



Benderloch's Ellis dazzles jewellery judges

Inside: Gas Safety Week & Spotlight on Lochavullin Industrial Estate

Charity bike ride



Coll's Alison takes on sepsis cycle challenge

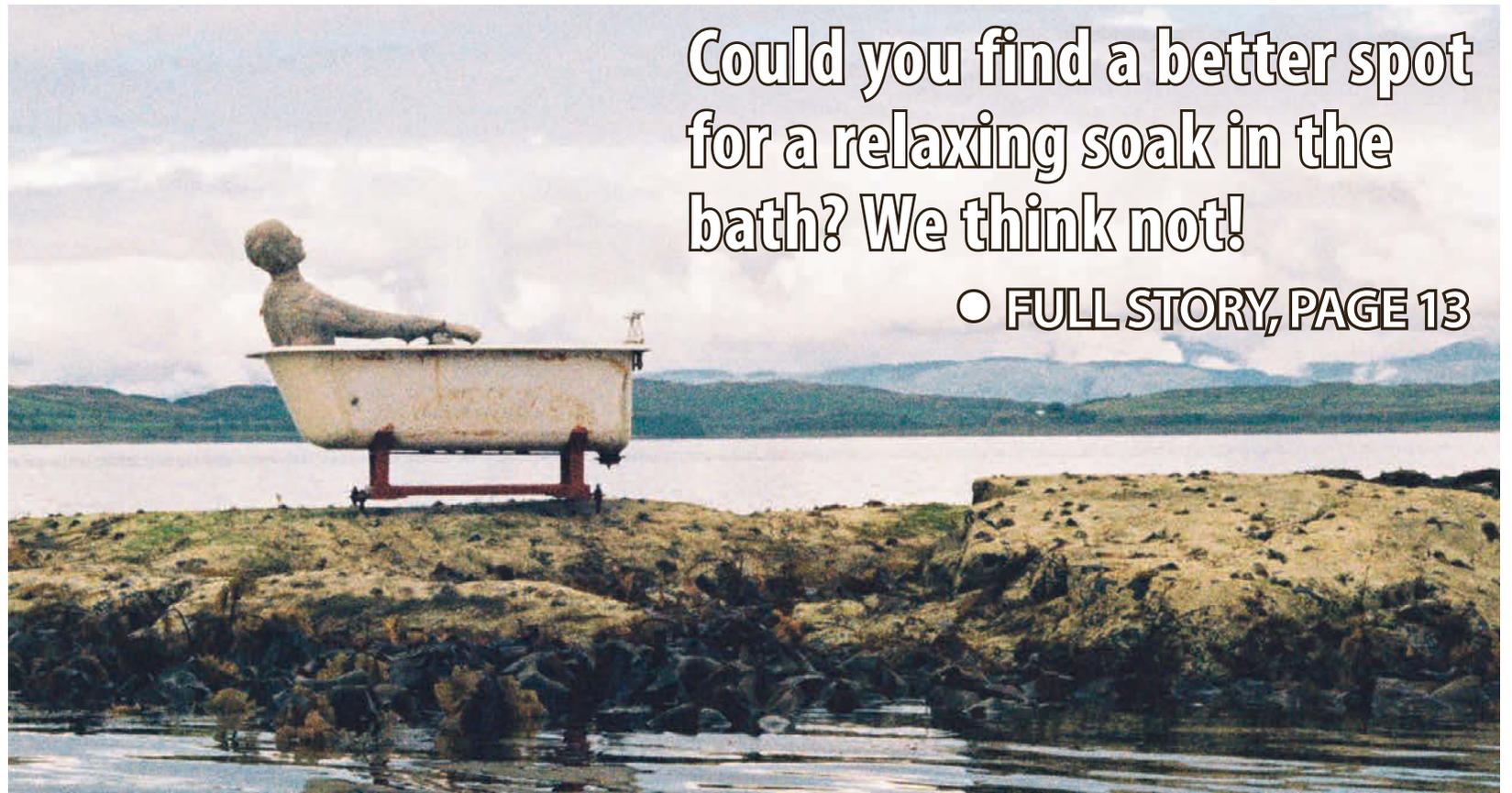
• See page 5 for more

Fond farewell



Island thanks James for 50 years of service

• See page 11 for more



Could you find a better spot for a relaxing soak in the bath? We think not!

○ FULL STORY, PAGE 13

SALMON FARM ON HUNT

Loch Long Salmon, which promotes itself as a low impact farming company, is scoping out possible sites around Appin

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Waters near Appin and Cuil Bay are being eyed-up as possible locations for pioneering salmon farmers.

Loch Long Salmon (LLS) has contacted Appin Community Council and already started sounding out neighbouring Duror Community Council.

Representatives from LLS attended this

month's Duror CC to give a presentation – the area they have mooted is Balnagown Island close to Cuil Bay.

Duror community councillor Jonathan Baxter said: 'On the face of it, where they would potentially want to put the farm does not please us but we are open-minded and waiting for further news from them.'

'We have not discussed it yet as a community council, so we are neither for or against at the

Continued on page 3.



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OT

Mull white-tail eagles keep Isle of Wight project flying

Mull continues to help release white-tailed sea eagles into the English skies, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Chicks from the island in 2019 were part of a first consignment that winged its way under a NatureScot licence to be part of a re-introduction project on the Isle of Wight led by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation to bring the birds back to the landscape down south.

Mull missed sending more chicks in 2020 but was able to help again this year, says RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton.

A cohort of birds from Scotland were flown down south in a plane to cut down their travelling time rather than facing a road journey.

White-tailed eagles, once widespread across England, are Britain's largest birds of

prey with a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres.

Mr Sexton said: 'It's an honour and a privilege to be involved in the collection of sea eagle chicks for this wonderful project.'

'Chicks from the Isle of Mull were part of the first consignment in 2019 and were actually the first two to be released into English skies.'

'We missed 2020 but we've been able to assist again this year with a further two chicks from Mull heading south and now flying free.'

'Their siblings, back in their original nests on Mull, have also now fledged successfully having had the lion's share of food brought in by the adults.'

'I'd especially like to thank the two Mull estates which have been so helpful with allowing eaglets from nests on their land to be donated to the



RSPB Mull officer Dave Sexton collecting a chick for translocating to Isle of Wight.

Photo: Nic Davies

And a pair of released birds.

project. Just as Norway helped us with chicks from 1975 to 2012, it's a sign of the great

conservation success story of sea eagles in Scotland that we are now in a position to help

other countries with their schemes. A fantastic result all round.'

A further 12 white-tailed eagles have just been released on the Isle of Wight in the next stage of the re-introduction project which released six birds in 2019 and then seven more last year.

Evidence from similar re-introductions suggests that the rate of survival to breeding age is around 40 per cent - 10 of the 13 previously released

birds are doing well.

The Isle of Wight project plans to release more than 60 of them over its five years, establishing a starter population of six to eight pairs but they are not expected to begin breeding until 2024 at the earliest.

Fitted with satellite trackers to monitor them closely, one bird released in 2020 crossed the English Channel and has spent time in France, The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark since earlier this year.

Birds from Europe have also been spotted in the South of England, says the project.

Bird enthusiasts and members of the public across England have been reporting sightings of the eagles via @seaeagleengland on social media or via the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation website.



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Oban adventure rope park hanging on for new home

An adventure rope park from Oban's demolished Kilbowie outdoors centre has been saved from the scrap-heap - but needs to find a new home, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The equipment for children, valued between £20,000 and £30,000, was given free to the town after demolition firm Dem-Master cleared the Kilbowie site at Gallanach, with MacQueen Bros Ltd agreeing to store it short-term for free.

It is hoped that Argyll and Bute Council might adopt it - Ganavan, Oban High School Oban Rugby Club or Dunbeg have all been suggested as places it could go.

Laura Corbe, a member of Oban Community Council and a volunteer director with the not-for-profit Adventure Oban group, previously raised the proposal with the community council and it was agreed a number of potential site owners be approached with notice also sent to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee of Argyll and Bute Council in the hope it can be adopted by the authority.

Volunteers from the com-



MacQueen Bros collects the rope park from Kilbowie to keep until a new home can be found for it.

munity spent three-days de-rigging the rope park that is in great condition, suitable for children aged eight and upwards and can be modified.

Mrs Corbe had suggested it might suit an area of council-owned land near the defunct swing frame at Ganavan with a public survey demonstrating a strong appetite for a play park there.

Other potential sites include Oban High School and Oban Rugby Club or Dunbeg.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors have discussed

the rope park at a business day since. Members suggested the best way forward was for Adventure Oban to contact the council's operations manager for roads and infrastructure Tom Murphy who might have some suggestions to a suitable location.

One of Adventure Oban's director Isla McCulloch said: 'It's great we have got it now and have saved it from going to landfill. A lot of people are asking about it and have offered to help rig it up when we find it a new home.'

'Sustainable' salmon firm seeks out new location

Continued from page 1.

moment. We will see what they forward us next.'

Appin CC confirmed it had received an email from a salmon farm company but convener Charles Fotheringham said there was nothing more to report on it yet.

LFS director Stewart Hawthorn said the company is in the process of setting up meetings with other community councils in the Loch Linnhe area as well as looking to identify other 'great locations' in Scotland.

'At this time we do not have any final sites identified in Loch Linnhe, but have formally identified one location adjacent to Eilean Balnagown which is near Duror and Cuil. We have been formally granted a Lease Option Agreement (LOA) by Crown Estate Scotland for the Balnagown area to more thoroughly investigate this particular site.

'We do not have any other LOA's in Loch Linnhe at this time but will advise of these as we go forward,' he said.

LFS promotes itself as a low impact salmon farming com-

pany focused on environmental stewardship and animal welfare. The company says its semi-closed farming systems, which would be the first-of-its-kind in Scotland, can stop sea lice attaching to the fish so there would be no need for chemical treatments.

It says its systems also have the capacity to catch salmon waste and uneaten food which can then be used as a natural fertilizer or in green energy production. The waste would be pumped to shore rather than collect on the seabed. The pens look much like conventional pens from above but below have an opaque, outer barrier with an inner net protecting the salmon from lice and predators, such as seals.

LFS is putting a planning application forward in October for its first site in Loch Long.

Mr Hawthorne told the Oban Times: 'By using semi-closed farming systems we are changing salmon farming in Scotland for good. We hope this will be recognised by the communities in which we will operate and which we want to be a part of. We will use local providers, people and knowledge where we can.'

Drone's aerial photograph shows North Pier oil spill

by Kathie Griffiths
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An aerial view of Oban Bay's latest spill has been caught on camera by a drone.

Sean Rowan took this image on Friday September 10 from above the town's North Pier.

There has been a series of spills that have polluted the town's waters in the past year.

Mr Rowan, who posted his drone photograph on Facebook, said he had reported the last big spill but really felt like 'it wasn't taken seriously'.

Earlier this week the image had generated more than 200 reactions from people, including almost 50 comments, with many calling for better action from agencies to keep the bay clean.

A diesel spill in Oban Bay in March left water 'pink and



The oil slick can clearly be seen from above.

Photograph: Sean Rowan

'We continue to work closely with our partners to resolve issues, if they arise, by implementing our Marine and Coastguard Agency-approved, oil spill contingency plans.'

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said it was made aware of a potential pollution incident but information it received suggested the spill dispersed quickly. There was no response from SEPA as to any progress being made over investigations into the two spills in the bay earlier this year.

Potential pollution incidents can be reported online at www.sepa.org.uk/report

stinky', and in April another spillage was also spotted and also reported to agencies for investigation.

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'To date, we haven't received a formal report about a spill in the bay on Friday. Our Harbour

Master did see a social media post on Friday evening and by that time any spillage had dissipated. They made contact with CalMac and the Northern Lighthouse Board, as well as skippers on local vessels and made further checks on Saturday morning.

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OT

Benderloch designer Ellis dazzles jewellery judges

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Benderloch's Ellis Cameron has struck gold after being named the UK's Young Jewellery Designer of the year. Judges chose the former Oban High School pupil out of 600 entries after her work shone out.

'I didn't have any idea I had won until my name was announced, so it was really exciting!' said Glasgow School of Art graduate Ellis, who was one of six designers shortlisted for the Retail Jeweller's UK Jewellery Awards - the country's longest-running and most prestigious trade awards event.

Her win was revealed at a glittering awards ceremony on



Ellis Cameron, main, and receiving her top award at the UK Jewellery Awards 2021, left. Inset, a piece of her jewellery.

September 1 at The Brewery in London.

'It was lovely not just to be shortlisted, but to have won! My jewellery is not the most traditional, so it was great to be recognised by the industry in this way,' said Ellis who has a studio in The Goldsmiths Centre, London and whose work has made it into Vogue.

She added: 'I'm really busy and couldn't be happier!'

Lots of bespoke commissions for engagement and wedding rings are filling her time as well as her fulfilling wholesale orders for her stockists in the USA and getting ready for Goldsmiths Fair later this month showcasing the work of 120 master jewellery designers and silversmiths.

Although life is now in London where Ellis moved to complete a Masters in

Jewellery Design at Central St Martins and was later accepted onto a Setting Out scheme run by training charity The Goldsmith Centre, her Benderloch roots where proud mum and dad Joy and Campbell Cameron still live are not forgotten.

Home in Scotland is a major source of inspiration, from rugged landscapes to wild coastlines or discovered jewellery hoards.

Ruth Faulkner, editor of Retail Jeweller, said: 'The companies we celebrated at this year's UK Jewellery Awards from across all areas of the industry and the supply chain must be applauded as the leading lights in our sector. So, to all our finalists and winners. Congratulations, they really are the very best in the business.'

Online booking for Oban Pride

Following months of partnership working the Oban Pride committee have finalised their plans for the 2021 event which will take place on Saturday September 25, writes Fiona Scott.

Tickets to the colourful array of family friendly free events can now be booked online.

Phill Dexter, Oban Pride chair, told us: 'Although we are not having a March we still have so much to look forward to. We have partnered with some amazing organisations throughout Oban to bring you an amazing event, which is spread throughout the town.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema will host the ever popular Rainbow Stage with live performances from noon-2pm and 3-5pm. As well as giving a rare performance herself, Oban's very own Crystal will be introducing a range of artists, including Conway-McLean Music, Sadie Godiva, Ellie Cooper and Rock and Reel.

The Rainbow Stage is free to attend, but tickets must be booked in advance via www.obanpride.com.

The cinema will be open from 11am-5.30pm so there will be plenty of time to go in before the performance starts and have a chat with representatives from Equality Network and Waverley Care.



Oban Phoenix Cinema duty manager Catriona Hoon, centre, with Oban Pride's Phill Dexter and Anna Gregory.

Oban Youth Café will be hosting a Youth Zone from 11am-4pm where High School aged people can enjoy a special Pride Day drop in with crafts, games, gaming and more.

Argyll Wellbeing Hub (Breadalbane Street) will be open for a special Pride Day Rainbow Tea. They will be open from 11am-2pm and be ready to welcome visitors with some good banter, a cuppa and maybe even a bit of cake.

The Happy Wee Health Club will be running our Family Zone based at Go Banana's above the Bridge Café. There will be two sessions at 10am-noon and 1-3pm. The Family Zone is free but booking is essential due to limited numbers. Parents/guardians must be present.

'As you can see we have

lots on for Oban Pride on September 25,' added Phill.

'We would love to see businesses and organisations getting involved too and one way they can do this by decorating their windows to take place in our window competition. Bid4Oban have donated a prize for the winning display.

'We are always looking for volunteers to help out and anyone interested or any business looking to get involved should email ObanPride@gmail.com.'

Oban Pride ask that all Covid guidelines are followed within the venues and anyone who has had contact with someone who tested positive or is presenting symptoms does not attend.

Tickets for all the free events are now bookable on the website www.obanpride.com.



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Alison's cycle challenge for sepsis awareness

by Kathie Griffiths
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Coll mum Alison Jones is cycling 300 miles on the island's roads for sepsis awareness.

Alison is raising funds for the UK Sepsis Trust and is inviting friends and tourists to join her for some of it. At just 13 miles long and three miles wide, Alison admits she has been going 'up and down' quite a bit.

Her six-year-old son Harris has also got on his bike to support her as she puts pedal-power behind a campaign to make people more sepsis-savvy.

Time is critical when it comes to recognising sepsis, sometimes known as blood-poisoning or septicemia, so Alison wanted to do her bit to make sure people know the signs to look out for.

'With time being critical with sepsis, being aware of the symptoms for adults and children, or just asking the question, 'could it be sepsis?' could save a life, particularly when we're so far away from specialist services,' she said.

Alison started her Cycle4Sepsis challenge last month and has raised about £800 so far and hopes to complete it by September 30.



As well as all her leg-work notching up the miles, she also wanted to share her close friend Helen Cheyne's story.

In April 2019, former nurse and midwife Helen thought she had mild flu but about 48 hours later was phoning her sons from her hospital bed about to be put on a ventilator knowing she might not survive.

Despite being a healthy, fit 60-year-old, Helen's vital organs were failing because of sepsis. When she left hospital months later, she had undergone a below-the-knee amputation and major surgery had been carried out on her hands – including reducing the length of most of her fingers.

'Helen still lives in her second storey flat and uses prosthetic legs to get around. Last year she cycled for sepsis awareness as I am doing this year. She is back driving in an adapted car and continues to work as a professor of midwifery. She is an inspiration,' said Alison.

'Helen gave us all a huge shock when it happened. She was a health professional and even she did not spot the signs of sepsis – we can all take that as a big warning sign that more people need to be aware,' Alison added.

Helen is also now a trustee of The UK Sepsis Trust, still has a personal trainer and hopes to get back to hillwalking one day.

Alison with her friend Helen, right, who underwent major surgery after being diagnosed with sepsis.

Those who have joined Alison on her fundraising bike rides include a fellow islander whose young adult son was admitted to hospital critically ill with sepsis – he made a recovery.

Sepsis happens when an infection you already have triggers an overwhelming chain reaction throughout your body.

It is linked to one in five deaths worldwide and kills more than 48,000 people in the UK every year – more than breast, bowel and prostate cancers combined.

Signs and symptoms of sepsis can include a combination of any of these: confusion or disorientation, slurred speech, shortness of breath, high heart rate, fever, or shivering, or feeling very cold, extreme pain or discomfort, and clammy or sweaty skin. Find out more by going visiting sepsistrust.org/

Sponsor Alison at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/al-jones76

Wellbeing walkers in Oban mark World Suicide Prevention Day

More than 30 individuals joined Argyll Wellbeing Hub for a 'walk and talk' event on Friday for World Suicide Prevention Day 2021, writes Fiona Scott.

This year's theme is 'Creating Hope through Action' and the local group wanted to do something to raise awareness and get people talking.

Service coordinator Des MacMillan told us: 'In 2020 805 people in Scotland lost their lives to suicide, that's two people every day, with 805 families and many, many more people left devastated at the loss of their loved one.'

'We believe that suicide is preventable and that by talking about it and encouraging people to seek support from their families, friends, GP, support service, helplines or us, can save their life.'

Friends from The Happy Wee Health Club, Lorn and Oban Healthy Options and Oban Pride also joined the walk.

'All of these organisations help people locally who are struggling,' added Des.

'They listen, they make connections with people and they encourage people to seek help and support no matter how big or how difficult their issues may be. We are great believers in 'a problem shared is a problem halved.'

'Please take a minute to think

about how suicide has touched our wee town. Please join us in talking about this often taboo subject so that no one in our community ever again thinks it's an answer to the pain they're going through.

'Suicide is tragically a permanent solution to temporary problems. Here at Argyll Wellbeing Hub we see every day how talking and reaching out and sharing their worries can help people start to find help and want to stay alive.'

'Every life is precious and every one is valued equally at Argyll Wellbeing Hub and we try to convey that at all our support groups and activities.'

Argyll Wellbeing Hub also thanked their friends at Dunollie Castle for opening up the Kettle Cafe area so walkers could stop and talk at the half way point. Thanks also went to Suzie from You Matter Always for the beautiful bags of hope given to everyone taking part.

Lavender hearts were sent by Judy in Glasgow to show everyone people care and they are valued while thanks also went to Maggie for the wonderful tablet. #itsgoodtotalk #togetherwecandothis

If you would like to know more about Argyll Wellbeing Hub and what they do then follow them on Facebook or look up the website www.argyllwellbeinghub.com

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OT

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Autumn is definitely in the air now but thankfully we had a last blast of summer on Thursday when we welcomed the cruise ship Silver Spirit to Oban.

What a fabulous day it was, the weather seemed to have been laid on specially and everyone who came ashore was delighted to be here – as delighted as we were to welcome the first ship in a very long time.

Although things were a little more socially distanced than usual, it was so nice to be able to say 'Welcome to Oban' to people again. My directing skills weren't as rusty as I feared they might be. I still knew my left from my right and managed to get people to Glencruitten Golf Club and on the road up to the tower. I'm looking forward to the next two visits before the season ends and just hope the weather holds out a while longer.

We've other things to look forward to this autumn, the Corran Halls is busy almost every weekend with shows

WHERE IS THIS?



and concerts. Personally, I can't wait to see Peat & Diesel and Del Amitri, fingers and toes are crossed that we don't have any more cancellations.

Oban Phoenix Cinema also has a full schedule for this month, including a showing of National Theatre's Romeo and Juliet. They will also be one of the venues for this year's Oban Pride, which is taking place on the 25th of this month in four separate venues around the town.

They're asking shops and businesses to decorate their windows and premises again this year and I'm really looking forward to the splash of colour it brings to Oban just at a time when it's starting to get darker.

The photograph last week was of the distillery. This week, who knows, sometimes not even me!

Lismore's early life is unearthed on island dig

by Kathie Griffiths
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Archaeologists and volunteers exploring Lismore's sacred past unearthed hidden signs of the island's early life just two days into a three-week exploration.

Several pre-historic artefacts were discovered, including a slate pot lid; flint scraper; worked flint fragment; worked slate and possible pendant.

A human tooth has also been found 'indicating that we are on the right track to uncover early church burials', said one of the dig organisers and island archivist Robert Hay.

Professional archaeologists Dr Clare Ellis and Dr Angela Boyle have been joined by 12 volunteers from the island and other parts of Scotland as well as a helper from London getting hands-on with the latest stage of a project which began



Early stages in the area round the Sanctuary Stone; and inset, Early finds from this dig.

six years ago. At the start of last week's dig, work was restricted to clearing growth from the site and removing the top layer of soil which turned up some of the early-day finds.

A successful crowdfunding bid helped to fund the excavation of the island's St Moluag's Early Monastery. Part of this dig is concentrating on the area

of the cemetery next to the Sanctuary Stone.

A large part of financial support was met by the generous bequest of the late Hugh MacPherson and a grant from the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland. The MacDougall McCallum Foundation (USA) also pledged to match fund.

Since 2015 Lismore Historical Society (Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor) and Lismore Parish Church have been working in partnership on community archaeological projects. It started with them raising eight Medieval grave slabs, repairing them and displaying them in a shelter. Focus later turned to the cathedral nave. Last year there was no dig due to Covid.

Samples from bones found during this dig will be sent to the Crick Institute in London for DNA analysis as part of the 1000 Ancient British Genomes Project. The Crick Institute offered £10,000-worth of analyses free of charge which will help the dig find out more about Lismore and its people at the time of the early church.

An open day is planned for Saturday, September 18.



Retail boss seeks public view on plans for Savile former house

The new owners of the Glencoe 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, writes Mark Entwistle.

Harris Aslam, director of Fife-based Scottish 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.

Mr Aslam earlier told The Oban Times' sister paper the Lochaber Times that he wants to turn the property into a family home. However, recognising the property's dark past due to its link with sex abuser Savile, he said he wanted to do something positive such as create a lasting memorial to another previous owner, the great mountaineering pioneer Hamish MacInnes, who died last year.

At an online public consultation last week, the two young Scottish entrepreneurs received general support for their plans to replace the existing house, which has been repeatedly van-

dalised, with a contemporary home designed by Dundee-based architect, Jon Frullani. The hope is also to incorporate a memorial to 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 have been the easiest and cheapest option, it was concluded this was not a viable option if they wanted to rid the site of its association with Savile.

Helen Fairlie, chairperson of Glen Etive and Glencoe Community Council, wanted to know if Mr Aslam and his family would live in the proposed new three-bedroom house on a permanent basis. She said: '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.'

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. He added: 'But Hamish's legacy lives on in the climbs he's done, 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.'

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. '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 it's 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.



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Appeal is launched to save Mull and Iona Ranger Service

by Kathie Griffiths
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Mull and Iona's rangers are looking for funding to help save their service.

Major cuts and changes in grant-giving priorities has put the outdoor service's future at risk. To save it, the islands' ranger service is calling for financial support by launching a fundraising campaign which NatureScot has agreed to match pound-for-pound up to a value of £6,000.

For more than 20 years, the ranger service has run as part of Mull and Iona Community Trust.

It was the first community-run countryside ranger service in Scotland connecting communities and visitors with the islands' landscapes, history and wildlife.

Advising visitors on how to



Youngsters litter picking on the Java path with Mull and Iona Ranger Service.

of teachers among others from the islands, the new funding appeal also has the support of wildlife and conservationist campaigner Daniel Brooks from Ulva Ferry

He said: 'Nowhere is it more important to have a ranger service than here on the Isle of Mull, the most popular wildlife tourism destination in the UK.'

Mull RSPB officer Dave Sexton said: 'The Mull and Iona Ranger Service does so much for our islands and needs our support.'

'Its work helps visitors, residents, young - and not so young - to appreciate and get the most out of the amazing environments we have here.'

'We are so lucky to have this

service and it deserves all the help we can offer to ensure it continues long into the future.'

Moray Finch, general manager of MICT, said: 'Saving our ranger service is so important for us all at MICT and for the wider community; the benefit to landowners, schools and visitors of the knowledge and skills of our rangers is irreplaceable so we're determined to keep the service running - but we need help.'

The rangers also support landowners and farmers to manage visitor access, and help to resolve countryside conflicts and issues, and they improve and manage footpaths and parking.

Emily added: 'Mull and Iona are a unique archipelago of wildlife rich islands and skerries; an extraordinary natural and cultural heritage and therefore an extraordinary

responsibility.

'Without the ranger service people will have fewer opportunities to connect with nature, less sharing of knowledge about our islands' landscape and wildlife, less concern, and less sense of responsibility.'

'In these times of lockdowns and Covid recovery, our work has helped to encourage people to improve their mental and physical wellbeing outdoors. Now we need your help to continue their work.'

'NatureScot has promised to match any donations received up to a total value of £6,000. No contribution is too small.'

You can watch a short film about the work of the Mull and Iona Ranger Service here:

<https://youtu.be/Tx-VqmPIOfs>

To make a donation towards saving the service go to <https://bit.ly/2YfvdXI>

Mull horror movie up for prize

A nerve-jangling movie shot on Mull is up for a prize at a top British film festival next month, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Shepherd, starring actor Tom Hughes, is in the running for awards at this year's BFI (British Film Industry) London Film Festival 2021.

The eerie film starring actor Tom Hughes and Kate Dickie, of Game of Thrones fame as Lysa Arryn, will have its world premiere at the festival on October 14, before being released to cinemas on November 5.

Shepherd's writer and director Russell Owen is delighted with the news of the film's selection saying it is a 'massive honour'.

Earlier this year The Oban Times reported some of the film's crew, including extras from Mull, were still waiting for wages.

Film boss Karim Tshibangu said he would pay out 'whatever



Greta Saachi in Shepherd.

is outstanding' once the film's sales agents paid him.

Mr Tshibangu, who heads up Castle Valley Films, had already apologised in The Oban Times in 2019 for unpaid wages.

Some of the extras, location assistants and bills were paid, others received part of their money at the time, but there

were still some who received no wages at all.

The film plot tells of Eric Black, played by Tom Hughes, who is running from grief after the mysterious death of his wife. He takes a job as a shepherd and is trapped alone on a remote weather-beaten island with an ominous secret.

Library extends opening hours

Browsing at all liveArgyll libraries is no longer limited, customers can spend as long as they wish browsing and also use seating provided, including study areas.

In the larger town liveArgyll libraries, public network computers can also be booked for one-hour time slots by calling the library during opening hours.

The new hours for Oban are: Tuesday 9.30am-4.30pm; Wednesday 9.30am-4.30pm; Thursday 9.30am

- 6.30pm; Friday 9.30am-1pm and Saturday 9.30am-1pm.

Kilmore 100 Club

Kilmore 100 Club winner for July was L Mudie, August was J Robertson and September were E Robertson & S Quillan. There are still numbers available for new members.

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.



scotland.police.uk [@PoliceScotland](https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland) [PoliceScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland)



OT

Prize pupils are a credit to

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Oban High School celebrated its annual prize-giving ceremony, congratulating high-achieving students.

For another year, the event was videoed because of Covid, but headteacher Peter Bain said regardless of the event being live or on film – all the young people who received awards were ‘a credit to the school and their families and thoroughly deserved their awards and high praise’.

He said: ‘Their effort, commitment and desire to achieve excellence was noted by all the staff.’

In a regular letter to parents Mr Bain said he had taken the opportunity to congratulate each student filmed for the prize night.

‘A few other seniors who had left school managed to receive their awards from heads of department outside or at the entrance to the school.’

‘Many others, for a variety of reasons, couldn’t join us but



their names will all appear on the roll call on the high school’s website,’ he said.

The prize-giving video can also be watched on the school’s own YouTube Channel.

In his letter, Mr Bain said the school had also put on an outdoor concert recently with popular Oban band The Chunks to make sure they put on some suitable event to mark S6’s transition to life after school.

‘We thought, with changes to the rules, we could at least give them one wee dance with a big band before they left.’

‘Those who attended got the chance to meet up and say their farewells to staff and to those friends about to leave for university or college further afield. Thanks to all who organised the event and to The Chunks for playing,’ he added.

■ For more photographs, turn to page 10.

Oban High School trad band performed at the award-giving ceremony.

Top right, Alice Jackson received the school prize for geography.

Below right, Adam Hutchison receives the Alexander MacLeod Memorial Award for Resilience



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Clockwise from above, Aoife McGuire, practical cooking; Edie Elliott, maths; Dylan Howe, business management; Claire Henderson, Gaelic; Grace Charlton, English; Hannah Crowe, the Wiltshire Prize; Mairi Inglis, computing; Ewan MacPherson, Dux; Ossian Clan winners; Eva Joss, Moncrieff Cup; and Kate Findlay and Niamh Cameron, Diarmid Clan leaders.



For full list of this year's prize winners, turn to page 10, with more photographs at www.obantimes.co.uk

Clàr Foghair BBC ALBA BBC ALBA Autumn Schedule



Trusadh – Beatha air an Oir
Trusadh – Lost Villages
20 Sultain, 9f
20 September, 9pm



Julie Fowlis | Ceòl aig Baile
Julie Fowlis | Ceòl aig Baile
Bho 23 Sultain, 9f
From 23 September, 9pm

Dàna | Scotland's Wild Side
Dàna | Scotland's Wild Side
Bho 22 Sultain, 10.30f
From 22 September, 10.30pm



Seòid a' Chidsin
The Kitchen Coves
Bho 23 Sultain, 10f
From 23 September, 10pm

Gàrraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
Scotlands Gardens
Bho 23 Sultain, 8.30f
From 23 September, 8.30pm



Trusadh – Afro-Gàidheil
Trusadh – Afro-Gaels
4 Dàmhair, 9f
4 October, 9pm

OT

OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PRIZE WINNERS

- Alik Aleynik – Baccalaureate Science
- Eliza Bavington - N5 Practical Cookery
- Georgina Burns – Higher Philosophy; Georgina Burns - Pathways; Georgina Burns - Foundation Apprenticeship Business
- Zuzannah Butkiewicz - Art Cup
- Elena Cameron - N5 Administration & IT; Elena Cameron - N5 Health & Food Tech
- Niamh Cameron – Higher Gaidhlig Fluent
- Amy Cameron – NPA Customer Service
- Jake Campbell – Endeavour Design & Technology
- Beth Campbell – Higher Dance
- Eve Campbell – Higher Administration & IT
- Fergus Carmichael – Higher RMPS; Advanced Higher Biology
- Grace Charlton – Higher Geography; Higher English
- Oran Charlton - Advanced Higher Maths - FJ MacKenzie Prize
- Domhnall Aonghas Colthart - N5 Practical Woodwork



Head boy Alik Aleynik receiving his award from Oban High School head teacher, Peter Bain.

- Kyle Cooper - N5 Physical Education
- Edward Coultham - N5 Application of Maths
- Hannah Crowe - Business Education - Wiltshire Prize; Higher History
- Fiona Cruickshanks - N5 Modern Studies; N5 Gaelic Learners

- Logan Cumming - N5 English
- Savannah Devlin - Higher Business Management; History - Rian MacAllister Award
- Ailsa Dowd - Advanced Higher Geography; Higher Environmental Science
- Bethany Dunlop - Ad-

- vanced Higher Drama
- Edie Elliott - N5 French; N5 Maths; N5 Chemistry
- Luke Emsley - NPA Games Design
- Robert Hadnagy - Advanced Higher Music
- Rose Harper - Advanced Higher History
- Claire Henderson – Higher Gaelic Learners
- Ruby Heritage-Crabb - N5 Graphic Communication; N5 English; N5 Art & Design
- Louise Herschy - N5 Administration & IT
- Kate Home – Higher Physics
- Dylan Howe - N5 Business Management; N5 Drama
- Adam Hutchison - Alexander Macleod Memorial Award for Resilience
- Patrick Hutchison - Advanced Higher English; Baccalaureate Science
- Mo Inall – Higher Biology; Higher Chemistry
- Mairi Inglis – Higher Computing; Higher Graphic Communication; Higher Maths
- Alice Jackson - Senior Geography - Carraig Gheal Trophy
- Charlotte Jackson-Stark

- Higher Graphic Communication
- Harry Johnson - Advanced Higher Physics
- Cameron Johnston - Pathways
- Eva Joss – Higher - Physical Education - Moncrieff Cup
- Clara Knox - SAMS Award for Achievement in Science
- Koa Lutgert – Higher Art & Design
- Mairi MacCorquodale - Higher Music
- Isla MacGillivray - Terry Donovan Prize for Citizenship
- Ellie MacGinty - Journalism
- Jordan MacIntyre - N5 Application of Maths
- Ishbel MacKay – Higher Drama - Ben Redfearn Award
- Freya MacKechnie - Advanced Higher Modern Studies; Higher Health & Food Tech
- Julia MacLeod - N5 Biology
- Lauren MacLeod - N5 Gaidhlig Fluent
- Ewan MacPherson - Chemistry - John Porter Award; DUX
- Claire McCaskill - Higher Modern Studies
- Aoife McGuire - N5 Practical Cookery
- Poppy McKillop – Higher

- Exercise & Fitness; Sports Coaching - Jim Lay Award; Terry Donovan Prize for Citizenship
- Joshua Mitchell - N5 Music Tech
- Owen Moran - N5 Practical Woodwork
- Innes Munro – Higher Travel & Tourism
- Ruairidh Munro – Higher Physical Education - Moncrieff Cup
- Alice Pollard – Higher English
- Katy Primrose - N5History; N5Dance; Higher French
- Ashleigh Sim - N5 Business Management
- Ashleigh Sim - N5 Maths
- Charis Simpson - N5 RMPS
- William Sykes - N5 Computing
- Iona Thomson - N5 Music
- Maisie Van Den Groenendaal - Higher RMPS
- Bel Van Den Groenendaal - N5 Physics
- Gregor Warnock - N5 Geography
- Calum Warnock - Foundation Apprenticeship Engineering
- Jaimee Yates - Advanced Higher Art & Design; Higher Maths

WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS 2021

FRI SEPT
17

THE FREDDIE AND QUEEN EXPERIENCE

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SAT OCT
9

LIVEWIRE - AC/DC TRIBUTE

Doors open 7pm

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Available from seetickets.com

FRI NOV
5

SIMON & GARFUNKEL THROUGH THE YEARS

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £22 + booking fee
Available from ents24.com

FRI OCT
1

STARS OF IRISH COUNTRY

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £25 + booking fee
Available from ents24.com

SAT OCT
16

DEL AMITRI

Starts 7.30pm

Tickets: £35 + booking fee
Available from ticketmaster.co.uk



Coll thanks pier master for 50 years' service

Coll has thanked John Wheeler-James for 50 years of service as the island's pier master.

With Mr Wheeler-James's retirement, the island has lost the last remaining link with half a century ago when a casual by-stander could give a hand with a rope as the ferry berthed and passengers walked up a shoogly wooden gangway to buy a ticket on board at the purser's office, writes Coll's Kirsty MacFarlane.

'Bookings as we know them today were unheard of and largely unnecessary. The traffic was mainly local residents, returning Collaich, a few 'towrists', freight and livestock.

'John, a native of Cornwall who married islander

Margaret MacLennan, started work on what is still known as the New Pier (although it is over 50 years old) in 1970.

'He joined his father-in-law, Alec, who would be his working partner until Alec's retirement in 1982. When John and Margaret were away from Coll between 1990 - 98, other fondly-remembered Collaich filled John's shoes during his absence and maintained the already-established Coll reputation for quick and efficient turn-around times which continues to this day.

'Two major changes took place in the 1990s: the installation of the ro-ro linkspan and the building of an office in 1996 from which to sell tickets and take bookings.

'For the latter, a third permanent post was created



Coll's retired pier master John Wheeler-James.

at the pier and the computer became a part of working life.

'Memorable sights over his long career include the grounding of the old Loch Seaforth at Coll and a near

catastrophe when the then-new MV Clansman's bridge controls failed and caused her to nearly run aground south of the pier.

'Probably the largest vessel

ever seen at the pier was the barge which assisted in the replacement of the linkspan in 2019.

'The tightening of health and safety regulations saw the blocking off of the main pier area to those wishing to wave to departing family and friends whilst the complexity of on-line bookings, record-keeping and ship-to-shore communications required training and adaptation.

'John took it all in his stride and continued to provide the best possible service. Entirely in keeping with the Coll outlook, John toiled away with only one duty colleague until 2015, at which point because of health and safety concerns long expressed by himself, a third person was assigned to

be on pier duty because of the ever-increasing weight of the ropes being used by bigger and bigger ships.

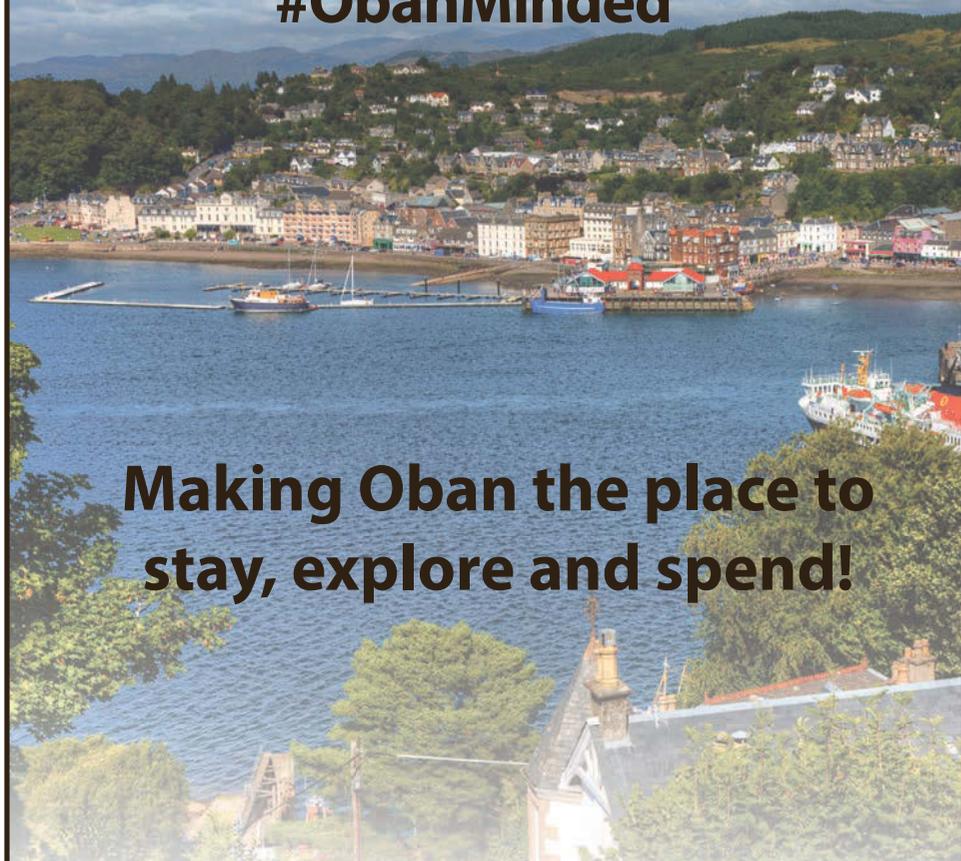
'Throughout all of these changes, John has been a steady hand at the tiller, cheerful in the face of adversity, bad weather and operational changes and a magician as often as possible in terms of achieving transport satisfaction.

'When asked to look back and assess his career, he takes the greatest pleasure in having safely embarked and disembarked three generations of Collaich at the pier and to have contributed to the maintenance of our community today.

'Thank you, John - we wish you a long and happy retirement.'

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At the top of their game

Highland Fasteners' extensive range of products and exceptional service has given the Oban business a reputation for quality both here in the highlands and across the UK and Europe

For more than a decade the Highlands' construction and marine industries have known that the best place for fasteners, tools and much more is Highland Fasteners on Stevenson Street, Oban.

And that knowledge is shared by customers far and wide; each week exports leave Oban for all across the UK and Europe via Highland Fasteners' own and third-party websites.



Deliveries on orders over £25 are free within the businesses' own van distribution area around Oban.

The team at Highland Fasteners make their own deliveries locally and work with networks of couriers to get orders out to customers as quickly as possible – something that is vital for construction where time is money and any delay can have a knock on effect for other trades working on the same project.



Add to this their exceptional service, you can see why they are at the top of their game.

Originally established in Mill Lane, Highland Fasteners moved to its premises on Stevenson Street in 2011.

Director Sean Murdoch, Alastair Stevenson, manager; David Evans, sales executive and Bruce Aitken, sales and repairs, between them have more than 35 years' experience, product knowledge and expertise to advise their customers.

'We have more than 10,000 products to choose from and we use over 200 manufacturers,' Sean said, 'we have a comprehensive range of quality tools and work wear, with a wide range of corded and cordless hand and power tools, PPE, fixings and fasteners.'



The teams' expert knowledge is valued by customers.



New this season and Highland Fasteners predicts it will be a winner: a toughened, low energy LED site light, which is self-righting. Running off the Makita power tool battery it is going to be a popular buy this winter.

'And if, on the off chance we haven't got it, we can source it for you,' said Sean.

Highland Fasteners also offers a same day delivery service through its very own van service on orders over £25 within its delivery area.

As well as a comprehensive website and online store, Highland Fasteners publishes its own catalogue – which is must-have for anyone in the trade in the Highlands. You will find a copy in works vans across the region.

The counter service opens at 7.30am during the week and 8am on Saturdays, for the industry's early start.

'Our aim is to be a one-stop shop,' said Sean.

The shop has become the unofficial social and networking centre for local trades thanks to the warm and friendly welcome, complementary tea and coffee plus the team's thorough working knowledge of the goods they sell - and keen prices.

The Oban base has been so successful that Highland Fasteners is now looking to expand and open premises in Fort William.

'We are in the process of looking for the right location' said Sean.



Sean Murdoch says the business prides itself on its friendly service.

The business stocks a huge range of products from many recognised, respected and proven brands; offering resists, screws, nuts, washers, fixings and many more quality products for construction and engineering.

And Highland Fasteners can kit you out from head to toe in PPE and work wear with a wide range of clothing for leading brands; footwear, eye protection, PPE and hard hats.

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On the curious trail of man in a bathtub on Loch Melfort

A man sat in a bathtub out on Loch Melfort is a puzzling sight, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Could it be the curious work of sculptor Antony Gormley famed for his life-size figures staring out to sea?

No, not likely, although he does have a cast-iron one fairly nearby looking out over the Kilbrannan Sound to Arran from the rocks below Saddell Castle in Kintyre.

This is not one of his – man in the bathtub's maker is closer to home I feel.

If you walk along the beach at the front of Loch Melfort Hotel, cross the rocks to the right and head to the natural pier, that is where you will get your best view unless you have a drone, are passing on a paddleboard, kayak or similar and can get closer-up to the skerries where bathtub man sits enjoying a soak.

Holidaymaker Corey Lambell from Perth was on a paddleboard when he encountered the mysterious man in the cast iron tub bolted to a rock.



How did it get out there? 'According to locals he's only recently appeared. He's also visible from the Arduaine Gardens viewpoint at low tide,' said Corey who took a photo before leaving the stone bather to his peace and quiet.

A quest to find out just why bathtub

man is there, drew blanks until a travel writer's blog turned up.

The blogger at myveggietravels.com says the quirky installation was put in place by a previous employee of Loch Melfort Hotel, who still lives nearby. Apparently the sculpture is his double.

Man in the bathtub, a curious sight out on rocks in Loch Melfort. Inset: the face is recognisable as that of the artist. Photo: Corey Lambell

Calum Ross, proprietor of Loch Melfort Hotel, came up trumps naming Ruaridh Litster-Campbell from Arduaine as our man.

As for finding our man in the bathtub, Mr Ross said: 'You'd need binoculars to see him from our decking but he's been the focus of much attention.

'Lots of kayakers and paddleboarders are going out there to get a close-up,' he said.

When The Oban Times tracked Ruaridh down on his family's farm, the 23-year-old was happy to chat about the lockdown installation that he got his dad Mike to help shift from yard to water.

'I'd rather keep a bit of mystery as to how we physically got it there,'

said Ruaridh, a self-taught painter, jewellery-maker and sculptor who left Glasgow to be with family during the pandemic.

'We had an old bath kicking round and I'd been a joking for a while about doing something with it out on the loch so lockdown was a good excuse to actually do it,' he added.

And it is true the concrete man does have Ruaridh's face – as well as his hands and feet which were specially cast but too expensive to do the whole body so the rest of him is improvised with filled in chicken wire.

It took less than a day for the man in the bathtub to be first spotted.

High tides cover him completely, and your best chance to get a sighting is when the tides are less than one metre.

As to how long he will stay out there depends on how he copes with the rain, wind and other brash elements.

'Let's see if he survives his first winter,' said Ruaridh.


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Friday 24 September



A fantastic Outdoor Cinema is popping up in Oban.

On Friday, 24 September 2021, Cinescapes and Oban Phoenix Cinema are transforming McCaig's Tower into a pop up micro cinema, with food, drinks and much more!

Join us at Oban's iconic McCaig's Tower as you immerse yourself in the wild and incredibly dangerous documentary about the power of water.

Aquarela is a 2018 documentary directed by Viktor Kossakovsky and grippingly explores the climate crisis through an oscillation of harrowing water encounters. From Hurricanes to disappearing ice, this is an absorbing masterpiece and fuelled by the ominous-apocalyptic metal score by Finnish violinist/composer Eicca Toppinen.

Tickets are donation based and you can choose from our three options available (suggested donation of £5 per person).

The evening promises to be full of specially crafted cocktails and good Scottish Scran, snacks and local delicacies. (Subject to licensing)

Arrive early to get a good spot and enjoy the food and drink.

**Doors open at 6:00pm,
screening starts at 8:00pm**

We strongly suggest you pre-purchase for your tickets

This is cinema done in style, so grab a couple of pals book your seats.

We strive to be as accessible as possible with wheelchair access and facilities on site. All film content will be shown with closed captions for D/deaf and hard of hearing audience members. If you have any added accessibility needs or questions, please get in touch at cinescapesfest@gmail.com.

Gates open at 6pm. To comply with COVID-19 government issued precautions please arrive at your ticket allocated time (which we'll send along in an email to you).

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Mull Mod hopes are dashed due to Covid

The heartbreaking decision to cancel this year's Mull Mod has devastated organisers.

The event, which committee members had hoped would be the first 'in-person' Mod since the pandemic, had to be called off just days before it was due to happen last weekend.

A sudden increase in Covid virus cases on the island, particularly in children, was to blame.

Mod chairperson Janet MacDonald told The Oban Times before the weekend: 'I'd just like to say how devastated we, the committee, all are that we've had to cancel at this late stage.'

'We had hoped to be the first in-person Mod since the pandemic began

'I'd like to thank the com-

mittee for the preparatory work they have done, and which is now wasted, as it can't be carried forward.

'Many thanks to our adjudicators, helpers, and all teachers and parents who have spent many hours preparing children and adults for the competitions, which will not now take place. We are especially sad that we can't arrange for online competitions at this late stage, as there isn't enough time.'

'Mull Mod is normally one of the biggest, if not the biggest local Mod, on the circuit, and we can't wait until next year when it will hopefully be back even bigger than usual.'

Last week Mod secretary Donna Dugdale announced on Facebook: 'There has been a sudden increase in

the number of cases in Mull, particularly in children, and we have to think of the safety and well-being of all competitors, adjudicators and volunteer helpers, as well as members of the public who may have attended.'

'I know you will be as disappointed as we are, especially when some of you would have been travelling here in only a couple of days, and because we were all so looking forward to actually having a face-to-face Mod.'

'I am just heartbroken to have to make this announcement and I know that the children will also be so disappointed.'

'We hope that you will all be able to come next year, for a bigger and better Mod than ever. Thank you for your on-going support,' she wrote.

Covid reduced Argyll recycling

Less waste was recycled, composted and recovered in Argyll and Bute last year than in 2019, a report has revealed.

Covid has been blamed after 43.7 per cent of the area's household waste was recycled, composted or recovered in 2020 – compared to 48.3 per cent the previous year.

The report, which went before Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee on September 8, pointed out that hardly any recycling took place between March and June of last year, when recycling and civic amenity sites across Scotland were required to close as a Covid protection measure and kerbside recycling collections were suspended to keep staff safe. The share of waste going to landfill rose correspondingly, from 51.6 per cent in 2019 to 56.3 per cent last year.

Executive director Kirsty Flanagan said in the report



resulted in a sharp decline in recycling levels during the April to June 2020 quarter due to the pandemic and the fact that the council had suspended recycling collections and moving to a fortnightly general waste collection,' she said in her report.

And she concluded: 'Steady progress has been made on recycling, composting and recovery, performance was affected during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic.'

'Due to the council kerbside collection services returning and recycling/civic amenity sites re-opening in June 2020, a more normal recycling level has returned.'

'It is hoped and anticipated that 2021 recycling, composting and recovery figures will show overall landfill diversion rates similar to pre-pandemic levels, approaching close to 50 per cent.'

that recycling/civic amenity sites re-opened in early June 2020 and most of Argyll and Bute Council's kerbside recycling services re-started in late June.

'The council recycling performance has returned to more normal levels and it is anticipated that 2021 figures will be more in line with pre pandemic rates. The combined recycled, composted and recovery rate has decreased from 48.4 per cent in 2019 to 43.7 per cent in 2020.'

'This is due to the aforementioned reasons which are noted above, this has therefore

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LETTERS

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

Congratulations all round

We have so many great pieces in this week's paper but first up we want to send a huge congratulations to all the Oban High School pupils that picked up an award at this year's annual prize-giving.

They should be very proud of themselves and all their hard work. We are sure their families and school are proud of them and their achievements.

Unfortunately this year's event had to be filmed because of Covid, but the ceremony is available on the school's YouTube channel for anyone to watch.

This week Collaichs have also been paying tribute to pier master John Wheeler-James who retired recently after 50 years of service to the island.

Mr Wheeler-James started work at the pier in 1970 when a casual bystander could give a hand with a rope as the ferry berthed and passengers walked up a shogly wooden gangway to buy a ticket on board. Since then John has overseen two major changes – installation of the ro-ro linkspan and the building of a tickets and booking office.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement, John, we're sure you will be missed.

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

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

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

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If it ain't broke...

I read your article on deer culls in Scotland last week. Oddly after having had a brief conversation with a southern student about ecology and deer management, it was of interest to me that deer populations had doubled since 1990.

How much of this is due to migration of sitka and fallow deer due to global warming?

My interest lay in that originally I also wondered do we now have cross breeds with red deer?

I was told the old way of deer management was to export to France and Germany to maintain the price and remove the avarice of the haunch and burger from modern era wild west prospectors, whether that would quell the bickering of how things should be done I don't know. I don't believe it was broken - why was it fixed?

Danny Aitken, Fort William

Bureaucracy gone mad

Almost any bureaucratic situation is made worse by 'collective responsibility', which is a euphemism for no one in charge and a lot of buck-passing.

It seems obvious that that is the case around a trust port for Oban, particularly where safety is a main concern.

Who wants a harbour, particularly one as busy as Oban, to be run by people who can busily look for someone else to blame if anything goes wrong? It needs to be run by a single group where everyone knows where the buck stops. Being in charge concentrates the mind beautifully.

To look more particularly at Oban's case, Argyll and Bute Council's record of inefficiency, procrastination and blind eye turning is such that it is terrifying to think that it is involved in running the harbour.

And here we go again. What happened at a recent meeting? They kicked the ball down the road until December. Why?

Argyll and Bute Council shouldn't be allowed to run a lawnmower, which is another story and a classic example of their lazy stupidity.

Anne Archer, Oban

More investment in roads

As I travel from one side of my ward to another on the islands and the mainland there is one subject that continues to be raised above all others and that is our infrastructure.

There is no doubt the council has made huge strides forward and we have invested substantially in our roads and pavements, particularly on our islands which have in the past seen much

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Cha b' iongnadh rudhadh gruaidhe a bhith air an Àrd-Ollamh Tod Walker is e air cuid de chùrsaichean Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd (OGE), air a bheil e fhèin a-nise na Cheannard, a chur ann an suarachas! Bhiodh mòran ga mheas car annasach gun robh sgoilear bho thaobh eile an t-saoghail a' tagradh airson na h-obrach seo air Ghàidhealtachd, gun ghuth air a leithid a bhith ga stèidheachadh san dreuchd. Cha ghabh e bhith nach robh Walker air rannsachadh mion-aidheach a dhèanamh air na bha colaistean chaidreachais OGE a' teagasg mas do chuir e airson na h-obrach seo. Bhiodh dùil gun deach ceistean geur a chur air aig agallamh a thaobh a bheachdan air na bha an Oilthigh a' dèanamh, agus tha fhios gun robh làn-chothrom aige a smaoinean fhèin fhoillseachadh. Feumar faighneachd co-dhiù a nochd e barail aig an ìre sin gun robh cuid de na cùrsaichean a tha gan tabhann faoin, mar a tha e a-nise air a ràdh, agus ma bha fios aig an fheadhainn a thug an obair dha air a bheachdan dè tha sin ag innse mu fheallsanachd stiùiridh an Oilthigh anns na bliadhnaichean romhainn? Carson nach biodh cuid amharasach gun deach Walker fhastadh gus atharrachadh bunasach a thoirt air clàr chùrsaichean OGE?

Chan iad oileanaich a-mhàin, tha mòran de luchd-teagaisg cholaistean OGE cuideachd, aig nach eil cuimhne air àm far nach robh an oilthigh againn, agus 's fhiach urram a nochdadh dha na ceudan a rinn spàirn fad iomadh bliadhna agus an goireas priseil seo fhaotainn. Mar a bhios fios aig cuid agaibh cheangail structair OGE dà cholaiste dheug fo bhratach Oilthigh, agus ged

needed works seemingly put on the back burner.

What we need going forward is a sustained level of investment in our infrastructure. This will mean more support for our local council's budget from central Government.

Councillor Alastair Redman

Protecting our MPAs

Greenpeace has highlighted commercial fishing in protected sea areas (MPAs).

This needs to stop as resources need to be conserved and managed sustainably. Species depletion and loss must be reversed and the seabed needs to remain protected from bottom trawling which, among other harms, releases carbon to the atmosphere. We are getting to a tipping

a chruthaich sin dùbhlain a thaobh neo-eisimeileachd agus stiùireadh nan ionadan fa leth, thug e cothrom cudromach dha gach colaiste cùrsaichean a thabhann aig àrd-ìre foghlaim agus mar oilthigh sam bith tha OGE cuideachd a' tàladh oileanaich far feadh an t-saoghail. Tuigear cuideachd gun tàinig sreath biurocrasaidh agus cosgais an lùib stèidheachadh OGE, ach saoilidh mi gun robh riamh tuigse ann nach fhaighte leithid de ghoireas gun chosgais. B' e an t-amas a bh' ann bho thùs cothrom a thoirt do mhuintir na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan oideachadh àrd-ìre fhaotainn cho faisg 's a ghabhadh air an coimhearsnachdan fhèin. Bha dòchas ann gun lughdaicheadh seo na bhathas a' call de shluagh choimhearsnachdan an iomail nuair a dh'fhàgadh iad air tòir foghlaim, agus bhathas cuideachd an dùil gum brosnaicheadh an goireas fèin-spèis agus moit choimhearsnachdan nan dualchas fhèin. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an t-amas sin ga choileanadh air gach làrach oideachaidh agus tha toradh nan cùrsaichean eadar-dhealaichte nochdte ann an saoghal cosnaidh feadh na dùthcha agus thall thairis.

Ann an agallamh le pàipear-naidheachd ionadail thuirt An t-Àrd-Ollamh Walker, Ceannard OGE, nach biodh àite aig cùrsaichean faoin nach robh dol a chruthachadh cothrom cosnaidh. Tha e a-nise air iarraidh gun gabhar a leisgeul, agus e ag ràdh nach eil clàr-gnothaich falaichte sam bith ann gus cuid a chùrsaichean a mheas nas cudromaiche na feadhainn eile. Dearbhaidh an ùine sin!

point of no return on climate and environmental issues and any malpractice has to be identified and addressed immediately. All associated commercial industries should be levied and the tax put towards future-proofing, sustainability and resilience. All enterprises exploiting natural resources should be licensed and granted under strict conditions on sustainable practices, with severe 'on the spot' penalties for breaches.

The time has come to act and when this occurs it is the little people who eventually, out of self preservation, stand up. Please use the platforms we have – including The Oban Times – to let everyone know we are facing a planetary emergency.

Graeme Guy, Dingwall.



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DISTRICT NEWS

You are first class, Stephen!

Duror Postie Stephen Cargill is first class when it comes to delivering funds for a good cause.

The 49-year-old, who lives near Taynuilt, swapped his shorts for a kilt for two weeks on his usual Duror and Appin round in aid of The Beatson Cancer Centre in Glasgow.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters he has raised £936, topped up by Royal Mail with another £200; smashing well over the £1,000 mark.

Stephen, who has been working the Appin round for eight years now, came up with the idea of wearing his kilt when his employers chose The Beatson as a good cause for all its offices in the PA postal code area to fundraise for.

Stephen's wife Ethel was so proud of his efforts she contacted The Oban Times to tell us about it and thank everyone who gave so generously.

'I'm very proud of him. He got his photo taken by quite a few tourists - I think they thought the kilt was part of his official uniform here in Scotland,' she said.



Appin and Duror postie Stephen Cargill in his kilt raising funds for The Beatson Cancer Centre in Glasgow.



Sue Greenwood at a market stall being run by North Connel Horticultural Society to promote its plans for a show next year.

North Connel horticultural show will be back

North Connel and District Horticultural Show Committee is planning a blooming great comeback for its popular show in 2022.

To let people know the news, committee members ran a market stall at the Racer Café in Barcaldine on Saturday September 4.

Sue Greenwood wrote: 'The clement weather meant that the gazebo was perfect in its dual role of shelter and display area for the stall's signs.

'Posters and photographs from bygone shows, as well as colourful Facebook cards and fresh

flowers made the stall eye-catching.

'A delightful vase of sweet peas came from plants grown and given to Jane and Steve Eccles by the late Alison McDougall.'

There was a wide selection of perennial plants and shrubs, including an indoor section, this season's apples and courgettes, seeds, bulbs, and gardening books courtesy of Bookends.

'Thanks go to everyone who contributed to the stall in any way. It was a quiet day with a gentle trickle of visitors and the sum of £85 was made for the show,' added Sue.

Former Bridge of Orchy primary school for sale

Offers are being invited to buy Bridge of Orchy's former primary school and schoolhouse.

The property is set on a 0.41 acre site close to the village's railway station. The buildings are also only a short distance from one of Scotland's most scenic walks the 95-mile West Highland Way, which runs from Milngavie to Fort William.

The closing date for offers is Thursday



September 30. Full details can be found at argyll-bute.gov.uk/property/bridge-of-orchy-former-school-and-schoolhouse.

At random



MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Crisis point

Much has been said about the shortage of staff hitting so many hospitality sector businesses in the area but I hadn't realised how desperate it is becoming until I tried to book a table for dinner in Oban early last week.

Many of the most popular outlets were unavailable because they are closed two days a week (and we wanted to eat out on Tuesday evening), and those which weren't had no tables free.

'Staff needed' signs proliferate in restaurant, cafe and pub windows, and I know from speaking to business owners in Oban that they are seriously concerned.

With the high season winding down, demand should decrease, even if only a little, but the sector is at crisis point and there is little indication of much being done to help.

The causes of the shortage of staff seem to be blamed on two things, neither of them a surprise: the Covid pandemic and Brexit, the latter of which has resulted in a withdrawal of many European migrant workers.

Covid is having an impact very directly, as I also discovered last week. I had a reservation at Coast in George Street for Thursday evening but this excellent restaurant was forced to shut because of a positive test.

How this crisis will resolve itself is beyond my ken but for the sake of the Oban area's economy, I hope sincerely that a solution can be found.

I know that Andy Spence and his colleagues at BID4Oban will be coming up with a plan.

Credit due

I thought it was about time that someone (ie, me) gave a nod of recognition to the splendid Paddy Lafferty, of D&K Lafferty, Contractors, Oban.

Now, I admit Paddy is a friend of mine, but he deserves praise for the amount of sponsorship he provides for numerous events in the area, most recently the John MacEachen Memorial Trophy at Glencruitten Golf Club. He is also principal sponsor of Oban Saints and countless other good causes. Oban would be a far poorer place without his generosity.

What do you think? Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk



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Duror youngsters go off in search of James of the Glen

Field archaeologists are shining new light on the life of James Stewart, hanged as an accessory to the murder of Colin Campbell of Glenure in 1752.

Known as James of the Glen, Stewart went to his death protesting his innocence. The event became known as the Appin Murder and was immortalised in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Kidnapped*.

A walkers' bothy in Glen Duror, Appin, has long been said to be James of the Glen's birthplace but the building in its present form is too young to have been occupied in the mid 1700s. Now, field archaeologists have recorded the remains of a longhouse on the slopes above the bothy, dating to the time when Stewart was herding cattle in Glen Duror.

Members of the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists surveyed the foundations of the house with its associated byre and barn with the help of children from Duror Primary School.

The survey team worked closely with Duror local historian Neill Malcolm and Hon Lord Stewart QC. Lord Stewart is currently reviewing 18th century state papers which might reveal more about James Stewart's life in the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden.

A document from 1746 records a James Stewart, 'natural brother' of Charles Stewart of Ardsheal, on the same prison ship as Flora MacDonald, famous for helping Bonnie

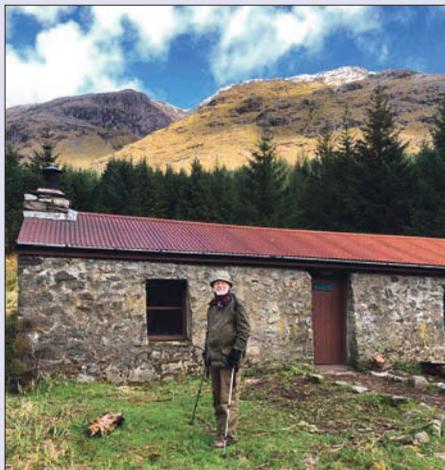
Prince Charlie escape Scotland. Another suggests the same man was one of six Jacobite prisoners held at New Gaol, Southwark, who requested to have their leg irons removed. The gaoler demanded a price of 6 Guineas, an enormous sum at the time. Was this prisoner none other than James of the Glen?

"Much ink has been spilt on the Appin Murder," said Elaine Black, Survey Director. "It is interesting that even now we can still learn more about James Stewart and his remarkable life".

Colin Campbell was a government agent responsible for carrying out evictions in the Jacobite stronghold of Appin. He was shot as he made his way through the Wood of Lettermore, near Ballachulish, on the 14 May, 1752. The prime suspect at the time was James Stewart's foster son and Jacobite courier Allan Breck Stewart but he escaped to France. More recently, suspicion has fallen on a group of young Stewart lairds who held a shooting party prior to the murder or Campbell's nephew Mungo Campbell who was with him at the time of the assassination.

It is said that to this day leading members of the Stewart family know the name of the true culprit.

The research results are available in a short publication called *Glen Duror, In Search of James of the Glen*, at a cost of £7.50. Contact elainemsblack@gmail.com



Duror historian Neill Malcolm outside Glen Duror bothy.



ACFA field archaeologist Dugie MacInnes with Oban colleague Alison Blackwood and Neill Malcolm survey house footings above Glen Duror bothy.

New Trossachs to mark Scott's

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust has received the green light from the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park to reinstate the historic Roderick Dhu Path, and construct a stunning lookout tower and platforms above Trossachs Pier at Loch Katrine.

This is the spot where Sir Walter Scott was inspired to write his *Lady of the Lake* poem, published in 1810. Scott was born 250 years ago last month, and it was his poem that is credited with triggering the birth of Scottish tourism.

The site was visited earlier by other literary giants such as poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and writer Dorothy Wordsworth who stayed in wicker huts at this jutting headland which were built for 'the accommodation of strangers to admire and sketch this wild and picturesque landscape' and were made accessible in the late 1770s by a new road blasted out of the rock.

This imaginative project is part of a more ambitious Trossachs Trail Tourism Management Programme which has been developed by two heritage and conservation charities - the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust and Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs - in partnership with local communities and Forestry & Land Scotland, and seeks to improve visitor infrastructure at busy tourist hotspots in the heart of the Trossachs.

James Fraser CEO of the Steamship Trust and chairman of the Friends said: 'Securing approval for this landmark cultural heritage project to celebrate the contribution of literary giants such as Sir Walter Scott to Scottish tourism is a major step forward in our efforts to improve visitor facilities and connect people with Scotland's rich natural and cultural heritage in easily accessible, safe and responsible ways that are compatible with the aims of the National Park.

'We are hugely indebted to the large number of local residents, visitors, businesses and community and conservation groups for their unprecedented level of support for this project which has really captured the imagination and we look forward to delivering a high-quality project which does justice to the magnificent

setting which Scott vividly described as the scenery of a fairy dream.'

A conditional funding approval of £375,000 was secured earlier this year from VisitScotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to assist with the delivery of this project and a series of car park and visitor facility improvements at Ben A'an, Trossachs Pier and Stronachlachar Pier car parks, along with improved signing around the 40 mile Trossachs Trail which was inspired by the original Trossachs Tour developed by Thomas Cook in the 1800s.

Main photograph, an artist's image of what the lookout tower and platforms above Trossachs Pier on Loch Katrine will look like once constructed. The location is where Sir Walter Scott was inspired to write his *Lady of the Lake* poem; below left, Loch Katrine today. Photograph: Paul Saunders Photography; below left, landscape with tourists at Loch Katrine, 1815, John Knox. Photograph: Antonia Reeve.



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DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



After a bit of a break, Down Memory Lane returns this week with two photographs from July 2000. Above is a photograph of Oban Samba Band, who, we are guessing, were playing at the Argyllshire Gathering that year. But can anyone tell us their names?



This photograph is of a cheque presentation following a karaoke night at Mondo's, which raised almost £200 for Drummond Learning Centre. On the front row is Mhairi Still, Stuart Fraser (manager), Sue Porter (toy librarian), Angela Taylor, chairperson, with Anja Powell. In the back row are Robert Daiely, Brian Silkowski, Deirdre MacFarlane (vice-chairman) and Gillian Thomson (Mondo's employee).

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BUSINESS NEWS



Move to reduce fatalities at sea

New laws to make one of the UK's most dangerous jobs, fishing, safer came into force on September 6.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels (less than 15 metres length overall) now includes the need for fishing boats to be inspected both in and out of the water every five years.

Previously, fishing boats only needed to be inspected in the water when first joining the UK Ship Register and after that inspected either in or out of the water once every five years.

This is part of ongoing work by the MCA and its partners in the Fishing Industry Safety Group to help reduce the number of deaths in the industry.

Between 2012-2020 there were 52 fishing fatalities which translates to a figure of 50 fishermen in every 100,000 losing their lives at work – the national average across all sectors is 0.5 fatalities per 100,000. There are about 12,000 fishermen and 5,400 fishing vessels in the UK fleet.

David Fenner, who heads up the fishing safety section at the MCA, said: 'Fishing is one of the most dangerous industries with the rate of fatalities being approximately 100 times higher than that of the UK general workforce.'

The new code addresses crew protection and man overboard recovery, construction, watertight and weathertight integrity, stability, machinery, electrical installations and in and out of water inspections.

He added: 'The sea is dangerous and we want to make sure we do all we can to protect those who work in it.'

Promising signs of economic recovery and new optimism

There are signs of emerging economic recovery and renewed optimism in the Highlands and Islands, according to the latest Business Panel survey in the region, writes Sandy Neil.

More than half (57 per cent) of businesses in the Highlands and Islands are now operating at pre-pandemic levels or beyond.

Two-thirds (67 per cent) have expressed confidence in the region's economic outlook for the next 12 months, up from just 37 per cent in October 2020.

Commissioned by development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and carried out in June this year by Ipsos MORI, the survey questioned more than 1,000 businesses.

Most (93 per cent) respondents were confident in their own ongoing viability, up from 84 per cent at the start of the year.

Four-fifths (80 per cent) were optimistic about their prospects over the next 12 months, compared with 75 per cent pre-pandemic.

Almost all businesses were confident in their abilities to adapt to ongoing restrictions (93 per cent), to changes in customer demands (95 per cent), managing cash flow (90 per cent), and remaining competitive (91 per cent).

Confidence was however lower in their abilities to recruit required skills (59 per cent), accessing new markets (63 per cent), and accessing external finance (66 per cent).

Two-thirds (66 per cent) reported relatively stable employment levels in recent months, and most had the employees they needed.

Almost half (44 per cent) of respondents perceived the UK's exit from the European Union as having a negative impact on their business, while 11 per cent perceived this as positive.

The majority (89 per cent) said they were able



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 'n nan Eilean

to access the goods and services they required, however 84 per cent reported issues in doing so.

High or increased costs were cited by 70 per cent of businesses, 65 per cent cited delays and 35 per cent said getting the required volume was problematic.

Businesses were most optimistic about selling within the UK and least optimistic about sales to the EU, with 40 per cent of exporting firms experiencing issues in doing so.

This is the 19th Highlands and Islands Business Panel survey commissioned by HIE since 2014.

The findings have been used to inform policy and decision-making on how best to support businesses in the region.

HIE is now working with the Scottish Government and the South of Scotland Enterprise agency to extend the survey to cover all rural Scotland.

Carroll Buxton, HIE's interim chief executive, said: 'We already know that the Highlands and Islands region has been disproportionately affected by both the pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU.'

'The early signs of recovery coming across in this survey reflect the high levels of innovation, flexibility and entrepreneurship that many of them have shown during the most trying of times.'

'Their resilience has been tested to the extreme and having weathered that storm will have helped boost confidence in many instances.'

'This survey also shows what areas of operation businesses are finding most challenging, for example the issues around imports and exports, skills and accommodation.'

'These are areas that we as the development agency will need to look at with our partners to make sure our resources and support programmes are targeted to best effect.'

Meanwhile, Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron said the SNP must not allow its alliance with the Scottish Greens to undermine business confidence.

The Scottish Conservative MSP said: 'The HIE survey shows that businesses across the Highlands and Islands are beginning to feel more optimistic about the future, but that confidence will be undermined if the Greens, who oppose economic growth, gain undue influence over the Scottish Government.'

'Businesses here need to know that our neglected road infrastructure will be upgraded, a commitment which the Greens have repeatedly questioned.'

In response, the Scottish Greens MSP for the Highlands and Islands, Ariane Burgess, said: 'The Scottish Conservatives are in no position to talk about the interests of the small businesses of the Highlands and Islands, who are struggling to cope with the impact of the Tory Brexit on labour shortages and the supply chain.'

'While the UK Government has given hand-outs and tax breaks to party donors, the Scottish Greens are clear that small businesses and social enterprises are at the heart of our communities and key to a green recovery.'

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Oban Chocolate Company to focus on handmade chocolates and online sales

One of Oban's busiest hospitality establishments is all set for change.

The Oban Chocolate Company will move away from being a sit-in café and focus instead on its handmade chocolates.

Established in 2003, the business has steadily grown over the years to become a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, but owners Helen and Stewart MacKechnie have decided that now is the time for a slight change of direction.

The couple, who have two young children, explained: 'We've successfully built this business up over 18 years but the last 18 months have undoubtedly been the toughest we've ever experienced.'

'We managed to keep going through both lockdowns by selling chocolates online and since the latest reopening at the end of April, it has been incredibly busy in both the café and the shop.'

'We had 10 café employees on furlough at the start of that scheme but as furlough winds up at the end of this month, only three of those same



staff will still be with us. Good people have left our business for jobs outwith the uncertain hospitality industry whilst others have naturally gone on to further education opportunities.'

'More than four months of searching for new

Oban Chocolate Company's hugely popular café has become takeaway only after a difficult 18 months. It is now open seven days a week.

café staff has resulted in only one addition to our team.

'We had already reduced our opening hours by half in July and August to allow for days off and staff shortages but, if anything, that only

led to increased demand on those days we were still open.'

The couple have now decided that the best way forward is to focus on producing their unique chocolates for retail in their shop, as well as growing their online customer base by investing in new equipment for the chocolate factory.

The café will move to takeaway only for coffees, hot chocolates and chocolatey treats.

Helen explained: 'The team that have seen us right through the pandemic have been incredible.'

'They have worked exceptionally hard in very trying, restrictive conditions and we are so proud of them.'

'Whilst this has been a particularly difficult decision to make, there is an acknowledgment that tweaking things is the only sustainable option for the foreseeable future.'

'We feel we're leaving the café on a high note, without having to compromise on the quality and service that it has become known for over the years.'

Assets to be sold as CS Wind goes into administration

CS Wind (UK) Limited's assets are to be sold off as the company has been placed into administration.

In 2016, CS Wind (UK), a subsidiary of the global wind turbine tower manufacturing group, bought the wind towers factory at Machrihanish Airbase Community Company Business Park. With partners, it invested in its upgrade from manufacturing onshore to offshore wind turbine tower sections which it successfully did from 2018 to late 2019, delivering towers from the upgraded Campbeltown Harbour deep water quay. However, in recent

years, despite the UK claiming to have the largest offshore wind market in the world, CS Wind (UK) suffered a decline in contracts and revenue. As a result, the company began a managed wind-down during 2020 and was effectively mothballed in the spring of that year.

The business was unable to secure new contracts and all staff have now either left or been made redundant, resulting in the loss of 94 full-time positions and many more in the supply chain. With no prospects of any recovery in the market, the company's directors decided to place the business into administration.

'The confirmation that CS Wind (UK) has not been able to secure contracts for any of the UK's many offshore projects is very disappointing and demonstrates that further policy support is needed for UK manufacturing operations,' said MACC chairman Cameron McNair.

'The Kintyre community has worked hand-in-hand with the operators of the factory well over the years and we look forward to working with the administrators, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Government to find a viable and prosperous future for this very capable site.'

Michelle Elliot and Tom MacLennan, partners with FRP Advisory, have been appointed joint administrators of the business.

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron said of the news: 'Now that we have confirmation of administration, it is imperative Scottish Government ministers, and HIE, take action to ensure that the assets at the site are put to productive use.'

'Frankly, the local community deserves a lot better than this, and if the onshore windfarm sector is not going to deliver the jobs ministers promised, we need to find alternatives that do.'

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Snorkeling artists sketch Argyll's 'world class' seafloor

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Snorkelers have spent the summer swimming along Scotland's west coast doing some underwater sketches of the seafloor – and yes, it was as difficult as it sounds.

The Society of Wildlife Artists is collaborating with Argyll Coasts and Islands Hope Spot, a designation of the coastline stretching from Ardnamurchan to Loch Sween, which celebrates the area's 'world-class natural riches'.

Argyll Hope Spot's co-ordinator Keira Anderson told The Oban Times: 'Argyll's marine wildlife is more diverse than almost anywhere else in Scotland.'

'It includes the huge, global-



The artists snorkelled and swam sketching what they saw under the waves.

ly-endangered flapper skate, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, basking sharks, otters and seabirds.

'Sheltered beds of sea grass and pink maerl are important fish nurseries and carbon stores.

'Colourful serpulid worms build towers on the seabed and soft corals cloak rocky reefs.'

'There are kelp forests, exotic sea fans, flame shells and feather stars.'

'The coast has fishing grounds, salmon breeding riv-



ers, wild anchorages, snorkel trails, shipwrecks, ancient oak forests and castles.'

In July four artists from the Society of Wildlife Artists undertook a week-long residency in the Hope Spot.

During this time they snor-

kelled and sailed across the area, making observational sketches and studying the life that lives under the waves.

Using their sketches, each artist produced new pieces which they exhibited at a local community event, which will be included in the Society of Wildlife Artists annual exhibition at Mall Galleries, London.

A second group of artists are preparing to undertake the same residency from September 15-22.

They will be travelling across the area to study, observe and sketch an array of species and habitats.

'The Argyll Coast and Islands Hope Spot is a community-led celebration of life under the sea and on land in this part of Scotland,' adds Keira.

'It is the first Hope Spot in

the mainland UK. Hope Spots are special places, vital for the ocean's health, linked by the international organisation Mission Blue.

'This growing global network of areas of international importance also includes the Galapagos Islands and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.'

'The Argyll Hope Spot includes four Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), as well as numerous Special Areas of Conservation, National Scenic Areas and National Nature Reserves. Our aim is that everyone on the West Coast should be aware and proud of the beauty and global significance of the marine life here.'

Follow Argyll Hope Spot and the artists' adventures online on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Somebody mentioned to me recently that their fridge door is covered in gig tickets bought before (or during) lockdown for shows that haven't happened yet.



I am sure a great many people are in a similar situation. Well, this weekend, one of these gig tickets can finally be taken off the fridge door and handed to a bouncer at the Barrowland Ballroom as 1,900 Highlanders and Islanders will ascend the famous steps to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Trail West, pictured. When the invite from the boys fell through my letterbox for the original pre-lockdown date, it read: Ten Years of Trail West. "Ten years of Trail West?" I thought. "I can hardly stand two hours of them!"

By the time the show has been able to go ahead, of course, they have had to rename the event: Eleven Years of Trail West! I do not, however, imagine that any of the punters at the gig will have much of a concern as to the finer details. The name of the game will be to celebrate

one of the West Coast's all time favourite bands no matter whether they are 10 or 11 years old. In reality – some of the lads have been playing together for much longer than a decade anyway. It may have been 11 years ago that they formed this particular line up under the name of Trail West but I vividly remember a fresh faced Ian Smith competing against me in the Under 19 accordion section at the Oban Mòd 2009 and telling me afterwards that he was playing in a band.

We must have both been about 16 at the time so the idea of playing in a band was extremely exciting.

That original line up would be unrecognisable to Trail West fans today. The personnel are different and Ian has a much redder face! But it was not long before the line up of Ian, Seonaidh MacIntyre, Alain Campbell, and Andrew Findlater became a regular fixture in bars, halls, and festivals all throughout the West Coast. Wherever they turned up,

when Trail West were in town, a good night was guaranteed. And, in Glasgow, no Sunday evening was ever complete without Trail West in the Park Bar or the Islay Inn.

More recently, they upped the stakes by adding Jonathan Gillespie on keys and Allan Nairn on electric guitar so their sound is now massive. This has limited the number of pub gigs they do but means they are 100% ready to take on venues like the Barras.

Their popularity has never solely been down to their incredible music; but also to the fact they are universally loved as people and are always up for the craic. I dare say Saturday night will be no different! Here's to 10 (or 11) years!

What's on in Glasgow

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

McCaig's Tower venue for free film to show power of water

A free outdoor screening of a documentary celebrating the awesome and destructive power of water will be shown at McCaig's Tower in Oban as part of a nationwide festival of Scottish film.

Aquarela, directed by Viktor Kossakovsky has been called 'the most dangerous film ever made', and includes terrifying footage of storms, cracking ice flows and furious seas.

The film will be shown on September 24 as part of the Scotland-wide Cinescapes Festival, which celebrates Scottish films in the locations which inspired them.

Jennie Larney, of the Phoenix Cinema in Oban said: 'We are very excited about it. We are showing it at McCaig's Tower which is an iconic building.

'We are doing it for free to say thank you to the people in our town for supporting us during the pandemic. It is an amazing film and the sea is important to everyone in Britain, particularly the Highlands.

It will also be the launch event for our Festival of the Outdoors, which features films about the environment in all its forms.'

Isobel Salamon, co-producer



Aquarela has been called 'the most dangerous film ever made'. It will be showing at McCaig's Tower later this month.

of the Cinescapes Festival, said: 'This is going to be our most spectacular event yet. We are setting up a big open air screen which people can watch inside McCaig's Tower.

'The main message of this film is about climate change. We see how vulnerable we are as human beings. This is the Year of Coasts and Waters, and also COP26. We thought how great to show this near water, and that is why we

chose McCaig's Tower. [Oban's Phoenix Cinema] is a great community hub. We want to champion these local heroes.'

Aimara Reques, the Glasgow-based producer of Aquarela said: 'We are very pleased to be included in the Cinescapes programme. Aquarela really addresses the question of how we connect to the natural world and how we can make films and documentaries that reflect that. We are very proud of the film. Kossakovsky is known as the Rembrandt of documentary films and is a maestro of how to present the world moment to moment in cinematography.

'It was very difficult to make but we worked with a lot of international partners. Our aim was to produce a high quality film which puts Scotland at the heart of international film distribution.'

There are 116 tickets which can be bought by donation. Pre-purchased food from Taste of Argyll is available on the night, with orders needing to be placed by midday on September 22. The Highland Liquor Co. from Ullapool will be serving their fishermen's strength Seven Crofts Gin.

What's on at Oban Cinema



FILM FESTIVAL OF THE OUTDOORS THIS WEEK!

Friday 17 September

Limbo 12A	16:15
Climbing Blind 12A	16:30 ★ Festival Film
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings 12A	18:30
Phil Liggett: The Voice of Cycling 12A	19:00 ★ Festival Film

Saturday 18 September

Spirit Untamed U	13:00
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings 12A	14:15/19:30
The Last Bus 12A	15:15
Groundswell PG	17:15 ★ Festival Film
Limbo 12A	17:45
Climbing Blind 12A	20:15 ★ Festival Film

Sunday 19 September

Spirit Untamed U	12:00
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings 12A	13:30/19:00
The Last Bus 12A	14:30
Limbo 12A	16:30
Land 12A	17:00 ★ Festival Film
Phil Liggett: The Voice of Cycling 12A	19:30 ★ Festival Film

Wednesday 22 September

Groundswell PG	16:15 ★ Festival Film
Limbo 12A	16:30
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings 12A	18:30
Land 12A	19:00 ★ Festival Film

Thursday 23 September

Limbo 12A	16:15
Phil Liggett: The Voice of Cycling 12A	16:30 ★ Festival Film
Shang-Chi & The Legend Of The 10 Rings 12A	18:45
Climbing Blind 12A	19:15 ★ Festival Film

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.

Limbo (12A)

Drama / Comedy
Omar is a promising young musician. Separated from his Syrian family, he is stuck on a remote Scottish island awaiting the fate of his asylum request.

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.

Creating Scotland's next b

West coast artists have a final chance to take part in a residency run by Craft Scotland, the national development agency for craft.

This year sees the final residency of its COMPASS: Emerging Maker programme. It aims to 'spotlight and support the potential of some of the country's most exciting makers, from those reimagining traditional crafts in a design-led contemporary way to those leading the way in producing sustainable, ethical handmade objects'.

The residency will include mentoring, practical business advice and access to upskilling to help make the sector more resilient to change.

There are more than 3,500 makers in Scotland working in contemporary craft.

This includes everything from furniture making to silversmithing, working in textiles, ceramics, glass and jewellery, explains Craft Scotland.

'With a value to the economy of £70 million according to the latest figures (2012),' the agency for craft says, 'Scottish



contemporary craft enjoys an enviable reputation on the world stage, as international demand for handmade objects sees makers regularly feature in international showcases, and develop markets in Japan, the US and Europe.

'Craft is a popular career for all ages, and is a second or third career for more than two-thirds of makers in

Scotland. It continues to be a female-dominated industry (82 per cent in 2019) and makers often note they have high career satisfaction.

'Now as the final COMPASS residency gets underway, the need for a variety of routes into craft, a focus on innovation, building an understanding of different business models, and robust business practices is

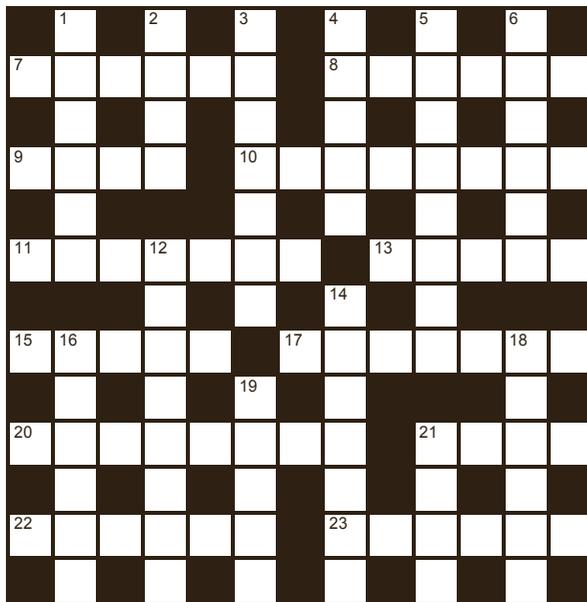


more important than ever for Scotland's maker community.'

Graduating makers in 2021 include Argyll-based textile designer Eve Campbell who has collaborated with high street brands such as White Stuff and John Lewis, and Highlands-based leathercraft maker Isabel Hendry.

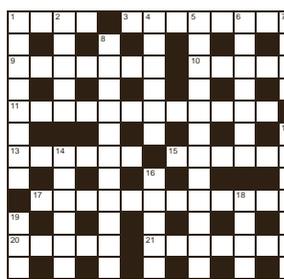
Textile designer Isabel Hendry said: 'Craft Scotland's

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Expensive spread (6)
 - 8 Not clear (6)
 - 9 Similar to (4)
 - 10 Axe (8)
 - 11 Frenzied (7)
 - 13 Female prophet (5)
 - 15 Shade of yellow (5)
 - 17 ...while the sun shines (4,3)
 - 20 A place where certain contributions aren't paid (3,5)
 - 21 Pear-shaped instrument (4)
 - 22 Wooden container (6)
 - 23 Quieten (6)
- Down**
- 1 One who fills boxes (6)
 - 2 Zodiac beast (4)
 - 3 Candidate not mentioned on the ballot paper (5-2)
 - 4 Dangerous weapon (1-4)
- 5 Aforesaid (8)
6 Musty (6)
12 Upwards position (8)
14 Heartfelt (7)
16 Tie (6)
18 Reproduce by mime (3,3)
19 Throat projection (5)
21 Stud site (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Inbetweeners producer's Silent Roar in Hebrides

by Sandy Neil
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Ten years after Scottish producer Chris Young broke UK box office records with the hit comedy *The Inbetweeners Movie*, shooting begins on Young Films' latest theatrical feature film *Silent Roar*.

A contemporary adolescent tale of surfing, sex and Hellfire set on a Scottish Hebridean island, this first feature from Scottish writer and director Johnny Barrington, born and bred on the Isle of Skye, is backed by BBC Film, British Film Institute (BFI) and Screen Scotland both awarding funds from the National Lottery.

Silent Roar will be shot entirely on the Isle of Lewis, in Uig. Shooting runs for six weeks and started on Monday September 6.

Silent Roar stars newcomers Louis McCartney as Dondo, a young surfer struggling to accept his father has died in a fishing accident, and Ella Lily Hyland as Sas, a high-achiever



Producer Chris Young, right.

dreaming of escape, with stage veteran Mark Lockyer taking the role of Paddy, a charismatic maverick preacher.

Chris previously produced Johnny Barrington's award-winning short *Tumult* which was nominated for a BAFTA after having its World Premiere at Sundance Film Festival. He also runs the Young Films Foundation on the Isle of Skye, is a talent development scheme that aims to find and aid a new generation of

Scottish screenwriting talent. He said: 'We are so excited to take this opportunity afforded us by BBC Film, BFI and Screen Scotland, to give Scottish film-making a shot in the arm with a film which captures the unique landscape of the Hebrides as a backdrop to a story which celebrates the joy and the pain of adolescence in the context of surfing.'

'Having lived here for over 20 years, I've longed to find a film that can express the power and

the glory of this landscape and its people, and *Silent Roar* is that film.'

'We are hugely indebted to the people of Uig, who will be providing us with their support and goodwill, not to mention our local line producer Shona Mackenzie.'

'Our ambition greatly exceeds our budget but as I discovered with *The Inbetweeners* [which grossed £46 million], the key to success lies in the strength of the script, the director and the actors, and I'm confident that we have found that magical combination here.'

The film's director and writer Johnny Barrington added: '*Silent Roar* is about the weird and wild things people do with their grief. It is inspired by recent life events and my childhood, all mixed up so nobody would ever recognise it. Ever!'

'I've been dreaming of and working towards making a feature film for 20 years now so I can't wait for us all to start shooting.'

boom: art and crafts



Left, Argyll textile designer Eve Campbell, and some of her work; and above, Highlands-based leathercraft maker Isabel Hendry and, inset, some of her work.

COMPASS programme gave me the confidence to launch my business.

'It showed me that I was ready, that I knew more than I gave myself credit for and really was a source of validation for both my collection and my ideas, neither of which I'd had a chance to share in a public space before.

'It gave me a network of other creatives at the same stage as me which has been invaluable and has resulted in life long

friendships. Living in a remote location these networks are all the more important.

'I feel lucky to have been part of the next generation cohort and feel like part of the wider Craft Scotland community who I know I can reach out to should I ever need to.'

Jo Scott, head of programmes at Craft Scotland, said: 'Scotland-based makers enjoy many advantages - from excellent further education courses across the country, a

strong heritage of making here in Scotland, and an outward facing sector keen to embrace new technologies, and international influences to create new work.

'Despite this, makers in Scotland face unique challenges, many of which have been heightened by the impact of Brexit and the pandemic including access to craft markets and fairs, disrupted supply chains or access to digital infrastructure for online-based businesses.

'Craft Scotland developed COMPASS in 2018 to focus on developing craft talent following research and maker feedback.

'We have now had more than 50 makers go through the COMPASS Programme, including cohort two and three in 2021 from the Emerging Maker programme, who have had their residency at Hospitalfield this summer/autumn.'

She added COMPASS would allow makers to take a holistic look at their creative and business practice as well as network.

The Big Bike Film Night parks up at Fort William cinema

A feast of short films devoted to the bicycle is touring Scottish screens for the first time, reaching Fort William on September 22, writes Sandy Neil.

The Big Bike Film Night, which is taking place at Highland Cinema, is a collection of international movies specifically selected in New Zealand by Brett Cotter, who is passionate about sharing 'the best cycling short films from around the world'.

'The dynamic concept showcases the colourful array of cycling genres, with films from the unforgiving shores of the Faroe Islands to the urban neighbourhoods of Auckland, to an epic bike-rafting expedition, with a selection offering plenty of appeal and thrills for pedal patrons and movie goers,' said the Scottish festival's organiser Ollie Hawkey, who moved to Scotland from New Zealand a year ago.

'We search for the very best cycling short films that inspire and tell a story. Our collection has something for everyone, whatever your ride is.

'You can expect action,



drama, humour and plenty of inspiration in the mix with 12 short films being presented.'

This year's line-up of movies, which remains a mystery until the night itself, includes 'a part documentary, part fantasy with mountain bike illustrations that will have you looking for your rig and heading down the trail in search of the same kind of magic,' Ollie said.

Another film tells of 'two Australian adventurers who rely solely on human power and the forces of nature to propel them through the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Faroe Islands'. Another shows 'three adventurers bike-rafting across one of New Zealand's

most remote National Parks'.

One of the 'outstanding' films in the 2020 collection, 'Being Unstoppable', shows what it takes to compete in Ironman New Zealand, one of the most extreme triathlons in the world.

'Our film festival celebrates cycling in all its glorious shapes and forms. Regardless of whether you are a cycling fan or a cinematography fan, this is something that everyone should see.'

For more information and to buy tickets to a screening visit: www.ridetreeline.co.uk or visit Highland Cinema at highlandcinema.co.uk/the-big-bike-film-night

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

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

DIHAOINE 17 An t-Sultain

FRIDAY 17 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.40 An Là – NEWS
- 18.50 FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier 2021/22 - Hungary v Scotland
- 20.55 Dan
- 21.00 Peter Tobin-Murtair Bitheanta/Serial Killer
- 21.50 Dhan Uisge
- 22.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 22.45 Dealbh is Slighe
- 22.55 Orain nan Gaidheal

DISATHAIRNE 18 An t-Sultain

SATURDAY 18 An t-Sultain

- 17.45 An La
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership-Ross County v Hearts
- 19.45 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile
- 20.00 Prosaig
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 TRNSMT 2021 Highlights
- 22.30 Air Iomall-Music from the Edge

- 22.45 Dealbh is Slighe
- 23.00 Scottish Premiership-Ross County v Hearts
- 00.45 Binneas-Na Trads

DIDÒMHNAICH 19 An t-Sultain

SUNDAY 19 An t-Sultain

- 16.00 An Là
- 16.15 Seachd Là
- 16.55 Live Rugby. Women's Rugby World Cup 2021 Europe Qualifier. Spain v Scotland
- 19.00 Mach as mo Rathad/Born to Drive
- 19.30 Alleluia!
- 19.55 Dan
- 20.00 Garraidhean Mora na h-Alba
- 20.30 Vets:Gach Creutair Beo
- 21.00 Farpaisean Chon- Chaorach
- 22.00 Bannan S2 Ep1
- 22.30 Bannan S2 Ep 2
- 23.00 The Valhalla Murders
- 23.45 Dealbh is Slighe

DILÙAIN 20 An t-Sultain

MONDAY 20 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine-Baking
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Tigh- Fuine/The Bakery
- 21.00 Trusadh – Beatha air an Oir/Lost Villages
- 22.00 Bannan S2 Ep3
- 22.30 Moulin Rouge Ecosse
- 23.30 Dhan Uisge
- 23.40 Port-Druthag Bheag Eile

DIMÀIRT 21 An t-Sultain

TUESDAY 21 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming

- 19.00 Binneas-Na Trads
- 19.15 An Là – NEWS
- 19.25 FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier-Scotland v Faroe Islands
- 21.35 Vets-Gach Creutair Beo
- 22.05 Trusadh – Beatha air an Oir/Lost Villages
- 23.05 Machair
- 23.30 Dan
- 23.35 Alleluia

DICIADAIN 22 An t-Sultain

WEDNESDAY 22 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Fuine-Baking
- 19.30 Slighe Chladach Fìobha/Fife Coastal Path
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Leugh Mi/Book Show
- 21.00 Sar-Sgeoil/The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
- 22.00 Bannan S2 Ep4
- 22.30 Dana/Scotland's Wild Side
- 23.00 Na Gleidheadairean/The Animal Keepers

DIARDAOIN 23 An t-Sultain

THURSDAY 23 An t-Sultain

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Lot/The Croft
- 19.30 Trusach-Sgeulachdan a Ghlasaidh/Life in Lockdown
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 Garraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 Julie Fowlis-Ceol aig Baile
- 22.00 Seoid a' Chidsin-The Kitchen Coves S6 2021/22
- 22.30 Na Deachdairean/Dictators Kim 11 Sung
- 23.00 Dhan Uisge/Loch Loyne
- 23.30 Dand-Scotland's Wild Side



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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The next meeting for the widows group is **Tuesday 5th October at 2pm** in the Corran halls

We meet for friendship and support and will also have Mr Colin MacLean-Fleming to tell us about fire regulations.

This group is particularly intended for widows without children.

If interested please phone Joyce on 07818 244572



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2 SF

3

4

5 MUNRO'S

6 FLOORSHOP

7

8 North West Motorcycle Services

9

10

11

12 pets at home

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 The OBAN TIMES

22

23

24

Streets: Lochside Sreet, Lynn Road, Lochavullin Drive, Lochavullin Road, Crannog Lane, Mill Lane.

Other labels: Tesco, Argos, M&S, Oban Memorials Monumental Sculptors, LMS AUTO SERVICES, Aldi, P, North West Motorcycle Services.

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Provides high quality memorial masonry to anyone in the Highlands and the Isles. An SQA qualified memorial fixer which has been established since 1989.
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21. THE OBAN TIMES

1 Crannog Lane, PA34 4HB
First published in 1861, The Oban Times quickly developed into the main weekly newspaper for the west coast of Scotland as well as our 7 day a week news coverage on our website
Tel: 01631 568000

22. LMS AUTO SERVICES

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





This year's Gas Safety Week is running from 13th to 19th September. The week-long annual campaign raises public awareness of gas safety and the importance of taking care of your gas appliances and is coordinated by Gas Safe Register.

In the right hands gas is safe, but poorly fitted and badly maintained gas appliances or equipment can put you at risk of gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. The Gas Safe Register is the official



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list of gas engineers who are legally allowed to work on gas appliances. Gas Safe Register can help you find a registered engineer in your local area and tell you if they're qualified for the type work you need them to do. Visit GasSafeRegister.co.uk for further information.

Have regular servicing and maintenance

It is important that you get all the gas appliances checked regularly. Get the gas boiler, gas fire and gas cooker checked once a year by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Annual maintenance not only helps keep the heating and hot water working properly, it helps keep you safe. Look out for signs of carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide (CO). what do you need to know?

What is carbon monoxide? Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas which has no taste, colour or smell. It can make you feel seriously ill and can kill quickly without warning.

What are the signs of a carbon monoxide leak? Carbon monoxide can be produced when poorly maintained, incorrectly fitted or badly repaired appliances do not burn gas completely.

Look out for the following signs that could indicate that a gas appliance is not working correctly, and CO may be present in the house:

- Floppy yellow or orange flame on your gas hob, rather than a crisp blue flame
- Dark, sooty staining on or around gas appliances
- Pilot lights that frequently blow out
- Increased condensation inside windows

GAS SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Is the flame from the gas appliance yellow and lazy?**
Have a look at the gas flame, for example whilst cooking. The flame should be crisp and blue. A floppy yellow or orange flame may be a sign that the appliance is not working correctly (except for fuel-effect fires that display this colour flame).
- Is there sooting or staining?**
Dark staining around an appliance (like a gas fire) is a sign that it may not be working correctly and is producing carbon monoxide.
- Is there a build up of condensation?**
A build up of condensation in the room where there is a gas appliance is a sign that an appliance may not be working correctly and is producing carbon monoxide.
- Are vents or chimneys blocked to stop draughts?**
Gas appliances need ventilation to work correctly and it is important that these are not blocked to stop draughts.
- Do you use the cooker to heat a room?**
Only use gas appliances for their intended purpose. For example, it can be dangerous to use a gas cooker as a form of heating.
- Are you renting your home?**
In rental properties the landlord is legally responsible for the maintenance of the gas appliances that they provide, pipework and flues. They must also arrange a gas safety check with a qualified Gas Safe registered engineer every year and provide proof of this annual check by giving the tenant a copy of the Landlord's Gas Safety Record

How to stay gas safe

- Ensure your gas appliances are checked annually by a qualified Gas Safe registered engineer
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm marked EN 50291 which carries the British Standards Kitemark

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The key signs are:

- Floppy yellow or orange flames on gas appliances, such as cookers, instead of a bright blue one
- Increased condensation inside windows
- The pilot light repeatedly going out or the boiler fails to light
- Black or sooty marks on or around your gas appliances
- Feeling unwell – the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are: headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness

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Around the markets

United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday September 7: sold 4750 sheep of all classes. At the show of pens of Blackface lambs prior to the sale, which was sponsored by Carr's Billington, Mr. D MacKinnon, Low Tirfergus, Campbeltown judged the various classes and he chose his champion pen from Achalic Farm, Lerags, which later sold for £69.50 to M/s F Errington & Sons, Hyde Park, Cumbria. 3832 lambs averaged £53.42 per head. Hill Blackface Lambs lacked flesh. Cross Bred lambs consisted mainly of 3rd & 4th draws and sold at levels comparing favourably to recent rates.

LAMBS - BF - £69.50, Achalic Farm; £69.50, Mid Farm; £69.00, Fiart; £64.00, Bonawe HF; £64.00, Scammadale; £63.00, Bragleenbeg; £63.00, Shella-lachan; £61.50, Glenshellach; £61.00, Ensay. SUFFx - £79.00, Ardentraive; £77.50, Mid Farm; £74.00, Killiechroonan. TEXx - £92.00, 119 Craigston; £89.00, Port Na Croish; £88.00, Bonawe HF; £87.00, 9 Grean; £87.00, Shenavallie; £84.00, Gorteneoran; £81.50, Aird; £81.50, Wood Cottage Croft; £80.00, Poltalloch; £80.00, Achnamonie; £80.00, Port Na Croish. CHEV - £90.00, £77.00, 4 Aros; £74.00, Ardentraive; £70.50, Wood Cottage Croft; £70.00, Quinish Estate. CROSS - £75.50, £62.00, 2 Bonawe Croft; £61.00, Creagnich. MULE - £84.00, Fiart; £68.50, Killiechroonan. CHEV



Champion pen of BF lambs at Oban Mart from M/s Hodge, Achalic Farm. Middle, Karen MacKay from Carrs Billington (sponsors), and right, judge, Mr MacKinnon, High Tirfergus.

MULE - £83.50, Shenavallie; £76.00, Braefoot. EWES - SUFF - £87.00, Mid Farm. TEXx - £62.00, Strontoiler; £60.00, Ardentraive. CHEV - £76.00, £75.00, Ardentraive; £70.00, Port Na Croish. CROSS - £63.50, Auchnacraish. MULE

- £74.00, Kengharair; £69.00, Glenshellach; £61.00, Ardenca-ple. BF - £58.50, Aird; £56.00, Plocaig; £55.00, Scammadale.

United Auctions, Tiree, Wednesday September 8: sold 22 cattle and 1187 sheep. Bullocks sold to £1200 for a SimX from Middleton Farm and Heifers sold to £1020 for a HerX from Clachan. Cast Cows sold to £1270 for a BSHx from Croish. In the sheep section, lambs sold to £92.00 for TexX from 2/15 Balevullin, Ewe lambs sold to £160 for Mules from Mannal and Gimmers sold to £195 for SuffX from 2/15 Balevullin. All classes of stock met a good trade and sold above sellers expectations. Stock was shown in good bloom.

LAMBS - SUFFx - £77.00, Druimasaidh; £70.00, Scarinish Farm. BELTx - £88.00, £77.00, Hillcrest; £71.00, Heylipol Farm. TEXx - £92.00, 2/15 Balevullin; £88.00, Benview; £84.00, 4 East Baugh; £80.00, Benview. CHEV - £87.00, £73.00, 8 Barrapol. CROSS - £75.00, 3 Balevullin. BF - £58.00, Gordonlea (Coll). FEEDING EWES - SUFFx - £118.00, £80.00, 6 Crossapol; £77.00, Druimasaidh; £74.00, Whitehouse. BELTx - £118.00, £87.00, Heylipol Farm. TEXx - £100.00, Ruaig; £100.00, Heylipol Farm; £91.00, Hillcrest; £89.00, Heylipol Farm; £89.00, 6 Crossapol; £87.00, £85.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £84.00, Whitehouse; £82.00, £81.00, Ruaig; £81.00,

Sandaig; £80.00, Lochphuill; £79.00, Ruaig; £79.00, Heylipol Farm; £77.00, Crofthouse; £76.00, 4 Kilkenneth; £76.00, Hillcrest. CHEV - £86.00, Vault; £79.00, Sandaig; £70.00, 8 Kilkenneth. CROSS - £79.00, 1 Kenovay; £70.00, Lochphuill. MULE - £85.00, 6 Crossapol; £80.00, 8 Balevullin; £77.00, £76.00, Heylipol Farm; £71.00, Lochside; £70.00, Ruaig. BF - £40.00, Ruaig; £40.00, 1 Kilkenneth. CORRECT EWES - TEXx - £92.00, Dunbeag; CHEV - £98.00, £82.00, 2a Caolis. GIMMERS - SUFFx - £195, 2/15 Balevullin; £180, £165, 2/15 Balevullin; £150, 5 Kilmoluaig. CHEV - £150, Carrachan. MULE - £165, £160, £155, Greenhill. CHEV MULE - £180, 2/15 Balevullin; £165, Greenhill. BF - £130, Mannal. EWE LAMBS - SUFFx - £160, Mannal. TEXx - £145, Mannal; £135, Hillcrest; £120, £110, Mannal. MULE - £130, Braeside; £105, Mannal. CHEV MULE - £130, Mannal. BF - £90, Lochside. BREEDING RAMS - BFL - £300, 1 Kenovay. BELT - £400, Ruaig. TEX - £200, Braeside.

United Auctions, Islay, Friday September 10: sold 4721 lambs and sheep of all classes. 4270 lambs averaged £81.44 per head and 216.17p/kg (+21.07p). Lambs were shown in excellent bloom with the average weight being 1.4 kilo's heavier on the year. Despite selling some 1500

more lambs on the corresponding sale last year, averages rose by £10.74 per head. Once again, this record entry of lambs attracted a good selection of buyers from throughout the country and again proves that there is no better place to sell your lambs than at your local market.

LEADING PRICES PER HEAD LAMBS - SUFFx - £110.00, Coultorsay; £107.00, Ardbeg; £106.00, Coultorsay; £100.50, Lossit; £99.00, £95.00, Coultorsay; £94.50, Craigfad; £93.00, Ardbeg; £92.00, Coultorsay; £91.50, Knocklearach; £90.00, Coultorsay; £90.00, Ballinaby; £90.00, Ardtalla Estate; £89.00, Duich; £89.00, Kilchiaran; £89.00, Ballimartin; £88.50, Lossit; £88.00, Ardtalla Estate. BELTx - £96.00, £88.50, £85.00, Aoradh; £84.00, Gartness; £81.00, Aoradh. TEXx - £101.00, Kirkby; £99.00, Balaclava; £97.00, Kirkby; £95.50, Gartness; £95.00, Lower Cragabus; £94.50, Balaclava; £92.50, Lower Cragabus; £92.00, Balaclava; £90.00, Woodend; £90.00, Kirkby; £90.00, Ardbeg; £90.00, £89.00, Gartness; £89.00, Coultorsay; £89.00, Ballimartin; £89.00, Ardbeg. CHEV - £94.00, Kinnabus; £85.00, Ballivicar; £78.00, Aoradh; £77.50, Keppols; £77.00, Kinnabus; £77.00, Lossit. CROSS - £93.50, Island; £86.00, Duich; £85.00, Ballinaby. MULE - £94.50, Bola-Na-Traigh; £88.00, Corrary; £86.50, Tallant; £82.50, Keppols; £80.00, Island. BF - £76.50, Kilchiaran; £76.00,



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- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-feet holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

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Ceannacroic; £67.00, Portantruan; £66.00, Tallant; £65.00, Finlaggan.
EWES – SUFFx - £104.00, Conisby. TEXx - £99.00, Ardbeg; £91.00, Charlotte Street. MULE - £87.00, Woodend. BF - £51.00, Ceannacroic; £51.00, Cladville; £46.00, Corrary.
LEADING PRICES PER KILO LAMBS – SUFFx – 251p, Ardtalla Estates; 248p, Finlaggan; 244p, Woodend; 240p, Knocklearach; 236p, Ballinaby; 235p, Craigfad; 230p, Ardtalla Estates; 229p, Coultorsay; 229p, Knocklearach; 228p, Ardtalla Estates; 227p, Ballachlaven; 227p, Ardnave; 226p, Craigfad; 225p, Ardnave. BELTx – 255p, Gartness; 248p, 233p, Aoradh. TEXx – 264p, 256p, Balaclava; 250p, Lower Cragabus; 245p, Ardtalla Estates; 244p, Balaclava; 242p, No 1 Foreland; 241p, Kirkby; 238p, Ardnave; 233p, Conisby; 232p, Balaclava; 232p, Ballimartin; 232p, Balaclava; 231p, Ardbeg; 230p, Kirkby; 230p, Gartness; 229p, Tallant; 227p, Charlotte Street; 226p, Lower Cragabus. CHEV – 239p, Coillabus; 224p, Coille. CROSS – 207p, Island. MULE – 208p, Charlotte Street; 207p, Ardnave; 206p, Coille; 205p, Knocklearach; 202p,

Island; 200p, Keppols. BF – 191p, Ceannacroic; 186p, Portantruan; 183p, Cnoc Na Faire; 183p, Finlaggan.

United Auctions, Dalmally, Saturday September 11: sold 8495 sheep of all classes. This was the Principal Show and Sale of BF wedder lambs, sponsored by The Blackface Breeders Association, when 7052 BF lambs averaged £55.46 (+£2.40). Prior to the sale, the show was judged by Mr Jim Watson, Pityot Farm, Stonehaven and his awards are as follows: Champion pen, taking the James Weir Memorial Trophy – Clachan Farms, Kilniver, £87.00 to A. MacGregor, Allanfauld. Res Champion – A & M Buchanan, Achnaba, £75.00 to C & K Malone, Pitcairn. A tremendous offering of top quality lambs was presented to a large following of buyers from throughout Scotland & England.
LEADING PRICES PER HEAD LAMBS – BF - £87.00, Clachan Farms; £76.50, Balliemeanoch; £75.00, Achnaba; £75.00, Drissaig; £74.50, Saulmore; £73.00, Sonachan Farm; £73.00, Turnault; £72.00, Clachan Farms; £72.00, High Balantyre; £71.50,



Dalmally: Mr Alec Telfer, left, President of The Blackface Breeders Association, Mr Colin MacFadyen, Clachan Farms, Kilniver, with Mr Jim Watson, Pityot Farm, Stonehaven, Judge.

Fernoch; £71.00, Tayvallich Estates; £70.50, Scallasaig; £70.00, Lurignish; £69.00, Invernahyle; £68.50, Achnaba; £68.50, Balliemeanoch; £68.00, Silvercraigs; £67.50, Dall Farm; £67.50, Corrylorn; £67.00, Innisaig; £67.00, Brackley; £66.50,

Glenfeochan; £66.00, Luss Estate; £66.00, Millpark; £66.00, Dericambus; £65.50, Glenfalloch; £65.50, Bragleenmore; £65.50, Stronmagachan; £65.50, Acharonich. TEXx - £88.00, Eurach; £83.00, Luss Estate; £79.00, Ardachuple; £75.00, Curacao;

£74.00, Balliemeanoch; £70.50, Ardachuple; £63.00, Callart. CHEV - £78.50, Blairmore; £67.00, Caddleton; £66.00, Achnacone. CROSS - £81.00, Fersit; £77.00, Achnacarry; £73.00, Scotstown; £73.00, Ardchonnell; £72.00, Wester Tullich; £70.00, Eurach.

FEEDING EWES – CHEV - £46.00, Blackmount. CROSS - £49.00, Balliemeanoch. BF - £54.00, Eurach; £51.00, Stonefield; £40.00, Eurach.
LEADING PRICES PER KILO LAMBS – BF – 220p, Clachan Farms; 217p, Kiloran Farmers; 217p, Fernoch; 216p, Saulmore; 216p, Doune of Glendouglas; 216p, Invernahyle; 216p, Littleport; 215p, Turnault; 215p, Duncroisk; 215p, Fernoch. TEXx – 267p, Ardachuple; 252p, Callart; 249p, Ardachuple; 235p, Brackley; 235p, Ardchatten; 233p, Eurach; 231p, Luss Estate; 226p, Ardchatten; 223p, Ardachuple; 223p, Curacao; 223p, Ardachuple. CHEV – 242p, 234p, Caddleton; 223p, Craig A More. CROSS – 245p, Wester Tullich; 239p, Blairmore; 224p, Fersit; 224p, Callart.



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SCOTTISH FIELD
October



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Landrover, Toyota, Isuzu,
All single and double can pickups
Any age or condition considered
Also buying motorhome and caravans

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

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**All types of 4-wheel drive
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Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford and
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Will travel and collect.**

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

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

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Caravanettes and camper vans, all
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email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

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E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

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ask for Robert**

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Mot till Feb 22, 108k miles May part exchange for orkney angling boat
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WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards. We do not dispose.

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All finance figures based on Peugeot Passport Finance. 48 months at 6000 miles per annum. Other terms and mileages available to quote. Optional final payment. Terms & Conditions Apply. Over 18s only. Pictures for illustration only. Figures correct at time of print.

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SCOTTISH FIELD WHISKY AWARDS

29 October 2021
Edinburgh Sheraton Hotel
7pm arrival
Dress code: Smart casual



TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:
beautifultickets.com/events/scottish-field-whisky-awards-21st-anniversary

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

TRUST



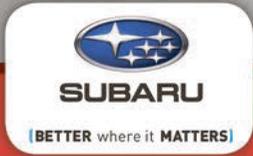
Local press in print and digital is **THE MOST TRUSTED** source for local news and information

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Having a great team of people is key to delivering the very best for our customers in all seasons. As we celebrate our 100th year in business, family values and serving our local communities remain at the forefront of what we do.

We're keen to hear from experienced PCV licence holders with an up-to-date CPC qualification. However, if you don't have a PCV licence and have never even considered driving a bus before, don't worry! We have a range of opportunities for trainee drivers, with PCV training up to the value of £2,000. Our team will support

you through the process, guiding you through each step to obtain the relevant qualifications. It's even possible to still work in your current role whilst you complete the first part of your training.

Our bus drivers come from all walks of life. It's never too late to re-train. Whether you are a parent returning to work now that the kids are going to school or perhaps you are tired of office life and want to get out on the open road - training to be a bus driver offers you a job for life! As a bus driver you play an important role in your local community, often a lifeline in our rural areas.

With an extensive network of depots throughout the West



Coast of Scotland and the Scottish Borders and beyond, we can offer flexibility on location and the opportunity to work in other areas, developing your skillset and career opportunities along the way.

If you are friendly, have great customer service skills, enjoy meeting people and love driving we would be delighted to have an initial chat with you. Our team are on hand to talk you through the process and answer any questions you may have.

Call us today on **01586 552319**, email **recruitment@westcoastmotors.co.uk** or visit **westcoastmotorscareers.co.uk**, we can't wait to welcome you on-board!

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Please visit our website **westcoastmotorscareers.co.uk** to see all available vacancies where you can apply online.

Or you can email your CV and covering letter to **recruitment@westcoastmotors.co.uk**
Alternatively, please call **01586 552319** for further information.



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As well as joining a family business with family values, we offer a competitive rate of pay of £10.50 per hour, and an excellent range of benefits including:

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- ✔ Free travel for you and your family
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I enjoy driving through the beautiful and scenic Argyll and Highlands and having a great relationship with our local customers.
Angus McGregor, Oban.

After years of part time work, I retrained as a bus driver, it was the best decision I ever made.
Lorna Sneddon, Dunoon.

I love that every day is different. It's a relaxed atmosphere, but professional at the same time and I get to work with a great bunch of people. Chris Hoon, Oban

No two days are the same. I enjoy being part of a great team, meeting people and helping visitors to the island. Iain Middleton, Bute

West Coast Motors
bringing people together since 1921

RECRUITMENT

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of

Boat Skipper - Loch Etive, near Taynuilt, Argyll.



You will carry out tasks that are involved in the running of a successful and safe vessel. You will be responsible for ensuring that all equipment on board the boat is safe and operational, that the appropriate certification is in place for the boat and ensure the boat is maintained to a high standard at all times. You will also be expected to take part in general farm duties.

Previous work in aquaculture is essential and you must hold an advanced powerboat/costal skipper as a minimum. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence.

This is a full time position, working a 40 hour week Sunday to Thursday, including weekend cover on a rota basis. We offer attractive salaries along with company pension scheme and occupational health support.

You can also expect to receive a high level of training and development opportunities.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: hr@dawnfresh.co.uk

Closing date for applications is **27 September 2021**

Are you looking for permanent employment and like working outdoors? Maybe this is the job for you?

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK and we are looking to recruit:



Husbandry Technician – Taynuilt

Husbandry Technician – near Lochgilphead

Husbandry Technician – Lochearnhead

These roles focus upon all aspects of successful trout production. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

This is a full time position, working a 40 hour week along with weekend cover on a rota basis. You can expect to earn between £23,923 - £28,109 per annum. Other benefits include an occupational pension scheme, life insurance and cycle to work scheme. There is also the opportunity to undertake a modern apprenticeship in Aquaculture.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: hr@dawnfresh.co.uk

Closing date: **30 September 2021**

Maintenance Manager

Aggregate Industries is a member of the Lafarge Group and a leading supplier of traditional and sustainable construction materials to major building and construction customers. With nearly 4,000 employees and operations across the UK and Northern Europe, we are committed to helping create a better built environment. You will lead the site's Fixed Plant Maintenance department as part of the site engineering support team. Facilitate the development and deployment of site maintenance policies to ensure compliance with all legislative and corporate requirements. These activities should support the site's reliability based culture and the promotion of Glensanda as a world leader in the development of best practice. This will incorporate the management of all activities undertaken by the department members and contractors in the execution of their duties



Responsibilities:

- Manage all short, medium and long term activities of the Fixed Plant Maintenance department at Glensanda.
- Performance manage a small/medium sized team of craftsmen and Team leaders to provide suitable levels of support to the site ensuring high standards of demonstrable professional competence
- Manage the development of new reliability driven practices within the Fixed Plant Maintenance department
- Promote and lead safety within the Fixed Plant Maintenance department at Glensanda.
- Develop and implement AI and Glensanda specific Maintenance procedures to fulfil Statutory, Insurance and Corporate requirements, incorporating industry best practices.
- Keep abreast of new legislation and Aggregate Industries Codes of Practice governing the design, maintenance and operation of equipment used on the Glensanda site and ensure the specified Maintenance systems to satisfy these requirements are being conducted on schedule and adequate records maintained.
- Troubleshoot major and recurring fixed plant problems on the site to improve equipment operation and reduce maintenance costs, working closely with the Production and Electrical department to eliminate problem area "root causes".
- Provide early input to and approve the design of projects conducted by the site Project group and Contractors; and act as an interface between two groups.
- Implement a balanced maintenance strategy to move emphasis from breakdown maintenance further toward Reliability Centred Maintenance using "planned and predictive" techniques.
- Manage Contractors used on site for maintenance work, ensuring they are appropriately qualified, and work safely within the site rules and permit to work system.
- Liaise closely with Production, Engineering and Management Teams to set maintenance priorities to align with Business requirements.
- Liaise with Production and Engineering Planning to prepare and schedule major maintenance shutdown activities (e.g. maintenance shutdowns).
- Schedule and maintain plant and systems through the CMMS system.
- Participate in (and lead where appropriate) Management of change activities concerning Fixed Plant equipment.
- Assist with the formulation of training requirements for the Fixed Plant Maintenance department and Team leaders, including specific training programs for new equipment.
- Work in conjunction with the Engineering Manager to set allocated budgets.
- Manage projects and maintenance activities within the your area of responsibility to the agreed level

To apply for the above position please send a copy of your CV along with a covering letter to paul.kersley@aggregate.com

Closing date: 30th September 2021

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time positions.
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Mon, Wed & Fri

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07720399937

hello@crear.co.uk

Career opportunities



JOINERS – DUNBEG

The construction industry's an exciting place to be right now. Due to expansion we are looking to recruit joiners on our Dunbeg site. We want to hear from you.

CALLING ALL TRADES MID ARGYLL & OBAN

The Construction Industry's an exciting place to be right now.

Due to expansion, we are currently looking to recruit all trades people, in particular skilled labourers, bricklayers and joiners.

We want to hear from you.

What we can offer you?

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

Call us on **01546 602989**.

Send C.V to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

LEITHS

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position based at Highland Lime, Fort William: -

TRAINEE QUARRY OPERATIVE

You will be trained and developed in all aspects of quarry operations, routine maintenance works, product quality assurance and record keeping whilst working towards a firm knowledge of industry specific Health, Safety and Environment Legislation.

The ideal candidate would be hardworking, reliable, a good team player and available to commence employment at the earliest opportunity. A current driving licence is desirable however not essential.

To apply please visit our website www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers to download an application form.

Completed applications forms should be returned to

Nichola Greig, Payroll & HR Co-ordinator,
Rigifa, Cove, AB12 3LR

or by email to recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer

D & J CAMPBELL LTD

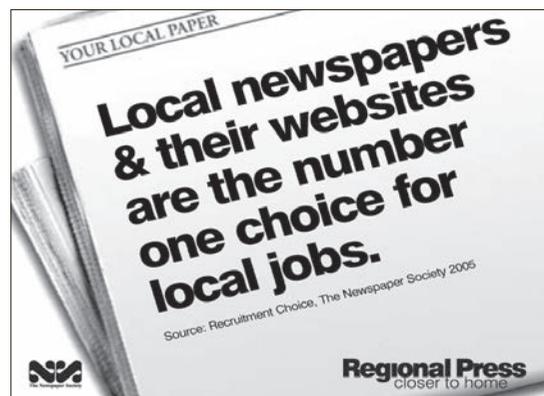
HGV Driver

We are currently looking to recruit night shift Class 1 HGV Drivers for refrigerated transport.

The job will be a 4 on 4 off shift pattern and based in Oban/Fort William.

We are seeking committed and hard-working candidates and for the right person, all necessary training and funding for Class 1 licence can be provided. Training can be provided if necessary. We offer excellent rates of pay and a monthly bonus scheme.

For more information or to apply, please contact Ian on 07917792607 or by email to traffic@d-jcampbell.co.uk



PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MARINE FARM, GLENCRIEPIESDALE, LOCH SUNART

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

Cost	< £ 2500	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Pen Grid Corners	56° 41.001' N	05° 47.397' W
	56° 40.963' N	05° 47.330' W
	56° 40.871' N	05° 47.507' W
	56° 40.911' N	05° 47.575' W
Pen Mooring Extent	56° 41.098' N	05° 47.422' W
	56° 40.984' N	05° 47.200' W
	56° 40.808' N	05° 47.550' W
	56° 40.923' N	05° 47.750' W
Feed Barge Centre	56° 40.915' N	05° 47.393' W
	56° 40.901' N	05° 47.366' W
Rafts	56° 40.922' N	05° 47.321' W
	56° 40.805' N	05° 47.541' W
Single Point Moorings	56° 40.859' N	05° 47.394' W
	56° 40.900' N	05° 47.315' W
	56° 40.977' N	05° 47.185' W
	56° 40.922' N	05° 47.321' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/3hQB6SK>

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing within 28 days of the date of this notice by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 00009327 and MOWI Scotland 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

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GAELIC MEDIUM CATCHMENT AREA FOR ACHARACLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING



The Highland Council has published a consultative paper on a proposal to establish a Gaelic Medium catchment area for Acharacle Primary School.

The paper has been issued under the terms of the Council's procedure under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

The consultation period began on 23 August 2021 and will finish on 8 October 2021. During this period members of the public are invited to comment on the consultative proposal.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Highland Council to meet with parents, children and other members of the public to discuss the proposal at a public meeting to be held **online on 29 September 2021, at 6.30pm**. Anyone wishing to join the meeting and who does not already have the necessary link, can request the link by emailing Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

All comments made in writing or at the public meeting will be presented in due course to the Highland Council's Education Committee for consideration. As this is a public consultation, written submissions, and a note of the meeting, will be made available to the public and any comments submitted may be published on the Council's website – www.highland.gov.uk.

Hard copies of the report have been made available at:

Acharacle Primary School; Ardgour Primary School; Kilchoan Primary School; Lochaline Primary School; Strontian Primary School; and the Ardnamurchan Public Library.

Alternatively the proposals can be viewed online at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>

JANET ASHBY RILEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Raera Farm Kilniver Oban, PA34 4UT, who died on 30/11/2020, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 17/11/2021, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

PRESTON REDMAN,
Hinton House Hinton Road
Bournemouth BH1 2EN

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Duncan MacGregor has registered the croft known as Lochanbrec, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th June 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7923.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

1. KM Campbell & KM Smith, 4 To 8 & 12 To 14 Lorgbaw, 0.096ha, Additional Garden Ground, With Fencing Conditions (103529)

2. M MacLean, 5 Ruaig, 0.008ha, Amenity ground, Fencing/use conditions (108849)

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES (A816 SOROBIA ROAD, MCCAIG ROAD, JURA ROAD AND SHUNA TERRACE, OBAN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) (EXTENSION) ORDER 2021

Argyll and Bute Council give notice that on Monday the 30th August 2021 they made the above named Order under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended. The effect of the Order is to temporarily restrict the waiting of vehicles, prohibit the driving of vehicles and restrict the speed of vehicles on the sections of road as detailed in the schedules below.

The restrictions, which are required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near those lengths of road, will be in operation from the 1st day of October 2021 until Tuesday the 30th day of November 2021 or until the works are complete, whichever is the earliest. The restrictions will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

SCHEDULE 1 – 10MPH SPEED RESTRICTION

The entire length of McCaig Road (U117), from its junction with the Lochgilphead-Oban Road (A816) extending in a generally northerly direction to its junction with Colonsay Terrace (U099), a distance of 890 metres or thereby.

That length of the Lochgilphead to Oban Road (A816) from a point 44 metres or thereby northwest of its junction with McCaig Road (U117) extending in a south easterly direction to a point 125 metres or thereby south east of its junction with McCaig Road, a distance of 169 metres or thereby.

SCHEDULE 2 – PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME

On both sides of the entire length McCaig Road (U117) from its junction with the Lochgilphead-Oban Road (A816) extending in a generally northerly direction to its junction with Colonsay Terrace (U099), a distance of 890 metres or thereby.

On both sides of the entire length of Jura Road (U086) from its junction with McCaig Road (U117) extending in a north westerly direction to its junction with Shuna Terrace (U088), a distance of 120 metres or thereby.

SCHEDULE 3 – PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

That length of Shuna Terrace (U088) from a point 30 metres or thereby northeast of the extended southeast kerbline of Jura Road (U086) extending in a north easterly direction for a distance of 75 metres or thereby (car parking area). The Order can be viewed on the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders

Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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
21/03861/PIP	Land 60M South East Of Midfield Achnahully, Arisaig	Erection of house
21/04023/PIP	Land 385M NE Of Gobshellach Ardtoe, Acharacle, PH36 4LD	Erection of house
21/04124/PIP	Land 460M SW Of Self-Catering Units, Balmaglaister, North Laggan	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days from the date of this notice

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

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/01458/PP	Installation of landslide barrier (48 metres wide x 3.5 meter high netting with supports and anchors)	Land North Of Auch, North Side Of Railway Between Tyndrum Upper And Bridge Of Orchy, 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
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL - TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES AND CHARGES) (INVERARAY) ORDER 202_

Argyll and Bute Council is proposing to make a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce control measures to allow the effective management of the off street car parks in Inveraray. The proposals include the following:-

- Off street car park areas (The Avenue (north) Fisher Row and Front Street) currently parking charges only apply between 1st April and 31st October which is proposed to change to all year round charging. This is to align the Inveraray charging structure to the Councils other off-street car parks.
- Off street car parking (The Avenue (south) Village Hall and Court House) will remain free of charge, but their inclusion in the Order will allow the Council to manage the car parks effectively, address inappropriate parking and control use of the parking areas (for example: off-street vending etc).

Full details together with plans and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the traffic regulation order can be inspected by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trafficorders or viewed during normal office hours at Co-op Food, The Avenue, Inveraray PA32 8UQ.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing providing their full name and address, to Head of Legal and Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT or by emailing TRO-Objections@argyll-bute.gov.uk by 1st November 2021. Letters of objection will be replied to after the closing date of the period for objections.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



First Registration of a Croft

Mr Duncan MacGregor has registered the croft known as Newfield, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th June 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7917.

First Registration of a Croft

Donald Kennedy has registered their croft 8 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 6th June 2022. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C7909.

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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD AND 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) 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 and imposing a 30mph speed restriction on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from its junction with the ZC1094 Glen Etive Road in a generally westwards direction to a point 500 metres or thereby west of its junction with the Old Glencoe and Clachaig Inn Road, Glencoe, a distance of 12.7 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Skyline Scotland Event 2021, will be in operation from 19th September until 20th September 2021. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for short periods of time between the hours of 07:30 and 15:30 but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as 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, vehicles being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event or to vehicles falling within regulation 3(4) of the Road Traffic Exemptions, (Special Forces) (Variation and Amendment) Regulations 2011 when used in accordance with regulation 3(5) of those Regulations.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required. 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

HAZEL MCDONALD

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



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October



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ENGAGEMENT

FIKRY – CAMPBELL – Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Alexander, elder son of Kim and Jill Fikry of Bushley, Worcestershire and Kate, eldest daughter of Roddy and Caroline Campbell, Benderloch.

DEATHS

BEARD – Adrian. Passed away peacefully at home on Friday, September 10, 2021. Inspirational, courageous, and husband to Angela, and Dad to Fergus and Finlay. Will be very much missed by all his family and many friends.

DONALDSON - Peacefully, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on Sunday, September 12, 2021,

David, aged 83 years, formerly of Muthill, Crieff, and latterly for twenty three years of Fort William. Much loved husband of Madge, beloved dad of Kathryn and Ruth, brother of Alistair, and the late Margaret and Colin, and a good friend to many. Funeral service private.

LOWE - Peacefully at Ardnahein Care Home, Dunoon on Monday, September 6, 2021, aged 96 years, William Nicolson Lowe, dear husband of the late Jeanne, beloved father and father-in-law of Donald, Simon, Joanne and Georg and much loved grandpa of Vivian and Mark, a dear uncle and friend to many. Willie, his music and good citizenship will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

MACCOLL – Nostie. Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital on Saturday, September 11, 2021, William David (Davie) MacColl, Nostie. Loving husband of Catherine, father of Claire, David, Siobhan, Iona and Eilidh, devoted grandfather and beloved brother of Mary Allan. Funeral service on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 2pm at Inverinate Church, thereafter to Balmacara Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Donations to Maggies Centre are welcome at the service or can be forwarded to DN Munro Funeral Services 07799 217120.

MEIKLEJOHN - Isabel Stewart Meiklejohn (née Penrose). Peacefully at home on September 2, 2021

surrounded by family. A celebration of life will take place on September 17, 2021 at 3.30 pm, Clydebank Dalnottar Crematorium, Mountblow Road, Clydebank G81 4SL.

MILLAR – Joan, Toronto, Canada (formerly of Keppoch, Croft Road). Our sister Joan left a big hole in our hearts when she passed away suddenly but peacefully September 12, 2021. She will be lovingly and deeply missed by her brothers and sisters, Ian, Catriona, Charlie, Mary and our families x

RANKINE – Christabel. Peacefully at home surrounded by her family on September 12, 2021, Christabel (née Menzies) aged 83 years. Much loved wife to Willie, mother to Patricia, Billy, Marion and Kate and sister to Margo, Ann, May and Gregor. Dearly loved mother-in-law, granny, great-granny and aunt to the wider family. A lovely caring lass who will be missed by her family and friends. Safe in the hands of Jesus. There will be a service in Brightons Parish church then on to Falkirk Crematorium. Please contact William Scott funeral directors for full details. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu of flowers are invited for Mary's Meals or Guide Dogs for the blind.

THORNTON - Sadly, but peacefully, Beryl, in her 94th year at Lochside Care Home (formerly of Lismore House, Oban), loving wife of the late David and devoted mother of Andy, mother-in-law to Marjorie and loving grandmother to Aisling, Liam and Erim and great-grandmother to Holly, Ayla and Archie. Sadly missed by all.

WARDLAW - Suddenly but peacefully in the loving care of Auchtermairnie Residential Home on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Catriona

Helen (Kay) née Little, aged 82 years, formerly of Nisbetfield Farm, Ladybank, also North Connel and Appin, Argyll. Beloved wife of the late Alex, much loved mother to Fiona, Alexis and Pat, a dear granny of India and Alison, a special friend to Helen, also a good friend to many more. Funeral private at her own request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACKINNON – Moira, Neil, Ian and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers and calls on the sad loss of Jean. Thanks to all staff at Bowman Court for their excellent care given to Jean and to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Special thanks to Rev Liz Gibson and Billy McClymont for very efficient funeral arrangements and service and Barbara Weir for the church flowers. Thanks to Park Lodge for the purvey and to all who donated to the Bowman Court Comfort Fund, total raised was £535.

REFFIN - The family of the late Margaret (Maggie) Reffin would like to thank most sincerely family, friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers, gifts and messages of sympathy and support following the sad loss of Maggie. Thanks to Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey and Son, Douglas McKay (celebrant) for the uplifting service at Perth Crematorium and to the nursing staff of Ward I for their care and attention.

SINCLAIR - Rosie, Shaun and the family of the late Peter Sinclair would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers, phone calls and messages received following their recent sad loss. Thanks to Wards B and I at Lorn and Islands Hospital and to carers for their excellent care and

support. Sincere thanks also to Rev. Willem Bezuidenhout for his comforting service and to Alistair Dewar for his fitting tribute. Special thanks to Ian at D & A Munn for taking care of all arrangements in such a professional and reassuring manner, to Lynette at Petals for the beautiful floral tributes, to Sileas and Angus for their lovely music and perfect choice of tunes and to the Falls of Lora Hotel for lovely buffet. Finally our thanks to all who attended the church and graveside and to all who paid their respects as the funeral cortège made its way through Connel village and on to Achnaba cemetery. Thanks to all who generously donated to the retiral collection, the sum of £747.84 was raised for Parkinsons UK. "Through the sunshine of my dreams I hear you calling"

MEMORIAMS

BLUE – Treasured memories of a dearly loved sister Lilian, who passed September 22, 2011.

Too dearly loved to be forgotten.

- Inserted by her sister Mary, brother Donnie and Jim.

KELLY - Remembering a wonderful dad and granda Michael, who died September 17, 2020 and much missed mum and granny Catherine, who died June 3, 2004.

You left us cherished memories
With every turning tide
Though we cannot see you
You're always at our side
- Karen, Duncan and Alistair xxx

MACDONALD - Catherine, died September 12, 2006. Mum, no words, no verse could ever say how much I miss you every day.

A loving thought, a silent tear,
forever wishing you were here.
- Inserted by John. Xx
Also remembering my much loved brother-in-law, Kenny Campbell, suddenly taken

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from us on August 10, 2018. Sorely missed by everyone.

MACDONALD

Remembering with love our beloved father and papa, Douglas Macdonald, who passed away on September 18, 1991. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

We keep in our hearts the love of the past

For there it was planted forever to last.

Too deep in our hearts, for death to divide.

Each day of our lives, you walk by our side.

- His ever loving daughters, Mary Flora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

MACDOUGALL - Treasured memories of Callum, a dearly loved husband, father and grampy, who died on September 19, 1997.

Loved and remembered always.

- Freena and family.

MACDOUGALL

Remembering with love our dad and grampy Callum, who passed away on September 19, 1997.

Never more than a thought away.

- Margaret and family, Mull.

MACLEAN

Remembering with love, Calum Lachlan Donald, killed on September 20, 2001 aged 29, and his father Captain Eoghainn James MacLean, died April 28, 2016. Both forever missed.

- Anne and sons Niall, Sheumais and Eoghainn.

ROSS - In loving memory of Marion Ross, a lovely wife, mother and grandmother.

Those we love don't go away But walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near

Still loved and missed and very dear

- Love always from The Ross family x

The Commitment Device

When it comes to paying for a gym membership I have always suggested that our clients pay via a direct debit.

I guess many would accuse me of maximising income potential, but my reasoning lies firmly in a behaviour change strategy known as a commitment device.

A commitment device is a choice you make in the present which has far reaching impacts on your future. It's a way of trying to lock in good behaviours and restrict bad ones by taking advantage of good intentions before temptation leads us off track.

The key is to make sure that it takes more energy and effort to get out of the good habit than to just let it happen. So, when I suggest that folk pay for a gym membership via DD I see it as a way of making a long term commitment to physical activity and the proven and



wide ranging benefits I know they will experience.

Certain forms of commitment device are actions that will pay off again and again. Sometimes these actions take a bit more effort up front but then increase in value over time.

If you are trying to reduce your caloric intake reduce the size of your plates, if you are struggling to get a comfortable night's sleep, buy a new mattress. If you wake up earlier than you would like, get some black out blinds, and

make sure the phone is set to silent. If you are watching too much TV late into the evening remove all devices from the bedroom and perhaps set up a timer plug that switches it off automatically at 10pm. If you want to increase your physical activity, get a dog, invest in a bike or what about that gym membership?

These actions have the potential to create an environment of positive inevitability and not rely on willpower in the moment. They will pay you back time and again and take you closer to the person you would like to be, and the life you would like to lead.

For the full message go to the free resource section on the lornhealthyoptions.co.uk website.

Rob Graham,
Lead Exercise Professional,
Healthy Options.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOLDEN WEDDING

Golden Wedding
17th September 1971

Norrie & Carol MacMillan

Wishing Dad and Mum a very happy 50th anniversary, with lots of love and celebration.

Love from Carolyn, Claire, Andrew and all the family xxx

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

For most of us, the hardest thing we had to endure through the lockdowns was the separation from our families: from our children and grandchildren and even great grandchildren.

I just love the way each new family member born is part of all the people who have gone before. I love how, as they grow, we see facial likenesses, and similarities in mannerisms and also skills and gifts, which we can attribute to one relative or

another. We are all members of a family, and we all bear the marks, the likenesses of a good mix of those who preceded us. Looking at our wedding photo album recently, our daughter-in-law remarked how uncanny it was to look at faces of people she had never met and see the family likenesses in her son and daughter!

However, we also belong to another family, the family of God. While we do not have a

photograph album with snapshots of the members of that family who preceded us, we can seek the family traits that we would most like to aspire to show.

Our 'photo album' is in fact the Bible, and within its pages we find these 'family likenesses' passed down to us from our Father, God and our Brother, Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and

self-control, not to mention grace, humility, compassion and forgiveness.

How good it would be to be told that we are the very image of these family members. To bear and show the image of Christ in our lives, would be the best family likeness ever.

Rev Morag Muirhead, Fort William Kilmallie Church of Scotland l/w Kilmonivaig Church of Scotland

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OT

All set for 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final

All roads lead to Oban as the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final between Kinlochshiel and Lovat takes place at Mossfield on Saturday September 18, writes Alasdair Bruce.

Kinlochshiel boss Johnston Gill has been monitoring Finlay MacRae's fitness after the Scottish international suffered a leg injury in the semi-final victory over Kyles Athletic.

John MacRae and Duncan 'WD' MacRae both missed the

recent win over Strathglass, whilst Ali Nixon is a major doubt with a hamstring problem.

However Mark MacDonald looks to be winning his race to play.

Lovat manager Jamie Matheson appointed former player Euan Ferguson as his assistant manager in the lead up to the final.

However the Balgate side suffered a blow when Lorne MacKay's booking in the

semi-final win over Kingussie triggered a two-match suspension meaning he will miss the final.

MacKay also missed the 2013 MacTavish Cup final win over Glenurquhart through suspension.

Defender Scott MacKenzie is a major doubt with a broken finger and there could be a call-up for Ryan Ferguson.

Lovat are skippered by Stuart MacDonald, whilst Keith MacRae captains Kinlochshiel.

Mossfield was the scene of Lovat's 2015 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup win over Kyles Athletic.

This will be their fourth Scottish final appearance over the last six years but 2015 remains their only success during that period.

Kinlochshiel also have good memories of Mossfield.

They lifted the Artemis Macaulay Cup there in both 2016 and 2018, whilst they also clinched the Mowi Premiership

title at the same venue in-between times.

John Angus Gillies from Skye is the match referee, the first man from the island to take charge of shinty's premier completion since Archibald MacPherson 107 years ago.

Gillies will be assisted by goal judges Lachie Wood and David Mitchell, linesmen Craig Scott, Scott Campbell, Alex MacVicar and Graham Fisher and fourth official Calum Girvan.

It has been a very different

season for shinty, but the cup finals will be contested as keenly as ever with shinty's top prize at stake.

Throw up is at 2.10pm and the whole match will be broadcast live on BBC ALBA from 2pm.

Earlier in the day, the MacMaster Cup final between Fort William U14 and either Kilmallie U14 or Skye Camanachd U14 takes place.

Throw up is at 11am and the final will be refereed by Craig Scott.

SHINTY ROUND-UP

Inveraray and Glasgow Mid Argyll reached the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals following the shinty action on Saturday September 11.

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup – Quarter Finals: Inveraray 3 Oban Celtic 0

Inveraray are through to the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals after beating Oban Celtic 3-0 at the Winterton.

Inveraray didn't include Garry MacPherson, who played so well against Skye the previous week. They were also without injured pair John Kennedy and Ally MacDonald.

Oban Celtic, who hadn't played for five weeks, travelled without keepers Allan Duncan and Jack Hill, so outfield player David Hill played in goal. George MacMillan, Lennon Campbell and Duncan MacMillan were also missing. There was a place for Neil MacFarlane, with Ross MacMillan starting in the half back position.

An unfamiliar Celtic forward line included Neil Carmichael, hampered by an achilles injury, Keegan MacPhee, Ewan Campbell and Duncan MacMillan.

Campbell Watt got the opener on 12 minutes. A half-clearance out of the Oban Celtic defence broke to an unmarked Watt, 25 yards out on the left and he fired a clean strike home.

The tie threatened to boil over at times before the first half drew to a close.

Campbell Watt got his second on 55 minutes. The ball came out to Watt at the edge of the D following a melee and he made no mistake.

Oban Celtic brought on youngster William MacEwan for the final 20 minutes, with Joe MacVicar getting his first taste of shinty at this level just five minutes later.

Ruaraidh Graham made it 3-0 a couple of minutes into



Far left, Craig Taylor of Inveraray hurdles a clearance by Andy MacDonald of Oban Celtic. Photograph Kevin McGlynn



And left, Allan MacDonald of Inveraray and Lewis McPhee, Oban Celtic. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

stoppage time. The goal came following a corner with the ball coming out of the defence before being played back in. David Hill chested the ball down and Graham pushed the rebound into the goal to make it 3-0. There was only just enough time to restart the contest before referee David Mitchell blew for time and Inveraray now face Oban Camanachd in the semi-finals.

Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We obviously had to change things around quite a bit with players missing and it the end, there wasn't that much between the sides.'

Glasgow Mid Argyll 8 Bute 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll were too strong for Bute, winning 8-0 in their 3pm throw up at Peterson Park.

GMA boss Mark Bain had a strong squad to choose from with Oliver MacRae and John Don MacKenzie available again.

Bute, by comparison, were short of several regulars for the journey south.

Ewan Fraser has been a key figure for GMA since joining from Newtonmore and he

put the hosts ahead on four minutes.

Oliver MacRae on 20 minutes and Ally McKerracher on 28 minutes made it 3-0.

Ewan Fraser and Ally McKerracher both got their seconds on 30 and 33 minutes respectively and the Glasgow side led 5-0 at half-time. Ewan Fraser completed his hat-trick on 71 minutes and Brian Slattery added a seventh on 75 minutes.

The impressive Ewan Fraser had the final say with his fourth goal of the afternoon with just five minutes remaining.

Glasgow Mid Argyll now meet Kyles Athletic in the semi-finals whilst Bute will look to bounce back against Beaulie in the Alvanee British Aluminium Balliemore Cup semi-finals a week Saturday.

Mowi Senior League C **Aberdour P Oban Camanachd P**

Aberdour's match with Oban Camanachd at Silver Sands was an early Covid postponement.

HIS Sutherland Cup – Semi Final: Lovat P Lochside Rovers P

The Lovat second team and Lochside Rovers will have

to try again as their noon throw up at Spean Bridge was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Bullough Cup Semi Final **Kyles Athletic 4 Kilmory 1**

The Kyles Athletic reserves reached the Bullough Cup Final with a 4-1 victory over Kilmory at the Playing Fields, Tighnabraich.

Dave Martin got the hosts off to a great start with a goal after just five minutes but Bruce Johnston levelled on 25 minutes.

Kyles managed an interval lead when Dave Martin got his second on 41 minutes.

Ross Donald on the hour and Finan Kennedy just five minutes later ensured it would be the Kyles colts' day.

Holders Lochside Rovers and the Oban Celtic second team are still to meet in the other semi-final.

Mowi South League A **Taynuilt P Inveraray P**

The Inveraray colts were unable to field a team for their match against Taynuilt at the Taynuilt Sports Field.

Col Glen P Ballachulish P The game between Col Glen and Ballachulish at Glendaruel

was called off as Balla' were unable to raise a team.

Mowi South League B **Glasgow Mid Argyll 6** **Aberdour 2**

The Glasgow Mid Argyll colts had to work hard to see off a stubborn Aberdour colts before finally running out 6-2 winners in their noon throw up at Peterson Park.

The Glasgow side were missing Jamie MacLeod following his red card in the 6-2 league victory over Tayforth the previous week. Aberdour went in front with Martin Cameron scoring on 23 minutes but Cailean MacInnes drew GMA level just a minute later.

Aberdour fought back and they regained the lead though Gabriel Slater on 43 minutes and led 2-1 at the break.

GMA made a good start to the second half with Cailean MacInnes equalising for a second time a minute after the restart.

The home side went in front for the first time through Nick Lavin on 58 minutes and James MacLeod went on to add a brace with strikes on 59 and 67 minutes.

Nick Lavin got his second to

make it 6-2 on 82 minutes.

Bute P Tayforth P

Tayforth were unable to field a team for their trip to the Meadows to play the Bute seconds.

Mowi Central League **Lochaber P Oban Celtic P**

The 3pm throw up between the Lochaber seconds and the Oban Celtic seconds at Spean Bridge will be rearranged.

Glenorchy 2 Kilmallie 2 Glenorchy and the Kilmallie second team shared the points following at Mart Park.

Conor Sartain gave Glenorchy a 36-minute lead with what was the only goal of the first half.

When referee Deek Cameron awarded Kilmallie a penalty three minutes after the restart, Stuart Ross stepped up to score from the spot.

Ben MacKinnon put the visitors ahead on 58 minutes only for Conor Sartain to get his and Glenorchy's second with on 15 minutes remaining.

Kilmallie P Ardnamurchan P The meeting between the Kilmallie seconds and Ardnamurchan at the Canal Parks was a Covid postponement.

Away win for Oban Lorne after stuttering start

Oban Lorne RFC continued their winning start to the 2021/22 West Region Division 2 season with a gritty away win at Dalziel, writes Fiona Scott.

Kick-off was delayed by 15 minutes due to traffic issues and it took the visitors a while to get their motors running, with Dalziel scoring from a try and a penalty in the opening half hour.

Oban managed to climb the gears in the remainder of the first half, however, and some great handling led to tries by Robert McLaughlin and Kenny Grey, the latter converted by Vasil Borisov, to give the visitors a 12-8 lead going into the interval.

The hosts tried to apply pressure after the restart but once again the response from Oban was strong and a well worked try from Jethro Anderson increased the margin.

Dalziel notched a second penalty to reduce the deficit when the visitors were found to be slightly offside but Oban came back once more with some great teamwork in the middle of a park.

Desperate to close the gap further the oppositions discipline began to drop and Oban took full advantage. A fantastic kick by Borisov saw the visitors down to the Dalziel 25 and a penalty goal by the same man stretched the lead further.

Dalziel managed to slip through the Oban defence to touch down in the closing stages but the visitors held on for a fantastic 20-16 away win.

Head coach Corrie Lowe was delighted with the performance and the positivity the team are showing but admitted there are still things he would like to work on with the team.

Oban are on the road again this weekend when they travel to play Wigtownshire.

Saints league results

■ U13s lost 1-12 to Barrhead (scorer Kuba Ryszka)

■ U16s won 14-0 v Glenlang (Preston MacIntyre x 3, Ewen Campbell x 2, Cody McCulloch x 3, Louis Paterson x 5 and Aidan MacDonald 1)

■ U15s and U17s no game.

Next Sunday, September 19, all teams are in Scottish Cup action – U13s v Victoria Park (a); U15s v Bishopton (a); 16s v Knightswood (a); U17s v Cumbernauld Colts (h)

Game on for renamed Oban Ravens

Oban's women's squash club has revealed a new look and name, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Now officially Oban Ravens, the Atlantis Leisure Centre-based squad got first sight of its beak-sharp new branding and identity at an unveiling on Tuesday by coach Colin MacNiven.

The revamped image has stayed top-secret in boxes at Mr MacNiven's home for 18 months during the pandemic after Covid brought meet-ups and competitions to an abrupt halt.

The team had been playing in heavy competitions right until 'the very last gasp,' he said.

But this week the boxes were finally opened, t-shirts and hoodies tried on and the specially-made banners also bearing the names of the Oban



Ravens' multiple sponsors proudly shown off.

Coach MacNiven has high hopes for the new branding, saying: 'It'll make them even keener, more excited and others will want to join us when they see the girls going

about in their gear. It'll create a demand.'

With the branding backing, the sky's the limit for the Ravens.

'My goal is for them to travel a bit further than before; to Inverness, the Borders,

Ravens Claire Easton and Lindsay Mackechnie in their sponsored team t-shirts for home and away games

Newcastle. It's big out there,' he added.

The squad's next competition will be at Scotstoun, Glasgow.

Paying tribute to the Ravens, coach MacNiven said: 'They never miss training; their dedication is great but it works both ways, you have to put it in to get it back.'

He told the squad: 'From now on you will always be known as an Oban Raven. Fly and play like a raven and everyone will want to be a raven.'

The strong brand name will enhance the competitive side of the squad, upping the game and successes ahead.

All team members were

involved in bringing in sponsorship worth thousands of pounds - there were so many backers that all their names could not fit on just one shirt.

The sponsors are EE-USK, Scottish Sea Farms, MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease, Mowi, Arnold Clark, 305Squash, Bays-Bens Holidays, MacNiven Electrics, Jackson Bros Butchers Oban, Kilchoan Estate, Puffin Dive Centre Oban, Auchentullich Farm Shop and M.

There are about 20 regular members of the squad, who are sectioned into A, B and C teams.

More players are welcome to join them, ages so far are between 20s and 50-plus, with regular training sessions - everyone is welcome.

Scott Maitland head injury calls halt to Saints play

Oban Saints	A
St Patrick's FP	A
Central Scottish AFL Premier Division	

A sickening collision between Oban Saints Vice Captain Scott Maitland, pictured, and St Patrick's FP goalkeeper Domonic Donaldson brought Saturday's Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash at Glencruitten to a premature end.

Injuries and non-availability of key players continue to restrict manager Willie Gemmell's options and it was an unfamiliar and untested starting XI which took the field against reigning Premier Division Champions St Patrick's FP.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Ross Maitland, Steven MacLeod, Cammy Hill and Scott Maitland. Donald

Campbell and Andy King anchored the midfield with Kyle Cooper, Matty Kelly and Fraser MacFarlane behind central striker Craig MacEwan.

On the bench were Cammy Clark and Jack Wright.

Saints number one Graham Douglas was brought into the action in the third minute making a smart save at his near post after St Pat's Skipper Kevin McElroy had forced his way into the Saints box. Referee Stephen Payne had allowed McElroy to continue despite an infringement by Steven MacLeod and flashed the first yellow card of the day.

St Pat's left back Ryan McColl was the next entry in Mr Payne's notebook and he was joined in the 24th minute by skipper Kevin McElroy. The visitors had their own selection problems and were forced to promote second team keeper

Domonic Donaldson to first team duties. Donaldson acquitted himself well.

As you would expect in such a competitive league, Mr Payne's notebook and pencil were out again after 28 minutes when striker Ciaran McElroy slid in late on Matty Kelly.

Graham Douglas showed a safe pair of hands to hold a Matthew Devine shot after a rare lapse in concentration from Cammy Hill who slotted in well at centre half alongside the experienced Steven MacLeod.

McLeod denied Luke Gray with an excellent 36th minute sliding block.

The visitors had the ball in the net in the 38th minute, however referee Payne spotted that Kevin McElroy had strayed offside at the far post.

With manager Willie Gemmell unavailable it fell to

coach Maitland to deliver the half-time appeal for more of the same.

After just 60 seconds into the second half Kevin McElroy fizzed a shot from the corner of the Saints box across Graham Douglas and narrowly wide of the far post. From the goal kick Saints worked their way into opposition territory where Craig MacEwan did well to hold up a Donald Campbell pass before laying the ball off to Kyle Cooper on the edge of the box who curled a delightful finish past Domonic Donaldson to opening scoring.

Saints almost doubled their advantage two minutes later with MacEwan again providing the lay-off this time for Donald Campbell whose low shot was turned around the post by Donaldson.

The home side had their tails up and were enjoying their best spell of the match when disaster struck. Scott Maitland raced into the St Pat's box to reach a loose ball which

keeper Donaldson also had in his sights. The two collided at full speed with Maitland suffering a blow to the head from Donaldson's knee which knocked him out cold.

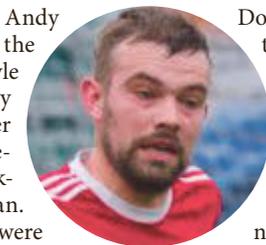
The blameless Donaldson immediately screamed for help which was provided by veteran Saints goalkeeper David Dunlop who did an excellent job in keeping Maitland stable until the paramedics arrived.

After consultation with both badly shaken camps, referee Stephen Payne made the correct decision to abandon the match with 37 minutes remaining and Saints holding a slender one goal lead.

After a thorough examination and CT scan the sore and groggy Maitland was released from the Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital on Saturday night and is expected to make a full recovery.

This coming Saturday Saints welcome Harestanes to Glencruitten.

Kick-off is 1.30pm.



Husband and wife teams battle for Pairs title

It was an early start for Oban bowlers on Saturday as 20 teams converged on the green in a bid to lift the Duncan Campbell Pairs trophy.

Four pools of five teams played a round robin format consisting of four games of six ends with the winners of each pool progressing to the semi-finals.

Following some hard fought matches Sandy Carr and Kirsty Gargan, Fiona and Malcolm Scott, Anne Stewart and Marion Carr and Neil and Anne MacDougall all went through. The final saw the Scotts and MacDougalls go head to head for the honours with the latter pair getting the better of the last two ends to take the title.

Morvern MacLeod, daughter of the late Duncan Campbell, presented the trophy to the winners.



Morvern MacLeod, centre, presented the Duncan Campbell Pairs trophy to the MacDougalls in memory of her late father.

Positive Moto2 debut for John

John McPhee ended his Moto2 debut at MotorLand, Aragon, on Sunday, in 20th position.

The Oban racer was praised by Johan Stigefelt, PETRONAS Sprinta Racing team director.

Deputising for Jake Dixon and making his Moto2 debut, John experienced a difficult start and found himself dropping from 29th to 32nd on the opening lap. Working hard to try to stay with the back of



the pack, the Scot made steady progress, and although John found himself adrift of the main field, he was able to enjoy battles with other riders and won a drag race to the line to claim a credible 20th place at the chequered flag.

PETRONAS Sprinta Racing will now head directly to Misano for the Gran Premio di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini, which takes place next weekend, September 17-19.



Matiss climbs to fourth place at Cairngorms

by Kathie Griffiths
 kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

North Argyll Cycling Club's Matiss Robertson took on the hill climb at Cairngorms Race Weekend and came through the finish line in fourth place.

The Barcaldine cyclist finished the 13.5km event climbing 400ms up to the ski centre in 26 minutes and 25 seconds - less than one minute behind the winner. There were 63 entrants at the starting line.

Matiss said Saturday's hill climb took place in 'biblical' conditions as heavy rain fell, but he was pleased with his result.

'The first half of the event was a false flat and then it went up. It wasn't a hill all the way.



North Argyll Cycling Club's Nick Charlton, Matiss Robertson, Shona MacLauchlan and Andre Paul Vann.

We had to engage our efforts accordingly. I was pleased to finish less than a minute behind the winner. The weather

condition were biblical,' he said. Sunday's handicapped race saw Matiss's group (third group) complete the 47 km



North Argyll Cycling Club's Matiss Robertson comes through heavy rain and the hill climb finish line at Cairngorms Race Weekend.

route in one hour and eight minutes. Overall in the event Matiss came in 13th place.

Other NACC members tak-

ing part in the race weekend were Nick Charlton, Shona MacLauchlan, Alison Carrie and Andre Paul Vann.

Bob's Ryder Cup dream is over – for now

Robert Macintyre's dream of making his Ryder Cup debut at the end of this month is now officially over.

A disappointing missed cut in the BMW Championship – his fourth missed cut in a row – saw his automatic qualification chances disappear and his recent poor run of form meant Pdraig Harrington could not justify a Captain's Pick.

The damage was done on the opening day when a poor back nine resulted in a two over par 74 and left him with a mountain to climb on the Friday. Despite shooting a bogey-free 69 and showing glimpses of his best form, his one under par total left him agonisingly short.

Speaking afterwards Bob's frustration was obvious: 'Golf is the most frustrating game when it's not clicking,' he said. 'It's driving me mental right now. I feel like it's coming but it's just not happening. When it's not going great you don't enjoy it and just now it's a bit of a battle.'

While the immediate disappointment and frustration are clear, his playing partner and Ryder Cup vice-captain Graeme McDowell offered him some words of encouragement saying: 'He's got a great attitude. He's super-talented. He's just young and aggressive and that equals birdies and mistakes.'



RowAround Scotland skiffies complete Argyll section

Seil skiffie Sue Fenton has rowed more than 120 miles of this year's RowAround Scotland bid, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Sue was part of a composite crew, including rowers from Seil Coastal Rowing Club and Trustees from the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA) who launched themselves on a three-day expedition at the weekend to complete the last part of the RowAround's Argyll section.

They rowed from Port Appin to Kilchoan on

Ardnamurchan, covering over 40 miles, with overnight stops in Lochaline and Tobermory.

The Isle of Seil's Selkie skiff was joined in Lochaline by its St Ayles skiff Witches of Morvern.

The RowAround has been celebrating the 10th anniversary of the SCRA.

The pandemic meant changes had to be made to the event's



Selkie and her crew arriving in Tobermory harbour as part of the RowAround Scotland bid.

passage plans, but the circumnavigation is now due to finish by the end of September, having linked together 70 coastal rowing clubs with a baton.

Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club's convenor Sue Fenton, who is also a trustee of the

SCRA and the overall coordinator of RowAround Scotland, has rowed the entire Argyll section from Ardrishaig to Kilchoan over the summer.

Sue said: 'I am really chuffed to have rowed the whole 120 miles of Section 4 of RowAround, from Ardrishaig through the Crinan Canal, to Ardnamurchan.'

'It was great craic to row to Ardnamurchan with Steve, Robbie, Adam and Ewan. On the first day it was mirror calm, with ethereal wafts of cloud and drizzle. Fantastic wildlife

spotting, include a golden eagle and two sea eagles.

'The second day, up the Sound of Mull from Lochaline, it was very rough, with the wind on our bow and it turned out to be another stiff six hour row to Tobermory. Luckily, the row across to Kilchoan on Sunday was much calmer.

'We were able to renew friendships with the Morvern and Mull skiffies, and also took some folk from Kilchoan out rowing, who are contemplating building their own skiff.'

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17	0344 3.0 0918 1.4 F 1549 3.5 2157 1.4	19	0500 3.5 1055 0.9 SU 1702 4.0 2322 1.0	21	0552 3.8 1210 0.6 TU 1805 4.2	23	0101 0.8 0647 3.9 TH 1317 0.8 1905 4.1

OBAN WEATHER

Thursday Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 16°C.	Friday Light rain and a moderate breeze Temperatures 10°C to 16°C.	Saturday Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.	Sunday Light rain 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

HIGH 16 LOW 10 11 MPH

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No 8581

Thursday 16 September, 2021

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95p



Starting this week – our P1 Classes of 2021

Inside: Gas Safety Week & spotlight on Lochavullin Industrial Estate

Mod cancelled

Lochaber Mod committee has taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's event due to the rising Covid cases.

Mòd Loch Abar said in a statement: 'It is with regret that due to high Covid cases circulating among the younger community in the Fort William and wider Lochaber area, Meur Loch Abar has taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's in-person local mod that was due to take place on September 17 and 18.'

'The safety and wellbeing of all our competitors and volunteers is paramount, and the large number of cases currently being experienced in the local area has led us to this regretful outcome.'

Competitors have been offered the chance to enter a virtual competition instead.

No half measure



Do you fancy a share in this Knoydart pub?

• See page 8 for more

Resounding 'Yes!' for Knock Park buyout

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Morvern Games and Gala Week committee has revealed that it received a resounding 'yes' from its community survey on the question of a buyout of its historic sports ground and surrounding land.

Ally Nudds, committee chairperson, was delighted with the outcome – 219 responses to the household survey.

The questionnaire revealed 88 per cent of respondents in favour (yes or possibly) of community acquisition of Knock Park, and 81 per cent in favour of acquiring more adjacent land if practicable for income generation and other amenities.

'We now feel we have to go for it,' said Ally.

'We have completed a feasibility study and are now going to go back out to the community to explain our ideas, with a series of meetings next week.'

'Our primary reason for exploring the buyout is so that, as a landowner, the community can apply for grants to bring much-needed improvements such as services (water, electricity etc) to the games field and build a fully-accessible



The games are hugely popular locally and further afield.

clubhouse, which will enable other sports and events such as music festivals, triathlon, etc, to be held in Lochaline.'

The community also supported the suggestion of developing a motorhome area with full facilities including waste disposal, with 73 per cent in favour.

'With the popularity of staycations we also have the oppor-

tunity to generate income by developing this facility,' added Ally. 'Something we feel is becoming necessary in Morvern.'

'The income will assist in the running cost of the clubhouse and benefit local businesses.'

Landowners Ardtornish Estate also support community ownership of the games field and an examination of the potential of the surrounding

land can be established to help sustain the planned improvements. With the support of Ardtornish and HIE, MGGW successfully applied for funding from Stage 1 of the Scottish Land Fund to explore the possibility of purchasing Knock Park and surrounding areas for the community.

James Hilder of An Roth Associates, who published a

feasibility study, said: 'The games committee got a strong turnout and a very clear directive from the community so we have looked to see if the sums stack up.'

'There is clearly a need for a much better building on the site and if combined with income generating opportunities like a gym, an area for motorhomes and venue hire, then facilities for Lochaline could be transformed over the next five years. It's important that residents continue to have their say so we are hosting four meetings – two on September 21, and one each on 23 and 24.'

Highland games have been played at the park for most of the last century, with generations of Morvern folk taking turns on the committee.

Secretary Megan Whyte said: 'MGGW being cancelled for the second year due to the pandemic was devastating news for all concerned, but it has given us the opportunity to direct our energies to looking at the long-term future of the games.'

'We are delighted with the support the community has shown us through the survey results and look forward to

Continued on page 2.



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LT

Climber captures Lochaber landscapes in unique art

by Nic Goddard
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Artist Jonathan Shearer currently has an exhibition including many familiar landscapes to those who walk the mountains of Lochaber.

Armed with a 'travel kit' of fold-up paintbox and mini canvases, Shearer retraces his steps to favourite peaks, ridges and glens at different times of day, month and year to capture the many faces of the geology in different light and weather conditions – often within the space of just an hour or two.

The small canvases are the prompt cards for the larger works he completes in his studio.

He explained: 'I have tried painting full-size pieces on mountain sides – but they tend to blow away.

'Holding on to a full-sized



Jonathan Shearer uses concertina sketchbooks to capture vistas such as this one for his Sundown on the north face of Ben Nevis painting, inset.

canvas up a mountain is like grabbing a sail. And I have enough kit to carry with my camping gear.'

He also showed me his ingenious concertina sketchbooks which fold out to allow a full mountain range worth of visual note taking complete with outlines, colour palettes and scribbled words.

The transition from these small pieces to the awe-inspiring larger works, beautifully mounted, lit and displayed in Resipole studios in Acharacle until October 15 is due to what Jonathan terms 'the alchemy of paint', along with what I could consider an immense

talent for seeing these magnificent landscapes and somehow capturing their essence in two dimensions.

Just as in real life the further back you stand from the subject the more breathtaking the view can become and Jonathan's work is just the same. Close up you can see the texture of the oils and the bold strokes of colour, as you walk backwards away from the art so it begins to take shape into mountains, skies, lochs and glens.

I asked Jonathan which came first, the art or the mountain climbing?

It would seem that it's not possible to separate one from the other as it is his artistic eye which motivates him to seek out these landscapes and the majesty of the mountains which inspires the art.

He told me that he is planting

trees on his land so that he has new subject matter for when the day finally arrives that the mountains are no longer scalable.

Looking at the piece of art showing a woodland in autumn, which is part of the collection, I suspect he will still be finding inspiration in nature for many years to come.

Gallery manager Kerrie Robinson said: 'We are delighted to welcome Jonathan Shearer back to the gallery for his fourth solo exhibition here at Resipole Studios.

'The body of work which he has produced for this show is phenomenal and exudes the sheer passion that Jonathan feels for these remote locations.'

Land of Mountain and Flood by Jonathan Shearer is on display at Resipole Studios and online until October 15.



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Family fun at
Knock Park



Community give resounding 'Yes!' for Knock Park buyout

Continued from page 1
taking things to the next stage.'

As well as an accessible clubhouse with more parking and larger area for events, other ideas being proposed if the acquisition goes ahead include lengthening the pitch to allow for multiple sports to be played, an outdoor and indoor gym, activity trails, buying the woodland to create a new footpath, bringing Knock Park closer to the village and possible woodland crofts, workshops/storage areas

and a small golf course. This is just the start of what we hope will be, an exciting journey,' remarked Megan.

'Nothing has been decided yet but the various ideas from the community have been assessed and a plan is emerging. What we need now is for folk to give us some feedback on the study – whether by email, letter, coming along next week to our meetings in the village hall or on Zoom.'

Anyone can contact the group via social media or email

knockpark@outlook.com
Socially distanced Presentations and Zoom meetings (email the Secretary on the address above for login details) will be held shortly. Look out for posters and check the MGGW social media platforms.

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Big Issue seller admits stalking teenage girls

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 last week one charge of stalking and another of causing fear and alarm.

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



Inverness Sheriff Court

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 said. 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 occasion 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.

Should there be community buyout of Longrigg woods?

Residents of Sunart are to be asked if they wish to get involved in taking forward the community buyout of the Longrigg Woodland above Ardnastang, near Strontian, which is being sold off by Forestry and Land Scotland.

The 87-hectare block of mature pine, spruce and larch was earmarked for sale a few years ago and local charity, the Sunart Community Company, commissioned a feasibility study and business plan funded by the Scottish Land Fund.

This showed a community buyout was financially feasible and earlier this year the SCC Board voted that it would help organise the buyout if there was enough interest from people who would form a working group to advise on managing the land or even take part in the project.

John Jones, SCC director who helped organise the study said: 'We would really like to hear from anyone in the area who might want to get involved.'

'We will be running an information stall outside the

Strontian Stores each morning on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September for anyone who wants to find out some more.

'We believe owning the forest presents great opportunities for new recreational activities, a woodfuel business, perhaps even a forest croft, as well as a chance to generate cash for the community given the high values of timber. It's an exciting project and we hope people will get in touch.'

The full report is now available at www.sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk but for a chance to express interest or chat to those who commissioned the study, residents can come along to the stall or (Covid restrictions allowing) come along to an evening meeting at the Sunart Centre on Wednesday, November 3 or join an online Zoom meeting on November 4.

Anyone who can't get along to one of these events should email enquiries@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk to get their views across.

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LT

Businesses set benchmark for community kindness

Thanks to the generosity of two local businesses, a fire damaged memorial bench in Inverlochy has been replaced and rededicated to the Sinclair family, writes Fiona Scott.

The wooden bench was placed by the side of the loch with a view over to Corpach in 2012 to remember the Sinclair family.

The previous bench situated on the Loch Linnhe foreshore with a view across the water to the distant hills was installed several years ago in memory of the Sinclairs of Abrach Road and their extended family members, who can trace their roots in the village back over many generations.

It was well used by both local people and walkers using the nearby path which leads from An Aird through Inverlochy, along the banks of the River Lochy to the Soldiers's Bridge and Old Inverlochy Castle.

The bench was destroyed in May this year when a group of youths set fire to a bike which



Members of the MacKinnon family with Beth MacBeath (left) and Jamie Manson of Manson and MacBeath and Olly Stephen (right) of BSW Sawmill.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

was propped up against it.

After hearing the story, BSW Sawmill manager Olly Stephen offered to supply a new seat which was built by apprentices at the sawmill, while Inverlochy based Funeral Directors Manson and MacBeath, donated engraved plaques with names of those being commemorated.

Speaking on behalf of his kinsfolk, Gavin MacKinnon said: 'The whole family is

really touched and grateful for the kindness and generosity in replacing the bench.

'So many people got in touch with us when they heard about the fire to tell us how much they loved sitting there.

'We really had no idea just how well used it was.

'We are now delighted that a beautiful new seat has been installed, which clearly means a lot not only to our family, but to the wider community also.'



In July, local Skye MSP, Kate Forbes, opened the new 140-space car park and off-grid toilets at the Fairy Pools, Glenbrittle Skye. Photograph: Andrew Woodhouse – Skye Commercial Photography.

Highland rangers patrol offer advice to campers

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

By the end of July, Highland Council's seasonal access rangers had carried out 800 patrols and giving more than 11,000 people advice on the Outdoor Access Code.

The rangers were appointed to try to manage the massive boom in visitor numbers to places like Arisaig and Morar, as well as elsewhere across the wider Highland area.

Highland councillors last week agreed to extend the visitor management plan funding - that covers the costs of the rangers - into the 2022 season by a one-off investment of £1.5million.

A previous one-off investment of £2.4m agreed by the council in March 2021 for this year's season enabled a range of service improvements.

These included: a better waste collection service; 14 new comfort schemes to be provided, now totalling 50; building improvements to seven out of 75 council-run public conveniences; operational support for the new Storr toilets; support for a community group running portable toilets; car park and other road improvements; work on delivering additional motorhome waste facilities; improving visitor management infrastructure

in Aviemore and a pilot public transport scheme in Skye.

Chairperson of the economy and infrastructure committee Councillor Trish Robertson said the seasonal access rangers had made a real difference to many Highland communities during the busy season.

'The investment in visitor management across the Highlands has made an enormous difference so far. There is always more that we can do...'

'Engagement with visitors, communities and landowners, and the offering of information and advice has been the priority of their work,' she said.

Chairman of the tourism committee Councillor Gordon Adam added: 'The investment in visitor management across the Highlands has made an enormous difference so far.

'There is always more we can do and this additional funding will help us to make further improvements in advance of the 2022 season.'

The rangers submit weekly and monthly reports with user

numbers, 'hotspots' have been identified and monitored along with any other sites of concern highlighting issues with informal camping, parking, litter and overflowing bins, fires, outdoor toileting.

The council says there has been 'extensive positive feedback' from communities, members, organisations and visitors.

To the end of July, rangers had recorded 5,500 tents off-site, with nearly 2,000 toileting sites.

Action was also taken to reduce the effect of fires on vegetation damage and risk of wildfires, with 2,276 fires, 71 of which the ranger extinguished because they caused risk.

There has also been a significant reduction in the amount of litter and the effect of the litter left, with 700 bags of litter removed.

The rangers have also encouraged responsible parking, and moved on many obstructive vehicles in passing places and elsewhere.

More than 40,000 vehicles were observed parked to which 160 parking warning notices were issued.

They have also worked with communities and landowners to reduce or resolve issues, engaging with 35 community councils and numerous organisations and individuals.



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A trio of P1s for Eoligarry Primary School on the Isle of Barra.



Sgoil Bhagh a'Chaisteil Primary School new starts.



These clearly excited youngsters make up the new intake for primary one at Kilchoan school.



The new intake of primary one pupils at Acharacle school are definitely animal lovers.

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Hope for notorious A82 bottleneck

The constituency MSP for Lochaber has said she hopes that a new report by BEAR Scotland, following the brief summer trial at the Nevis roundabout in Fort William, may lead to further improvement at the notorious bottleneck.

Often southbound traffic queues back on the A82 approaching from Spean Bridge and also from the A830 from Corpach, as the existing road infrastructure struggles to cope with the volume of vehicles in peak season.

Kate Forbes MSP has contin-

ued to raise the Fort William transport network in her regular meetings with Transport Scotland, and especially the need to reduce congestion for southbound traffic on the A82.

Ms Forbes said: "Transport Scotland has said it was a useful trial, and following

consideration of the data the next steps will be outlined in the near future.

"I know how frustrated people are – I myself have been stuck in the tailbacks many times, and I can only begin to wonder about the impact on those travelling every day for work, school and important healthcare appointments.

"Though in some ways the Nevis Bridge roundabout and bridge are restricted geographically, especially with the water, there are still plenty of options to consider which may help the traffic flow smoother and I look forward to seeing the next report.

"Of course over the long-term, particularly with the continued growth and investment in Fort William – which is great to see – the town is crying out for a link route and I remain fully committed to that."



The Nevis roundabout in Fort William creates a bottleneck on the A82.

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

If the picture in this article makes you nostalgic for the heady days when we were all bare-faced and sociable, you are not alone!

At Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, we love to run events that inform, inspire and connect our members, and we are really looking forward to getting people together in a room again - safely - soon.

Plans for restarting 'in the room' events are coming along nicely; we are delighted to announce that we will be taking over Ben Nevis Distillery for this year's shorter, more-focused Lochaber Ideas Week from November 17-19.

More details on Lochaber Ideas Week will be coming out very soon but it might be time to check that those glad-rags still fit - the Gala Dinner will be back on the menu to round off the week in delicious style!

In the meantime, we are still busy helping our members make connections, even though we are not together in person.

Putting people in touch, sharing member news through



our newsletters and social media, reaching out through the chamber for advice and contacts, all help your business to stay connected and make new connections.

We have been delighted to bring on board many new members during the pandemic, and we are proud to be able to support all of our members through this tough time.

Whether you are new to the chamber, a longstanding member, or thinking about joining, we are pleased to help all the businesses in our friendly and supportive Lochaber business network.

If there is something you need assistance with, drop us an email to membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk and we will be in touch to see how we can help.

Visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk to find out more and join online.



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Dunvegan Primary one of five priority school projects

Dunvegan Primary on Skye has been named as one of Highland Council's top five priority school projects.

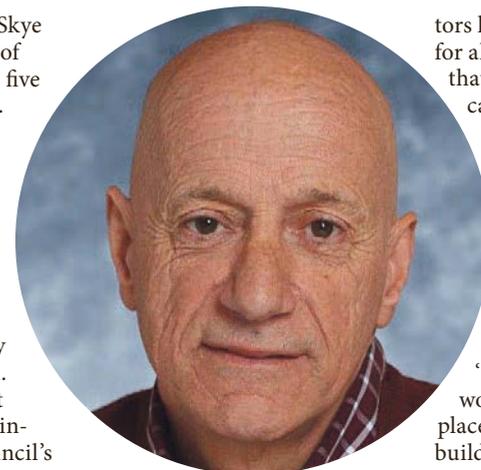
Last week, Highland Council members agreed the scope, budget, phasing and timescale for the five schemes, which also include Beaulieu Primary, Culloden Academy, Park Primary and St Clements School.

It was also agreed that these projects are to be incorporated into the council's current capital programme.

At the last meeting of the council in June, significant capital funding of £54m was identified for investment in the five Highland schools.

Since this meeting, initial briefing and design work, and some engagement with internal and external stakeholders, has continued in line with the council's commitment to delivering these priorities.

Education chairman and Skye councillor John Finlayson, pictured, said providing the best possible school learning environment and facilities continued to be



one of the local authority's key priorities.

"To help us to achieve this goal, we will be engaging and working closely with each of the five schools and their stakeholders," added Councillor Finlayson.

"This will make sure that communities are provided the opportunity to help shape the proposals which will improve the learning environment for many children in Highland and allow us to look at the next key projects we need to move forward."

Design and build contrac-

tors have now been selected for all the projects to ensure that early engagement can take place with the council's internal project teams in order that key delivery dates can be achieved.

Housing and Property chairman Councillor Ben Thompson, Caol and Mallaig Ward, said:

"These plans set out the work that has been taking place to identify the improved buildings and learning environments for the children and young people in each of the five schools, along with the amount of money that will be invested, the timelines involved and the anticipated completion dates."

Each project will have a stakeholder group comprising of parents, staff, local elected members, representatives of community councils, and any other community partners that may be affected by the proposals.

In addition, a strategy will also be developed for consulting with pupils to capture their feedback.

Sustainable salmon firm seeks out new location

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Waters near Appin and Cuil Bay are being eyed-up as possible locations for pioneering salmon farmers.

Loch Long Salmon (LLS) has contacted Appin Community Council and already started sounding out neighbouring Duror Community Council.

Representatives from LLS attended this month's Duror CC to give a presentation – the area they have mooted is Balnagown Island close to Cuil Bay.

Duror community councillor Jonathan Baxter said: 'On the face of it, where they would potentially want to put the farm does not please us but we are open-minded and waiting

for further news from them. 'We have not discussed it yet as a community council, so we are neither for or against at the moment. We will see what they forward us next.'

Appin CC confirmed it had received an email from a salmon farm company but convenor Charles Fotheringham said there was nothing more to report on it yet.

LLS director Stewart Hawthorn said the company is in the process of setting up meetings with other community councils in the Loch Linnhe area as well as looking to identify other 'great locations' in Scotland.

'At this time we do not have any final sites identified in Loch Linnhe, but have formally identified one location adjacent to Eilean Balnagown which is



near Duror and Cuil. We have been formally granted a Lease Option Agreement (LOA) by Crown Estate Scotland for the Balnagowan area. This LOA allows us to more thoroughly investigate this particular site. We do not have any other LOAs in Loch Linnhe at this time but we have identified a number of other areas of interest and will advise of these as we go forward,' he said.

LLS promotes itself as a low impact salmon farming company focused on environmental stewardship and animal welfare.

The company says its semi-closed farming systems, which would be the first-of-its-kind in Scotland, can stop sea lice attaching to the fish so there would be no need for chemical treatments.

Its systems also have the capacity to catch salmon waste and uneaten food which can then be used as a natural fertilizer or in green energy production.

The waste would be pumped to shore rather than collect on the seabed. The pens look much like conventional pens from above but under the water have an opaque, outer barrier with an inner net

protecting the farmed salmon from lice and predators, such as seals.

LLS is putting a planning application forward in October for its first site in Loch Long, Arrochar.

Mr Hawthorne told the Oban Times: 'By using semi-closed farming systems we are changing salmon farming in Scotland for good.'

'We hope this will be recognised by the communities where we will operate and which we want to be a part of. We will use local service providers, people and knowledge wherever we can.'

'If other Community Councils or groups can suggest areas we could consider setting up a low impact semi-closed farm we would love to hear from them.'

Witness appeal following crash near Achnabobane

Officers in Fort William are appealing for witnesses after a motorcyclist was injured in a crash on Friday September 10 on the A82.

The incident happened around 9.15am near Achnabobane.

The 21-year-old driver of the motorbike was taken to Belford Hospital for treatment.

The occupants of the car were unhurt.

Sergeant Ewan Calder from Road Policing said: 'This has been a serious crash which has left a young man in hospital.'

'We are looking to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the collision or have dash cam footage to contact police via 101 quoting reference number 0754 of 10 September 21.'

READMORE
www.lochabertimes.co.uk

Highland Climate Change Conference dates announced

This year's Highland Climate Change Conference is taking place on October 21 and 22, writes Mark Entwistle.

The conference is an opportunity to bring people together from across and beyond the Highlands to discuss the climate and ecological emergency.

With the help of some eminent speakers, the conference will explore topics relating to energy, land and sea, reaching net zero and building resilient communities.

Chairperson of Highland Council's Climate Change

Working Group Councillor Trish Robertson said: 'Last year Highland Council hosted an online conference bringing together participants from all over the Highlands.'

'Here we have an opportunity to get together again to learn more about what we can do to address the climate emergency.'

Within the context of COP26 (United Nations Climate Conference, COP stands for Conference of the Parties) being held in Glasgow in November, this is set to be the most important and

impactful climate change conference ever held.

Unlike last year's one-day event, this year's conference and associated workshops will all take place online and over two days. It will be completely free to attend.

It will feature speakers from Government, organisations, climate groups, community groups and individuals taking action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

The agenda and full list of speakers will be released in the weeks leading up to the event.

Rotary returns to the Alexandra

After 75 weeks of online meetings, members of Lochaber Rotary returned to their regular weekly lunch at the Alexandra Hotel last week where they were welcomed by deputy manager, Val McIver, who is also an honorary member of the club.

President Simon Hardiman hosted the meeting and members discussed a range of issues and made initial ar-

rangements for the Christmas Craft and Food Producers' Festival and Reindeer Parade scheduled for November 27.

President Simon said: 'It's good to see plans coming together – we will be going ahead unless Covid stops us again.'

The work of Rotary has continued over the various shutdowns and Lochaber gave £500 to the overseas work of

polio eradication, which has been Rotary International's prime humanitarian project since 1985.

At the present time, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation match donations and while polio continues in some parts of the world the vaccination infrastructure that Rotary helped build has also been used to distribute Covid vaccine.

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.

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LT

Community share offer to buy Britain's remotest pub

A community of 100 people on the Knoydart peninsula has launched a bold fundraising campaign to purchase its only local pub under community ownership, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Ltd has launched the community

share offer with the goal to raise £204,500 by inviting members of the community and interested parties to invest in the society and become shareholders.

Stephanie Harris, secretary of the society, said that after months of hard work the community was excited to

launch the share offer and begin raising capital to purchase The Old Forge pub.

'By investing in shares, members will have a direct say in the future success of the society and the pub once under community ownership,' said Ms Harris.

Community shares are a form of share capital unique to community benefit societies.

As a social investment for the greater good, profits will be reinvested back in to the business and other local projects that provide wider community benefit.

Shareholders benefit from interest payments and other members' perks; have voting rights at meetings and the opportunity to stand for the management committee.

The investment raised will go towards the overall capital

required to make an offer on the pub. The society has submitted an application to the Scottish Land Fund, which it expects to have a decision on in the next couple of weeks, and if successful the share funds will be combined with the land fund grant for acquisition.

Ms Harris said: 'Under our society's rules, 75 per cent of the shareholder members must be residents within our community, and this is to ensure that the pub will always be managed by the community it serves.'

'However, this means that we have set ourselves an ambitious target to raise over £200,000 from around just 100 people. To maximise our fundraising potential, we have set the minimum investment amount for the 25 per cent of



Knoydart's community of 100 people has launched a fund-raising effort to buy its only pub. Photograph: Mark Harris.

non-resident shareholders at £10,000. Group applications are welcome as well as individual members.'

The society has received national and international coverage on the buyout attempt this year so far, and support continues to pour in from around the world.

The society plans to launch a crowdfund campaign upon conclusion of the share offer which will allow more people to get involved in the project and put their own stamp on the future of the Forge.

Speaking about the reasons to take a community ownership bid forward, Ms Harris explained that in such a small community, pubs played a

vital role in the social and economic health of the area.

'As Knoydart has developed over the last decade, unfortunately our pub has not and today it does not provide the services that locals and visitors expect,' she added.

'We feel very strongly that under community ownership the pub can be rebuilt in to a thriving business at the heart of the community again, and today marks a huge milestone in making that happen.'

The share offer will run for around four weeks, and the documents associated with the offer are available to view on the society's website at www.theoldforgecbs.org/invest



The Old Forge pub on Knoydart. Photograph: Mark Harris

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Rapid electric vehicle chargers light the way across Highlands

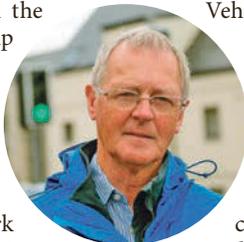
The drive to break down the main barriers to ownership of electrical vehicles in rural communities has begun.

A project was launched on World Electric Vehicle Day (September 9) that will see a network of 24 rapid charging points installed on the west coast of the Highlands and Islands.

HITRANS, the regional transport partnership for the Highlands and Islands, has attracted 1,500,000 Euros of Euro funding and support from the Scottish Government to install the EV units in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Argyll and Bute - excluding Helensburgh - and the Western Isles by 2023.

Priority locations have been identified but are still to be confirmed.

HITRANS has tapped into a European collaboration to help deliver the FASTER Project - Facilitating a Sustainable Transition to Electric



Vehicles in the Regions.

The project will assist with analysis of the planning and needs to kick start a commercial charging service.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson, left, chairman of HITRANS, said: 'The FASTER project is the latest in a growing number of environmentally-friendly European projects that HITRANS is delighted to be involved in.'

'We are committed to delivering practical projects which contribute towards the greening of transport in our diverse and rural area.'

'FASTER will share best practice for deploying charge points and promote sustainable transport in the region and help break down the barriers to ownership of EVs.'

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said she was delighted that World Electric Vehicle Day had been chosen to launch the



Kate Forbes, MSP Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, right, at a rapid charge point with, from left, Gemma Robinson, FASTER project manager, HITRANS; Lewis Hunter, research and development engineer, University of Strathclyde; and Ranald Robertson, director at HITRANS.

are further sites in the pipeline with more rapid chargers planned not just for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch - but across the Highlands and Islands as a whole.'

Work has started on finding possible locations for the chargers through the HITRANS EV Strategy.

Transport Scotland and project partner Strathclyde University (engaging with SSE Networks) are discussing locations to ensure they chosen wisely and in line with grid capacity and existing infrastructure.

scheme in a rural part of Scotland she knows so well.

'Providing a reliable network of rapid charging facilities across many of the more remote parts of Scotland will help remove the barrier to EV ownership.'

'It will allow these communities to

play their role in making Scotland a greener place to live, as well as allowing more visitors to access and contribute to these places,' said Ms Forbes.

'I congratulate HITRANS for taking this project forward, and it's also encouraging to hear that there

Clàr Foghair BBC ALBA BBC ALBA Autumn Schedule



Trusadh – Beatha air an Oir
Trusadh – Lost Villages

20 Sultain, 9f
20 September, 9pm



Julie Fowlis | Ceòl aig Baile
Julie Fowlis | Ceòl aig Baile

Bho 23 Sultain, 9f
From 23 September, 9pm

Dàna | Scotland's Wild Side
Dàna | Scotland's Wild Side

Bho 22 Sultain, 10.30f
From 22 September, 10.30pm



Seòid a' Chidsin
The Kitchen Coves

Bho 23 Sultain, 10f
From 23 September, 10pm

Gàrraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
Scotlands Gardens

Bho 23 Sultain, 8.30f
From 23 September, 8.30pm



Trusadh – Afro-Gàidheil
Trusadh – Afro-Gaels

4 Dàmhair, 9f
4 October, 9pm

LT

First Climate Change Champion named as 'Tree Oscars' return

A Skye wildlife croft has been commended at Scotland's Finest Woods Awards.

Phil Knott, Wildlife Croft Skye, Sleat, Isle of Skye was commended in the Farm Woodland Award.

The annual Tree Oscars recognise Scotland's finest forests and woodlands.

The announcement of the winners comes just weeks before COP26 comes to Glasgow.

Balbeg Estate's Bennan Hill, near Straiton, Ayrshire, owned by Andrew and Lynne Sinclair, took the top honour of Scotland's Finest Woods, a new award for the event.

Professor Chris Quine, Chief Scientist at Forest Research, who led the team assessing the Climate Change Champion entries, said: 'The judges were very keen to find a worthy winner for the new award and



Balbeg Estate won the top award.

we certainly did find one, in Balbeg Estate.

'Bennan Hill was a well-planned and well-executed case study, drawing on guidance and expert knowledge to address the climate emergency

by establishing trees to sequester carbon and contribute to a decarbonised future.

'Even more noteworthy was the way the estate demonstrated an integrated approach to tackling climate change

throughout its activities with actions relating to mitigation, adaptation and knowledge exchange. The owners demonstrated a strong commitment and a real consistency of vision which made this site a very worthy champion.'

It was a year of firsts – the first Climate Change Champion prize, the first time the awards were held online in almost 40 years – and the first award for early years woodland education.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced the schools and early years prizes for Pitlochry High School and Perth Outdoor Playgroup. She said: 'I'm delighted to be able to support these fantastic awards again, and to see young people in Scotland, from nursery through to secondary school, engaging with trees and nature

in such a positive way.

'In the year that COP26 comes to Scotland, it's important that our schools and early years settings continue to encourage young people to enjoy and value our woodlands. By learning about woodlands, taking part in activities, and sometimes also by planting new trees and protecting our woodlands, our young people are creating a greener, better future for Scotland.'

'Congratulations to all the awards winners and everyone involved in celebrating the very best woodlands in Scotland.'

Angela Douglas, executive director of Scotland's Finest Woods, said the number and quality of entries for the 2021 awards was very strong overall.

'The strength of the awards depends on maintaining very

high standards and recognising entries that truly deserve the title finest woods,' she said. 'After the Covid cancellation in 2020, I'm delighted we have been able to bounce back with such a high-quality programme – and I would especially like to thank our 23 volunteer judges who put in so much work in difficult circumstances to ensure the quality standard was maintained.'

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland in Ross-shire won the Small Community Woodland Group Award. Judges were 'impressed by the endeavour and enthusiasm' of the group and noted that the local community was heavily engaged in supporting and managing the woodland with tangible benefits - recreation, practical hands-on experience and enjoyment.

WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS 2021

FRI SEPT
17

THE FREDDIE AND QUEEN EXPERIENCE

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £22

Available from glkpromotions.com

SAT OCT
9

LIVEWIRE - AC/DC TRIBUTE

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £17.50 + booking fee

Available from seetickets.com

FRI NOV
5

SIMON & GARFUNKEL THROUGH THE YEARS

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £22 + booking fee

Available from ents24.com

FRI OCT
1

STARS OF IRISH COUNTRY

Doors open 7pm

Tickets: £25 + booking fee

Available from ents24.com

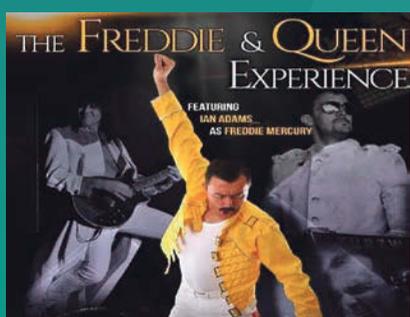
SAT OCT
16

DEL AMITRI

Starts 7.30pm

Tickets: £35 + booking fee

Available from ticketmaster.co.uk



Mysteries still to be found under the waves of Loch Linnhe

Lochs are an integral part of the Highlands and in earlier years Loch Linnhe was an essential means for transportation, long before roads were utilised, writes Savannah Cobb-Thomas.

For many people now Loch Linnhe provides a picturesque background to their lives in Fort William and pictures of its glassy reflection frequent news feeds, but below its glossy surface it plays host to a plethora of activity.

John MacLellan the operations manager at underwater trials firm, Fort William UTC, told the Lochaber Times: 'A survey carried out by Marine Scotland found Loch Linnhe to be one of the most complex loch systems, due to a combination of freshwater, winds, tides and variation in depths that create complex hydrodynamics within the loch.'

Despite deriving its name

from the Gaelic term for 'pool', Loch Linnhe is connected to the sea and is the only tidal loch along the Great Glen fault. This infusion of salt and freshwater results in an obscure mixture as if someone has mixed cordial into their drink.

A spokesperson from Fort William Marina and Shoreline Community Interest Company (FWMSCIC) explained that the loch was in fact in two sections – the part south of Corran Narrows was Loch Linnhe, meaning 'salty pool' and the part north of the Corran Narrows used to be called Loch Aber, meaning 'black pool' but they are now collectively known as Loch Linnhe.

Mr MacLellan said: 'The government planned to use Loch Linnhe during the Second World War to store weapons due to its depth



Swimmers taking to the water for a morning dip are just one of the groups of people exploring the loch. Photo:

Abrightside Photography.

(reaching 150m), relative distance from civilians and its comparable security.

'There are in fact two small miniature submarines sunk between Corpach and Fort William that remain from the war and, until recently, have

not had a confirmed location; one is actually sitting in six metres of water.'

The visible wreck at Camusnagaul, according to local creel fisherman Fergie Maclean, was from the ML133 disaster in 1943 where

one crew member died.

He said: 'The stories say it caught on fire and the high octane fuel caused an explosion so loud it was heard in Oban and caused windows to smash in Inverloch; in fact some say parts of the three-pounder gun were found near Ben Nevis.'

Mr MacLellan continued: 'There are two more wrecks in the loch called the Calipso and the Nunky, but these are for diving purposes along with some other strange objects for dive training, such as a hollow concrete cube and other geometric shapes.'

'These wrecks have allowed species such as pollock, cod and skate to thrive and they are currently in abundance.'

With Loch Linnhe being one of the closest controlled environments to the North Sea for remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) and diver training, it

remains an important location for the subsea industry.

Loch Linnhe is currently hosting a multi-million-pound rescue submarine that is being tested before shortly being sent to Korea.

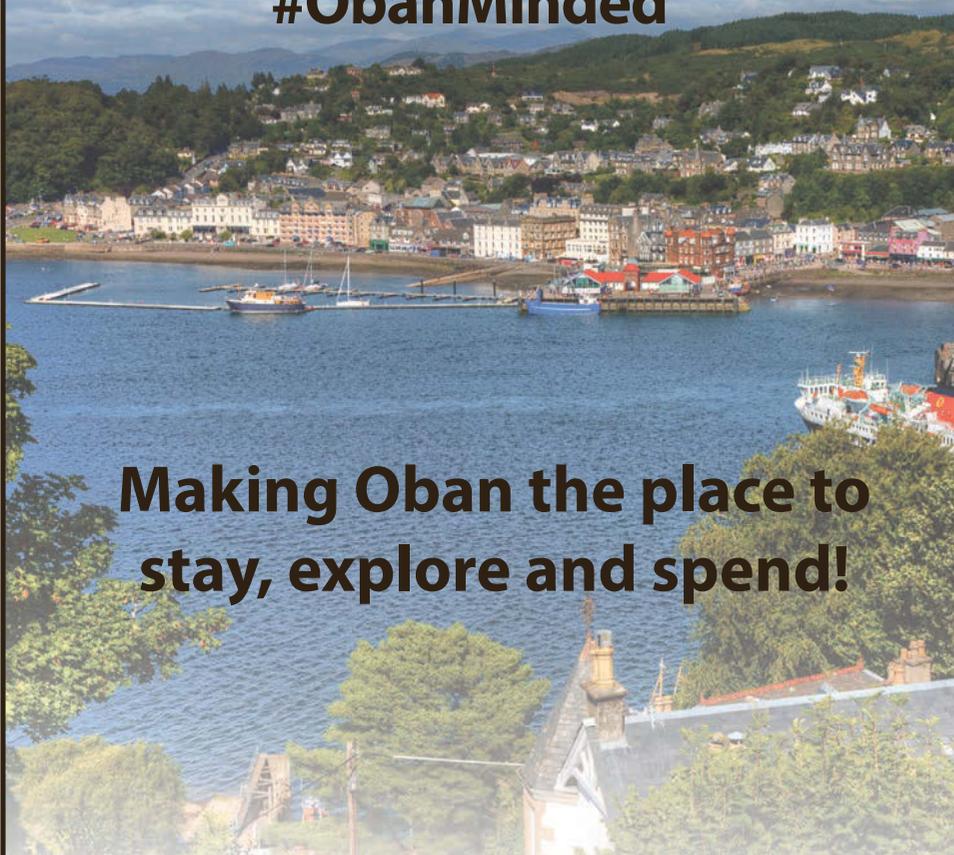
The marine connectivity of Loch Linnhe allows some of Scotland's favourite maritime fauna to visit Fort William, such as dolphins, porpoise and some species of whales which have also occasionally squeezed through the narrows.

Footage from ROVs from the underwater centre reveal Loch Linnhe's silty base, and Mr Maclean says this provides a haven for langoustine to bury into and live, scavenging on small fish and worms.

Scottish National Heritage also says Loch Linnhe is home to three rare species – horse mussels, burrowing heart urchins and heart cockles.

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Crofters invited to discuss tree planting

Crofters across Lochaber and the Hebrides are being invited to a free forestry event.

The Tea and Trees with Crofters event is being held online on Tuesday September 28, from 6-7pm and will inform participants of the benefits and help available for planting trees as part of their business.

It is part of the Integrating Trees Network programme which is run by Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government.

Its aim is to let crofters across Scotland hear from other crofters who have grown trees to boost their business.

Lyn White, Scottish Forestry's forestry and farming development officer, explained: 'This event aims to bring crofters together to chat about woodland projects

with specialists from Scottish Forestry and the Woodland Trust, who operate the Croft Woodland Project.

'We also have Andrew Hall, a Shetland crofter who has successfully integrated trees into his business. His experiences are well worth hearing.

'It's also a way to make connections and simply learn from others what the challenges might be and ways to overcome them.'

The event is the second Tea and Trees with Crofters to be held; the first one attracted the crofting communities from all over Skye, North Uist, Applecross, Lewis and Sutherland.

Lyn added: 'It was a great hour of discussion, full of folk sharing their experiences of tree planting, asking funding advice and even highlighting how the trees can provide benefits to bullocks and bees.'

Places are limited for this event so crofters are being urged to book promptly.

New ferry in sight for west coast

A new ferry could be on the horizon for island communities off the west coast it was revealed last week in the Scottish Parliament.

On Thursday, Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant, right, quizzed Transport Minister Graeme Dey MSP in the Holyrood chamber.

She demanded to know when the Scottish Government was going to increase ferry capacity across the West Highland network.

Following the initial question, Mr Dey heralded the removal of Covid restrictions and the introduction of the MV Arrow as solutions to the long-running complaints of lack of capacity.

But Mrs Grant responded that island communities in the west had suffered for a number of years due to lack of capacity and reliable ferries.

'This year the addition of Covid-19 has taken the service to breaking point with many people unable to travel.

'This is unacceptable; it damages the economy and blights lives.

'The Scottish Government has so far failed to increase capacity and I would like to ask what steps it is now taking to procure additional capacity over and above that provided by the MV Arrow in the short term to alleviate these communities' issues?'

Mr Dey advised that CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets) and CalMac representatives were currently out of the country assessing the viability of a new vessel to purchase which

could act as an essential back-up vessel through summer months and provide additional tonnage throughout the year.

Mrs Grant cautiously welcomed the announcement saying:

'Mr Dey advised us that "if" negotiations for this new vessel are completed it will alleviate some pressure in the network.

'While I desperately hope that this will work out for the sake of the communities, I am painfully aware of the awkward specification issues facing CalMac as a result of CMAL's scattergun approach to vessel and pier commissioning.

'I will celebrate when the vessel is docked in Scotland and not before.'

Mrs Grant added: 'Even if this vessel is secured and the SNP once again manages to patch over its atrocious lack of strategic management, we have to be cautious and keep up the pressure so that we do not reach another crisis stage as we have done this year.

'Passenger numbers on the ferry network are hitting record highs year-on-year, and this is to be welcomed - our communities should be promoted and enjoyed - but the infrastructure and the investment needs to be there to support it.

'The ferry fleet programme is years behind where it should be to provide a reliable and robust service.

'One or two boats are not going to address the crux of the matter - we need a properly-thought-out and developed strategy and purchase programme.'



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Comhairle sets sight on festive free parking

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is proposing a festive boost for town centre businesses by providing free parking over the Christmas and New Year period.

A report will be going to councillors for their consideration.

A local authority spokesperson said: 'It is important to provide support to local businesses where we can, particularly during these challenging financial times.'

'Hopefully this will encourage more people to shop locally for Christmas.'

'Last year the comhairle provided free town centre parking from December 18 to January 5.'

Education to be officially ended at mothballed Skye's Uig school

The Highland Council last week agreed to discontinue the provision of education at Uig Primary School, permanently transferring its catchment to that of Kilmuir Primary School.

A copy of the consultation report, together with the original proposal paper and all relevant appendices is now available from www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations.

The council says it is satisfied that implementation of closure is the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the original proposal identified by the authority.

The detailed rationale behind this decision is set out in the consultation report, which includes an explanation of the educational benefits that would arise from closure, as well as assessments of the community impact and the



travel arrangements that would apply following closure.

Uig Primary School was mothballed at the end of session 2009/10, when the roll fell to just two pupils.

The most significant reason for closure is that evidence suggests the number of children who would attend a re-opened Uig Primary School would be

too low to make the school viable, and that there would be educational disadvantages arising from such a decision.

Other factors include the length of time that Uig Primary has been mothballed, and the condition of the Uig school building. Lastly, Kilmuir Primary School is itself a remote rural school.

Highland Council headquarters in Inverness.

Council officials have already said re-opening Uig Primary would have a negative educational impact on pupils from Uig, and those at Kilmuir primary where Uig catchment area pupils have been going since 2010.

The council has notified Scottish ministers of the decision and provided them with a copy of the proposal paper and consultation report.

They have an eight-week period from September 9 to decide if they will intervene by issuing a call-in notice.

Within the first three weeks of that eight-week period, they will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person on whether the decision should be called in, or not called in, by a School Closure Review Panel.

All representations should be sent to the email address or the postal address below and the deadline is Wednesday, September 29.

Anyone wishing to make a representation to the Scottish ministers is asked to email schoolclosure@gov.scot or write to the School Infrastructure Unit, Scottish Government, 2-D (S) Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, by midnight on September 29 at the latest.

The council added in a statement: 'We will await the outcome of Scottish ministers' considerations.'

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LETTERS

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Community buyouts

Three communities have revealed ambitious plans this week.

In Knoydart, the small community of 100 people have launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to bring the peninsula's only pub under community ownership. The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Ltd is looking to raise just over £200,000 in order to make an offer on the pub. We'll drink to that!

Meanwhile, residents of Sunart are being asked if they want to be involved in a possible community buyout of Longrigg Woodland.

A feasibility study showed the move would be financially viable if there was enough people to form a working group. Opportunities for the land including recreational activities, a woodfuel business, as well as a chance to generate cash for the community given the high values of timber.

And lastly, the Morvern community have given a thumbs up to buying their local sports ground and surrounding land from Ardtornish Estate. Eight-eight per cent voted in favour of the move which would allow for improvements, a new clubhouse, as well as other facilities to be developed.

We wish them all good luck!

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

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

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

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If it ain't broke...

I read your article on deer culls in Scotland last week. Oddly after having had a brief conversation with a southern student about ecology and deer management, it was of interest to me that deer populations had doubled since 1990.

How much of this is due to migration of sitka and fallow deer due to global warming?

My interest lay in that originally I also wondered do we now have cross breeds with red deer?

I was told the old way of deer management was to export to France and Germany to maintain the price and remove the avarice of the haunch and burger from modern era wild west prospectors, whether that would quell the bickering of how things should be done I don't know. I don't believe it was broken - why was it fixed?

Danny Aitken, Fort William

Bureaucracy gone mad

Almost any bureaucratic situation is made worse by 'collective responsibility', which is a euphemism for no one in charge and a lot of buck-passing.

It seems obvious that that is the case around a trust port for Oban, particularly where safety is a main concern.

Who wants a harbour, particularly one as busy as Oban, to be run by people who can busily look for someone else to blame if anything goes wrong? It needs to be run by a single group where everyone knows where the buck stops. Being in charge concentrates the mind beautifully.

To look more particularly at Oban's case, Argyll and Bute Council's record of inefficiency, procrastination and blind eye turning is such that it is terrifying to think that it is involved in running the harbour.

And here we go again. What happened at a recent meeting? They kicked the ball down the road until December. Why?

Argyll and Bute Council shouldn't be allowed to run a lawnmower, which is another story and a classic example of their lazy stupidity.

Anne Archer, Oban

More investment in roads

As I travel from one side of my ward to another on the islands and the mainland there is one subject that continues to be raised above all others and that is our infrastructure.

There is no doubt the council has made huge strides forward and we have invested substantially in our roads and pavements, particularly on our islands which have in the past seen much

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Cha b' iongnadh rudhadh gruaidhe a bhith air an Àrd-Ollamh Tod Walker is e air cuid de chùrsaichean Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd (OGE), air a bheil e fhèin a-nise na Cheannard, a chur ann an suarachas! Bhiodh mòran ga mheas car annasach gun robh sgoilear bho thaobh eile an t-saoghail a' tagradh airson na h-obrach seo air Ghàidhealtachd, gun ghuth air a leithid a bhith ga stèidheachadh san dreuchd. Cha ghabh e bhith nach robh Walker air rannsachadh mion-aidheach a dhèanamh air na bha colaistean chaidreachais OGE a' teagasg mas do chuir e airson na h-obrach seo. Bhiodh dùil gun deach ceistean geur a chur air aig agallamh a thaobh a bheachdan air na bha an Oilthigh a' dèanamh, agus tha fhios gun robh làn-chothrom aige a smaoinean fhèin fhoillseachadh. Feumar faighneachd co-dhiù a nochd e barail aig an ìre sin gun robh cuid de na cùrsaichean a tha gan tabhann faoin, mar a tha e a-nise air a ràdh, agus ma bha fios aig an fheadhainn a thug an obair dha air a bheachdan dè tha sin ag innse mu fheallsanachd stiùiridh an Oilthigh anns na bliadhnaichean romhainn? Carson nach biodh cuid amharasach gun deach Walker fhastadh gus atharrachadh bunasach a thoirt air clàr chùrsaichean OGE?

Chan iad oileanaich a-mhàin, tha mòran de luchd-teagaisg cholaistean OGE cuideachd, aig nach eil cuimhne air àm far nach robh an oilthigh againn, agus 's fhiach urram a nochdadh dha na ceudan a rinn spàirn fad iomadh bliadhna agus an goireas priseil seo fhaotainn. Mar a bhios fios aig cuid agaibh cheangail structair OGE dà cholaiste dheug fo bhratach Oilthigh, agus ged

needed works seemingly put on the back burner.

What we need going forward is a sustained level of investment in our infrastructure. This will mean more support for our local council's budget from central Government.

Councillor Alastair Redman

Protecting our MPAs

Greenpeace has highlighted commercial fishing in protected sea areas (MPAs).

This needs to stop as resources need to be conserved and managed sustainably. Species depletion and loss must be reversed and the seabed needs to remain protected from bottom trawling which, among other harms, releases carbon to the atmosphere. We are getting to a tipping

a chruthaich sin dùbhlain a thaobh neo-eisimeileachd agus stiùireadh nan ionadan fa leth, thug e cothrom cudromach dha gach colaiste cùrsaichean a thabhann aig àrd-ìre foghlaim agus mar oilthigh sam bith tha OGE cuideachd a' tàladh oileanaich far feadh an t-saoghail. Tuigear cuideachd gun tàinig sreath biurocrasaidh agus cosgais an lùib stèidheachadh OGE, ach saoilidh mi gun robh riamh tuigse ann nach fhaighte leithid de ghoireas gun chosgais. B' e an t-amas a bh' ann bho thùs cothrom a thoirt do mhuintir na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan oideachadh àrd-ìre fhaotainn cho faisg 's a ghabhadh air an coimhearsnachdan fhèin. Bha dòchas ann gun lùghdaicheadh seo na bhathas a' call de shluagh choimhearsnachdan an iomail nuair a dh'fhàgadh iad air tòir foghlaim, agus bhathas cuideachd an dùil gum brosnaicheadh an goireas fèin-spèis agus moit choimhearsnachdan nan dualchas fhèin. Chan eil teagamh nach eil an t-amas sin ga choileanadh air gach làrach oideachaidh agus tha toradh nan cùrsaichean eadar-dhealaichte nochdte ann an saoghal cosnaidh feadh na dùthcha agus thall thairis.

Ann an agallamh le pàipear-naidheachd ionadail thuirt An t-Àrd-Ollamh Walker, Ceannard OGE, nach biodh àite aig cùrsaichean faoin nach robh dol a chruthachadh cothrom cosnaidh. Tha e a-nise air iarraidh gun gabhar a leisgeul, agus e ag ràdh nach eil clàn-gnothaich falaichte sam bith ann gus cuid a chùrsaichean a mheas nas cudromaiche na feadhainn eile. Dearbhaidh an ùine sin!

point of no return on climate and environmental issues and any malpractice has to be identified and addressed immediately. All associated commercial industries should be levied and the tax put towards future-proofing, sustainability and resilience. All enterprises exploiting natural resources should be licensed and granted under strict conditions on sustainable practices, with severe 'on the spot' penalties for breaches.

The time has come to act and when this occurs it is the little people who eventually, out of self preservation, stand up. Please use the platforms we have - including The Oban Times - to let everyone know we are facing a planetary emergency.

Graeme Guy, Dingwall.



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DISTRICT NEWS



Duror postie Stephen Cargill in his kilt raising funds for The Beaton Cancer Centre in Glasgow.

You are first class, Stephen!

Duror Postie Stephen Cargill is first class when it comes to delivering funds for a good cause.

The 49-year-old, who lives near Taynuilt, swapped his shorts for a kilt for two weeks on his usual Duror and Appin round in aid of The Beaton Cancer Centre in Glasgow.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters he has raised £936, topped up by Royal Mail with another £200; smashing well over the £1,000 mark.

Stephen, who has been working the Appin round for eight years now, came up with the idea of wearing his kilt when his employers chose The Beaton as a good cause for all its offices in the PA postal code area to fundraise for.

Stephen's wife Ethel was so proud of his efforts she contacted The Oban Times to tell us about it and thank everyone who gave so generously.

'I'm very proud of him. He got his photo taken by quite a few tourists - I think they thought the kilt was part of his official uniform here in Scotland,' she said.

KINLOCHLEVEN

Leah gets locks chopped for charity - for third time

Kinlochleven youngster Leah Willis has had her long tresses cut for a third time to raise money for charity.

Lean, 12, a pupil at the village high school, and her family, mum Laura, dad Dean and elder brother Blake, 13, moved to the village two years ago from Portsmouth.

Last Wednesday at Kinlochleven hairdresser Cait's Cuts Leah gave up 16 inches of her hair in aid of the Little Princess Trust, raising £155 so far with more donations still coming in.

Laura said: 'This is the third time she has cut her hair for this charity.

'She had 18 inches of hair cut off in May 2017 and raised £350 and had her hair cut again in 2018, donating 10 inches. She started getting her

CAOL

Caol Regeneration Company has food stores available

Lochaber Resilience Group met recently and among the items discussed, it was noted that the Caol Regeneration Company (CRC) has food stores available for community groups which are not being made use of.

Linda Campbell of CRC said: 'Caol Regeneration Company based at Caol Community Centre has teamed up with the Fareshare and Neighbourly schemes.

'Surplus dry foods are available to go out to community groups which have people in their community needing help.'

'If you can use some of these foods, please contact Linda Campbell, Caol Regeneration on 01397 700800.

ACHARACLE

Acharacle playpark campaign already raised thousands

Acharacle Playpark is more than 30 years old and in desperate need of renovation.

But a fund-raising campaign has now raised £3,000-plus towards its £60,000 target.

There are a large number of children and young



Leah Willis, 12, with her new look after having her hair cut by Caitlin Murphy, also pictured, at Cait's Cuts in Kinlochleven for a third time for charity.



hair cut at eight years old in honour of a school friend who died of brain cancer at the age of nine.' The trust uses donated hair to make

free wigs made for children and young people experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss through cancer treatment or other conditions.

people in the village and outlying areas who use the park and equipment is old and no longer fit for purpose, according to campaigners.

They have set up a sub-group of Acharacle Community Company with the aim of making the playpark a safe and inspiring place for all children to play in.

Details can be found on their Facebook page - Acharacle Playpark Renovation - for updates on progress.

The group says it will be eligible for grants to fund some of the renovation costs of the park, however, community fundraising will also need to play a major part in raising money.

STRONTIAN

Rare moth encountered in Strontian

Scotstown crofter Sarah Asher had quite the fright when an after-dark visitor entered the house via the chimney recently, writes Nic Goddard.

The moth - identified as a Death's-head Hawk-moth returned indoors a second time after Sarah had released it back outside.

Named for the distinctive skull shape on its wings, it is one of the larger moths in the UK and very rare.

In fact the last recorded sighting of one in Ardnarmuchan was in 1995.

The moth - Latin name *Acherontia atropos*

- has a wingspan of up to around 10cm and to match their spooky appearance can also make an audible squealing noise when alarmed.

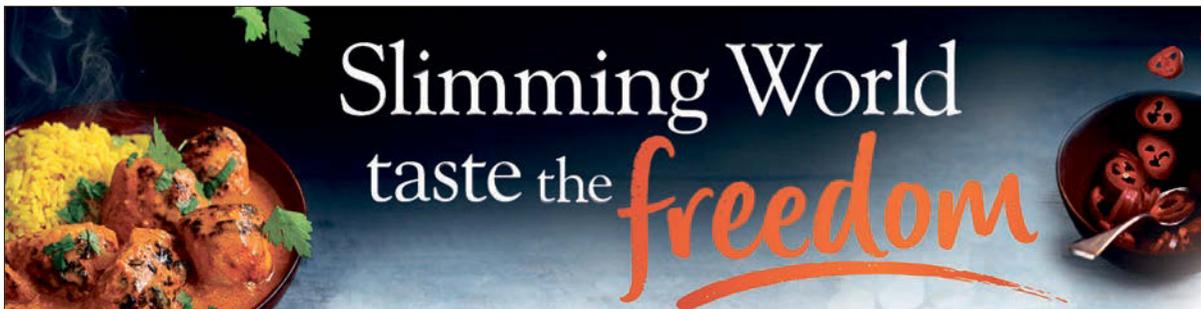
Sarah said: 'It had made me jump the first time it came in the house late in the evening.

'I managed to catch it and put it outside and had just settled back down again when it appeared back in the house.

'Apparently they are attracted to beehives and while the hives on our croft here in Strontian are not currently inhabited with bees, we had been burning some beeswax candles, so maybe the smell of honey and beeswax lured it down the chimney.'



Death's head hawk moth. Photo Sarah Asher



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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Somebody mentioned to me recently that their fridge door is covered in gig tickets bought before (or during) lockdown for shows that haven't happened yet.



one of the West Coast's all time favourite bands no matter whether they are 10 or 11 years old. In reality - some of the lads have been playing together for much longer than a decade anyway. It may have been 11 years ago that they formed this particular line up under the name of Trail West but I vividly remember a fresh faced Ian Smith competing against me in the Under 19 accordion section at the Oban Mòd 2009 and telling me afterwards that he was playing in a band.

I am sure a great many people are in a similar situation. Well, this weekend, one of these gig tickets can finally be taken off the fridge door and handed to a bouncer at the Barrowland Ballroom as 1,900 Highlanders and Islanders will ascend the famous steps to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Trail West, pictured. When the invite from the boys fell through my letterbox for the original pre-lockdown date, it read: Ten Years of Trail West. "Ten years of Trail West?" I thought. "I can hardly stand two hours of them!"

We must have both been about 16 at the time so the idea of playing in a band was extremely exciting. That original line up would be unrecognisable to Trail West fans today. The personnel are different and Ian has a much redder face! But it was not long before the line up of Ian, Seonaidh MacIntyre, Alain Campbell, and Andrew Findlater became a regular fixture in bars, halls, and festivals all throughout the West Coast. Wherever they turned up,

when Trail West were in town, a good night was guaranteed. And, in Glasgow, no Sunday evening was ever complete without Trail West in the Park Bar or the Islay Inn.

More recently, they upped the stakes by adding Jonathan Gillespie on keys and Allan Nairn on electric guitar so their sound is now massive. This has limited the number of pub gigs they do but means they are 100% ready to take on venues like the Barras.

Their popularity has never solely been down to their incredible music; but also to the fact they are universally loved as people and are always up for the craic. I dare say Saturday night will be no different! Here's to 10 (or 11) years!

What's on in Glasgow

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

McCaig's Tower venue for free film to show power of water

A free outdoor screening of a documentary celebrating the awesome and destructive power of water will be shown at McCaig's Tower in Oban as part of a nationwide festival of Scottish film.

Aquarela, directed by Viktor Kossakovsky has been called 'the most dangerous film ever made', and includes terrifying footage of storms, cracking ice flows and furious seas.

The film will be shown on September 24 as part of the Scotland-wide Cinescapes Festival, which celebrates Scottish films in the locations which inspired them.

Jennie Larney, of the Phoenix Cinema in Oban said: 'We are very excited about it. We are showing it at McCaig's Tower which is an iconic building.

'We are doing it for free to say thank you to the people in our town for supporting us during the pandemic. It is an amazing film and the sea is important to everyone in Britain, particularly the Highlands.

It will also be the launch event for our Festival of the Outdoors, which features films about the environment in all its forms.'

Isobel Salamon, co-producer



Aquarela has been called 'the most dangerous film ever made'. It will be showing at McCaig's Tower later this month.

of the Cinescapes Festival, said: 'This is going to be our most spectacular event yet. We are setting up a big open air screen which people can watch inside McCaig's Tower.

'The main message of this film is about climate change. We see how vulnerable we are as human beings. This is the Year of Coasts and Waters, and also COP26. We thought how great to show this near water, and that is why we

chose McCaig's Tower. [Oban's Phoenix Cinema] is a great community hub. We want to champion these local heroes.'

Aimara Reques, the Glasgow-based producer of Aquarela said: 'We are very pleased to be included in the Cinescapes programme. Aquarela really addresses the question of how we connect to the natural world and how we can make films and documentaries that reflect that. We are very proud of the film. Kossakovsky is known as the Rembrandt of documentary films and is a maestro of how to present the world moment to moment in cinematography.

'It was very difficult to make but we worked with a lot of international partners. Our aim was to produce a high quality film which puts Scotland at the heart of international film distribution.'

There are 116 tickets which can be bought by donation. Pre-purchased food from Taste of Argyll is available on the night, with orders needing to be placed by midday on September 22. The Highland Liquor Co. from Ullapool will be serving their fishermen's strength Seven Crofts Gin.

HIGHLAND CINEMA

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Respect (12a) 10:30am. The Last Bus (12a) 11am + 3:15pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:15pm + 4:30pm. Candyman (15) 5:30pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 7:30pm. Our Ladies (15) 8pm.

SATURDAY 18th September

Paw Patrol (U) 10:30am. Free Guy (12a) 11am. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:15pm + 4:30pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 1:40pm. The Last Bus (12a) 2:45pm. Respect (12a) 5pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 7:30pm. Candyman (15) 8:15pm.

SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Paw Patrol (U) 11am. The Last Bus (12a) 11:30am. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:15pm + 4:15pm. Respect (12a) 2pm. Candyman (15) 5:15pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 7:15pm. Small World (15) 7:30pm.

MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

The Last Bus (12a) 10:30am + 8pm. Respect (12a) Bairns at the Box Office: 11am. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:15pm + 4:30pm. Candyman (15) 2:15pm. Our Ladies (15) 5pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 7:30pm.

TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

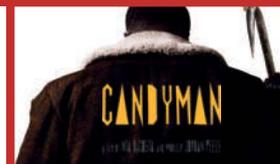
Highlands From The Air (U) 1pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:15pm + 4:30pm. The Last Bus (12a) 2:15pm. Respect (12a) 4:50pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 7:30pm. Candyman (15) 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

The Last Bus (12a) 10:30am. Respect (12a) 10:45am. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 12:45pm + 3:45pm. Candyman (15) 2pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 4:30pm. The Big Bike Night (PG) 7pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (18) 7:30pm.

THURSDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

Respect (12a) 10:20am. Highlands From The Air (U) 11am. The Last Bus (12a) 12:15pm. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (12a) 1:30pm. The Alpinist (12a) 2:30pm + 8pm. Gunpowder Milkshake (15) 4:30pm. The Many Saints Of Newark (18) 5pm + 7:30pm.



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LT

Shinty round up

Fort William, Kingussie and Newtonmore have good league wins in Saturday's action

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – quarter-final

**Fort William P
Glenurquhart P**

The tie between Fort William and Glenurquhart at An Aird was called off because of Covid restrictions and will be rescheduled.

Mowi Senior League A

**Fort William 5
Skye Camanachd 2**

With both Fort William and Skye seeing their original fixtures postponed, a meeting between the sides at An Aird was quickly arranged.

With Victor Smith unavailable, Fort William co-manager Adam Robertson took sole charge of the side. Johnny Foster and Ally MacRae were missing so Gordon Stephenson and Lewis Murphy came into the defence, with Alexander Cameron going to full back.

Calum Shepherd was out with a broken knuckle suffered in the last outing against Lochaber. Jack Fraser lined-up in midfield. Skye boss Kenny MacLeod was still without John Gillies so William MacKinnon continued at full back. Iain MacLellan started with Jamie Gillie dropping onto the bench.

Skye lost defender Martin Pringle after just five minutes.

Pringle was taken off as a precautionary measure with a

tight hamstring and the forthcoming Alvanca Balliemore Cup final in mind.

Jamie Gillies came on in attack; James Pringle dropped back into midfield with Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod moving into the defence.

Fort William went in front on 32 minutes. Arran MacPhee and Lewis Morrison were high up the park and when the ball came to Morrison, he drew two defenders as he went to shoot but flicked the ball to Arran MacPhee instead.

MacPhee was free outside the D and the Fort skipper wasn't going to miss and he sent the ball into the bottom corner of the net. Lachie Shaw made it 2-0 just three minutes before the break.

The ball came in low from a corner on the left and fell to Shaw around the penalty area and he turned and shot goalwards, not catching the ball as crisply as he'd have liked but it hit Skye keeper Ryan Morrison's foot and went into the net.

The Fort added a third a minute after the restart. The ball came in from a shy and Lachie Shaw turned his marker before letting the ball bounce twice and his shot flew into the net, hitting the middle of the left stanchion.

Skye's Somhairle MacDonald scored his third goal in two weeks when he cut in from the left before shooting from around the penalty spot.

Fort keeper Paul MacKay got his hand to the ball but

couldn't keep it out so it was now 3-1 with 52 minutes on the clock.

The islanders cut the deficit to a single goal on 72 minutes with a great finish from Jordan Murchison on the right.

However there was to be no comeback and when the hosts were awarded a free-hit on the left side of the D, Padraig McNeil played the ball across the penalty area where Lewis Morrison fired into the middle left-hand side of the goal.

Fort William wrapped up the points from a good overall performance three minutes from time when Cam Stephen made it 5-2. Lachie Shaw's shot was saved with his feet by Ryan Morrison but as the ball flew into the air, Cam Stephen finished calmly with a tap-in.

Speaking afterwards, Fort William co-manager Adam Robertson said: 'We played really well and it was a good win. We are using the league to build our squad up for next season and youngsters Gordon Stephenson and Lewis Murphy came into the side and really impressed.'

'Craig MacDonald and Cam Stephen also showed up well when they came on for the final 20 minutes, whilst Astie Cameron did very well as we moved him to full back.'

'We have a good forward line on paper but we've not always shown it on the pitch this season.'

'I thought we clicked on Saturday though. We got to the ball first and that made a

difference. I thought Victor Smith had his best game of the season. He won just about every ball and he is so hard to shift off the ball when he gets possession.'

'It was a good performance and a good result.'

**Skye Camanachd P
Lochaber P**

Skye Camanachd's fixture with Lochaber at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Kilmallie P Kinlochshiel P
Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup finalists Kinlochshiel were unable to fulfil their meeting with Kilmallie at the Canal Parks.

Mowi Senior League B

Kingussie 5 Caberfeidh 1

Kingussie came from a goal down to beat Caberfeidh 5-1 at the Dell.

Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett scored the only goal of the first half on 39 minutes but Kingussie made a smart start to the second period with Roddy Young levelling on 46 minutes.

Liam Borthwick on 55 minutes and Dylan Borthwick a couple of minutes later made 3-1.

Dylan Borthwick added a fourth on 78 minutes whilst Roddy Young got his second to round off the scoring on 82 minutes.

Strathglass 0 Newtonmore 7
Newtonmore were 7-0 victors against Strathglass at Cannich. Iain Robinson's brace on 27 and 35 minutes had 'More two up.

Referee Willie MacDonald penalised a blatant hack to



Skye's James Pringle tries to block Alexander Cameron.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

award 'More a penalty on 45 minutes and Struan Ross converted.

Struan Ross got his second a minute after the restart. When a Strathglass defender was penalised for double-swinging inside the D, Conor Jones scored from the spot to make it 6-0.

Struan Ross completed his hat-trick with a brilliant solo effort as he played keepy-uppy with the ball as he ran forward before crashing a volley into the roof of the net.

Iain Robinson rounded off the scoring three minutes from time.

There were yellow cards for Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald for speaking out of turn to referee Willie MacDonald and to Strathglass captain Josh Fraser for persistent fouling.

Beaully P Lovat P

The derby between Beaully and

Lovat at Braeview Park was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

HIS Sutherland Cup - semi-final

Lovat P Lochside Rovers P

The Lovat second team and Lochside Rovers will have to try again as their noon throw up at Spean Bridge was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

Mowi North League A

Kinlochshiel 2 Glengarry 1

The Kinlochshiel seconds turned in a strong defensive performance to beat a good Glengarry side 2-1 in their 1pm throw up at Rèaraig.

Colin MacDiarmid started at full centre for 'Shiel with Callum Coghill and Lewis MacVicar either side of him



Fort double scorer Lachie Shaw pushes through opposition near the Skye goalmouth.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

All roads lead to Oban as the 2021 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final between Kinlochshiel and Lovat takes place at Mossfield on Saturday September 18.

Kinlochshiel boss Johnston Gill has been monitoring the Scottish international's fitness after the Scottish international suffered a leg injury in the semi-final victory over Kyles Athletic.

John MacRae and Duncan

'WD' MacRae both missed the recent win over Strathglass, whilst Ali Nixon is a major doubt with a hamstring problem. However Mark MacDonald looks to be winning his race to play.

Lovat manager Jamie Matheson appointed former player Euan Ferguson as his assistant manager in the lead up to the final. But the Balgait side suffered a blow when Lorne MacKay's

booking in the semi-final win over Kingussie triggered a two-match suspension meaning he will miss the final. MacKay also missed the 2013 MacTavish Cup final win over Glenurquhart through suspension.

Defender Scott MacKenzie is a major doubt with a broken finger and there could be a call-up for Ryan Ferguson.

Lovat are skipped by Stuart MacDonald, whilst

and they lined up against Steven Cameron, flanked by Scott Bremner and Kyle MacKinnon.

Glengarry started with a strong forward line deploying Rhuairaidh MacDonald at buckshee forward, Finlay Fraser and Nick Dalgety on the wings and former Scotland international Shaun Nicolson at full forward.

However the 'Shiel back line of Andrew MacKenzie, Rowan Myers, Martin MacRae, and Arron Jack and keeper Sandy MacDiarmid were to prove key throughout.

Kinlochshiel enjoyed most of the early pressure without really working keeper Gordon MacDonald but when 'Garry broke, Nick Dalgety tested 'Shiel custodian Sandy MacDiarmid with Shaun Nicolson going close from the rebound.

Shaun Nicolson took down a long Steven Cameron free-hit but his shot from wide on the left was well saved by Sandy MacDiarmid.

Finlay D MacRae and Archie MacRae combined to send Rory Slaughter running through on goal but Gordon MacDonald came off his line to save and Shaun Sloggie cleared the stray ball.

Both teams hit counter attacks with Archie MacRae blazing over at one end and Nick Dalgety doing similar wide on the left at the other.

The visitors put a good move together when Shaun Sloggie won possession at the back and Steven Cameron played the ball on to Rhuairaidh MacDonald who had come deep and he sent a great ball down the inside right channel where Shaun Nicolson flashed a shot wide.

A passing move involving Arron Jack, Finlay D MacRae and Zander MacRae set up a chance for Archie MacRae but his shot went wide.

When Lewis MacVicar sent the ball down the right wing, Finlay D MacRae sent the ball across goal and Zander MacRae saw his shot saved with his feet by Gordon MacDonald. The game was

flowing from end-to-end but both teams lacked that killer touch.

Archie MacRae showed great skill to take down a high ball forward and he slipped Finlay D MacRae right through on goal but his effort went the wrong side of the post for what was the best chance of the match so far.

Kyle MacKinnon did well to win possession on the left of the 'Garry midfield and he found Rhuairaidh MacDonald whose long ball forward sent Nick Dalgety and Shaun Nicolson racing into the D but Sandy MacDiarmid came off his line to deal with the danger and the ball went behind for a goal hit so it remained goalless at the break.

Archie MacRae sent a snapshot over the bar early in the second half whilst 'Garry twice went close at the other end with Shaun Nicolson in the thick of the action.

Sandy MacDiarmid came quickly off his line to foil Shaun Nicolson who had run through towards goal into the left of the D and Nicolson was hurt in the challenge.

Glengarry took the lead on the hour. A long ball was well taken down by Shaun Nicolson and although his first effort at goal was blocked, he sent the rebound into the net to make it 1-0.

However, 'Shiel levelled a couple of minutes later when Rory Slaughter's corner from the left came to Finlay D MacRae and he smashed the ball into the net from just to the right of the D. Archie MacRae made space before seeing his shot crash off the outside of the stanchion.

'Shiel took the lead 15 minutes from time when Archie MacRae ran on to a great diagonal ball from Rory Slaughter, and MacRae thundered the ball home to make it 2-1.

Glengarry responded, working the ball up the right side, and Sandy MacDiarmid made a fine stop from Shaun Nicolson's strike.

Shaun Nicolson set up Rhuairaidh MacDonald and his backhand strike pinged the

inside of the post and although 'Garry made optimistic claims that the ball had crossed the line, Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup referee John Angus Gillies waved away their pleas.

The visitors piled on the pressure at the end. Rhuairaidh MacDonald's set-piece ball into the danger-area was flicked away by Zander MacRae as far as Scott Bremner on the right and his ball into the goal area was forced out for a corner.

Nick Dalgety made space to get a sight at goal from Kyle MacKinnon's corner but the 'Shiel defence scrambled the ball back out of play for another corner, this time on the right.

Rhuairaidh MacDonald shot wide from Nick Dalgety's corner and that was the last chance of this enjoyable contest.

Lochcarron P Skye Camanachd P
Lochcarron's derby with the Skye Camanachd second team at Battery Park was called off on Thursday evening because of Covid restrictions.

Mowi North League B

Caberfeidh 1 Kingussie 7
The Kingussie colts beat the Caberfeidh colts 7-1 at Castle Leod. Ruaraidh Wink on five minutes and Peter Dickson on 11 minutes gave the Kings early control in this game.

Martin Dallas made it 3-0 on 24 minutes, whilst Peter Dickson completed his hat-trick with goals on 34 and 50 minutes.

Martin Dallas got his second on 54 minutes and although Ruaraidh MacLeman gave Cabers some consolation three minutes later, Martin Dallas went on to complete his hat-trick with 15 minutes to go.

Newtonmore P Inverness P
The game between the Newtonmore seconds and the Inverness firsts at the Eilan was another Covid postponement.

Mowi North League C

Fisher and fourth official Calum Girvan.

Throw up is at 2.10pm and the whole match will be broadcast live on BBC ALBA from 2pm.

Earlier in the day, the MacMaster Cup final between Fort William U14 and either Kilmallie U14 or Skye Camanachd U14 takes place.

Throw up is at 11am and the final will be refereed by Craig Scott.

Beaully 4 Lewis Camanachd 0
Aberdeen University agreed to reschedule their match against the Beaully seconds at Braeview Park to allow the hosts to welcome Lewis Camanachd for the islanders' first competitive match in 18 months.

Lewis put everything into the game and held the hosts at bay until three minutes before the break when a free-hit from the left was played on to Finlay MacLennan and his turn and shot from just outside the D made it 1-0 at the break.

Torrin Cairns added a second on 67 minutes when he ran the ball into the D following a corner from the left and he slipped the ball past the keeper on the rebound.

Sean Stewart made it 3-0 with 20 minutes remaining when he knocked the ball low into the net on his backhand from just right of centre following a good passing move.

Sean Stewart got his second and Beaully's fourth with just three minutes remaining when he volleyed home a corner from the right at the front post for what was the goal of the match.

Inverness P Lewis Camanachd P

The 12.30pm throw up between the Inverness colts and Lewis Camanachd at the Bught Park was another Covid postponement.

Strathspey Camanachd P Strathglass P

Strathspey Camanachd's meeting with the Strathglass at Grantown Grammar School was called off for Covid reasons.

This is the third successive Saturday that these sides have been unable meet.

Mowi Central League

Lochaber P Oban Celtic P
The 3pm throw up between the Lochaber seconds and the Oban Celtic seconds at Spean Bridge will be rearranged.

Glenorchy 2 Kilmallie 2
Glenorchy and the Kilmallie second team shared the points following a 2-2 draw at Mart Park.

Conor Sartain gave Glenorchy a 36-minute lead with what was the only goal of the first half.

When referee Deek Cameron awarded Kilmallie a penalty three minutes after the restart, Stuart Ross stepped up to score from the spot.

Ben MacKinnon put the visitors ahead on 58 minutes only for Conor Sartain to get his and Glenorchy's second with on 15 minutes remaining.

Kilmallie P Ardnamurchan P
The meeting between the Kilmallie seconds and Ardnamurchan at the Canal Parks was a Covid postponement.



Newtonmore Primary captain Joseph-Luca Brannan celebrates with his side who won the Tulloch Cup at An Aird, Fort William last week. All photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Dominant display sees Newtonmore lift Primary Cup

Wednesday, September 8 saw the Tulloch Homes Primary Cup finals day take place at An Aird, Fort William between Newtonmore Primary and GlenUrquhart/Balnain Primaries.

Both schools had come through the group stages of this competition having played, and beaten schools from their local area to qualify.

Unfortunately due to Covid cases, school restrictions and players isolating there were a number of additional teams who had won through to finals day but sadly could not make it.

The game, officiated by Fort William development officer and Camanachd Association board member Willie MacDonald, started quickly with Newtonmore first out the blocks as James Coyle found the net on the one-minute mark and then again on the second.

Newtonmore were relentless in their pressure and by half-



It was an action-packed game between Newtonmore Primary and GlenUrquhart/Balnain Primaries.

time a number of additional goals had been scored.

The game was then out of reach of the brave GlenUrquhart/Balnain team who didn't let their heads go down and defended tirelessly throughout the first period.

Newtonmore switched their team around in the second half, moving players around the park into different positions.

The GlenUrquhart/Balnain squad marked tight and defended diligently but still couldn't stop this talented team from scoring time and again with captain Joseph-Luca Brannan getting a double early in the second half.

The score would have been higher if it wasn't for some of the fantastic saves the GlenUrquhart/Balnain goalkeeper made throughout the game.

Newtonmore's slick passing and movement off the ball ensured they kept their lead well and truly intact.

Willie MacDonald blew his whistle and drew the game to a close and Joseph-Luca Brannan deservedly collected Tulloch Homes Primary Cup for 2021.

Thanks went to both sets of players, coaches and parents for their support before during and after the event.

Acknowledgments also went to referee Willie MacDonald for officiating the game, to Fort William Shinty Club for hosting the event and to the sponsors Tulloch Homes.

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Camanachd Cup final preview

Keith MacRae captains Kinlochshiel.

Mossfield was the scene of Lovat's 2015 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup win over Kyles Athletic. This will be their fourth Scottish final in the last six years but 2015 remains their only success during that period.

Kinlochshiel lifted the Artemis Macaulay Cup there in both 2016 and 2018, whilst they also clinched the Mowi

Premiership title at the same venue between times.

John Angus Gillies from Skye is the match referee, the first man from the island to take charge of shinty's premier competition since Archibald MacPherson 107 years ago.

He will be assisted by goal judges Lachie Wood and David Mitchell, linesmen Craig Scott, Scott Campbell, Alex MacVicar and Graham

Fisher and fourth official Calum Girvan.

Throw up is at 2.10pm and the whole match will be broadcast live on BBC ALBA from 2pm.

Earlier in the day, the MacMaster Cup final between Fort William U14 and either Kilmallie U14 or Skye Camanachd U14 takes place.

Throw up is at 11am and the final will be refereed by Craig Scott.



Archie is top Scot at Downhill Championship

Inverlochly mountain biker Archie Ferguson was crowned Scottish Champion at Fort William's World Cup Downhill track at the weekend. As well as coming top Scot in the Juvenile section the 14-year-old took third place overall in his category in the Scottish Downhill Association (SDA) third round race, one of

several podium finishes for his West Highland Wheelers club. Speaking after his amazing achievement Archie said he was 'over the moon' with the result. 'What an awesome weekend of racing and riding,' he added. 'What a privilege it was getting to race again on my home turf and seeing everyone

at their best. I am super stoked to have finished up where I did and congratulations to all my friends who made the podiums also.

'A massive thank you to everyone who made this race possible, SDA, and everyone who brought along good vibes by cheering us on.'

Archie posted a winning time of 5:24.968 in the SDA's longest, most gruelling and best supported event.

The track is physical and demanding and mentally draining. From the top riders are launched into the battle zone with unstrategically placed boulders, loose rocks and tight berms.

Also from West Highland Wheelers, Alan Cameron was third in the Juvenile section for the Scottish Championship and his sister Nina Cameron was second for the same in the youth category and third



Archie Ferguson topped the podium in the Juvenile section of the Scottish Downhill Championships.

in the SDA Junior Women's section. Cory Muir took the third podium spot for Youth (Scottish Championship) while Kai Frost also raced.

Sean Petig, who hasn't raced for seven years, came third in

the SDA Senior Men's category while Alistair MacLennan took second overall Veteran in the SDA.

The fourth and final round of the SDA takes place at Glenshee on October 2-3.



Archie flying high in Fort William.

Nevis Hillwalking Club – weekend walks preview

Nevis Hillwalking Club: Saturday, September 18 - Newtonmore
- Carn Dearg (945m, Munro) – red hill
- Carn Ban (942m, Munro top) – white hill
- Carn Ballach (920m, Munro top) – speckled hill
- Hill of the basket
- A' Chailleach (930m, Munro) – The Old Woman
The Monadhliath is a large desolate area of high-altitude moorland that contains four Munros.

The programmed walk takes in three of them including A' Chailleach the most popular and most ascended of the Monadhliath (24km, 1036m ascent).

A shorter walk is also available to A' Chailleach only (13km, 760m ascent).

For more detail of the routes please visit the website www.nevishillwalking.club or Facebook page.

Please note that walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions.

If you are a keen hill walker, want to know more about the club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, please contact it at enquiries@nevishillwalking.club

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Great competitive restart for Lochaber rugby U18s

After many years of committing to training without the prospect of competitive rugby fixtures a Lochaber U18 travelled to Ardrrossan at the weekend for their first game in a Western conference.

The Lochaber team was bolstered by players from the surrounding areas such as Oban and also included players who had never played in a competitive match before.

Ardrrossan Academicals had already played their first

league game and this showed in the initial stages of the first half when they started off the match stronger and scored the opening points.

Lochaber soon gained their rhythm and confidence and responded by putting points on the board themselves.

The remainder of the match saw further well-executed tries from both teams in what ended up being a well-contested match. In the last 10 min of the match Lochaber were

unable to maximise a couple of opportunities that would have seen them equalise. The game ended 31-24.

Based on their first match performance and a great displayed of passion and resilience it looks to be a promising return to competitive rugby for the U18 team.

The next game is at home this Sunday, September 19, against Strathaven and the team hope for good local support and a strong performance.



The Lochaber Under 18s team that travelled to Ardrrossan.

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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 16 September, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

16	0217 2.8 0758 1.6 TH 1452 3.2 2039 1.6	18	0431 3.3 1012 1.2 SA 1629 3.7 2244 1.1	20	0525 3.7 1134 0.7 M 1733 4.1 O 2357 0.8	22	0029 0.8 0620 3.9 W 1245 0.7 1836 4.2
17	0344 3.0 0918 1.4 F 1549 3.5 2157 1.4	19	0500 3.5 1055 0.9 SU 1702 4.0 2322 1.0	21	0552 3.8 1210 0.6 TU 1805 4.2	23	0101 0.8 0647 3.9 TH 1317 0.8 1905 4.1

FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

Thursday Light cloud and a gentle breeze Temperatures 14°C to 17°C.	Friday Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.	Saturday Light cloud and light winds Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.	Sunday Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 11°C to 17°C.
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FRIDAY FORECAST

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

HIGH 16 LOW 10 9 MPH