

# West Highland Free Press

An Tìr, An Cànan, 'S na Daoine  
THE UK'S FIRST EMPLOYEE-OWNED NEWSPAPER



Skye Bridge 10k and gala festivities, pages 18, 19



Ullapool rowers conquer the Minch, page 7

No 2468

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST 2019

90p

## Trio of Lewis wind farms eligible for subsidy auction due this month

BY KEITH MACKENZIE  
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Projects will have until the end of this month to bid for subsidies offering support to island-based wind farms.

On Lewis, three projects have grid connection agreements in place, which is a necessary prerequisite for taking part in the UK Government-run auction for 'Contracts for Difference' – the main mechanism for supporting the deployment of new low-carbon electricity generation.

The three projects on Lewis in a position to bid are Lewis Wind Power's Stornoway scheme, the Oppenheim family-owned Uisenis Wind Farm, and Forsa Energy's Druim Leathann development at Tolsta.

Four crofting community schemes — who want to pursue their own smaller-scale projects on grazing land that the Stornoway Trust has already earmarked for the LWP development — cannot bid, as they have not obtained planning consent in time to qualify.

It emerged this week that the original deadline to submit sealed bids had been extended from today (15th August) until 29th August.

The UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy confirmed a legal challenge had been made in relation to the current round of Contracts for Difference allocations.

However, this legal challenge is not related to ongoing attempts to thwart the 36-turbine LWP plan in favour of alternative schemes being pursued by the four crofting townships.

continued on page 3



HEAVYWEIGHT MAKING LIGHT OF THE COMPETITION: Colin Dunbar cracks a smile during last week's Skye Highland Games, see pages 8-11

Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

## Late start for Early Years in Lochcarron

• Delay over transfer as council prepare to double pre-school hours

BY KEITH MACKENZIE  
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Nursery pupils in Lochcarron will start term a week later than planned, due to delays over the transfer of the facility to the local authority.

In May this year Highland Council agreed to take over nursery provision in the area from the Lochcarron Playgroup – a parent-led charity first established in the early 1980s.

The move was made due to the increasing burden facing the charity in light of the Scottish Government policy to double the nursery hours available for all three- and four-year-olds, and eligible two-year-olds, from 2020.

An agreement has been reached under which the

council would be allowed use of the facilities owned by the Lochcarron Playgroup beside the village's shinty pitch. However, pre-school youngsters in the Wester Ross village won't start term until Monday 26th August in order to allow the new arrangements to bed in.

The council say parents should have received letters informing them of the changes.

One worried parent contacted the **Free Press** on Tuesday this week to say she had not heard what the plans were for pre-school provision.

The **Free Press** has since been told that a council letter, dated Monday 12th August, had been sent out to parents in anticipation of the changes.

The letter, from area care and learning manager Norma Young, wrote: "Apologies for the delay in sending

information regarding the move of the Lochcarron Playgroup to the management of the Highland Council.

"This has been a very complicated process but I am pleased to advise that the council has secured a licence to occupy for the building where the playgroup was in operation. We have also purchased all the equipment, toys and furniture inside the building.

"We are finalising the transfer of staff and look forward to opening the new Lochcarron Nursery on Monday 26th August 2019 at 9.30am. The nursery will be open for 16 hours a week in session 2019-20 and it is planned that the opening hours will be Mon-Thurs 9.30-12.45 and Fri 9.30-12.30.

"The nursery will be managed by Mr Robert Gill, head

continued on page 2

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in brief

## Work to begin soon on bypass at Stromeferry

The latest phase of rock scaling and netting work on the A890 Stromeferry bypass is due to begin next month.

Highland Council have announced that road closures and traffic management will be in place from 9th September until 3rd November. During this time, the road will be closed overnight between the gates at Ardnarf and west of Attadale to allow the contractor to work on the rock face.

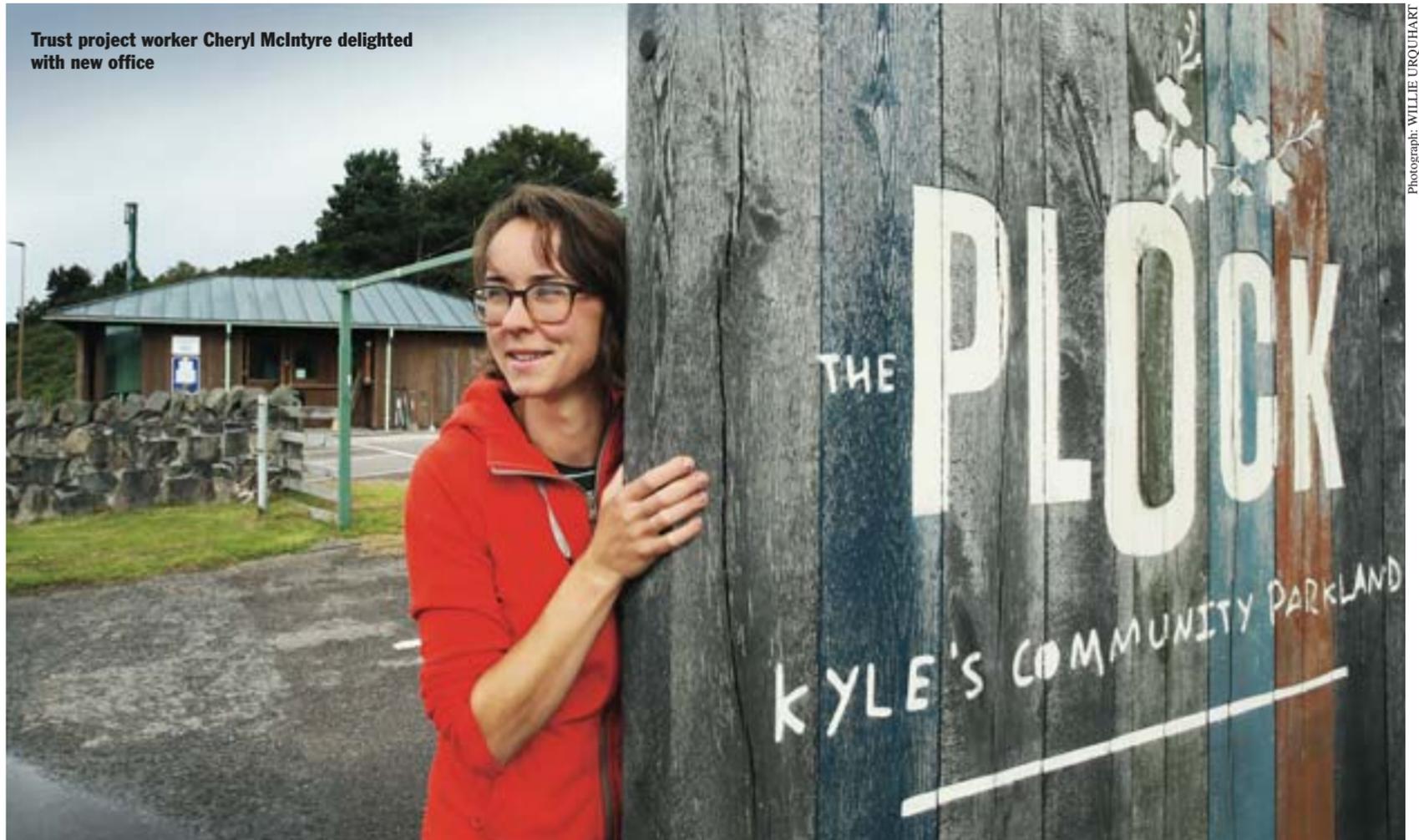
Traffic will be allowed through during the day under convoy operations, so some short delays are envisaged.

A full weekend closure for all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians is also planned on the 14th and 15th of September to enable the contractor to carry out some major rock scaling. Details of the road closures can be found on the Highland Council website.

The council has appointed Geo-Rope Ltd to carry out the work.

Gary Smith, a principal engineer with the council's development and infrastructure team, said: "The works planned this year form part of an ongoing programme of inspection and maintenance on the rock face adjacent to the A890 to ensure the safety of the travelling public. The council and its contractor will endeavour to keep delays to a minimum during daytime traffic management."

Trust project worker Cheryl McIntyre delighted with new office



Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

## Trust move into former bridge toll office

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust have completed their move into the former Skye Bridge toll office.

With assistance from the Scottish Land Fund, the trust took up residence in their new headquarters on 1st August.

Cheryl McIntyre, the trust's Plock project officer, said: "Now that we have moved into the toll office building we are better placed to manage and sensitively develop the Plock

parkland. The first project at the Plock in creating road access from the toll office was an essential precursor to any future development.

"We now want to build on that and carry out a range of further improvements and developments in a sustainable way that will help to create widespread benefits for our community while preserving the natural beauty and uniqueness of the Plock. Having an office base right at the entrance to the Plock unlocks the potential for community events, storing

equipment, and starting a community shed initiative in the near future."

To mark the move, the trust are taking part in Community Land Week with a celebration event on Saturday 17th August from 12pm until 4pm to celebrate the toll office and Plock parkland transferring into their ownership.

There will be a welcome at 12 noon followed by an otter presentation by Roger Cottis in the toll office between 1pm and 3pm – refreshments will be available, and guided

wildflower walks will take place around the Plock parkland. There will also be a chance to discuss the trust's masterplan and projects planned for the toll office and Plock.

The winners of the trust's photography competition will be announced on the day, and they will receive a framed print of their picture from local artist and framer Emma Noble. Copies of the winning entries will be displayed in the toll office.

Editorial, page 15

## Late start for Early Years in Lochcarron

continued from front page

teacher of Lochcarron Primary School. I will provide details of other staff once formal transfers have taken place."

The council chair of education, John Finlayson, said: "It is good to see that plans for Lochcarron early years are progressing well and I am sure parents will be happy that things have been confirmed for the future. While it is unfortunate that pupils will start a week later than anticipated it is always best to get things right, and the recruitment of staff is key to making sure that things begin positively.

"Parents have been updated about the plans."

## Mowi to meet local residents after complaints of fish feed plant smell

BY KEITH MACKENZIE

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Residents living near the new Mowi fish feed plant in Kyleakin have been invited to meet company bosses next week amid concerns over smell from the facility.

The £100 million feed plant is in its commissioning phase, and Mowi say they recognise there has been an odour issue.

Local residents have been asked to attend a drop-in meeting at the plant

next Tuesday (20th August) to discuss the issue.

Residents on Old Kyle Farm Road have reported concerns since production started in recent months, but the firm say they are confident they can address it.

Mowi said they were "testing and tuning" every area of the plant during the commissioning phase.

When planning permission for the plant was granted back in early 2017, Highland Council area planning manager Mark Harvey said the Scottish Environment Protection Agency had been

satisfied with the steps the firm agreed to take to minimise odour and noise.

At the time Mr Harvey noted that the chimney stack at the Kyleakin plant had been kept at 60 metres high for visual reasons, but added that it could rise to 65 metres if there were concerns over emissions.

The firm's sister plant in Norway has a chimney stack 80 metres in height.

Skye councillor John Finlayson (pictured), who lives in Kyleakin, said: "Following the expression of concerns from residents who live

close to the feed plant I met with the management team at Mowi who were open and honest about the fact that there were issues that needed addressed.

"It was confirmed that additional surveys were taking place to ascertain how to improve things and some short-term measures were already being implemented. A meeting with nearby residents and members of the community council has also been organised for next week when I am sure concerns will be recognised and plans confirmed to address them."



Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

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Photographs: WILLIE UROUHART



NHS Highland's interim chair Professor Boyd Robertson, Kate Forbes MSP, representatives of Balfour Beatty, Hub North Scotland and members of the local communities took part in the turf cutting ceremony

## Generations come together to mark hospital milestone

Hailed as an "important day" by local MSP Kate Forbes, last Friday saw the first steps in the construction of the £20 million community hospital for Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross.

An official turf-cutting ceremony was held in Broadford and — highlighting the importance of healthcare across all generations — the invited guests at the ceremony included 104-year-old Mary Macpherson and four-week-old Hugo MacLeod.

Ms Forbes was among stakeholders gathered at the site between the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital and the Broadford Health Centre to mark the start of construction.

She said: "This is a very important day for Skye and Lochalsh as work finally starts on a new hospital. It has

been a difficult process, but I think everybody is agreed that we need a new hospital.

"I was delighted to meet Mary Macpherson and baby Hugo, who reminded me how important local healthcare provision is for all generations."

The full business case for the redesign of community and hospital services was approved in May by the Scottish Government.

The hospital will be the main healthcare hub for Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross and will have 24 ensuite inpatient beds. It is earmarked to open by spring 2021.

The facility is being designed by Skye-based architects Rural Design — working in partnership with Oberlanders architects — and will be built by construction firm Balfour Beattie.



Former midwife Mary Macpherson was joined by four-week-old baby Hugo and his mother Bethany MacLeod

## Calls for public inquiry as Clyde shipyard faces nationalisation

The Scottish Government this week confirmed moves to nationalise the troubled Clyde shipyard at the centre of an increasingly-expensive wrangle over the construction of two new Caledonian MacBrayne ferries.

Economy Secretary Derek Mackay said that in the absence of a viable commercial offer the government would take the Ferguson's yard in Port Glasgow into national hands in order to deliver the two completed vessels and to safeguard jobs.

The government, however, has faced calls for an independent inquiry into the handling of the process.

The ferries are behind schedule and over budget, while the yard's long-term future is still uncertain, despite repeated cash injections from the Edinburgh administration.

Mr Mackay said: "The Scottish Government has been working for over two years to find a resolution to

the difficulties at FMEL. Throughout that time our preference has been to identify viable commercial options to keep the yard going and to finish the vessels. No such solutions have come forward.

"The Scottish Government has now indicated to all relevant parties that we are ready and willing to take Ferguson Marine into public ownership and deliver the ferries to secure the continued employment of the workforce in the yard.

"There remains a process to go through to secure the transfer of the yard to the Scottish Government, and we are hopeful that all parties recognise the importance of completing that transfer as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

"While we are open to engaging with any parties with a serious interest in investing in and securing a future for the shipyard, it is essential the government acts now to secure the completion of the ferries and continuity of employment at Fergusons."

In 2015 the yard won a £97 million contract to build two new ferries to serve the Uig, Tarbert, Lochmaddy triangle, and the other earmarked for Arran-Ardrossan.

Ferguson's had been rescued in 2014 by Scots billionaire Jim McColl, an advisor to Nicola Sturgeon and owner of Clyde Blowers Capital, in a deal seen as vital for safeguarding shipbuilding jobs on the Clyde.

The dual-fuel ferries are intended to be a pioneering project in green technology, but construction difficulties sparked a legal dispute between the shipbuilders and CMAL, the publicly-funded body which owns and procures CalMac's fleet, over who is to blame.

The government has already given loans totalling some £45 million to keep the yard going.

Mr McColl, quoted in 'The Mail on Sunday', accused ministers of "abusing their power" and said the government's nationalisation plan made "no economic sense".

One Highland opposition politician said west coast ferry customers were now paying the price for a "litany of failures".

Tory MSP Donald Cameron added: "Without an adequate transport infrastructure, confidence will drain away and we will find it even more difficult to attract investment in new enterprises and retain our young people.

"We need a fundamental review of how we arrived at this crisis as well as the development of a proper, long-term plan that will reassure people here that their concerns are being treated seriously."

Western Isles Labour candidate, Alison MacCorquodale, called for a full public inquiry.

She said: "It is now clear to everyone that CalMac and island communities are the victims of a massive political stunt which led to a ferry contract being handed to a yard which did not have the ability to fulfil it."

## Islands deal figures still unknown despite Prime Minister's pledge

The Scotland Office were this week unable to clarify how much money will be allocated to the islands deal involving Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Shetland and Orkney councils.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on the record as saying that a total of £300 million will be spent on 'Growth Deals' for the outstanding plans, three in Scotland and four in Northern Ireland. Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan is concerned that this money is nowhere near enough, split over so many deals.

He has urged the Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack, to ensure the islands deal goes ahead and has called on the UK Government to "urgently disclose" the full details of the different deals and when the money will be allocated.

Dr Allan said: "There was a frightening lack of detail available in

the statement by the Prime Minister. It is also concerning that Conservative Party press releases are being issued before the local authorities themselves have received any details of the announcement.

"The three island councils have been working together for some time to take forward a deal for the islands. A contribution of the scale implied by the Prime Minister's statement would severely curtail their ambitions."

A spokesman for Mr Jack was unable to give the **Free Press** any information on the amounts to be given to the various deals.

However, it is understood that the funding total agreed for each region getting a deal will be based on the strength and ambition of proposals put forward by local partners, economic impact and value for money, alignment with strategic priorities and private-sector investment.

## NHS director under fire over £155,000 salary

An NHS Highland director has come under fire for failing to disclose his salary of more than £155,000 a year.

An article published last week by the online investigation journalism platform 'The Ferret' revealed that NHS Highland public health director Hugo Van Woerden "repeatedly refused to disclose his salary" in the local health authority's annual reports.

"The Ferret" said it had ascertained that Mr Van Woerden's salary was between £155,000 and £160,000 per year, following a five-month Freedom of Information battle with NHS Highland. This took 74 days — 54 days more than the 20-day period permitted under Freedom of Information law.

The report added: "Woerden's salary has increased by about 35 per cent since he took up his role in 2014-15, when he earned between £115,000 and £120,000."

Dr Van Woerden has been a prominent figure in the

implementation process of Sir Lewis Ritchie's out-of-hours care report for Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross and has attended several meetings on Skye across the last 18 months.

Reacting to the news on his salary, SOS-NHS Skye action group member Fay Thomson told the **Free Press**: "The lack of transparency is very disappointing. It does nothing to build faith in NHS Highland management.

"The salary is eye-watering. I can't imagine how a salary increase of 35 per cent over a four-year period could have been justified at a time when NHS Highland finances were in crisis."

A spokesperson for NHS Highland said: "The NHS operates to nationally-agreed pay scales and Professor van Woerden is paid within these Scottish Government guidelines."

After examining the report of the ten other Scottish NHS boards, 'The Ferret' found that "every other NHS director openly declares their salary."

## Trio of projects eligible for renewables subsidy

*continued from front page*

A BEIS spokesperson said: "Our Contracts for Difference scheme has supported the investment of £490 million annually in renewable technologies and more than 50 per cent of our energy now comes from low-carbon sources — a vital part of our move to becoming a net zero emissions economy by 2050. We run the scheme lawfully and will be contesting this claim."

Last month the Lewis crofters were dealt a legal blow when the Scottish Land Court threw out their appeal against the proposals favoured by their landlord.

In 2017 the government opted to offer support to island-based wind farms through the CfD auction process.

Low-carbon generation in the UK that meets the eligibility requirements can apply for a CfD during a competitive allocation round. A range of different renewable technologies compete directly

against each other in sealed bid auctions.

The scheme reduces the capital costs for developers faced with high up-front costs and long payback times.

The UK Government says holding a CfD provides certainty and stability of revenues to new electricity generators, by reducing their exposure to volatile wholesale prices. It also protects consumers from increases to electricity prices as it is a condition that generators pay consumers back when the reference price exceeds the "strike price".

The Stornoway Trust and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have repeatedly insisted the schemes being pursued by the crofters are a non-starter, maintaining that only large-scale projects can justify the case to install the interconnector required to export electricity to the mainland and unlock the full potential of renewable energy on the islands.

Pictured (left to right) with the presentation cheque are Donnie Morrison of the Muaitheabhal trust with Ronnie Morrison, treasurer of Crossroads Care Harris, Crossroads chairperson Dolly Maclean and trust chairperson Iain Maciver



## Wind farm trust provide support for carers' service in Harris

A wind farm charity in Lewis has announced a three-year funding support package for a vital carers' service in neighbouring Harris.

Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust have awarded £15,000 over the next three years to Crossroads Care Harris, which it is hoped will give this important community service stability and allow the volunteer committee to plan for the future.

Iain M Maciver, chairperson of the Muaitheabhal trust, said: "The trust

fully appreciate the valuable contribution Crossroads Care Harris continues to offer people in need of their caring support. We are pleased to commit this funding to contribute towards the group's operational costs over the next three years.

"Without the selfless sacrifice of the volunteers involved such provision would not be available, and this contribution from Muaitheabhal very much recognises that fact."

Crossroads Care Harris was set up in 1985, initially to provide respite care for carers. Over the years the organisation has evolved and now

provides a wide range of services to people in their own homes. The service reduces admission to hospital, allows carers a break to pursue other interests, and supports young people with disabilities.

At present there are 10 carers supporting 34 service users.

Accepting the award on behalf of Crossroads Care Harris, chairperson Dolly Maclean said: "We are extremely grateful to Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust for this generous donation.

"Costs of delivering a respite and support service for elderly and

vulnerable people and their carers within the local community increase year on year. This donation at a time when the service is experiencing increasing demand gives us a measure of security and peace of mind for the future."

The Muaitheabhal trust was launched in April 2013 to distribute the community benefit fund available from the Beinn Mhor Wind Farm being developed on Eishken Estate in Lewis. Priority areas which will benefit from the fund are Pairc, Kinloch and the villages along Loch Seaforth in North Harris.

## Highland MSP hits out over delays in knee replacements

NHS Highland patients can wait for a year or more for a knee replacement, according to figures released to Labour MSP David Stewart under Freedom of Information legislation.

Mr Stewart, who represents the Highlands and Islands and is Scottish Labour's shadow health minister, asked the health authority for the figures after two separate constituents complained that they were facing a wait of up to a year or more to get an operation.

Mr Stewart said: "In both cases I was told that the people were in pain and each said they couldn't be prescribed stronger pain killers because the GP was concerned about creating an opiate addiction.

"Patients with these problems are often debilitated, find it difficult to get around, unable to get on with day-to-day tasks and leading a restricted life. No one should have to wait so long for such surgery and obviously the health authority is in no way meeting the waiting time guarantee.

"It is a sad reflection on the state of our health service today and our

NHS staff are simply not getting the support and resources they need to give patients the care they deserve."

Mr Stewart is now writing to Health Secretary Jeane Freeman, to ask what the Scottish Government is doing to cut waiting times for such operations.

In 2012, the Scottish Government introduced the Treatment Time Guarantee, which gave patients a legal right to treatment within 12 weeks. However, NHS Highland revealed that there were 214 patients on the current waiting list as of 13th June this year. The FOI request discovered that the longest waiting time for routine patients in 2018/2019 was 55 weeks, up from 40 weeks for both 2016/17 and 2017/18. Also, a total of 90 per cent of the people in 2018/19 were seen in 49 weeks or less.

The average waiting time for the current year was 31.5 weeks, showing a steady increase from 18.5 weeks in 2016/17 and 21.4 weeks in 2017/18.

NHS Highland said steps were being taken to address the long waiting times.

## 'Bannan' preview for local residents

A community preview screening of the latest series of Gaelic soap 'Bannan' is to be held at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig later this month.

Three episodes of series six will be shown in Sabhal Mòr at 7.30pm on Monday 26th August.

The screenings will be followed by a question-and-answer session with cast and crew members from

the production, which is filmed and produced on Skye by Young Films.

In the same week the 'Bannan' team will be having their read-through of scripts and rehearsals before the filming of series seven gets under way in September.

The screenings are free to attend, but those wishing to attend should reserve their seat by emailing [bannanscreening@youngfilms.co.uk](mailto:bannanscreening@youngfilms.co.uk)

## graduations



Kenny and Karan Finlayson of Ose would like to announce the graduation of their daughter Liana from the University of Southampton on 17th July 2019. Liana obtained a Bachelor of Science degree with First Class Honours in Physiotherapy. She has secured a position within the NHS in Wales, where she will complete her junior rotations before specialising. We could not be more proud of her and are sure she will enhance the lives of her patients.



Caitlin MacVicar, graduated from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nutrition and Food Science. Caitlin is a former pupil of Portree Primary and Portree High School. Daughter of Davie and Janet MacVicar, Helensburgh and granddaughter of Donnie and the late Jessie Martin, Leurbost, Isle of Lewis and the late Duncan and Rita MacVicar, Glendaruel, Argyll.



Donald John MacAskill of Glenelg graduated from the Scottish Agricultural College, Craibstone, Aberdeen on 5th July 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. A former pupil of Plockton High School and son of John and Alison MacAskill, Glenelg. Donald has recently taken up employment in the agricultural industry.

# Skye resident takes action over Fairy Glen congestion

BY ADAM GORDON  
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A north Skye resident who recently documented chronic traffic congestion problems near one of the island's most popular beauty spots has said he is hopeful of a resolution, following a meeting with the local MSP and Highland Council representatives.

After finding himself trapped by traffic while driving with his wife Anne last month, local photographer Gordon Willoughby decided to highlight the issue which has affected residents and visitors on the road to the Fairy Glen near Uig in north Skye.

In a post published on his Facebook page in late July, Mr Willoughby's stills and video footage showed the road gridlocked due to inadequate signage and lack of parking areas. Cars were parked in passing places, while one vehicle blocked the road completely after becoming stuck following an attempted three-point turn on the single-track road.

Mr Willoughby told the **Free Press** the situation was a daily occurrence for residents and a solution to the problem had been sought for three summers.

Last week Mr Willoughby met with local MSP Kate Forbes, Ewan MacPherson from the department of agriculture, Highland Council senior roads engineer Gordon MacDonald, local councillor John Gordon and council ward manager Willie MacKinnon.

Speaking afterwards, Mr Willoughby said the meeting had gone very well and all parties were keen to work towards solutions.

He said: "The meeting was held at the roadside in the Fairy Glen, early in the morning before the visitors arrived, so people could clearly see the damage to the road and verges and better understand the problems for both visitors and residents."

"Various improvements and solutions are to be looked into further. These include perhaps a limited parking area in the glen and additional turning areas, dedicated parking

outwith the glen and appropriate signage backed by traffic order or by-law to ensure success of any improvements. Solutions were also considered to prevent further misuse of Uig cemetery parking.

"The three new passing places promised for March 2019 are now promised for October. Additional passing place signs are to be put in at all passing places — there is currently no signage — perhaps with the addition of 'no parking' on the same pole. Repairs to verges will also have to be addressed."

Mr Willoughby said he was hopeful that a report on progress would be presented to the local Fairy Glen improvement group in a month's time.

He added: "We hope to see improvements in place before next season and in the long term perhaps even a solution that makes the visitor experience a pleasant one, and life can return to normal for residents."

"If this is done right, we can once again take pride in the Fairy Glen rather than feel embarrassed at what the tourists have to suffer."



Photograph: GORDON WILLOUGHBY

## First steps to create Skye's own flag

The first steps have been taken to create an official flag for the Isle of Skye — which will end with a public competition to find the best design.

The office of the Lord Lyon, which is the body responsible for recording and protecting all heraldry, flags and national symbols in Scotland, has been petitioned to register the idea following initial meetings involving the **West Highland Free Press**, Highland Council ward members and tourism promoters SkyeConnect.

A steering group to take forward the process will

involve representatives from local schools, volunteer, community and heritage groups. The **WHFP** plans to help run the competition.

In recent years several island and mainland areas have created official flags as a publicly-available symbol which raises recognition and awareness of their area nation-wide.

An update on the flag project is due to be discussed at the council's Skye and Raasay area ward business meeting in Portree next Friday.

Philip Tibbetts, honorary vexillologist with the Court of the Lord Lyon, said: "It is fantastic to see Skye

become the latest community to start the journey of developing its own flag to fly proudly alongside the Saltire. Given Skye's iconic nature, the potential for both the design and subsequent usage of a flag for the island is incredible.

"Following the formal approach to the Lyon Court work can now begin to plan the timings and details of this out. It is intended that Skye will follow the best practice process established in Caithness and also used in fellow Inner Hebridean island, Tiree.

"The appearance of unofficial design proposals for Skye already, since the concept was raised only a few

months ago, shows the appetite and creativity of the islanders. I hope these budding vexillographers submit their designs when the competition opens and I look forward to offering my support to other individuals, schools and community groups."

Skye councillor John Finlayson said: "I have had lots of positive feedback about the plans for a flag for Skye and I am delighted we have made such good progress with the idea. I am excited to see what designs will come forward, and having a competition that encourages people of all ages to submit their designs is absolutely the right thing to do."

## Lewis volunteer makes shortlist for annual Paths for All awards

An inspiring volunteer from the Western Isles has been shortlisted for a Scottish walking charity's 2019 volunteer awards.

Paths for All's annual volunteer awards celebrate individuals and groups who have done exceptional work in bringing their communities together to get walking, encourage active travel and transform their local spaces.

The annual event 'Celebrating Scotland's Walking Champions' showcases the outstanding dedication and achievements of volunteers across

the country who help to create a happier, healthier and greener Scotland.

Karen Peteranna from Stornoway is one of the nominees this year vying for the title of health walk volunteer manager.

Colin Gilmour, health improvement manager at Walk on Hebrides, NHS Western Isles, nominated Karen for her contribution to health and wellbeing around the Western Isles.

Mr Gilmour said: "Karen has totally transformed the Paths for All project in the last

year. She is so committed and enthusiastic about the work that it then motivates colleagues, volunteers and participants to value walking and the opportunities it provides to improve health and make friends.

"Karen has delivered training courses in three different islands. She has helped volunteers to establish seven new walks and created networking events to support and motivate them. Her commitment and enthusiasm for the project is testament to the pool of walk leaders."

## Air traffic control strike threat lifted

The threat of strike action by air traffic controllers in the Highlands and Islands has once again been lifted.

Following talks with the trade union Prospect on Tuesday of last week, Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd submitted a further offer and the union agreed to ballot air traffic control officers on that revised deal. Prospect confirmed that no further strike action would be announced during the ballot period.

HIAL managing director Inglis

Lyon said: "We submitted a revised offer in a bid to resolve the current industrial dispute. Prospect has advised they will ballot air traffic control officers on that offer.

"Whilst we are pleased that there will be no further strike action during the consultation period, it is extremely disappointing that the current work to rule remains in place.

"I once again apologise to our passengers, customers and people within our communities for any disruption caused during the ongoing industrial action."

## Islands to be testbed for new method of power distribution

The Western Isles and Skye are some of the first places in Britain being used to test what will be the biggest change in how electricity is distributed in over 100 years.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks plan to use local generators on the islands as key parts of the modern electricity grid of the future.

At the moment, if there's a fault or planned maintenance work on the network, SSEN sometimes needs to use diesel generation to keep the lights on. This innovative new project will see medium to large wind and

hydro stations opting in to being paid to provide power instead.

SSEN say this innovative, greener approach means it can be more cost-effective to pay local generators to export during certain times and conditions or for local businesses to reduce their consumption, helping keep costs down for customers.

In the future, the electricity network will need to be much more flexible as the demand for electricity grows across the country as it decarbonises to tackle climate change. Electric cars and buses will replace polluting petrol and diesel, more heating systems will switch

from gas to electric and the increase in technology will see more people using electricity in ways they didn't before.

SSEN believe this initiative in the Western Isles and Skye will be a significant step in developing the flexible electricity network of the future. The company is working with Piclo, the independent marketplace for buying and selling smart grid flexibility services, to encourage businesses in the Western Isles and Skye to take part.

Stewart Reid, head of future networks at SSEN, said: "This first procurement exercise in the Western

Isles and Skye is a significant step in delivering proactive flexibility and is one of the biggest to date in Scotland. It will play a vitally-important role in supporting the UK deliver its low-carbon ambitions.

"We are committed to considering flexible options where it is more cost-effective than traditional network reinforcement, unlocking new opportunities for local flexibility providers and helping keep costs down for customers.

"We hope a range of local businesses, energy storage, and embedded generation take part in this exciting project."

**Uig** There will be a home baking café in the old primary school on Friday 30th August, 11am to 2pm, to raise funds for village children in Kenya for clothes, shoes, toiletries and schooling (the AMUKA foundation). Lunch will also be provided.

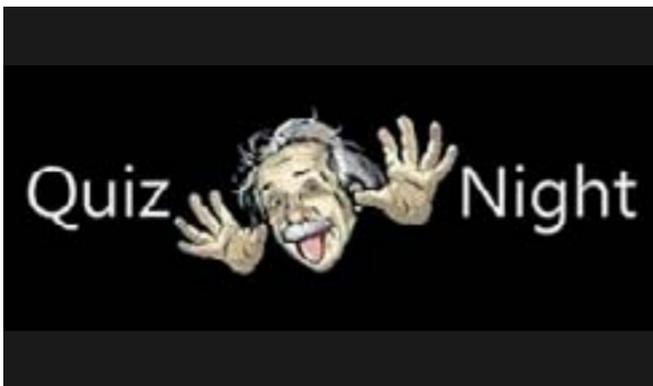
**Edinbane** Join the Skye Reading Room regulars in Edinbane Community Hall for a discussion of the work of Lin Anderson and a book swap special — bring one, take two. Tuesday 27th August at 7pm. Refreshments available, admission free. More information at theskyereadingroom.wordpress.com

**Portree** The annual exhibition showing recent work by Portree Printmakers will be at Aros from 2nd to 27th September, 9am to 5pm.

**Dunvegan** This month's country market is being held on Wednesday 21st August at Dunvegan Hall, 11am-4pm. There will be a variety of locally-made crafts and produce including stalls supporting Skye-based charities. Light refreshments available.

### Correction

We have been asked to point out that the winner of Katie's Quach for craft with a cause at the Skye Agricultural Show was Mary Mackenzie from Fanks — not James MacRae from Fanks, as incorrectly stated in our report in last week's issue. Our apologies for the error.



#### EXHIBITIONS

- **The Steadings Gallery, Balmacara Square, Lochalsh:** Paul Howey – exhibition of wildlife and landscape art, open until Saturday 17th August.
- **An Talla Dearg Gallery, Sleat, Skye:** Pam Carter exhibition runs until Tuesday 10th September.
- **Aros centre, Portree, Skye:** Skye Quilters exhibition, 19th August till 1st September, featuring a variety of quilts of different styles, designs and sizes. A large and beautiful 'stars' quilt is also being raffled.

#### CRAFT FAIRS/MARKETS

- **Dornie Hall, Lochalsh:** Craft fair selling quality crafts by local artists and crafters, Friday 16th August, 10am to 4.30pm. Demonstrations, refreshments and light lunches.
- **Dunvegan Community Hall, Skye:** Dunvegan Country Market with a wide variety of local crafts and produce on sale, Wednesday 21st August, 11am to 4pm. Light refreshments available.
- **Plockton Hall, Lochalsh:** Craft fair selling quality crafts by local artists and crafters, Friday 30th and Saturday 31st August, 10am to 4.30pm. Demonstrations, refreshments and light lunches.
- **Glendale Hall, Skye:** Craft fair and cafe, every Tuesday, 11am to 4pm. Local arts, crafts and gifts. Free entry, lots of parking.
- **Minginish Hall, Skye:** Made in Minginish craft fair, 11am to 4pm, every Wednesday (late April to September) with jewellery, art, knitting, textiles, photography and much more.
- **Ullapool, Quay Street:** Weekly market every Saturday between April and September, 9am to 5pm.
- **Lochcarron Hall:** Market, 11am to 3pm, with lunches available 12pm to 2pm, on the last Friday of every month (April to October).
- **Poolwe Village Hall, Wester Ross:** Local crafts and produce, 10am to 2.30pm every Tuesday throughout the summer season.

#### REGULAR EVENTS

- ★ **Knott, near Portree, Skye:** Open garden under Scotland's garden scheme in aid of Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh at 5 Knott, near Portree, IV51 9NZ. Open to 20th September (Thursdays and Fridays) 2pm to 5pm. The garden is a sheltered, tranquil oasis with densely planted flower borders, vegetable beds and poly tunnel overlooking a sheltered bay. Also open by prior arrangement any day, including for groups. Admission £3, children free. Tea and scones available. For more info call 01470 582213 or email jbhaggie@hotmail.co.uk.
- ★ **Lighthouse Christian Centre, Kyle:** Get your brain active every Wednesday (6.30pm to 6.45pm) with the Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge Club. Visiting players welcome. Tel Miriam on 0774 777 7601 for more info re beginners lessons, social play and duplicate events.
- ★ **Plockton, Lochalsh:** Calum's Seal Trips sail daily from Plockton. See calums-sealtrips.com
- ★ **Lighthouse Christian Centre, Kyle:** The Open Door Café is open on Fridays from 10am to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come and have a morning cuppa and baking as well as soup and sandwiches/toasties. Items for sale to raise money for Project Ecuador too.
- ★ **Wee Den, Kyle Village Hall:** Lochalsh Hub Project: Tuesdays – drop in, 6.30pm to 8pm. Thursdays – girls group, 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Fridays – youth club, 7pm to 9.30pm. All groups are for S1-S6 high school ages. For more info call 01599 534410.
- ★ **Breakish Hall, Skye:** Croileagan an Ath Leathainn – crafts, songs, stories and play for children from 0-5 years. £1 per child. Mondays, 10.30am to 12.30pm and Fridays, 10.30am to 12.15pm.
- ★ **The Shooting Ground, Woodend, Struan Road, Portree, Skye:** Skye Clay Target Club meets the first two Sundays in the month, Saturdays the rest of the month, and every Wednesday. Shooting starts at 1pm. See geoff996.wixsite.com/skypeshoot or call 01470 572779.
- ★ **Broadford Allotments, Skye:** Come and grow your own food, Wednesdays, 10am to 1pm.
- ★ **Broadford Allotments, Skye:** The Men's Shed meet every Wednesday 10am to 1pm and Saturday 1pm to 4pm for those interested in sharing skills, woodwork, metal work etc. Women welcome.
- ★ **Broadford Village Hall, Skye:** Broadford Baby and Toddler Group – Wednesdays, 10.30am to 12.30pm, £2.50 per family. All welcome for a play and a chat. Play-dough, craft activities and refreshments available. For more info call 01471 822063.
- ★ **Gairloch Library, Wester Ross:** Tuesdays – The House of Mirth (term-time only) coffee and chat (10.45am to

11.15am): Fridays – In Search of Lost Time (term-time only) coffee and chat (10.45am to 11.15am).

Every day during library hours: collection point for donations for Highland Foodbank and stamps for Cystic Fibrosis.

- ★ **Ragtag, Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye:** Crumz! Free cuppa and cake and drop-in craft sessions, Thursdays, 11am to 3pm. All welcome. If transport is required call 01471 822043 or email hello@ragtagskye.org
- ★ **Plockton Inn, Lochalsh:** Quiz night every Friday from 9.30pm.
- ★ **The Seaforth, Ullapool:** Live music every Saturday. For more info see theseaforth.com.
- ★ **Aros centre (conference room), Portree, Skye:** Skye Quilters meet every Monday, at 1pm. A friendly group doing their own ideas and designs, helping each other, holding workshops or taking a trip for fabrics and a day out together. Come and find out for yourself – no experience necessary, or even a sewing machine! For more info call Lin on 01470 532269.
- ★ **Dunvegan Hall, Skye:** MacLoud Samba Drumming Band every Monday, 8pm to 10pm. Learn a new musical skill and make a grand sound! First session free. For more information email Sarah at sarahjoelywalker@gmail.com
- ★ **Breakish Hall, Skye:** Skye Quakers meet on the first Sunday of each month. Please contact 01470 532353 for more info.
- ★ **ARMS Centre, Lisigarry Place, Portree, Skye:** Skye Quakers meet on the third Sunday of each month. Please contact 01470 532353 for more information.

11.15am): Fridays – In Search of Lost Time (term-time only) coffee and chat (10.45am to 11.15am).

- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Skye Fitness Legs, Bums and Tums class every Friday at 9.30am. For more information email joannalockley@gmail.com, call 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.
- ▶ **Fingal Centre, Portree High School, Skye:** Badminton every Monday, 7pm to 9pm. Open to all levels (14 years and over).
- ▶ **Fingal Centre, Portree High School, Skye:** Men's singles and doubles badminton every Tuesday, 6.30pm to 9pm.
- ▶ **An Crùbh, Sleat, Skye:** Skye Strength and Movement kettlebell class, 9.30am to 10.30am, every Saturday. Suitable for all levels. For more info call 0790 019 6023 or skystrengthandmovement@gmail.com
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- ▶ **Kyle Hall, Kyle of Lochalsh:** Kids Zumba every Tuesday during school terms, 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Adult Zumba every Tuesday, 6pm to 7pm and every Friday, 5.45pm to 6.45pm.
- ▶ **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, Skye:** Skye Fitness Pumpfx class every Monday and Wednesday at 6pm; Saturdays, 10am. For more info email joannalockley@gmail.com, 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.
- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Skye Fitness Metafit class every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30am. For more information email joannalockley@gmail.com, call 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.
- ▶ **Elgol Hall, Skye:** Skye Fitness Metafit class, Tuesdays at 6pm. For more info email joannalockley@gmail.com, call 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.
- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Skye Fitness Metafit class, every Friday at 9am. For more info email joannalockley@gmail.com, call 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.

#### AUGUST

##### Thursday 15th

- **Armadale Castle, Sleat, Skye:** Holiday family fun – drop in for art and craft activities, games and more in the museum, 10.30am to 12pm. Free with entrance ticket, donations welcome. For more info see www.armadalecastle.com

##### Friday 16th

- **TDC Main Hall, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, Skye:** As part of Fèis an Eilein, 'Our Big Braw Cosmos' with Astronomer Royal John Brown and Scots poet Rab Wilson presenting the universe in terms of its science, beauty and poetry, 7.30pm. Tickets from skyefestival.scot
- **The Old Inn, Gairloch:** Live music with Charlie Goram.

##### Saturday 17th

- **Lochmaddy Hall, North Uist:** RNLI fundraiser, 11am to 3pm. Demonstrations of a variety of crafts including lace-making, ceramics, leatherwork, jewellery-making and sugar-craft. Raffles, silent auction, RNLI and home baking stalls, refreshments and competitions. For more info call Barbara on 01876 500849, Stella on 01876 500306 or Sybil on 01876 580374.
- **The Venue, Portree High School, Skye:** Skye Gardening Society Annual Flower and Produce Show – entries welcome from 10.30am to 12.15pm, open to general public from 1.30pm. Plant sale and refreshments available. Schedule from www.skyegardeningociety.org.uk or 01471 822917.
- **An Crùbh, Duisdale, Skye:** As part of Fèis an Eilein, a live literature event with Scottish historian and author Maggie Craig on the '45 in its relation to Skye and Raasay, 2pm. Q&A session with author Barbara Henderson at 4pm. Tickets from skyefestival.scot
- **An Crùbh, Duisdale, Skye:** As part of Fèis an Eilein, a live literature event with Scottish author Barbara Henderson leading a workshop for writers, 3pm. Q&A session with author Maggie Craig at 4pm. Tickets from skyefestival.scot

11.15am): Fridays – In Search of Lost Time (term-time only) coffee and chat (10.45am to 11.15am).

- ▶ **Dunvegan Hall, Skye:** Community exercise class every Tuesday, 2pm to 3pm, for anyone with a long term condition or who would benefit from some gentle exercise and good company. Transport available, for more info contact Donna on 0787 946 0226.
- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Broadford Youth Club activities: Mondays – Girl's group, 6.30pm to 7.30pm; Wednesdays – P1-7 football, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, £1; Wednesdays – S1-6 football, 4.30pm to 6pm, £1; Thursdays – S1-6 badminton, 6pm to 7.30pm, £1; Fridays – S1-6 Youth Club night, 7.30pm to 10pm, £1. For more information contact Nicholas 0757 265 5433 or Sarah 0798 576 0893.
- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Freestyle karate and kickboxing every Monday, 5.45pm to 6.45pm. Suitable for all abilities and ages (six upwards). For more information call Antony on 01471 822895 or email antonydavies2695@btinternet.com or look for IFA Skye and Lochalsh on Facebook.
- ▶ **Kyle Community Hall, Kyle:** Freestyle karate and kickboxing every Wednesday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Suitable for all abilities and ages (six upwards). For more info call Antony on 01471 822895 or email antonydavies2695@btinternet.com or look for IFA Skye and Lochalsh on Facebook.
- ▶ **The Fingal Centre, Portree High School, Skye:** Freestyle karate and kickboxing every Friday from 4pm. For more info call Antony on 01471 822895 or email antonydavies2695@btinternet.com or look for IFA Skye and Lochalsh on Facebook.
- ▶ **Minginish Hall, Skye:** Cèilidh dance classes on Thursdays, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.
- ▶ **Kyleakin Community Hall, Skye:** Kyleakin Indoor Bowling Club meet on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. New members welcome. For more information call Jill or Chris on 01599 534 709.
- ▶ **Kyle Village Hall, Kyle of Lochalsh:** Indoor bowls every Monday evening, 7pm to 9pm. Come along and get to know this fun game.
- ▶ **Aros Centre, Portree, Skye:** Meena's Indian Bollywood Va-Va-Voom! fun dance class every Friday, 11.50am to 12.50pm. All welcome. No previous dance experience necessary. For more info: meena.arts@googlemail.com
- ▶ **Kyle Hall, Kyle of Lochalsh:** Kids Zumba every Tuesday during school terms, 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Adult Zumba every Tuesday, 6pm to 7pm and every Friday, 5.45pm to 6.45pm.
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- ▶ **Broadford Hall, Skye:** Skye Fitness Metafit class every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30am. For more information email joannalockley@gmail.com, call 01471 820207 or see the Facebook page.
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Photographs: STEVEN GOURLAY



The crew in full flow during their fundraising endeavour



Local heroes – the rowers received a rapturous welcome on their arrival in Ullapool

# Ullapool rowers conquer the Minch in MS fundraiser

BY ADAM GORDON  
adam.gordon@whfp.com

Five members of the Ullapool Coastal Rowing Club arrived home to a heroes' welcome in the village on Monday evening after completing a gruelling 14-hour row across the Minch from Stornoway to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research.

The crew — Gary Lewis (57), John Grant (62), Kathryn Bennett (58), Lorraine Thomson (54) and Anthony O'Flaherty (61) — set off from Stornoway harbour shortly after 4am on Monday and overcame high winds, a formidable swell and seasickness to arrive at Ullapool beach at 6.30pm to complete their epic endeavour.

Under the banner of 'Rowing the Minch for MS', the quintet's efforts — together with the support of the local community —

has so far raised more than £16,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland. The figure amounts to 71 per cent of their initial target of £22,683 which roughly equates to £1 for each stroke of the oars the crew calculated they would make during the journey.

Speaking to the **Free Press** following their tremendous achievement, and a good night's sleep, crew member Lorraine Thomson described their voyage from Lewis to the mainland.

She said: "Our safety boat arrived in Stornoway on Sunday night. They said it was going to be pretty rough in the middle and we would have a rough five hours but they reckoned we should give it a go.

"We set off at 10 past four in the morning, and a couple of skiffs and a couple of yachts rowed out with us just for the first bit. We were under the stars on flat and calm water — it was absolutely stunning.

"We were in the swell; it was gentle and undulating at first and then the wind got up and the horrible five-hours bit started — it came to pass and then some!

"The forecast was for the wind to be westerly, which would have pushed us on, but as it turned out it was southerly all the way which meant we got hit on the beam all the way across. We had to bail out the boat a couple of times."

Lorraine said that had the boat been hit by two or three sizeable waves one after another they would have been forced to call the venture off. However, that didn't transpire and the crew overcame that difficult period and persevered.

"The safety boat was mostly behind us or to the side, and we had radio contact if we needed it in case of an emergency," she said. "They got tossed about a lot and lost many, many cups of tea.

"Three of us ended up with seasickness.

For me, I think it was the ferry crossing the day before and then doing this right on the back of that.

"Despite all our preparation, I ended up doing it on three cups of water but I couldn't eat. We had our plan to move seats every 45 minutes, which would help your body and mean each of us would get a shot in the coxswain's seat and have a rest. But the three of us who were seasick couldn't move — we could row, but if we moved we would get nauseous, so we had to stay in the same position.

"The whole thing was done as a team. There was no whingeing in the boat. There was a lot of laughter and, despite the sickness, it was a great experience."

After 14 hours and 20 minutes at sea, the crew arrived on Ullapool beach at 6.30pm. Describing the scene when they arrived, Lorraine said: "It was absolutely incredible.

"The first skiff, the Coigach Lass, came out to meet us just as we passed the Summer Isles, and John Grant's son was on that.

"As we got closer to Ullapool, more rowing boats came out, skiffs came out, motorboats came out — we ended up with a flotilla. The bit that got me, and some of the others was when the skiffs lifted their oars vertically to give us a rowers' salute. I still get choked up thinking about that. The ferry came out and blew its horn for us as she passed.

"Anthony's wife Anne was on board one of the boats playing a fiddle, and there was a piper on the beach. There was a huge roar of cheers when we got in. It was overwhelming, absolutely overwhelming."

To donate to Rowing the Minch, visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/rowingtheminchforms](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/rowingtheminchforms).



Anne O'Flaherty's fiddle playing was music to the ears of the crew as they approached the finish



The crew were left humbled after receiving a rowers' salute

Cameras at the ready as the caber tossing gets under way in front of a capacity crowd at the Lump



Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART



The Isle of Skye Pipe Band performed admirably throughout the day

The games chieftain DF Macdonald (middle) shares a lighter moment with Alasdair MacDonald and Michael Baird from the Scottish Highland Games Association



# US athlete charms record games crowd

A new record for throwing the 56-pound weight over the bar was just one of the highlights of last week's Isle of Skye Highland Games.

With only a few light showers to break the fine weather during the games, it was Californian Colin Dunbar who was the star of the show on Wednesday afternoon – beating the 2012 effort of Dominik Zielinski (16'3") by three inches to set a new ground record.

Overall the games recorded their highest-ever attendance, right up to the maximum of 3,500. Also, for the first time in a long time there were local dancing competitions on the Wednesday morning. There was also a very healthy turnout in the heavy events of nine athletes.

Games chieftain DF Macdonald said it was a "fantastic games altogether" and he was delighted that the local dancers were able to strut their stuff. He also paid tribute to the many volunteers and stewards who helped make the games such a success.

He added: "I'd also like to thank the committee for all the work they put in. The crowds loved the track and field events, and the reaction we got to these events was amazing. It was just a super day all round."

**Trophies: Piping – Dunvegan Medal** Sarah Muir, Glasgow. **Col Jock MacDonald Clasp** Jamie Forrester, Edinburgh. **DR Allan MacDonald Challenge Cup for best all round open piper** Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. **Peter MacFarquhar Challenge Star** Sarah Muir, Glasgow. **Capt Kemble Star for open march** John Dew, Cumbernauld. **MacBeath Parr Associates Cup: jig** Jamie Forrester, Edinburgh. **Alan Torrance Associates Cup: 6/8 March** Derek Midgeley, USA. **Highland Society of London for best all round (except Dunvegan Medal)** Sarah Muir, Glasgow. **Finlay MacRae Trophy for top local piper in senior competitions** Connor Kellett, Kyle. **Clan Donald Quaich for under 18 Piobaireachd** Archie Maclean, Edinbane. **Clan Donald Quaich for under 18 March, Strathspey & Reel** Thomas Young, Dunoon. **Donnie MacKenzie Cup for local march, over 16 Gilleasbuig** MacVicar, Annshader. **Ewen MacKenzie Memorial Cup for local march, under 16 Archie Maclean, Edinbane.** **Col Jock MacDonald Viewfield Cup for local piobaireachd** Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader. **Ewen MacKenzie Memorial Cup for local march, under 16 Archie Maclean, Edinbane.** **Toronto Cup for best all round local piper** Archie Maclean, Edinbane. **Dougie MacLeod Cup for best all round local piping, under 18 Gilleasbuig** MacVicar, Annshader. **Nicol Campbell Memorial Trophy overall winner (local) light music Strathspey, Reel and Jig** Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader. **Peter Beaton Memorial Cup for highest scoring pipe band**

**member in local competitions on the field** Archie Maclean, Edinbane. **Harlosh Trophy for most impressive young (under 18) Piobaireachd player** Archie Maclean, Edinbane. **Bruce McGhie Memorial Cup, Loal Light Music, Strathspey, Reel & Jig (under 16)** Archie Maclean, Edinbane.

**Field and athletic: Isle of Skye Estate Agency Trophy for best competitor in open heavy events** Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic. **Rosemary Nicolson Trophy for best competitor in local heavy events** Martin Munsie, Bernisdale. **Ronnie MacLean Memorial Cup for best all round local jumper** Ewen Bradley, Staffin. **Robertson Memorial Challenge Cup for best all round local athlete** Ewen Bradley, Staffin. **MacDonald of Seafield Cup for winner of local eight lap race** Ewen Bradley, Staffin. **Devlin Cup – Tug-of-War – Men** Portree Crofters & Fishermen. **Emergency Services Cup – Tug-of-War – Women** In it to Gin it. **Talisker Quaich for first local in hill race** Dean MacLeod, Portree. **Dunvegan Castle Quaich for first local lady in hill race** Christina Rankin, Uig. **Jamie Hilleary Cup for hill race winner** Andrew Barrett, Glasgow.

**Sailing: Sandy Rankine Trophy for best under 16 dingy crew** Archie Maclean, Edinbane. **Scorrybreac Trophy for best overall dingy crew** Jasper Buxton, Portree.

**Piping: Local piping competitions – Marches – under 16 years** 1st Archie Maclean, Edinbane; 2nd Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig; 3rd Declan Malloy, Staffin. **Jigs – under 16 years** 1st Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig; 2nd Archie Maclean, Edinbane; 3rd Declan Malloy, Staffin; 4th Calum Mackenzie, Kensaleyre. **Piobaireachd – under 16 years** 1st Archie Maclean, Edinbane; 2nd Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig; 3rd Calum Mackenzie, Kensaleyre. **Marches – 16 years & over** 1st Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader; 2nd Eosaph Caimbeul, Kyle; 3rd Ciaran Kellett, Kyle; 4th Eilidh Beaton, Bernisdale. **Strathspey & Reel – 16 years & over** 1st Ciaran Kellett, Kyle; 2nd Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader; 3rd Jonathan Beaton, Kilmaluag; 4th Eosaph Caimbeul, Kyle. **Jig – 16 years & over** 1st Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader; 2nd Eosaph Caimbeul, Kyle; 3rd Jonathan Beaton, Kilmaluag; 4th Ciaran Kellett, Kyle. **Piobaireachd – 16 years & over** 1st Gilleasbuig MacVicar, Annshader; 2nd Eosaph Caimbeul, Kyle; 3rd Ciaran Kellett, Kyle. **Open piping competitions: Dunvegan Medal** 1st Sarah Muir, Glasgow; 2nd Steven Leask, Glasgow; 3rd Andrew Ferguson, Dollar; 4th John Dew, Glasgow; 5th Anna Kummerlow, Germany. **Clasp Competition** 1st Jamie Forrester, Edinburgh; 2nd Sarah Muir, Glasgow; 3rd Derek Midgeley, USA. **6/8 Marches** 1st Derek Midgeley, USA; 2nd Jamie Forrester, Edinburgh; 3rd Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 4th Steven Leask, Glasgow; 5th Grieg Canning, Kirkcaldy. **Open March** 1st John Dew, Cumbernauld; 2nd Finlay Cameron, Roy

Bridge; 3rd Steven Leask, Glasgow; 4th Greig Canning, Kirkcaldy; 5th Edward Gaul, Dundee. **Open Strathspey & Reel** 1st Sarah Muir, Glasgow; 2nd Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 3rd Steven Leask, Glasgow; 4th Simon McKerrill, Lenzie; 5th Connor Kellett, Kyle. **Under 18 – Open Piobaireachd** 1st Archie Maclean, Edinbane; 2nd Eosaph Caimbeul, Kyle; 3rd Thomas Young, Dunoon. **Under 18 – Open March Strathspey & Reel** 1st Thomas Young, Dunoon; 2nd Ciaran Kellett, Kyle; 3rd Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig.

**Local Field & Athletic: Putting the Stone** 1st Martin Munsie, Bernisdale; 2nd John Mackenzie, Portree; 3rd Orrin MacDonnel, Staffin; 4th Gary Rankin, Uig. **High Jump** 1st Alexander Leitch, Dunvegan; 2nd Ewen Bradley, Staffin; 3rd Dean Macleod, Portree. **Two Lap Race – Women** 1st Molly Jameson, Peinness; 2nd Christina Rankin, Uig; 3rd Sheena Amos, Portree; 4th Kathryn Beaton, Portree. **Two Lap Race – Men** 1st Ewen Bradley, Staffin; 2nd Fraser Macdonald, Drumuie; 3rd Thomas Coles, Portree; 4th Sandy Laing, Skeabost. **56lb weight over bar** 1st Martin Munsie, Bernisdale; 2nd David Cumming, Portree & Paul Steen, Edinbane; 4th John Mackenzie, Portree. **Eight Lap Race** 1st Ewen Bradley, Staffin; 2nd Sandy Laing, Skeabost; 3rd Dean Macleod, Portree; 4th Christina Rankin, Uig. **Long Jump** 1st Ewen Bradley, Staffin; 2nd Fraser Macdonald, Drumuie; 3rd Dean Macleod, Portree; 4th John Mackenzie, Portree. **Throwing the Hammer** 1st Gary Rankin, Uig; 2nd Martin Munsie, Bernisdale; 3rd David Cumming, Portree; 4th Orrin MacDonnel, Staffin.

Photographs: WILLIE UROUHAERT



After a full day of dancing, the winners stepped onto the platform to receive their prizes



A delighted Beth Campbell was the local dancer with most points



Two of the younger dancers going through their routine



A busy day for local piping instructor Ian Ruari Finlayson as he kept all the young pipers in tune

**Open Field & Athletic: Throwing the Hammer** 1st Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 2nd Colin Dunbar, California; 3rd Kyle Lillie, California; 4th Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 5th Martin Schiller, Austria. **Throwing 28lb weight (distance)** 1st Kyle Lillie, California; 2nd Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 3rd Colin Dunbar, California; 4th Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 5th Martin Schiller, Austria. **Throwing 56lb weight (distance)** 1st Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 2nd Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 3rd Kyle Lillie, California; 4th Colin Dunbar, California; 5th Martin Schiller, Austria. **High Jump** 1st Lukas Pretenthaler, Austria; 2nd Alexander Leitch, Dunvegan; 3rd=Ruaridh Munro, Dingwall & Ewen Bradley, Staffin. **Putting the Stone (light)** 1st Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 2nd Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 3rd Kyle Lillie, California; 4th Colin Dunbar, California; 5th David Melnicuk, Czech Republic. **Two Lap Race – Women** 1st Victoria Merrick, Leeds; 2nd Christina Rankin, Uig; 3rd Claire Constable, Liverpool; 4th Maricarmen Almar, Spain. **Two Lap Race – Men** 1st Fraser Macdonald, Drumuie; 2nd Finlay Rollo, Dingwall; 3rd Stewart Clark, Stonehaven; 4th Matthew Merrick, Leeds. **Long Jump** 1st Ewen Bradley, Staffin; 2nd Findlay Donegan, Elgin; 3rd= Fraser Macdonald, Drumuie & Stewart Clark, Stonehaven. **Putting the Stone (heavy)** 1st Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 2nd Kyle Lillie, California; 3rd Lukasz

Wenta, Poland; 4th Colin Dunbar, California; 5th David Melnicuk, Czech Republic. **Eight Lap Race –Women** 1st Christina Rankin, Uig; 2nd Clare Constable, Liverpool; 3rd Suzanne Mulders, Netherlands; 4th Victoria Merrick, Leeds. **Eight Lap Race – Men** 1st Matthew Merrick, Leeds; 2nd Sandy Laing, Skeabost; 3rd Julien Barre, France; 4th Andy Birnie, Glasgow. **Throwing 56lb weight (over bar)** 1st Colin Dunbar, California; 2nd Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 4th Kyle Lillie, California; 5th David Melnicuk, Czech Republic. **Four Lap Race** 1st Matthew Merrick, Leeds; 2nd Ruaridh Munro, Dingwall; 3rd Sandy Laing, Skeabost; 4th Finlay Rollo, Dingwall. **Hop, Step, Leap** 1st Findlay Donegan, Elgin; 2nd Stewart Clark, Stonehaven; 3rd Fraser Macdonald, Drumuie; 4th Ruaridh Munro, Dingwall. **Hill Race – Women** 1st Christina Rankin, Uig; 2nd Victoria Merrick, Leeds; 3rd Vicky Dunkel, Uig; 4th Ailsa McCrae, Lochgilphead. **Hill Race – Men** 1st Andrew Barnett, Canberra; 2nd Matthew Merrick, Leeds; 3rd Dean Macleod, Portree; 4th Sandy Laing, Skeabost. **Tossing the Caber** 1st Vlad Tulacek, Czech Republic; 2nd Lukasz Wenta, Poland; 3rd Kyle Lillie, California; 4th Martin Schiller, Austria; 5th Colin Dunbar, California. **Tug-of-War – Men** Portree Crofters & Fishermen. **Tug-of-War – Women** In it to Gin it.

**Highland Dancing: Primary, age 4, Pas de basque** 1st Aila MacQueen. **Primary, age 5, Pas de basque** 1st Rachel McLaughlin; 2nd Ceitidh MacNab; 3rd Olivia MacKenzie; 4th Charleigh Morrison. **Pas de basque and high cuts** 1st Rachel McLaughlin; 2nd Ceitidh MacNab; 3rd Olivia MacKenzie. **Fling** 1st Rachel McLaughlin; 2nd Olivia MacKenzie; 3rd Ceitidh MacNab. **Sword dance** 1st Rachel McLaughlin; 2nd Olivia MacKenzie. **Beginners, 8 and under: Fling** 1st Ayla Bradshaw; 2nd Ava MacKenzie; 3rd Caron MacDonald; 4th Jenna MacFarlane; 5th Poppie Grimston; 6th Caitlin Farr; 7th Poppy MacNab; 8th Katelin Long. **Sword Dance** 1st Ayla Bradshaw; 2nd Ava MacKenzie; 3rd Caron MacDonald; 4th Poppy MacNab; 5th Caitlin Farr; 6th Jenna MacFarlane. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Caitlin Farr; 2nd Ava MacKenzie; 3rd Ayla Bradshaw; 4th Katelin Long. **Half Tulloch** 1st Caitlin Farr. **Overall winner** Ayla Bradshaw. **Beginners, 9 and over: Fling** 1st Niamh Grimston; 2nd Teri MacLeod; 3rd Caitlin MacDonald; 4th Ami MacKinnon. **Sword Dance** 1st Niamh Grimston; 2nd Teri MacLeod; 3rd Ami MacKinnon; 4th Caitlin MacDonald. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Ami MacKinnon. **Overall winner** Ami MacKinnon. **Novice – Fling** 1st Jessica MacRae; 2nd Eilidh Farr. **Sword Dance** 1st Jessica MacRae; 2nd Eilidh Farr. **Seann**

**Triubhas** 1st Eilidh Farr; 2nd Jessica MacRae. **Half Tulloch** 1st Jessica MacRae; 2nd Eilidh Farr. **Overall winner** Jessica MacRae. **Intermediate – Sword Dance** 1st Ailish McLaughlin; 2nd Neela Mutch; 3rd Lacey Morgan; 4th Emma MacNab. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Emma Campbell; 2nd Ailish McLaughlin; 3rd Lacey Morgan; 4th Neela Mutch; 5th Emma MacNab. **Half Tulloch** 1st Emma Campbell; 2nd Ailish McLaughlin; 3rd Neela Mutch; 4th Lacey Morgan; 5th Emma MacNab. **Trophy Barracks Johnnie** 1st Ailish McLaughlin; 2nd Emma Campbell; 3rd Emma MacNab; 4th Lacey Morgan; 5th Neela Mutch. **Hornpipe** 1st Ailish McLaughlin; 2nd Neela Mutch; 3rd Lacey Morgan; 4th Emma Campbell; 5th Emma MacNab. **Overall winner** Ailish McLaughlin. **Premier, 13 and under: Sword Dance** 1st Innes MacKenzie; 2nd Katie Taylor; 3rd Lexy MacLeod; 4th Alison MacFarlane. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Innes MacKenzie; 2nd Katie Taylor; 3rd Lexy MacLeod; 4th Alison MacFarlane. **Strathspey & Half Tulloch** 1st Katie Taylor; 2nd Innes MacKenzie; 3rd Lexy MacLeod. **Trophy Barracks Johnnie** 1st Innes MacKenzie; 2nd Katie Taylor; 3rd Lexy MacLeod; 4th Lizzie Kelly; 5th Alison MacFarlane. **Hornpipe** 1st Innes MacKenzie; 2nd Katie Taylor; 3rd Lexy MacLeod; 4th Alison MacFarlane; 5th Lizzy Kelly. **Overall winner** Innes MacKenzie. **Premier, 15 and under: Sword Dance** 1st Beth Campbell; 2nd Erin Gillies;

3rd Freya Turner; 4th Alexandra Andrew; 5th Mia Mutch. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Beth Campbell; 2nd Erin Gillies; 3rd Freya Turner; 4th Alexandra Andrew; 5th Mia Mutch. **Strathspey & Half Tulloch** 1st Beth Campbell; 2nd Erin Gillies; 3rd Alexandra Andrew; 4th Freya Turner. **Trophy Barracks Johnnie** 1st Beth Campbell; 2nd Alexandra Andrew; 3rd Mia Mutch; 4th Freya Turner; 5th Erin Gillies. **Hornpipe** 1st Beth Campbell; 2nd Erin Gillies; 3rd Freya Turner; 4th Alexandra Andrew; 5th Mia Mutch. **Overall winner** Beth Campbell. **Premier, Adults: Sword Dance** 1st: Darra Wood; 2nd Melissa Fife; 3rd Isla MacKenzie; 4th Gemma Taylor; 5th Georgina Andrew; 6th Molly Williams. **Seann Triubhas** 1st Melissa Fife; 2nd Georgina Andrew; 3rd Darra Wood; 4th Gemma Taylor; 5th Jaida MacKenzie White. **Strathspey & Half Tulloch** 1st Isla MacKenzie; 2nd Melissa Fife; 3rd Darra Wood; 4th Georgina Andrew; 5th Jaida MacKenzie White; 6th Molly Williams. **Trophy Barracks Johnnie** 1st Melissa Fife; 2nd Darra Wood; 3rd Gemma Taylor; 4th Isla MacKenzie; 5th Jaida MacKenzie White; 6th Georgina Andrew. **Hornpipe** 1st Isla MacKenzie; 2nd Melissa Fife; 3rd Darra Wood; 4th Gemma Taylor; 5th Georgina Andrew; 6th Molly Williams. **Overall winner** Melissa Fife. **Local dancer with most points** Beth Campbell. **The Alex and Rosemary Maguire Trophy** Melissa Fife.



A perfect throw of the hammer from John MacKenzie



The first local lady home in the hill race – Christina Rankin

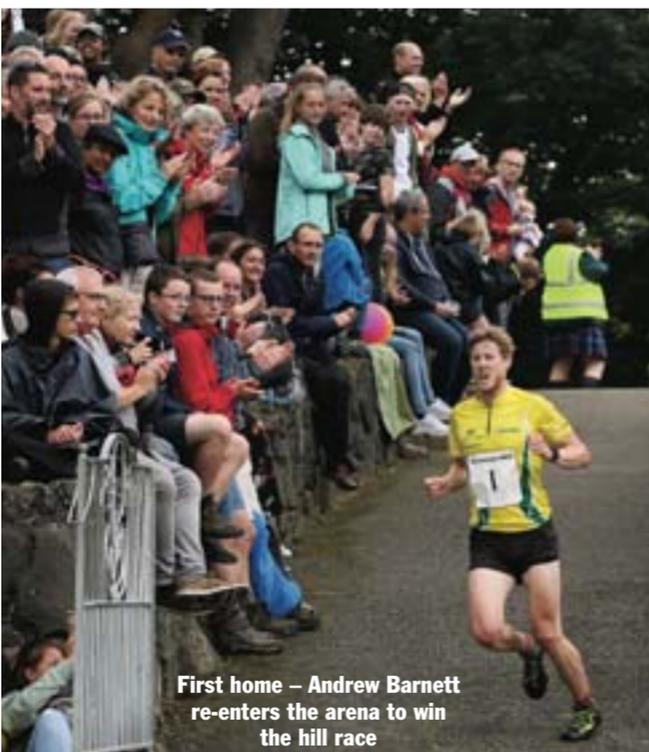
Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART



The children's races brought joy to many



An explosive start to the men's two lap race which was won by Fraser MacDonald on the right



First home – Andrew Barnett re-enters the arena to win the hill race



The best all round local athlete was again Ewen Bradley



Vlad Tulacek from the Czech Republic, the reigning world champion, maintained his fine form to be named best competitor in the open heavy events

Photograph: MOREEN PRINGLE



The winners from the local piping competitions line up for the camera with officials and games chieftain DF Macdonald

Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART



Sarah Muir from Campbeltown was the winner of the premier piping competition Dunvegan Medal



Jamie Forrester from Edinburgh was the winner of the Clasp competition



Local MSP Kate Forbes joined the Isle of Skye Pipe Band as a 'guest' bass drummer



Games president Hugh MacDonald is pictured presenting the Scorrybreac Trophy to Jasper Buxton, for best overall dinghy crew during the sailing competitions



Archie MacLean from Edinbane proved he is not only an accomplished piper but an up and coming sailor, winning the Sandy Rankine Trophy for the best under-16 dinghy crew

Photograph: RUPERT ALLISON

Pictured at the refurbished memorial are (left to right): Terry Grant, treasurer, Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland; David Win, keeper, Eilean Donan Castle; John 'Hearach' Macdonald, Jon Hearach Memorials; Robb Jones, Kyle Co-op; stonemasons Rhuaireadh MacDonald and Duncan MacRae; Linda Raby, chair, Lochalsh branch Legion Scotland; and Andy Will, local legion president



## Lochalsh War Memorial facelift

Over the past 18 months the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland have commissioned work to repair and conserve the Lochalsh War Memorial at Balmacara.

In readiness for the World War One Armistice Centenary commemoration in November 2018, Jon Hearach Memorials cleaned and

repaired the memorial tablet. DA MacRae Stonemasonry reconstructed the supporting structure, upgraded its surrounds and enhanced the grounds to make access easier.

Funding was generously made available by the Kyle Co-op local community fund.

In June 2019 the memorial was nominated for the Highland area best-kept war memorial competition.

It was judged to be joint first in the sector and was proposed for the national competition.

Recently, Eilean Donan Castle awarded a substantial grant which enabled Duncan MacRae of DA MacRae Stonemasonry to make further enhancements to the memorial including a plinth, set back and at the side of the memorial, on which to exhibit a sculpture designed

and created by children and staff at Plockton High School as part of the commemoration.

Now secured, the memorial is a focal point for the community to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in both world wars.

The enhancements were achieved in time to be judged in the national competition on 29th July, the outcome of which is eagerly awaited.

## Trotternish salmon farm company sign deal with supply firm

The company behind plans for a chain of fish farm projects in north Skye has signed a new deal with a Highland-based supply partner.

Aquaculture equipment supplier Gael Force Group will equip Organic Sea Harvest's two new site installations in 2020.

The equipment and technology will include feed barges and feeding systems, pens, moorings, and underwater technology for the two fish farm sites at Invertote and Culnacnoc in Trotternish.

Proposals to site 12 pens at each of the two sites were approved last year, and earlier this month the company submitted plans for a third Trotternish project – this one at Flodigarry.

A fish farm mooted for Balmaqueen is the fourth project being outlined by OSH, who claim to be the first independent farming start-up in Scotland since 1999.

Speaking after the two companies signed the deal worth in excess of £4 million, Gael Force Group sales director Jamie Young said: "We have taken the time to understand Organic Sea Harvest's needs and challenges for many months now and as a result we have become very attuned to their objectives. This has given both parties the complete confidence that we can be a key supply partner in helping Organic Sea Harvest to achieve the best possible results on their new farms."

He added: "Throughout our discussions with the team from Organic Sea Harvest it has also been very clear to us how much they value the importance of working with a local supply partner. For our employees and the local communities in which we are present across Scotland this is terrific news."

Organic Sea Harvest director Alex MacInnes said: "It means a huge amount to us that we have been able

to source the highest quality of equipment and competence at competitive prices locally, and also, that we will be partnering with a Highlands and Islands-based supplier who has shown the enthusiasm and motivation to grow with us and help us in our objective to support the local community of Staffin."

Despite being Scotland's newest salmon farmer, the founding shareholders at Organic Sea Harvest

come with a wealth of experience and background in fish farming.

Each farm will have a maximum consent of 2,500 tons and will use Staffin pier as a service base. The fish will be grown to accredited organic standards and will have a dedicated vet, and it is intended that all four sites would be within their own fish management areas.

The two sites at Invertote and Culnacnoc are due to be stocked in the spring and autumn of 2020.



Organic Sea Harvest directors Robert Gray, Alex MacInnes and Alister Mackinnon with Jamie Young, sales director with the Gael Force Group (second from right)

## Boost for Skye Cycle Way plans with news of major funding award

Plans to establish a new cycle route in south Skye have taken another step forward following an award of funding from the Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' programme.

Funded by Transport Scotland, the programme is designed to make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to travel actively, and to create healthier, happier places for people to live, work and play.

The Skye Cycle Way is one of 200 projects across Scotland to receive an award, although the exact amount is yet to be confirmed.

Skye Cycle Way is a volunteer-led project linked to Broadford and Strath Community Company, whose goal is to create a safe path for all between the Skye Bridge and Broadford.

The funding will enable BSCC to employ a part-time project officer to steer the project through the next stages. This will include working closely with the local community and landowners to finalise the design of the route.

This work will build on feasibility studies and technical surveys undertaken earlier this year, which were also funded by Transport Scotland through sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

Recruitment is expected to take place in the autumn.

Skye Cycle Way volunteer Andy Neison said: "We are delighted to have received this further endorsement from Transport Scotland and Sustrans. We'd like to thank all the many volunteers, businesses and other supporters who have helped us get this far and look forward to making the cycle way a reality."

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, commented: "I am a huge supporter of the Skye Cycle Way and am delighted to hear of this latest funding success. By providing a safe, car-free travel option for all ages and abilities the path will be of great benefit to the local community and will promote health and wellbeing as well as helping the local environment. I look forward to seeing it come to fruition."

Eilean a' Cheo councillor John Finlayson added: "I would like to congratulate Skye Cycle Way and BSCC volunteers for securing this funding. The development of the Skye Cycle Way will be of great value to locals and tourists alike and will hopefully be the start of a more extensive cycle way on the island which will support the use of alternative and safe modes of transport and also the health and wellbeing of those who use it."



Volunteers have been clearing vegetation on the route of the cycle way

## Motorcycle training scheme to come to isles for first time

A training scheme to help reduce the number of collisions involving motorcyclists is to be run for the first time in the Western Isles.

The course will take place in Stornoway on Friday 30th August and is part-funded by Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund.

The initiative was first held during 2018 with courses in Tayside, Aberdeenshire, Moray and the Highlands. It was also held in July this year with a course in Orkney.

Road policing sergeant Alan Henderson said: "The feedback we have received for the course has been overwhelmingly positive and many riders tell us about how it helped them and how they have changed their riding style as a result of the advice."

"We are delighted to be able to deliver the course in the Western Isles for the first time later this month with the support of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

"On our course we want to

promote safe riding messages and encourage riders to think about their riding style and riding behaviour, and take advantage of the expert tuition and advice that we will be providing. Led by police motorcyclists, the one-day course looks at key risk factors particular to the local area plus we do demonstration rides with feedback from officers afterwards.

"The cost of the course will be £40 per rider this year to cover costs plus lunch."

A comhairle spokesperson said: "The promotion of safe riding is a vital part of any road safety campaign and this excellent police-led training course affords motorcyclists the opportunity to obtain expert tuition, including area-specific risk assessment, thus enabling them to make more informed decisions about their riding style."

Anyone interested in attending the course should email [operationriderrefinement@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:operationriderrefinement@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

# Way cleared for sale of wild goose meat

## • Isles council call for rapid roll-out of Orkney pilot scheme

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has called for a rapid roll-out of a pilot project allowing the sale of goose meat.

The call came following the announcement at the end of last week that a licence allowing the sale of greylag goose meat in Orkney will be extended as a pilot scheme to cover the whole of Scotland.

The comhairle also urged Scottish ministers to find a permanent solution that will facilitate the effective management of the greylag goose population alongside an active and thriving crofting sector.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the comhairle's sustainable development committee, said:

"The comhairle has supported local goose management groups in the islands in the past, recognising the severe detrimental impact excessive numbers can have on crofting. Sale of goose meat outwith the islands has been argued for before and, whilst this is only a time-limited relaxation of the rules, it shows that it is possible.

"As funding for goose management is being run down it is imperative that appropriate management schemes are developed. Access to a Scotland-wide market for wild goose meat is one way of helping secure a future sustainable balance between active crofting and the greylag geese population."

The sale of goose meat is traditionally restricted under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. However, for several years it has been sold under licence on Orkney to sustainably control the growing resident greylag geese population in order to safeguard agricultural crops.

Last Thursday, Scottish Natural Heritage launched a trial period to extend the licence allowing the sale of greylag goose meat across Scotland. Extending the licence Scotland-wide has been approved by the European Commission and will allow sellers to develop the market and boost profits.

The trial period will run from 1st August until 31st

October this year, with SNH working on securing a longer-term arrangement to deal with the growing number of resident geese.

Claudia Rowse, SNH's head of natural resource management, said: "Wild geese are an important part of Scotland's nature, but their rapid rise in numbers has been challenging for farmers and crofters. We know that striking the balance between conservation, farming and hunting can be difficult.

"Our goal is to give farmers and crofters the tools they need to safeguard their crops, enabling them to control goose numbers sustainably, and sell goose meat for profit."

## Access improvements at Lewis Sports Centre

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has launched a new programme aimed at making access to the Lewis Sports Centre in Stornoway easier for people with additional support needs.

The new pilot scheme, in partnership with the comhairle's multimedia unit, will allow sports centre staff, partners, carers and other support staff to utilise new 2D graphics of the centre layout and a physical 3D model, in order to familiarise people with additional support needs with all areas of the building.

Centre facilities manager Tony Wade said: "We were approached to see if new graphics could be prepared to help assist a range of customers to access Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais more effectively.

"Teachers and health professionals can now create a 'storyboard' to talk a young person

through the building in advance of their first visit. This will hopefully make the process much smoother and reduce the sense of anxiety about entering a large, busy unfamiliar building.

"The multimedia unit staff have done an amazing job in putting the plans together and hard copies are available at the sports centre reception for customers and online on the comhairle website."

Evelyn Coull Macleod, multimedia manager at the comhairle, added: "It was a delight for the multimedia unit to work alongside Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais in bringing this resource to fruition. Utilising the latest innovative technology, we were able to successfully realise Mr Wade's vision.

"We hope this will be a useful resource not only for current users of the ionad spòrs but for the wider community."

## Waverley appeal passes the £500,000 mark

Donations to save the paddle steamer Waverley have now exceeded £500,000 following the iconic steamship's withdrawal from service earlier this summer.

The major appeal, which was officially launched in June, aims to raise the £2.3 million needed to replace the Waverley's boilers and return her to service in 2020.

Waverley general manager Paul Semple said: "Thanks to the fantastic public response to our Save The Waverley Boiler Refit Appeal we have reached a key milestone in our fundraising campaign. To date over 4,000 individuals have donated with some of our core supporters giving a 'once in a lifetime donation' knowing that we urgently need funds to secure Waverley's future. In addition, we have received offers of help from several organisations and companies, but we will need further help to get Waverley's paddles turning again."

He added "With the new boilers already on order we must increase our efforts to secure further funding to

allow our plans to progress, which will see Waverley undergo major surgery commencing in January. I am exceptionally grateful to everyone who has come forward to help us save the Waverley and with continued support she will sail again."

Waverley is currently berthed in Glasgow where preparation work is being carried out by her engineers and a loyal band of volunteers. Last week the first section of deck was cut open to enable some large components in the ship's boiler room, which are already dismantled, to be lifted free.

Donations can be made online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk, by calling 0141 243 2224 or by texting STEAM £20 to 70085. All donations made directly to Waverley Excursions will be recorded on a donor wall on board Waverley.

The Waverley has operated since 1975 on a 'not-for-profit' basis and is owned by a registered charity. She was withdrawn from service in May of this year due to structural defects in her boilers, forcing cancellation of scheduled visits to the west Highlands.

Lewis Pipe Band and friends from the Lewis and Harris Youth Pipe Band and St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band in Tasmania at the Lewis Carnival earlier this month



Photograph: SANDIE PHOTOS

## Lewis Pipe Band hoping for better performance at this year's 'worlds'

Lewis Pipe Band will be hoping the sun shines on them again for their last competition of the season — the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow on 16th and 17th August — after a weather washout at the European Championships in Inverness contributed to disappointing results.

The band attend only two championships each year due to the high costs involved but are being sponsored for a third year by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust, who have donated £1,000 towards the cost of travel and accommodation.

Lewis Pipe Band chairman Sandy Gomez said the sponsorship was a massive help as it cost between £6,000 and £7,000 for the band to attend the two competitions. "This is the third year of support from Point and Sandwick Trust. Without it we couldn't go to the competitions because fundraising is harder and to have the support of a local body is great, in assisting us to do what we're doing and representing the island. Without it, we would struggle to raise the funds."

Sandy admitted the band were disappointed with their results at the European Championships in June

and said the "horrendous" weather — the humidity and sudden rain — had made it very difficult to keep the pipes in tune. "When we arrived it was boiling hot and overcast," he said. "As soon as we got the pipes out it started bucketing and didn't stop until after we played. The temperature change in particular knocks the tuning out a mile."

However, they were feeling positive about the World Pipe Band Championships and preparations were going well.

They were also buoyed by the news they would not have to play a March, Strathspey and Reel selection — which was more tense and exacting, but only a medley.

"The medley has been our strength. Everybody is much more comfortable with it and we feel we play better in the medley."

Lewis Pipe Band competes in section 3a and will be one of 22 bands in their section at 'the worlds', which sees around 220 bands compete altogether.

The band has issues at the moment with its drumming section, as its snare drummers all work shift patterns which impacts availability. But the growth in interest among the young — with around 40 youngsters belonging to the Lewis and Harris Youth Pipe Band, set up in 2016, and

more than 100 learner pipers in schools — bodes well for the future.

Donald John MacSween, Point and Sandwick Trust general manager, said: "PST wish to encourage organisations like the Lewis Pipe Band who are dedicated and deeply rooted in our community. Supporting culture is one of the four aims of Point and Sandwick Trust and we are committed to supporting the Lewis and Harris Piping Society and our islands' pipe bands as much as we can."

Dr John Smith, chairman of the

Lewis and Harris Piping Society, said: "It costs a lot of money to take a pipe band to any competition on the mainland. We in the piping society are delighted that our friends in the Lewis Pipe Band are able to attend the premier competition for pipe bands — the worlds in Glasgow — enabled by the largesse of Point and Sandwick Trust for the third year running. The band have acquitted themselves well on previous occasions and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavours at this year's visit to Glasgow Green."

## UK award for trading standards officer

An officer in the Highland Council's trading standards team has won a UK award for her work on anti-counterfeiting and protecting consumers.

Lynn Foster was presented with the Dave Hankinson Memorial Award for Individual Excellence by Phil Lewis, director general of the Anti-Counterfeiting Group — an international association respected as one of the world's leading specialists in the fight against the

growing global trade in counterfeit goods.

Ms Foster is the intellectual property expert for Highland and a leading light in the field across Scotland and the UK. In addition to many successful prosecutions, she has developed various groundbreaking and effective approaches, including using quick and efficient civil law processes and creating a range of strong partnerships with other agencies.





## On the Beat in Skye and Lochalsh and the Western Isles

**It's that time of year again — fun, fine weather (I'm ever the optimist) and festivals! Some people love them while others avoid them.**

No matter what your preference, an event like a music festival in a small community can have a big impact. I've been to many events over the years, occasionally as a patron but mostly on duty. The majority of attendees have a fabulous time with no problem but occasionally there are a few people who get carried away, leading to not-so-happy endings.

'Skye Live' in Portree is fast approaching and we want to see everyone enjoying the great bands and atmosphere. I would like to take this opportunity to offer some gentle advice for anyone planning to attend this or any similar gig.

Prior to any event, make sure you buy your tickets through proper reputable channels. Already this year we have had reports at other events, of the sale of fraudulent tickets leading to huge disappointment and financial loss.

Take only essential items with you and keep them properly secured. If you do find property, please hand it to an officer or into your nearest police station as soon as possible. Equally, if you have been unfortunate enough to lose that expensive phone or anything else, please pay us a visit. There is a good chance some kind soul has handed it in.

Last year the police were kept busy keeping people safe and healthy. For those who like to partake of alcoholic refreshments, drink plenty of water and remember to eat! Ensure you have suitable clothing in case the weather takes a turn for the worse, and know how you are getting home or where you are staying for the night.

Of course, be on your best behaviour or Police Scotland may provide you with a less-than-desirable room for the night!

Local police and extra officers will be in attendance to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. Please help out by reporting any suspicious behaviour or concerns.

A very high percentage of disorder and violent crime is fuelled by alcohol. For this reason you will see the police regularly visiting licensed premises. We offer reassurance and support to customers, licence holders and bar staff and ensure licensing laws are being adhered to.

It also gives us an opportunity to enjoy a bit of fun and repartee. Selfies with tourists wearing my police hat,

and the occasional 'Gay Gordon' demonstration, show the police are not all about locking people up. As a tune by the Peatbog Faeries so beautifully puts it: We are 'The Folk Police'.

Whatever your plans for the rest of the season, enjoy and stay safe!

PC Marion McCallum, Portree

**THIS IS ALSO** the time of year when parents express a collective sigh of relief as the schools get ready to go back.

I'm fortunate enough to work quite closely with the fantastic staff at Sgoil Lionacleit, trying to bring the friendly face of local policing into the school. Most of what I do when I visit with the pupils revolves around building positive relationships with young people and encouraging good, informed decision-making.

For the last few years, the hot topic any time I have contact with schools is always internet safety. There's no ignoring the fact that the explosion in technology and social media has fundamentally changed the way people — particularly young people — communicate, and it isn't without its issues.

Online safety is probably a topic I'll come back to in future: there's no getting away from just how relevant it is to everyone these days. When it comes to young people, most of the concern I hear from parents comes from the unknown. Every few months there seems to be a new application or service that young people are using, and occasionally misusing, to communicate with each other. Parents find it difficult to keep up with what's 'on trend' and this leads to blackspots in supervision.

There's only one way round this, which is open and honest discussion with young people. It's down to parents to create a culture where it's all right to speak to young people about what they do online. They might not want to go into specifics, which is understandable, but you should at least know what applications they use, so you can make yourself familiar with them and the associated risks.

There are some great resources for parents online, but my personal recommendation is [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org) which provides some pretty simple explanations of what every app does and what parents need to know. The more you know, the better help you can be to your youngsters if problems do arise.

It's important to realise that the internet isn't going anywhere, so it needs to be treated in the same way as we would treat any other aspect of our children's safety.

PC Gavin McDevitt, Benbecula

# Skye CF sufferer urges drugs chiefs to "see bigger picture"

BY ADAM GORDON  
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A Skye woman who lives with cystic fibrosis has implored the Scottish Medicines Consortium to "see the bigger picture" after it rejected a proposal to make CF treatments which can slow decline in lung function available through the NHS.

The decision, which was announced on Monday, means that those suffering from cystic fibrosis will still not be permitted access to the drugs Orkambi and Symkevi through the NHS — because the treatment costs in relation to their health benefits was deemed "not sufficient" by the Scottish Medicines Consortium.

Hannah McDiarmid (24), who lives in Torvaig just outside Portree, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was 17 weeks old. In April this year Hannah was granted access to the Symkevi treatment through the PACS Tier 2 system which was introduced in June 2018 by the Scottish Government.

The system enables doctors to apply for access to drugs on behalf of their patients which are not recommended by the SMC or routinely available on the NHS, with each applicant considered by an independent board made up of other doctors.

Reflecting on this week's decision, Hannah told the *Free Press*: "I have been lucky enough to be granted

access to Symkevi through the PACT Tier 2 system. I got that in April and have had it since then. With yesterday's news I am actually beginning to feel a bit guilty that I have it while others can't benefit from it like I have.

"Right now, my prescriptions go into next year so I have it indefinitely — unless Brexit will affect it — but I just wish it was the same for everyone."

The Scottish Medicines Consortium is the body responsible for appraising whether the medicines are eligible to be made available on the national health service. Its chairman, Dr Alan MacDonald, said: "We recognise that the decisions will be disappointing. We understand the profound impact that cystic fibrosis has on patients and their families and we are aware of the need for effective treatments that target the underlying cause.

"Patient groups and clinicians gave powerful testimonies about the impact of the condition and the potential benefits of these medicines."

He added that there "remained significant uncertainty around their overall health benefits in the long term in relation to their costs".

"In order to be able to accept these medicines the committee will need to be satisfied of their cost-effectiveness, and we continue to work with the company to achieve that," Dr MacDonald added.

Speaking about the impact

Symkevi has had on her health, Hannah said: "I have been able to do more things since I have been on it. I have good days and bad days like everyone else, but it has made a bit of difference for me since I started it. Considering the way that I was feeling in the last couple of years, I would like everyone to feel like I do and benefit from it the way that I have."

She said that while she accepted there were complexities in the decision-making process, she believed that the welfare of those suffering from cystic fibrosis should take precedence over the costs involved.

She told the *Free Press*: "I would really like them to see the bigger picture and think about people's lives, especially those a bit younger who are trying to get through their

school work and adults who struggle to go to work or keep up a job.

"I do understand that it does cost money and it takes time to make things, which again costs money — but it's people's lives at the end of the day, and that's more important than anything else."

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Jeane Freeman, commented: "I fully understand the great disappointment that people with cystic fibrosis, together with their parents, families and friends, will feel about the Scottish Medicines Consortium's decision not to recommend Orkambi and Symkevi for routine availability on the NHS in Scotland.

"The Government hopes that all parties continue to work together to achieve a positive outcome for all the children and adults with cystic fibrosis in Scotland."



Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

## OBITUARY

# Lewis mourns passing of one of the last traditional blacksmiths

BY MURRAY MACLEOD  
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One of the last remaining traditional blacksmiths in Scotland has passed away at the age of 84.

Despite his advancing years and failing health, Calum 'Steallag' MacLeod from Lewis was working daily up until very recently and dealt with his illness in customary stoical fashion.

A visit to his workshop in Stornoway — a simple shed with corrugated iron roofing — was like a step back in time. Every last little bit of space was filled with old bits of metal and tools, and several ongoing projects. At the far end of the shed a roaring fire in the forge provided both heat and light, with Calum in the middle pounding away on the anvil — sparks flying and echoes ringing out.

Small in stature but as tough as the raw material with which he worked, Calum was highly personable in nature. He enjoyed the company of others, regaling them with tales of a bygone age and characters long since departed. It was always worth a visit to his workshop for his anecdotes alone.

There was, however, one aspect of his work which left him uncomfortable — asking for money. While he would not allow anyone to take advantage, what really drove him was the love of the work, the satisfaction of hard graft, of fixing things and finding practical solutions to help people.

His imprint — quite literally, as he would mark all his work with three

carefully-placed indents — will be found in countless homes across the island, not least in terms of all the peat-irons he produced over the years.

While his workshop was a living museum, he also made a telling contribution to the island's real-life local museum. In the past it was customary for all the crofters on the island to brand the horns of their sheep with a heated iron. Calum would test the branding iron on the

door of his workshop before handing it on. It meant he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the brands across the island, something which proved useful on more than one occasion. That wooden door, covered from top to bottom in croft codes, was passed to the local museum for display.

Neil MacLeod, who ran Fleming Engineering in the town for many years, said: "I got to know Calum first of all when I was an apprentice

many years ago. He was a one-off. His craftsmanship was second to none and he liked nothing better than fixing things that others couldn't.

"He lived for his work and helping people, but he was a real character. Sometimes you'd go into the workshop and there he'd be sitting with one his pals playing the accordion."

Calum leaves behind a son, John Murdo, daughter Kathleen and wife Mairi.



Photograph: CALUM ANGUS MACKAY

# Editorial

## A powerful way of harnessing our community initiative

There is a satisfactorily symbolic value in seeing the Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust move its headquarters into what was the Skye Bridge toll office, before the tolls were abolished in 2004.

That neat little building has gone from taking money out of the local economy to releasing the potential for a better future.

As we reported a couple of weeks ago, our community trusts are treading new ground. A halfway house between full community ownership and the status quo, they represent a spirit of local enterprise which deserves all our support.

If, to take just one instance, the local authority is incapable of keeping several schools in the area safe and habitable, it is highly unlikely that they will find the cash for a much-needed redevelopment of Portree pier and harbour.

But with a bit of luck and a lot of hard work, Portree and Braes Community Trust can.

A quick glance at some of our community trusts' achievements in recent years suggests that we have been quietly nurturing several unusual enterprises, and more than a few dedicated and hardworking people.

In Staffin, no one else was going to develop access to the increasingly overworked Old Man of Storr, until the community trust stepped in.

Glendale Trust has taken over Meanish pier and its foreshore. The 16-year-old Sleat Community Trust has developed a shop and a post office around the established Armadale filling station and car repair garage, both guaranteeing old jobs and creating new ones. It has also bought Tormore Forest for the community.

Portree and Braes Community Trust have had the lease on the town's helipad since 2015, and have been upgrading that essential facility. They find themselves addressing concerns such as the lack of public toilets in Portree, which have been all but abandoned by Highland Council. And that's before they begin to address the pier and harbour...

The little island of Raasay characteristically has three voluntary community organisations: one to run the village hall, one to run Raasay House and walled garden, and one to run its shop!

And from their new offices in the old bridge toll HQ, Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust is cooking up its plans for development of the Plock as a big recreational centre for locals and visitors alike.

These are all the actions of a good community landowner. Community trusts are not an argument against reclaiming the land into local democratic ownership.

They establish that when, for a variety of reasons, estate or other land and property cannot be bought out, the game does not end. The Scottish Land Fund, whose job it is to subsidise community ownership,

realised that, which is why the land fund is one of our community trusts' funding sources.

The community trusts are also another layer of democracy. They are a third way between outright ownership and local government. Membership of community trusts is free, and the communities have responded – Sleat, for instance, has over 500 members.

In the whole of Skye and Lochalsh, a couple of thousand ordinary people have committed themselves to grassroots involvement in the development and wellbeing of their districts. Every one of those individuals deserves our respect.

## Hands off Jurassic Skye!

When we wonder what has increased the number of visitors to Skye tenfold in the last decade, we have perhaps overlooked our dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs are a very big draw and to some people – not all, but a substantial number – Skye has become Jurassic Park. In the words of some promoters, the island is the Dinosaur Capital of Scotland. Blame Steven Spielberg.

It is interesting to learn that 150 million years ago, dinosaurs found Skye to be as irresistible as American movie makers do now. We can hardly blame them.

They have left us with both an asset and a headache. The asset is their astonishing fossilised footprints on the shore. The headache is how to stop people from making off with them.

The first good news is that they have been issued with a National Conservation Order. The second good news is that they will be kept on site, rather than dug up and transferred to the National Museum of Scotland.

The National Conservation Order is well-intentioned, and is better than nothing. But it does beg the question of how it is to be enforced.

Since news of the Skye dinosaur fossils went worldwide, they have not only attracted wide-eyed visitors to come and innocently gape.

More sinister visitors have arrived with hammers and chisels. These are, after all, priceless artefacts, and as dinosaurs were very big creatures they are not hard to find.

Some have already been removed and probably sold to private collections. Others have been damaged by amateurish attempts to prise them from the bedrock.

The National Conservation Order essentially leaves their protection in the hands of the people of Skye.

If you see suspicious behaviour in the vicinity of the fossils, or hear strange sounds in the middle of the night, call the police.

It might only be a neighbour making his or her way back from the bar. But it might be someone with criminal designs on a prehistoric footprint which has been unmolested on the island for tens of millions of years, and should be allowed to rest here until the end of days.

# Your letters

## Dredging — legal or illegal — “is no way to protect the recovery of fisheries” Labour “fractured” over new independence referendum

OVER 40 GROUPS — including fishermen, anglers, community groups and national organisations — wrote to the First Minister in December 2018. She was asked to take urgent action to tackle illegal fishing within Scotland's Marine Protected Area network.

This letter was triggered by a scallop dredger fishing illegally within Loch Gairloch protected area. Herring likes to spawn on maerl within the loch. Maerl is a pink seaweed which underpins the recovery of many of the key fisheries on the west coast. Illegal fishing which damages this is stealing our children's future and our hope of recovery.

Numerous other incidents of illegal dredging within MPAs have been reported, so it was astonishing that the First Minister did not reply. This February a second letter was sent, yet still no reply.

Now a scallop dredger has been filmed inside Wester Ross MPA and is under investigation for illegal dredging. Wester Ross MPA was closed to scallop dredgers following a long period of campaigning by the local communities and creel and dive fishermen.

Seachange is one of the 40 groups referred to above. We are a community think tank set up to protect Wester Ross MPA. As citizen scientists we work with fishermen and wild fish groups to monitor the recovery of maerl since the ban. It is heartbreaking to consider that maerl may have been illegally dredged, without detection, even before this incident.

Our concern led members of the community, fishermen, divers and an NGO to launch an expedition to collect evidence. The area where the alleged illegal fishing was reported, was thought to be a maerl bed. This evidence is now with Marine Scotland.

Policing MPAs is Marine Scotland's job. Yet we feel forced to gather evidence in order to protect the area in the absence of proper resources or the political will. We hope the boat under investigation will have its licence removed if the evidence proves their guilt.

Yet Marine Scotland issued a fixed penalty notice of just £2,000 for illegal dredging in Gairloch. This is inadequate and we want a full inquiry into the abuse of satellite tracking systems and illegal dredging.

George Macpherson is a traditional storyteller from Skye, and is a witness to how the seas have changed in his lifetime. See the film 'The Bountiful Sea: the story of Wester Ross Marine Protected Area'. The ancient oral traditional stories he tells speak of the tragedy befalling us if we continue to exploit nature for greed. The situation is urgent.

The letter sent to the First Minister by the 40 groups urged wholesale reform: “We urge the Scottish Government to give serious

consideration to establishing a three mile limit on bottom-towed fishing methods (on the west coast as a priority) and to ensure an independent assessment of the benefits of such a management regime. Fishing activity affected by management reform should be supported during any transition.”

We care about all people's jobs – we do not wish harm on any fisherman. But legal or illegal dredging is no way to protect the recovery of fisheries and coastal communities. We invite others to join the 40 groups in working to restore our seas.

SARA NASON  
COORDINATOR  
SEA CHANGE WESTER ROSS  
ACHILTIBUIE

## Take part in Red Cross ‘Miles for Refugees’ challenge

WOULD YOU GET INVOLVED in a physical challenge if you knew it would help some of the most vulnerable people in the UK?

Here at the British Red Cross we believe that every refugee matters. That's why we are asking everyone across Scotland to get active and take part in Miles for Refugees, our new fundraising challenge that will help refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK to get the support they need to rebuild their lives.

People make desperate journeys because they are truly desperate. In the face of conflict or persecution, refugees are often forced to travel hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to reach a place of safety. Miles for Refugees allows you to pick the distance of one of these journeys and cover the miles during the month of September.

Cycle the distance of Damascus to Athens (1,000 miles), run the distance between Calais and London (108 miles) or select another one

of the journeys you'd like to complete, either individually, or part of a team.

Olympic champion Victoria Pendleton is backing the challenge. You can visit our website and watch Victoria's video to find out how to get involved.

Whether you choose to walk, run, cycle or swim, the money you raise will help the British Red Cross to ensure that all refugees are made to feel welcome in their communities and are given the support they need to rebuild their lives in safety.

Your miles can change the lives of refugees this September. Learn more and sign up at [miles.redcross.org.uk](https://miles.redcross.org.uk).

JILLIAN MCBRIDE  
REFUGEE SERVICES MANAGER  
BRITISH RED CROSS  
4 NASMYTH PLACE  
GLASGOW  
G52 4PR

WHERE DOES the local Labour candidate stand in regards to whether she supports another Scottish independence referendum? Does she agree with John McDonnell's democratic position of not blocking another referendum, or is she a supporter of Richard Leonard's dictatorial stance?

As we all know, Labour as a party are fractured with various groups offering

conflicting policies as the official position. Where does the candidate stand in regards to this? Especially when Mr Corbyn often has no clear position and just sits on the fence.

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## Debt arrangement scheme “one of Scotland's best-kept secrets”

MANY PEOPLE across Scotland are struggling with consumer debt – everything from store cards to bank overdrafts. In fact, according to a recent survey by the Trades Union Congress, household debt in the UK is now at a record high of £15,385 per household – a figure that excludes mortgage debts, but includes consumer debt items such as credit cards, bank overdrafts, payday loans and store cards.

We are fortunate in Scotland to have a way out of such difficulties in the form of a Debt Arrangement Scheme, which is one of Scotland's best-kept secrets. It's available from charitable organisations such as StepChange and from commercial debt advisers such as TC Debt Solutions too. It is a Scottish Government scheme that is legally binding and prevents creditors from taking further action against people who owe money.

Set up back in 2004 by the Scottish Government, the scheme allows people to freeze interest and charges on their debts and pay their debts off interest-free over a longer period of time. This brings payments down to

levels that people can afford and gives people the chance to get their lives back on track. Interest and charges are simply written off.

Apart from reducing debt, one of the best things about the DAS scheme is that it protects people from their creditors but is not a form of insolvency: people get to pay back their debt in an affordable way. Lenders like the scheme because they know they will eventually get their money back – and borrowers like it because they don't have to pay interest charges and they get longer to pay their debts off. It's a case of everyone wins.

There's plenty of information about the Debt Arrangement Scheme online at [www.aib.gov.uk/debt-arrangement-scheme](https://www.aib.gov.uk/debt-arrangement-scheme). Thousands of people have used the scheme, but so many more could get this help – whether through financial charities or commercial organisations.

RICHARD GARDINER  
PARTNER  
TC DEBT SOLUTIONS  
DUNFERMLINE  
KY1 18P

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Photograph: KYLE RNLI

## Otter spotters' car rolls off Kylerhea pier

A family had a lucky escape when their car ran over the edge of the ferry slipway at Kylerhea on Skye on Sunday.

The Kyle lifeboat The Spirit of Fred. Olsen launched at 1.15pm after reports were received of a car falling off the side of the Kylerhea pier and landing in the sea. The lifeboat arrived on scene at 1.25pm to find the car partially submerged.

Two members of the lifeboat were put ashore to assess the situation and check on the welfare

of the car's occupants. Once it was ascertained that nobody had been inside the vehicle when it went off the pier and the passengers were all uninjured, the lifeboat stood by until local land-based coastguard units arrived.

It is understood the occupants of the vehicle had gone for a walk to look for otters and seals, and the handbrake on the car had failed.

As the tide was coming in and the car was in danger of becoming fully submerged, the lifeboat crew assisted with securing the vehicle to the pier to enable the car to be recovered.

A Kyle RNLI spokesperson said: "Luckily the car was unoccupied when it rolled halfway down the pier and fell off the edge. Due to the rapidly-incoming tide, it wouldn't be long before the car was fully submerged making it very difficult to recover out of the sea. Therefore before departing the scene the crew assisted with running lines to the shore to ensure that nobody else would have to enter the water during the recovery process later in the day."

The car was later recovered by Morar Motors from Kyle of Lochalsh.

## An Lanntair to host world premier of 'The Stornoway Way'

Dogstar Theatre Company will present the world premiere of 'The Stornoway Way', adapted from the novel by Kevin MacNeil, at An Lanntair in Stornoway on Friday 30th August.

After two performances at An Lanntair, the company will take a short break before touring Scotland throughout October.

In this romantic tragicomedy Roman Stornoway (Naomi Stirrat), a struggling musician, and his best friend Eilidh (Rachel Kennedy) are disaffected underachievers who use alcohol to fuel and delay their dreams of escape from the island. Eventually they make their way to the city, where Roman is smitten by the mysterious Hungarian student Eva (Chloe-Ann Tylor) and things go terribly wrong.

These are characters who are outcast from, yet inescapably part of, their Hebridean culture. They leave and return, struggling with their identity and their alienation both from society and from each other, searching for love as a path to salvation.

At times the actors include the

audience in the storytelling, inviting them to be part of this poetic, provocative and funny cèilidh play.

Kevin MacNeil's 2005 debut novel was hailed by 'The Scotsman' newspaper as "The best Scottish book since 'Trainspotting'... full of wisdom, jokes, poetic language and mind-burning imagery". It was a 'Herald' book of the year "whose honest bleakness is outdone by its sheer good humour and energy".

MacNeil sees the play as a development from the novel, and a more mature and inclusive take on his earlier work.

The play is written in English and Gaelic, with a cast of three young actors directed by Matthew Zajac who has recently toured Scotland for the sixth time with his phenomenally-successful play 'The Tailor of Inverness'.

The music and sound are created by the award-winning Pippa Murphy with indy originals and traditional songs by Willie Campbell, Kevin MacNeil and Colin Macleod. Set and costume design is by Ali MacLaurin, video by Jim Hope and lighting design by Andrew Wilson.

The production is supported by Creative Scotland.

## COMMENT

# Nuair a chaidh sinn uil' air bòrd innt'



AONGHAS PÀDRAIG  
CAIRBEUL

a bheil deagh chuimhne air an dà chompanaidh chliùiteach sin, gun teagamh.

Tha eachdraidh Elder Dempster fìor intinneach. Chaidh an stèidheachadh, mar a thubhairt mi, ann an 1852 aig àrd-ìre Ìmpearachd Bhreatainn son malairt air feadh an t-saoghail. Chaidh an stèidheachadh an toiseach fon ainm The African Steam Ship Company, agus tha mi cinnteach gu bheil an t-ainm fhèin ag innse na sgeòil: chan e companaidh a bha seo a bhuineadh dha na h-Afraganach ach a bha malairt ri Afraga.

Bha an African Steam Ship Company a' dol leatha fhèin gu 1867, nuair a chaidh a ceangal le companaidh eile fon ainm The British and African Steam Navigation Company. Bha an dà chompanaidh sin air an ruith le Elder Dempster and Company, agus thàinig iad uile còmhla ann an 1932 mar aon chompanaidh fon bhratach Elder Dempster Lines Limited.

Bha a' chompanaidh a' frithealadh bathair is seirbhis gu Afraga an Iar – trì bàtaichean-puist (mailboats) a' seòladh gach ceala-deug gu Ghana agus Nigeria, agus a' tadhail air Sierra Leone agus Libera air an t-slighe. Bhiodh na soitheachan sin a' toirt oifigearan colonialach a-null agus a-nall gu agus bho Afraga, agus b'ann air na bàtathan sin a sheòl an sgrìobhaiche ainmeil Graham Greene nuair a bha e ag obair dhan t-seirbhis choloinialach, agus às an tug e ealain cho iongantach. Bhiodh soisgeulaich (missionaries) cuideachd gu tric air na soitheachan sin.

A thaobh bathair, bha iomadh seòrsa gnothach air an giùlain eadar Afraga agus Breatann – càraichean, salainn, leann, uisge-beatha, fiodh, cnòthan – dè nach

robh! Às dèidh ùine leudaich a' chompanaidh a-mach agus rinn iad seòlaidhean air feadh an t-saoghail mhòir, chan ann dìreach gu Afraga, agus coltach ri gach companaidh eile, chuidich iad gu mòr aig àm an Dara Cogaidh – seirbhis a rinn iomadh seòladair Gàidhealach às leth na rìoghachd anns an dà Chogadh Mhòr. Tha an dealbh a tha dol leis an airtigeal seo ag innse sin gu làidir, grinn. Agus cò aig tha fhios nach bidh feum air a leithid fhathast, mar a tha cùisean a' dol le Brexit is eile...

Bha companaidhean A' Chabhlaich Mharsanta ainmeil agus aithnichte an lùib nan Gàidheal aig aon àm, le balaich òga falbh às gach dàrnacha dachaigh anns na h-eileanan gu muir dhomhainn. Nach iomadh sgl is sgiòradh is sgeulachd a thog iad air na bhòidsean iongantach sin, eadar South Georgia agus Buenos Aires thall! Tha ar cuid òrain a' togail fianais mun a sin a-rithist agus a-rithist. Fàgail Bharraigh. A' Pheigi, a Ghràidh. An Caìora:

*"Nuair a chaidh sinn uil' air bòrd innt',*

*Nuair a sguir sinn 'g òl an leann,*

*Cha robh cùisean idir dòigheil*

*Son bha 'm bòsun air an dràm;*

*Thug an sgiobair dhuinn an t-òrdugh*

*Leigeadh às gach ròp is ball,*

*B'fheudar poidhleat thoirt air bòrd innt'*

*Son a seòladh sìos an Clyde."*

Tha iomadh sgeul aig m'athair-cèile mu dheidhinn bhith seòladh ann an gàbhaidhean cunnartach agus is e miorbhail gun d'fhuair e fhèin agus gach maraiche eile bha còmhla ris beò àsta. Bha Gàidheil gu leòr nam measg. Ged nach robh cuid cho fortanach, oir tha làn-

fhios aige cuideachd air cho cudromach agus a tha riaghailtean agus laghan agus slàinte is sàbhailteachd, agus tha mi air gu leòr ionnsachadh bhuaithe mu na rudan sin.

Bidh e fhathast a' faighinn iris nan Aonaidhean a tha cumail sùil gheur air na gnothaichean sin, agus mo bheannachd orra airson feuchainn fhathast (anns an t-saoghal bhochd a th' ann) riaghailtean a chumail suas. Oir anns an latha th'ann tha na cuantan cuideachd nan seòrsa de 'Wild West' a thaobh lagh is riaghailtean, le companaidhean a' clàradh an cuid soithichean thall thairis far nach eil na riaghailtean a thaobh uairean-obrach, tuarastalan, sàbhailteachd, co-ionannachd is eile cho math agus a bu chòir.

Tha e tàmailteach agus ceàrr. Oir chan ann dìreach air sgàth adhbharan eachdraidheil a bu chòir dhuinn moit a bhith againn às A' Chabhlaich Mharsanta, ach bu chòir dhuinn cuideachd dèanamh cinnteach anns na làithean seo gu bheil seirbhis againn a tha freagarrach airson feumalachdan an latha an-diugh. Gu mi-fhortanach, chan eil coltas gun cuidich Brexit ris an sin a-bharrachd, le miann aig cuid "margaid shaor" a leudachadh a bhios nas cunnartaiche dha na criùdhachan agus dha na bàtaichean.

Tha iarraidh mhòr fhathast air bàtaichean. Fiù's a thaobh na h-àrainneachd, le soithichean a-nis air an togail comasach air siubhal le connadh ath-nuadhachail, bidh Cabhlach Mharsanta slàn fallain gu math riatanach anns na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn. Obraichean gu leòr fhathast rim faighinn aig muir dhan òigrìdh – boireann no fireann – agus ged nach eil Cal-Mac cho

"romantaic" ri seòladh gu Montreal, tha e fhathast a cheart cho riatanach!

Ged a chanas seòladair no dhà fhathast "is truagh nach do dh'fhuirich mi tioram air tìr", tha

fhios gu bheil gu leòr ann fhathast cuideachd a chanas (no a sheinneas) riutha fhèin: "Tha mìle long air Cuan Èirinn, 's truagh nach robh mi fhèin air tè dhiubh..."



Photograph: THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IL



Photograph: WILLIE UROUHART

## Story of tourism in Skye and Lochalsh

Catherine MacPhee and Anne Beaton of the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre in Portree look over the new exhibition on the history of tourism in the area.

'Over the Sea to Skye: A History of Tourism in Skye and Lochalsh' runs right through until Easter of next year.

The exhibition considers some of the early visitors to Skye and Lochalsh

and examines the topics of travel, accommodation, myths and legends, castles and clans, popular events such as Highland games and Skye Week, and the evolution of the tourism industry in general.

There is also an opportunity to view archive film of the area, including family holiday footage as well as promotional recordings.

The centre is open from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm Monday to Friday, and there is no charge to access the exhibition.

## New centre to cash in on eagle watching in hills of Harris

BY MURRAY MACLEOD  
newsdesk@whfp.com

Construction is under way on a new £50,000 facility at a well-known island beauty spot in order to cater for the growing number of people drawn to the area.

The hills of Harris are home to some 20 pairs of nesting golden

eagles and, following the construction of a dedicated observatory, the number of visitors has soared.

The North Harris Trust has now started work on a new centre to complement the existing observatory.

Trust chair Calum MacKay said it was important to try to meet the needs of the growing number of people attracted to the hills and mountains of Harris.

"The new building is out on the hill above Scaladale and Ardvoirliche," he said. "It's effectively a shelter where people sit and take in the views."

"We built an eagle observatory in Glen Miavaig a number of years ago and it's been really, really popular. A lot of people walk out there all year round, but particularly so in the summer months."

"We know that people will really

appreciate somewhere where they can stop and take a rest. There's going to be a large amount of glass in the new building so it will be ideal for taking in the wonderful environment."

Funding for the project came from a range of sources, including Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the John Muir Trust and the Muaitheabhal Community Windfarm Trust.

## Lochalsh director to show new film to local audience in Dornie

'Slingshot', a new short film by director Robin Haig starring Sharon Small, will screen in Haig's home village of Dornie on Saturday 17th August at 5pm, before the feature film 'Women at War'.

Described as a gently humorous drama about courage in a small Highland community, 'Slingshot' is set in a Scottish castle and is about Kath (Sharon Small) who is struggling with the death of her father and her increasingly-errant teenage daughter. On the day of her local village's battle reenactment she is visited by a mystical force before defying her annoying younger boss and becoming a warrior queen.

Robin Haig directed 'Slingshot' as part of the Scottish Film Talent Network's New Talent Scheme, funded by Screen Scotland and the British Film Institute.

Haig's previous short film 'Hula' also took a wry look at the mid-life female experience in the rural Highlands through B&B owner Clara, played by Blythe Duff. In 2016 it won the Bafta Scotland New Talent award for drama and had its world premiere at Inverness XpoNorth. The Screen Machine also

screened it in Dornie to two sell-out audiences, where it was programmed with several other shorts by the organisers of Way Out West Picturehouse.

'Slingshot' has a strong female slant and was made by the same all-female core creative team behind 'Hula'. It was written by Scottish screenwriters Claire Nicol and Mandy Lee, and produced by Lindsay McGee.

Focusing on Sharon Small's main character, Kath, the film explores the battle of the sexes with a refreshing lightness of touch. True to form with Haig's previous short, there's an undercurrent of Highland myth and legend which lends an ethereal quality.

Future screenings are to be announced as the 'Slingshot' team are submitting it to film festivals worldwide.

Robin Haig said: "The inspiration for 'Slingshot' came from several strong visual images and a team of four creative women. We used the inspirational visual images to build character and story, and brought our experiences of life to the table. Uniformly we wanted to show women of different ages, inspiring and supporting one another."



'Slingshot' is the latest short film from Robin Haig

**35**  
years ago from the columns of the West Highland Free Press

### 10th August 1984

The Highlands and Islands were already witnessing the development of a second-class telephone system in the Highlands and Islands.

That was the warning from the Union of Telecommunication Workers, as the new licence under which the privatised British Telecom

would operate came into force. The union had initiated an overtime ban in protest against BT's plans for a manpower reduction of five per cent.

No expense was spared as Princess Margaret paid a fleeting visit to Stornoway to join the Royal Yacht Britannia, which was taking the Queen and other royals on a tour of the west coast on the way to Balmoral. Three helicopters, an RAF aircraft and a Royal Navy frigate were all involved in making sure the Princess was safely transferred to the royal yacht.

A new fish marketing company began operating on Barra. Iasg Barrach Ltd was set up under the auspices of Co-Chomunn Bharraidh whose chairman, Father Colin MacInnes, described the creation of the new firm as "a momentous step".

The first local authority museum in the Western Isles was about to open its doors in the old Town Hall in Stornoway.

And in Kyle of Lochalsh, most of the 10 houses built to accommodate Royal Navy personnel working at the British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre were now lying empty as the base had largely been privatised. The chairman of Skye and Lochalsh District Council's housing committee, Councillor Alistair Langlands, described the situation as "an embarrassment".



Tug-o-war during the South Harris Show at Leverburgh

## Litir do luchd-ionnsachaidh le Ruairidh MacIleathain

### Iain Ruadh Stiùbhart (3)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 10pm on Sunday, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'Beag air Bheag', with a repeat at 10.30pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,048. There is also a simpler version - An Litir Bheag - which is broadcast at 4.03pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 744 corresponds to Litir 1,048. The Litir is also available at [www.bbc.co.uk/litir](http://www.bbc.co.uk/litir) and [www.learnghaelic.scot/litir](http://www.learnghaelic.scot/litir).

Tha mi a' dol a chur crìoch air mo chunntas air an t-Seumasach ainmeil à Srath Spè, Iain Ruadh Stiùbhart. Bha e na ruagalaiche an dèidh Chùil Lodair. Fhuair e fios bhon Phrionnsa, Teàrlach Òg, a dhol a chèilidh air ann an Cèidse Chluainidh - *Cluny's Cage* - taobh Beinn Eallair. Nise, tha àite air na mapaichean deas air Beinn Eallair faisg air Loch Eireachd - *Prince Charlie's Cave* - ach tha mòran dhen bheachd nach e sin a bh' anns a' Chèidse idir.

Tha iad ag ràdh gun deach a togail de dh'fhiodh air cliathaich na beinne. Bha i air a còmhachadh le duilleach cuilinn agus còinneach gus nach biodh e furasta a faicinn aig astar.

Co-dhiù, sin far an robh am Prionnsa aig toiseach an fhoghair, seachd ceud deug ceathrad 's a sia (1746). Chaidh Iain Ruadh ann a chèilidh air, tha mi cinnteach, airson a dhilseachd a dhearbhadh aon turas eile agus, mar a thachair e, airson teicheadh cuide ris. Goidid an dèidh a bhith sa Chèidse, sheòl iad don Fhraing còmhla air bòrd soitheach Frangach à Loch nan Uamh.

Chaochail Iain Ruadh anns an Fhraing sia bliadhna an dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair, ach chan eil cinnt ann càite. Agus chan eil sgeul air uaigh. Tha, ge-tà, àite ann an Srath Spè far a bheilear ga chuimhneachadh. Anns a' bhliadhna dà mhìle (2000), chaidh carragh-cuimhne a thogail dha faisg air àite a bhreith ann an Cinn Chàrdainn.

Agus, a h-uile bliadhna anns an Lùnastal, bidh feadhainn a' coiseachd gu mullach a' Chùirn Ghuirn airson bratach Chinn Chàrdainn a chur an-àirde mar chuimhneachan air Iain Ruadh. Tha iad a' leantainn air fear Seumas Mac an t-Saoir à Beag Ghleann anns a' Ghleann Mhòr. 'S e a bha an urra ri bratach uaine Chinn Chàrdainn aig Cùil Lodair. Rinn e cinnteach nach fhaigheadh na saighdearan dearga grèim oirre.

Gach bliadhna an dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair, air an naoidheamh latha deug dhen Lùnastal, bhiodh Seumas a' dol gu mullach a' Chùirn Ghuirn airson a' bhratach a chur an-àirde mar chuimhneachan air Iain Ruadh agus na fir eile à Srath Spè a dh'èirich ann an adhbhar a' Phrionnsa. Carson a thag e an latha sin? Uill, b' ann air an latha sin a chaidh bratach nan Seumasach a thogail ann an Gleann Fhionnain aig toiseach Bliadhna Theàrlach.

A bharrachd air an dàn aige *Latha Chùil Lodair*, sgrìobh Iain Ruadh dàn eile mun chath. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air *Oran Eile air Latha Chùil Lodair*. Anns an òran seo, tha am bàrd ag ainmeachadh cuid de na fineachan a ghabh pàirt anns a' chath. Mar eisimpleir, tha e a' caoidh nach robh Clann 'ic a' Phearsain, no Clann Mhuirich mar a bh' aige fhèin orra, an làthair. B' e sin adhbhar eile, ann am beachd Iain, a chaill na Seumasaich. Bidh

feadhainn a' gabhail pàirt dheth chun an latha an-diugh. Seo dà rann dheth:

*O gur mis' th' air mo chràdh,  
thuit mo chridhe gu làr,  
'S tric snighe gu 'm shàil o 'm  
lèirsinn.*

*Dh'fhalbh mo chlaistinneachd  
bhuam,*

*Cha chluinn mi san uair, gu mall  
no gu luath nì 's èibhinn.*

*Mu Phrionns' Teàrlach mo rùin,  
oighre dligheach a' chrùn,  
'S e gun fhios dè an taobh a  
thèid e,*

*Fuil Rioghail nam buadh, bhith  
ga diobairt san uair,  
'S mac diolain le sluagh ag  
èirigh.*

★★★

**Faclan na Litreach:** Iain Ruadh Stiùbhart: *John Roy Stuart*; ruagalaiche: *fugitive*; Loch Eireachd: *Loch Ericht*; carragh-cuimhne: *memorial*; Cinn Chàrdainn: *Kincairdine*; Seumas Mac an t-Saoir: *James MacIntyre*; Beag Ghleann: *Beglan [now deserted village]*; Gleann Fhionnain: *Glenfinnan*; fineachan: *clans*; claistinneachd: *[sense of] hearing*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** a dhol a chèilidh air ann an Cèidse Chluainidh taobh Beinn Eallair: *to go and visit him in Cluny's Cage over Ben Alder way*; gun deach a togail de dh'fhiodh air cliathaich na beinne: *that it was built of wood on the side of the mountain*; air a còmhachadh le duilleach cuilinn agus còinneach: *covered by holly foliage and moss*; airson a dhilseachd a dhearbhadh aon turas eile: *to prove his loyalty one more time*; mar a thachair e, airson teicheadh cuide ris: *as it happened, to flee with him*; sheòl iad don Fhraing còmhla air bòrd soitheach Frangach: *they sailed to France together on board a French vessel*; chan eil sgeul air uaigh: *there is no knowledge of a grave*; gu mullach a' Chùirn Ghuirn: *to the summit of Cairn Gorm*; 's e a bha an urra ri bratach uaine X: *he was responsible for the green flag of X*; air an naoidheamh latha deug dhen Lùnastal: *on 19th August*; na fir eile à Srath Spè a dh'èirich ann an adhbhar a' Phrionnsa: *the other men from Strathspey who rose for the Prince*; a' caoidh nach robh Clann 'ic a' Phearsain, no Clann Mhuirich mar a bh' aige fhèin orra, an làthair: *lamenting that the MacPhersons, or Clann Mhuirich as he called them, were not present*; gur mis' th' air mo chràdh: *that I am tortured*; 's tric snighe gu 'm shàil: *often tears [go to] my heel*; oighre dligheach a' chrùn: *the rightful heir to the crown*; fuil Rioghail nam buadh, bhith ga diobairt san uair: *the virtuous royal blood being forsaken at this hour*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** 'S *mac diolain* le sluagh ag èirigh: *and a bastard son rising with a host*. I have given this translation because John Roy clearly meant it as an insult (it is a reference to the Duke of Cumberland); it is the translation generally given by singers of the song. However, in normal circumstances, mac diolain means 'illegitimate son' and doesn't have the pejorative flavour of 'bastard'. Cumberland was not strictly illegitimate but the Jacobites considered him and his family to be usurpers of the 'true' royal line.

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** faisg air àite a bhreith: *close to his birthplace*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinneachadh le MG ALBA



A safety demonstration from the coastguard

Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART

## Fun-packed weekend as annual gala celebrations held in Kyleakin

Kyleakin was a hive of activity last weekend as the village celebrated its annual gala.

In kind weather, a bumper crowd turned out to enjoy all that was on offer.

Having proved a hit the previous year, a children's disco and bingo night kicked off the festivities on Friday evening before a busy Saturday began with the Skye Bridge 10k race.

Popular attractions for youngsters included body zorbing and bouncy castles, as well as the presence of local coastguard and RNLI crews. There was entertainment from the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band, as well as a varied selection of food and drink stalls.

For the first time a 'great gala bake-off' was held, and proved a popular draw. The winners in each category were Catherine Vass (Victoria sponge); John Reid and Caroline Clouston (jam/chutney); Krissy Lothian (scone); Malcolm

Reid (speciality bread) and Keira Nightingale (children's summer berry).

On Saturday evening the festivities were brought to a rousing finale with a packed-out marquee dance to Trail West.

Gala chair Karen Thompson said: "The Kyleakin Gala committee were overwhelmed by the continued success and support from the local community again this year.

"Our bingo night remained popular with all ages and Trail West brought in our biggest crowd in years on Saturday night.

"The launch of the gala bake-off was well received as was the return of the RNLI and coastguard.

"Myself and the committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make it possible, the local businesses who donated prizes and supplies, and all who came along to enjoy the festivities."

Over the years the gala weekend has raised thousands of pounds to help build a new community hall and

secure a community minibus. It has also provided funds to aid the various local clubs, groups and organisations which have helped run the event.

This year's Skye Bridge 10k road race attracted its biggest field in several years, with 88 runners completing the course from Kyleakin to the outskirts of Kyle and back again.

Mark Dow from Elgin breached the tape in a time of 38 minutes and 37 seconds to win by almost a minute-and-a-half from runner-up Gaspard Grech, who ran 40.10.

The first woman home, and third overall, was Sarah Attwood who ran 40 minutes and 31 seconds. Sarah, from Portree, was also the first local to cross the line.

After the main race had set off, some 20 youngsters took part in a fun run that was won by nine-year-old Connor Birnie from Glasgow.

Race organisers have extended thanks to those who helped set up, marshal the course, time-keep, provide medical cover, provide

water stations and make or serve soup and sandwiches to all runners.

Sponsorship for the race was provided by the Isle of Skye Estate Agency, while medical and safety cover came from MERT Highland and the local HM Coastguard team. Members of Kinlochshiel women's shinty club and Kyleakin AFC helped steward alongside several other willing local volunteers, while the Kings Arms Hotel provided soup for the runners after the race.

The top 20 results were: Mark Dow 38.37; Gaspard Grech 40.10;

Sarah Attwood 40.31; Andy Birnie 41.13; Paul Parker 41.38; Paddy MacInnes 43.07; Steven Mackenzie 43.43; Tony Boyle 43.51; David Mann 44.51; Andy Kendall 45.07;

Stephen Davison 45.15; Stephen Murchison 45.43; Robert Macdonald 45.48; Colin Cameron 46.05; Becky Maw 46.20; Jamie Hamilton 46.35; Stephane Durand 46.52; Gillian Alston 47.06; Liam Collins 47.10; Murdo Maclean 47.30.



Zorbing fun

Photograph: KEITH MACKENZIE

**Fun runners**



Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART

**Winners from the 10k and fun run along with Kristen MacBeth, representing sponsors the Isle of Skye Estate Agency**



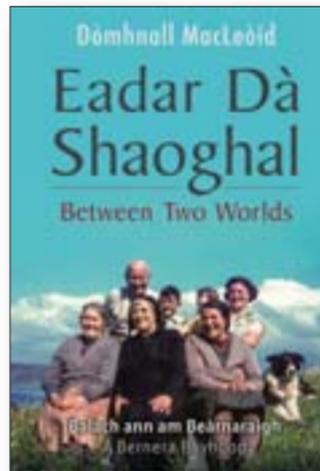
**Bouncy fun!**



**Budding lifeboat recruits**



## BOOKS

ROGER  
HUTCHINSON

Bernera school and schoolhouse, with the Church of Scotland behind

Photograph: HEBRIDEAN CONNECTIONS, BERNERA SITE

# Growing up between two worlds

In 2014 Donald MacLeod broadcast on Radio nan Gàidheal a popular eight-part series of memoirs about growing up in Great Bernera during and after the Second World War.

The series was called 'Eadar Dà Shaoghal: Between Two Worlds'. It is not clear whether the two worlds were Bernera and his father's home on the other side of Lewis at Lochs, where he later lived, or Bernera and the rest of the United Kingdom in which he has spent much of his life, working latterly as a psychologist.

He presently lives in Kent. He will be useful there, when as a result of a no-deal Brexit the garden county of England becomes a very large lorry park in need of psycho-analysis from a qualified Lewisman.

But back to Bernera. The eight tales in 'Eadar Da Shaoghal' are uncompromisingly set in that sensationally beautiful tidal republic on the west side of Lewis. Now the publishing house Acair has assembled them into one book, titled 'Eadar Da Shaoghal: Between Two Worlds' or 'Balach ann am Bearnaigh, A Bernera Boyhood'.

It is a loving production. The eight Gaelic essays have each been

translated into English, with footnotes and appendices. It is illustrated by a host of fine photographs.

They include one of Reverend Donald Macaulay showing the late Princess Diana around Bernera in 1985. That was two years before her husband famously visited the other island of Berneray in the Sound of Harris, and it does make you wonder. What was it with that couple and their Bearnaigh?

Exiled Highlanders have a passion for their blue remembered hills. The danger when they come to write — or broadcast — those memories is sentiment.

It is arguable that, war or no war, the middle of the 20th century was the golden age of the Gaelic crofting community. The language and the holdings were intact and secure. The communal traditions were alive. Few people were rich and few people were desperately poor. It was an egalitarian society.

Donald MacLeod paints that society beautifully, through the eyes of a young boy. Perhaps it is because he was young that his tales are immune to twee sentimentality. Give a boy a copper penny for a sherbet from the shop and he's happy.

As a boy from the south, Breacleit School was different. Donald first got wind of its imminence when the postman arrived with a parcel.

"Well, it's JD," said my mother. "I didn't expect this to come until next week. Oxendales is good for corsets and Gamage's for household goods, but no one is as good at shoes as JD."

"She tore the paper from the parcel and gave me the box. I opened the top, and there were two glistening black Lornes. They were as fine as two ornaments you would put on the mantelpiece. I knew full well what the Lornes were for. I was going to school."

When he arrived at school the other children were already seated at their desks. "Well, well," said the teacher Peigi Matheson. "Who have we here?"

"My name is Donald Iain MacLeod," I said.

"Does he have Gaelic?" the teacher asked my mother.

"Yes," I replied. "My skull-full."

"I don't believe I heard another word of Gaelic in that room again."

From this collection of excellent tales it is not difficult to pick a winner. 'The Madness of Daisy' has

a power deserving of a longer piece of text.

Its synopsis is simple, and in crofting communities common.

On an early summer's day young Donald and his Auntie Chris go off to milk a couple of cows. One of them, Daisy, while a good milk cow, is known to be "mischievous and obstinate". Daisy's hind legs were tied while Chris milked her.

This is not, thinks the reader, on its way to a happy conclusion.

Early one Saturday morning shortly afterwards Chris arrived at the house. She was weeping and a handkerchief was held close to her mouth.

"Daisy is badly torn, badly torn..." she stuttered.

The cow had tried to jump a new high fence. She had failed and come down on the barbed wire. She struggled fiercely for who knows how long. Her underside was horribly lacerated. The men cut her free and she staggered down the pasture.

"I've sent for Coinneach Dochart," said my father."

Coinneach Dochart duly arrived, wearing wellingtons, dungarees, a big Guernsey, an old tweed jacket, a bonnet, and carrying a gun.

Daisy could not immediately be shot. It was getting later on Saturday, and the whole process of disembowelling and burying the offal and lifting her into the byre would take several men a day — and the next day was the Sabbath.

"That was the longest Sabbath that ever there was in the township of Circeabost," writes Donald MacLeod.

Monday came, as Mondays will. "The next time I saw Daisy she was on the dinner table..." but there would be more, dreams and fantasies and hauntings for which you must buy Donald MacLeod's memories of his Bernera boyhood.

'Eadar Da Shaoghal: Between Two Worlds', by Donald MacLeod; Acair, £15.99

Donald 'the psychologist' MacLeod

Reverend Donald  
Macaulay escorts  
Princess Diana  
through Bernera  
in 1985Donald's grandmother  
spinning at the end of  
the house

## family notices

Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths, Acknowledgements, In Memoriam and Thanks Notices

### DEATH

ROSS (Invergordon) – Peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Thursday 1st August 2019, Angus Campbell Ross, of Laura, Seabank Road, Invergordon. Beloved husband of Katie and the late Renee; much loved father of Catherine, Shena, Karen, Marie and John; dear stepdad of Morag, Angus and the late Katherine; a loving grandad and great-grandad; dear brother of Mary; and loved by all the extended family and friends. Funeral Service was held in Rosskeen Free Church, Achnagarron, Invergordon on Thursday 8th August. Thereafter to Tomnahurich Cemetery. All enquiries to Alasdair Rhind, Funeral Directors, Sutherland House, Bank Street, Tain.

### IN MEMORIAM

FORBES – In loving memory of my dear mum, Adaliene, who passed away suddenly on 19th August 2014.

*Forever in our thoughts and sadly missed.*

– From Carol, Starsky, Megan and Grant.

MACDONALD – In loving memory of my dear parents and our grandparents, Murdo and Kate MacDonald (late of Achachork), died 8th August 1987 and 7th September 1985.

*Loved and always remembered.*

– Daughter Mina and grandchildren Kate and Seoras.

MACKINNON – In loving memory of my wife, Isobel, who died on 17th August 2017.

*Always in my thoughts.*

– Ian

MURCHISON – Treasured and precious memories of Mhairi, a much loved granddaughter, niece and cousin, who died 18th August 2009, aged 30 years.

*Remembering also loved ones who will live on in our hearts.*

– Granny and all the family.

### THANKS

Iris Campbell, Matheson Place, Portree, would like to thank everyone who supported her Afternoon Teas and Scottish Lochs Quiz recently organised in aid of the Breast Cancer Now charity. A total of £450 was raised and has been donated to the cause.



## Skye's Only Independent Family Owned Funeral Director

Direct cremation / Burial £1,595  
Traditional Funeral £2,700

Prices to include

Collection anywhere Skye, Lochalsh or Wester Ross  
Oak veneer raised lid burial coffin  
or  
Oak veneer flat lid cremation coffin  
Burial anywhere Skye, Lochalsh or Wester Ross  
Cremation in Inverness



**FARQUHAR MACLEOD**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF SKYE**  
Broadford Office: 01471 820 000  
Portree Office: 01478 470 888



## Ian Blackford MP Ross, Skye & Lochaber

I will be holding the following Surgeries

22 August 10am-10.45am Highland Council Service Point Broadford  
22 August 11.15am-12pm Highland Council Service Point Kyle  
22 August 2pm-2.45pm Lochcarron Village Hall  
22 August 4pm-4.45pm Applecross Community Hall

23 August 10am-10.45am Cromarty Victoria Hall  
23 August 11.30am-12.15pm North Kessock Village Hall  
23 August 2pm-3pm Ian Blackford's Office Dingwall

28 August 12pm-12.45pm Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Hall  
28 August 3pm-4pm Ian Blackford's Office Fort William

29 August 10am-10.45am Leven Center Kinlochleven  
29 August 12pm-12.45pm Ballachulish Village Hall

"Working for You"

A: 29 High Street, Dingwall IV15 9RU  
E: ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk  
T: 01349 866397  
W: ian.blackford.scot



## public notices

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

COLIN JACK has registered the croft at 4 ERBUISAIG, LOCHALSH 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 22nd April 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6199.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

JOHN ROSS CAMPBELL has registered the croft at 6 HEATHERFIELD, PORTREE on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 25th April 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is I3186.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

CHARLES RODERICK ELDER has registered the croft at 1/2 OF 7 BROGAIG, KILMUIR on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 25th April 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C6219.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

W MacPherson & Mrs L T Campbell  
4 Eynort, Bracadale  
98463

0.128 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site and garden ground (substituting Direction)

J G Sikorski  
12 Aiseig, Strath  
99903

0.11 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site and garden ground (substituting Direction)

### PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

ALASDAIR MONTGOMERY is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 2 PENIFILER, PORTREE and 2 PENIFILER (APPORTIONMENT) to MARY MONTGOMERY of FORELAND, STORMYHILL ROAD, PORTREE.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 13/9/19.

### PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

IAIN MACDONALD is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 3 SARTLE, STAFFIN to DONALDA (DONNA) WILSON of 10 TROTTERNISH AVENUE, STAFFIN.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 13/9/19.

**BREACAIS ARD  
COMMON GRAZINGS  
AGM**  
Friday 23rd August  
at 7.00pm  
in Breakish Hall

**If you have a  
notice to include –  
CALL US  
01471  
822464**

### BUTEC AND RONA RANGE PROGRAMME

The BUTEC and RONA Ranges (covering the Inner Sound extended to 57°45'N) will be active from: Friday 16th to Friday 23rd August 2019.

SUBMARINE ACTIVITY Nil

SURFACE ACTIVITY Monday 19th to Friday 23rd August 2019

This programme is subject to change at short notice.

A daily update of Range activities will be broadcast from the Range Terminal Building Applecross at 0800 and 1800 each day.

RTB Applecross listens on VHF Channel 8, 13 and 16 continuously.

Attention is drawn to the BUTEC Byelaws 2016.

## Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SANDWICK ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE (A866 SANDWICK ROAD) ORDER 2019

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, hereby gives Notice of the temporary road closure of the Sandwick Road Section of the A866 from a point 70m East of the Island Road/Smith Avenue roundabout to a point 250m West of the Seaforth Road/Mossend Road junction, from 5am on Monday 19th August to 5am on Saturday 24th August 2019.

Eastbound traffic shall be diverted at the roundabout along Smith Avenue towards and along Springfield Road, Anderson Road, onto Mossend Road and back onto the A866 (Westbound traffic shall take a similar route in reverse). Access shall be available to business premises adjacent to the road closure.

The temporary road closure is required in the interests of safety as a result of works being carried out by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to replace a failed culvert located on Sandwick Road.

The requirements for closure shall be kept under review and any amendments shall be advertised as appropriate. Alternative routes for traffic shall be signposted. A copy of the Order with a plan showing the roads referred to in the Order will be available on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's website: <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/traip/>

Chief Executive  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

### West Highland Free Press

## Advertising deadline 11.00am on TUESDAY

However, should you require a proof of an advertisement  
the deadline is 5.00pm on MONDAY

*Thank you for your co-operation*

## 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>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, TIGH-NA-SGIRE, PARK LANE, PORTREE, ISLE OF SKYE IV51 9GP; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find the nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

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	Alternative locations where applications may be inspected and time period for comments
19/03065/FUL	Lan-Mara Skeabost Bridge Portree IV51 9NP	Retrospective erection of an artist gallery and retail unit	(14 days)
19/03493/FUL	Residential Accommodation Broadford Hotel Broadford Isle Of Skye IV49 9AB	Site of a residential caravan for staff accommodation. (retrospective)	(14 days)
19/02997/PIP	Land On A87 At Cuidreach Cuidreach Earlish	Erection of dwelling house and 2 car parking spaces (Plot 2)	(14 days)

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

### PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

ALICE MCINTOSH is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 5 CREAGORRY, SOUTH UIST to DEREK MICHAEL MCINTOSH of 5 CNOC NA MONADH, TORLUM.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 13/9/19.

### PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT OF A COMMON GRAZINGS

COLIN FRASER is applying for an apportionment of part of the MORVICH COMMON GRAZINGS extending to 0.217 ha for the purpose of EXISTING ACCESS ROAD AND GARDEN GROUND.

Written comments from any shareholder or owner of the said common grazings (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 13/9/2019.

**situations vacant**



**ELECTRONIC/MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN  
ISLE OF BENBECULA**

You'll be working in a world class Testing and Trials Evaluation environment, you will provide engineering and systems support to the Range Trials Control System and site communications infrastructure.

The role will involve the maintenance, repair and operation, of a broad range of equipment, underpinned by a qualification in and practical working knowledge of electrical and electronic equipment.

If you have experience being a Mechanical/Electrical/Electronic Technician, please contact [Otis.jones@experis.co.uk](mailto:Otis.jones@experis.co.uk)



**Business Development Manager**

Cànan Graphics Company (CGS) is a small award-winning company that works on a variety of projects; from nationwide marketing campaigns to smaller jobs for community events and our local school.

We are looking to appoint a part-time Business Development Manager to grow the company and to deliver its current Business Plan.

We are looking for someone with preferably a sales background, strong communication skills and a can-do attitude, who would lead and complement our small team of creative and dedicated staff.

Application to be submitted to: [nnt.smo@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:nnt.smo@uhi.ac.uk) by 23/08/19

Further information and an application form can be found at [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/obair](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/obair)



Are you a highly motivated individual looking to expand your career? We are currently looking for passionate and highly motivated individuals to make a difference.

Mowi is the world's leading seafood company and the largest producer of salmon. Every day, our employees in 24 countries produce 6.2 million healthy and delicious meals, served to customers across the globe.

Mowi covers the whole value and production chain, from feed to plate, and through our vision of leading the "Blue Revolution" we are dedicated to farming the ocean in a responsible and efficient way.

We are currently looking to fill the following vacancies:

- Farm Managers, Cheesebay
- Farm Technicians, Cheesebay
- Farm Technician, East Loch Tarbert
- Farm Technician, Ardintoul

We welcome enquiries from everyone and value diversity in our workforce. We are willing to consider flexible working arrangements and are an Equal Opportunities employer. In return we offer an attractive salary, bonus, pension, Occupation Health Support and training/development opportunities. To apply for these vacancies, you must be eligible to work in the UK.

If you wish to apply for any of these vacancies then please visit our website [www.mowi.com](http://www.mowi.com)

**Sales Associate**

£14k - £16k plus Bonus scheme/Pension  
Full-time | Portree, Isle of Skye

As an Agent for NFU Mutual, one of the UK's leading general insurance and financial services companies, I know that the sales staff I employ excel at building trusted, long-term customer relationships. They're more interested in the face-to-face contact and understanding of their customer's needs, than the cold call and quick sell. It's because of this approach that we've come to be trusted as a local insurance adviser by so many who live and work in the area.

But it doesn't stop there, we've identified a whole range of potential new customers, across diverse new commercial markets. Now we need an ambitious, friendly person with solid sales experience (doesn't need to be insurance specific) to make the most of all that potential. You'll introduce NFU Mutual's respected brand and sell their product range to a whole host of new and exciting businesses in your area, offering the first class service our office has become renowned for. An opportunity to work in a close knit team, make a career for yourself and provide great local service to our clients.

If you like the sound of growing your sales career, email your CV to [jake\\_j\\_sayles@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:jake_j_sayles@nfumutual.co.uk) or call 01478 611936 for more information.

Closing date: 30th August 2019.

Place a recruitment advert in the West Highland Free Press and you will also have it listed on [www.whfp.com](http://www.whfp.com) and on [www.hijobs.net](http://www.hijobs.net)?

For more details, please contact Lucy on 01471 822464

**HIJOBS**



Please note you'll be employed by an Agent of NFU Mutual and not by NFU Mutual directly.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

**A rewarding career in a home from home.**

Ann Annand is the Manager of Budhmor House Older People's Home in Portree and has been with the service for 40 years. It's a job she finds both enjoyable and rewarding. She says this is largely due to her dedicated team, who not only do a great job of looking after the home's residents, but also look out for each other too. Ann describes how everyone goes above and beyond to make each day different and create a homely environment for the residents, including a current project to improve Budhmor's garden and courtyard areas.

Budhmor House is run by CrossReach, a charitable organisation with over 60 services across Scotland. There are lots of career development opportunities on offer, with a wide range of training courses delivered in the service and online, as well as the chance to gain professional SVQ qualifications. Ann herself originally trained as a nurse before joining the service as a Care Worker. She was then promoted to a Care Team Supervisor and is now proud to be the Manager.

Ann describes Budhmor as very much part of the local community and the service enjoys great support from families and the people of Portree. Residents often attend events in the town including art classes and the local Aros Cinema provides special



dementia screenings of films for some of the residents. A highlight of the last year was when Bollywood Babes came to Budhmor to give the residents lessons – it was a chance for them to learn new dance moves and get dressed up in costumes. An experience Ann describes as being both wonderful to watch and a pleasure to be involved in. When we asked Ann why she thought people loved working at Budhmor House, she didn't hesitate and replied:

"It's a job with real satisfaction. You can see the difference you are making to the resident's lives every day. It's also a year-round job with sociable working hours and job security."



**CROSSREACH**

Care you can put your faith in

**It's all about the people.**

**Service Manager**  
Full time, £34,257

**Care Team Supervisors Nights**  
1 x 3 nights and 1 x 4 nights,  
£21,049 - £22,384 pro rata

**Care Workers**  
Part time, 24 and 30 hours per week,  
£18,360 - £18,602 pro rata  
(a salary qualification bar applies)

**Night Care Workers**  
1 x 3 nights and 1 x 4 nights, £87.12 - £88.38  
per shift (a salary qualification bar applies)

**Relief Care Workers**  
Various hours as required, £9 per hour

**Housekeeping Assistants**  
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**Toy Story 4** (U) 100 mins  
17/08 at 2pm, 19/08 at 5.30pm, 21/08 at 5.30pm

**Woman at War + Slingshot** (12A) 100 mins *Icelandic with English sub-titles*  
Black comedy about an eco-warrior on a dual mission.  
Before *Woman at War*, we are delighted to be screening a short film called *Slingshot*. *Slingshot* was directed by local filmmaker, Robin Haig, who will introduce her film. *Slingshot* is 15 mins in length. There is no extra charge for this. 17/08 at 5pm

**Rocketman** (15) 121 mins  
Epic musical fantasy. 17/08 at 8.30pm, 20/08 at 8.30pm, 22/08 at 8.30pm

**Final Ascent: The Legend of Hamish MacInnes** (U) 100 mins  
Documentary about the legendary mountaineer. 20/08 at 5.30pm, 22/08 at 2pm

**Avengers: Endgame** (12A) 181 mins  
"Prepare to be wowed" Rolling Stone 21/08 at 8.30pm

Before *Rocketman*, we'll screen a free photo presentation of work by Paul Glazier, and before *Wild Rose*, we'll screen a free photo presentation of work by Arpita Shah - both in collaboration with Street Level Photoworks. Book now at [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings - cash only. £7.50 adults/£5.50 concs. Young people aged 16-25 can now book a concessionary ticket. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



**MY ALBA**

**Listings for Thursday 15 - Thursday 22 August 2019**

**Diardaoin 15 An Lùnastal**  
Thursday 15 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là | News  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
21.45 ÙR | NEW Dhan Uisge  
21.50 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
22.00 FUNC (rpt)  
22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)  
23.20 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

**Dihaoine 16 An Lùnastal**  
Friday 16 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là | News  
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.30 ALBA: 1971 (rpt)

20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)  
20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.30 Dreach Ùr (rpt)  
21.00 So Here I Am: 100 Years of Crofting (rpt)  
21.55 Binneas - Na Trads - Adam Sutherland (rpt)  
22.00 ÙR | NEW Black Lake S2  
22.45 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
23.00 Opry an Luir (rpt)

**Disathaire 17 An Lùnastal**  
Saturday 17 August  
16.00 BÈO | LIVE Camanachd Beò Macaulay Cup Final  
18.00 An Là | News  
18.15 My Life as a Courgette (rpt)  
19.20 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)  
19.30 Machair (rpt)  
19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.00 Alba: 1971 (rpt)  
20.30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (rpt)  
21.00 ÙR | NEW Belladrum 2019 Highlights  
22.00 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23.00 Camanachd - Macaulay Cup Final (rpt)

**Didòmhnaich 18 An Lùnastal**  
Sunday 18 August  
16.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
18.15 An Là | News  
18.30 Seachd Là | News Review  
19.30 Alleluia! (rpt)  
20.00 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)  
21.00 Talamh Torrach (rpt)  
22.00 Belladrum 2019 Highlights (rpt)  
23.00 Black Lake S2 (rpt)  
23.45 Dhan Uisge (rpt)  
23.50 Belladrum 2017: C Macleod (rpt)

**Diluain 19 An Lùnastal**  
Monday 19 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)  
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas - Na Trads | Adam Sutherland (rpt)  
20.00 An Là | News  
20.30 Dreach Ùr (rpt)  
21.00 Bannan S5 (rpt)

21.30 ÙR | NEW Trusadh - Leabhraichean Gàidhlig  
22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoch (rpt)  
23.30 FUNC (rpt)

**Dimàirt 20 An Lùnastal**  
Tuesday 20 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
19.00 Air An Toir (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Binneas - Na Trads | Robyn Stapleton (rpt)  
20.00 An Là | News  
20.30 Ceathrar air a' Chuiltheann (rpt)  
21.00 Breab agus Buaidh (rpt)  
22.00 Trusadh - Leabhraichean Gàidhlig (rpt)  
23.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)  
23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)

**Diciadain 21 An Lùnastal**  
Wednesday 21 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
19.00 An Aghaidh an t-Srutha (rpt)  
19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

19.55 Binneas - Na Trads | Robyn Stapleton (rpt)  
20.00 An Là | News  
20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)  
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoch (rpt)  
22.00 Belladrum 2017: Torridon (rpt)  
22.30 Bannan S5 (rpt)  
23.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
23.45 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber (rpt)

**Diardaoin 22 An Lùnastal**  
Thursday 22 August  
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne | Children's programming  
19.00 Air an Toir (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là | News  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)  
21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt)  
21.45 ÙR | NEW Dhan Uisge  
21.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
22.00 Gaol @ Gael (rpt)  
22.30 Slighean Sgoile an t-Saoghail (rpt)  
23.20 Belladrum 2017: Feeder (rpt)

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# Archie Macaskill clear winner in the August Medal

Competitive golf in a variety of formats was played at Sconser for six consecutive days recently.

## golf

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Playing in the Friday evening slot of the weekend competition, Archie Macaskill submitted a good nett score of 61 and many tried but none could beat it in the following two days of the August Medal. Two halves of 35 minus nine – and another handicap reduction too.

Three players signed for the next best 64s, one on each of the three days, with Saturday morning's Chris Hanley securing the runner-up slot courtesy of the better inward half. His two nines were 37 and 36. Third place went to Friday night's Robert Macaskill with 37 and 39, while on Sunday Donnie Macphee's 39 and 42 saw him narrowly miss out on the placings.

One can't help noticing that the scoring is not as sharp as it was a month or so ago – perhaps the luxurious rough is exacting a sterner penalty for those leaving the 'cut-and-prepared'?

The ladies came out to play on Sunday for the First

Minister's Quaich, and a steady performance by Jill Mackinnon saw her pip old adversary Donalda Johnston for the silverware on offer. Jill's two 'nines' were steady – in the mid-40s – but Donalda submitted an unusually-volatile return requiring 51 strokes to navigate the first loop but only 41 to complete her circuit!

A few old fellas played in the monthly Seniors Stableford competition on Monday morning in what turned out to be the battle of the club stewards. Playing together Dave Webster and George Neill were the major players, with 'apprentice' Dave recording a fine points return of 39 which was just too much for the 'sorcerer' George (33) on the day. Methinks there could be some 'dirty' duties required of the underling following that result?

Tuesday was ladies' day again and this time roles were reversed from Sunday when Donalda Johnston hit form big time to record a brilliant score of 41 points and instantly remove four 'units' from her handicap.

A steady 41 shots were required to navigate the first half of the game but only a miserly 39 biffs were needed to finish the job – great stuff. Playing companion Jill Mackinnon slumped from her weekend high to finish as runner-up on this occasion.

On Wednesday, round two of the Dewar Rosebowl proved to be a stamagaster with only one third of the competitors who participated in the first round reappearing on the course to try to add to their scores.

The morning tee slot, normally the preserve of the septuagenarians, was occupied almost exclusively by the youngsters on this occasion with Danny Steele the only non-teenager to board the first tee! The old boys were conspicuous by their absence – in fact none of the three leaders from round one made it to the first tee this time round.

From first off Danny was to dominate the day as two loops of 38 (21 points) and 37(23) resulted in a winning and extremely good total of 44. Also playing in the opening slot Archie Macaskill submitted two nines of 35(21) and 38(18) for 39 points and runner-up position. Some way off this good pace, and playing in the evening session, were Iain Douglas and David Sutherland. The former's twain of 38s for 34 points was a total he shared with the competition newcomer who shot 42 and 43 off his 16 'mark'.

Overall, then, Danny's brilliant 44-point total in round two when added to a rather lacklustre 34 points in round one secured the coveted trophy by a margin of two points from Archie Macaskill – 37 and 39 – with Lou Gordon,

although not featuring prominently in round two, doing just enough overall to secure third place.

This weekend the ladies play their away match with Lochcarron while the men will be competing for the two-category Benford Cup.

A REMINDER to the 'come-and-trys' that Monday at 1pm is the time to pop along to the club if you're a recovering, lapsed or new golfer looking to get back into the swing of things in a more relaxed and informal manner.

**RESULTS Men's Section, Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th August, Monthly Medal** 1 A Macaskill 70(9) nett 61; 2 C Hanley, 73(9) 64 bih; 3 R Macaskill, 76(12) 64 bih; 4 D Macphee, 81(17) 64. Monday 5th August, Seniors Stableford 1 D Webster, 39 points; 2 G Neill, 33. **Wednesday 7th August, Dewar Rosebowl Round Two** 1 D Steele, 44 points; 2 A Macaskill, 39; 3 I Douglas, 34 bih; 4 D Sutherland, 34. Dewar Rosebowl, aggregate: 1 D Steele, 34+44=78 points; 2 A Macaskill, 37+39=76; 3 L Gordon, 38+32=70. **Women's Section, Sunday 4th August, First Minister's Quaich** 1 J Mackinnon, 91(21) nett 70; 2 D Johnston, 92(19) 73. Tuesday 6th August, Stableford 1 D Johnston, 41; 2 J Mackinnon, 32.

John Marshall

## the 19th hole

# It's the feel-good factor that marks the 'Jackets'



**NORRIE T  
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a combination of marketing genius, stunning location and absolute 'buy-in' from the local Harris members, the nearby club members from Stornoway, Benbecula, Askernish and Skye and, of course, the welcome addition of so many life members who travel from the ends of the earth, and Aberdeen, just to be there. It's on my 'must play' list every year.

No money changes hands, except my entry fee. It could all get a bit high-falutin', given the various combinations you'll typically find in the clubhouse after any of the competitions (golfers from 'elite' home clubs, a bit of disposable income, folk in holiday mode and free-flowing Harris gin), yet it never does.

The life members who, like salmon, must make the journey every year, fall squarely into the same category as the rest of us. Besotted disciples. They book their accommodation, faithfully, a year in advance (on a 'rolling' contract, most of them) – bedspace in Scarista being at a premium in August. They never, ever, look at the weather forecast prior to setting off. They bring their enthusiasm, golfing talent and their wallets on tour. Never forget the importance of their regular contributions to the Saturday post-competition auction.

But it's not all about the 'lifers'. The Sgitheanaich and the Uibhistaich, the Leodhasaich and even folk from Scarp all manage to intermingle and relax together over a dram, talk a refreshing brand of international bollocks and simply enjoy. The 'wee club' has that

effect. Their members are the 'glue'. They do all the organising, the spadework, the thinking.

Since its inception, it's been a case of letting it happen. It did, it continues to do so, and will endure. 'If you build it, they will come'. Well here it is. If you've read about it in this paper or elsewhere, are a golfer of any ambition, then you have no excuse for not wanting to be a part of it.

The 'jacket', should you be lucky enough to win one, is attraction enough. Now I'm not ever going to outright deny the existence of any deity in this column (have I done so in the past? – can't remember); but if there is a God and he does control the weather, then he/she obviously hasn't heard of the Harris Open. They don't play golf in Harris on a Sunday and, more importantly(?), have no aspirations to do so. The land they play on was bought off the church.

So why, so often, the awful weather? Surely if folk deserve to be smitten it's the heathens up north? It gets contrary.

Thursday's Texas Scramble was played in glorious sunshine. The course was in magnificent condition; for many it was their first sighting of the 'new' layout. It was met with universal approval and admiration. Many might have commented: "it's obvious, why didn't we think of it before?" But, as with apples falling off trees and bathwater rising, for centuries people simply shrugged their shoulders and took what 'was' for granted.

Now I'm not going to suggest for a minute that James Dunne is comparable to either Newton or Archimedes. Like Martin Ebert, who refurbished Askernish for a fiver, it takes a certain kind of vision to look at terrain and think 'I wonder if we did this...'. More of Askernish soon.

Having captained last year's winning team in the Scramble, I was full of high hopes. We didn't play too badly, but managed just a single birdie and eight pars (it's played over just a single loop of the course). That we finished stone last was a huge surprise, nay disappointment. That is until we were presented with our 'wooden spoon' prizes.

Beautifully enhanced by the craft of Willie Fulton, they were a thing of beauty and now joy. The winners began to regard their hats as somewhat 'secondary' by comparison. Our spoons had attracted envious eyes and intent. You remember 'Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark'? Well, it wasn't quite like that. Next year, the victors may get wooden spoons.

The winners on the day with a brilliant seven-under-par 27(21) were the team captained by the captain, Kenny 'Kuna' Morrison was about to have a very good week indeed.

Friday morning saw the life members' competition competed for in what can best be described as 'challenging' conditions. Quite how Francis Clark (Royal Aberdeen) managed to shoot a gross 74 to win the scratch title (yet again) is a mystery to us mere mortals.

Francis knows the course and is a proper golfer, but that's only part of it. It takes a huge degree of resilience to battle against the elements, especially in a pair of glasses. That he only had one double-bogey was partly the reason behind his win; throw in a couple of birdies and it becomes immaterial. A fantastic effort.

Not far behind was Ali Robertson 76(64) who took the handicap title. He had two doubles and a treble-bogey, partially offset by three birdies, but no less a splendid effort.

Perennial favourite and oft winner of the ladies' competition was Maureen Robertson (Dalmahoy). Her 86 finished three shots ahead of Aileen Churchill (no relation) of Chatsworth.

In the handicap section, J Millington (USA) took the honours with a fine 93(67).

For those competing in the 'open' proper on Friday, it was an afternoon to forget. It wasn't pretty, it wasn't fun and it certainly wasn't conducive to good scoring.

Saturday saw conditions improve slightly. The tent was still standing and I got my scallops. It was going to be tough.

Chris Mather (Dumfries and County) shot an excellent 70 to win by just a shot from David Harris (Cruden Bay). David had the consolation of taking the handicap prize 71(64). This gifted David Black (74) the runner-up quaih in the scratch. Chris managed to keep the card neat and tidy, recording three birdies (twice at the new fifth) and at the first (second time round) and dropping just five shots.

Kenny 'Kuna' Morrison won the Archie MacLeod Trophy for home players with his fine 76(66). He was kicking himself after an eight on his last hole which denied him his first-ever jacket. Domhnall Angie Morrison finished runner-up, with John Archie MacLeod third.

In the ladies' section, Margaret Wood won the scratch competition with an outstanding 83. Maureen Robertson of Dalmahoy, 89(70), took the handicap prize.

All in all, a fantastic tournament. Looking forward to next year already.

BUT FIRST, Askernish. No, not this week, but soon. Their open is on the 24th/25th/26th of August, but you get my drift.

Back at the helm (there's only one computer in South Uist), Colin Russell sends us this update.

*Back to competitive golf last Sunday with the August Medal. Although it was a fine day with what is usually a favorable north wind, scoring was on the high side. There isn't much margin for error (be warned: if you're coming for the open bring lots of balls!) out there just now. Just 75 per cent of cards were returned; some of them only by sheer bloody mindedness.*

*The winner, with a score of nett 76, was Steve Montgomery. The clincher was an excellent birdie four at the last which was playing into a head wind. Well played Steve.*

*Runner-up by virtue of countback was Ron MacKinnon, and in third place was George Murray.*

*Result: 1st Steve Montgomery, 76; 2nd Ron MacKinnon, 76; 3rd George Murray, 81.*

DOWN AT BENBECULA, fresh from his exertions at Scarista on Saturday, Len Wilson sends us this:

*Order of merit, week 15. While DJ 'Dami' Steele still sits at the top overall on 91 points, Shaun Brennan is doing his best to close the gap. With nine points to recover, it may be like swimming upstream, but he did manage another win this week with his 36 points Stableford total. He was closely followed by Ian MacRury on 35.*

*At the weekend it was across the water for the Harris Open, always an outing to look forward to. Don M Mackay was hoping to 'double up' after last year's performance. However, having perfected the dreaded "shank" during the season, he was not hopeful. Just as well as he NRd. The rest of us were not much better, although apart from being rather drookit we did enjoy the changes made to the course. Well done to James and all who were involved.*

*Sunday was the August Stableford and, despite consoling themselves after the Harris trip by keeping their spirits 'high', Shaun Brennan was once again in the lead with 36 points and DJ Steele second with 32.*

UP AT STORNOWAY, Dan Crossley won the midweek Centenary Medal Stableford with 39 points from a field of 40 players.

On Saturday, fewer than a handful played in the three-club challenge. Given it would have taken a driver and a three wood to get to most of the par-fours, the bulk of the membership didn't really fancy their chances (or had gone to Harris) with just a putter as a sand wedge.





All the winners from the 2019 regatta

# Smiths to the fore in second week of annual Plockton Regatta

The second week of the annual Plockton Regatta began on 5th August with the weather still mainly dry with light winds.

## sailing newsdesk@whfp.com

In the afternoon four boats sailed in the ladies' centreboards race for the Auchwurin Rose Bowl. First was Imogen Smith (Pampero) from Sheffield, with Lauren Glasgow (Fantas) second and Catherine Smith (Bempton) third.

The third local boat race for the Plockton Trophy, scheduled for the evening, was cancelled due to calm winds. However the fourth centreboard race for the Ulluva Cup and the first for the Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup was completed. There were 10 starters, and the winning line-up was dominated by the Smith brothers – first was James Smith, with Robin second and Peter third.

On Tuesday winds were again very light, and in the race for the Ex-Commodore's Tray only one boat completed the course inside the 2.5-hour time limit – so David Hay's Coruisk was the winner. The fifth race for the Ulluva Cup, which was also the second event in the Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup, was completed and resulted: 1st Robin Smith, 2nd Donnie Gillies, 3rd James Smith.

Also up for grabs on Tuesday was the Fossil Trophy for Toppers which sadly attracted just two entrants, who ran three races. The winner was Alistair Stewart on four points with Robbie Baird on five.

On Wednesday afternoon the third race for the Plockton Trophy was held with more wind than over the previous 10 days. Nine boats took part,

and the top placings were as follows: 1st Alexander MacKenzie (Seaforth), 2nd Michael Hay (Nan), 3rd David Hay (Coruisk), 4th Julia MacKenzie (Taeping).

The fourth and final race for the Plockton Trophy on Wednesday evening had nine starters. First was Alexander MacKenzie (Seaforth) who finished four seconds ahead of David Hay (Coruisk), with Aonghais Rowe (Spindrift) in third place and Neil MacRae (Rona) fourth.

As a result, Ian Hay (Seolta) lifted the trophy with seven points – the Seolta first won the Plockton Trophy 69 years ago. Second overall was Ian's son, David Hay (Coruisk), who also had seven points. Ian's two first-place results earned him the trophy, while David picked up the Fred Allen Galleon. And in third place overall was Alexander MacKenzie (Seaforth) with eight points.

On Wednesday evening the sixth race for the Ulluva Cup and the third for the Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup for centreboards took place, with eight boats racing. The Smiths were again to the fore with James taking first place, Peter second and Imogen (no relation) third. As a result James won the Ulluva Cup with six points; second with 13 points was brother Robin and third was Imogen Smith with 19 points. The Sgeir Bhuidhe Cup also went to James with six points, second was Robin Smith on eight points and third was brother Peter with 11.

So, for the second year in a row, James won all four centreboard trophies.

The Johnnie Ruari race for youths, which was postponed the previous week, was held on Thursday evening with three ladies between the ages of 16 and 30 entered. The winner was Becky

Sweeney (Shamal) from Easter Ross, while Imogen Smith (Coruisk) was second and third was Julia MacKenzie (Taeping) from Edinburgh.

Also on Thursday all 19 boats raced together for the RNLI Bugee as piper Ellie Pearson played on a lovely but calm evening. First was Peter Smith, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday, with Alastair Hendry second in Aquila and Robin Smith (Searanger) third.

The weather changed on Friday with a strong east wind and rain, and as a result the fishing competition was called off.

In the evening Plockton Hall was full for the regatta concert. Chairman was Calum MacKenzie, and Commodore Kevin Baird thanked everyone who had made the fortnight a success – especially secretary Neil MacRae, timekeeper Sarah Bruce and the rescue boat crews (Charlie G MacRae, after 35 years on the rescue boats, has decided to retire). The Commodore's wife, Julie Baird, presented the trophies.

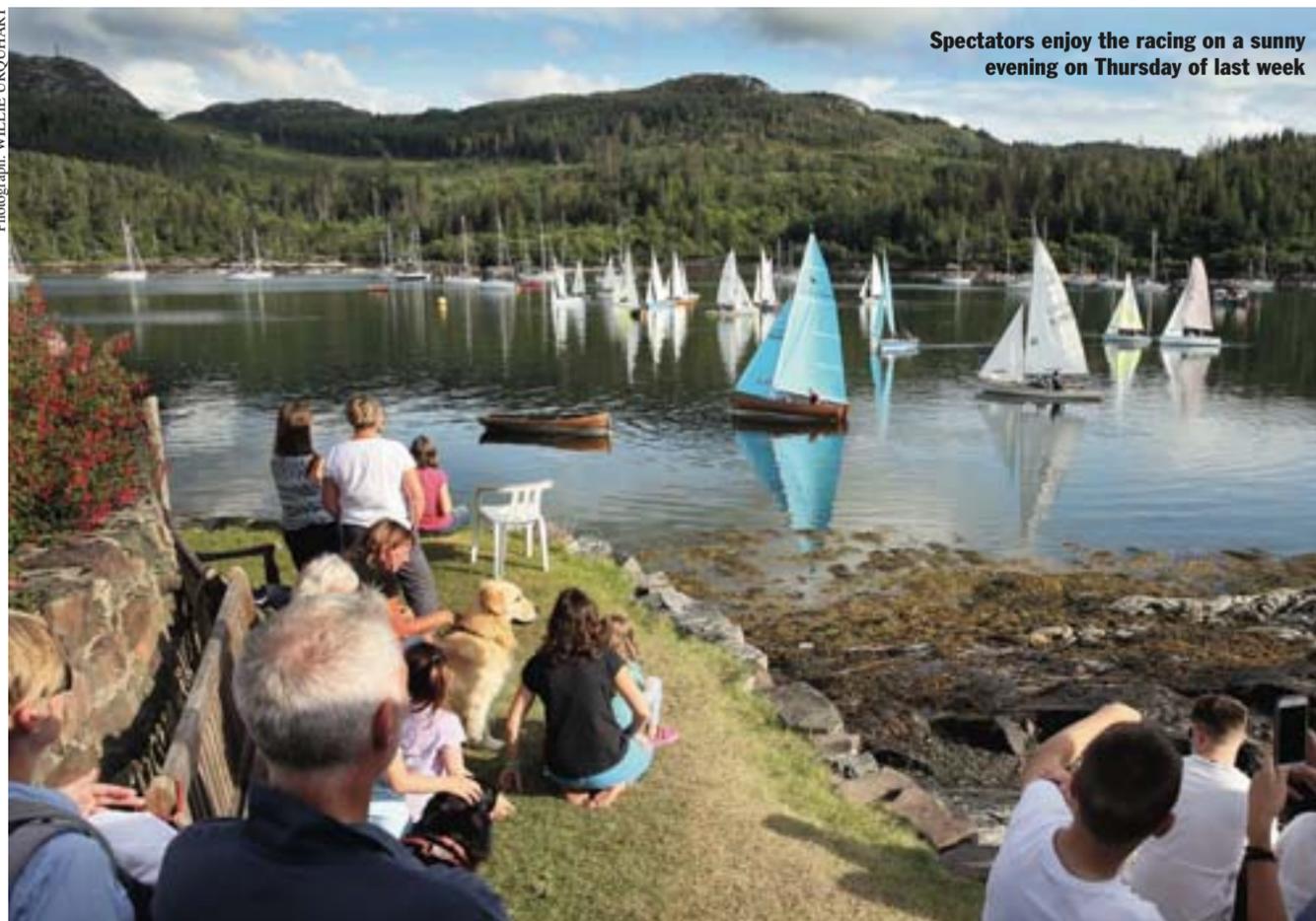
The Commodore also announced that Alexander MacKenzie (Seaforth) had been awarded the Starminx Starters Cup while the Junior Endeavour Trophy went to Eilidh Loudon. Kenneth MacRae and Annan Dryburgh won the Dolan Mackenzie rowing trophy – this meant that Kenneth MacRae became the first person in the history of the club to win a trophy seven years in a row.

On Saturday the children's Ragamuffin Race was held in very calm and cloudy conditions, a marked contrast to the day before. The winner was Chloe McLaughlin (Taeping), with Kai Gillies (Searanger) second and Calum Hay (Nan) third.

The regatta fortnight ended with the traditional dancing in the street on a cloudy but dry day.

CM MacRae

Spectators enjoy the racing on a sunny evening on Thursday of last week



Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

# Quiraing 10k: Increase in number of runners

BY ADAM GORDON  
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The 2019 Quiraing 10k takes place this Saturday, with the number of runners set to take part already up on the 38-strong field in last year's race.

## running newsdesk@whfp.com

Last year, Hugh Campbell burst across the line in Uig to claim victory and set a new course record with a time of 30 minutes and 14 seconds.

Campbell knocked 46 seconds off the previous record of 32:00 set by Paul Arcari. Although the route is technically downhill, Campbell's time was also the fourth fastest 10k covered by a Scottish runner on road in 2018.

Dean MacLeod put in a strong performance to take the runners-up spot with a time of 35:49, ahead of Matt Deamer (38:15) who finished in the top three for a second successive year. Sarah Jamieson overcame the challenge of Vicki Dunkel and Clara Connell to finish as the fastest lady in an impressive time of 45:14. Vicki Dunkel came home 12 seconds behind Jamieson in 45:26, while Clara Connell crossed the line in 45:54.

As we went to press 42 competitors had registered to participate in this year's event which starts at one of the island's most renowned scenic locations, the Quiraing, and finishes on the football pitch next to Uig Village Hall.

For more information visit the Quiraing 10k Facebook page.

# SRAC's Ewan Crawford wins Marathon Hebrides

BY ADAM GORDON  
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Ewan Crawford of Stornoway Running and Athletics Club came home more than 14 minutes ahead of his nearest competitor last Saturday to win the 2019 Marathon Hebrides in two hours, 53 minutes and six seconds.

A total of 164 competitors completed the course which covered 26.2 miles of the Harris coastline – starting from the A859 south of Rodel and finishing on the Seilebost machair. The event was sponsored by Lewis Wind Power.

Crawford's closest rival was Fife-based runner Neil Smith who finished well ahead of third-placed Lorne Crawford. Smith, who was competing for the Anstruther club Anster Haddies, crossed the line in 3:07:44, while Lorne Crawford came home in 3:19:06 to complete the top three.

Aside from Ewan Crawford's success, SRAC were represented in the top 10 through the performances of club members Norman Ferguson (3:20:27) and Mark Maciver (3:28:34) who finished in fourth and fifth places respectively.

Inverness Harriers runner Amy Hudson secured the title of fastest lady and powered her way to a sixth-place finish overall with a run of 3:32:42. Meanwhile, Gillian Carr of Corstorphine (3:36:24) was second lady home and finished ninth overall. Susan Johnston marked a good day

for the Edinburgh-based club as she completed the ladies' top three with a time of 3:43:28, claiming 14th place overall.

Skye and Lochalsh Running and Athletics Club member Sam Crowe finished just shy of a top 50 finish by less than a minute, with a time of 4:21:24. Anne Harley, owner of the Uig Hotel in Skye, is just in her second year of running and finished what was her first marathon in 4:36:47.

For the full list of results, visit the Marathon Hebrides Facebook page.

**THE TOP TWENTY** 1 Ewan Crawford (Stornoway Running and Athletics Club), 2:53:06; 2 Neil Smith (Anster Haddies), 3:07:56; 3 Lorne Crawford, 3:19:06; 4 Norman Ferguson (SRAC) 3:20:27; 5 Mark Maciver (SRAC), 3:28:34; 6 Amy Hudson (Inverness Harriers), 3:32:42; 7 Dean Carr (Corstorphine), 3:32:58; 8 Graeme Reid, 3:34:03; 9 Gillian Carr, 3:36:24; 10 Kenneth Robertson, 3:36:54; 11 James Millington (Burntwood Triathlon Club), 3:39:10; 12 Scott MacRury (SRAC), 3:39:46; 13 Stuart Clark, 3:43:12; 14 Susan Johnston (Corstorphine AAC), 3:43:28; 15 Michael Watson, 3:43:56; 16 Adam Holloway (Fell Runners Association), 3:43:56; 17 Simon Hasset (100 Marathon Club), 3:45:12; 18 Gerry Wheeler, 3:45:23; 19 Craig Torgersen, 3:45:32; 20 Richard Sievwright, 3:47:36.

# Magnificent seven for west Highland shooter

West Highland shooter John MacDonald won the Scottish Open Olympic trap championship for a remarkable seventh time at the North Ayrshire Shooting Ground recently.

The Moidart man was just 10 years old when he first broke 100 'down the line' targets, and he went on to become the Scottish DTL champion at 14.

At the age of 27 he moved on to the elite formula one of trap shooting – Olympic trap. John has competed on the world stage for Great Britain at world cups and world and European championships and has represented Scotland at two Commonwealth Games events in India and Glasgow.

In 2010 John achieved the title of British, English and Scottish Open Champion.

However, around the same time, John – who is the son of legendary accordionist Fergie MacDonald – was almost unable to walk due to Lyme disease. After suffering so

much he fought his way back to physical fitness, stalking the west Highland mountains and returning recently to competitive shooting.

John and his wife Emma run a restaurant and accommodation business at Mingarry, while he also owns the firms West Highland Vension and Deer Hunting Scotland.



John MacDonald

LEWIS AND HARRIS LEAGUE

# Point and Westside in two-horse title race

The league title race in Lewis and Harris is now a two-horse race, with Westside and Point ten points clear of third-placed sides Carloway and Back after the latest series of matches.

**football**  
newsdesk@whfp.com

Last Friday Westside led Athletic by a solitary Gordon Campbell goal at the interval, but in the second half they blew away their hosts as they rattled in eight more goals to run out 9-1 winners.

Ali 'Barvas' Macleod, Scott Graham and Alex John Morrison all netted doubles with Luke Mackay and Dan Macphail also on the scoresheet while Jason Guilmartin got the consolation goal for Athletic.

On the same night reigning champions Point shipped two precious points at home to Carloway

when a goal by Rob Jones just after the hour mark cancelled out Andrew 'Togo' Maciver's opener for the visitors, who had to play the last ten minutes with only ten men after 'DI' MacIannan received his marching orders for a second bookable offence.

On Monday evening Point were awarded a 3-0 win when Ness forfeited the points as they were unable to raise a team. This followed on from Friday evening when United inflicted more misery on Ness at Fivepenny as a Hamish Macdonald brace and strikes from Andrew Mackay and Chris Adams were enough to gun down the Niseachs who could only muster a single Innes Smith goal.

Any lingering hopes Back had of challenging for the title were probably extinguished at a wet and windy Rally Park when Harris triumphed by four goals to one. Finlay Macsween's powerful drive into the top corner, and Kieran Mulhearn getting a touch to

Malxy Campbell's corner, put the Hearachs two up before Louie Macdonald reduced the deficit just before the break.

Back keeper Cailean Linklater saw red midway through the second period for deliberate hand ball outside the box and, to rub salt in the Back wounds, Hugh Morrison converted the resultant free kick to make it 3-1. James Maclean added a fourth goal late in the match to wrap up the points.

The Harris bandwagon rolled on in Tarbert on Monday evening when Athletic were the visitors. Chris Thomson gave the home side an early lead before Athletic had keeper Reece Montgomery sent off for a late challenge on a Harris striker.

Sean 'Bayble' Macleod took over in goal for the visitors but there was little he could do to prevent Harris extending their lead when Martin Lightbody fired home from distance before the break. Athletic's woes

continued after the interval when Lewis 'Preston' Robinson was ordered off for a second bookable offence.

Darren Macdonald made it 3-0 to the home side before another red card for Darren Stewart reduced the Stornoway side to eight players. The numerical advantage was apparent in the closing stages as Finlay Macsween helped himself to a double to complete a 5-0 scoreline.

Harris have now won six of their last seven matches and this was the first time they had kept a clean sheet since May 2011 – a run of 110 games!

Carloway kept their challenge for third place going with a 2-0 win at home over Lochs, thanks to late strikes from Archie Macdonald and Fraser Macleod.

But Back are hot on their tails after beating United 4-1 at Goathill Park on the same night.

Louie Macdonald converted a penalty late in the first period to give

Back the lead but another spot kick from Kyle Munro had United level at half time. Macdonald restored the lead for the Blues early in the second half and Euan Anderson extended the advantage when he slid home Joel Martin's cutback 13 minutes from time.

United thought they had reduced the deficit when Paul Marshall bundled a cross from the right past Colin Macritchie, but the ref deemed it to be a hand ball and issued a second yellow to Marshall – it seemed a harsh decision.

Any hopes of a United comeback were dashed when Anderson grabbed his second of the night with minutes remaining.

Back are now level with Carloway in the chase for third place – each has 20 points but Back have a game in hand.

On Tuesday morning, this is how the league table looked:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Point	12	9	3	0	47	12	30
Westside	12	10	0	2	43	14	30
Carloway	12	6	2	4	37	25	20
Back	11	6	2	3	27	19	20
Harris	13	5	1	7	29	31	16
United	12	5	0	7	20	29	15
Athletic	12	3	1	8	15	28	10
Lochs	11	2	1	8	17	34	7
Ness	11	1	2	8	11	44	5

**RESULTS Lewis and Harris League**  
Athletic 1, Westside 9; Harris 4, Back 1; Ness 1, United 4; Point 1, Carloway 1; Carloway 2, Lochs 0; Harris 5, Athletic 0; Point v Ness (Point awarded 3-0 win as Ness forfeited the match); United 1, Back 4.

**FIXTURES** (all kick-offs 6.30pm unless otherwise stated) **Friday 16th August, League** Back v Ness. **Saturday 17th August, Co-op Cup Semi-Finals** Westside v Lochs (3pm); Athletic v Point (6.30pm). **Monday 19th August, Moldova Lewis Cup Semi-Finals** Harris v Westside; Point v United.

Photographs: DONALD 'MAROOT' MACLEOD



Action from last Saturday's match

BILLY MCNEILL CUP

## All still to play for in Uist's new-look Billy McNeill Cup

The opening round of fixtures in this year's revamped Billy McNeill Cup competition were played in Uist last weekend.

In group one, North Uist United failed to capitalise after taking an early two-goal lead over Eriskay at Paible on Friday evening.

Angie Macdougall and Fraser 'Kyles' Macdonald had United ahead, but Eriskay levelled through Dom Macaulay and Thomas Steele. Further goals in a pulsating first half from Peter Shaw for North Uist and another strike from Dom Macaulay saw the teams go off for the half-time break level on 3-3.

The second half continued in the

same vein, with the game flowing from end to end. Scott Mackay gave United a 4-3 lead on the hour mark only for Matthew Macdonald to fire home a superb equaliser for the visitors. Eriskay then went 5-4 in front when Dom Macaulay completed his hat-trick. And with North Uist pushing forward the Eriskay striker broke clear to make it four on the night for himself and six for his side.

North Uist did find the net in the closing minutes, courtesy of an own-goal from an Eriskay defender, but it proved to be just consolation as the final whistle sounded with Eriskay running out 6-5 winners.

Southend could rue missing the chance of getting all three points in their home match against Barra in group two on Saturday, after a promising start in which they took the lead inside the first two minutes. Eddie Fitzgibbon drilled in a shot which the Barra keeper could only parry, and Innes Macdonald smacked home the rebound.

The windy conditions at Daliburgh made the game a bit of a slog with over-hit passes and long balls from the Barra defence being easily dealt with by the Southend rearguard. James Davidson had the best chance of the half for Barra but his shot on the angle hit the side netting.

Southend were reduced to 10 men before half time when Roddy Paul Macphee was shown a red card for a last-man challenge on Sean McNeil as the striker raced through on goal.

The second half was more of the same, but the game sprang to life with 10 minutes remaining. Daniel 'Bhan' Macdonald cut inside from the left wing and drilled a shot goalwards only to see the ball come back off the post. Barra then raced upfield and from a cross Sean McNeil provided a fine finish to square the match.

Southend almost took all three points, but Shaun 'Tottie' MacCormick saw his 25-yard free kick come back off the woodwork.

GLASGOW COLLEGES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# Glasgow Island off to perfect start

Glasgow Island, a team formed by Hebridean exiles who play in the Glasgow Colleges Football Association Premier Division, kicked off their league campaign in Beith, as newly-promoted Royal Union provided the opposition last Saturday.

It was the perfect start for the islanders, with 'Super' Ali Macdonald from Eriskay dancing through the United defence in the first minute and dinking the ball over the keeper for the opening goal. With six minutes on the clock the referee awarded Union a penalty, which was duly slotted home for the equaliser.

Ayrshire is a hotbed for junior football, where the adage of "if you can't get the ball, get the man" is oft heard. And there were shades of Claudio Caniggia against Cameroon in 1990 as Harris's Mark Morrison slalomed through two bad tackles before being felled by a challenge so agricultural it could have been presented at the Lochs Show last week.

The only prize the Union defender received was an early bath, the referee dispatching him with ruthless efficiency. All this and barely 10 minutes gone in the match.

On the half-hour mark Glasgow Island made their extra man count, left back Mark McGee (Stornoway) beating three players before curling a delicious ball to the far post where Dylan Sanderson slotted home.

Glasgow Island continued to press after the break, the United keeper denying Dylan Sanderson with two fine saves before a sensational breakaway move saw Sanderson's brother Darren square for the marauding David Ballingal to score and put them 3-1 up.

Stornoway's Steven Dunn, one of three brothers on the books of Glasgow Island, is always a goal threat. He grabbed number four, smashing home like Trezeguet in the final of Euro 2000. The scoring was rounded off by 'Super' Ali with a 20-yard strike so sweet it should have come with a government health warning.

Glasgow Island manager Murdo John Graham (Borve) would have been delighted by the performance of his team, who ran out comfortable 5-1 winners.

Donnie 'Maroot' MacLeod



**RESULTS Billy McNeill Cup, Group One**  
North Uist United 5, Eriskay 6. **Group Two**  
Southend 1, Barra 1.

**FIXTURES Saturday 17th August, Group One**  
Eriskay v Benbecula. **Group Two**  
Barra v lochdar Saints.

SKYE AND LOCHALSH LEAGUE

# Top two maintain race for the championship

The top two in the William Wilson Skye and Lochalsh League showed no let-up in their battle for the title as they both recorded emphatic wins last weekend. Sleat put Glenelg to the sword with a 13-1 victory, but Mallaig hit eight past Kyle to restore their three-point advantage at the top of the table.

**football**  
newsdesk@whfp.com

The weekend's action began on Friday evening with Sleat welcoming Glenelg to Broadford.

The game was the second encounter between the sides in the league this season, with the previous match in May having ended with a resounding 12-0 win for Sleat across the water in Glenelg.

Unfortunately for the 'Glen' it was to be a similarly chastening experience for them in Broadford, as the home team were once again at full throttle as they hit double figures to move level on points with league leaders Mallaig.

Sleat established a commanding 3-0 lead within 17 minutes thanks to Ben Yoxon, Ruairidh 'Spod' MacLeod and Corrin Simpson. However, having scored 70 goals in

their 11 previous matches, there was no chance of the hosts taking their foot off the gas, and they went on to score four more before the break. Alex Tully struck his side's fourth in the 19th minute before 'Spod' MacLeod scored a double to complete his hat-trick and Ryan O'Halloran added a seventh – his first goal of the season.

In the second half the south Skye side picked up where they left off and Corrin Simpson scored his second of the match. Although Kieran Harvey's strike from 35 yards pulled a goal back for Glenelg, it proved to be just a brief reprieve as the title contenders went

on to score a further four times. Lachlan Macinnes and Cameron Morrison added their names to the scoresheet, and Ruairidh Mckenzie grabbed a brace to complete the scoring.

Over in Mallaig on Saturday, the league leaders hosted bottom-of-the-table Kyle. It would prove to be another long afternoon for the Lochalsh side as Mallaig recorded their second-biggest win of the league campaign to restore their advantage over title rivals Sleat.

David Currie opened the scoring with a volley from an Andrew Sneddon cross, and Ryan MacDonald added a second with a

low finish following a through ball from Brett Macmillan. The home side went in 3-0 up at the break thanks to Sneddon's low drive from the edge of the box.

Sneddon got on the end of a Macmillan cross to score his second of the match with a tap-in at the back post, and Gordy Jamieson netted a fifth for the hosts with a powerful finish from a Ryan MacDonald pass. Aaron MacLean turned the ball home thanks to an Andy Cunningham assist before Cunningham scored Mallaig's seventh with a superb diving header.

Mallaig saved the best until last, however. Young striker Tom Benfield capped off a dominant

performance by the home side with an excellent solo effort in which he flicked the ball over his marker before firing the ball into the bottom-left corner to make the final score 8-0.

The victory means Mallaig maintain their three-point lead over Sleat with four games remaining. The reigning champions play Glenelg once and Kyleakin twice before what could be a showdown for the title with Sleat on Saturday 7th September. Sleat, meanwhile, also face Kyleakin and have two matches to play against GA United before they host the Blues on the final day of the campaign.



Gus MacDonald fires home the fourth goal for North West Skye



Iain Beaton gets his shot away, only for the ball to go wide of the post

# North West boost hopes of top three finish

North West Skye boosted their prospects of finishing in the top three with a 5-3 away win over local rivals Portree on Saturday.

Graham Campbell's North West team recovered from a 2-1 deficit and the dismissal of defender John Gillies to fight back and move to within a point of third-placed Kyleakin.

The match started positively for the visitors with Ben Nicolson scoring his first goal of the season to put North West ahead after 15 minutes.

However, they found themselves behind at the break courtesy of a quickfire double by former Light Blues striker Iain MacCusbic. John Gillies miscontrolled a pass near the edge of his own box which presented Portree with an opportunity to run clean through on goal, and in an attempt to recover Gillies conceded a penalty which was converted by MacCusbic. Shortly afterwards, MacCusbic grabbed a second goal to put Portree in front at the interval.

The home team's chances of causing an upset were strengthened just three minutes into the second half thanks to Ovidiu Bercea, whose long-range effort crept past Ewan Gillies to put the Maroons 3-1 up.

Alex MacDonald led the fightback for the visitors and reduced the deficit with a 20-yard strike from a free kick. Ten minutes later they drew level thanks to captain Iain Beaton, who headed home at the back post.

Having displayed their ability to come back against the odds in their recent 4-4 draw against Sleat in the Ross Cup – though they eventually lost on penalties – North West's

resolve was once again rewarded as they went on to take the lead through Gus MacDonald following a move involving Chris McNab and Robbie Cameron.

McNab then turned from provider to scorer with what was his first goal for the club, to seal a 5-3 victory and enhance his side's hopes of a top three finish.

IN WESTER ROSS on the same day, Gairloch/Aultbea United put on a clinical attacking display to thrash Portree Juniors 8-3 in a match played in severe rain and wind.

The islanders were forced into playing manager Phil McCaherty in goal, with all four of the recognised goalkeepers at the club unavailable for the fixture.

United, who were aiming to secure their fifth league win of the campaign, stormed into a 2-0 lead thanks to goals from Roddy 'Doey' MacLennan and David 'Pablo' MacGregor.

Juniors had an opportunity to halve the home side's advantage from the spot. But United had their own player-manager in goal, and Alan 'The Caveman' Elder guessed correctly to block Andrew Holt's penalty kick.

Last year's Clan Donald Cup finalists made the visitors pay for that moment of profligacy, as 'Pablo' MacGregor went on to score their third of the match straight after Elder's heroics.

Juniors did manage to strike back through John 'Woody' Mackenzie to reduce the home side's lead to two before the break.

Andrew Holt scored a second for his side to make amends for his earlier penalty miss, but United hit back with three more – 'Doey' MacLennan struck his second and 'Pablo' MacGregor grabbed a further two to take his tally to four and put the game out of sight as a contest.

Cameron MacDonald scored his first goal for Juniors to make it 6-3, but Elder's side weren't finished as

they went on to add two more. Hector MacLennan made it 7-3 before 'Doey' MacLennan completed his hat-trick as Gairloch/Aultbea recorded their second-biggest win of the season and opened a five-point gap over Juniors in the league table.

ON TUESDAY of last week, meanwhile, Kyleakin saw off local rivals Kyle in a 5-3 win at Douglas

Park which maintains their chances of a top three finish in the league.

The Reds are currently a point

ahead of North West Skye but have played two games fewer than their island counterparts.

**RESULTS** William Wilson Skye and Lochalsh League, Tuesday 6th August Kyle 3, Kyleakin 5. Friday 9th August Sleat 13, Glenelg 1. Saturday 10th August GA United 8, Juniors 3; Mallaig 8, Kyle 0; Portree 3, NW Skye 5.

**FIXTURES** Saturday 17th August, Ross Cup Final Sleat v Kyleakin (4.30pm, Broadford). William Wilson Skye and Lochalsh League Glenelg v Portree (6pm). Wednesday 21st August, League Kyleakin v Mallaig; Sleat v GA United (both 6.45pm); Juniors v Portree (7.30pm).



Cameron Campbell rises the highest to win this aerial challenge for North West



Fraser Reid gets to the ball ahead of his Kingussie namesake



Arron Jack clears under pressure from Jordan Reid

Photographs: WILLIE URQUHART



Kevin Thain and Corran Campbell lock camans

NORTH DIVISION ONE

# Kingussie legend Thain still has that scorer's instinct

Kingussie legend Kevin Thain struck a hat-trick to condemn Kinlochshiel's second team to a 3-1 defeat at Reraig on Saturday.

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All the goals came in the first half, with Thain — who was winning Camanachd Cup medals more than 30 years ago — putting the visitors ahead on 22 minutes.

The veteran attacker doubled Kingussie's advantage in the 30th minute, and while Lewis MacVicar pulled a goal back soon after Thain completed his hat-trick five minutes before the break.

Kingussie sit eighth, with Shiel 10th, in the 11-team league. Shiel have five games still to play.

Meanwhile, Glengarry moved a step closer to the league title with a 2-0 win against Skye's second team in Portree.

The victory keeps Glengarry four points clear at the summit, though they were made to work hard for their victory against a Skye side which enjoyed little luck in front of goal.

Skye keeper Murphy Henderson made a fine save to deny Raymond Robertson an early opener, but the experienced front man eventually made the breakthrough — he fired home his 11th goal of the season after being set up by the evergreen

former Scotland international Steven 'Deedee' Cameron.

Garry were missing top scorer Nick Dalgety, but Finlay Nicolson added a second before half time to put the visitors in command.

Skye rallied in the second period but couldn't find a way past Gordon MacDonald in the Glengarry goal, despite the best efforts of Daniel Morrison, Sam MacPhee and Caitlin MacLean who all went close.



Archie MacRae gets the block in for Shiel



Scott Kennedy is fully focussed on the ball



Shiel veteran Stuart MacRae in control

# Oban Camanachd set to bid for second part of potential treble

Oban Camanachd will meet Newtonmore in this year's Camanachd Cup Final, and this weekend the Argyll side's season of rich promise will continue as they try to claim the second part of a potential cup treble.

## shinty newsdesk@whfp.com

Last Saturday Camanachd booked their place in the September showpiece with a 3-0 victory over Kyles Athletic – their fourth win against Kyles this season.

Oban can justifiably claim to be the top team in the south, but they might yet lay claim to be the country's best too should they go on

and add more silverware to the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup won earlier in the season.

A second-half brace from Daniel Cameron, followed by a late Andrew MacCuish strike, ended the dreams of a Kyles side which had reluctantly accepted the controversial semi-final switch to Mossfield after the original venue of Strachur was ruled out on Wednesday of last week due to fears of bad weather.

To make sure the BBC Alba cameras – who were broadcasting the match live – had adequate space and facilities, Inverness and Oban had been identified as the only viable alternatives, and Kyles agreed to head for Mossfield rather than ask their fans to make the long trip to Inverness or to force through a postponement.

Oban will hope to make home advantage count again this weekend when they face a resurgent Kingussie side in the final of the Artemis MacAulay Cup.

A late deluge at the Dell meant Kingussie, currently top of the Premiership, had their match with Kinlochshiel called off last weekend.

Newtonmore seized the chance to close the gap on the leaders to three points with a game in hand after a 5-1 victory over relegation-threatened Lochaber.

The Spean Bridge side slipped to the bottom of the table after Inveraray held Lovat – still in second place, but pretty much out of the title running – to a 2-2 draw at the Winterton.

Caberfeidh effectively guaranteed

their top-flight status with a 2-1 win at Kilmallie, but the Caol side sit two points ahead of Inveraray and Lochaber with all three having three games left to play.

In the National Division, Fort William sealed the title in some style with a 7-1 thumping of Glenurquhart at An Aird.

The win made it 12 out of 12 for the Fort and inflicted a serious blow on Glenurquhart's hopes of a quick return to the top flight.

Glen are still in second spot but find themselves being chased down by an in-form Glasgow Mid Argyll side who won 4-0 at home to Oban Celtic to move within a point of the second promotion spot, having played two matches fewer than the men from Drumnadrochit.

### MOWI NATIONAL DIVISION

# Late rally by Skye keeps alive their league promotion hopes

**Beaulieu** 1  
v  
**Skye** 2  
(H.T. 1-0)

A victory at Beaulieu on Saturday, coupled with Glenurquhart's thumping defeat at the hands of champions Fort William, kept alive Skye's promotion hopes.

Three wins from their final three fixtures will see the islanders finish above the Drumnadrochit side who currently occupy the second promotion slot. However, it is third-placed Glasgow Mid Argyll who have emerged as favourites to join Fort William in the Premiership next year, and Skye will still need to beat the city side – and hope they drop at least two points elsewhere – to have any hope of playing top-flight shinty in 2020.

On a rain-affected surface Beaulieu provided a stiff test for Skye and were much improved from the side that had shipped five goals in Portree earlier in the season.

The hosts led at the break through Jack MacDonald, but seemed to tire in the second period and the visitors eventually made a spell of heavy pressure count with two second-half

goals turning the match around to seal victory.

Skye suffered an early blow when attacker Jordan Murchison had to limp off after sustaining an ankle knock as he raced in on goal.

The islanders fear Murchison's season could be over, with the speedy forward due to have his badly-swollen ankle checked again later in the week after a post-match x-ray proved inconclusive.

Stewart Grant came on to replace Murchison, slotting into midfield while Ross MacKinnon moved into a Skye attack that saw plenty of the ball but struggled to test Mackay Murray in the home goal.

Beaulieu grew in confidence as the half wore on and their endeavour was rewarded in the 37th minute when Jack MacDonald's looping long-range effort dropped in under the crossbar.

Skye were a different team in the second half and Iain Nicolson – on as a sub for Iain MacLellan – made an impact in attack, forcing home the equaliser in the 52nd minute.

The goal was the cue for a spell of sustained Skye pressure, which eventually brought its reward when Ross Gordon swept the ball over the line from close range with nine minutes remaining.

Skye co-manager Allan MacLeod was pleased with the second-half turnaround.

He said: "It was a tricky game for us against an improving Beaulieu side. Heavy rain had left the grass a little on the long side, and on Saturday morning there was some doubt about whether the game would go ahead.

"But we didn't panic after falling behind, and we got stronger as the second half wore on. We might have had more goals, but securing the two points was what was important.

"Will Cowie continued to impress at full centre, and after Stewart Grant came on we dominated in midfield.

William MacKinnon was once again strong at half back, while beside him Martin Pringle had his best 90 minutes of the season.

"On the evidence of Saturday's performance Beaulieu might cause one or two problems for Glasgow Mid Argyll who head there this Saturday.

"Glasgow look favourites for second spot, but all we can focus on is getting a win from our long trip to play Bute this weekend. GMA and Glenurquhart have still to come to Portree – and GMA also have to go away to Fort William – so we haven't yet given up hope of sneaking into the top two."



Sarah Corrigan has scored 10 goals in her last two games for Skye

### WOMEN'S CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION

## Play-off between Skye and Badenoch likely

A league play-off between the top two teams in women's shinty moved another step closer last weekend as both Skye and Badenoch won their National Division matches.

Skye won 9-0 at home to Glasgow Mid Argyll, while at the Eilan Badenoch recorded a 2-0 victory to knock Lochaber out of the title race.

Sarah Corrigan hit four goals for Skye – taking her tally to 10 in the past two matches – with the islanders' other goals coming from Holly MacLean (2), Lorna MacRae, Izzy Law and Caitlin MacLean.

At Newtonmore Zoe Reid scored twice to keep Badenoch two points ahead at the top of the table.

Skye have four games left, and Badenoch three – and current form suggests they'll both take maximum

points to set up a play-off come the end of the season.

Elsewhere in the women's top division, Strathspey leapfrogged Glenurquhart into sixth spot with a 3-1 win at Drumnadrochit.

In the north second division leaders Lovat took another stride towards the title with a 7-4 victory over Kinlochshiel at Reraig on Sunday.

The prolific Fiona Urquhart scored four times for the visitors, with Laura Gallacher, Paige Macdonald and Holli Sneddon also on target. Alaina MacLennan netted a brace, with Isabelle 'Tibby' MacKenzie and Eilidh MacInnes also scoring for Shiel who stay in fourth place.

Glenurquhart kept up the chase after a brace from Nicki Grant and a Leona Falconer strike sealed a 3-0 home win over Skye's second team.

# Mowi Shinty League Tables

## Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingussie	12	8	3	1	32	16	19
Lovat	14	6	5	3	37	19	17
Newtonmore	11	7	2	2	31	13	16
Kinlochshiel	15	7	2	6	38	35	16
Oban Cam	11	6	2	3	29	17	14
Kyles Athletic	10	6	1	3	25	18	13
Caberfeidh	12	7	0	6	38	38	12
Kilmallie	15	4	1	10	20	34	9
Inveraray	15	3	1	11	18	41	7
Lochaber	15	3	1	11	21	58	7

## WOMEN'S CAMANACHD ASSOCIATION

### National Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Badenoch	11	10	0	1	69	6	20
Skye	10	9	0	1	97	5	18
Lochaber	11	7	0	3	40	23	16*
Aberdour	11	5	1	5	30	39	11
Glasgow MA	10	4	0	5	22	47	7*
Strathspey	10	2	0	8	15	45	4
Glenurquhart	10	1	1	8	9	66	3
Ardnamurchan	9	0	2	7	9	60	2

## National Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	12	12	0	0	59	15	24
Glenurquhart	11	6	2	3	40	17	14
Glasgow MA	9	5	3	1	23	5	13
Skye	11	6	1	4	38	23	13
Beaulieu	12	4	1	7	23	34	9
Oban Celtic	11	3	2	6	21	40	8
Strathglass	9	1	1	7	8	37	3
Bute	11	0	2	9	6	47	2

### North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	9	8	0	1	53	30	16
Glenurquhart	9	5	2	2	28	23	12
Fort William	8	4	0	2	23	12	10*
Kinlochshiel	8	4	1	3	37	29	9
Skye	9	4	0	5	29	45	8
Lochaber	7	2	1	3	17	32	5
Inverness	9	2	0	7	37	42	4
Strathglass	9	1	0	7	16	27	4*

## North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenurquhart	15	10	3	2	56	22	23
Lovat	14	7	5	2	50	27	19
Fort William	16	9	1	6	38	25	19
Newtonmore	11	8	1	2	35	16	17
Caberfeidh	16	7	1	8	41	35	15
Skye	15	5	4	6	22	28	14
Glenurquhart	13	5	3	5	24	31	13
Kingussie	13	4	3	6	27	31	11
Inverness	15	7	3	5	42	22	9*
Kinlochshiel	15	1	2	12	11	68	4
Aberdeen Uni	13	2	0	11	12	53	0*

### South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ardnamurchan	7	4	1	1	29	18	11*
Dunadd	7	5	1	1	54	14	7*
Oban Lorn	7	2	1	4	10	26	5
Tayforth	6	1	1	3	10	33	3
Cowal & Bute	5	1	0	4	8	20	2

## North Division 2 Dev League West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochcarron	12	9	1	2	44	19	19
Strathspey	11	7	2	2	42	20	16
Kilmallie	11	7	1	3	34	16	15
Beaulieu	11	6	2	3	29	21	14
Boleskine	12	5	3	4	34	30	13
Strathglass	14	4	4	6	30	36	12
Lewis	12	2	0	9	15	35	6*
Inverness	13	0	1	11	16	67	0*
Lochaber	21	8	8	5	18	16	45
Kinlochshiel	18	11	4	3	27	6	44
Skye	21	7	7	7	19	19	42
Glenurquhart	17	4	6	7	13	14	31
Ardnamurchan	17	5	4	8	11	15	31
Lochaber	10	1	4	5	4	13	16
Fort William	6	4	1	1	6	2	15
Kinlochshiel	4	0	0	4	0	13	14

## South Division 1 Dev League East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdour	14	11	2	1	58	22	24
Lochside R	10	7	0	3	34	16	14
Ballachulish	13	6	2	5	34	36	14
Tayforth	14	5	3	6	36	45	13
Kyles Athletic	11	5	2	4	25	26	12
Col Glen	13	5	2	6	22	26	12
Taynuilt	11	4	0	7	20	27	8
Inveraray	14	3	3	8	35	43	7*
Glasgow MA	12	3	0	9	16	39	6
Badenoch	15	11	2	2	40	13	39
Strathglass	15	7	4	4	24	19	33
Inverness	15	6	3	6	16	26	30
Inverness	12	2	4	6	7	21	20
Strathglass	5	1	4	0	4	1	11
Lovat	5	0	1	4	0	6	6
Badenoch	3	1	0	2	7	5	5
Glenurquhart	4	0	0	4	2	9	4

## South Division 2 Dev League Cent

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdour	19	12	4	3	31	9	47
Bute	21	11	3	7	42	29	46
Uddingston	18	7	3	8	21	26	35
Oban Celtic	10	4	2	4	20	22	10
Aberdour	10	4	1	5	23	27	9
Bute	9	2	1	6	8	36	5
Ardnam'n 1st	9	0	0	9	6	45	0
Glasgow MA	8	2	2	4	6	13	14
Aberdour	4	0	0	4	0	9	4

\* points adjustment

## SHINTY RESULTS AND FIXTURES

**RESULTS Saturday 10th August, Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Semi Final** Kyles Athletic 0, Oban Camanachd 3. **Strathdearn Cup Semi Final** Newtonmore 2, Glenurquhart 1; Fort William 7, Kilmallie 0. **Mowi Premiership** Kilmallie 1, Caberfeidh 2; Kingussie v Kinlochshiel (postponed, unplayable pitch); Inveraray 2, Lovat 2; Newtonmore 5, Lochaber 1. **Mowi National Division** Beaulieu 1, Skye 2; Fort William 7, Glenurquhart 1; Glasgow Mid Argyll 4, Oban Celtic 0. **Mowi North Division I** Inverness 4, Aberdeen University 0; Kinlochshiel 1, Kingussie 3; Skye 0, Glenurquhart 2; Lovat 4, Caberfeidh 2. **Mowi South Division I** Aberdeen 2, Col Glen 0; Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kyles Athletic (postponed); Lochside Rovers 4, Ballachulish 0; Tayforth 3, Inveraray 3. **Mowi North Division II** Lochcarron v Strathspey (postponed). **Mowi South Division II** Ardnamurchan 0, Kilmory 8; Glenorchy 10, Bute 0.

**FIXTURES** (all throw ups 2pm unless otherwise stated). **Tuesday 13th August, South Div I** Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kyles Athletic (7pm). **Friday 16th August, North Div II** Beaulieu v Boleskine (6.30pm). **Saturday 17th August, Artemis MacAulay Cup Final** Oban Camanachd v Kingussie (4pm at Mossfield Park, Oban). **Premiership** Kilmallie v Lovat; Kyles Athletic v Lochaber; Newtonmore v Caberfeidh. **National Div** Beaulieu v Glasgow Mid Argyll (3pm); Bute v Skye; Strathglass v Fort William. **North Div I** Fort William v Caberfeidh; Glenurquhart v Lovat; Inverness v Glenurquhart; Kinlochshiel v Aberdeen University; Skye v Newtonmore (3pm). **South Div I** Ballachulish v Aberdeen; Taynuilt v Tayforth (1pm

# sport

spòrs



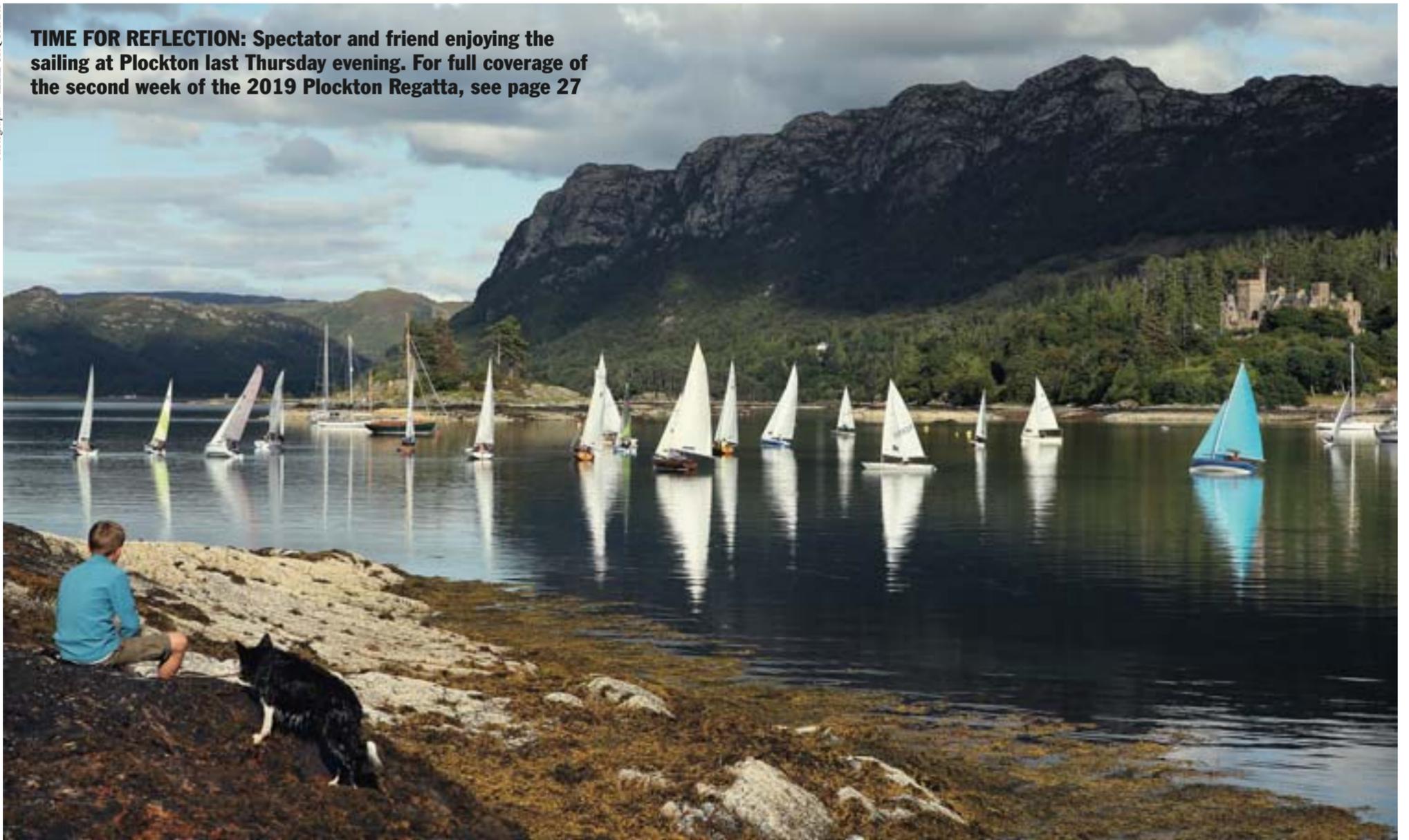
## North West Skye boost hopes of top three finish in the league

Football, page 29

index	page
golf	26
sailing, running, shooting	27
football	28, 29
shinty	30, 31

Photograph: WILLIE URQUHART

**TIME FOR REFLECTION:** Spectator and friend enjoying the sailing at Plockton last Thursday evening. For full coverage of the second week of the 2019 Plockton Regatta, see page 27





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