



## Oban Sportive goes the distance for charity

**See Inside: Get your boat out the water for winter storage**

### Children In Need



**Chris Howard in Oban as part of UK-wide walk**  
• See page 10 for more

### Taste of success



**Oban woman's battle inspires Inner Wheel**  
• See page 5 for more



**What an achievement! Dalmally charity celebrates milestone.**

• FULL STORY, PAGE 4

# PLEA OVER HOME CRISIS

**Mull Community Council hopes to appeal to second-home owners, asking them to consider looking at long-term lets**

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Mull is planning a carefully worded plea to second-home and cottage owners to consider converting their properties to long-term rentals.

A motion supporting an appeal to property owners to help ease the island's housing crisis, was passed at last week's community council via Zoom.

It was also decided to set up a working group

to draw up a list of solutions that would help alleviate the housing problem and make building more affordable homes on the island easier – some construction conditions date back to the former Strathclyde Regional Council.

The solution list could eventually go before Argyll and Bute Council and possibly the Scottish Government as Mull's situation was probably being felt in other places along the West Coast, the meeting heard.

Continued on page 2.



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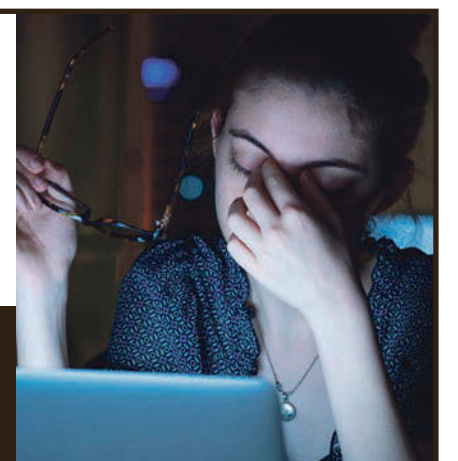
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OT

# Oban Bay crunch meeting not quick enough, says Trust Port campaigners

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Councillors have decided to bring forward a crunch meeting to determine the future direction of development plans for Oban Bay.

Members of the Argyll and Bute Harbour Board, which consists of eight councillors from across the area, were asked to agree that further talks on the best option for the harbour should take place in March.

The board instead agreed to hold a special meeting in December, with the councillors due to undertake a visit to the harbour site in advance, but Oban Community Harbour Development Association (OCHDA) says it is still being 'unnecessarily slow' over the matter, putting water users at risk at what is

one of Scotland's busiest harbours. Officers recommended that with insufficient available information the board could not currently select a preferred option - councillors approved that unanimously.

OCHDA responded to the meeting's outcome saying residents and harbour users will be dismayed by the continued delays.

Although the report to the council's Harbour Board stated there were five options to be considered, OCHDA says in effect only three of them are under consideration.

They say the 'do nothing' option has already been ruled out and a Trust Port based somewhere other than the North Pier is not supported by evidence by OCHDA or by Transport Scotland which only leaves a council-run Municipal Port option or a

State Port run by CMAL to be considered - the third option would be OCHDA's own proposal to see a joint enterprise with a community-led Trust Port based on council's assets on the North Pier.

## 'Argyll and Bute Council are risking one of the frequent near misses resulting in a fatal accident inquiry'

Council officers were first asked to appraise the original options in 2016 and over the years OCHDA has carried out detailed work to support any appraisal of these options.

'If it is clear what the criteria are by which these three will be judged, in addition to safety, then OCHDA will be happy to

support the process in order to move the matter on as rapidly and soundly as possible,' said a spokesperson for OCHDA.

Concern over safety in Oban Bay has been an issue for many years with various organisations having responsibilities for different parts of it - rather than a single authority.

OCHDA believes it is clear that the control of traffic to and from the North Pier needs to be integrated with overall traffic management in the bay.

'Instead of yet another appraisal of options for the new Oban Harbour Authority, Argyll and Bute Council should accept the evidence presented by OCHDA and grasp the opportunity to contribute to the enhancement of one of Argyll's greatest assets while improving their own financial situation.

'This is what the people of Oban have indicated is their best value solution.

'By continuing to prevaricate about their support for the Trust Port development while not putting forward a satisfactory alternative, Argyll and Bute Council, who currently are the responsible authority for most of the waters in the Bay, are risking one of the frequent near misses resulting in a fatal accident inquiry,' said the OCHDA spokesperson.

Harbour Board members were told the papers made available for the meeting were the only ones that could be considered.

Recommendations in the report said the board should continue to engage with third parties, including OCHDA, to allow them to fully develop their proposals.

It was agreed in principle,

Argyll and Bute Council's assets at North Pier could be made available for use by another party in operating the Bay.

Policy Lead for Roads and Infrastructure Services, Councillor Rory Colville's motion that the report's recommendations be adhered to was seconded by Oban Councillor Andrew Vennard and was unanimously backed. The only change was to call a special meeting in December.

Councillor Colville said it was about reaching the right option for Oban, its communities and businesses in the longer term.

He added: 'There are a number of possible routes for Oban Bay's future. These decisions accelerate progress in establishing a single authority for the Bay, and allow for all options to be fully developed.'



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## Plea to Mull's second-home owners over long-term lets

Continued from page 1.

Building homes on Mull can be 22 per cent more expensive than on the mainland. The island also has the fourth largest number of holiday homes in Scotland - the figure is understood to be at almost 1,500.

Those struggling to find places to live include young islanders wanting to stay to bring up their children, seasonal workers looking for a temporary roof and key workers including doctors, nurses and teachers.

The idea of a direct appeal to second-homers and holiday property owners divided the meeting, raising concerns it could be seen as being 'divisive' or make self-catering out to be 'a bad thing', but community councillor convener Tom Nelson said that was not the case.

He said there was no need for anyone to feel uncomfortable about being asked. 'There's no pressure,' he said.

'Self-catering is critical to the economy. This would merely be a suggestion and get people thinking about making the conversion to long-term let,' he added, saying the idea might appeal to someone 'sitting on



More houses are being built in Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull.

the fence' who do not want the hassle anymore of running a self-catering business or who do not necessarily need the cash.

'They might like doing something more that's beneficial to the local community. It would put the idea out there and at least stimulate the debate and discussion, make people think,' he said.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon told the meeting the community council needed to be very clear to identify the actual need and who these long-term lets would be intended for.

Builds in the future include a potential 60 from island developer Calum MacLachlainn, 12 housing association homes in Tobermory and eight coming in Salen.

'Work is ongoing to provide more housing on Mull. It's not as if the community council has suddenly woken up the issue,' said Councillor Devon speaking to The Oban Times after the meeting.

This May, four years after starting a new affordable homes project in Ulva Ferry, Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) handed over the keys to the new residents.

It took years of fundraising and feasibility work to buy the land and pay for the £1.3 million project which resulted in the four much-needed homes being built.

More than 30 applications to live in them were received and a locally agreed, points based allocation policy was used to choose the successful families.



Three skiffs and hardy crews from across Argyll set off from Ganavan to meet with Oban Coastal Rowing Club out at sea and row around Kerrera.

# Skiffing good time on Kerrera coastal row

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Four St Ayles skiffs and 21 crew from across Argyll rowed around Kerrera on a maiden voyage covering more than 26 kilometres.

Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club (CRC) skiffs Mingulay and Cruachan, and the newly formed upper Loch Fyne CRC with its skiff Mrs MacPhunn launched from Ganavan sands into calm seas and a falling tide to rendezvous with Oban CRC and its Moluag skiff off the north west point of Kerrera.

Melanie Grey from Loch Awe CRC reported on the day: 'Two white hulled skiffs, a blue hulled skiff with a yellow band and a black hulled 22ft skiff were a beautiful vision against the backdrop of Mull, Lismore and Ardnamurchan, with the Oban sailing club, CalMac's ferries and a melange of kayaks and paddleboarders as water companions.

'Just around lunchtime



the four skiffs rowed round the north point and out of sight down the rugged west side of Kerrera to be joined by an inquisitive pod of porpoises.

Two of the Loch Awe coastal rowers were former Kerrera residents which made it a particularly special voyage for them and there was no shortage of boat banter from the four boats all the way round and during pit stops at



Barnaboc Bay and just south of Gallanach.

'A particular award for adventurous spirit had to go to the crew of Mrs MacPhunn, four of whom were octogenarians and who completed the circumnavigation of Kerrera in robust spirit.

'Scottish Coastal rowing does more than connecting people in communities – it kindles a passion for the sea and holds no barriers to entry.'



Centre: The Loch Awe crew rounding the tip off Kerrera; and right, The Loch Awe – Andrea Lines, Heather Craig, Andy Vost, Marlyn Turbitt and Melanie Grey; above left, Martyn Webster from Upper Loch Fyne coxing Mrs MacPhunn; and Mrs MacPhunn's launch.

## Council prepares for winter with a £2.2million budget

Council chiefs have approved a £2.2 million winter policy to keep people safe during the cold, dark nights and mornings.

Members of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee met online last week to rubberstamp the 2021-22 Winter Service Policy, prioritising how Argyll and Bute's roads will be treated ahead of winter hazards.

These winter standby arrangements operate from Friday October 29 2021 until Friday April 15 2022.

When cold weather hits, the council pre-treats 52 per cent of the road network. This is more than most other local authorities.

There are 31 frontline vehicles ready for action, and two spare in case of breakdown with a further six vehicles, as well as tractors and V ploughs, that can be deployed if necessary.

More than 11,000 tonnes of salt will be stockpiled to keep 750 miles of priority routes



A gritter at Barnacarry Hill near Kilninver in 2019.

clear. And there is a team of people who analyse local weather forecast data so they know by the end of each day what they need to do to make sure the roads are treated appropriately the following morning.

Councillor Rory Colville, policy lead for roads and infrastructure services, said: 'I know we all value this frontline service. I would like

to take this opportunity, as policy lead, to voice my personal appreciation for all the workers who brave the cold, dark evenings and mornings, sometimes in very poor conditions, to make the roads are safer for us all. Please look out for vulnerable neighbours when conditions underfoot are poor and if you can make use of local grit bins, please do. These will be filled up ahead of the winter season. I'd urge you to pay close attention to travel advice during poor weather conditions and stay safe.'

Every winter, the council works closely with colleagues in Police Scotland and promotes any relevant travel advice through our Facebook and Twitter channels.

Visit [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-roads](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-roads) for more, and [bit.ly/2RjY5pB](https://bit.ly/2RjY5pB) for facts on getting ready for winter driving.

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# Mary's Meals celebrates milestone of feeding 2M children every school day

by Kathie Griffiths  
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A global feeding charity founded in Dalmally is celebrating providing meals to two million hungry children every school day.

Thanks to supporters and volunteers, including its Stevenson Street charity shop in Oban, Mary's Meals is reaching its highest number of youngsters yet in some of the world's poorest countries.

Daily nutritious meals are feeding 2,058,099 children in 19 countries.

The landmark achievement was celebrated with an online event yesterday, Wednesday September 8, featuring highlights of celebrations from the remote desert region of Turkana, Kenya, where communities serve much-needed meals to children at Early



**Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals, which feeds more than two million children in some of the world's poorest countries; and above, Gift from Zambia receives Mary's Meals every school day.** Photograph: Chris Watt

by years of political unrest and natural disasters, most recently a major earthquake.

One of those children is 11-year-old Gift who goes to Kabila Primary School in Zambia.

Before Mary's Meals reached Gift's school, he would often skip lessons and go scavenging for food. Now, even when there is very little to eat at home, he knows that he can rely on a nutritious mug of vitamin-enriched porridge every day at school.

When he grows up he wants to be a doctor.

The charity's latest milestone has prompted changes to another story – the founder's bestselling book *The Shed That Fed A Million Children*, which has been fully updated with a new preface, chapter and epilogue and will be published by HarperCollins on September 30.

The new material charts the journey of the last six years – since the announcement that Mary's Meals was feeding one million children each school day and includes reflections on the way the global pandemic played out for the charity and its partners, and the communities serving the meals.

Jennie McMaster, manager of the Mary's Meals shop in Oban, said the team of shop volunteers and herself were overjoyed with the charity's news of getting meals to more than two million children every school day.

'We are humbled by every kind donation we receive knowing it is making a difference to a child that needs our help. A huge thank you to the people of Argyll for all their support and to our incredible volunteers for gifting their precious time to help us change the lives of hungry children around the world,' she said.

Go to [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

Childhood Development centres. Providing food in schools helps even the most vulnerable children attend classes and concentrate in lessons, giving them the freedom to learn and the chance to fulfil their potential.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and CEO of Mary's Meals, said: 'When we set out on this path nearly 30 years ago, we were overwhelmed by people's goodness in donating – and that's been the story ever since. I thank you with all my heart on behalf of each of those children, for every bit of hard work, for every gift given, for all those unique things each person brings to this enormous Mary's Meals' table. Thank you, and please let's keep going forward.'

'For every one of those children that ate today, many more are still waiting for Mary's Meals to come to their school, so we go on. But this happy day shows us that this vision of ours is possible.'

The work of Mary's Meals began almost 20 years ago in 2002 with the feeding of 200 children at a Malawian primary school. Now more than a third of the primary school population of Malawi enjoy the nutritious meals, served by volunteers who are determined to help the next generation to build a brighter future.

Mary's Meals not only feeds huge numbers of children attending schools in Africa, but also brings daily meals to children finding hope in non-formal education centres in India; the sons and daughters of vulnerable migrant workers in Thailand; young people engaging in education while awaiting trial in prisons in Niger and Madagascar; children affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria – through feeding programmes in Aleppo and neighbouring Lebanon; and many thousands of young learners in Haiti, which has been plagued

septicaemia, better known and prevent more deaths.

Sepsis happens when your immune system overreacts to an infection and starts to damage your body's own tissues and organs.

It accounts for at least 11 million deaths across the globe annually.

In the UK it kills 48,000 people every year. That is more than breast, bowel and

prostate cancers combined.

Red flag symptoms can be a new confused state, high temperature and a fast heart rate.

Vaccination, clean care and early recognition can reduce sepsis deaths by half, according to research.

Find out more about World Sepsis Day or how to get involved by visiting [www.worldsepsisday.org/about](http://www.worldsepsisday.org/about)

## Be Sepsis aware

World Sepsis Day is raising awareness this Monday to help save lives.

On September 13 every year, the date is dedicated to the cause worldwide to make sepsis, sometimes called blood-poisoning or



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# MND fundraising recipe book offers taste of Oban

A Taste of Oban cookery book inspired by a mum with MND is raising funds for a charity helping her and others living with the incurable condition.

Former Oban High School pupil Ruth Williamson, formerly Gibson, was given two years to live by doctors after being diagnosed with the disease that affects the brain and nerves but has incredibly beaten the odds four years later by seeing her daughter Anna start school.

Ruth's mum and dad were at the cookery's book launch last week with members of Oban Inner Wheel who came up with the idea as a lockdown project and their sponsors – BID FOR Oban, Oban Rugby Club and the Rotary Club of Oban – who helped make it happen.

The 40-year-old mum who now lives in Edinburgh is taking part in MND-SMART, the largest ever trial of drugs tackling MND and hailed the biggest development in a generation.

Proceeds from A Taste Of Oban will go to Scottish former rugby union player Doddie Weir's My Name's Doddie Foundation that helps fund the clinical trial and by last year had raised more than



Ruth's parents receive a copy of Taste of Oban. Pictured are Lachie Beaton who is vice-chairman of the Rotary Club of Oban; Inner Wheel secretary Marion Beaton, club convener Morag MacKinnon, Jane and Iain Gibson, Inner Wheel's immediate past chairman Liz Crawford; and Bid4Oban's Andy Spence; and right, the highlight of Jane's day is picking up her daughter, Anna, from school.

£5 million for MND research.

The 100-page book with lots of photos costs £10 and features tried and tested favourite recipes from soups to cocktails. There were 100 copies printed for starters and they are selling out quick.

Recipes have also been contributed by chefs from Coast,

The Manor House and Etive restaurants in town.

The cocktails section is called Locktails after Lachie Beaton who shared some of his finest shake and drinks recipes. David Lapsley, sommelier at the Etive Restaurant also contributed the best of his own.

Many club members were

involved in the book, but special thanks goes to Morag MacKinnon and her friend Elsa McIver for all their commitment. Ruth has lost all the use of her arms, hands and legs so is wheelchair bound and her talking and eating is slow and laborious, says mum Jane, and uses eye-gaze technology for texting and the internet to help stay connected to the outside world.

'The highlight of her day is being taken in her wheelchair to meet Anna coming out of school,' added Jane who said despite it all, her daughter remains cheerful and smiley to friends and family who visit.

'But she does have her dark times that she does not share with others.'

'As Ruth's parents we were very humbled when Liz Crawford from the Inner Wheel first mooted the idea of a cookery book. The book's launch has given us the opportunity to reconnect with Oban people see as we are now spending so much time in Edinburgh.'

'Ruth knows the book is happening and it's been emotional but comforting to know that the Oban community has rallied to produce something to help her and other MND sufferers,' she added.



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## Big Issue seller admits stalking and causing sisters fear and alarm

A 61-year-old Big Issue seller who frightened two teenage sisters with unwanted approaches to them over an eight-month period will be sentenced on October 5.

Inverness Sheriff Court was told that Robert Bloomfield of Campbell Court in Fort William had a previous conviction for stalking a woman several years ago after he admitted one charge of stalking and another of causing fear and alarm last week.

The two siblings were aged 18 and 12 years at the time, between March 1, 2019 and October 2, 2019.

Fiscal depute Martina Eastwood told Sheriff Margaret Neilson that Bloomfield first met the older girl on a bus in Fort William and engaged her in conversation, asking her

several questions including her name. Ms Eastwood said the girl replied just to be polite.

But then she saw him in the days after that initial encounter and near her home mostly sitting in a camper van.

'This made her feel uneasy,' Ms Eastwood went on. On one occasion, Ms Eastwood added, his window was open and he stretched out his arm to stop her from walking past.

'This behaviour carried on for at least a month and eventually she had had enough and began taking the longer route to work to avoid him.'

Ms Eastwood told the court that the girl met him again in High Street and then again in September when he was once more at the end of her street.

When he mentioned that he tried to access her work, the

girl was frightened, told her boyfriend and moved in with him, the court heard.

Ms Eastwood then told Sheriff Neilson about Bloomfield twice approaching the girl's sister as she walked home from a park. The first was in August 2019 and the second occasion was on the same day as Bloomfield's work comment.

The sisters' told their parents about previous events and the police were informed.

Sentence was deferred for a background report and Bloomfield's bail was continued with special conditions not to approach or contact the girls.

Defence solicitor Pauline Chapman reserved her comments until the report had been prepared.

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## Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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What a great weekend we've just had, the town was positively buzzing on Sunday with Oban Sportive proving to be a huge success.

It was fantastic watching the river of 136 cyclists pouring out of the distillery to the sound of the pipes as though it was never going to end. This is an event which seems to get bigger and better every year, bringing cyclists from across Scotland as well as those more local to us.

Joe and I are also raring to go for the visit of the cruise ship Silver Spirit on Wednesday. It's so nice to have things to look forward to again. Silver Spirit will be calling again on September 20 and Seven Seas Splendour calling on September 17. From what I'm hearing, next year is starting to look busy for Oban, with ships already booking for 2022 and 2023 after as things in the cruise world return slowly to normal.

In the midst of this we also have the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final on September 18, which is always

## WHERE IS THIS?



a big event in the town. You can follow the shinty with a visit to hear Manran in the Corran Halls that evening.

There's lots of great music heading to the Corran Halls over the next few months, starting with a Queen/Freddie Mercury tribute act on September 17 and Manran on the 18th – so there is something for everyone.

To top it all off we have Oban Pride returning this year on Saturday September 25, in a slightly different form, but it'll be just as fantastic. I'm really looking forward to seeing all the shop windows decorated for it and I'm already planning what we can do in our wee office window.

The photograph last week was of one of the planters on the Combie Street bridge, this week might be a bit easier.

## Dove Centre calendar sales off to flying start

by Kathie Griffiths

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Friends of Oban Hospice have launched the official 2022 calendar and sales got off to a flying start.

Copies of the calendar featuring photographs taken by Dove Centre co-ordinator Peter Darling have been winging their way all over the UK from as far north as Shetland and as south as London.

Secretary of the Friends of Oban Hospice Shiralene Cave said the calendar's launch event in Gibraltar Street on August 28 saw 40 copies sold.

'We were grateful to Oban Rotary Club for the loan of their gazebo and the stall looked great decorated with bunting and balloons. We sold 40 calendars on the day which was a brilliant start and thanks to the feature in the Oban Times we received telephone calls from London, Peterborough, Crieff and Wales for calendar orders. Calendars are also winging their way to Livingstone and Shetland and we hope to have news of calendars arriving further afield across interna-



Shiralene Cave and Rosemary MacColl of the Friends of Oban Hospice selling the calendar at the official launch in Gibraltar Street.

tional destinations soon!'

For £10 you can pick up a copy from 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.

Shiralene added: 'More local businesses are stepping forward, happy to support us with offers of help to sell the calendars. The calendar is now available at Benderloch Shop, Connel Village Shop, Grant's Butcher - Taynuilt, Dunollie

Stores, Argyll Wellbeing Hub, Craigard Decor, Hannah's Newsagents, Orsay, Cloud Nine, Bid4Oban, The Sports Shop and Balvicar Stores.

'The response to the calendar has been lovely to hear, it's a real boost to feel people's appreciation for the care and support delivered in the community by the hospice team and the positive effect it has for local people who use the hospice services.'

Up to two calendars can also be posted second class within the UK for P&P of £2.75. Emailing fundraising@oban-hospice.org.uk or message

Oban Hospice Ltd Facebook page.

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

Proceeds also support Càirdeas, an outreach community service providing social and emotional support to people at home who are living with cancer or life-limiting conditions.



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# Call for safer crossing at Pennyfuir Cemetery

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Funeral-goers dodging speeding cars near Pennyfuir Cemetery need a crossing over the A85 to stay safe.

So says Oban resident George Berry, who is calling on Transport Scotland to replace the current flashing warning signs with a traffic light crossing.

Mr Berry says he had to step into the trunk road to stop traffic at a recent funeral attended by about 100 people.

'There was about 100 people there, all needing to cross from the car park to the cemetery. They were dodging with cars. There were cars doing 60 to 70mph.

'The flashing lights are not good enough. Drivers will not slow down for them. The only thing to stop them is if a light



Mr Berry says mourners are putting their own lives in danger trying to cross the road to visit a loved ones grave or attend a burial at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

turns red. It needs a proper pedestrian crossing there.

'People go to Pennyfuir to show their last respects, they don't want to be the

ones receiving them,' he said, adding: 'Sometimes people get too familiar with roads they know. I'm asking them to acknowledge and accept

where the cemetery is and that there might be people trying to cross for a funeral or to visit loved ones' graves. To those behind steering wheels who I've watched totally and blatantly ignoring people waiting to cross to Pennyfuir, I'd say calm it down, slow it down and stop driving like someone possessed. Show respect.'

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson said safety is all important and that there had been efforts for many years to get Transport Scotland to reduce the speed limit all the way from Oban to Dunbeg from 60mph to 40mph but it had consistently been turned down by the national transport agency.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said its road safety team reviewed the current uncontrolled crossing point at Pennyfuir earlier this year to establish if an alternative

location with better visibility could be found.

But added: 'The review concluded that, due to Pennyfuir Cemetery being situated on the inside of a bend with the public car park situated on the opposite side of the A85, no safer alternative crossing location was available.

'Our teams also looked at the possibility of installing a traffic signal-controlled crossing, however this would not be feasible at this location due to the alignment of the road restricting adequate forward visibility for road users.

'Road safety remains a top priority for BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland and our teams previously carried out upgrades to signage at this location and we would encourage road users to slow down when the flashing warning signs are activated.'

## Police online recruitment drive

Police Scotland is hosting an online information event aimed at the residents from the Argyll and Bute area who would like to consider a career as a police officer and wish to work in the Argyll and Bute area.

During the event attendees will learn about the recruitment process, the training, the role of a police officer and the endless opportunities which are available to you once you embark on this exciting career path.

The event will be held on Thursday September 23, from 6.30pm to 8pm.

In order to participate in the event you will need Microsoft Teams.

For more information and to reserve a space please email: [recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk) providing your name, contact number and that you would like to attend the event.

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## Long wait ahead for new Mull high school

New schools for Mull and Islay are long-term plans, a councillor has warned, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Talk of replacement schools came up at last week's Zoom meeting of Mull Community Council.

Robbie Cameron from the Ross of Mull raised the issue saying high schools for those islands were next on Argyll and Bute Council's list to rebuild.

He also reminded members of an offer of help from Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) to help with any feasibility study.

There is discussion among islanders about where a new high school on Mull should be in Tobermory or nearer to Craignure to be handier for families living out on the Ross of Mull.

But Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, pictured, told the meeting: 'We are being a bit premature here. We've not even talked about a feasibility study.'

'The next two schools to be replaced are Mull and Islay but



there is no money at the moment.

'It's long in the distance, not something that's going to happen in the next six or 12 months.

'There has to be a feasibility study first.'

There have been concerns about the state of the school building in Tobermory - although work on the roof, decorating and other upgrade works has been ongoing.

At a previous community council meeting, chairman of Tobermory High School Parent Council Neil Hutton reported the state of the school would never come off the agenda and the phrase 'sticking plaster' when talking about repairs had been used more than once in discussions.

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EMAIL US AT [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
TELEPHONE 01631 568000

## Flexible food fund open

Help is available for people across Argyll and Bute who are struggling to access food and heat their homes.

The Flexible Food Fund has helped 550 households access £760,000 of benefit income fuel debt relief since January 2021, with an average financial gain of £1,385 per household.

Funded by the Scottish Government, the project allows Argyll and Bute Council's benefit team to work with third sector partners including Bute Advice Centre, Allenergy and foodbanks, to support people who are struggling for money to cover food and fuel costs.

To apply applicants must meet the following criteria: 16 years +; live in Argyll and Bute; receive benefits or earning a low income; and have no savings.

If you qualify for support, you will receive payment and a referral to Bute Advice Centre, which will review your income to help maximise your benefit entitlement and identify any other help available.

If you urgently need help, submit a claim form available on the council website: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/flexible-food-fund](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/flexible-food-fund) or call Bute Advice Centre on 01700 502784.

## Argyll and Bute Online Police Recruitment

### Embark on this Exciting Career Path

Police Scotland are hosting an Online information event aimed at the residents from the Argyll & Bute area who would like to consider a career as a Police Officer and **wish to work in the Argyll & Bute area.**

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The date of the event is:  
**Thursday 23rd  
September 2021  
6.30pm - 8pm**

In order to participate in the event, **Microsoft Teams** will be required.

For more information and to reserve a space please email: [recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk) providing your name, contact number and what event you would like to attend.



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OT

## Mod opts for hybrid approach

An exciting and inspirational celebration of Gaelic language and music is promised at The Royal National Mòd 2021 in the city of Inverness this autumn.

This year's festival will take place from October 8-16.

The eight-day event will hint at a return to normality, with a programme that will include a suite of in-person competitions and concerts.

The hybrid approach will also include a rich schedule of online performances to be broadcast throughout the week. More details on the streaming content to be announced.

James Graham, chief executive officer of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'The last year has certainly not been without its challenges but to be able to bring certain elements of the Mòd back with a hybrid approach is a huge boost for the event and its competitors, performers and fans.'

View the full programme now at [www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk)

# Swimmers take on the Cuan Sound for charity

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

Brave Bluetits of Dunearn and friends made a splash for charity this week swimming across the Cuan Sound to Luing.

The two-legged mermaids and merman, who regularly swim together from Seil, took on the challenge in aid of Seed For Life, helping farmers and children in Bemvu, Malawi's Ntcheu province.

The charity, run from Seil, has been hard-hit like many other good causes due to Covid bringing fundraising to a halt, so the swim was good news to the ears of the self-sustainable food aid project that gives farmers seed and fertiliser to grow crops, and also provides school meals to more than 1,400 pupils a day.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world with



50.7 per cent of the population living below the poverty line and 25 per cent living in extreme poverty.

Dave Alsop from Seed For Life said the charity's achievements to date was down to the fantastic support received

from the local community. 'Without their generosity with time and money we would not be where we are today, and for the Bluetits to donate the proceeds of this swim is very much appreciated as we haven't been able to

fundraise to any degree because of Covid. On behalf of the community at Bemvu, thank you so much for helping to change their lives for the better.'

Sea Kayak Scotland's Kenny Lacey was on watch

**They came, they swam, they conquered the Cuan Sound in aid of Seed For Life**

KG\_T37\_cuanswim01

in his safety boat as the 12 swimmers made it across the swirly waters on Thursday September 2.

Mr Lacey, who runs his outdoor adventure business from Seil's scenic coastline, gave his time and advice for free to support the charity.

Ellenabeich residents Graham and Wendy Bruce were on watch from their rib, too. Also giving support was Mike Barlow from Luing's Sunnybrae Caravan Park who was happy to welcome the hardy swimmers to his site's shore.

Swim organiser Anna Northover said: 'We had a great turnout for a great cause. Thank you to everyone who got involved and contributed to this event. The swimmers, the safety boats, the bucket shakers and supporters were all very much appreciated.'

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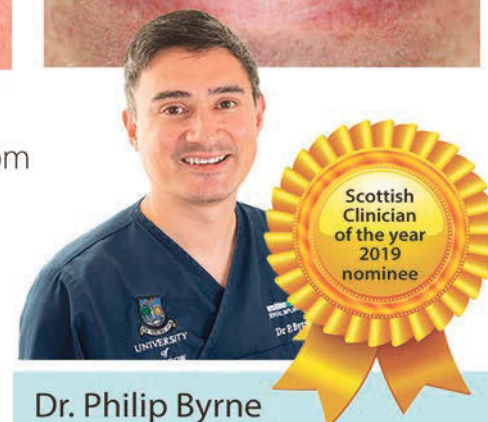
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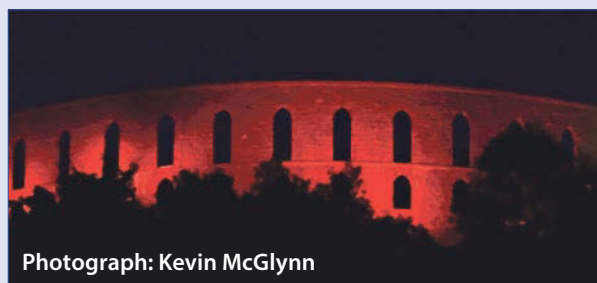
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Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

## Lighting up for blood cancer

This month is Blood Cancer Awareness month, a long-established international initiative.

On Wednesday night Oban's McCaig's tower was lit up red in support of the campaign, which is being backed by Scottish Fire and Rescue.

More than a million people worldwide are diagnosed with blood cancer every year and around 700,000 die from it. But not enough people know what blood cancer is. So this year blood cancer charities from five countries across the world are joining forces to raise their collective voice and put blood cancer front and centre on the world map.

Blood Cancer UK wants to amplify the impact of blood

cancer on people across the UK, which is why it invited buildings across the UK to help build awareness of blood cancer by lighting up red.

Blood cancer is the fifth most common form of cancer in the UK and the third biggest cancer killer.

On average someone is diagnosed with blood cancer every 12 minutes and 40 people die from it every day. Yet 84 per cent of the general population struggle to name a single symptom.

That's why it is important that people know how to spot it so that people can get diagnosed quicker – the sooner they're diagnosed, the greater their chances of survival.

For more information on the condition visit [www.bloodcancer.org.uk](http://www.bloodcancer.org.uk)

# Shadow me for taste of life as a councillor

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon is offering anyone interested in her role to shadow her before she steps down after 15 years.

Councillor Devon announced her plan to quit at last week's online Mull Community Council meeting.

She said she had handed in her resignation but hoped over the next six months to be able to show someone new the ropes.

Councillor Devon sits on more than 30 committees including being Argyll and Bute's children's champion for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and policy lead for Support Services.

'You have to be dedicated, consistent and be accessible to the public and just hope people are sensible and don't go ringing you at midnight,' she told The Oban Times. 'It's a really worthwhile job. Your first call is to the community and you have to be impartial.



Councillor Mary-Jean Devon has handed in her resignation to the council after 15 years of service.

my children's work.'

Helping make a difference to young people's lives is among her most rewarding achievements, added Councillor Devon who also leads the Council's Corporate Parenting Board.

At the community council's Zoom meeting, Councillor Devon said: 'It's a great job. I've loved every minute of it.'

'Anyone interested, I've already had one person, I'd be happy for them to shadow me for the next six months.'

When she took on the role she said there was no job description and that it had been 'a huge learning curve'. 'If there is anyone interested in being a councillor for Mull I'm more than willing to help them so it's not a culture shock.'

Mull Community Council convener Tom Nelson said: 'Thank you absolutely for all your hard work for Mull over the years and also for being available to everyone.'

I will miss the role greatly but it is time to do other things, although I'll still be here to offer advice and will keep up

  
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Monte Carlo Suite, The Blythewood Hotel, Glasgow

OT

# Coastwalker Chris takes the challenge in his stride

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Dad-of-three Chris Howard has walked through Himalayan foothills, jungles, rainforests - and now he is on Scotland's west coast.

Carrying just a backpack, Chris left Norfolk in July 2020 to walk his way round the entire coastline of main-line Britain in aid of BBC's Children In Need.

So far he has raised more than £26,000 and hopes to double that sum by the end of the year.

With travels through Russia and most of Europe under his belt, Chris has also rowed the Atlantic fully unsupported, cycled nonstop from Paris to Cambridge, and run in the Paris marathon, but having a family is his biggest and best experience to date.



Chris Howard walking the UK's mainland coastline for Children In Need

His children and the need of many others not as fortunate

as them, are why he is walking the 11,000 miles of coastline,

surviving with minimal kit, and relying on the kindness of

strangers. Chris told The Oban Times: 'I left home in July 2020 and then was in lockdown for four and a half months, I've been on the road for 270 days so far. I really miss home in Cambridge and my three little girls, who I probably won't see until Christmas now.'

'We Facetime and I read them a story. They're following my walk on a map with little stickers. Once I get to John O'Groats I will have reached all four of the most extreme points of the UK and it also means I'll be starting to head homewards.'

With long periods of walking alone each day, he sleeps outdoors in a sleeping bag or bivvy bag - unless he is offered a bed, sofa or shed for the night. He has also been foraging for food but people have been kind and have been feeding him.

'It gets pretty lonely, so even

someone recognising me to wave or say hello makes a massive difference to me,' he continued. 'I hardly spoke to anyone between Gretna and Ayrshire which was pretty tough. I loved Kintyre, the people were amazing. They had banners out, gave me snacks, a family offered me a shower and I got my laundry done - it was really appreciated.'

Oban Backpackers Hostel gave Chris a bed for the night when he reached town at the weekend and Oban's Hope Kitchen was looking forward to welcoming him ready for the next stage of his walk to Fort William, with a walk up Ben Nevis, then on to Mallaig, Knoydart and upwards to Cape Wrath and John O'Groats.

To support Chris and make a donation, go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thecoastwalker](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thecoastwalker)

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## LETTERS

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

## Mary-Jean Devon is a real community champion

This week, The Oban Times would like to pay tribute to Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who is stepping down after 15 years.

While she isn't leaving her role with the council just yet, her resignation will leave a very big pair of shoes to fill.

Councillor Devon is a popular, hard working councillor. Dedicated and on-call pretty much 24/7, it will not be a job for everyone but Mary-Jean has served the Mull community tirelessly over the years.

She has also served the wider Argyll area, sitting as she does on more than 30 committees, including being Argyll and Bute's children's champion for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and policy lead for Support Services.

She has helped make a difference in many areas, and now she is calling for someone with just as much dedication and passion for their community to consider applying for the job. And to give them a taste of what they would be taking on, she is offering to let them shadow her over the next few months.

We wish Councillor Devon the very best in whatever she plans for her future.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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

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## Mull ferry claims dented

CalMac's claim twin-hull vessels are on principle 'unsuitable for their type of services' was dented after the successful introduction of the medium-speed catamaran Pentalina on the Pentland Firth crossing.

Recently, when Pentalina was being considered for badly-needed relief service, the charter fell through, seemingly because RMT did not approve of it. Now an available vessel from the same builders has also been turned down and one wonders if possible rejection by RMT lies behind the decision, because the reasons given are not very convincing.

The claim that 'dozens of elements' had been identified on the Phillipines vessel which did not comply with UK regulations made no mention of which were serious structural issues as opposed to minor ones. Given that the ship has been described as similar to the Pentalina and the Alfred, which do have UK certification, and were reputedly built for Australian service before Covid cancelled the contract, I hold a degree of scepticism about the alleged difficulties of compliance.

The demands on the providers - that the ship be modified before any hand-over - is also unusual. I have worked on several ships purchased from abroad and in all cases any modifications were carried out after purchase and when the vessel arrived in the UK.

And being a lot cheaper to operate - much lower fuel costs and no live-onboard crewing provision - it might also have demonstrated that CMAL's own designs are not always as optimal as they claim to be. So yes ... it has been declared 'unsuitable', but that's on their own terms, and others such as the action groups and their well-qualified technical advisors - who are no longer the kind of individual complainant who can be easily dismissed - may neither agree nor fade conveniently away.

As for looking after taxpayers' money, the Mull action group's record on that stands for itself. They could have obtained half a dozen Alfreds - built new to UK standards - for the money already spent on the Arran-bound ferries 801/802 with yet no completion in sight. And that's not counting the expensive terminal alterations which will be needed if and when these ferries are completed.

The recent announcement of a replacement for Finlaggan - presumably along the lines of their usual designs - may keep Islay from joining Mull and Arran in rebellion for the time

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

'S neònach mura lean mòran de na seallaidhean agus na guthan tiamhaidh à Afganastan ann an cuimhne chuid againn fad iomadh bliadhna, nam measg sin bidh an dealbh den chaileig trì bliadhna a dh'aois a fhuair na cadal air sràid ann an Cabul, 's a tha a-nise na dilleachdan. Ach 's math an naidheachd gum bheil i fo chùram carthannais ionadail! Mar a bha mi a' sgrìobhadh bho chionn seachdain tha na thachair ann an Afganastan air cron mòr a dhèanamh air iomhaigh nan dùthchannan a bha an sàs san iomairt "leasachaidh" an sin fad fichead bliadhna, agus saoilidh mi gum bheil Ameireagaidh agus Breatann air an damaiste cliù as motha fhulang. Ged a dh'fhaodas an Ceann-suidhe Biden argamaid gun d' rinneadh na ghabhadh dèanamh, bidh mòran nach toir maitheanas dha airson diùltadh feuchainn ri ùine a bharrachd fhaotainn gus an còrr de na fògarraich a thogail a-mach à Cabul. Bha mòr-chumhachd Ameireagaidh aig a' phort-adhair an sin na dhion cuideachd air na saighdearan Breatannach is eile a bha an sàs a' cuideachadh gus na daoine aig an robh cead-siubhail fhaotainn troimhe. Gu follaiseach chaidh uabhas fhàgail a dh'iarraidh teicheadh bhon Talaban, ach nuair a thog Ameireagaidh às cha robh roghainn aig saighdearan Bhreatainn is dhùthchannan eile ach falbh cuideachd. Saoilidh mi nach bi e gu diofar dè cho làidir 's a dh'fhaodas Biden giùlan Ameireagaidh a dhion chan eil teagamh nach robh dealbhan de shaighdearan Talaban air an sgeadachadh ann an èididhean, agus le armachd, Ameireaganach, na mhasladh cho goirt 's a dh'fhuiling an dùthaich sin fad

iomadh latha! Cha tèid Ameireagaidh an sàs tuilleadh ann an iomairtean armaichte gus suidheachadh dhùthchannan eile atharrachadh thuit an Ceann-suidhe, agus ged a thuigear miann an amais sin, thig gu cinnteach amannan a-rithist far am bi impidh mhoralta ga fhaireachadh le dùthchannan sìobhalta cobhair a dhèanamh air slugh a bhios a' fulang cruaidh-fhòirneart. Aig an ìre seo tha Breatann agus Ameireagaidh am beachd earbsa a chur ann an iomairtean dioplòmasach gus buaidh a thoirt air riaghaltas ùr Afganastan, agus 's e ùine a dh'innseas dè cho soirbheachail 's a bhios na gluasadan sin. Mar a tha an suidheachadh eagalach aig àm a bhith a' sgrìobhadh seo tha e coltach nach eil cus smachd air "saighdearan" Talaban is iad a rèir aithris a' murt dhaoinne thall 's a-bhos gun bhacadh, agus chan iongnadh ànradh nam feadhainn a tha fon choill!

Ach dè mu chianalas agus ionndrainn nam miltean a b' fheadar teicheadh, aig nach robh miann fàgail ach aig nach robh roghainn dìon eile. Chunnacas cuid anns na meadhanan mar-thà a' sìleadh dheur chràiteach is fios aca nach till iad tuilleadh gu ruige dùthaich an sinnsir, is an dualchais! Chan annas seo idir agus leis a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail dìreach beagan sheachdainean romhainn bidh miltean de shliochd nan Gàidheal, ann an dùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail, ag èisteachd gu cianail air-loidhne ri ceòl agus cànan na dùthcha bhon deach an cuid shinnsirean a ruagadh "gun bhàidh bhith riutha neo truas!"

being, but then unless CMAL, CalMac and co have upped their game it might be another Glen Sannox which they definitely would not survive.

Arthur Blue, Ardrishaig.

## Islay disruptions must stop

Recent disruptions with our ferry service from Islay to the mainland have once again shown us just how much we depend on a fit-for-purpose service with reliable, newer vessels in operation.

Unfortunately this is currently not the case as our ferry fleet has been underfunded for many years as a result of decisions made by urban-centric central government.

Our front line CalMac ferry crews and port staff are hardworking and an asset to our island and mainland communities, however, they can

only work with the tools they have at hand.

The 36-year-old MV Hebridean Isles is one of the oldest in the state-owned fleet and while it was no doubt good in its day, that day has long since passed.

Problems with our Islay ferry service have also been exacerbated with the continued poaching of one of our ferries in summer for other areas CalMac operate in. On numerous occasions in the past, distillers on Islay said they were facing major problems in transporting whisky to the mainland because of a capacity crisis on the ferry links. This cannot be allowed to continue. The feeling amongst many of my constituents is that we on Islay, Jura and Colonsay always end up getting a raw deal.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## DUNBEG

### Roof truss firm supports school's outdoor zone

Dunbeg pupils can enjoy lessons in the outdoors after a donation of materials for a new gazebo.

The five by five metre gazebo with a fully tiled roof means youngsters and staff can use the shelter all-year-round for learning and play.

The donation from roof truss/timber company Pasquill has come at the perfect time considering the need for social distancing measures and outdoor spaces after Covid.

Pasquill was approached by Lochgilphead-based MacLeod Construction to help support the project by designing five timber roof trusses, which Pasquill engineered and supplied free of charge with other items including loose timbers and metalwork. MacLeod is currently working on a 300-house development near the school.

Pasquill senior designer Ian Haig said: 'We were keen to help out as it was clear to see just how important this wonderful structure would be for youngsters and staff at Dunbeg Primary School, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope the new space will help make a real difference.'

MacLeod Construction design and production manager Stuart MacDonald added: 'We were delighted to work with the primary school to donate and install a new gazebo. The school is absolutely delighted with the end result.'



The new Dunbeg Primary School gazebo means more outdoor learning and play.



Daniel McNeil collects his hand-knitted socks from Joy Cameron outside Made In Argyll, Oban.

### Charity walker takes comfort from 'joy'ful gift

#### BENDERLOCH

Benderloch's Joy Cameron has paired up with UK coastline walker Daniel McNeil to give him a second set of hand-knitted socks.

Joy gave Daniel his first pair when he came to Oban in June on his charity walk in aid of armed forces cause SSAFA.

They did not manage to meet up on the first occasion but this time round they met outside the Made In Argyll crafters shop in Station Square where Joy's colourful cosy creations are on sale.

'At last we met and I was able to gift this wonderful man another pair of comfy walking socks. He claims they are the comfiest socks he has ever worn and can feel the love they are knitted with,' said Joy.

Daniel was also happy to meet up with Joy at last. He posted on his Facebook page: 'I know a lot of you know Joy and what an amazing human being she is. Not only did she give me a new knitted pair of socks, she also paid for a bag of fruit and got us a place to camp for the night in Oban.'

Coll was Daniel's next stop then Barra and Kerrera.

So far he has raised more than £3,500 of his £10,000 target. His Justgiving page is at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/danwalksuk>

### Luxury liner caught on camera passing Lismore



Photograph: Stephen Lawson

Luxury Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth loomed large as she sailed between Mull and Lismore.

Oban photographer Stephen Lawson caught her on camera just as she passed Lismore lighthouse.

With a capacity of 2,081 guests and more than 1,000 crew, the liner boasts gleaming chandeliers, a theatre and croquet on the games deck among many other attractions.

### At random



MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk

### A sad loss

I was saddened and shocked last week to hear of the sudden death of a friend in Oban, who will be familiar to many of you readers.

Philip MacKinnon was an ever-genial fellow to have the pleasure of bumping into, in my case often in licensed premises in the town. I have never known him not to have a big smile or to be in good spirits.

I first met Philip some years ago through his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Allan McKie, both weel-kent Oban folk from the retail and hospitality sectors in the area. We all met regularly if coincidentally in Aulay's, where Philip's wife Caroline often joined us.

Philip was, as Mary told me, many people's 'go to guy' for electrical works, being a self-employed sparky, but he was, of course, first and foremost a family man, being dad to Michael and Cara.

I know how devastated Mary and Allan and the rest of their extended family are by this loss and my thoughts are with them all.

### Worth a cheer

I offer the following words at the peril of incurring the wrath of colleague Nicky Murphy, the advertising department boss at The Oban Times, but she deserves a nod of recognition.

I mention incurring her wrath because she does not seek the limelight over her activities in organising the Pink Ladies Day event every year for Argyll women who have faced breast cancer.

This is a superb day for the women involved but only happens because of Nicky's efforts in raising the money to pay for it, and bringing together all the experts to provide a fabulous day of pampering, food, drinks and fun.

The ladies who attend are also invited to take a friend.

I know from talking to Nicky how very much appreciated the day out is.

This year's Pink Ladies Day is in November at the Drimsynie Estate at Lochgoilhead. Have a great day out, ladies.

### What do you think?

Send your comments to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

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## Caution urged over carbon rights sale

In a statement released today the chairman of Scotland's land reform body, the Scottish Land Commission, has urged landowners and land managers to act with caution when considering selling carbon rights.

Andrew Thin, said: 'We have had a number of concerns raised recently from people across different land use sectors and by stakeholders of the Tenant Farming Advisory Forum about the pressures farmers and crofters are facing to sign over carbon rights.

'This is a fledgling market and there is a risk decisions are being made without full awareness of the implications for individual land managers. I would encourage landowners and land managers to exercise caution when considering transferring carbon rights or options until there is greater clarity over issues such as ownership of the rights and the need to retain them in offsetting their own business emissions in the future.

'The Scottish Land Commission is carrying out work to understand the developing influence of natural capital in the land market and to help inform advice to the Scottish Government on the risks, opportunities and appropriate steps to ensure the market works in the public interest.'

**CONTACTUS**  
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# SAMS team returns from mission to Kronebreen glacier with warning ahead

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

Argyll scientists have returned from a dangerous mission to the world's most northerly inhabited island, trying to expose the hidden link in how rapidly melting Arctic ice is changing our ocean, ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow this November.

Scientists from the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunbeg, an academic partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), completed the fieldwork in Svalbard, formerly Spitzbergen, during the mid-night sun in August.

Svalbard, meaning 'Cold Edge' in Old Norse, is a land of mountains, fjords, tundra, ice and polar bears in the Arctic Ocean, midway between Norway and the North Pole, each around 1,000km distant. Located at the margin of rapidly declining sea ice cover, Svalbard is the fastest-warming place in the world. Svalbard glaciers are the canary in the coal mine: they can be seen as thermometers monitoring the devastating impacts of the climate crisis.

At the international research station of Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost settlement situated at 79 degrees north, scientists are measuring these effects. Providing an inspiring view from Ny-Ålesund, at the head of the bay called Kongsfjorden, lies Kronebreen (Crown Glacier). Where Kronebreen, a slow-moving river of freshwater ice flowing an average of 2m a day, meets the seawater in the fjord, ice detaches to form icebergs in a process called calving. This deadly zone, where each calving event drops on average 50,000t of ice crashing into the ocean below, is one of the frontiers of climate science. How can scientists get close enough to investigate without getting themselves killed? The answer: send in the robots.

The mission was a collaboration between SAMS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, the Norwegian Polar Institute, and University Centre on Svalbard. The team used an autonomous surface vehicle (ASV), built by Norwegian company Maritime Robotics, to record various oceanographic measurements at the face of the glacier,



The Kronebreen glacier by Dr Emily Venables, who was previously part of the SAMS robotics team; and right, the ecosub ready to dive.

while an autonomous underwater vehicle, known as an ecoSUB, took temperature, salinity and oxygen readings below the surface. Meanwhile, aerial drones surveyed the so-called freshwater 'plumes' that run off from the glacier.

Lead scientist Professor Finlo Cottier of SAMS explained: 'Fjords are the connection between the changing ocean and our rapidly melting northern glaciers. The transfer of heat and water at these points, often just a few kilometres wide, are therefore extremely important in understanding how climate change is impacting our ocean.'

While rising global temperatures increase glacial melt, glaciers are also breaking up below the surface of the water. In a process known as sub-glacial discharge, melt water flows down through the glacier and out into the ocean. This water is fresher than the surrounding sea water, so starts to rise in the water column, creating a plume that pulls in warmer Atlantic water which

increases the melt rate at the face of the glacier. This process undermines the wall of ice, causing huge chunks to collapse into the sea. The robots collected crucial data to improve our understanding of this process. It's early days, but so far the scientists have observed this process to be far more vigorous and energetic than anticipated.

Now back from their 10 days in the field, we asked Professor Mark Inall to describe the experience. 'It is like the west of Scotland, but with huge ice streams between the peaks,' he said. 'I feel very at home. That is what Scotland looked like 10,000 years ago.'

'We were there in summertime. It was light 24 hours a day. It was a few degrees above zero. It is a great big towering wall of ice, 60m high. The glaciers are grubby: they wear away the rock as they flow. Bits are falling off all the time. You hear the cracking, you feel the boat moving on the swell. We keep at least 300m away.'

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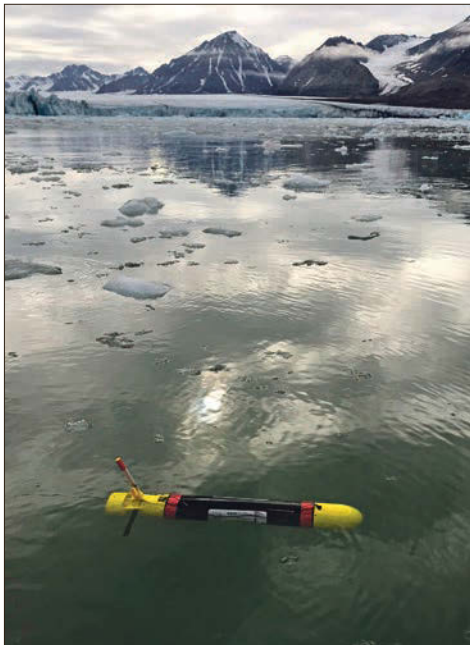
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# Melting of COP26



While the team kept to a safe distance, their equipment did not. 'It is stressful,' Prof Inall said: 'The robotic submarine is very expensive. As soon as it dives down, you do worry. You spend several hours wondering if you will ever see it again. So far we have not lost one.'

Over the 20 years Prof Inall has been visiting the Kronebreen glacier, he said, it 'has retreated half the distance from Connel to Taynuilt, which is the distance I cycle. It was ice, now it is a fjord. It is really visible in a lifetime. Sea levels are already rising because of melting ice sheets. It will rise around Scotland. The estimate is up a metre over the next 50-100 years.'

'Water has been warming by one degree a decade,' added Professor Finlo Cottier. In his 20-year career, he said, the world has lost half of the Arctic sea ice.

'A lot of the population is looking towards COP26 for really big decisions to be made,' he said. 'These decisions will be based on the science. They draw on the publications that come from SAMS and other institutions around the world.'

# Gamekeepers protest over female deer cull

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association is threatening to withdraw from a national code on humane deer control, 'sickened' by the Scottish Government's cull of female deer in the nation's forests, writes Sandy Neil.

Every year, the close seasons protect female deer with dependent young from the hunter's shotgun. In Scotland, it is illegal to shoot female red, sika and fallow deer from February 16 until October 20, and female roe deer from April 1 until October 20. NatureScot, the public body which regulates and oversees deer management, set the dates based on the risk of orphaning dependent calves.

But now big changes are on the way as the Scottish Government struggles to tackle global warming and biodiversity loss.

An independent Deer Working Group, set up to recommend changes, reported deer numbers across Scotland had doubled to almost a million in 2019 from 500,000 in 1990.

'The need to shoot female deer in April and September to protect public interests from damage,' the report said, 'is an important factor to be weighted against the risk that some calves might be orphaned and possibly not survive.'

Ministers accepted most of the group's 99 recommendations in March this year, keeping the close season in review.

Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, said: 'The twin climate and biodiversity crises require a much greater urgency to our efforts to ensure sustainable deer management, and we must recognise that more can and must be done to better realise our ambitious targets on vital issues such as forestry regeneration, woodland creation, peatland restoration and habitat improvement.'

NatureScot has also been issuing licences for a September cull of female deer, seven weeks before open season starts on October 21. This year, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), the agency responsible for managing Scotland's national forests and land, was granted nine of the 130 September culling licences.

Ian Fergusson, FLS' Head of Wildlife Management, said: 'The current high levels of deer numbers pose a particular threat to establishing young trees which are a vital part of Scotland's response to the climate emergency.'

'As responsible land managers of a significant area of Scotland's forests and land, we have to



The SGA fear a deer cull will leave vulnerable calves to starve.

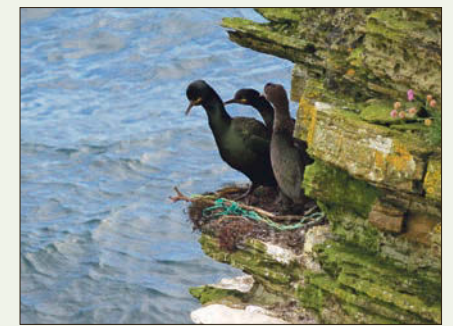
act and achieving the necessary balance within the deer population is something that can only realistically be attained through culling.'

Anyone controlling deer in Scotland must do so in line with the terms and conditions of the authorisations and the published Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance, which outlines how deer welfare is to be safeguarded when culling.

However, the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) is considering withdrawing from the Wild Deer Best Practice, the nation's code for humane deer control which they helped draw up, 'sickened' by the 'a blanket out-of-season cull' of female deer.

The SGA feels 'the nationwide cull, which last year saw 1,300 deer killed, is unjustified [and] will result in dependant calves starving'. An FOI request to FLS, it adds, 'revealed that forestry body chiefs did not record whether an identical September cull they ordered last year led to calves being orphaned or not.' The SGA also claims only a small fraction of Scotland's forests would be susceptible to damage by females in September.

The SGA's chairman Alex Hogg said: 'The government-commissioned Deer Working Group report, due to be implemented, will rid Scotland of protections which professionals fought hard for, through closed seasons, to give an iconic species respite to rear their young without welfare detriment. If bureaucrats can scrap seasons and public departments can get sign-off on carte blanche authorisations, why bother having a code for humane deer management at all? This is what our members need to consider.'



## Report highlights impact of plastics on seabirds

A new report has highlighted the threat marine plastic pollution poses to seabirds across Northwest Europe.

Researchers examined 10,274 nests across the UK, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and the Faroe Islands, finding that 12 per cent of nests contained plastic debris. Atlantic Puffins were found to be most affected by the issue, with 67 per cent of the species' nests including plastic.

The four-year study was led by scientists at North Highland College UHI's Environmental Research Institute - part of the University of the Highland and Islands - and involved researchers from the British Trust for Ornithology, The Natural History Museum and University of Tasmania.

The team asked observers who were visiting seabird colonies for other monitoring activities to help gather data as a cost effective and environmentally friendly way to conduct the study. Information was collected from 14 seabird species in 84 colonies between 2016 and 2020.

Dr Neil James, a post-doctoral research associate at the Environmental Research Institute, was one of the scientists involved in the project. He explained: 'Marine plastic pollution is an increasing global environmental issue which poses a threat to marine biodiversity. Seabirds are particularly affected because of the risk of entanglement or ingestion. Our study found that a significant number of nests included plastic debris, with some species more likely to incorporate it than others. As well as providing important information about our seabird populations, this type of study can also reveal valuable insights into the prevalence of plastic in the marine environment.'

The results of the study have been published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin. You can access them at [doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112706](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112706)

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Licensed trade expresses concern over Covid passport proposals

Wednesday's (September 1) announcement by the First Minister that the Scottish Government is proposing to roll out vaccine certificates in clubs and larger event settings, such as football matches, is a 'threat hanging over the whole of the hospitality industry', says the Scottish Licensed Trade Association (SLTA).

Nicola Sturgeon made the announcement at Holyrood after she revealed the number of people testing positive for Covid in Scotland had jumped by 80 per cent in the space of a week.

The SNP leader said it was only the success of the vaccination programme which had prevented a corresponding rise in hospital admissions, although the number of Scots requiring treatment for the virus has more than doubled.

The First Minister said the bold plan – which does not include trips to shops, pubs or restaurants at this stage – would be introduced if MSPs voted in favour next week. The certifica-

tion scheme will only be introduced later once all adults have had the opportunity to receive both doses of the vaccine.

However, Colin Wilkinson, SLTA managing director, spoke out after the announcement, saying: 'Although the suggestion is that the wider hospitality industry will not be affected, should the Scottish Government agree to introduction of 'Covid passports' next week it is a most unwelcome development in general.

'We are seeing a large spike in infection rates following the general reopening of the economy when a number of sectors fully reopened and Scottish schools have been opened for two weeks, universities and colleges are about to open, but nightclubs alone have been targeted with the possible introduction of a Covid status certification system at this time.

'And what is a nightclub? With a wide variety of hybrid premises in the Scottish licensed trade market, how is this defined? Many pubs,

bars and hotels are larger than nightclubs and offer various entertainments. Consultation with the industry before this announcement was made would have been helpful.

'If Covid status certification is to be introduced, any system must be easy to use for both businesses and members of the public.'

Scottish Chambers of Commerce chief executive, Dr Liz Cameron, who has written to the First Minister and opposition party leaders to outline businesses concerns, agreed, saying: 'The prospect of vaccine certification requirements is causing Scotland's businesses a great level of stress and anxiety, and it's right this issue will be debated in Parliament next week.

'Scotland's economy is now finally beginning to recover, however the fact remains that many businesses continue to operate in survival mode, and the prospect of economic deterrents such as vaccine certificates, could prove damaging to business and consumer confidence.'



Nicola Sturgeon said the plan would be introduced if MSPs voted in favour.

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# Fish farmer staff to help in beach cleans

With just three weeks to go until the annual Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Great British Beach Clean, on September 17-26, salmon farmer Scottish Sea Farms plans to make this year's event its biggest yet.

The company has asked all staff – more than 480 employees across its operations on Scotland's west coast, Orkney and Shetland Islands – to participate by choosing a registered beach local to them and helping to collect rubbish along a 100m stretch. This will be Scottish Sea Farms' fourth consecutive year of participation, with the company's Orkney, Shetland and Barcaldine teams having previously led the charge.

And whilst last year's involvement was restricted to employees only, operating in work 'bubbles' in line with Covid guidance, this year's beach cleans will once again be opened up to employees' families, friends and local communities with restrictions now having eased.

Commenting on the decision to make participation in this year's Great British Beach Clean a business-wide effort, Scottish Sea Farms managing director Jim Gallagher said: 'We each, in our different ways, make our living from Scotland's waters. We each care deeply about doing so as responsibly and sustainably as we can, as evidenced by the sheer range of greener initiatives under way across the business today. So to devote a few more hours of our time to help collect and remove rubbish from our local shorelines seems like the right and natural thing to do. The more of us that get involved, the greater the difference we can make, so we're delighted to be able to welcome back family, friends and members of our local communities.'

Not only will participants be removing litter, they will also be recording what they find so the MCS can compile a national database to help inform and shape future policy around protecting our shores.

Previous beach cleans have revealed a high proportion of plastic and polystyrene among the rubbish collected, as well as metal, wood, pottery and ceramics, glass, paper and card-



Scottish Sea Farms' Barcaldine beach clean team in 2019, joined by Gael Force Fusion staff.

board, rubber, cloth and sanitary waste.

The MCS said collating this data has helped to make a positive impact on the ocean, with the information driving the its conservation work and also feeding into the International Coastal Clean-up.

Data from previous hauls around the country has helped bring about environmental advances such as the introduction of the plastic bag charge, banning microplastics in personal care products, better wet wipe labelling, and supporting a tax on single-use plastic items.

Supporting this year's event, 10 Scottish Sea Farms beach clean coordinators have volunteered to oversee efforts in their communities: from Barcaldine, Eriboll, Kishorn, Mallaig, Mull, Oban, South Shian and the Summer Isles, to the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Each coordinator is responsible for registering

their local beach cleans, completing a survey of the litter collected and submitting the data to the MCS national database. They will also deliver safety briefings on the day and issue protective gloves and bags, as well as packed lunches, to all those involved.

Scottish Sea Farms aquaculture technical lead Anna Price, beach clean coordinator for the Oban area, said: 'Our Oban teams are no strangers to beach cleans, carrying out several throughout the year – particularly following spells of extreme weather – and removing all manner of marine litter and man-made waste.'

'Signing up to the MCS Great British Beach Clean not only adds to this activity but it will provide useful insights into the main sources of waste being washed onto our local shores, helping inform preventative measures going forward.'

## Cash support for fishing and marine businesses

Fishing businesses and marine organisations have been awarded funding to mitigate the impacts of Brexit and help the sector recover from effects of Covid-19.

The financial support of almost £800,000 – part of the £14 million Marine Fund Scotland – was announced by Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon, pictured in a food and drink debate in Parliament.

Opening the debate ahead of Food and Drink Fortnight, Ms Gougeon said: 'Our producers, farmers and fishermen showed tremendous spirit as they navigated the pandemic and now face the stark realities of a new operating landscape brought about by a reckless Brexit deal.'



'Daily, we hear of new and emerging challenges – shortages of HGV drivers, workers in processing and manufacturing, as well as associated skills shortages

across the industry. Labour and skills shortages like these lay bare the extraordinary recklessness of this hard Brexit. We certainly shouldn't forget that as businesses faced Brexit border disruptions and barriers to trade – which cost UK food exporters £700m in January alone – the UK Government dismissed industry concerns as teething troubles.'

Ms Gougeon added the food and drink sector had been one of the industries most adversely affected by Brexit, undermining its ambition to double turnover to £30 billion by 2030.

Speaking after the debate, Ms Gougeon said: 'Everyday people do extraordinary things to keep Scotland fed – particularly our fishers who put their lives at risk to ensure we all get to enjoy fresh seafood and fish.'

'We are determined to support them to do so safely and sustainably. We will support farmers and land managers who produce more of our own food needs and manage our land sustainably with nature and for the climate.'

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## 'Perfect' gig sees Skipinnish back on stage live for first time in two years

Skipinnish will take to the stage for the first time in two years when they headline a show in Inverness in December.

The west coast favourites will headline Live @ Xmas in Inverness Leisure Centre on Friday December 10.

'After a tough, forced hiatus, the band is eager to get back on stage to perform its original Celtic songs and tune sets to live audiences,' said a Skipinnish spokesperson. 'Being able to celebrate together in the one place in the Highlands at Christmas is perfect.'

'Skipinnish appreciates the continued support of fans through the pandemic and is excited to move forward and again share their music and classic anthems including Walking on the Waves, The

Island, Alive and Western Ocean, in the unique atmosphere of a live concert.'

Skipinnish songwriter and accordionist Angus MacPhail added: 'This will be our first Highland gig in nearly two years and what a way to set off the Christmas season – an exclusive show in the Highland Capital. Inverness audiences are always incredible and after such a long wait, this concert will have an extra magic.'

Concert promoter LCC Live will host the show, its first live event in almost two years. Claire Kidger, Director of concert promoter LCC Live, said: 'As we start to see the return of live events across the UK, we're excited to announce our first live show of 2021. And who better to celebrate that milestone with than Skipinnish.'

'We know from conversations with the band that they're really looking forward to picking up their instruments again and experiencing the joys of playing to their fans in the Highlands.'

Skipinnish was co-founded in 1999 by Angus MacPhail from Tiree and Lochaber musician Andrew Stevenson. The band has evolved over the years into the current line-up – Angus MacPhail, accordion; Andrew Stevenson, bagpipes; Rory Grindlay, drums; Norrie MacIver, lead singer; Archie McAllister, fiddle; Alasdair Murray, bagpipes; Alistair Iain Paterson, piano, and Charlotte Printer, bass. Skipinnish will also be performing a summer headline show, Under Canvas, at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday July 2 2022.



Skipinnish. Photograph: Andrew King.

### COAST AND WATERS Cowal Open Studios – Guest Artists Exhibition

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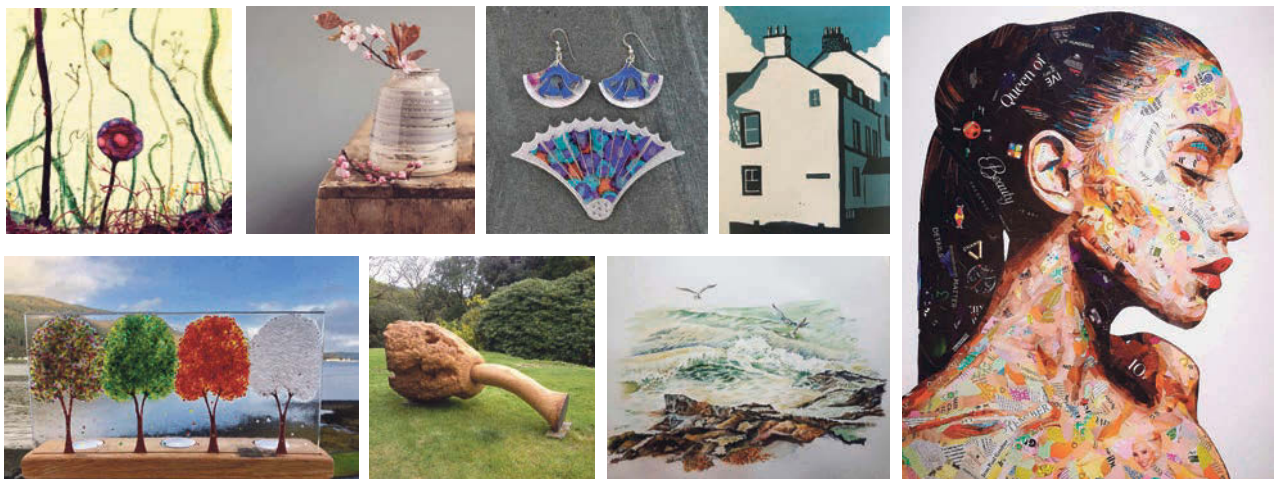
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# Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Summer had one last hurrah in Glasgow the other week with some cracking sunshine and sweltering temperatures.

I decided to take advantage and try to get a good dose of Vitamin D before the Tide Lines tour started.

Mansfield Square in Partick was my sun trap of choice – right next to the Lismore for the benefit of anyone who (like myself) uses Highland pubs as geographical landmarks.

Walking down the stairs of my close, I took my top off in preparation for the warm, summer air outside. I tend to think it is customary in such conditions in Glasgow to go “taps aff”. It turns out this isn’t a view shared by my two neighbours (both from the Outer Hebrides) who laughed in disbelief that I was about to go out in public wearing nothing but a pair of shorts and trainers.

I shrugged it off thinking I was only going a very short distance so the chances I would meet anyone I knew were fairly slim. I should have known better given that a Highlander in Partick bumps into someone they know almost every time they set foot onto the streets.

True enough, no sooner



had I turned onto Hyndland Street than I bumped into my good pal, Mòd Gold Medallist Alasdair Whyte, who greeted me with a similar look as my two neighbours.

‘It’s good to see you, Robert,’ he said... ‘All of you!’

This brings me onto the main point of this week’s article. Ally was telling me about his new project, a book called Maim-Slè. I will review the book in weeks to come but am mentioning it this week because Ally will be giving live readings from it in The Glad Cafe, Pollockshaws Road, on September 23.

WHYTE (his duo musical project with Ross Whyte), will be performing tracks that evening from their latest album, Maim, which is connected thematically to Alasdair’s book. I reviewed this album in my Robert in Lockdown column so

I am equally looking forward to getting a hold of the book.

Both album and book were commissioned by Theatre Gu Leòr and supported by The Bothy Society and tickets, £10, are currently on sale from Eventbrite for the night in the Glad Cafe.

As well as the excellent electronica duo, WHYTE is also a good description of my skin colour. Thankfully I can report, by the time I was walking back up, I had avoided turning red and my Vitamin D levels were suitably boosted!

## What’s on in Glasgow

- September 9: Biffy Clyro at Glasgow Green
- September 10-12: TRNSMT Festival
- September 18: 10 years of Trail West in the Barrowland Ballroom
- September 23: WHYTE live in the Glad Cafe, Pollockshaws Road.
- October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands
- October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand
- October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands

# Cowal artists open their studios

Cowal artists will once again be opening their studios to visitors for its popular long weekend event.

At least 56 artists, all residents on the beautiful Cowal peninsula, will open the doors of their studios/homes to welcome you in.

Art lovers can view some of the best Scottish contemporary and traditional art work and enjoy the opportunity to talk to the makers.

Work in a broad variety of mediums – paints, inks, textiles, ceramics, wood, glass, metalwork and jewellery –

will be on show and you can observe the process in which these works are created.

Explore the Cowal artists studios by four routes, which take you the length and breadth of this amazing area.

Many artists have spaces set in intriguing and inspiring locations, which in itself makes a fascinating experience.

Brochures and maps are available from Tighnabruich Gallery, Tighnabruich;

Creggans Inn, Strachur; Dunoon Burgh Hall, Fyneewood Studios, & Bookpoint, Dunoon; artist

studios, ArtMap Argyll, and various outlets throughout the Cowal peninsula.

The open studios take place over the weekend of Friday September 24 to Monday September 27.

Dunoon is also hosting a guest artists’ exhibition from Friday September 17 to October 17.

Four invited artists will be exhibiting in Dunoon Burgh Hall as part of the COS programme. They are Lynn Howarth, Brenda Burkitt, Raine Clark and Ronnie Fulton.

# FLOW Photofest comes to venues across the Highlands and Islands

Flow Photofest, the biennial international photography festival, is showing in Highlands and Islands venues this month.

With High Life Highland (HLH) as a partner, the 2021 exhibitions are themed around ‘legacy’ and will be on view at HLH venues including Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre.

FLOW Photofest first ran in September 2017 and aims to

present new and recent work by Scottish and international photographers.

The photographer on show at Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre, until September 30, is David Williams with Pictures from No Man’s Land.

David’s photographic practice is wide-ranging and increasingly informed by the notion of nonduality.

Williams was Head of

Photography at Edinburgh College of Art in 1990 and retired in 2017. Widely exhibited and published internationally, he is the recipient of a range of major awards and prizes, including the BBC Television 150 Years of Photography Award, and in 2018 he was nominated for the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy, the Japanese equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

## What’s on at Oban Cinema

"AN UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE FROM TIMOTHY SPALL"

JASON SOLOMONS - BBC RADIO LONDON

JOHN O'GRADES

TIMOTHY SPALL PHYLIS LOGAN

OVER 800 MILES...TOM IS ABOUT TO MAKE THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME...ONE BUS AT A TIME!



THE LAST BUS

THIS WEEK

### Friday 10 September

- Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings | 12A 12:30/16:30/19:45
- Our Ladies | 15 12:45 **BOOK AHEAD**
- Paw Patrol: The Movie | U 16:15
- Spirit Untamed | U 18:15
- The Last Bus | 12A 20:15

### Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 September

- Paw Patrol: The Movie | U 12:00/14:45
- Spirit Untamed | U 12:30/14:15
- Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings | 12A 16:30/19:45
- The Last Bus | 12A 17:00
- Our Ladies | 15 19:15 **BOOK AHEAD**

### Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 September

- Paw Patrol: The Movie | U 16:15
- Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings | 12A 16:30/19:45
- Spirit Untamed | U 18:15
- The Last Bus | 12A 20:15

### Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The Ten Rings (12A)

**Action**  
Martial-arts master Shang-Chi confronts the past he thought he left behind when he's drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organisation.

### Spirit Untamed (U)

**Family / Adventure**  
After moving to a sleepy little town, young Lucky Prescott befriends a wild mustang named Spirit, who shares her rebellious spirit. When a heartless wrangler plans to capture Spirit and his herd, Lucky and her new friends embark on the adventure of a lifetime to rescue the horse that forever changed her life.

### The Last Bus (12A)

**Drama**  
An old man whose wife has just passed away uses his free local bus pass to travel to the other end of the UK, to where they originally moved from, using only local buses, on a nostalgic trip but also carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, 'taking her back' and in doing so he meets local people. By the end of his trip he's a celebrity.

### Our Ladies (15)

**Comedy**  
In 1990s Scotland, a group of Catholic school girls get an opportunity to go into Edinburgh for a choir competition, but they're more interested in drinking and partying than winning the competition. Based on the book 'The Sopranos' by Oban author Alan Warner.

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.

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**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

**THURSDAY:** 8am-11am Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah  
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.

# Live piping recitals resume with celebration of Kinloch composer

Lewis and Harris Piping Society is tuning up to resume its programme of regular live recitals with an evening event in Lochs on Friday October 1.

The society has invited Pipe Major Roderick J MacLeod MBE from Glasgow, who has strong family connections with Kinloch, to be the main guest for the recital in the Kinloch Community Hub, Old Balallan School.

Roddy has agreed to include in his programme a selection of tunes composed by the late PM Alex M MacIver. Pipe Major Alex MacKenzie MacIver was born in Glasgow.



director of the internationally-renowned Piping Live festival held annually in August in Glasgow.

Lewis and Harris Piping Society recitals have traditionally started with a young piper playing a few tunes while the main recitalist is tuning the pipes off stage.

On this occasion, John Angus Graham from Bragar will get the evening going at 7.30pm with a short selection on an interesting set of pipes that belonged to his grand-uncle John MacDonald, known as 'An Toad', who served in the Camerons in the Second World War.

On his return from service in India in 1947, he joined the 214th Boys Brigade as pipe tutor and nurtured generations of aspiring pipers over many years including Iain MacLellan of Glasgow Police Pipe Band and Robert Wallace, former director of the College of Piping.

He composed many tunes across the spectrum of pipe music: slow airs, marches, strathspeys, reels, hornpipes and jigs.

The names he gave to many of his tunes reflected his strong Hebridean heritage, including Achmore Loch, The Laxay Poachers, The Kyles of Scalpay and the Ullapool Ferry.

Alex died suddenly at his home in Glasgow on May 27 1989.

In 2011, as a tribute to his former tutor, Hector Russell catalogued approximately 30 of his compositions and kindly donated these tunes to Kinloch

Historical Society to ensure their availability to island pipers in the future.

Playing some of these in Balallan will be Roddy MacLeod, one of the best-known pipers in the world. Roddy was taught by the legendary Duncan Johnstone who was known as 'King of the Jigs'.

He has won all the major professional piping competitions, many of them several times, over the past 40 years. In 1995 he was appointed the first director of the newly-established National Piping Centre, a position he held successfully for 25 years.

He was also the founding

This recital has been planned for some time in conjunction with Kinloch Historical Society but was postponed due to Covid. Hopefully it can go ahead on October 1.

Bean Chathair each for the evening is Maggie Smith, a member of the Historical Society. On behalf of Kinloch Historical Society, Maggie said: 'We would like to express our gratitude to Hector Russell, Glasgow, who collated the extensive collection of PM MacIver's compositions. Our thanks to the relatives of the MacIver family for permission to create the publication of tunes, which is being launched at the recital, also Lewis and Harris Piping Society for organising this recital in our area.'

Admission, payable at the door, is £10 for adults and free for juniors.

## CROSSWORD

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

**Across**

1 Stare (4)  
3 Keep at a distance (8)  
9 Freely (7)  
10 Seize (5)  
11 Ornamented façade (12)  
13 Creature with the body of a lion and head of a man (6)  
15 Be a busybody (6)  
17 Optical device with a prism and lens (12)  
20 Send on air (5)  
21 Curse (4,3)  
22 Suitable (8)  
23 Fat from a pig (4)

**Down**

1 Kept in a bowl as a pet (8)  
2 Advertising (5)  
4 Most bashful (6)  
5 When property is in the state of being administered by others (12)

6 Saw (7)  
7 Sound rebound (4)  
8 Resolute (12)  
12 Of the clergy (8)  
14 Exaggerated (5,2)  
16 Situate (6)  
18 The end (5)  
19 Used as a fertiliser in a powder form (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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

## Islay guitarist releases first solo album

Hebridean musician Robin Miller, right, has released his debut solo album 'Beelines'.

It features songs inspired by a focussed hedgehog, Gortantaoid Point near Loch Gruinart, the Arizona guitarist Rainer Ptacek and the Wyre Majestic, a ship wrecked on the rocks between Islay and Jura.

Robin was born on South



Uist but grew up on Barra and then in Gruinart, a remote part of Islay.

'Half the island would go to the monthly auctions. These started off with livestock and finished off with second hand goods like old LPs,' he said.

'When I had some money from stacking peat or chopping

logs, this was where I bought the records that opened my imagination. This is how I first heard Bert Jansch and Nick Drake.'

Moving to Glasgow in his late teens, Robin busked at night and played with folk bands, eventually touring in France and Italy as a session player. His eclectic fingerpicking style became an integral part of Glasgow world music act Zuba and helped their 2005 album 'Allez' to achieve the

JPF African Album of the Year award and be described by Bob Harris as 'truly brilliant'.

After moving back to Argyll to work in elderly care, Robin returned to acoustic roots playing.

'Beelines', Robin Miller's first album, was recorded in Glasgow in a single afternoon with no overdubs. 'Beelines' features 13 tracks of deft melody-driven fingerpicking. It is a natural sound with little adornment.

# An Tobar offer up feast for the senses

Did you miss the sell-out screening of the beautiful Cailleach last week at An Tobar, on Mull?

Good news, Cailleach is available online to watch at your leisure.

Cailleach is a theatrical film that blends circus with the ancient tradition of storytelling and focuses on one of the most inspirational women of Celtic folklore - Cailleach.

Filmed on Mull and in New Zealand, Cailleach fuses the beauty of the two landscapes as the backdrop and playground for the story.

An An Tobar spokesperson said: 'Beneath a veil of mystery, the Cailleach lives on. Plunging us deep into the darkness, she reigns over our winters.'

But Bride, the Goddess of Spring, pictured, bides her time, ready to bring new life and light back to us. A seasonal battle. Rooted in our landscapes and scattered through our folklore, the strength, energy and



mythology of these goddesses inspire this acrobatic re-imagining of their legends, with storytelling at its heart.

'Breathing new life into some old art forms, Sonder Circus reconnects to the outdoors to bring you face-to-face with these deities. The tales of our ancestors. The land of our generations - past, present and future. The theatre of now.'

An Tobar and Mull Theatre have introduced a new, fairer pricing policy. You can now choose what to pay on a 'pay what you decide basis' which means you don't have to pay until after you have seen a show.

Another digital event sees Young Scottish Musician of the Year finalist Jack Badcock take to the stage. Jack is the singer with multi-award winning world/folk band Dallahan.

Performing for the cameras in An Tobar, he is joined by reigning Scottish Musician of

the Year Michael Biggins on piano and together they create a seamless and dramatic sound to accompany Jack's perceptive songs and storytelling. Featherlight guitar and fulsome piano behind an outstanding voice captured by Lunaslive and An Tobar.

You can watch the event on An Tobar's digital channel tonight, Thursday September 2, at 8pm Facebook Live, Vimeo and YouTube. Donations welcome.

An exhibition will open on Saturday September 4 at An Tobar Gallery.

Sam Ainsley, Eileen Cooper and Pinkie Maclure's group exhibition of narrative art, in stained-glass, prints and paintings is on show until Friday November 19.

The exhibition brings together three eminent women artists. The approach each of the artists takes varies greatly and for this group exhibition they present work in different two-dimensional media.

There is a common thread in that each artist uses narrative and symbolism and a strong female perspective.

# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 9 An t-Sultain

#### THURSDAY 9 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers
- 22.00 Tide Lines 2020
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.20 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 An Gobha/The Last Blacksmith
- 23.50 Eadar Chluich/Short Film

### DIHAOINE 10 An t-Sultain

#### FRIDAY 10 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 Dan
- 19.30 Machair
- 19.55 Celtic Connections Shorts
- 20.00 Prosaig
- 20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich/Heather's Portraits
- 21.00 TRNSMT 2021 Live
- 21.55 Dhan Uisge
- 22.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 22.50 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Under Canvas 2021/22 Ep 2

### DISATHAIRNE 11 An t-Sultain

#### SATURDAY 11 An t-Sultain

- 17.45 An Là
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership- Motherwell v Aberdeen
- 19.45 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile
- 20.00 Prosaig
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show

### 21.00 TRNSMT 2021 Live

- 22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/ Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 22.45 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership-Motherwell v Aberdeen
- 00.45 Binneas-Na Trads

### DIDÒMHNAICH 12 An t-Sultain

#### SUNDAY 12 An t-Sultain

- 16.00 SWPL-2021/22 Celtic v Glasgow City
- 18.05 Binneas na Trads
- 18.15 An Là
- 18.30 Seachd Là/News Review
- 19.30 Alleluia!
- 20.00 Garraidhean Mora na h-Alba
- 20.30 Vets:Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach
- 22.00 Bannan S1 Ep 4
- 22.30 Bannan S1 Ep 5
- 23.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 23.45 Dealbh is Slighe

### DILUAIN 13 An t-Sultain

#### MONDAY 13 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Druthag na Hearach/A Little Drop of Harris
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal P
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Mach as mo Radhad/Born to Drive
- 21.00 Trusadh – Na Cùird/Apprenticeships
- 22.00 Bannan /S2Ep1
- 22.30 Jim Baxter
- 23.30 Tide Lines 2020

### DIMÀIRT 14 An t-Sultain

#### TUESDAY 14 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

### 19.00 An Lot/The Croft

- 19.30 Beul Chainnt
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Vets:Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach
- 22.00 Trusadh – Na Cùird/Apprenticeships
- 23.00 Eadar Chluich
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Alleluia

### DICIADAIN 15 An t-Sultain

#### WEDNESDAY 15 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Druthag na Hearach/A Little Drop of Harris
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 20.55 Moulin Rouge Ecosse
- 22.00 Bannan S2 Ep2
- 22.30 Solas-Margaret Fay Shaw of Canna
- 23.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers

### DIARDAOIN 16 An t-Sultain

#### THURSDAY 16 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Beul Chainnt
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Na Gleidheadairean/ The Animal Keepers
- 22.00 Air Iomall-Music from the Edge
- 22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail/Most Dangerous Ways to School
- 23.15 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.30 Solas-Margaret Fay Shaw of Canna



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Around the markets

**United Auctions, Stirling, Saturday September 4:** sold 9,848 breeding sheep at their annual show and sale of Scotch Mule and Blackface ewe lambs, sponsored by J Cooper & Co. Haulage Contractors, Gartocharn, and ably judged by Mr W Cameron, Burnside of Edengight.

The championship was won by W A Gray, Drumnessie and realised the top price of £270 to E M Smith & Sons, Towiemore.

The Blackface section was topped by a pen of 5 from M E McCall Smith, Connachan selling at £280 to J Caldwell & Son, East Mitchelton

Included in the day's sale were 20 Mule ewe lambs, donated by various consigners within the Scotch Mule Association, raising a total of £4580 for

RSABI and Strathcarron Hospice.  
Prize List  
1st - W A Gray, Drumnessie - £270

2nd - D Y Henderson, Auchenrivoch- £180  
3rd - Hartside Farms- £185  
4th - M/s Stewart, Crookboat- £160  
5th - J & M Hamilton, Crosswoodhill - £152  
6th - M Smyth, Shields - £155

Overall Averages  
Scotch Mule Ewe Lambs -£134.00 (+£22.02 on the year)

Blackface Ewe Lambs - £83.89 (-£0.99 on the year)

Section Averages  
Acc Scotch Mule Ewe Lambs - £136.44 (+£21.49 on the year)

Non Acc Scotch Mule Ewe Lambs - £134.54 (+£23.47 on the year)

Acc Blackface Ewe Lambs -

£88.70 (-£3.53 on the year)  
Non Acc Blackface Ewe Lambs - £75.78 (+£1.32 on the year)

**United Auctions Stirling, Saturday August 28:** sold 3846 Scotch Mule, Chev/Mule, TexX, SuffX and AberfieldX gimmers. The show was sponsored by British Wool and ably judged by A Barr, Easter Bucklyvie.

A centre record was achieved topping the sale at £248 for a pen of 40 Mule gimmers from Millglen Farmers purchased by Moredun Research Institute.

The championship was won by Gavin Ogg & Son, Carroch and realised £230 to Harrison Brothers, Lower Weald.

Overall average £198.35 (+£26.20) on the year.

Prize List  
1st Gavin Ogg & Son,

Carroch - £230  
2nd A McKenzie & Partners, Ardgate- £218  
3rd W A Gray, Drumnessie- £210  
4th James Gilchrist, West Meikle Pinkerton - £210  
5th H P Sleigh & Son, St John's Wells- £200  
Averages  
Acc Scotch Mule Gimmers £227.54 (+£64.17) on the year  
Non Acc Scotch Mule Gimmers £194.65 (+£20.96) on the year  
Suffolk Cross Gimmers £168.80 (+£5.42) on the year  
Texel Cross Gimmers £148.06

**The championship on August 28 was won by Gavin Ogg & Son, Carroch and realised £230 to Harrison Brothers, Lower Weald.**



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- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-foot swing gates

Mobile Sheep System of Wheels now available



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As standard, our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, 1 sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 full grown cattle (approx.)

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**MAIN FEATURES:**

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- 20-foot race
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- Total 200-feet of penning

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- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
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16 foot sheeted race, 2 way shedding gate, galvanised gate, race joiner. 100 foot of penning, will comfortably hold 200-250 fully grown sheep. **£2,450 + VAT.**

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# A positive way forward for energy production



## Be part of a new green energy initiative based in Lochaber



After more than two years of rigorous planning LEG Power Lochaber Limited were finally able to launch their share offer on August 26th to fund the construction of a 547kW hydro scheme on the Abhainn Ghreadain burn in Glenachulish. With a gargantuan target of £1,880,000, the directors of LEG Power were overwhelmed to have passed the £1 million mark within 7 days of the offer being launched.

Susan Carstairs, Board Director at LEG Power said "It's a delight (and a relief) that the share offer has received such a great response. There have been several moments in the last few years when we thought we might have to give up but now the hydro looks like it will really happen. With the impacts of climate change being seen more and more clearly, it is great to have the chance to be involved in something that represents a positive way forward for energy production. Lochaber has

huge resources of renewable energy and it is great to add to the proportion in community ownership. There's been a mire of legislation, red tape and costs to engage with and we've had great help from Local Energy Scotland and from Community Shares Scotland in getting through the last two and a half years"

**“**  
*Community Shares Scotland are thrilled to see how the project has progressed*

Katie Little, Programme and Communications Officer at Community Shares Scotland adds 'Having provided some early stage advice and funding to LEG Power, Community Shares Scotland are thrilled to see how the project has progressed since then. Raising over £1million in community shares in a week shows how invested the community are in the hydro scheme, which will benefit not only the local

community but the environment as well. We look forward to seeing how the scheme progresses.'

Local investor, John Goodall, a former consultant at the Belford Hospital who now lives in Arisaig explained why he has invested in the scheme.

"We are delighted that LEG Power has managed to create such a good investment opportunity and making a significant contribution to Scotland's supply of green electricity. Before we moved to Arisaig we lived 5 miles up Glen Loy near Fort William where we were not connected to the grid and had to make our own electricity using an old diesel generator in the byre but it was expensive and unreliable so we opted for a hydro-electric system using a small burn. Now we are in Arisaig and on the grid, we do our best to reduce our effects on the environment by having as many solar panels as we can, along with a small wind turbine and an air source heat pump."

To make this scheme happen, LEG Power have teamed up with social enterprise Energy4All Limited who are based in Cumbria. Energy4All is a family of thirty co-operatives across the UK with more than 16,000 members. All thirty co-operatives have been created to enable individuals to do something practical about climate change and to create and own a stake in community renewable energy. To date, every project supported by Energy4All has successfully raised the money required for its construction and provides benefits to the community while delivering an annual return on capital to members.

The public share offer will close soon but a portion of the available shares have been held back exclusively for the residents within the local communities (post-code districts PH31, PH33-PH44, PH49-PH50, PA34, PA38, PA40 and PA80) as part of LEG Power's commitment to encourage local interest.



Meet us to find out more...

**Drop-in event: Tuesday 14th September**

**Ballachulish Village Hall, Ballachulish, PH49 4HL**

See the site plans for the hydro scheme, talk with some of the board members and pick up a copy of the share offer document

Full details are also available at [www.legpower.coop/share-offer](http://www.legpower.coop/share-offer)

**Everyone welcome!**

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*Oban*  
**Healthcare Trail**



**Healthcare Trail** *Oban*

*When it comes to chemists & healthcare, Oban has it covered. Whether you are visiting and need essential supplies such as sun cream, or you are a local who is concerned about your physical & mental health, Oban has you covered from head to toe. Come with us on this week's health trail.*



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





**1. OBAN DENTAL CLINIC**



Oban Dental Clinic is a fully compliant facility with lift access, three surgeries and two dedicated decontamination facilities offering a bespoke centre for the delivery of all aspects of NHS dentistry to the people of Oban and surrounding areas.

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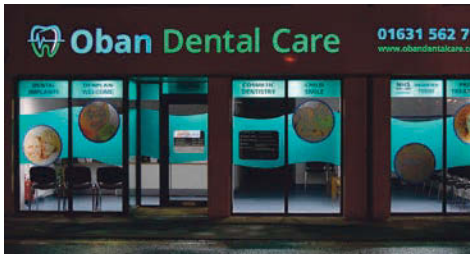
**3. BOOTS PHARMACY**

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**5. DOVE CENTRE**



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**6. JOHN WALLACE OPTOMETRIST**



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# Countdown to laying boat up for the winter



With the onset of autumn, shorter days and less predictable weather, boat owners are starting to think about laying their craft up, or all-year-round berthing, for the winter.

Most boat owners will already be booked into their boat yard of preference or accommodated in other storage space for the winter.

Whether you choose to store undercover or winter berth, there are essential maintenance tasks to carry out for the winter. If you have newly acquired a boat, book a space soon since many yards are nearly at full capacity.

Yards need to know a lift-out date and whether you wish the mast removed and stowed over the

winter and what winter work is required to be done. Some offer undercover storage for varying lengths of time and where available this can be a good option to carry out work that needs good drying conditions.

Maintenance of all craft, whether it be a yacht, motor boat or RIB is essential to keep boats in a good, safe and seaworthy condition.

As well as essential tasks like engine servicing, a rig check, safety checks etc, there may be other improvement work to be carried out. A planned programme of winter lay-up work will make sure all is good for the next season. Many owners will get essentials carried out by the yard or the relevant independent marine service supplier to make sure work is done.

Depending on whether your craft is sail or



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motor, some key areas need considered in a laying-up work plan:

- *Keel, hull, topsides, deck, cockpit*
- *Frost damage prevention*
- *Interior*
- *Sails and rigging*
- *Engine/batteries/electrics*
- *Safety equipment*

A lot of owners are fully competent to carry out most winter lay-up tasks themselves. However, if not and the services of the yard or an independent marine service operator are required, contact them early to get booked in.

It's always helpful to compile a basic check list to work through and have a list of equipment needed to carry out tasks.

### KEEL/HULL/TOPSIDES/DECK/COCKPIT

Watch out for damage to through hull fittings from hoist strops on lift out and remove and blank as necessary.

Pressure washing on lift out removes a lot of fouling and anti-fouling giving a good preparato-

ry surface for new anti-fouling in spring or other coatings required like epoxy, copper coat etc as well as making it easier to identify any repair work required. When the boat is ashore, check over the hull, keel, skeg and rudder for any damage and effect repairs while the weather and temperature conditions are good. Check keelbolts, any play in the rudder/cutlass bearings and the prop-shaft.

A wash down of the whole boat with the application of a protective wax on the topsides will protect from winter dirt and make polishing a lot easier in the spring.

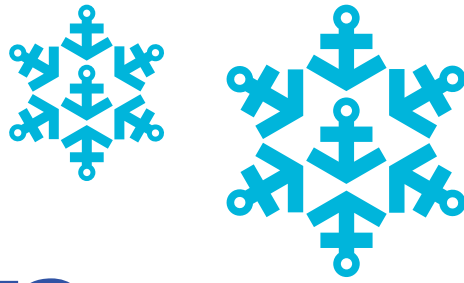
The cockpit should be cleaned thoroughly paying attention to nooks and crannies that trap dirt. If any paint or woodwork here and on deck needs touched up, carry out now if conditions allow. Temperatures may be higher in the autumn than spring.

A cover over the whole boat or even just the cockpit can pay dividends. However, make sure covers are well secured and allow for ventilation and check for any chafing at regular intervals.

Some yards will shrink wrap but allow an area of access so you can continue to work inside.

Ensure the cradle, trailer or support legs are secure and the trim of the boat is slightly bow up to

# your winter season



make sure water doesn't 'puddle' in the cockpit. Regular inspection over the winter is important in case cockpit drains get blocked by leaves/debris and water builds up.

## WATER SYSTEMS

Cold temperatures and freezing of fittings can cause a lot of damage so prevent by following a few basic methods. Fully drain anything that holds or carries water – ie pipes and tanks, pumps and strainers. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer first. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate and disconnect hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Pump dry if necessary. Drain down any water heaters or calorifiers. Flush seacocks through to remove salt build up and service and grease. Remove the barrels from traditional style seacocks to prevent them seizing. If in any doubt as to how to do any of the above safely, get the yard or an independent operator to help.

## INTERIOR

With boats increasing in size and sophistication the interior needs to be kept clean and pristine. Installing a de-humidifier and heater will keep the saloon and cabins warm and dry.

If not requiring to stay on the boat during winter, it's a good idea to remove as much equipment as possible and take home and store. This has the benefit of seeing if anything needs to be cleaned or replaced. Clear plastic stack boxes are good to allow inspection of contents which should all be cleaned before packing – boxes can be easily brought back to the boat in the spring. Berth cushions and soft furnishings in particular are prone to mould if left on the boat over the winter and will benefit from storage at home in a warm, ventilated and rodent-free space.

Lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets should all be washed down – a weak bleach mixture rubbed over can remove and prevent mould build up. There are a number of good items available for this purpose from all chandleries. Always ventilate the boat well and do any touch up work inside when weather permits. List any items required for the 2022 season.

Check gas systems on board are up to standard with a qualified gas engineer. Also fire extinguishers, fire blankets and other safety equipment in the cabin and replace as necessary to keep up to the correct safety specifications.

## SAILS

Check over all your sails and seek advice from your local sail loft on repairs and upgrades. They are the powerhouse of the yacht so deserve good attention. Often a sail cleaning service is offered by sail lofts and even storage which may be a good option for many owners. However if taking home, make sure sails are kept in a dark, warm, well-ventilated area and away from potential rodent damage.

And, if you need new sails have a chat with your local sailmaker and get your order in quickly. There's often a discount period at this time of year.

## RIGGING AND DECK GEAR

Wear and tear on both standing and running rigging and deck gear can lead to serious accidents so should be checked overall carefully. Wash everything with fresh water to remove salt and debris build up. Look over sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for any corrosion and replace if suspect. Check standing rigging for any breaks and weakness. Also look over all deck fittings such

as sheaves, blocks, winches, cleats etc and if work is needed get it done asap. Servicing winches either now or in the spring is essential.

Many owners remove halyards with messenger lines to aid longevity. Inspect for chafe and wash and dry halyards/sheets before storing in a dry place. If the mast is stored off the boat it's easier to check masthead instrumentation and that rigging blocks are running freely. Grease everything to prevent water ingress. It's always a good idea to remove anchors and chain to look for any damage or wear – these can be stored on a pallet below the boat washing first with fresh water to remove salt and dirt. Service anchor winches and check over chain links and shackles for wear. If the weather is good this is an ideal time to paint out the anchor locker for the spring.

## ENGINES, BATTERIES, ELECTRICS

Winterising is essential to good engine maintenance and both inboard and outboard engines need this done. An oil change is standard. New oil prevents internal corrosion and protects the engine standing over the winter. Yard or independent engineers will do this for you if you lack time or confidence to carry out yourself.

The outboard should be flushed through with fresh cooling water and antifreeze/water mix. Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil-soaked rag. Fill fuel tanks to prevent condensation and add a biocide. Change filters as required and bleed system for next season. Change engine and gearbox oil and make a note of the date of change. Minimise condensation by spraying the engine with a moisture repellent and cover with a cloth. Put batteries on a trickle charge and if not needed onboard, take home and sit in a place that won't freeze. Electrics/

instrumentation on board should be looked over and any problems checked out by an electronics engineer and repaired or renewed.

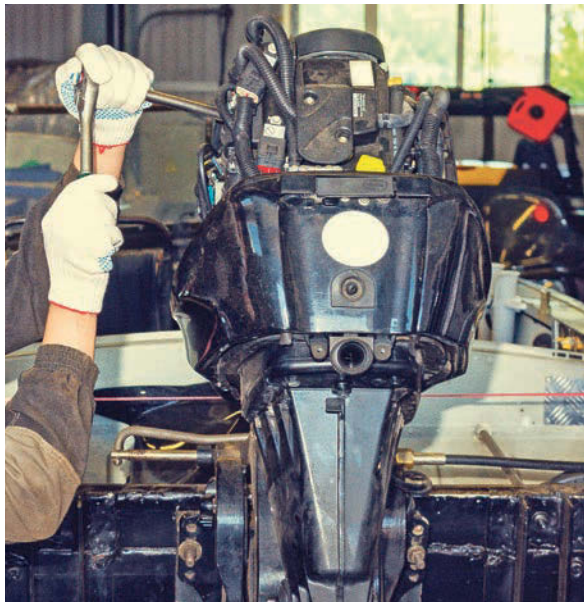
## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Safety gear is vitally important aboard any craft and its maintenance equally important. There is not much point in wearing a lifejacket in a life-saving situation if it fails to inflate.

It's therefore imperative to overhaul everything. Inspect life-jackets, harnesses and safety gear replacing anything that looks suspect. It's advisable to store lifejackets partially inflated over the winter – that way any leaks can be detected and the outer covering won't deteriorate. Check jacket bottles for corrosion and replace as required – kits are available from chandlers. Ensure your flares are in date and replace for next season as necessary. Store flare packs in a dry area and dispose of old flares through official collection depots. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre on their due date. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated.

Seasoned boat owners will go through all the above as routine but for those new to boat owning it's reassuring to know there is plenty of help and advice on hand from a range of sources – boat-yard operators, service engineers, boat builders, chandlers and sail-makers. If there's anything an owner is unsure about these are the experts, so don't hesitate to ask if you need to.

And once your boat is laid up safely with all maintenance in hand, you can relax and look at planning for the boating season in 2022



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A full-time bus driver would typically work around 40-45 hours per week. Part time opportunities are also available.

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Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus foirm tagraidh bho:

Màiri T NicDhòmhnaill, CnaG, An Tosgan, Rathad Shìophort, Steòrnabhagh HS1 2DG

Fòn: 01851 701802 Post-dealain: mairit@cna.org

**Feumaidh foirm tagraidh a bhith a-staigh ro 5.00f air 17mh Sultain 2021.**

Tha Poileasaidh Co-ionannachd Chothroman aig CnaG agus tha sinn a' cur fàilte air iartràs bho gach roinn den choimhearsnachd.

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Experience in restaurant and cocktail bar management would be advantageous. You will work closely with the existing management team to help develop and improve all aspects of our Front of House operation.

### FRONT OF HOUSE CREW!



We're also looking for cheery new Front of House crew. If you have experience working in a vibrant, busy bar and café / restaurant environment, a passion for customer service and the ability to shine in diverse roles, we'd like to hear from you! Candidates should ideally be barista and / or bar trained, with the flexibility to work across all areas.

### FACILITIES MANAGER!



We're looking for a part time Facilities Engineer to plan, oversee, undertake and manage mechanical and electrical maintenance tasks at both Highland Cinema and Highland Soap Company. The role is anticipated to require a commitment of around 2-days per month on-site, with occasional phone and emergency assistance.



FOR FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND HOW TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT  
**WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK/CAREERS/**



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01522/PP	Redecoration of shop front and installation of ventilation louvres	38 George Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/01125/PP	Demolition of ruin and erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular access	Ruin At Mishnish Lochs, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/01350/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of 5 timber pods for holiday let and installation of bio disc treatment plant	Land North Of South Achinduin, Isle Of Lismore, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5UH
21/01511/PP	Formation of temporary vehicular access	Land West Of Fallsview, Glen Lochy, Argyll And Bute

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

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



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

### TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

#### THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (SKYE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2021

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road from its junction with the A855 Bridge Road, Portree, in a generally north-westerly direction, to its junction with the B8036 road to Prabost, a distance of 9.5 kilometres or thereby. The Order, which is required to facilitate the holding of the Skye Half Marathon event, will be in operation 11th September until 12th September 2021. It is anticipated the prohibition will be in place for a period of two hours between 10:00hrs and 12:00hrs and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at BEAR Scotland Limited, BEAR House, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3TW.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

#### S R LEES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

### TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

#### NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

#### A82 ALLT COIRE CHAILEIN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984  
The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have determined that the project for scour repair works at Allt Coire Chailein on the A82 is a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and falls within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment, but that having regard to -  
(a) the selection criteria contained in Annex III of that Directive, namely  
(i) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;  
(ii) the production of waste;  
(iii) pollution and nuisances;  
(iv) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution);  
(v) areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC,  
(b) the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment under section 55A(2) of the 1984 Act and the site survey undertaken on 4 March 2020 which determined that there would be no likely significant effects on the Allt Coire Chailein Site of Special Scientific Interest,  
(c) the information set out in the Record of Determination dated 17 August 2021, available at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/transport-network/roads/road-orders-and-records-of-determination/#63527>,  
the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:

- (a) Ground works will be limited to works on the concrete culvert structure and minor excavation of soil to install new fencing above the culvert. These activities will not affect the sensitive geological features in the Site of Special Scientific Interest or the Geological Conservation Review Site associated with the watercourse;
- (b) The works will not damage or alter the footprint of A82 Allt Coire Chailein culvert;
- (c) The site compound will be located on made ground out with the boundary of Allt Coire Chailein Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Geological Conservation Review Site; and
- (d) Any potential impacts of the works are expected to be temporary, short-term, and limited to the construction phase.

The features of the project which are envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment are:

- (a) Mitigation measures and consents will be in place to ensure no short-term or long-term significant negative impacts on biodiversity, water, and soils/geology;
- (b) Containment of the working area will be in place to prevent debris or pollution from entering the surrounding environment; and
- (c) Measures will be in place to ensure appropriate removal and disposal of waste.

#### S R LEES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Roads, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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



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

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>. Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
21/03845/FUL	Lochy Holiday Park Camaghael Fort William	Erection of extension and alterations to form reception and cafe
21/04114/LBC	Rio Tinto Alcan Kinlochleven Power House Lochaber Road Kinlochleven	Refurbishment of jack-roof structures, replacement of windows, existing gutters, heritage lights, glass rooflights with polycarbonate & internal refurbishments, including emergency alterations to roof tiles (retrospective).

Time period for comment is 14 days from the date of this notice for application 21/03845/FUL and 21 days for 21/04114/LBC

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

### MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 ALGAL FARM KILCHOAN BAY, LOCH MELFORT

Notice is hereby given that Kilchoan Management Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an algal farm at:

Cost	£6000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Works Area	56° 15.493' N	05° 33.243' W
	56° 15.496' N	05° 33.135' W
	56° 15.291' N	05° 33.258' W
	56° 15.309' N	05° 33.353' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3DGeuNr>.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 00009346 and Kilchoan Management Ltd.

#### Fair Processing Notice

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

A full privacy notice can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-and-fisheries/licensing/marine-licensing-operations-team-privacy-notice/>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

#### First Registration of a Croft

G Borthwick has registered the croft, 'Tigh Liza', Ardnamurchan and Sunart, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland. Any person wishing to challenge registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by April 2022. Details of registration of Croft C7796 can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home).

#### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECRYPTING APPLICATION

1. K. McKinlay, Balure Croft, 2.65 ha, Site for a dwelling house, (109840)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 06/10/21 at [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW.

#### DECRYPTING DIRECTION ISSUED

1. C MacKinnon, 16 Balevullin, 0.1 ha, Site for a new dwelling house, Fencing conditions (108881)

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

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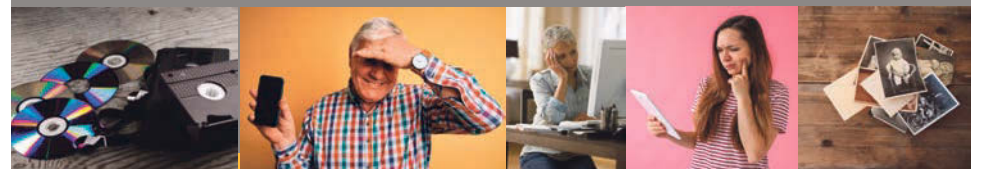
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\*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.



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## DEATHS

**GEARING** - Peacefully at home on August 27, 2021, aged 78 years, Danny, beloved husband of Isa, much loved dad of Audrey and Angela, devoted Seanair of Graeme and Simone, father-in-law to Paul and the late Alec. Sadly missed by all.

**MACDOWALL** - Peacefully on September 1, 2020, Andrew MacDowall, formerly of Hazeldean Crescent, passed away. Loving father to Patrick, Andrew and Kirsty and loving grandfather. He will be sorely missed. Aig fios ann an solus fhlanthanas.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at 7 Bowman Court, Craignure on September 6, 2021, Jean MacKinnon née Campbell, in

her 96th year. Loving wife of the late Ian (Neila), a loving mother, mother-in-law, gran and great-granny. Will be sadly missed by all.

**RUSSELL** - Peacefully in the care of Highview House, Inverness and formerly of 2 Castle Drive, Lochyside, Fort William on September 3, 2021. Catherine (Dolly) née Murphy aged 88 years, beloved wife of the late John (Jackie) Russell. Much loved mother of Agnes, Violet, John, Paul, Tina, Alec and Karen, treasured grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Funeral service will take place at St John's RC church, Caol on Tuesday, September 14 at 11am and afterwards at Cille Choirill Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations

can be made if desired to, Save the Children or St John's Church.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

**ROBERTSON** - Alison Youngs Robertson (née Macpherson). A celebration of the life of Alison, who died in February this year, will be held at St John's, Ballachulish at 1.30pm on September 18. If attending, it would be lovely if you could wear bright colours.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BALL** - Katie, the girls, Brian and Anne wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the overwhelming support they have had and are still receiving following the sudden and tragic death of Jamie. It has

been truly staggering and thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts. Also thanks to the Rev Richard Baxter for his kind words and lovely service, to Finlay Finlayson for the heartfelt tribute delivered with passion, to Jamie Manson and Beth for their help and professionalism, to Shona and Serena for the flowers, to Margaret Bellwood for the lovely floral display in the church, to Karon for looking after us at the Alexandra Hotel and finally to the many hundreds of mourners whose attendance was greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

**MACDONALD** - Mary Ann and all the family of the late David MacDonald would like to thank Dr Douglas, Dr Pullman and all the nurses and carers at Belford and Raigmore hospitals for their care and attention. Special thanks to Father Connor, Deacon Wynne, Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Kevin the organist, the gravediggers, Andrew Orr the piper, The Moorings hotel, MacDonald Bros florist for their beautiful flower arranging and Manson and MacBeath for their compassionate care and professionalism. Many thanks to all who sent cards and messages, and to all who attended the church and graveside, and for the donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**MACPHERSON** - The family of the late Mary MacPherson would like to convey their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent loss. Special thanks to Bruach House, Nairn for their excellent care and support to Mum over the last few years. Sincere thanks also to Revs

Malcolm and Marion Kinnear for their comforting service and support and to John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their compassion, care and professionalism. Finally, thanks to all who generously donated the sum of £402.00 to Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.

**REFFIN** - The family of the late Dorothy (Dot) Reffin would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls, letters, messages and offers of support following their recent sad and sudden loss. Grateful thanks to all the medical and nursing staff of Ward B, Lorn & Islands Hospital Oban for the exceptional care given to Dot, and also for the kindness and compassion shown to our family. Our thanks are extended to the Rev. Dugald Cameron for a fitting service; to Cameron MacDonald for delivering the tribute on behalf of the family in a comforting and uplifting manner. Special thanks to the firm of Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors, Lochgilphead for taking care of all arrangements in a professional, dignified and reassuring manner, along with the kind assistance from Catriona and the firm of Hamish Hoey and Son. Finally our thanks to all who attended at the church and graveside and to all who paid their respects as the funeral cortège made its way to Pennyfuir Cemetery. The retiral collection has raised over £650 for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. "A million feelings, a thousand thoughts, a hundred memories, one person." Missed greatly by all her family and friends.

## MEMORIAMS

**BRIDGES** - David. Nam loidh an cothrom agam, thuirim dhachaidh Na mo chridhe gu slorraidh.  
- June Anne xx

Love and miss you dad  
- Archie, Kate, Freddie, Jessie, Unity and baby Aria xxxxx

**DAVIES** - In loving memory of Geraint James Davies, who died September 10, 2020. Treasured memories.  
- Jean Sim and family, Taynuilt and Oban.

**FRASER** - In loving memory of our parents, Jessie, died September 13, 2001 and William Andrew died December 26, 1987. RIP. "I would like to be at rest in the Eden in the west Where the Morar river gently meets the sea". (The Morar Song)  
- Inserted by their daughter Anne.

**MACCUISH** - In loving memory of my wife Marion and my son Bobby. You're always in my thoughts and my heart.  
- Love from your loving husband and father Peter.

**MACCUISH** - In loving memory of our mum Marion and brother Bobby. We miss you both every day. You'll never walk alone.  
- Love Peter, Julie and family.

**MACCUISH** - In memory of Marion, our mother and granny. Our world is a lonelier place without you.  
- David, Tia, Daniel, Claire and Mark.

**MACDONALD** - Remembering Douglas (Dougie), who passed away September 7, 2019. Always in our thoughts.  
- Anne and Mairi.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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GRADUATION



**MICHAEL DAVID CRITCHELL**

Recently graduated from the University of Aberdeen in Medicine, MBChB. A former pupil of Achaphubuil Primary School, Michael is the son of Tim Critchell and Eileen Byrne, grandson of Colin and Geraldine Critchell, Achaphubuil and the late Lawrie and Vera Byrne, Garvan, Locheilside. Michael has taken up his first post at University Hospital Wishaw.



Two successful drive-in gospel events were held in Balivanich

## Faith Mission holds drive-in services

Faith Mission Hope for Life held two successful drive-in gospel events at An Caladh car park, Balivanich for Benbecula on Thursdays and Fridays towards the end of August.

Previously, the Mission had encouraged an outdoor congregation in Berneray, Kilmuir and Carinish in the Southern Isles.

Donnie MacLeod, Faith Mission co-ordinator preached with conviction on both occasions, with appropriate Gospel music sent out from the An Caladh building on a beautiful evening setting on the first occasion in particular.

Reverend Gordon Thompson of Bearsden and originally from Oban, told of his experiences with the stricken family of a friend involved in

the Chernobyl disaster, as well as miners in Chile who were stranded for 69 days at 3,000 feet.

Youthful Lewis MacDonald from Skye, who had done a sterling job in directing the many visiting vehicles into position over the event, spoke with feeling on his own situation, when at the age of eight years old he first showed signs of conversion to Christianity and later became one of 'God's children' upon entering High School.

Reverend Tom Penman, young minister for South Uist and Benbecula, expressed satisfaction with everything done and welcomes all members of the public to services at An Caladh at 5pm on Sundays.

**Iain Frew, North Uist**

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

### Words, silence, healing, peace

The prophet Hosea was instructed by God to 'Take with him words', as he called him to prayer and penitence.

Throughout history great leaders have exercised wisdom and are continually called to the negotiating table. The power of words spoken by the right person brings healing and harmony and can even prevent wars from breaking out.

The weight of responsibility laid on the 'words' we speak is great indeed. How often have we been in a situation where it has been impossible to stay silent. Then there are other times where we are completely speechless. Sometimes we say too much too soon or, worse perhaps, we let others do the talking for us. The latter is unfortunately often true when we might well have had something very valuable to say.

Stricken, saddened, sorrowing humanity today needs healing words.

'Apt words have power to assuage the tumours of a troubled mind and are as balm to festered wounds' (John Milton, Samson Agonistes)

A word spoken at the right time can help remove doubt, minister to anxiety, inspire profound thoughts and bring us peace. The words of Christian vocabulary should always be words of encouragement, assurance, reassurance, forgiveness, acceptance and always words of healing. Isn't

the voice of conscience so often reminding us where we have gone wrong? The voice of conscience is very often God speaking through us.

'Lord speak to me that I may speak'. We all need to know when to speak, what to say and what not to say. We need wisdom, we need 'discernment'. When Christ came into the world, the apostle John proclaimed Him, 'the Word made flesh', who 'dwelt among us'.

As we meet together as families in our homes, week by week at our church services, in our meetings, we call to mind Jesus, who was 'the healing word' in action. All of us need to take with us 'healing words' on our journey through life. We are thankful also for the times when words do finally escape us because, we can rest in the Word of Life. At those times when we seek rest, refreshment and peace let us remember the words of Jesus.

'Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28)

'Peace, I leave with you, not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid' (John 14.27)

**Reverend Anthony M. Jones, F.R.S.A., Parish Minister of Fort Augustus & Glengarry Church of Scotland, Moderator of the Presbytery of Lochaber**

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OT

# Shinty round up

Lovat will meet Kinlochshiel in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday September 4.

## Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - Semi Final Kingussie 2 Lovat 3

Lovat will meet Kinlochshiel in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final after defeating Kingussie 3-2 in their 4.10pm throw up at An Aird.

Lovat were quick out of the blocks and Robert Mabon's perfect block prevented Fraser Heath shooting goalwards, while Kingussie keeper Rory MacGregor used his feet to save Greg Matheson's shot.

Play switched to the other end and Stuart MacDonald made the first in a series of fine first half stops when he used his hand to parry James Falconer's backhand shot from the right. However it was Lovat who broke the deadlock on 10 minutes. Fraser Heath jockeyed with Robert Mabon 25 yards from goal after controlling Lorne MacKay's free-hit. Heath made enough space to turn and send a dipping shot into the keeper's top right corner of the net to claim a spectacular opener.

Kingussie now laid siege on the Lovat goal and Stuart MacDonald saved with his feet after Roddy Young had taken James Falconer's pass and Savio Genini's free-hit from the left started a goalmouth scramble before Lovat cleared their lines.

A rare Lovat attack ended with Rory MacGregor stopping Marc MacLachlan's shot with his feet and Greg Matheson needed treatment to a cut below the eye suffered in the build-up. Stuart MacDonald's final act of a pulsating first half was to save from Kingussie top scorer James Falconer.

Kingussie finished the half on the attack but they couldn't get the goal they craved so Lovat led 1-0 at half-time.

Kingussie were forced into an interval change with defender Ryan Borthwick, who had been troubled by a heavy cold, replaced by Calum Grant.

Kingussie attacked straight from the restart but despite all their pressure they fell two goals behind as Lovat went straight up the park on 47 minutes. A Lewis Tawse free-hit picked out Marc MacLachlan in a central position and he fired goalwards. Keeper Rory MacGregor left the ball as he thought it was going wide but, to his horror, it sneaked just inside his right post.



Lovat's Fraser Heath celebrates his second goal.  
Photograph: Neil Paterson

Lovat were forced into a double substitution when Marc MacLachlan limped off with a hamstring issue whilst Scott MacKenzie was hit on the knuckle. Bailey MacKay came on in place of MacLachlan and Graeme MacMillan replaced MacKenzie.

Kingussie got the goal their play deserved on 73 minutes and it was a Savio Genini special. Genini took down Fraser Munro's free-hit from wide on the left of the Kingussie midfield before turning quickly and firing across keeper MacDonald with the ball going just inside the keeper's right post. It only took Lovat a minute to dent any hopes of a Kingussie comeback. Greg Matheson played the ball back low across the goal from the right and Fraser Heath took a touch inside and his low shot on his left side went in off the keeper's feet.

The tie was turning into an epic and Savio Genini scored a second on 75 minutes serving up the game's third goal in a breath-taking three minute spell. Genini brought down Roddy Young's corner from the left before smashing the ball home on his left side from the edge of the D.

Late shots from Dylan Borthwick and Ruaridh Anderson weren't enough as Lovat saw out the closing minutes and they will now play Kinlochshiel in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final at Mossfield on Saturday September 18.

Fraser Heath was named man of the match by BBC ALBA pundit Katie Drain with Stuart MacDonald perhaps a close second.

## Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - Quarter

## Finals: Inveraray P Oban Celtic P

The tie between Inveraray and Oban Celtic at the Winterton has been rescheduled for Saturday September 11.

## Aberdour 0 Kyles Athletic 8

Kyles Athletic were too strong for Aberdour, winning 8-0 at Silver Sands.

Roddy MacDonald got the opener on 24 minutes with Robbie MacLeod finding the net just four minutes later.

Kyles took control, scoring three goals in four minutes. Conor Kennedy scored on 32 and 36 minutes, either side of Innes MacDonald's 34 minute effort to make it 5-0 at half-time.

Colin MacDonald added a sixth on 69 minutes with Conor Kennedy completing his hat-trick on 82 minutes.

Robbie MacLeod got his second three minutes from time to round off the win.

Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup - Semi Finals  
**Skye Camanachd 3 Inveraray 2:** Skye Camanachd reached the Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final after edging out Inveraray 3-2 at Jubilee Park.

Skipper Jordan Murchison returned for Skye following a hamstring problem but John Gillies was out with concussion so William MacKinnon took over at full back. Gilleasbuig MacDonald started in midfield whilst Will Cowie and Ross Gordon remained on the injury list. Garry MacPherson started for Inveraray whilst Ruaraidh Graham and Robert Wood were on a strong five-player bench.

Skye took the lead on 25 minutes. Ross MacKinnon's hit-in from the left was taken down by Inveraray defender Hamish

MacLennan but Somhairle MacDonald positioned himself well to intercept the clearance and MacDonald's shot from the left flew into the top corner of the net on the keeper's right side. Inveraray levelled with just five first half minutes remaining. Lewis MacNicol's free-hit from inside his own half on the right allowed Allan MacDonald to run onto the ball on the Inveraray left and his low ball across goal was turned home by Campbell Watt on the right, beating the keeper from a tight angle at his near post.

James Pringle put Skye back in front a minute short of the hour. Martin Pringle's ball out of defence was played on by Jordan Murchison. Hamish MacLennan was unable to clear Murchison's ball to the left and James Pringle cracked a great shot high into the net on his left side.

Somhairle MacDonald got his second and Skye's third on 63 minutes. Jordan Murchison ran back into the centre circle



Lovat keeper Stuart Macdonald makes a save during the second half. Photograph: Neil Paterson

to play the ball up-field, wide on the Skye right where James Pringle played a great ball across the face of the goal. Somhairle MacDonald cut inside and he expertly controlled the ball before slotting it past keeper Scott MacLachlan to make it 3-1.

Campbell Watt got his second seven minutes from time with a shot from distance into the roof of the net to make it 3-2 but Skye saw out the final stages to seal a place in the Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final on Saturday October 2, where they will play either Beaully or Bute.

## Beaully P Bute P

The semi-final between Beaully and Bute at the Jubilee Park was a Covid postponement so will be rescheduled.

Beaully host Camanachd Cup finalists Lovat this weekend whilst Bute are in Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter-final action against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

The Camanachd Association has confirmed that the Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final has been put back to Saturday October 2.

## Mowi Senior League C

## Oban Camanachd P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

Oban Camanachd's encounter with Glasgow Mid Argyll at Mossfield was called off as the Glasgow side were unable to travel north.

Oban Camanachd are scheduled to travel to Aberdour in the league on Saturday.

## HIS Sutherland Cup - Quarter-Finals

## Lochside Rovers 2 Kinlochshiel 1

Holders Lochside Rovers saw off the Kinlochshiel second team 2-1 in their 3pm throw up at Mossfield.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans was without the services of the injured Innes Jackson and Robbie Brown who was working. Kenny Wotherspoon started in attack alongside Lewis Buchanan, David Cameron and 14-year-old Alexander MacDonald.

Kinlochshiel boss Willie

MacRae was missing Archie MacRae and Campbell Lamont who were both on first team duty but Stuart MacRae came into the squad.

'Shiel started with the wind in their favour but Lochside created chances with Kenny Wotherspoon and Lewis Buchanan going close. It took a brilliant save from young 'Shiel keeper Calum MacMillan to deny Lewis Buchanan.

However Buchanan did get his goal on 39 minutes as he ran away from goal, out to the left, before turning and lashed the ball into the far top corner of the net from a tight angle.

Alexander MacDonald got what proved to be a crucial second goal just three minutes from half-time. Lewis Buchanan's shot was saved and a goalmouth scramble ensued with MacDonald running in to force the ball over the line to make it 2-0 at the break.

Lochside introduced youngsters Matthew Sloss and Daniel Pearson from the bench and the Oban side knew a third goal would seal it.

However 'Shiel pulled a goal back on 74 minutes when Stuart MacRae sent a 20-yard strike high into the net.

Lochside saw out the closing stages though to go through to the HIS Sutherland Cup semi-finals where they will play the Lovat second team at Spean Bridge this Saturday.

This was the last match to be played on Mossfield ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final on Saturday September 18.

Speaking afterwards, Gareth Evans said: 'We didn't perform as we can but we're pleased to be in the semi-finals. We'll certainly have to step it up against Lovat on Saturday. We were missing one or two and will hopefully have them back for Saturday. Kenny (Wotherspoon) picked up and ankle injury so we'll have to check on him too.'

'A few of the boys weren't fully fit against Kinlochshiel but played to help us out and they put in a tremendous shift. The tie was played in good spirit and I thought Callum Kirsop was excellent for us; he was the best player out there.'

## Bullough Cup - Semi Final Kyles Athletic P Kilmory P

The tie between the Kyles Athletic second team and Kilmory at the Sports Field, Tighnabruaich has been rescheduled for Saturday September 11.

## Mowi South League A Taynuilt P Inveraray P

Taynuilt's game against the Inveraray second team at the Taynuilt Sports Field was a Covid postponement.

## Mowi South League B Tayforth 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll 6

The Glasgow Mid Argyll

second team were 6-2 winners against Tayforth at Peffermill.

Matthew Young, back after a short stint with Lochcarron, put the Glasgow side ahead on 13 minutes and Iain Luke made it 2-0 just six minutes later. Jamie MacLeod on 24 minutes and John Sweeney on 35 minutes made it 4-0 at the break. Cailean MacInnes on 67 minutes and a second from Matthew Young on 72 minutes made it 6-0. Tayforth finished with a flourish with Donald MacInnes on 86 minutes and Neil Shearer on 90 minutes making the final score 6-2.

#### Bute P Aberdour P

The meeting between the Bute colts and the Aberdour colts at the Meadows was called off on Friday as Aberdour were unable to travel.

#### Mowi Central League Glenorchy 3 Lochaber 2

Glenorchy saw off a comeback from the Lochaber second team to win 3-2 at Mart Park.

Stewart Twort on 34 minutes and Arik MacKechnie on 43 minutes had the hosts 2-0 ahead at the break. However Martin Patterson on 51 minutes and Dillon Brockie on 70 minutes drew the sides level.

Glenorchy's Conor Sartain grabbed the winner seven minutes from time to give Glenorchy the points.

#### Oban Celtic P Ardnamurchan P

The noon throw up between the Oban Celtic second team and Ardnamurchan at Ganavan was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

## Oban Saints Youth results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results; U13s no game; Campbeltown Pupils 3, Under 15s 4. Scoring for Saints were James Muir (2), Rhys Miller and Owen Lloyd)

Shettleston Juniors 0, Under 16s 6. On target for Saints were Ewen Campbell (2), Cody McCulloch and Preston MacIntyre (3). Rutherglen Glencairn 4, Under 17s 2. Saints scorers were Louie McFarlane and Andrew Nicol)

This Sunday's fixtures; Under 13s - tbc; Under 15s - tbc; Under 16s v Glenlang; Under 17s - free week.

## Craignure golf results

The result of Sunday's September medal (last round of the year) at Craignure Golf Club was as follows:

1. Fred MacLean ... 67
2. Barry Whenman ... 68
3. (On countback) Adrian Fitness ... 70

Fred joins the other five in the final at the end of the month.

# Oban Sportive 2021 goes the distance

Action-packed cycling challenge Oban Sportive went ahead at the weekend attracting 180 entrants and raising thousands of pounds for charities, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The gruelling but rewarding Cruachan Hill Climb on the Saturday, a timed event over a 2.7-mile stretch rising up 1,044ft to the famous hollow mountain dam, with an average gradient of 6.9 per cent, had a record entry of 60 so-called mountain goats.

Sunday's main event covered an 87-mile route around Scotland's longest loch, Loch Awe, and a shorter, but no easier, 56-mile course around Loch Avich. Drizzle was no obstacle for the course-goers.

Strong performances were put in by Craig Donald, Bill Sturgeon, Kate MacKellaig and Caroline Booth on the short course, and Andre Van, Leigh



Young piper Callum MacInnes leads out the competitors from Oban Distillery for the start.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Chambers, Marie Meldrum and Jenny Brown on the longer route.

The events raised about £6,000 which will go to good causes across North Argyll.

The first Oban Sportive was in 2012, but Covid saw the May 2020 event postponed until September 2020, then again until May 2021 before finally going ahead this month.

The atmosphere was buzzing

on Sunday when cyclists got a good send-off from piper Calum MacInnes and spectators from under Oban Distillery's iconic archway - the best venue organisers said they could wish for in town.

'The feedback we've had has all been positive, no negatives. They can't wait to come back for more and are recommending it to their friends which is great for us and great for the

town's economy!' said one of the event organisers and North Argyll Cycle Club (NACC) member, Steven Groom.

Argyll and Bute Council helped smooth the way for the event, sweeping the route and filling any potholes.

'The road was in the best condition it has ever been,' added Mr Groom.

The event's thank you list is extensive, including sponsors Oban Distillery, Kames fish farm, Aggregate Industries and BID4Oban. Leslie Bike Shop from Glenrothes were on hand to help with any last-minute repairs and had five riders take on the cycling challenge.

One participant turned the challenge into a weekend trip from Yorkshire, arriving in time for the Park Run from Ganavan before taking on the Cruachan Hill Climb then Sunday's long haul.

Among others were Bill Sturgeon who rides with NACC and travelled from home in Arran to join in. Alister Jackson, a regular at Oban Sportive was joined by his nephew Peter Scott from Newbury to complete the short course.

Mr Jackson said: 'It was a very well organised event with fantastic food stops and friendly, helpful marshalls.'

Cyclist Sean Jamieson said: 'I have been doing the Oban Sportive for six years now and the courses are getting better, the feed stops are getting better, the organisation is getting better - I just need to get better!'

'Scenery, terrain, road surfaces and comradery are what make the Oban Sportive. We just need to sort out how to organise the weather now!'

More photographs, visit [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Narrow defeat for Saints against Kirkintilloch side

Oban Saints	0
Harestanes	1
Central Scottish AFL Premier Division	

After their recent 9-1 thrashing at the hands of Lesmahagow, Saints faced another tough challenge when they took on high-flying Harestanes at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Manager Willie Gemmell had most of his squad back and made five changes, with Graham Douglas, Scott Maitland, Myles McAuley, Matty Kelly and Ross Maitland coming

into the starting line-up. Harestanes started the better of the two teams, with Liam Johnston sending a header past the post in the first minute. Paul McLaughlin had another good chance in the 16th minute but Saints keeper Graham Douglas made a fine save.

Saints were under a lot of pressure in the first half, but stout defending from Steven MacLeod and Dene Cassells kept the eager Stanes at bay.

The home side came close in the 25th minute when a Lewis Cameron shot was well saved by Stanes' keeper Mathew Lewis.

Saints lost the services of

Cammy Hill through injury, with 16-year-old Kyle Cooper coming on and Ross Maitland moving to right back.

In the second period Saints were still very much in the game and, in fact, nearly took the lead in the first minute when a Cooper header was brilliantly touched over the bar by Mathew Lewis.

The visiting keeper was in action again when he saved from Cooper who had been sent through on goal by a slide-rule Craig MacEwan pass.

The Oban side lost the services of David Beaton with the recurrence of a hamstring injury, his place being taken

by the experienced Donnie Campbell who is still gaining match fitness after being out for a while. He was quickly into the action but his shot from 18 yards screamed over the bar, as did one from Lewis Cameron two minutes later.

Harestanes took the lead in the 69th minute when Paul McLachlin sneaked in behind Saints' defence to head the ball past Douglas and into the net.

The D & K Lafferty Contractors and MKM Building Supplies sponsored Oban outfit made another substitution in the 75th minute, replacing Matty Kelly with Gavin Forgrieve.

There was no further scoring, with the visitors picking up a good three points away from home in a hard-fought encounter.

Saints Gaffer Willie Gemmell was a lot happier this week. He said: 'It took us a while to get into the match, but after we settled down we gave as good as we got. We just switched off at the goal and you can't afford to do that against an experienced team like Harestanes.'

The Kirkintilloch outfit are back in Oban on September 18. This Saturday Saints take on old rivals St Patrick's FP. The game will take place at Glen 2 with a 2pm kick-off.



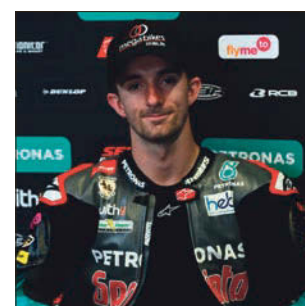
Winning smiles from Neil and Anne MacDougall, this year's Oban Bowling Club gents and ladies champions. This is the second year the married couple have won their respective championships in the same year.

## John to have a Moto2 try-out at Aragon

For the Grand Prix of Aragon, the next round of the FIM MotoGP World Championship, PETRONAS Sepang Racing Team will make a raft of changes to its line-ups in MotoGP, Moto2 and Moto3 to continue to give its stable of riders valuable opportunities for experience.

Oban's John McPhee will get his chance at graduation, stepping up from Moto3 to Moto2 to sample the Kalex machine for the first time in his career. He will ride alongside Xavi Vierge who will be taking part in his third home race of the season.

John said: 'It's a fantastic opportunity for me to try the Moto2 bike in Aragon. As with every rider, it's their dream to



John will be trying out in Moto2 this coming weekend.

progress through the categories, and I feel like I am at the level and have the ability to make this step up to Moto2.

'Of course, the challenge will be extremely difficult because it's my first time ever racing a big bike, with my only real

experience being 15 laps of Barcelona in 2019 which was a thank you from the team after my win at Le Mans.

'I'm really excited and motivated for the challenge and really looking forward to trying the bike. There's no real expectation, I'm just going to enjoy it a lot and feel like if I can improve session by session and keep closing the gap with the fastest riders, then this will be a job well done. Thank you to my team for this opportunity.'

The Grand Prix of Aragon gets under way on Friday September 10.

**GET INVOLVED**  
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# Experience wins through in John MacEachen Memorial Trophy



The winners: Andrew Henderson, Mo MacCall (John's sister) Neil Armour, Anne Moffat (John's daughter), and Neil MacDougall. Kenny MacLean Sen was unable to be there; and right, Neil Armour plays from the sand on the sixth hole. Photographs: Kevin McGlynn

Experience seemed to be the name of the game as the two major winning teams in the fourth annual John MacEachen Memorial Trophy had an average of 65 years young.

This charity fundraising event has very quickly become one of the largest golfing tournaments of its kind within Argyll and Bute.

The organisers were a bit disappointed with a number of very late call-offs, mostly Covid related. This dropped the planned competitor num-

ber from 208 to 180, which is still the largest field of the year, to play the immaculate Glencruitten Golf Course.

The winners, Team Forgrieve, all bus-pass carrying Glencruitten stalwarts. (Dr) Neil Armour, Neilly (3) MacDougall, Kenny (Berram) MacLean and the Raploch Magician Andy ('Tar') Henderson produced a superb winning score of 99 points, with Andy Tar playing 'the best round of golf in my life'.

Runners-up, after winning last week's AmAm, was The

Staffa Tours Team of John Plunkett, Brian Blue, Kenny Devine, and the baby-faced assassin Scott McLennan. They finished five points behind the winning team with an impressive score of 94 points.

Other prize winners were: Nearest the pin - Charlie Spreadbury Jnr, with the longest drive - Mark Bergent.

Worth noting regarding the golf is that the Kintyre Tractormen, lead by Largside's tremendous sportsman Duncan (Stone)



Christine Cameron, Mary Plunkett, Maureen Devine and Louise MacLeod added a touch of glamour to the day.

Johnstone, produced a very reasonable score of 86 points, and the team from the Oban Times managed to eclipse their previous two outings in this event where they failed to return a score by failing to field a team at all, due to the fact that some members failed a late fitness test.

The Pink Ladies, under their new name of Seafarm Mermaids, raised a lot of smiles with their colourful attire and very attractive matching hairstyles. Apologies must go to Finlay O'Rourke and Davy Laird who were upset because their tickets were not drawn out in the raffle.

Thanks once again to Kathleen and David Lafferty for their continuing sponsorship of the event and to all the other local businesses and individuals who contributed

to the very successful raffle.

A big thank you once again to Glencruitten Golf Course and clubhouse staff for their hard work.

Thanks also to Kevin 'The Camera' McGlynn for leaving Ollie from Dunollie for the day to come and take some fabulous photographs and wind up the competitors superbly.

The MacEachen family would like to thank the golfers and all the people who bought raffle tickets, helping to make this a very successful money-raising event.

The final total will be in excess of £7,500 and all money will be going to local cancer charities.

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

## Make or break week For Bob's Ryder Cup hopes

Oban's Robert MacIntyre's hopes of securing a coveted Ryder Cup place at the end of the month rest on his performance at this week's final qualifying tournament, the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in Surrey.

Sitting just outside the automatic qualifying spots, Bob knows a win will almost certainly guarantee him a spot on the team, while a strong finish is also needed to catch the eye of Captain Pdraig Harrington and convince him the Oban left-hander is worthy of one of his three picks.

The reality is that a Captain's pick remains a long-shot, with Ryder Cup legends Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose and Ian Poulter all sitting outside the automatic qualifying positions - and arguably in better current form than Bob.

While there will no doubt be other chances for Bob to make the team in years to come, the man himself remains upbeat and confident.

He said: 'The Ryder Cup is not over. The dream's still there. I've got one event. There are guys who've played these last few weeks in Europe and are playing well but I can pass them all in one big finish at Wentworth and that's the target.'

The stakes couldn't be higher, but after everything Bob has achieved in his fledgling career, no one would back against him achieving his dream.



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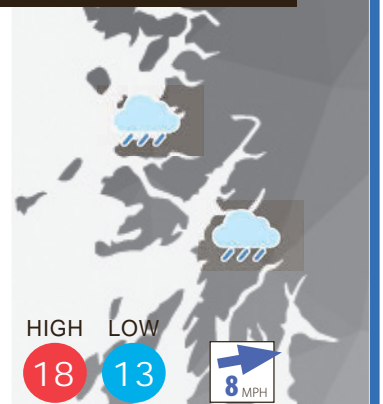
<b>9</b>	0111 0.7 0701 3.9 TH 1311 0.4 1913 4.1	<b>11</b>	0220 0.8 0808 3.7 SA 1432 0.6 2026 3.8	<b>13</b>	0351 1.3 0939 3.3 M 1618 1.2 D 2201 3.1	<b>15</b>	0622 1.7 1322 3.0 W 1856 1.7	
<b>10</b>	0144 0.7 0732 3.8 F 1350 0.5 1948 4.0	<b>12</b>	0300 1.0 0850 3.5 SU 1520 0.9 2108 3.5	<b>14</b>	0458 1.5 1051 3.0 TU 1730 1.5 2330 2.8	<b>16</b>	0217 2.8 0758 1.6 TH 1452 3.2 2039 1.6	

### OBAN WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 20°C.	<b>Friday</b> Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 16°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





# LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

No 8580

Thursday 9 September, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



## Glencoe's Helen makes Scotland women's squad

**See Inside: Get your boat out the water for winter storage**

### Gone fishing



**Mortimer and Whitehouse rave about North Uist**

• See page 4 for more

### Spotlight on Canna



**Former island teacher sees her book published**

• See page 9 for more



**Sowing seeds so youngsters can have a greener a future.**

• FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## VACCINE PASSPORT FEARS

**Lochaber business group leader fears Covid certifications for large events could have negative impact on local economy**

by Mark Entwistle

mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chief executive Frazer Coupland is worried the Scottish Government's announcement concerning Covid vaccination certificates possibly being required for entry to certain premises and events, could negatively impact local businesses.

Mr Coupland's comments came after last week's statement from First Minister Nicola

Sturgeon which raised the possibility that vaccine certifications may be required for entry to nightclubs and many large events in Scotland from later this month.

The proposals will be put to MSPs in the Scottish Parliament today (Thursday) and if they agree, nightclubs and many large events will only be able to allow entry to people who can show they have had two Covid vaccines.

Mr Coupland said: "Throughout the pan-

Continued on page 2.



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# Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival inspires and offers audiences hope

Review by Nic Goddard  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

The Three Lochs Book and Arts Festival should have been holding its fifth biennial event in 2020.

Along with so many other plans during 2020 it did not happen but instead, operating with a 'Covid cautious' set of guidelines and reduced capacity, the last weekend in August saw a small-but-perfectly-formed festival of events with workshops, talks and performances.

Held at the Sunart Centre in Strontian, with a programme including authors, artists, musicians, adventurers, activists, scientists and historians, there was certainly something for everyone to watch, listen to or participate in.

Between us, my family managed to attend six events.



Scientist, naturalist and wildlife campaigner Dr Mark Avery was one of the speakers at the festival, as was upcoming writer and performer Hannah Kelly, pictured on stage.

We all came away with hope, inspiration, plenty to discuss and go to find out more about.

We felt we had learned things, been challenged and enlightened.

We also came away with

several signed books and a feeling of having been part of the world reopening with a renewed sense that we all need to be more creative, responsible and aware of what is happening around us. From



the focus on the small at a monochrome drawing workshop where we were tasked with capturing detail from pinecones, lichen and lace to the bigger picture of the state of nature conservation

or Marine Protected Areas, we were prompted to engage fully with the world around us.

Committee member Joanne Matheson told me: 'We were not at all certain we would manage to put the festival on this year but were determined to go ahead if at all possible.'

'We were delighted to welcome so many speakers, including well-known naturalist Dr Mark Avery, top-notch crime writer Abir Mukherjee, accomplished historian Andrew Mackillop and up-and-coming artist and writer Hannah Kelly.'

'What is particularly rewarding about the Three Lochs Festival is that all of our presenters and performers always really enjoy their trip here and being involved, and we never seem to have any trouble persuading them

to come. This is reflected in their enthusiasm at the event, and our attendees therefore get a really good experience meeting and chatting to them in person.'

The world events of the last two years have had a huge impact on arts and culture; both in inspiring creativity and in encouraging people to slow down and take notice.

It was also where many of us turned instinctively for comfort – with many people learning to play instruments, joining virtual choirs, signing up for reading challenges, watching concerts and performances remotely and connecting with nature during permitted outside exercise.

It is no surprise that there was a real appetite for the speakers to attend the Three Lochs festival and for people to come and get involved.



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## Lochaber boss fears certification may damage Lochaber economy

Continued from page 1.

-demic, businesses here in Lochaber have done everything at their disposal to keep their clients, customers and employees safe. Even today many businesses are going beyond what is legally required to help halt transmission and keep case numbers down.

'Scotland's economy is now finally beginning to recover, however, the fact remains that many businesses continue to operate in survival mode and the prospect of economic deterrents could prove damaging to business and consumer confidence.'

Dr Liz Cameron, director and chief executive of the SCC, on behalf of all Scottish chambers, has now written to Ms Sturgeon, saying: 'With many lifeline business support measures, such as furlough, coming to an end in only a matter of weeks, mounting business debt and growing supply chain issues, businesses are deeply concerned about increasing costs and administrative burdens exacerbating an already delicate situation.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said given the rise in Covid cases, including those in the Fort

William area, it was important the government considered additional action.

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'Customers want to have the confidence to return, and knowing there are mitigations in place at events and in nightclubs – which are the only locations that will require a vaccine certificate – boosts confidence. As NHS Highland figures show, uptake of the vaccine is lower among the younger age groups and from that perspective anything that helps keep people safer is helpful.'

'The health secretary [Humza Yousaf] has said in the past he is personally sceptical about Covid passports, so it is clearly not a decision that has been taken lightly; but bearing in mind the number of cases we have been seeing, particularly around the Fort William area, the Scottish Government thinks it is important to consider further measures.'

'We are going to be facing considerable pressures in the autumn and winter, and the Scottish Government will continue to do everything it can to help protect the NHS, as well as our young people, our

businesses and communities.'

Ms Forbes' comments come just a week after Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson issued a stark warning that the rise in Covid cases in the region was 'almost unmanageable'.

Councillor Davidson said: 'I am very concerned about the exponential rise in cases in Highland. We are seeing the impact of this particularly in our schools. Around half our schools have been affected since term began and we are experiencing very large outbreaks.'

'This is causing extreme pressures for all our staff and for the NHS. On top of this we have many large gatherings occurring and there are very few national restrictions to prevent or limit these super-spreaders.'

'We have always worked very closely with the Health Protection Team which does a sterling job and, together, our staff and the NHS team have managed local outbreaks very well. However, since the change in self-isolation guidance, the level of cases has become almost unmanageable. We need the Scottish Government to provide clarity over the situation we now find ourselves in.'

# Lundavra Primary pupils put green fingers to use

A group of P7 pupils from Lundavra Primary School in Fort William joined members of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group this week to help plant seeds as part of a Greening the Burn project, writes Mark Entwistle.

This is being undertaken with the climate and ecological emergency in mind, with the group looking at ways to help, even in small ways, to save the planet.

As part of this, the group wants to enhance, rewild and maintain a green area that runs downhill at the side of a burn between housing from Sutherland Avenue to Lundavra Road in Fort William. The aim is to keep it litter-free, clear dead gorse and dead trees, plant native deciduous trees, bulbs, woodland flowers and slow wildflower seeds.

Members of the group and



volunteers from the community will do the manual work, while children from Lundavra Primary School will help with planting. Volunteers have already made a good start.

The Woodland Trust is donating 30 small trees and the Pebble Trust, Highlands and Islands, has given the project a grant to buy seeds, bulbs and three mature trees.

The wildflowers and bulbs will help biodiversity as they will attract pollinators and be

a source of nectar for other insects like butterflies and moths. The wild areas will contain nettles, docks and umbellifers that many insects use for their larval stages. The trees which are being planted will lock up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provide homes for birds and insects.

As it is a route to Lundavra Primary School, the plan is also to make it a pleasant area to walk through and by getting engaged in the project

**Primary 7 pupils of Lundavra school help to plant seeds as part of the Upper Achintore Regeneration Group 'Greening the Burn' project.**

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

the group hopes to encourage others in the community to take action in caring for green spaces and the wildlife there.

Janet Hickman, who is co-ordinating the project, said: 'We have cut back a lot of the overgrown areas around the burn and were delighted to welcome children from Lundavra to help with planting seeds which will add colour and encourage wildlife.'

Chairman Mark Linfield added: 'This is very much a community project and so far the response has been very positive. It would be great to see even more people becoming involved.'

## Lochaber Housing Association appoints new chief executive

Lochaber Housing Association has announced the appointment of Margaret Moynihan as its new chief executive.

Ms Moynihan has been serving as acting interim CEO over recent months following the retirement of former chief executive Blair Allan.

Making the announcement, Andrew Carr, chairman of Lochaber Housing Association, said: 'We are delighted to confirm Margaret as our next chief executive.'

'She very much stood out from within a really strong field of applicants and I am confident that she will continue to further develop our high performing organisation, helping us to better meet the ambitions we have for the communities we work within, and for the people who live there.'

'The board is very much looking forward to continuing its productive and successful working partnership with Margaret for many years to come.'

Ms Moynihan said she was



Margaret Moynihan.

delighted to have been confirmed as the organisation's new chief executive.

'It is a great privilege to be chosen to lead our well governed and respected organisation and to continue to build on the growth achieved under Blair's leadership,' she said.

'As we emerge from the worst of the Covid pandemic, I look forward to building on our impressive strengths with our board and staff.'

'My primary focus will be ensuring LHA thrives as we move in to the future by delivering good quality affordable homes supported by excellent services within our communities of Lochaber.'

## Small Isles school ferry to remain on weekly basis for now

The Small Isles ferry which transports island pupils to Mallaig High School is to remain operating on a weekly basis for now, according to The Highland Council.

A fortnightly rotation had been the arrangement for a number of years and was temporarily changed to a weekly rotation in October while in-school learning for pupils was restricted due to Covid-19.

But after the council recently notified parents of a return to the fortnightly sailing schedule, both Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes and Fort William and Ardnachurchan SNP councillor Niall McLean urged the local authority to retain weekly crossings for the youngsters from Rum, Eigg,

Muck and Canna. This week, the council confirmed to the Lochaber Times that the Small Isles ferry for pupils staying in the secondary school's residence would remain weekly as 'a precautionary measure' due to rises in Covid-19 cases in Fort William and Lochaber area.

The council said no timescale had been decided upon for the length of time the weekly sailing schedule would remain in place.

Giving her reaction on Tuesday, Ms Forbes said: 'I welcome Highland Council's decision to temporarily revert to the weekly boat service, and I am particularly pleased it recognises it is important for young people to have the

support of their families during this immensely difficult time with Covid.'

'Going on the feedback I have received from the Small Isles communities, the weekly pattern appears to have served them well.'

'I understand that longer-term frequency of sailings remains under review by the council, and I hope it will continue to listen to the well-founded concerns of the families involved before making a final decision.'

Councillor McLean said: 'I am pleased the weekly crossings will be maintained for now, but would also hope for these to be a permanent fixture.'

'Weekly crossings will have a huge positive impact on the pupils, parents and family life.'

## NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Nevis Hillwalking Club has announced walks for Sunday, September 12 at Loch Quoich - Gleouraich (1,035m, Munro) - Creag Coire na Fiar Bhealaich (1,006m, Munro Top) and Spidean Mialach (996m, Munro).

These are readily achievable

Munros on the north side of the loch, with good access on stalkers' paths on their lower slopes. The high craggy route traverses the rims of seven fine corries with splendid views in this remote mountainous area.

For a shorter day, omit Spidean Mialach.

For more detail of the routes please visit the website [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NevisHillwalkingClub](https://www.facebook.com/NevisHillwalkingClub)

Please note that walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions.

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# Taxi drivers pelted with rolled up toilet paper

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

## Police increase own patrols following complaints

Police are to carry out extra patrols after taxi drivers in Fort William complained they were being pelted by rolled up balls of wet toilet paper taken from public conveniences in the town.

One taxi driver contacted the Lochaber Times claiming that there was what he called 'a major problem' in the town with gangs.

He said: 'They gather around the toilets at the Viewforth car park and go in to the toilet and get all the toilet paper and make wet balls and every time a taxi or car comes round the corner, we are getting battered with the wet balls. Sometimes if your car window is open, it's comes into the cab.'

'This is happening almost



every day but more at week-ends and as a taxi driver it's starting to cost me money because I don't want to be out in the evening as it's far too much hassle and if a taxi driver

managed to get a hold of them I feel he will get charged and will lose his taxi licence and livelihood.

'We have asked the police to get the toilets closed at night

- I understand this is an inconvenience but there are other toilets at the other end of town.

'It's going to come to a head when there will be no taxis at the rank when the pubs empty and the police will have a lot of drunk people with no way of getting home.'

The man added that complaints had been made to the police but the problem was persisting.

Asked to comment, Inspector Nick Hough, from

**Viewforth car park and toilets where it has been alleged youths have been pelting taxis with wet toilet paper balls.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort William Police Station, said: 'We have been made aware that local community users of the Viewforth car park and taxi rank area have been subjected to antisocial behaviour by groups of youths in recent weeks.

'As a result, officers will be increasing their patrols in this area. Any youths identified and found to be engaging in this activity will be dealt with appropriately.

'We will not tolerate antisocial behaviour at any level in Fort William and our community should be encouraged to call 101 if they have any concerns or witness any incidents within the town centre.'

## Car park closure warning

Forestry and Land Scotland has advised hillwalkers that the climbers' car park at South Ballachulish, accessing Beinn a Bheithir, is closed until mid-November.

The closure is to allow the Gleann a Caolais micro-hydro installation work to be carried out.

With FLS tree felling work completed, contractors and the community development company are beginning the next phase of the operation this week.

The FLS area visitor services manager, David John Robertson, said: 'Site work is expected, depending on the weather, be completed in November.'

'There will be no parking available for that period at or near this location and there is also likely to be weekend working. We apologise for any inconvenience.'

Pedestrian access through the lower section of the site will still be possible via the diversion put in place for the felling operations.

In the interests of their own safety, anyone making use of this should follow all safety signs and follow instructions from the banksmen who will be monitoring the route.

## Mortimer and Whitehouse rave about North Uist visit

North Uist has come in for glowing praise after being the location for an episode in the latest series of the hugely popular hit BBC series, Mortimer and Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.

This is the fourth series, broadcast on Sunday evenings, and again features comedians and fishing enthusiasts Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse, as they travel the British Isles in search of the most beautiful places to fish together.

Episode one was broadcast on August 29 and is still available on the BBC iPlayer.

In it, the two funny-men travel to the Outer Hebrides in the hope of catching fresh sea trout.

Completely unlike anywhere they have fished before, this small, remote but beautiful island has an intricate network of tidal pools and sea lochs,



Bob Mortimer, left, and Paul Whitehouse pictured on North Uist.

making it near enough equal parts land and water and therefore the perfect place to fish for sea trout.

As well as fishing for sea trout, Bob also arranged for them to meet local artist Ellis O'Connor to try their hands at capturing this enchanting landscape on canvas.

By the end of their trip to

North Uist, Paul and Bob are wowed by the extraordinary landscape as much as by the magnificent fish.

Bob told BBC Scotland: 'It is the most extraordinary place we've been.'

'Thanks to Scotland it is probably the best show we've ever done and that is down to the extraordinary environment.'



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# Demolition favoured option for Savile's former house

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The new owners of the Glenceo cottage that was once home to the disgraced DJ and television presenter Jimmy Savile have revealed their preferred option is to raze it to the ground and replace it with a modern architect-designed property.

Harris Aslam, director of Fife-based convenience store operator Eros Retail, together with his cousin and business partner Raza Rehman, and other family members, bought Allt-na-Reigh, for a sum reported to be £335,000.

At an online public consultation this week, the two young Scottish entrepreneurs received general support for their plans to replace the existing house, which has been repeatedly vandalised, with a contemporary home designed by Dundee-



The new house has been designed by Dundee-based architect, Jon Frullani.

based architect, Jon Frullani. The hope is also to incorporate some kind of tribute or memorial to another previous owner, the late mountaineering legend Dr Hamish MacInnes, in an outbuilding on the site.

During a question-and-answer session with around 20 people, it was made clear that while Mr Aslam and Mr Rehman had looked at renovating the main existing building, which would be the easiest

and cheapest option, it was concluded this was not viable if they wanted to rid the site of its association with Savile.

Helen Fairlie, chairperson of Glen Etive and Glenceo Community Council, wanted

to know if Mr Aslam and his family would live in the proposed new three-bedroom house on a permanent basis.

'Just from the security issues you talked about, because I think it will take a long time for people to move away from the unfortunate bit of its history,' she said.

Mr Aslam said his family was considering various possibilities, adding: 'We are quite an extensive family so the hope is there will be somebody there most of the time.'

Local resident and friend of the late Dr MacInnes David Gunn told the meeting the legendary mountaineer would not have wanted a museum, although some small acknowledgement on the outbuilding where his famous ice axe and mountain rescue stretcher were designed would be a nice gesture.

'But Hamish's legacy lives on in the climbs he did, the films and books he made and his contribution to mountain rescue, so I wouldn't get too hung up on trying to memorialise him,' added Mr Gunn.

On the link to Savile, Mr Gunn refused to even use the late DJ's name. 'He's not worthy of even being mentioned,' he said, adding: 'But I am sensitive to the fact that if the building was kept in its current form, it will still be a target to ignorant people not aware of its real history. It would be nice having you live in the glen and be part of the community. I think your design is good - I like it and think its great to see it moving forward.'

Mr Aslam said the hope was for a planning application to be lodged with Highland Council by the end of this month if possible.

## Historic first with commercial rocket launch in Outer Hebrides

A historic UK first took place in the Outer Hebrides last week with a unique commercial rocket launch conducted by a wholly-owned British company and a Scottish spaceport team.

Spaceport 1 joined forces with East Anglian firm Gravitilab Aerospace Services on the launch of flight test vehicle 'ADA', named after Ada Lovelace, the 19th-century English mathematician who is considered the world's first computer programmer.

ADA lifted off from Benbecula Airport marking a successful launch for Spaceport 1, the consortium led by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council), which aims to open at Scolpaig on North Uist, next year.

The landmark moment represented the first success for the commercial partnership between Spaceport 1 and Gravitilab.

It is a significant step in the history of Gravitilab, which aims to make space more accessible by providing reliable and affordable microgravity research and testing services.

ADA is the company's first rocket designed to offer this,

and the sub-orbital launch at Benbecula Airport is part of the company's ongoing development programme.

Mark Roberts CBE, Spaceport 1 programme director, said: 'This is a historic moment for Spaceport 1, the Outer Hebrides, Scotland and the UK.'

**'Our aim is to be part of the supply chain for small satellites that will transform the UK's position in the world in the space sector.'**

'Our unique partnership with Gravitilab allows us to improve our procedures and progress towards a viable spaceport in North Uist.

'It opens up not only a route to space for inclusive, enterprising ventures like Gravitilab, but also offers this remote area of Scotland a chance to build a thriving business, bringing much-needed quality jobs to this region.'

Rob Adlard, technical director at Gravitilab Aerospace,

added: 'This launch is a hugely significant moment for Gravitilab. We have launched rockets before, but ADA is a step change for us as it is the rocket that is going to provide a template for a future scaled-up programme that will significantly enhance our space access and microgravity service. Our work is offering microgravity as a research tool and testing service, which has not been offered commercially in the UK before.'

'Everything from climate change science and driverless cars need assets in space. Our aim is to be part of this supply chain for small satellites that will transform the UK's position in the world in the space sector.'

Roddie MacKay, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said the Spaceport 1 project presented a significant economic opportunity for the Outer Hebrides.

'It will create new jobs, support diversification within existing sectors and attract academic, research and innovation developments to the area, such as we see happening with this partnership with Gravitilab,' he added.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

There's positive news for business this week, with more than half of businesses in the Highlands and Islands now operating at, or above, pre-pandemic levels.

According to the latest Business Panel Survey carried out for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in June, two-thirds of businesses expressed confidence in the region's economic outlook for the next 12 months, up from just over a third in October 2020.

The survey published this week questioned more than 1,000 businesses on issues of business confidence and economic optimism across the Highlands. It revealed that 93% were confident in their own ongoing business viability over the next six months, while 80% were optimistic about their prospects over the next 12 months – compared with 75% before the pandemic.

Almost 71% of surveyed businesses had changed their ways of working in response to the pandemic (43% of this number would prefer to return to previous ways of working).

The survey revealed that more than a third of business-

es had concerns about a lack of candidates to fill permanent (38%) and temporary (33%) vacancies. Lack of accommodation was a particular barrier for tourism (58%), food and drink (54%) and remote rural (51%) businesses.

Aside from financial viability, the top priorities for companies were ensuring staff wellbeing (42%), growing their customer base (39%) and creating or sustaining jobs (34%).

What can we take from the results? It is encouraging to see the resilience, adaptability and determination of our local businesses in weathering the storm of Covid, but the survey also shows that businesses still face real challenges in recruiting staff, finding accommodation and finding new markets.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is committed to helping local business by speaking up for your needs with government and decision-makers, and taking action to address the issues you face. Join the Chamber today and benefit from being part of a supportive, responsive business network. Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

# £20k to help tackle wild salmon decline

Lochaber Fisheries Trust has been awarded almost £20,000 to assess young salmon numbers in rivers in the Fort William area and in Ardnamurchan.

The cash comes from Scotland's salmon farmers who have granted their latest share of a £1.5 million fund to projects tackling the decline of wild salmon stocks in Scottish rivers – a fall conservationists have blamed partly on salmon farms themselves.

Both the Lochaber and Argyll Fisheries Trusts have been awarded nearly £20,000 each from the monies available.

'To help tackle the current decline in wild salmon and sea trout within Scottish rivers, more than £70,000 has just been awarded to organisations across Scotland working to enhance and protect wild fisheries and habitats,' announced the fund's managing charity Foundation Scotland.

The awards were made by the Wild Salmonid Support Fund, a new fund created by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) and financed directly from Scotland's salmon farm companies.

Launched back in April, the new fund is part of a five-year programme that has already attracted applications from chari-

## Grants given out from salmon farmers' fund to fisheries trusts



Projects will include juvenile surveys and improving spawning grounds.

table organisations all over Scotland.

This week, the successful applicants were announced with five projects receiving funding, their awards ranging from £9,025 to £19,600.

Lochaber Fisheries Trust will spend its £19,600 on funding the implementation of juvenile surveys, which will assess fish densities and genetic diversity in eight local rivers.

In the Outer-Hebrides, Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust) received a grant of £9,251 to undertake a project that will aim to improve salmon spawning grounds on the Carloway river.

Activities will revolve around the replenishment of gravel beds, and the trust hopes to recreate a natural habitat that will enhance spawning opportunities for wild salmonid.

Sally Reynolds from Carloway Estate Trust said: 'Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh is delighted to have received support from the Wild Salmonid Support Fund.'

'The grant will allow us to improve our reeds by addition of suitable gravel, which will improve the spawning conditions for our fish. We look forward to working together as a community to make this practical project happen.'

The Wild Salmonid Support Fund is scheduled to reopen to new applications in spring 2022.



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## FERN COMMUNITY FUNDS

The Beinneun Windfarm Community Benefit Fund has been established to support community groups, social enterprises & charitable organisations in the community council areas of Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengarry.

The fund is open for applications from the 16th of August 2021 until the 30th of September 2021.



Details of the application process and fund criteria can be found at [ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/](http://ferncommunityfunds.com/beinneun-community-fund/)

If you wish for any further information about the fund please get in contact via [contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com](mailto:contactus@ferncommunityfunds.com) or call 07871 785583 or by mail to:  
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# The Croftless Crofter

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



I have long thought that autumn is already upon us in August here in the Highlands. Sure enough I was away from home for a few days last week and when I returned the bracken had browned and started to droop, the heather was starting to bloom and the first brambles were ripe.

The evenings are drawing in, the lambs on the croft land around us are more noticeable by virtue of not having been sheared than because they are smaller than the rest of the flock and I'm starting to get that autumnal urge to clear the veg beds in the garden and think about planting spring bulbs already.

This last couple of weeks I finally conceded defeat on the tomatoes which were so late to get going they never really stood a chance. The bargain reduced to clear half dead tomato plants we bought in hanging baskets from a supermarket more for the hanging baskets than any



hopes for the tomato plants ended up flourishing though so we have some home-grown tomatoes even if they were not grown from seed.

I've pulled up spent pea plants and have some of the low pea pods I missed in the thicket of plants and have grown fat, dried and

yellowing drying on a sunny windowsill to stash over winter and sow next spring.

I've harvested the best cabbages I've ever grown which were looking amazing but had become slug fodder. The French beans did well, too, this year, as did courgettes, including the ones which

## Vanishing chickens could signal the presence of a hungry fox or pine marten.

were overly ambitious and had 'marrow' as their lofty end goal. There are two monster squash of some variety, which could be even more overachieving courgettes or some sort of pumpkins. I am pretending that I am waiting to see what they turn into but the truth is I am slightly scared of them. Once a fruit grows larger than my own head I feel obliged to show it a level of respect and only pick it once I have a plan about what to do with it.

I am enjoying the low pressure bramble picking this year after many years of picking kilos of fruit to process into hundreds of jars of jam at this time of year in autumns of the past.

Instead, a leisurely bramble amble in the sunshine to create a bramble and apple crumble is a seasonal delight.

Those apples are foraged, too, from a local friend who has more apple trees offering fruit than they and even their livestock can handle.

I am eyeing up the groaning rowan trees, laden with berries with a plan to have another go at rowan berry recipes having never created an edible product from them before.

Despite being impressed by the knowledge and confidence of foraging friends who know about all things fungi-related, I confess to a slight feeling of relief that there is no pressure to learn more about mushroom identification between delicious and deadly as I simply don't like them even if they are widely considered edible.

It's not just us with an eye on nature's larder at this time of year though; we are sadly down by three hens over the last week. I had hoped that the first absence to be noted may have been down to the

heatwave and a late season attempt at brooding a clutch of eggs stashed away in the undergrowth.

I was keeping my fingers crossed for a reappearance in three weeks' time of proud hen with a trail of fluffy chickens behind her.

I suspect though that three missing all at once is the work of a fox or pine marten despite any tell-tale piles of feathers to be found.

Between whatever has enjoyed a chicken dinner and the slugs feasting on my cabbages it could easily feel as though food is being swiped from under our noses by the nature outside.

I am taking comfort from the (slightly paraphrased) wisdom that 'if nothing is eating your garden then you are not part of the ecosystem' and hoping that our contribution to the ecosystem is at least playing a part of keeping nature going as the seasons turn once more.

# MSP highlights Western Isles links to Afghanistan

In the Scottish Parliament debate on 'Supporting the People of Afghanistan', last week MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan highlighted the work of Western Isles charity, the Linda Norgrove Foundation, writes Mark Entwistle.

Speaking in the chamber, Mr Allan, pictured, commended the work of Lewis residents John and Lorna Norgrove, who founded the charity following the tragic death of their daughter Linda, an aid worker who was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2010.

'To their great credit, Linda's parents John and Lorna now work from their home in Lewis to fund and facilitate projects that continue Linda's legacy of supporting women and families in Afghanistan,' said Mr Allan.

'The foundation have vowed to continue their work in Afghanistan to the best of their abilities under the new regime, despite the obvious difficulties.

'The Linda Norgrove Foundation had been attempting to evacuate two vulnerable female staff members in Kabul



The Linda Norgrove Foundation was set up in her memory by her parents following her death in Afghanistan.

along with their families. 'Sadly, despite getting close several times over the course of a 46-hour ordeal, they did not manage to get on a plane before the military presence departed.

'The Linda Norgrove Foundation is now anxious to find a way out of the country for them in the days ahead. I would ask the UK Government to be aware of and act on those concerns.'

Mr Allan also called on the UK Government to commit to taking in more refugees

than the 5,000 they have said they will aim for in the first year (with 20,000 'in the long-term'): 'As the Scottish Government have pointed out, those numbers are unlikely to be anything like adequate. And given the UK's involvement in Afghanistan for decades it is not possible to claim we have no responsibilities here.

'It is for another day to offer assessments about the political decisions that led to such a rapid withdrawal of those forces. Suffice to say, for the moment, that history is unlikely to be kind.'

## Argyll and Bute Online Police Recruitment

### Embark on this Exciting Career Path

Police Scotland are hosting an Online information event aimed at the residents from the Argyll & Bute area who would like to consider a career as a Police Officer and **wish to work in the Argyll & Bute area.**

During the event attendees will learn about the recruitment process, the training, the role of a Police Officer and the endless opportunities which are available to you once you embark on this exciting career path.

The date of the event is:  
**Thursday 23rd  
September 2021  
6.30pm - 8pm**

In order to participate in the event, **Microsoft Teams** will be required.

For more information and to reserve a space please email:  
**recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk**  
providing your name, contact number and what event you would like to attend.



LT

# SSEN successfully completes the Skye to Harris subsea cable replacement project

A project to replace the subsea electricity cable between Skye and Harris is now complete, following a cable fault in October last year.

Teams from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) distribution connected and ensured the new cable was live on Tuesday August 31, before gradually returning the network to normal operation and reconnecting Lewis and Harris to the mainland electricity network.

The £28million cable replacement project involved significant offshore works using specialist marine vessels – the Maersk Connector and Grand Canyon 3 – working with principal contractor, Global Offshore, to successfully install and protect the 33 kilovolt (kV) cable between Ardmore, Skye and Beacravik in Harris.

The project included land-



**Work on the new power link between Skye and Harris was completed using specialist vessels at the end of August.**

Photograph: SSEN.

based works at each shore end to connect the new cable to the existing electricity network and restore local beaches at Ardmore and Beacravik to their natural state.

Since October, Battery Point and Arnish Power Stations on

Lewis have been running at full-duty operation, alongside on-island renewable generation, to ensure a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity to local homes and businesses. These stations will now return to back-up operation.

Mark Rough, director of customer operations, said: 'We're pleased to complete this essential cable replacement project on time, returning the network to normal operation and removing export restrictions to local generators on Lewis

and Harris. While reliability of power supplies has been maintained, we recognise the impact to the community as a result of this fault and would like to thank stakeholders, including local generators and wider community partners for their continued patience and engagement during the fault period.

'I'd also like to thank our teams in our operational centres, power stations and contract partners for their ongoing commitment during a highly complex operation to help keep the power flowing and restore the network.'

As part of its draft business plan for the next price control period, RII0-ED2, running from 2023 to 2028, SSEN Distribution is proposing a number of strategic subsea investment projects in the Western Isles, including an

upgrade to the circuit between Skye and Uist.

SSEN Distribution is continuing to assess the future resilience and electricity demand needs for customers and communities on Lewis and Harris.

This includes close liaison with SSEN Transmission on its proposed 600MW HVDC transmission link to the Western Isles, which remains subject to developer commitment and regulatory approval.

A third-party study will be carried out prior to SSEN Distribution's final business plan submission in December to assess options, including the installation of a second 33kV cable between Skye and Harris, if the current transmission needs case is not taken forward.

All plans will be subject to regulatory approval.

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## Western Isles families boosted by payments

A total of 285 families in the Western Isles have benefited from the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment, with a total of £52,100 paid out to families in the area so far.

The most recent Scottish Government figures demonstrate how many families in the Western Isles have benefited from the support from its introduction in February up to the end of June.

So far, 108,000 children across Scotland have benefited from the payment, which provides eligible families with £10-a-week per child.

MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan, above, said: 'The Scottish Child Payment is already making a huge difference to children across Scotland.'

'This payment provides significant support to families in the Western Isles and I have no doubt this will



help reduce the levels of inequality present in some of our island communities as well as across Scotland as a whole.

'Not only is the Scottish Child Payment giving low-income families extra support, but coupled with other payments such as the Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, eligible families could receive up to an additional £5,200 by the time their child turns six.'

'I would urge any families in the Western Isles who have not yet applied to do so.'

# Former teacher shines light on Canna school's history

Thirty years after starting her research, former Canna teacher Kate Riley has had her book about the island's tiny school published, writes Mark Entwistle.

Kate taught in the one-teacher school for six years from 1986 and that experience forms the basis of 'Canna Schooldays', just published by Stornoway-based Acair Books.

Kate told the Lochaber Times: 'After 30 years of research in numerous archives and gathering stories and information from former teachers and pupils, I completed my book which was published by Acair - based in Stornoway - and released during lockdown.'

'I was fortunate enough to secure a substantial and very generous grant from the Strathmartine Trust, which believed in my book, towards its publication for which Acair was grateful whilst struggling dur-



Kate Riley taught in Canna's small school for six years.

well as pandemics of measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough, for which there were no inoculations or antibiotics in the early days, illustrate a very different way of life during the late 1800s and 1900s.

'The book also reflects the islanders' dependence on the other islands, especially Eigg, for the minister, priest, the original school board and, finally, a doctor.'

Kate has lived in Dumfries and Galloway for the past 18 years since leaving Fort William.

Canna Schooldays is available from Muck craft shop, Mallaig Heritage Centre, Mallaig Toys and Gifts, the Land, Sea and Island Centre in Arisaig and the Highland Bookshop in Fort William.

It is also available from the Waterstones or direct from Acair with reviews of the book on both company websites.

ing lockdown.' She continued: 'Canna Schooldays', although primarily the history of the wee island school which opened in 1878, also reflects the way of life on Canna and the Small Isles in general during the decades that passed after it first opened, including the two world wars.

'The dependency on the sea and the land for food and a livelihood are reflected in the absences of the older children expected to help. The absence of all age groups due to being unable to get to school during extreme weather conditions or because of damage to the precarious plank footbridge linking Canna to Sanday, as

  
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Monte Carlo Suite, The Blythewood Hotel, Glasgow

LT

## Comhairle flies the Red Ensign in support of Merchant Navy Day

Friday, September 3, was Merchant Navy Day, and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar flew the Red Ensign at its headquarters on Sandwich Road and in Balivanich, to raise awareness of the UK's ongoing dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers.

The Comhairle was supporting a nationwide call from the Seafarers UK charity and the Merchant Navy Association for the UK Merchant Navy's official flag to be flown on public buildings and landmark flagstaffs.

The charity's president, HRH The Earl of Wessex and Forfar, has endorsed the campaign.

Fly the Red Ensign is an annual campaign to honour the brave men and women who kept the UK afloat during both World Wars and celebrate the dependence on modern-day merchant seafarers who are responsible for more than 90 per cent of the UK's imports.

The Covid-19 pandemic had



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar marked Merchant Navy Day.

a tragic impact on Merchant Navy communities, and many continue to need urgent support.

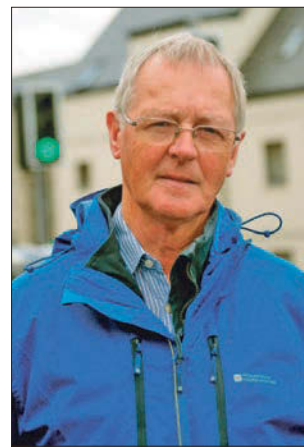
All funds raised will go towards the Merchant Navy Fund, administered by The Seafarers' Charity (Seafarers UK, formerly King George's Fund for Sailors), and supported by the Merchant Navy Welfare Board.

## Waste collection and public toilets receive £240,000 boost to help with visitor influx

Visitors to Skye, Salen, Morar, Rum, Ardnamurchan, Kinlochleven and elsewhere across the Highlands are benefiting from more than £240,000 investment by Highland Council on public toilets and comfort schemes (£60,000) and increased waste collection at key visitor sites (£180,000).

Members of the council's Communities and Place Committee last week noted an update on the works to date. They also welcomed additional support received by the council from NatureScot's Better Places Funding of £11,000 for public conveniences.

Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee Councillor Allan Henderson said the local authority is doing all that it can to welcome visitors to the



Councillor Allan Henderson, who commended the many communities and individuals who have also carried out litter picking in their areas.

region, adding: 'Our Visitor Management Plan strives

to support visitors to have a good experience, benefiting local economies, while leaving no trace on our magnificent environment.

'These additional investments have now increased the comfort scheme with 14 new providers and we now have 50 comfort schemes across the region for this season along with the new public convenience at Storr coming into operation with the council now running 75 across the region.

'I'm grateful to staff for working with business and communities to enhance the service this season.'

Councillor Henderson went on to explain that council officers were continuing to seek more sources of external funding to improve and extend the public toilet and waste collections services.

The council is also carrying out property surveys of previously closed public toilets should future funding secured enable any to reopened.

And he said: 'An enhanced waste collection service has seen the employment of eight additional seasonal staff who are mobile and responsive to reported waste-related issues.'

'I commend the many communities and individuals who have also carried out litter picking in their areas. More than 60 organised community litter picks have been supported by the council's waste team since April this year.'

Groups can request litter-picking sticks, bags and arrange for the waste to be collected by the Council after their organised events through their local Area Waste Management Officer.

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## LETTERS

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

The Scottish Government plans to possibly roll out vaccination certificates in a bid to curb the rise of Covid is understandably causing concern here in Lochaber.

With support measures, such as furlough, coming to an end this month, and many businesses dealing with mounting debt and growing supply chain issues, there is real concern that increasing costs and administrative burdens will only exacerbate an already delicate situation.

However, Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson has also issued a stark warning – that the rise in Covid cases in the region is ‘almost unmanageable’. So doing nothing is not an option.

The Scottish Government is between a rock and a hard place. But what we need from our leaders is clarity.

Rather than a blanket rule, local politicians need to help shape any guidance for the range of businesses here in Lochaber, including hospitality and tourism. With these sectors looking to extend their season into the autumn and winter, time is of the essence.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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## Mull ferry claims dented

CalMac's claim twin-hull vessels are on principle 'unsuitable for their type of services' was dented after the successful introduction of the medium-speed catamaran Pentalina on the Pentland Firth crossing.

Recently, when Pentalina was being considered for badly-needed relief service, the charter fell through, seemingly because RMT did not approve of it. Now an available vessel from the same builders has also been turned down and one wonders if possible rejection by RMT lies behind the decision, because the reasons given are not very convincing.

The claim that 'dozens of elements' had been identified on the Phillipines vessel which did not comply with UK regulations made no mention of which were serious structural issues as opposed to minor ones. Given that the ship has been described as similar to the Pentalina and the Alfred, which do have UK certification, and were reputedly built for Australian service before Covid cancelled the contract, I hold a degree of scepticism about the alleged difficulties of compliance.

The demands on the providers – that the ship be modified before any hand-over – is also unusual. I have worked on several ships purchased from abroad and in all cases any modifications were carried out after purchase and when the vessel arrived in the UK.

And being a lot cheaper to operate – much lower fuel costs and no live-onboard crewing provision – it might also have demonstrated that CMAL's own designs are not always as optimal as they claim to be. So yes ... it has been declared 'unsuitable', but that's on their own terms, and others such as the action groups and their well-qualified technical advisors – who are no longer the kind of individual complainant who can be easily dismissed – may neither agree nor fade conveniently away.

As for looking after taxpayers' money, the Mull action group's record on that stands for itself. They could have obtained half a dozen Alfreds – built new to UK standards – for the money already spent on the Arran-bound ferries 801/802 with yet no completion in sight. And that's not counting the expensive terminal alterations which will be needed if and when these ferries are completed.

The recent announcement of a replacement for Finlaggan – presumably along the lines of their usual designs – may keep Islay from joining Mull and Arran in rebellion for the time

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

'S neònach mura lean mòran de na seallaidhean agus na guthan tiamhaidh à Afganastan ann an cuimhne chuid againn fad iomadh bliadhna, nam measg sin bidh an dealbh den chaileig trì bliadhna a dh'aois a fhuair na cadal air sràid ann an Cabul, 's a tha a-nise na dilleachdan. Ach 's math an naidheachd gum bheil i fo chùram carthannais ionadail! Mar a bha mi a' sgrìobhadh bho chionn seachdain tha na thachair ann an Afganastan air cron mòr a dhèanamh air iomhaigh nan dùthchannan a bha an sàs san iomairt "leasachaidh" an sin fad fichead bliadhna, agus saoilidh mi gum bheil Ameireagaidh agus Breatann air an damaiste cliù as motha fhulang. Ged a dh'fhaodas an Ceann-suidhe Biden argamaid gun d' rinneadh na ghabhadh dèanamh, bidh mòran nach toir maitheanas dha airson diùltadh feuchainn ri ùine a bharrachd fhaotainn gun an còrr de na fògarraich a thogail a-mach à Cabul. Bha mòr-chumhachd Ameireagaidh aig a' phort-adhair an sin na dhion cuideachd air na saighdearan Breatannach is eile a bha an sàs a' cuideachadh gus na daoine aig an robh cead-siubhail fhaotainn troimhe. Gu follaiseach chaidh uabhas fhàgail a dh'ìarradh teicheadh bhon Talaban, ach nuair a thog Ameireagaidh às cha robh roghainn aig saighdearan Bhreatainn is dhùthchannan eile ach falbh cuideachd. Saoilidh mi nach bi e gu diofar dè cho làidir 's a dh'fhaodas Biden giùlan Ameireagaidh a dhion chan eil teagamh nach robh dealbhan de shaighdearan Talaban air an sgeadachadh ann an èididhean, agus le armachd, Ameireaganach, na mhasladh cho goirt 's a dh'fhuiling an dùthaich sin fad

iomadh latha! Cha tèid Ameireagaidh an sàs tuilleadh ann an iomairtean armaichte gus suidheachadh dhùthchannan eile atharrachadh thuit an Ceann-suidhe, agus ged a thuigear miann an amais sin, thig gu cinnteach amannan a-rithist far am bi impidh mhoralta ga fhaireachadh le dùthchannan sìobhalta cobhair a dhèanamh air slugh a bhios a' fulang cruaidh-fhòirneart. Aig an ìre seo tha Breatann agus Ameireagaidh am beachd earbsa a chur ann an iomairtean dioplòmasach gus buaidh a thoirt air riaghaltas ùr Afganastan, agus 's e ùine a dh'innseas dè cho soirbheachail 's a bhios na gluasadan sin. Mar a tha an suidheachadh eagalach aig àm a bhith a' sgrìobhadh seo tha e coltach nach eil cus smachd air "saighdearan" Talaban is iad a rèir aithris a' murt dhaoine thall 's a-bhos gun bhacadh, agus chan iongnadh ànradh nam feadhainn a tha fon choill!

Ach dè mu chianalas agus ionndrainn nam miltean a b' fheadar teicheadh, aig nach robh miann fàgail ach aig nach robh roghainn dìon eile. Chunnacas cuid anns na meadhanan mar-thà a' sìleadh dheur chràiteach is fios aca nach till iad tuilleadh gu ruige dùthaich an sinnsir, is an dualchais! Chan annas seo idir agus leis a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail dìreach beagan sheachdainean romhainn bidh miltean de shliochd nan Gàidheal, ann an dùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail, ag èisteachd gu cianail air-loidhne ri ceòl agus cànan na dùthcha bhon deach an cuid shìnnsearan a ruagadh "gun bhàidh bhith riutha neo truas!"

being, but then unless CMAL, CalMac and co have upped their game it might be another Glen Sannox which they definitely would not survive.

Arthur Blue, Ardrishaig.

## Islay disruptions must stop

Recent disruptions with our ferry service from Islay to the mainland have once again shown us just how much we depend on a fit-for-purpose service with reliable, newer vessels in operation.

Unfortunately this is currently not the case as our ferry fleet has been underfunded for many years as a result of decisions made by urban-centric central government.

Our front line CalMac ferry crews and port staff are hardworking and an asset to our island and mainland communities, however, they can

only work with the tools they have at hand.

The 36-year-old MV Hebridean Isles is one of the oldest in the state-owned fleet and while it was no doubt good in its day, that day has long since passed.

Problems with our Islay ferry service have also been exacerbated with the continued poaching of one of our ferries in summer for other areas CalMac operate in. On numerous occasions in the past, distillers on Islay said they were facing major problems in transporting whisky to the mainland because of a capacity crisis on the ferry links. This cannot be allowed to continue. The feeling amongst many of my constituents is that we on Islay, Jura and Colonsay always end up getting a raw deal.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Islay.



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## DISTRICT NEWS

# A861 and Corran ferry on agenda at August Ardgour Community Council

At the August meeting of Ardgour Community Council, the way the A861 road is used during A82 road closures was discussed.

Council secretary Claire Bennett-Levy updated those attending on recent contact with Police Chief Inspector Nick Hough who had briefed the Linnhe Community Alliance about plans to change the way A861 is used during A82 road closures. Vice-chairman Michael Foxley suggested roads maintenance contractor, BEAR Scotland, should also have a presence during serious incidents on A82.

Other agenda items discussed included the following:

■ Kevin Mathers of MOWI thanked the community for patience during recent works and confirmed the agreed culvert work has been completed. MOWI has purchased two picnic tables for donation to the community, with

suitable sites to be agreed with Ardgour Estate.

■ Councillors Update: No Highland councillors were present, although Councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig Ward) had sent his apologies.

■ Police Update: PC MacIvor had been in touch about road markings and signs at Corran Ferry. Lines are being repainted to improve traffic management. Chairperson Samantha Thomson noted that road markings at Drumsallie would be helpful and she agreed to write to Highland Council roads department.

■ Councillor Thomson provided an update on the situation with Corpach sawmill operator, BSW. A meeting with residents took place in June and work is planned to start on an acoustic wall in November. The community council is still awaiting results from the environmental health study which took place in

April. Councillor Foxley provided an update on Boyd Brothers and the secretary is to write to Highland Council environmental health team to push for conditions of Sunday planning permission – for example, noise assessment, revised procedures and liaison group formation.

■ Dail Mhor Update: The secretary noted there was recruitment going on a community care co-ordinator and Urram development officer.

■ Corran Ferry Update: Councillor Foxley provided an update on the most recent meeting. Transport Scotland will not provide funding for design work but will offer help in kind. The meeting then discussed funding mechanisms. Concerns have been raised about the proposed size of the vessels and the importance of ensuring capacity is sufficient when one vessel is being serviced. Councillor Foxley highlighted the socio-economic study goes to committee

in September and he will follow up. There were concerns that the study seriously underestimated journey times if the ferry was unavailable.

■ New Belford: Councillor Foxley provided an update on most recent meetings and the revised plans for the hospital.

■ Applications for funding: no applications for discussion. Two applications were agreed by email over the summer. The sum of £1,000 has been pledged to the West Lochaber Highland Transport Fund and £220 granted to provide assistance with transport for a young person. Councillor Thomson suggested adding a poster to the new noticeboards.

■ There was a request for the extension of the graveyard at Ardgour Parish Church to be discussed at the next meeting.

■ Date of next meeting: Today, Thursday September 9, at 7.30pm via Zoom.

## Coastal fund boost for Skye's Glendale Community Hall

Glendale Community Hall on Skye has been awarded £25,014 in funding from the Highland Coastal Communities Fund (HCCF) by The Highland Council's Skye and Raasay Area Committee, writes Mark Entwistle.

Meeting last week, the committee received a total of £505,492 of Crown Estates revenues for distribution within the Skye area from a total £3,034,703 awarded to The Highland Council.

The Glendale Community Hall award is the last project to benefit from this round of HCCF Skye and Raasay Area funding.

Committee chairman, Councillor John Gordon, said it was great that this type of funding is available to Highland coastal commu-



Chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee, Councillor John Gordon.

nities and that the committee can enable the remainder of the funding to be awarded to the Glendale Community Hall.

'We look forward to the upgrades being made to the hall and providing better public toilets for visitors and residents,' he added.

'I would like to thank all the applicants for the time and effort they put into submitting applications. These individuals have given up their own time in support of their local community and we thank them for this.'

Education Committee chairman, Councillor John Finlayson, said having been involved in

discussions with the Glendale community for a number of years about this issue, he knew it would help to support tourism across the area.

'There are some exciting projects which have been awarded funding and Glendale Community Hall will add to the great progress local communities can make because of the fund. I look forward to seeing the Glendale Community Hall improvements further developed in the near future,' said Councillor Finlayson.

Committee member, Councillor Callum MacLeod, commented: 'I'd echo the sentiments of fellow members and agree that the HCCF has enabled significant improvements within the coastal areas of Skye and Raasay.'

'The improved facilities and opening times will allow us to better provide for the increase in visitor numbers to the area.'

The Glendale Community Hall improvements project is to allow the hall toilets to be open to the public throughout the season and to install additional infrastructure in the community hall and upgrade fixtures and fittings in the toilets.

There will also be installation of additional exterior lighting and CCTV to monitor access to the hall and to deter the disposal of camper van grey waste into the sewage system, which is not designed to accept this form of waste.

In addition, there will be an upgrade existing fixtures and fittings in the toilets from a domestic type to those of a more robust design which will cope with the increase in usage.

Included in the costings is a review of the current sewage system with a view to making it sustainable for future use. At present they only have a licence for a 10-person tank.

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# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Summer had one last hurrah in Glasgow the other week with some cracking sunshine and sweltering temperatures.

I decided to take advantage and try to get a good dose of Vitamin D before the Tide Lines tour started.

Mansfield Square in Partick was my sun trap of choice – right next to the Lismore for the benefit of anyone who (like myself) uses Highland pubs as geographical landmarks.

Walking down the stairs of my close, I took my top off in preparation for the warm, summer air outside. I tend to think it is customary in such conditions in Glasgow to go “taps aff”. It turns out this isn’t a view shared by my two neighbours (both from the Outer Hebrides) who laughed in disbelief that I was about to go out in public wearing nothing but a pair of shorts and trainers.

I shrugged it off thinking I was only going a very short distance so the chances I would meet anyone I knew were fairly slim. I should have known better given that a Highlander in Partick bumps into someone they know almost every time they set foot onto the streets.

True enough, no sooner



had I turned onto Hyndland Street than I bumped into my good pal, Mòd Gold Medallist Alasdair Whyte, who greeted me with a similar look as my two neighbours.

‘It’s good to see you, Robert,’ he said... ‘All of you!’

This brings me onto the main point of this week’s article. Ally was telling me about his new project, a book called Maim-Slè. I will review the book in weeks to come but am mentioning it this week because Ally will be giving live readings from it in The Glad Cafe, Pollockshaws Road, on September 23.

WHYTE (his duo musical project with Ross Whyte), will be performing tracks that evening from their latest album, Maim, which is connected thematically to Alasdair’s book. I reviewed this album in my Robert in Lockdown column so

I am equally looking forward to getting a hold of the book.

Both album and book were commissioned by Theatre Gu Leòr and supported by The Bothy Society and tickets, £10, are currently on sale from Eventbrite for the night in the Glad Cafe.

As well as the excellent electronica duo, WHYTE is also a good description of my skin colour. Thankfully I can report, by the time I was walking back up, I had avoided turning red and my Vitamin D levels were suitably boosted!

## What’s on in Glasgow

- September 9: Biffy Clyro at Glasgow Green
- September 10-12: TRNSMT Festival
- September 18: 10 years of Trail West in the Barrowland Ballroom
- September 23: WHYTE live in the Glad Cafe, Pollockshaws Road.
- October 7-8: Peat and Diesel in the Barrowlands
- October 8: Tide Lines at Kelvingrove Bandstand
- October 15: Skipinnish in the Barrowlands

# Cowal artists open their studios

Cowal artists will once again be opening their studios to visitors for its popular long weekend event.

At least 56 artists, all residents on the beautiful Cowal peninsula, will open the doors of their studios/homes to welcome you in.

Art lovers can view some of the best Scottish contemporary and traditional art work and enjoy the opportunity to talk to the makers.

Work in a broad variety of mediums – paints, inks, textiles, ceramics, wood, glass, metalwork and jewellery –

will be on show and you can observe the process in which these works are created.

Explore the Cowal artists studios by four routes, which take you the length and breadth of this amazing area.

Many artists have spaces set in intriguing and inspiring locations, which in itself makes a fascinating experience.

Brochures and maps are available from Tighnabruich Gallery, Tighnabruich; Creggans Inn, Strachur; Dunoon Burgh Hall, Fyne Wood Studios, & Bookpoint, Dunoon; artist

studios, ArtMap Argyll, and various outlets throughout the Cowal peninsula.

The open studios take place over the weekend of Friday September 24 to Monday September 27.

Dunoon is also hosting a guest artists’ exhibition from Friday September 17 to October 17.

Four invited artists will be exhibiting in Dunoon Burgh Hall as part of the COS programme. They are Lynn Howarth, Brenda Burkitt, Raine Clark and Ronnie Fulton.

# FLOW Photofest comes to venues across the Highlands and Islands

Flow Photofest, the biennial international photography festival, is showing in Highlands and Islands venues this month.

With High Life Highland (HLH) as a partner, the 2021 exhibitions are themed around ‘legacy’ and will be on view at HLH venues including Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre.

FLOW Photofest first ran in September 2017 and aims to

present new and recent work by Scottish and international photographers.

The photographer on show at Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre, until September 30, is David Williams with Pictures from No Man’s Land.

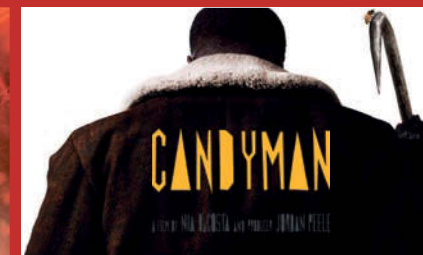
David’s photographic practice is wide-ranging and increasingly informed by the notion of non-duality.

Williams was Head of

Photography at Edinburgh College of Art in 1990 and retired in 2017. Widely exhibited and published internationally, he is the recipient of a range of major awards and prizes, including the BBC Television 150 Years of Photography Award, and in 2018 he was nominated for the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy, the Japanese equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

**FRI 10TH - THUR 16TH SEPT**



**FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Our Ladies (15) 10:40am. Respect (12a) 10:40am, 1:15pm + 5pm.  
 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:55pm, 4:30pm + 7:35pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.

**SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol (U) 10:45am. Free Guy (12a) 11:10am.  
 Respect (12a) 1:15pm + 5pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:55pm, 4:30pm + 7:35pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.

**SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Paw Patrol (U) 10:45am. Jungle Cruise (12a) 10:50am.  
 Respect (12a) 1:15pm + 5pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:55pm, 4:30pm + 7:35pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.

**MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Our Ladies (15) 10:40am. Shang-Chi (12a) *Bairns at the Box Office: 11am.*  
 Respect (12a) 1:15pm + 5pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:55pm, 4:30pm + 7:35pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.

**TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Highlands From The Air (U) 12:30pm + 9:15pm. Respect (12a) 12:50pm + 4:30pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:40pm, 4pm + 7:35pm. Dangerous Liaisons (12a) 7pm.

**WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Respect (12a) 10:40am, 12:05am + 4:30pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 10:55am + 9:15pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:40pm, 3:10pm + 7:35pm. **CAFÉ CLONNAGH FROM 10PM FOR PRAIRIE ENCLAVE**

**THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Our Ladies (15) 10:40am. Free Guy (12a) 11:10am.  
 Respect (12a) 1:15pm + 5pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:55pm, 4:30pm + 7:35pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.



**FILM SYNOPSIS, TRAILERS, TICKETS AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER:**  
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LT

# Shinty round up

## Lovat beat Kingussie to take a spot in the Camanachd Cup final on September 18

Lovat will meet Kinlochshiel in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday September 4.

### Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - semi-final

#### Kingussie 2 Lovat 3

Lovat will meet Kinlochshiel in the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final after defeating Kingussie 3-2 in their 4.10pm throw up at An Aird.

The team news saw Kieran MacPherson sufficiently fit to take a place on the Kingussie bench so Liam Borthwick started at wing centre.

Callum Cruden was at full centre for Lovat with Lewis Tawse in the forward line.

Lovat were quick out of the blocks and Robert Mabon's perfect block prevented Fraser Heath shooting goalwards, while Kingussie keeper Rory MacGregor used his feet to save Greg Matheson's shot.

Play switched to the other end and Stuart MacDonald made the first in a series of fine first half stops when he used his hand to parry James Falconer's backhand shot from the right.

However it was Lovat who broke the deadlock on 10 minutes.

Fraser Heath jockeyed with Robert Mabon 25 yards from goal after controlling Lorne MacKay's free-hit.

Heath made enough space to turn and send a dipping shot into the keeper's top right corner of the net to claim a spectacular opener.

Kingussie now laid siege on the Lovat goal and Stuart MacDonald saved with his feet after Roddy Young had taken James Falconer's pass and Savio Genini's free-hit from the left started a goalmouth scramble before Lovat cleared their lines.

When James Hutchison's free-hit found Savio Genini, the Kingussie full forward turned Daniel Grieve on the left but was denied by Stuart MacDonald who stretched to make a diving save with his left foot.

Roddy Young's shot flashed wide after he took down Liam Borthwick's ball from the right and, following some great movement from the Kings'



Lovat's Callum Cruden keeps the ball from Ryan Borthwick, Kingussie. Photo

Neil Paterson.

forwards, Stuart MacDonald thwarted Liam Borthwick before diving to his right soon after to keep out Roddy Young's shot from a central position.

MacDonald was then quickly off his line to clear before Savio Genini could get to a James Falconer shot which had been deflected out to the left.

A rare Lovat attack ended with Rory MacGregor stopping Marc MacLachlan's shot with his feet and Greg Matheson needed treatment to a cut below the eye suffered in the build-up.

Stuart MacDonald's final act of a pulsating first half was to save with his feet from Kingussie top scorer James Falconer.

Kingussie finished the half on the attack but they couldn't get the goal they craved so Lovat led 1-0 at half-time.

Kingussie were forced into an interval change with defender Ryan Borthwick, who had been troubled by a heavy cold,



Man-of-the-match Lovat's Fraser Heath celebrates his second goal. Photo Neil Paterson

replaced by Calum Grant. Kingussie attacked straight from the restart and James Falconer's shot from the left went across keeper MacDonald but came off his left post and Ruaridh Anderson shot wide from the rebound.

Despite all Kingussie's pres-

sure they fell two goals behind as Lovat went straight up the park on 47 minutes.

A Lewis Tawse free-hit picked out Marc MacLachlan in a central position and he fired goalwards.

Keeper Rory MacGregor left the ball as he thought it was

going wide but, to his horror, it sneaked just inside his right post.

Lovat were forced into a double substitution when Marc MacLachlan limped off with a hamstring issue whilst Scott MacKenzie was hit on the knuckle.

Bailey MacKay came on in place of MacLachlan and Graeme MacMillan replaced MacKenzie.

Kingussie took time to settle after the loss of the second goal until Roddy Young's run down the left ended with a shot which went wide of target.

Ruaridh Anderson then raced down the opposite flank but the Lovat back-line cleared the ball to safety.

Iain Nicolson came on for Lovat but Kingussie continued to attack and Savio Genini shot over the top from the left.

Kingussie got the goal their play deserved on 73 minutes and it was a Savio Genini special. Genini took down Fraser Munro's free-hit from wide on the left of the Kingussie midfield before turning quickly and firing across keeper MacDonald with the ball going just inside the keeper's right post.

It only took Lovat a minute to dent any hopes of a Kingussie comeback. Greg Matheson played the ball back low across the goal from the right and Fraser Heath took a touch inside and his low shot on his left side went in off the keeper's feet.

The tie was turning into an epic and Savio Genini scored a second on 75 minutes serving up the game's third goal in a breath-taking three minute spell. Genini brought down Roddy Young's corner from the left before smashing the ball home on his left side from the edge of the D.

It was now 3-2 although, not surprisingly, the pace dropped during the final 15 minutes.

There were a spate of late yellow cards issued by referee Deek Cameron to Robert Mabon for hauling back Fraser Heath, Callum Cruden for catching Fraser Munro in the face with his club and Calum Grant following a spat with Graeme MacMillan.

Between times, Ruaridh Anderson sent a swerving shot wide of the keeper's right post.

Kingussie replaced Roddy Young with Dylan Borthwick with the substitute forcing a Stuart MacDonald save with his hand by his left post.

Late shots from Dylan Borthwick and Ruaridh Anderson weren't enough as Lovat saw out the closing minutes and they will now play Kinlochshiel in the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final at Mossfield on Saturday September 18.

Lovat will be formidable opponents, making their fourth

appearance in the final over the last six years.

Fraser Heath was named man of the match by BBC ALBA pundit Katie Drain with Stuart MacDonald perhaps a close second.

### cottages.com MacTavish Cup – quarter-finals

#### Strathglass 1 Kinlochshiel 3

Kinlochshiel are through to the cottages.com MacTavish Cup semi-finals but they had to work hard to beat Strathglass 3-1 at Cannich.

Strathglass boss Allan MacLeod had to make six changes from the team which lost at Bute in the Balliemore Cup in mid-August.

Kinlochshiel were also much changed from the side that beat Kyles Athletic in the Camanachd Cup semi-final a week earlier.

Finlay MacRae, John MacRae and Duncan 'WD' MacRae were all out injured. Duncan Matheson dropped onto the bench where he joined Fraser MacVicar Mark MacDonald.

Paul MacRae and Campbell Lamont came into the defence with Finlay D MacRae in midfield and Archie MacRae in attack.

'Shiel took the lead after just three minutes when Ali Nixon sent a good strike into the roof of the net from left of the penalty spot. Penri Jones pulled the hosts level on 27 minutes, following up after a Josh Grant save and he beat the keeper and slotted the ball home.

Keith MacRae capitalised on a defensive error at the edge of the D a minute into the second half, tucking the ball into the net to put 'Shiel back in front.

Strathglass had a chance to level for a second time when referee Andy MacLean awarded them a penalty but Josh Grant turned away Penri Jones' spot-hit.

'Shiel broke forward from the resulting corner and substitute Duncan Matheson made it 3-1 from inside the box on 57 minutes.

The last thing 'Shiel needed was any addition to their injury list but Ali Nixon went off with what looked like a hamstring problem whilst Conor Cormack also picked up an injury.

This was a good end-to-end game of shinty and Strathglass played well, running the Camanachd Cup finalists close.

### Alvance British Aluminium Balliemore Cup - semi-finals

Skye Camanachd 3  
Inveraray 2



Skye's double scorer Somhairle MacDonald takes the ball from Nicholas Crawford, Inveraray.

Photo Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Skye Camanachd reached the Alvanche British Aluminium Balliemore Cup final after edging out Inveraray 3-2 in their noon throw up at Jubilee Park.

Skipper Jordan Murchison returned for Skye following a hamstring problem but John Gillies was out with concussion so William MacKinnon took over at full back.

Gilleasbuig MacDonald started in midfield whilst Will Cowie and Ross Gordon remained on the injury list.

Garry MacPherson started for Inveraray whilst Ruaraidh Graham and Robert Wood were on a strong five-player bench.

Skye took the lead on 25 minutes. Ross MacKinnon's hit-in from the left was taken down by Inveraray defender Hamish MacLennan but Somhairle MacDonald positioned himself well to intercept the clearance and MacDonald's shot from the left flew into the top corner of the net on the keeper's right side.

Inveraray levelled with just five first half minutes remaining.

Lewis MacNicol's free-hit from inside his own half on the right allowed Allan MacDonald to run onto the ball on the Inveraray left and his low ball across goal was turned home by Campbell Watt on the right, beating the keeper from a tight angle at his near post.

James Pringle put Skye back in front a minute short of the hour.

Martin Pringle's ball out of defence was played on by Jordan Murchison.

Hamish MacLennan was unable to clear Murchison's ball to the left and James Pringle cracked a great shot high into the net on his left side.

Somhairle MacDonald got

his second and Skye's third on 63 minutes.

Jordan Murchison ran back into the centre circle to play the ball up-field, wide on the Skye right where James Pringle played a great ball across the face of the goal.

Somhairle MacDonald cut inside from the left and he expertly controlled the ball before slotting it past keeper Scott MacLachlan to make it 3-1.

Campbell Watt got his second seven minutes from time with a shot from distance into the roof of the net to make it 3-2 but Skye saw out the final stages to seal a place in the Alvanche British Aluminium Balliemore Cup Final on Saturday October 2, where they will play either Beaully or

Bute.

**Beaully P Bute P**

The semi-final between Beaully and Bute at the Jubilee Park was a Covid postponement so will be rescheduled.

Beaully host Camanachd Cup finalists Lovat this weekend whilst Bute are in Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup quarter-final action against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

The Camanachd Association has confirmed that the Alvanche British Aluminium Balliemore Cup final has been put back to Saturday October 2.

## Mowi Senior League A

**Kilmallie P Fort William P**

The local derby between Kilmallie and Fort William

at the Canal Parks was called off on Friday afternoon due to Covid restrictions.

**Glenurquhart P Lochaber P**

The game between Glenurquhart and Lochaber at Blairbeg was also a Covid postponement.

## HIS Sutherland Cup – quarter-finals

**Lochside Rovers 2 Kinlochshiel 1**

Holders Lochside Rovers saw off the Kinlochshiel second team 2-1 in their 3pm throw up at Mossfield.

Lochside manager Gareth Evans was without the services of the injured Innes Jackson and Robbie Brown, who was working.

Kenny Wotherspoon started in attack alongside Lewis Buchanan, David Cameron and 14-year-old Alexander MacDonald.

Kinlochshiel boss Willie MacRae was missing Archie MacRae and Campbell Lamont who were both on first team duty but Stuart MacRae came into the squad.

'Shiel started with the wind in their favour but Lochside created chances with Kenny Wotherspoon and Lewis Buchanan going close.

It took a brilliant save from young 'Shiel keeper Calum MacMillan to deny Lewis Buchanan.

However, Buchanan did get his goal on 39 minutes as he ran away from goal, out to the left, before turning and lashing the ball into the far top corner of the net from a tight angle.

Alexander MacDonald got what proved to be a crucial second goal just three minutes from half-time.

Lewis Buchanan's shot was saved and a goalmouth scramble ensued with MacDonald running in to force the ball over the line to make it 2-0 at the break.

Lochside introduced youngsters Matthew Sloss and Daniel Pearson from the bench and the Oban side knew a third goal would seal it.

But 'Shiel pulled a goal back on 74 minutes when Stuart MacRae sent a 20-yard strike high into the net.

Lochside saw out the closing stages to go through to the HIS Sutherland Cup semi-finals where they will play the Lovat second team at Spean Bridge this Saturday.

This was the last match to be played on Mossfield ahead of the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final on Saturday September 18.

## HIS Sutherland Cup - semi-final

**Beaully 2 Newtonmore 6**

After reaching the Strathdearn Cup final the previous weekend, the Newtonmore second team clinched a place in the HIS Sutherland Cup final after beating the Beaully second team 6-2 in their noon throw up at Castle Leod.

Fraser MacKintosh gave 'More a 12-minute lead but Leon MacLellan levelled on 18 minutes.

The visitors raced into a 4-1 interval lead with Glen MacKintosh adding a hat-trick with goals on 20, 22 and 43 minutes.

Euan MacCormick pulled a goal back on 52 minutes but Brodie MacBean on 61 minutes and a fourth from Glen MacKintosh on 81 minutes made the final score 6-2.

## Strathdearn Cup - semi-final

**Lovat P Kingussie P**

The Newtonmore second team will have to wait to find out the Strathdearn Cup final opponents after the semi-final tie between the Lovat colts and the Kingussie colts was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

## Mowi North League A

**Skye Camanachd 3 Kinlochshiel 4**

Archie MacRae's hat-trick helped the Kinlochshiel seconds come from 3-1 down to beat the Skye Camanachd seconds 4-3 in their 6.30pm throw up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Wednesday September 1.

This was only 'Shiel's fourth match of the season and just their second in the league.

Lewis MacVicar put them ahead on 12 minutes with a fierce strike from wide to the left but Connor Gilpin made

it 1-1 on 14 minutes when he swung ahead of his marker to score low into the corner of the net from the left and it remained level until the break.

Archie Millar hit a great shot over the keeper's right shoulder from around the penalty spot following Daniel Morrison's corner from the left just a couple of minutes into the second half.

Iain Murray came off the bench and immediately set up Connor Gilpin whose turn and shot made it 3-1 on 53 minutes with Skye enjoying their best period in the game.

'Shiel finished strongly though and Skye keeper Calum Nicolson made two brave saves before Archie MacRae grabbed a hat-trick to turn the match Kinlochshiel's way.

His first on 68 minutes was a volley and second on 79 minutes was a low shot after he made space on the right.

Archie MacRae completed his hat-trick and won the match on 80 minutes when he turned his man on the right before cutting in-field and blasting the ball over the keeper's right shoulder to make it 4-3.

**Glengarry P Lochcarron P**

Lochcarron were unable to field a team for their match against Glengarry at Craigard.

**Skye Camanachd P**

**Fort William P**

The clash between the Skye Camanachd colts and the Fort William colts at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree was called off due to Covid restrictions.

## Mowi North League C

**Strathspey Camanachd P Strathglass P**

Strathspey Camanachd and the Strathglass second team were left disappointed for the second successive Saturday when their meeting at Grantown Grammar School was a Covid postponement.

**Inverness P Lewis**

**Camanachd P**

The 12.30pm throw up between the Inverness reserves and Lewis Camanachd at the Bught Park was postponed due to Covid restrictions.

## Mowi Central League

**Glenorchy 3 Lochaber 2**

Glenorchy saw off a comeback from the Lochaber second team to win 3-2 at Mart Park.

Stewart Twort on 34 minutes and Arik MacKechnie on 43 minutes had the hosts 2-0 ahead at the break.

However Martin Patterson on 51 minutes and Dillon Brockie on 70 minutes drew the sides level.

Glenorchy's Conor Sartain grabbed the winner seven minutes from time to give Glenorchy the points.



William MacKinnon, Skye, and Allan MacDonald of Inveraray clash near the goalmouth. Photo

Stephen Lawson



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\*You must be 18 or over to attend the event.



Lochaber Athletics Club's Maddison MacMillan in action.

## Teenager in fine form at Scottish championships

Young Lochaber Athletics Club runner Maddison MacMillan put in a stellar performance in her appearance in a national Scottish track and field meeting.

MacMillan followed her existing aptitude for cross country running by venturing into track and field for the first time this season.

She started with open events in Inverness this summer and has made her mark in both sprinting and long jump. Last month MacMillan stepped up to represent Lochaber Athletic

Club at the Scottish track and field championships for under 20-year-olds at the Aberdeen Sports Village.

More than 700 competitors took part over two days. Entries were based on qualifying times and distances for races and jumps.

MacMillan ran well in the under-13-year-old girls' 100 metres and recorded a time of 14.85 secs in the heats but missed out on the final.

She was sixth in the long jump and broke her personal best three times; her best jump was 4.12 metres.

# Jags reach second round of AFA Cup

Bengal Lancers	1
SLT	3
SAFA Cup	

In a hard fought match, played on a small park, it was the Kinlochleven side who proved more clinical in front of goal, writes Pete Newman.

After some tentative exchanges in the opening minutes, it was the Lochaber visitors who took the lead.

Veteran midfielder and club founder David Forbes had begun the game playing through the pain barrier with a damaged hamstring.

A Martin Munro corner found Forbes defying the years and his fitness status, leaping like a startled buck to power in a towering header to make it 1-0. Things stayed like that as the first half progressed.



Man of the Match was Kieran Lopez.

The home side proved to be resilient and the Jags' defence in the form of Man of the Match Kieran Lopez and Stevie Neil in the middle with Andrew Moore and John Ferguson on the flanks all having to be at their best to soak up the pressure.

Early in the second half, globetrotting utility player

Kier Kennedy popped up with a spectacular overhead kick which reminded the spectators of prime-era Thierry Henry.

Midfielder Andrew Maclean chipped the ball for Kennedy to swivel with dead-eyed athleticism to give SLT a two-goal cushion in spectacular fashion. Maclean was on hand again to turn provider slipping the ball to Munro. The skipper set off on a trade mark slaloming run and slotted home as the match drew to a close and put the tie out of sight for the Glasgow hosts.

Lancers did secure a consolation goal but this was somewhat marred by a red card for a rashly mistimed back after Munro had made him look foolish, twice. That made it 3-1 at the final whistle.

Jags manager Alan Gray said: 'Everyone associated with the

club is delighted to have made it through to the second round for the first time. The FA Cup is always a priority and it was nice to finally do ourselves justice in it.

'Bengal Lancers were a good side and, in a sometimes-scrappy game, we were clinical when it mattered and resolute defensively.

'Kieran Lopez was immense at centre half but Lewis Campbell and Stevie Neil were vital in keeping the spine of the team tight. We're very pleased for all the support from the local community and are looking forward to the draw which will be live streamed from Hampden.'

The Jags have a free week next week and are home to Rannoch AFC the week after in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup.

## Lochaber player named in rugby world cup squad

Glencoe's Helen Nelson joins Abi Evans, from Oban, in the 28-player squad just announced by Scotland Women's rugby head coach Bryan Easson for the upcoming Rugby World Cup 2021 Europe qualifiers.

The squad met at Oriam, Scotland's National Sports Performance Centre, on Monday before traveling to Parma for the round robin tournament. The squad remains largely unchanged for the 2021 Women's Six Nations in April, with Rachel Malcolm

returning to her captaincy duties having missed Scotland's last two matches in the championship due to a knee injury.

Easson said: 'The squad selection has been difficult as the players have really stepped up to the mark in our recent training camps. As a result, we've seen a lot of competition for places which has been really positive from a coaching perspective.'

'In this round-robin tournament, every game counts and we know that we will have to hit the ground running in the

first game to keep our qualification chances in sight.

'We are very familiar with our opponents and we know that they will each present very different game plans, but we firmly believe we have the ability to adapt to each challenge that may arise.'

Following its postponement last year, Rugby World Cup 2021 Europe qualifying tournament will take place on September 13, 19 and 25, 2021 in Parma's Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Italy, home of the Zebre Rugby Club. Scotland

will compete against Spain, Ireland and hosts Italy in a round robin format. The top team will book a spot in Group B at Rugby World Cup 2021 and the runner-up will enter the final qualification tournament.



The Lochaber Times: 95p

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 9 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>9</b>	0111 0.7 0701 3.9 TH 1311 0.4 1913 4.1	<b>11</b>	0220 0.8 0808 3.7 SA 1432 0.6 2026 3.8	<b>13</b>	0351 1.3 0939 3.3 M 1618 1.2 2201 3.1	<b>15</b>	0622 1.7 1322 3.0 W 1856 1.7
<b>10</b>	0144 0.7 0732 3.8 F 1350 0.5 1948 4.0	<b>12</b>	0300 1.0 0850 3.5 SU 1520 0.9 2108 3.5	<b>14</b>	0458 1.5 1051 3.0 TU 1730 1.5 2330 2.8	<b>16</b>	0217 2.8 0758 1.6 TH 1452 3.2 2039 1.6

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER			
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Thundery showers a gentle breeze	Light rain and light winds	Light cloud and a gentle breeze	Light rain and light winds
Temperatures 15°C to 21°C.	Temperatures 14°C to 19°C.	Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.	Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

**FRIDAY FORECAST**

High 19, Low 14, Wind 6 MPH