



The Isle of Colonsay's online community newsletter

Issue 273, August 1 2014.

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The Corncrake welcomes contributions from readers and topical letters

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## **Freight crisis threatens island economy – charges set to double**

The two main freight companies providing lifeline services to Colonsay are warning of massive price rises to cope with a Calmac crackdown on overloading.

They say freight rates will have to be hiked by at least 50% from July 1 – but warn worse is to come.

Stewart MacLennan of MacLennan Motors of Tiree said: “This is going to have a massive impact and there is no easy solution.”

Oban based haulier Derek Wilson warned: “This could tear the heart out of small island businesses.”

The crisis has come about after Calmac bosses decided they could no longer turn a blind eye to overloading of freight vans serving the islands.

A spot check of 16 vans revealed 14 of them were overloaded with one 3.5 ton van actually carrying 9.5 tones – a serious road traffic offence.

A Calmac spokesman said: “In order to improve safety and remove the risks associated with carrying overloaded vehicles on our ferries, the company has begun weighing all commercial vehicles and light goods vehicles from 1 July 2014 in order to confirm that these vehicle types are complying with the weight regulations that apply to them.

"The decision to enforce this has not been taken lightly but we have anecdotal evidence that some vehicles may be overloaded and in the light of the recent South Korean ferry disaster where overloading and falsified documents led to the deaths of nearly 300 people, we feel we have no option but to take this step. We are certain that customers will understand the importance to everyone’s safety of ensuring that our crews know precisely the weight of vehicles being carried and ensure they are properly stowed on the car decks."

The crackdown means that the freight carriers will have to send several legally loaded vans to accommodate what used to go in one overloaded vehicle.

Derek Wilson admitted overloading has been going on for years. “Small vans have worked best to supply the smaller islands until now but for thirty years virtually every van going onto a Calmac ferry has been overloaded.

“We can understand why Calmac has decided to take this action but its going to hit people hard – especially on the smaller islands like Colonsay”

Stewart MacLennan said that even after the peak summer period they would still have to send multiple vans.

“Freight weights don’t drop off much in the winter time – just the nature of the cargo changes. So we will be faced with the prospect of having several vans stuck on Colonsay as winter ferries are cancelled by bad weather and the knock on effect that will have to our other services.

“If we were not an island based business I think we would just forget island deliveries altogether.”

Colonsay estate proprietor Alex Howard said the increases will have a huge impact on the future of the island: “It appears that Cal Mac although a Government owned business, does not really understand how supplies reach such a small community like Colonsay.

“The Estate has offered what assistance it can in providing evidence to Transport Scotland and others demonstrating how damaging this increased charge will be to fragile communities and businesses operating within these communities.”

Kintyre and the Islands councilor Anne Horn said she was coming to Colonsay on August 13 and would welcome the chance to hear people’s concerns at her surgery.

She said: “I appreciate the issue with freight is very difficult for residents on Colonsay. I also understand the safety issues for Cal Mac and the weight restrictions that they have to address. While there is no easy solution I am happy to talk to Cal Mac to investigate any way we can ease the impact on Colonsay.”

However Alex Howard said he thought there was a solution available: “As RET (Road Equivalent Tariff) pricing is now applied to passengers and cars on our ferry system, it seems wholly incomprehensible that the freight charges are not included in this too.

“Businesses on Colonsay are treated in exactly the same way as any other businesses in Scotland and are subject to all the same regulations and charges which already account for far too much of the overall cost of small businesses such as ours. The added burden of very expensive freight and transport charges means that our business does suffer comparatively.”



*Stewart MacLennan*

were brought in.

Stewart says there was very little notice given. “We were told just days before the weight checks started what was going to happen. We had to go out and buy two new vans straight away and it is impossible to say at the moment if that will be enough.”

Those sentiments are echoed by Derek Wilson who has also been forced into buying additional vehicles as an unplanned expense for his business.

“We are loading up a van just now to go to Coll – its weight is spot on – but the van is 70 per cent empty,” said Derek.

MacLennan’s warn the changes will hit refrigerated transport particularly hard: “The weight of the refrigeration plant means that to stay within the law we can only carry a cargo of about 100 kilos of chilled and frozen goods. That’s about two trays of milk.”

Councilor Robin Currie, also representing Kintyre and the Islands, is convening an emergency meeting of the Argyll Ferry Users Group. He said it is an extremely serious matter that is going to hit everyone extremely hard.

Councilor Currie said: “Freight charges to Colonsay were horrendous before 1<sup>st</sup> July and now they are unbearable and will hit hard. Even before this latest issue arose, I took the freight

And the laird said everyone on Colonsay would be affected: “There is no doubt in my mind that this is the single biggest issue that is holding back economic and therefore social development on this island at the moment.”

The Calmac spokesman stressed they were simply applying the law: “There has been no change to fares policy; we are simply enforcing the rules on vehicle size and weight so anyone who meets the set rules will pay the same fare as before.”

Both Stewart MacLennan and Derek Wilson are critical of the way the changes

charges up with the Minister, Derek MacKay when I met him recently in Rothesay to talk about island issues.”

MSP Michael Russell echoed the councilor’s fears but said a solution will not be easy to find: “Nobody can justify overloading of vehicles especially on ferries - in fact it is positively dangerous.

“However Cal a Mac should have spent more time working with hauliers and others to alert them to his issue and given warning of the introduction of checks. I have now raised this with the Transport Minister on several occasions and will continue to press the point - there must be no fare rises by stealth and if there is solid evidence of price rises for goods I would want to hear about them immediately from constituents on Colonsay so I can make sure the relevant Ministers know about them and urge them to find ways of mitigating the problem.”

The Calmac spokesman defended the way the decision to enforce the law was introduced: “We consider that they (The carriers) were given adequate notice both directly and through leaflets distributed in ports.



“The law on weight restrictions came into force about 10 years ago following an EU Directive which set out to standardise freight weight limits across Europe. Anyone responsible for carrying freight on a public road should always have been observing the law whether we were checking or not.”

The spokesman added: “As I stated earlier it is worrying that some businesses appear to be claiming that their ability to function is dependent on them breaking the law and putting the safety of themselves and other road users at jeopardy as a result.”

Colonsay Brewery Director Chris Nisbet said Calmac’s decision to check weight is having a massive impact on his business.

“Freight is already one of our biggest overheads and makes it challenging in the hugely competitive and price sensitive mainland beer market.

“These additional costs on what we bring onto and take off the island could devastate the brewery.

“We have been very fortunate so far in as much as our customers recognise we produce a quality product in a difficult economic island environment and have been prepared so far to pay a premium for our beer.

“We are monitoring the position very closely and will have to see how it plays out.”

However Kevin Byrne of the K and C Byrne Partnership on Colonsay that provides self catering, mini bus and guiding services hit out at the freight companies: “K & C Byrne are very concerned about the implications of the already outrageous cost of freight, but cannot understand the justification for the current complaints by the carriers.

“It cannot be the case that their business plan was based upon a conscious decision to operate a service using illegal and overladen vehicles; that being the case, they should rejoice in the unexpected bonus that they have enjoyed over the years, a dripping roast that has only now been lost. In the light of the South Korean ferry disaster, which allegedly involved overladen vehicles and undeclared freight weights, the need for proper controls is obvious but there can be no justification for any increase in freight rates. The carriers should pull the other one, it has bells on!”

At the Island General Store owner Keir Johnston said: “The shop shares the view of others in this debate that more has to be done on a governmental level, both to alleviate the considerable and somewhat inhibitive cost of freight to the islands and to introduce some form of regulation to make sure islanders are paying a fair rate.

“The increase of some 50% from July 1st onwards may well have obvious repercussions in the future, but in light of the meetings taken place to address this problem we have decided not to be reactionary and to continue with our summer long programme of increasing our range at the same time as reducing prices. We only hope that a solution can be found swiftly so that this can continue.”

### **Land sale talks continue as parties fail to agree**

Scottish environment minister Paul Wheelhouse says he’s “sorry” island laird Alex Howard and the community development company have been unable to reach a deal yet to buy estate owned land for affordable housing.

Its understood the laird is refusing to accept the District Valuers appraisal of the land earmarked for four affordable homes and is demanding a higher price.

Community development company convener Gavin Clark said he was unable to comment on the state of the negotiations with Alex, but revealed they were holding urgent talks with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, who have been assisting with the bid, in Mid August.

However environment minister Paul Wheelhouse, who is in charge of the Scottish Government's land reform agenda said he hoped a deal can be done.

"I am sorry the community and landowner have so far been unable to reach agreement on the sale of the land, and hope there may be scope in future for the parties to reach an agreement all are happy with. The Scottish Government has a target of 1 million acres of



land in community ownership by 2020, and we are keen for as many communities as possible to enjoy the many benefits that community land ownership can offer."

Alex told the Corncrake: "Earlier this month, Jane and I had a very positive meeting with the Directors of the CCDC regarding the provision of land by the Estate for more Affordable Housing on the island. We are working on a number of possibilities. I am aware that the District Valuer has produced a draft report

*Alex and Jane Howard*

following an initial Brief from the CCDC which is providing some guidance on likely valuations for land in the Scalasaig area.

"The Estate, as a business based on and wholly involved with the island, is committed to working with all agencies involved in helping to develop a sound and secure economic development plan for the island. We are therefore working closely with the CCDC directors to ensure that a suitable package can be put together in the coming months to enable the Affordable Housing project to move forward."

The minister told the Corncrake: “My vision for Scotland is for a fairer, wider and more equitable, distribution of land across our nation, where communities and individuals have access to land. I have made clear my intention of introducing a Land Reform Bill in this term of the Scottish Parliament. We are committed to working with communities and land owners to ensure that communities are able to deliver their economic, environmental or social aspirations.”

CCDC convener Gavin Clark said he hoped to be in a position to update the Colonsay community on the progress of the negotiations in time for the September 1 issue of The Corncrake.

### **Scottish Water start investigation into low pressure claims**

Fears that low water pressure is endangering island residents are being investigated by Scottish Water.

The island community council asked for an urgent examination of the supply system following a devastating fire last year and other problems with the supply that have led to taps running extremely slow.

Community council convener Sheena Nisbet said: “There is a long history of water supply problems on the island – especially in the summer months when we welcome so many visitors.

“We are delighted that Scottish Water is taking our fears seriously and having a thorough examination of what is happening and how it can be sorted.

“It may be that we need additional storage capacity for treated water – that is one of the things they will be considering.”

In an email to community councilors Scottish Water Service Review Manager Lorraine Dutch said if additional work was needed it would be done.

“Following the outcome of the Project, Scottish Water will be in a position to understand and clarify the operational pressures in the network and where necessary take relevant steps to ensure that the pressure being supplied to the property boundary meets the requirements as noted within Scottish Water Code Of Practice - Price Promise Standard.

“The project will investigate height levels in relation to property boundaries and from the Clear Water Tanks including the installation of pressure loggers at differing points on the network. In line with Scottish Water Code Of Practice - Price Promise Standard it stipulates that your property will be added to the low pressure register if following investigation, we confirm your property receives less than 1 bar of pressure (1.0bar is the pressure needed to fill a bucket with 10 litres of water in around a minute).

“You will not be added to the low pressure register if your home is above the level of water leaving our storage tank or less than 10.5meters below the tank because we can't guarantee that the required pressure can be reached without additional pumping or a water storage facility. If you live close to the level of our water storage tanks we recommend that you seek



our advice before installing any appliances that require a particular pressure, like electric showers and pressurised hot water systems.

“Other things that could affect your water pressure are the condition of your pipework and whether you share your supply with other properties. Sudden and unusual drops in pressure could be caused by a burst water main or repair work being carried out in your area.”

### **Community council boost as new volunteers come forward**

Two new recruits joined the community council at it's annual meeting recently.

Island laird Alex Howard and resident William Joll were co-opted onto the council to join existing members Sheena Nisbet, Margaret Keirnan, Kevin Byrne and David Hobhouse.

Transport problems and freight charges were highlighted during the meeting with concerns about the state of the island roads and poor flight connections onward from the Colonsay Islay route.

The council is to contact the roads authority and Transport Scotland.

Community councilors also agreed to tackle the persistent problem of cyclists holding up the island traffic by refusing to give way or dismount.

The CC is to produce a new leaflet aimed at cyclists to explain the etiquette of single-track roads and the importance of keeping traffic moving.

### **Tea and cakes keep the community garden looking a treat.**

Garden volunteers organised a fund raising “Big Tea” to ensure the future of the community venture- and netted over £800 in an afternoon.

The garden, in front of the village hall, has been admired by visitors and locals alike since it's official opening last year.

Garden committee member Moira Bell takes up the story: “We obviously need some funds to keep the garden going and so the idea of the “Big Tea” came about.

“The afternoon was beautiful, which helped a lot, but most importantly an enormous number of people put in a huge amount of effort and we raised the sum of £832 to go toward maintenance costs.”



*Just a little bit of the delicious produce kindly donated and on sale*

Moira said the committee was overwhelmed by the generosity of people donating plants for sale and fantastic cakes and goodies. She said: "Thanks to so many people putting in so much work the whole community project has been a great boost to the island and it is very satisfying seeing it being admired, used and enjoyed by so many locals and visitors alike.



*Face painting and toe tapping both on offer at the Big Tea (Pics credit Katie Joll)*

## **Baton honor as Jim carries the torch for Colonsay**

Island resident Jim McLoughlin was honored in the Queen's Baton relay as he carried the Commonwealth symbol through part of Argyll.

Jim had been put forward because of his 30 years of volunteering as a coach at Queen's Park Amateur Athletics Club in Glasgow and more recently for his voluntary work in Kilchattan Primary School where he teaches the youngsters in PE.



*Jim hands over the baton to fellow coach Bill MacCallum standing on top of Dunadd hill fort.*

## **Colonsay's own "Commonwealth Games" – tomorrow, August 2.**

Colonsay's set to celebrate the Commonwealth Games tomorrow (Saturday August 2) with an afternoon and evening of fun.

Sports for children and adults alike are to commence at Machrins at 1pm and in the evening there is a ceilidh and buffet featuring foods from round the Commonwealth.

All the events are free thanks to funding from the Big Lottery designed to help communities celebrate the outstanding success of the Glasgow Games.

The organisers, island LDO's Grace MacPhee and Hannah MacAllister, are asking for volunteers to help at various parts of the day, particularly setting up at Machrins tomorrow morning.

There will be a full report of how things went in next month's Corncrake.

## **Laird makes new offer to help cut the cost of importing gravel.**

Alex Howard's offering to help ease the island gravel crisis sparked by the council ordering him to stop selling stones off the shore.

Argyll and Bute Council ordered a halt to shore gravel extraction following a complaint that it was doing drastic environmental damage to some of the island's iconic beaches.

Alex told the Corncrake: "As there is increased demand for gravel with new builds and renovations being undertaken all over the island, the natural stock on the island has dwindled dramatically and it is no longer sustainable or environmentally acceptable for this level of gravel extraction to be carried out locally. However, with ever increasing freight charges to the island, it makes the importing of all building materials and particularly gravel, excessively expensive on the island. I am keen to work with the Community Council and the CCDC to see if we can find a solution to this situation.

"One suggestion that I have put forward is that we could import a large volume of gravel using a "puffer". This was how the gravel for the airstrip was brought in. This could then be stored and distributed for general use on the island. It is hoped that this might significantly reduce the price per tonne to the end user. All on the Community Council felt that this was worthwhile investigating further and we will continue to develop the plan. Once there is more detail we will of course be happy to report to the Corncrake newsletter."

In May last year Argyll and Bute Council ordered the laird to stop extracting gravel from estate owned beaches on the West side of the island unless it was for his own use.

At the time he told the council that they had used gravel from the shore mainly on the estate but had supply small quantities to others.

The Herald Newspaper revealed that the laird went on to blame some crofters on the island for helping themselves to the gravel. The paper reported that in a letter to the council he said: "It is very difficult to police this activity and many of the crofters have their own tractors, trailers and excavators. It is impossible to prevent those that have little or no regard for the rights of property (unless it is their own!) especially as we have no police presence on the island."



## **Bhoy oh Bhoy – what a haircut for Angus**

Island friends of the late Davie Sutherland set out to make this year's "poppy ceilidh" the best yet – and raised a record amount for the Earl Haig Fund.

Highlight of the evening was the appearance of Rangers mad Angus MacPhee proudly wearing a Celtic shirt with his flowing locks and beard dyed green.

This selfless act of short lived support for the team Angus does not always wish well for was the culmination of weeks of gathering sponsorship money to make the humiliation worthwhile – and succeeded in raising an amazing £840 towards the total.

Island poppy appeal treasurer Trevor Patrick said the sponsorship money and ceilidh proceeds totaled £2036



*There they go – flowing green locks and mane hit the floor*

Trevor thanked everyone who had supported the appeal: "Everyone was extremely fond of Wee Davie and this has been a great way of demonstrating that and helping ex services personnel at the same time.

"We want to go on and get the total raised over Davie's record for an entire year of £3000. The Saturday night bonus ball sweepstake has been restarted in the hotel and I would urge everyone to support it."



For Colonsay's newest recruit to the Parkhead Army losing his locks came as a great relief. "Spending the day in a Celtic shirt was about the worst punishment that could be metered out to a loyal son of Ibrox.

"However it was great fun to be the object of so many witty comments and a great way of remembering my friend Davy."

#### **Van theft – police draw a blank**

Nearly four months after the McLennans van was stolen from the pier Police Scotland admit they are no nearer identifying the culprit.

A spokesman for Police Scotland said their inquiries are continuing but so far no arrests have been made.

#### **News from the Development Office – each month Island LDO's Grace McPhee and Hannah MacAllister give us the news from the volunteer led Colonsay Community Development Company:**

There have been lots of exciting things happening in the development office this month. Firstly we have been awarded funding from 'Celebrate 2014' the lottery fund set up to celebrate the commonwealth games. We have been busy planning a fun filled day of sports, dancing and delicious food. The events kick off at 1pm at Machrins with an array of sports including relays, haggis-hurling and the hill run. In the evening everyone is invited to attend a commonwealth inspired buffet with a ceilidh to follow afterwards. There will be a Commonwealth attire fancy dress competition with a prize for the best dressed. The best part of it all is the whole day is absolutely FREE!!! Everyone is welcome.



### Broadband

The Argyll Isles Broadband group met again in Connel early this month to discuss the next phase of the project. GigaMull are working on an invitation to tender and setting up the legal entity of the group. We are also awaiting clarification from BT about which areas will definitely not be covered in their planned upgrades.

### Wind Turbine Project

The CCDC have recently applied for a loan from CARES to enable them to employ a consultant to help them take the turbine project to the next stage. We have two potential sites in mind for the turbine; one at Bonaveh (the dump) which is owned by the estate and the other at Baile lochdrach on land owned by the CCDC. If the CARES loan is approved CCDC will be able to begin the planning and development stage of the project, bringing the reality of a community owned wind turbine one step closer. We are still looking for

volunteers to form a steering group to help bring this project to fruition. Please contact Hannah MacAllister if you would like to be involved.

#### Land sale

Communication with the vendors is ongoing. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are coming over next month to talk with CCDC about our various options.

#### Arts and theatre

The Colonsay Arts and Theatre Committee has recently become a member of 'The Touring Network' giving us greater access to theatre and music productions. We have already enjoyed a great concert by Mary Ann Kennedy, Scott MacMillan and Colin Grant which is touring as part of Glasgow 2014 in connection with the Commonwealth Games.

Tonight, Friday August 1 we are screening of 'The Bridge Rising' which Mary Ann and her band wrote to soundtrack for.

'The epic, feel-good story of a modern rebellion. The campaign against the tolls on the Skye Bridge pitted plucky Scottish islanders against the might of the government and the Bank of America, over the building of a privately funded toll bridge which became the only way on or off the island. This film tells an untold, bittersweet story of passion, legal challenge and financial wrangling through the testimony of some of those who took part.' BBC Alba.

We are very lucky to be welcoming over Drew Millar, one of the main protagonists in the film, a Skye inhabitant and local councillor who will be holding a Q&A session after the film. It's showing at 8pm on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August in the Village Hall.

Our office hours are:

Hannah ([colonsayldohannah@gmail.com](mailto:colonsayldohannah@gmail.com)) 10-1pm Mon-Friday

Grace ([colonsayldo3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colonsayldo3@yahoo.co.uk)) 2-5pm Mon-Friday

If there is anything you would like to discuss please pop in and see us or give us a phone on 01951200244.

Nature notes – from the



RSPB

RSPB wildlife notes

July

At the beginning of the month we did a survey of **common seals** on the Strand and counted 40 adults and over 25 pups. On the strand it is also possible to see migrating species like green shank and curlew which have been spotted passing through.

The **arctic terns** have successfully bred on Eilean Ghaoideamal and raised a minimum of 31 juveniles. The day these youngsters were



surveyed, two swifts were also spotted off the island. A young **whooper swan** spent a few days in the pools here on the reserve.

**Irish ladies tresses** orchids have been found again on Oronsay – so far 135 flowing spikes, making it an incredibly important site!



Irish ladies tresses © Izzy Baker

The Colonsay and Oronsay juvenile **chough** have started to leave their family groups and to gathering in non-breeding flocks. The juveniles are particularly amusing to watch as they learn how to survive on their own. We have been watching the youngsters in their comical

exploration tumbling around with clumps of sheep's wool and tackling heather branches.

The bonxie or **great skua** pair have been on territory and have been proven to breed for the first time for Colonsay/Oronsay. These amazing birds are renowned for being pirates of the seas. They will harass birds as large as gannets forcing them to drop their catch for the skuas to take.

With the amazingly hot weather some of us have been rockpooling and snorkelling. We have seen some beautiful marine specimens including a cuttlefish, seahare, sea gooseberries, a comb



Great skua © Izzy Baker

jelly, an elver (eel), dahlia, beadlet and snake-locks anemones, a live **spotted cowry**, and much more. Click on the name to see a picture of the live and beautiful

cowry. Many of us know cowries give the finder good luck. They have been used as a form of currency in far flung places like China and India for over three thousand years. This large group of marine snails, come in many different sizes and colours depending on where the particular species is found in the world. However, in all forms it has had an important impact on human culture with its use as currency and in trade and in cultural ceremonies all over the world. The word porcelain is derived from the old Italian word for cowry due to the shell's natural shine and texture.

The 'sea bird girls' or STAR researchers Tessa and Ruth have finished their work on Colonsay after a successful season. We are sad to see them go, but look forward to seeing them again next year.

Feel free to email or call with any wildlife observations or questions,

*Raphaëlle, Assistant warden Oronsay Reserve*

[raphaëlle.flint@rspb.org.uk](mailto:raphaëlle.flint@rspb.org.uk)

RSPB office – 01951 200 367

### **Sports news – Rugby festival success – despite the rain**

The third Colonsay Rugby festival has been hailed an outstanding success with a record number of teams enjoying a packed weekend of sport that saw Oban RFC crowned champions – again.

The festival is the brainchild of the Middleton family who continue as the main organisers and “doers”

Commentator Rupert Middleton said: “It was wonderful to see so many people having a great weekend on a beautiful island – and there was some really good rugby too.”

Julia Middleton said: “A huge number of people put a great deal of effort into this event, which must be one of the more unusual rugby competitions anywhere. We are grateful to all who contribute so much.”



*Some of the action as Colonsay Ochalochs take on Oban*

Mo Middleton said the chief referee of the tournament, John from Glasgow, had even given up Commonwealth Games tickets to travel to Colonsay for the festival.

The golden boot went to Eddie from Coll and the player of the tournament was Oban's winger, known as Doppie.

**FIRST PERSON** – Each month the Corncrake invites someone with Colonsay connections to give us an insight into who they are and why they're here. This month it's community nurse Michelle Cameron



*Michelle and husband Matthew "Cammie" Cameron*

**How long have you lived on Colonsay?**

I have been on Colonsay for 9 months

**What brought you here in the first place?**

An exciting job opportunity brought me to Colonsay

**Why have you stayed here?**

I've not had time to go yet!

**Colonsay is regarded by many of its residents and visitors as a very special place. What makes the island special to you?**

The diversity of the island and wildlife make it special to me

**Is there anything that you feel needs changed on the island?**

Yes – More visits from the Screen Machine

**Is there anything that you think needs special protection?**

I think it's wonderful that the bees are now protected

**What is your favourite place on the island?**

The view coming over the hill going down towards Glassard

**Share a special Colonsay memory with the Corncrake.**

A special memory would be our first Colonsay Burn's night!

**If you were the absolute ruler of Colonsay what one law would you pass above all others?**

Everyone would have to have a boat.

Thanks Michelle – who is next – send us a suggestion – or make an offer – we want to hear from you – contact details at the end

**Piershed Tales**

***The piershed at ferry time is the place to find out what's going on – sometimes the stories are even true!***

\*Wednesday's ferry from Colonsay was full for cars – for the first time in years\*Mary Anne Kennedy gave a brilliant concert in the Hall on Wednesday night\*It is not too late to buy tickets for the Colonsay Music festival – but hurry\*There is now a Colonsay wind turbine steering committee but room for more volunteers\*The RNLI sale was a great success\*The coastal clean up has got almost the whole way round the island\*BBC Alba were here and filmed the Machrins McNeills in concert, amongst others\*The shearing gangs reckoned the island's flocks are in great shape\*work is to start soon renovating Hazel Cottage and the Squint Street estate cottages\*

**Many thanks to all who have contributed to this month's issue of The Corncrake ---- More for next month PLEASE.**

## THE CORNCRAKE

This issue of The Corncrake has been produced by David Johnston  
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