

# Meet The Winners

## Business Start Up

Sponsored by



Craine Communications



**As an experienced telecoms engineer, Stuart Craine found that in order to gain full time employment, he needed to travel around the UK, while large amounts of BT BDUK's work via Openreach was taking place right on his doorstep in Oban.**

Stuart founded Craine Communications in 2016, aiming to provide simple, secure, fibre fast and affordable internet access for everyone who doesn't currently have access to such an essential service.

**Craine Communications has already created over 100 new internet connections.**

Stuart has now extended his services to include the wireless network, Back of Beyond (BoB) Broadband, as a product of Craine Communications, as well as the provision of satellite broadband connections, which allows remote Argyll communities to access local, time-efficient internet solutions.

**Since winning the Business Start Up category at the Scottish Rural Awards in March, Craine Communications has been as busy as ever.**

STV has streamed live coverage using the BoB Broadband network, and Oban's own free public WiFi is also now part of the BoB Broadband network, as supported on a trial basis by the local BID4Oban group. Craine Communications also has an exciting time ahead with preparations to connect the Oban Live festival site to the network. Watch this space!

## Business Diversification

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The Luss Estates Company

**Luss Estates – home of Clan Colquhoun – has been in the same family for over 300 years.**

A diversified rural business on the banks of Loch Lomond, Luss Estates employs more than 100 local people. Recent developments within the estate include the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel, Luss General Store, Luss Seafood Bar, The Clan Shop and Luss Filling Station.

**Building for the future is an important commitment.** Luss Estates is passionate

about investing in green energy generation, as well as working on projects including peatland restoration and preservation of native species.

**The challenges of running a profitable Scottish landed estate are well documented.**

Luss Estates takes a sustainable, modern approach to farming, forestry, nature conservation and game management, as well as proactively developing rural tourism and hospitality offerings to cater to their 750,000 annual visitors, working closely with Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs to preserve the beauty of the local area.

Read more about all the award winners at [www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)