Mearns made it 2-0 a minute later.

Gary Marshall on 26 minutes and Ryan Ferguson three minutes later made it 4-0 at half-time.

Willie Hunter gave the students some consolation with a goal on 52 minutes before Raymond Rennie took his tally to four goals with strikes on 60, 76 and 82 minutes.

Beaully w/o v Kilmory

The Beaully second team were given a walk-over as Kilmory were unable to fulfil their tie at Braeview Park.

Lochside Rovers P Kinlochshiel P

The 12.15pm throw-up between holders Lochside Rovers and the Kinlochshiel second team at Mossfield was postponed on Thursday because of a Covid outbreak in Oban.

The tie has been rescheduled for this Saturday, August 21, at Ganavan.

Mowi North League A Fort William P Glengarry P

Having won one match apiece, the Fort William seconds and Glengarry were scheduled to meet for the third time this season with this encounter scheduled for An Aird.

But Glengarry were unable to field a team so the match was postponed.

Lochcarron P Skye Camanachd P

The match between Lochcarron and the Skye Camanachd second team was rearranged for Tuesday August 17.

Mowi North League C

Strathspey Camanachd 3
Inverness 1

Strathspey Camanachd recorded their second win of the season, beating the Inverness reserves 3-1 at Grantown Grammar School.

Strathspey were 4-2 victors when the sides met at the Bught Park on the opening day of the current shinty season.

Euan Dingwall gave the hosts the lead on three minutes with Martin Ross making it 2-0 on 20 minutes.

Findlay Calder pulled a goal back on the half-hour mark but Calum Miller made it 3-1 on 77 minutes.

Mowi Central League

Ardnamurchan 0 Kilmallie 6

The Kilmallie seconds ran out 6-0 victors against Ardnamurchan at Strontian.

Shane O'Rua got the opener on nine minutes - the only goal of the first half.

Ross MacKenzie grabbed a hat-trick with goals on 50, 53 and 81 minutes before Khai Barr on 85 minutes and Ryan MacLeod a minute later made it 6-0.

Jags spear Lovat Arms in emphatic cup victory

SLT	8
Lovat Arms	2
President's League Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle (SLT) were finally allowed back onto the field of play with an emphatic President's League Cup victory over Lovat Arms AFC, writes Pete Newman.

The Kinlochleven outfit put together a decent squad mixing established players with some younger members of the playing squad, several of which were making their competitive debuts. Despite signs of rustiness, things began well for the Greater Glasgow Premier

Division One side and skipper Martin Munro opening the scoring after two minutes with his customary zip and guile.

However, the Jags then found themselves pegged back to 1-1 when referee Martin Rae adjudged an infringement had taken place by Stevie Neil. The resultant spot kick was duly dispatched to restore parity for the visitors. As half time approached, Munro scampered into the box and was hauled down. Utility full back Sean Noble, playing out on the wing for once, hit a sweet penalty to edge the Jags ahead 2-1 at the break.

After a typically Churchillian

team talk at half time from boss Alan Gray, the newly-inspired SLT emerged for the second half determined to make their chances count.

Iain Maclellan hit a sumptuous free kick from outside the box to give the Kinlochleven side a two-goal cushion.

Lovat were not to be kept completely out of it, however. A second penalty was awarded which would have put them back in the game as Lewis Murphy went sliding in. But debutant Marcus Spence dived smartly to keep the spot kick out and see the scoreline remain at 3-1.

Lovat edged back in with a

smartly taken finish for 3-2. At this point though, class began to tell. Lolloping midfielder Andrew Maclean stepped up. First his giant boot restored the two goal cushion at 4-2. Later, he would head in a rebound after Andrew Moore hit the crossbar from a corner before completing his hat trick to wrap up a virtuoso performance. Before those two strikes, however, founding father and midfield veteran Dave Forbes bagged himself a quick fire double moving the score to 6-2, including the best goal of the game, a nutmeg-fuelled piece of skill to leave defenders humbled.

Manager Alan Gray commented: 'It was great to see competitive debuts for Marcus Spence, Lewis Murphy, Brandon Lopez and Kian Cameron. We played some great stuff today and it was brilliant to get back at it. I was delighted to welcome the return to the SLT ranks of Iain Maclellan, Lewis Campbell and Andrew Moore, all of whom we enjoy playing with.'

'It was clear we were a bit rusty, but we are away next week to Ferguslie Star in the next round of the President's Cup so we will hopefully be able to build on this fantastic result.'



Players were among the volunteers who turned out for a recent day of action to help get Lochaber RFC club and ground ready for the new season. Photograph: Lochaber RFC.

Volunteers in Rugby Force day of action

Lochaber Rugby Club recently held a Royal Bank Rugby Force day of action, supported by the bank and Scottish Rugby, which gave Scottish clubs the chance of a much needed get-together plus a working party to get clubs and grounds ready for the new season.

Lochaber took full advantage of willing players and volunteers to help with a clubhouse external makeover, painting, lots of cleaning, replacing paving and steps, plus the installation of a new concrete plinth to

assist with match-day filming and squad development.

Club president Charlie Donaldson commented on the successful weekend: 'We are a proud rugby club and it was great to hear the progress the senior squad was making on the road.'

'As a club, we can't thank the players and volunteers enough for their hard work and support throughout the pandemic. Lochaber Rugby Club can never underestimate the importance of our volunteers.'

It's simple - our club wouldn't run without you. Thank you.'

Lochaber have arranged pre-season fixtures to be played at their Banavie home, but the first fixture against Highland RFC last Saturday ended up being postponed.

As things currently stand, Lochaber are due to face Moray this Saturday in their second pre-season fixture at Banavie.

Keep up-to-date with the latest news, match updates and membership info online at www.lochaberrfc.co.uk

Lochaber on the lookout for more rugby girls

Continued from page 56
year's Six Nations squad. An impressive achievement considering the first globally recognised women's international rugby match took place only 39 years ago.

Despite this, the club has struggled to sustain a ladies' team over the last 10 years, even though the girls' minis have become a permanent feature with many female coaches arising over the years too.

The popularity and availability of shinty is often blamed for the lack of numbers on the rugby front, but Lochaber RFC head coach Gary Hendrie believes the two sports can work in harmony.

'Shinty tournaments take place in the summer and rugby matches in the winter so players interested in both sports can play both,' he said.

Lochaber RFC, founded in



Ladies of all abilities are welcome at Lochaber Rugby Football Club. Photograph iain Ferguson, alba photos.

1969, is not the only club that struggles for numbers.

'Lochaber offers such an array of exciting sports, including mountain biking and climbing, which means Lochaber clubs are almost competing for players,' added Hendrie.

Despite these obstacles, Lochaber RFC is intent on resurrecting its ladies' team and has recently attracted a handful of regular members of mixed abilities. Because of low, fluctuating numbers due to work and other commitments,

the women have joined the senior men's training every Tuesday at 7pm.

'This works well as several members of the men's senior team are also coaches, so new members are progressing quickly with the additional help,' said Hendrie.

Members of men's senior team say they are 'really happy' the ladies are taking part and joining in on a Tuesday as everyone wants the club to be as inclusive as possible, from children and youths to men's and ladies senior teams.

Initially the club is looking to establish a ladies' team of 10 to 15 members to play in local touch or contact rugby tournaments. Once numbers grow above 20 members, a ladies league can be formed.

If members progress to the contact version of the sport, the head coach stresses that learning to tackle properly is essentially learning how avoid injury and that even some of the toughest rugby players find a game of shinty a far more ruthless affair.

'Despite the fearsome rep-

utation of rugby, Lochaber RFC wants to reassure people of their welcoming and family friendly nature,' he added.

'We are trying to progress the club as much as we can and welcome all abilities.'

A new addition to the ladies' team, Birte Naeve, said: 'Although I have never played or watched a game in my life, I have had so much fun getting involved in a team sport.'

Anyone interested in taking up rugby should go along to Banavie on a Tuesday night at 7pm.



29 October 2021 · 7pm arrival · Dress code: Smart casual

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
beautifultickets.com/events/scottish-field-whisky-awards-21st-anniversary
*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.



Fort William RFC wants to rebuild its ladies section. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Here come the rugby girls

Lochaber Rugby Football Club (RFC) is inviting all ladies who have ever wanted to give rugby a go, or have played previously, to come along and join them on a Tuesday evening, writes Savannah Cobb-Thomas.

The Banavie-based club

formed its first ladies' team around 20 years ago. Captained by Sandra Chisholm, the team played its first tournament in 1999 and played league games in 2000.

Since then, Lochaber RFC has been the starting point

for some successful female rugby players including Rachel White, Lochaber's first Scottish internationalist, Katie Dougan, who won the Six Nations in 2017 and Helen Nelson who captained this

Continued on page 55.



Players in action at training. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Club remembers Helen Ross at memorial match

BOWLING

Fort William Railway Bowling Club honoured long-standing member Helen Ross, who died last year, with a pairs competition at their green in Inverloch.

The competition, which is to become an annual event, was sponsored by Helen's family, who turned out in force to watch the games. Ian, Helen's husband, presented the Helen Ross Memorial Shield to winners Alan MacDonald and Robert Hunter. Helen, who loved her bowls, was a committee member and competed in the Scottish Rink Championship and the Railway Scottish Championship. She was also a member of the BA Bowling Club. The family donated raffle prizes that were drawn on the day.



The Helen Ross Memorial Shield.

Pipped in five-goal thriller

Forres Mechanics	3
Fort William	2
Highland League	

Fort William Football Club entered an important week of their season as they faced Forres Mechanics in the league before a cup tie midweek with Lossiemouth, writes Ally Rowantree.

Fort travelled to Mosset Park on Saturday with only one change from last week's match and could not have hoped for a better start when, after five minutes, Ruairidh Macdonald scored his first senior goal after moving up from the youth ranks.

The lead did not last long though as Forres replied within two minutes through

striker Moray Taylor. Both teams continued to attack and it was Forres who managed to go ahead on the 35th minute with a Ross Macpherson goal.

Fort William went into the break trailing 2-1, despite a bright first half. Into the second period and this time it was Forres who were quickest off the mark, extending their lead to 3-1 through Allan Macphee.

Despite falling behind, Fort never looked out the game and continued good pressure was rewarded with a first goal for Connor Moore on 82 minutes. Connor is another player from the youth ranks. Unfortunately Fort couldn't find the equaliser in the last eight minutes and the game finished 3-2 to Forres Mechanics. This was a much-improved performance

from the team after recent results with their hard work paying off on the attacking end in breaking a scoring drought in the first few matches.

The team only had a few days to rest up before they travelled to face Lossiemouth in the North of Scotland Cup last night (Wednesday). Fort face Brora Rangers this Saturday, August 21.

SHINTY ROUND-UP AND SOUTH LOCHABER THISTLE REPORT - PAGES 54 AND 55



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 19 August, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

19	0328 3.1 0925 1.4 TH 1555 3.4 2148 1.3	21	0512 3.5 1110 0.9 SA 1721 3.9 2337 0.9	23	0018 0.8 0618 3.8 M 1231 0.6 1832 4.2	25	0133 0.8 0719 3.8 W 1345 0.7 1938 4.1
20	0429 3.3 1023 1.2 F 1642 3.7 2249 1.1	22	0546 3.7 1152 0.7 SU 1756 4.1 ○	24	0057 0.8 0649 3.8 TU 1309 0.6 1905 4.2	26	0207 0.9 0747 3.7 TH 1418 0.9 2009 3.9

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

Thursday

Light cloud and light winds
Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.

Friday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.

Saturday

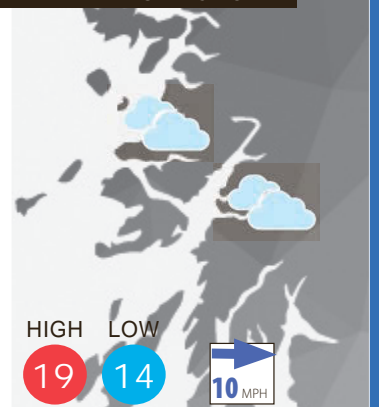
Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 14°C to 20°C.

Sunday

Light rain and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 13°C to 21°C.

FRIDAY FORECAST

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



HIGH 19 LOW 14

