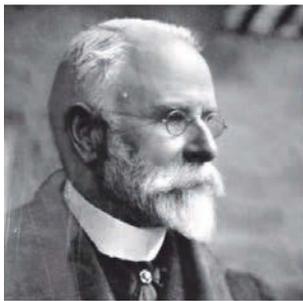




COLLECT YOUR FINAL TOKEN in the Tesco Trolley Dash competition



## Happy birthday!



The Oban Times looks back at its 160 year history

• See pages 20-25 for more

## Donald's all at sea



Seafaring grandad is off on next adventure

• See page 9 for more

## Boxing Day charity cycle laps a loch for Marie Curie Cancer Care



Photograph: Ben Sunderland, Adventure Oban

More than 70 cyclists joined a Boxing Day ride round Loch Creran raising hundreds of pounds for a cancer charity, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Among them was Scotland's top motorcycle racer John McPhee who helped raise £236.70 so far for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

This is the fourth annual festive charity ride organised by Steven Groom and North Argyll Cycle Club.

Adventure Oban was also involved on the day, clocking up the miles for its own One Million Miles community exercise initiative, encouraging people to get outside and get active. Visit [www.adventureoban.org/](http://www.adventureoban.org/) to help reach the One Million mark.

And to find out more about North Argyll Cycle Club, go to [nargyllcc.co.uk](http://nargyllcc.co.uk).

## Home time for brave tot

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

Doctors hope a new cancer treatment in 2022 means Appin tot Matthew Innes will spend more time at home instead of hospital.

The youngster's next type of chemotherapy treatment, due to start in the New Year, could mean the majority of time he can get it at home from mum Carolyn Brown, although he will still have to spend about 10 days every month in hospital in Glasgow to receive antibodies.

Donations are still pouring into Appin Community Fire Station's online appeal for Neuroblastoma UK

after the crew in their full kit and village police officer Stuart Johnston cycled around Loch Creran and back in aid of the charity supporting Matthew's family.

Thanks to well-wishers, the appeal is now approaching the £5,000 mark, which is awesome, says Carolyn.

More fundraising is planned for 2022 - this time for the ward at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, where Matthew is cared for.

Carolyn said: 'We are still being blown away by people's generosity. The fire station's Justgiving page is staying open a bit longer for Neuroblastoma UK and we are planning on doing some more fundraising in the next couple of months as a thank-you to the ward looking after Matthew. Depending on Covid

restrictions, we'd like to plan a ceilidh.'

Carolyn's sister-in-law Mairi Innes recently chopped her long locks off to help others undergoing treatment for Neuroblastoma and donated her cut-off hair to The Little Princess Trust which makes wigs for children having cancer treatment.

Matthew, who is 23 months old, was diagnosed eight months ago after doctors first thought he was ill because of an ear infection.

Tests later revealed that every bone in his body was affected by cancer and surgeons had to remove half of his liver where a tumour the size of a Coca-Cola can was growing.

Continued on page 2.

**SALE!**  
STARTS 4TH JAN 10AM!

BEDS, SOFAS, FURNITURE,  
CARPETS, CURTAINS & BLINDS

**mathesons**  
FURNISHINGS

[mathesons.co.uk](http://mathesons.co.uk)  
Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban | 01631 565195

OT

# Good to meet you Cara

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Ardchattan has a new wellbeing co-ordinator to get people back out into the heart of the community.

The task has gone to Cara Redpath, a qualified nutritionist from Dunbeg, who is in post for six months to start with, thanks to Scottish Government funding. The funding was awarded to Ardchattan Community Council from a community re-engagement post-Covid pot.

Cara's patch covers Bonawe, Benderloch and North Connel, with a job description to bring the three communities back together again.

Cara said: 'It's my job to warm people up again and to encourage those who have felt isolated or have been fearful about being back in the community again. We know there's quite a few people here who are worried about going out after Covid and about meeting people again.'

Cara's first initiative in January will be to start up The Walk and A Talk sessions - short walks of 20 or 30 minutes



from each of the three village halls.

'The thinking behind it is that people have been struggling with the idea of meeting inside with people, so doing it outside will appeal to more. Talking and walking is good for physical and mental wellbeing.'

Other plans in the pipeline are a community transport scheme, similar to one already being run in neighbouring Appin, and possibly a lift-share scheme. A soup club is also simmering on the horizon.

'There's a soup club working well in Appin, we're hoping to

get one in the hall at Bonawe depending on volunteers. I'm trying to get a network of people who can help with a rota for it,' Cara said.

Cooking classes, workshops on nutrition - what is good to eat for mental health's sake or to help lose weight - are among

Wellbeing co-ordinator, Cara Redpath getting some festive gifts ready as part of the Random Act of Kindness project.

other ideas, as are Tai Chi and Pilates classes for the village halls across Ardchattan.

Cara has also been involved in the Random Act of Kindness project, giving a boost to members of the community who needed it before Christmas.

Communities were asked to nominate someone they knew who would benefit from receiving a poinsettia, Christmas cake and a little note to let them know someone was thinking of them.

The festive project is completely random and people are selected because it has been suggested that a small gift would cheer them up.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Cara's plans, wanting to get involved to help or to get support can contact her or leave a message by calling 07843 108095 or email her at [info@cararedpathnutrition.com](mailto:info@cararedpathnutrition.com).

## Covid storm batters CalMac service

A surge in Covid has hit ferry services, causing disruptions and cancellations across CalMac's network.

The ferry operator has also decided to shut all its on-board shops, coffee cabins, bars and restaurants until further notice due to limited crew resources.

A CalMac spokesperson confirmed there has been several positive Covid cases across its routes and said the impact of the virus on services can 'change very quickly'.

The Isle of Mull was stuck in dry dock in Aberdeen earlier this week with Covid cases onboard but was not impacting services directly. It has been cleaned and replacement crew are being brought in to be ready for departure.

The Wemyss Bay-Rothesay: MV Coruisk was withdrawn from service until further notice due to a crew member returning a positive Covid result. MV Argyle will operate a single vessel service until further notice.

Because of crew members awaiting Covid test results, services on the Oban-Craignure route are liable to disruption or cancellation at short notice.

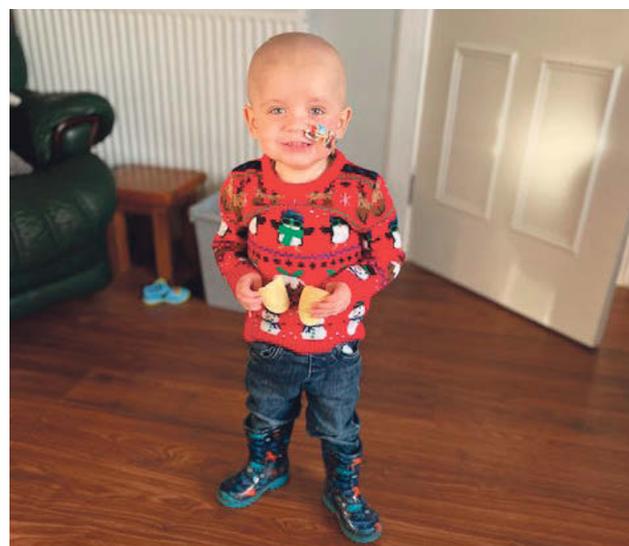
With crew members on the Mallaig-Lochboisdale route returning positive Covid results, all services between those ports have been cancelled. The vessel now needs to be deep cleaned and replacement crew found so an update on further sailings this week will be provided as soon as possible.

Also because of crew members on both MV Clansman and MV Hebridean Isles returning positive Covid results, sailings on the Oban-Colonsay-Port Askaig-Kennacraig route are liable to disruption or cancellation at short notice. Deep cleaning of the vessels has been arranged and attempts to find another crew are being made.

Until further notice because of lack of staff due to Covid, the Mallaig Port Office will only be open at sailing times.

'Covid-19 cases are high once again. We're exercising care and caution. Help protect one another, our crew and the islands we serve by following our safer travel guidance,' urged CalMac on social media.

Passengers, especially on longer journeys, are being reminded to travel prepared for no food and drink services onboard.



Appin's Matthew Innes who has been diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare childhood cancer.

## More home time for brave tot Matthew

Continued from page 1.

Mum Carolyn and dad Calum Innes got worried after Matthew started to get really clingy. He had never wanted to be held before and had just wanted to be playing all the time but then it changed. He would not eat, was not taking water and stopped sleeping through the night.

Carolyn

'Matthew's latest scans were looking good and that's all we can ask for. We take each day as it comes and are staying positive, helped by all the support and kindness we are being shown.'

You can still make a donation to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/appinfire](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/appinfire) or to find out more about The Little Princess Trust go here [www.littleprincesses.org.uk](http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk)

continued:

## DEREK WILSON CARRIERS LTD

**DAILY SERVICE OBAN - GLASGOW | MULL, COLL, TIREE, COLONSAY, ISLAY**  
**FOR ALL YOUR FREIGHT FORWARDING AND COURIER SERVICES**

WISHING ALL CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Telephone: 01631 562655**  
**email: [dwoban@gmail.com](mailto:dwoban@gmail.com)**  
**web: [www.derekwilsoncarriers.co.uk](http://www.derekwilsoncarriers.co.uk)**  
**Units 2/3 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin, OBAN PA34 4HB**

# Omicron hits optimism of West Coast firms

Optimism amongst Highlands and Islands businesses increased as the year went on, but it has now taken a big hit due to the Omicron variant of Covid, writes Sandy Neil.

So finds the last in a series of five business surveys conducted by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in 2021.

The survey has found that the impact of Omicron is growing rapidly and causing considerable pain and concern to numerous customer-facing businesses and their suppliers, but it also highlights staff shortages, and utility and other cost increases as two of the greatest threats to business viability.

Moreover, these threats are squeezing margins and stimulating enforced price increases, and whether or not demand remains strong among locals and visitors

remains to be seen.

The FSB's Highlands & Islands development manager, David Richardson, pictured, said: 'Our latest survey closed on December 14 and,

perhaps understandably, it found that businesses are the most positive they've been all year about how trading has gone in 2021, with around three quarters (76 per cent) saying that they have done OK or better. Conversely, eight per cent were really struggling/barely staying afloat.

'The Omicron variant started to flex its muscles during the survey period, and the rapidly deteriorating situation as the virus spreads, together with reimposed Covid measures and calls for the public to exercise extreme caution, are



taking their toll on trading.

'No wonder just over a half (53 per cent) of Highlands and Islands businesses said that the potential for future lockdowns or tightening of restrictions was a major fear, and almost a third (31 per cent) were pessimistic about their futures. One wonders what impact the news since the survey closed would have had on these percentages.'

The FSB's latest survey, which covered all types of business in Highlands, Islands, Moray, Argyll and Arran – in this release collectively named 'Highlands & Islands' – also looked at staffing, costs and prices charged.

It found that 47 per cent of

employers didn't have enough staff to meet their needs, and, given relatively small sample sizes, the situation was appreciably worse in sparsely populated areas such as the West Coast and islands (44 per cent of all businesses short staffed: 58 per cent West Coast; 51 per cent islands (Shetland, Orkney, Western Isles), as against 24 per cent for the East and Central Highlands (Caithness to Drumochter, including Moray).

And while just over a third (36 per cent) of short-staffed Highland businesses had struggled on as best they could, the rest had to cut services, opening hours or both.

Increasing costs have also taken their toll on 85 per cent of Highlands and Islands businesses, with four in 10 (40 per cent) saying their profit margins have shrunk but they

are struggling on, a quarter (27 per cent) that they are reducing their ability to invest in or expand their businesses, and almost two in five (18 per cent) that rising costs are impacting on their businesses' survival chances.

As a result, almost a half (47 per cent) of Highlands & Islands businesses have increased prices this year, and a quarter (24 per cent) plan to do so in 2022. To date, just over two in 10 (22 per cent) have increased prices by less than five per cent, but seven in ten (68 per cent) have increased them by between five per cent and 20 per cent.

David Richardson added: 'Aside from Covid, the two most potent problems facing businesses are arguably the shortage of staff and rising costs, and the two are clearly linked.'

## A85 Corran Esplanade to close nightly for a fortnight

Oban's Corran Esplanade is set to close at night for two weeks from Sunday January 16 for resurfacing works on the A85.

During the nightly works from 8pm to 6am until Thursday January 27, vehicles will be escorted under a 10mph convoy along George Street and Dunollie Road.

No work is planned for Friday or Saturday nights.

Access to William Street and Breadalbane Street via Corran Esplanade will be restricted during the nightly working hours. On street parking on Corran Esplanade will be prohibited for the full duration of the works.

'The working hours have been proposed overnight in order to minimise disruption to road users,' Bear Scotland said. 'The loudest activities, such as planing and jackhammering, will cease by 11pm each night.'

'We would like to take this opportunity to thank motorists and residents for their patience in advance of these planned works.'

## Pupils participation in health census is rejected

School pupils in Argyll and Bute will not take part in a national census on health and wellbeing after concerns were raised about some of the questions,



major concerns about the confidentiality of all this, and it has left us very worried.'

Oban North and Lorn Independent Councillor Kieron Green, above, added:

'In theory I think the survey would be a useful tool for a variety of purposes, but looking at the more controversial questions, like alcohol and drugs, the survey cannot guarantee absolute anonymity. There are elements that give me significant worry.'

Councillors on the authority's SNP group had a different opinion, suggesting the council held fire until closer to the April 2022 deadline for responses.

Dunoon councillor Audrey Forrest said: 'I was interested in the Children's Commissioner (Bruce Adamson) suggesting a pause. Given the main objections are around privacy and questions relating to 14- to 16-year-olds, I would be happier to pause while the Commissioner makes a decision.'

Cowal SNP Councillor Gordon Blair added: 'If this was handed to me when I was at school, I would have been embarrassed by having to take any census.'

'But we are in a different world now and you have to give the professionals the opportunity to reflect. To reject it out of hand might not be the best service we can provide for our young folk.'

Jennifer Crocket, the council's head of education, said: 'The survey is a means to an end – a blanket way to gather information, but we are able to have conversations using materials which are already the norm.'

'One or two of the local authorities who have opted out completely are working on their own variety, which they deem more appropriate.'

A vote then took place on whether to decline to take part in the survey, or to pause the process to seek clarity from the Commissioner.

Ten of the 14 members of the committee, two of whom are not councillors, voted in favour of not taking part in the census.

**ARAY FISH LIMITED**  
WWW.ARAYFISH.COM

**ORDER NOW FOR DELIVERY**  
**W/C 10th JAN 2022**  
**PLACE YOUR'S BEFORE 1PM MONDAY 10TH JAN**

**HAPPY new year**

**ORDER HERE**  
WWW.ARAYFISH.COM

OT

# Adventure Oban celebrates first birthday

Director Ben Sunderland looks back on the debut year for the outdoor activities community charity

'The midst of a global pandemic may seem like an odd time for a new community charity to launch and thrive but as we look back on the first year of Adventure Oban – it's been a year full of action, activity and fun.

'From early meetings, only possible online, to a programme of events, projects and initiatives that welcome everyone in the community, the pandemic has encouraged creativity and fresh thinking in all that Adventure Oban has undertaken. And what a year it's been! After a long period of patient planning and behind the scenes preparation, Adventure Oban launched in January 2021 with the aim of increasing opportunities for

our community to interact and engage with the great outdoors by offering support to local outdoor clubs, organisations and groups.

'These core aspirations have already started to be realised in this first year. We started Adventure Oban with a long-term perspective.

'As a founding board, we knew from our combined experience that initiatives like this are built on trust and are judged on the good they do and the work they support – this takes time. So, as we look back on just one year of activity, it's hugely encouraging to already see a range of robust and active relationships with several fantastic local organisations and clubs.

'In particular, we're thankful for the warm welcome we've received from local schools and groups working with our young people – they are the future.

'From the beginning, Adventure Oban has had a clear understanding of the importance of its activities and projects being led by the community and its needs. The charity's first year has therefore seen a heavy focus on community engagement through initiatives like One Million Miles.

'New events, such as Eggventure Oban - an Easter chocolate hunt, the RideOban Weekender that was October's weekend festival of community cycling, and the One Million Beach Clean series all



Earlier this year Adventure Oban celebrated a huge milestone in its One Million Miles project by racking up more than 24,901 miles – the same distance as the circumference of the Earth.

demonstrate various aspects of community need and appetite while also making a positive difference and being lots of fun at the same time!

'There have been opportunities to support excellent existing local events, too, such as the Oban Sportive, Oban Sea Kayak Race, Kerrera Kids Bike Event, parkrun and Argyllshire Gathering.

'While Oban's outdoor environment offers amazing fun, it also demands respect and a healthy deference to safety. Recognising this from the

beginning, Adventure Oban makes sure to offer access to safety training and advice in all the activities that it does. Mountain safety programme Hill Skills and the seasonal Water Safety series offer regular opportunities throughout the year for advice and guidance. These are also important partnership working opportunities to get alongside vital local services such as Oban Mountain Rescue and the RNLI.

'In all that this first year held for Adventure Oban came the recurring confirmation: Oban

sits in a stunning natural environment, one that offers rich opportunity and fun for our community.'

Adventure Oban is a not-for-profit local charity led by a team of volunteer directors looking for ways to support the community to more fully interact and engage with the great outdoors.

Use these links to find out more: Website: [adventureoban.org](http://adventureoban.org). Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @adventureoban. Email: [hello@adventureoban.org](mailto:hello@adventureoban.org).

**DONT  
PANIC  
WE ARE  
HERE!**



**Festive opening hours**

**Wednesday 29th -  
Friday 31st December  
8am-12pm**

**Re-open  
as normal  
Wed 5th  
Jan**

THE  
**BATHROOM  
SHOWROOM**

THE BATHROOM EXPERTS

7e Glengallan Road, Oban Tel: 01631 567640

**CITY  
PLUMBING**

  
**ALLIED  
SURVEYORS  
SCOTLAND**

**Home Reports and  
Valuations**

Local surveyors operating throughout Argyll,  
the Highlands and Islands

Dunoon 01369 705000  
Helensburgh 01436 674976  
Fort William 01397 705541

[www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com](http://www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com)

 **ARGYLL  
REMOVALS  
& STORAGE**

• **REMOVALS** • **STORAGE**  
• **HOUSE CLEARANCE**

Phone Duncan on 01631 567345  
or email: [info@argyllremovals.co.uk](mailto:info@argyllremovals.co.uk)

## Call to end VAT on defibs

Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto has called for the UK Government to end the VAT on all defibrillators in a debate in the Scottish Parliament.

Currently, the cost of a defibrillator is around £1,000 and removing the 20 per cent VAT charge would take the cost down to £830.

In a debate that Ms Minto led in memory of her friend Carl Reavey, who died of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in January 2018, Ms Minto highlighted how 'the reduction of cost would allow more lifesaving machines to be purchased and made available across the country'.

She said: 'When someone goes into cardiac arrest, every second until they receive CPR or the use of a defibrillator counts, so it is vital we do everything we can to make sure access to defibrillators is as quick and simple as possible.'

'There are many ways we can increase the availability of defibrillators - from registering existing machines with the British Heart Foundation so it can be put on their Circuit database, to fundraising for defibrillators in areas in



Jenni Minto.

need - and the removal of VAT is a simple action that would increase the amount of machines purchased.

'I was delighted to hear the Cabinet Secretary for Finance indicate she is open to writing to her counterparts in the UK Government about removing VAT on defibrillators.'

'I would like to thank all those at the British Heart Foundation, the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Scotland and Microsoft for all their efforts to establish Scotland's first network of defibrillators.'

# Business units win HIE cash backing

A £500,000 project to develop two new business units in Scalasaig on the Isle of Colonsay has secured up to £145,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The project is being taken forward by Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) following a feasibility study to assess demand.

The energy efficient units will provide opportunities for new businesses to establish a presence on the island or enable existing businesses to expand.

Ten jobs are expected to be created during the construction period and the leasing of the units is expected to lead to a further eight jobs being created.

The two workshop units will be 67 square metres and built on land bought by CCDC with support from the Scottish Land Fund and HIE. They



Morag Goodfellow. Photograph: Gillian Frampton.

will be three metres high with floors capable of carrying loaded vehicles. Each will have an insulated roller shutter door, a window and personnel door, as well as toilet and tea preparation area.

Morag Goodfellow, HIE area manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'Like many

of our rural areas and island communities, there are both challenges and opportunities on Colonsay. We have been working with CCDC for many years, supporting its work in strengthening community resilience on the island. I am

**'I am very pleased we have been able to support this latest initiative and look forward to seeing the new workshops.'**

very pleased we have been able to support this latest initiative and look forward to seeing the new workshops play a key role in supporting economic activity on the island.'

Colonsay is accessed by ferry from Oban, which runs daily in the summer and three times a week in winter. There are currently around 135 residents but like many rural areas, retaining population on Colonsay is challenging and depends on several factors including economic opportunities.

CCDC is working to advance community development, education, training and skills, as well as housing provision, while sustaining the natural environment.

Caroline Seymour, project co-ordinator with CCDC, said: 'We can now see real progress on the ground as we work towards a sustainable community and economy for the people of Colonsay. The new commercial units will be providing fresh opportunities for businesses that we have not seen here for many years.'

**MONDO**  
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN PIZZA  
**WE KEEP IT SIMPLE • FOCUS ON PRINCIPLE**

**Peri Peri Fury**  
PERI PERI CHICKEN & BURGERS

**Of Oban**

**Kebabish**  
Enjoy Life, Enjoy Kebabish!

Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year and thank you for your loyal custom. We could not attain this level of success without your steady support. Your satisfaction is our number one priority and we will always aim to provide you with a first-class service. Happy New Year to all our wonderful customers!

Happy New Year to our customers! Our management and workers would like to thank you for giving us a fantastic opportunity to serve you well in every way possible. It is our earnest desire to keep you satisfied with our Food quality, services, and deliveries. You are our motivation for every step of the way. May this new year bring you more blessings and remember; we value you so much our dear customer.

**George Street, Oban**  
**01631 565786/686**  
Order online:  
[www.mondoperiperi.co.uk](http://www.mondoperiperi.co.uk)

**George Street, Oban**  
**01631 563900/566885**  
Order online:  
[www.kebabishofoban.co.uk](http://www.kebabishofoban.co.uk)

OT

# Argyll Wellbeing Hub – to

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Since its formation in 2018 Argyll Wellbeing Hub (AWH), formerly known as Martyn's Monday Club, has gone from strength to strength - providing peer-to-peer support in Oban and the surrounding area.

Such is the magnitude of growth that in 2021 the charity employed two full-time service coordinators and boosted its team of volunteers to 16.

It has grown from two peer-to-peer support groups in 2020 to now running 35 support groups and formed a successful partnership with The Happy Wee Health Club.

Since January the charity has had 1,836 through its doors and a further 722 joining its walking groups.

Back in May, Hub co-founder Des MacMillan gave up his full-time job at sea to become



a service co-ordinator for the organisation. He told us: 'This year has been special in so many ways for Argyll Wellbeing Hub and for me.

'Since starting the group with Billy Ferguson in 2018,

I have dedicated all my time and efforts to make Oban and Argyll a suicide safer place and I feel that AWH is helping to do that.

'We as a charity have made 37 suicide interventions

**Service coordinators Des MacMillan and Lorraine King from Argyll Wellbeing Hub, along with Cooper the dog, are ready with a welcome at Argyll Wellbeing Hub.**

since starting out and for a small town that is extremely high. Thankfully everyone of these interventions has been successful and we have the persons involved still with us today.

'On the downside we have lost some to suicide in Oban and this drives us all on to stop that from happening again.'

Des admits that he could not do what he does without his own support network.

He added: 'I have been supported by my amazing family and friends to follow my passion and continue to do what we do here at AWH. I can't thank them all enough, especially my wife Tina.

'So many great things have taken place in 2021 and we have even bigger plans for 2022 - this keeps that flame lit and the passion alive to grow and bring these suicide numbers down to zero.

'Our mantra is "together we can do this". This year has shown that to be so true, yet again, if it was not for the teamwork, support from our volunteers and the amazing support from other organisations and the community we would not be able to do what we do.

'I am proud to be supporting this community and I am extremely grateful for having the opportunity to do this.'

Joining Des on the payroll was Lorraine King who gave up her roll as a NHS vaccinator to take up her new post.

'We were very fortunate to receive Covid-related funding to employ two full-time service co-ordinators and I was delighted to come here and

work alongside Des and help him develop the hub and the charity which has come a long way from his initial vision in 2018,' said Lorraine.

Other positives for the charity this year has been the success of The Wee Walking Groups which began in May.

'We have had some great fun this year on the walks, and we have been raising awareness for many things through these,' explained Lorraine.

'Thanks go to our friends at Dunollie, who allow us use of its outdoor space for refreshments and chat afterwards.'

Other groups facilitated by AWH include peer support, menopause support, bereavement support, coffee and chat, craft groups and wellness events.

A great connection with the Oban High School means that AWH now has three groups of young adults per week for wellness and wellbeing workshops.



## NEW BUILD DEVELOPMENTS

- LOCAL & TRUSTED TIMBER KIT SPECIALISTS
- BESPOKE DESIGN USING SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
- FROM LAND TO COMPLETION ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

### 3 & 4 BEDROOM OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**KILMELFORD** - A desirable and quiet location that is just south of Oban on the A816

**FERNOCH** - A desirable and quiet residential development in Lochgilhead, close to all amenities

If you'd like more information please email us and we will respond when we reopen on the 10th of January.

**MACLEOD**  
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



#### GET IN TOUCH TODAY

Sales@mkmacleod.co.uk  
01546 602989  
macleodconstruction.co.uk

## HIGHLAND FASTENERS

Happy New Year!

**FESTIVE OPENING HOURS**

Thursday 30th December 07:30 – 17:00

Friday 31st December 07:30 – 13:00

New Year's Day Closed

Sunday 2nd January Closed

Monday 3rd January 07:30 – 17:00

Back to Our normal hours of business

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll  
01631 570584 e-mail sales@highlandfasteners.com

## SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

We would like to wish all our customers a Happy New Year

- ✓ Septic Tank Emptying & Cleaning
- ✓ Septic Tank Installations & Inspections
- ✓ Groundworks & Landscaping
- ✓ Accredited Installer

Contact: T: 01546 607046 / 07917 358285  
E-mail: septic tankservicesltd@gmail.com  
Web: www.septic tankservicesltd.com



# Together we are doing this



Above, The Argyll Wellbeing Hub showed its support by offering an afternoon tea at the 2021 Oban Pride; right, walkers who took part in Argyll Wellbeing Hub's 'walk and talk' event.

'We have grown from eight groups to 35 groups per month,' said Des. 'For AWH this is an amazing achievement and we are looking and listening to our members and the community to provide the support that is needed in Oban.'

The Kiltwalk proved another positive. The charity, its members and volunteers raised over £6,000. The Lost Hours Walk was a first for Oban and 50 supporters of AWH walked the hour from 1-2am on Sunday October 31.

Des concluded: 'The last thing I need to say is a massive thank you to everyone who

has done some form of fund-raising for us.

'Without this none of what we do would be possible. It is a vital component to keeping any charity running and Lorraine and myself along with all the trustees and members thank you from the bottom of our hearts.'

Lorraine added: 'We would like to wish all our past and present members a safe and peaceful festive season.'

'We will be here as normal running throughout the festivities so if anyone needs support we urge them to please reach out - either to us, their GP, to a friend or loved

one or to a helpline. This can be a difficult time of year for many people, and we want to say that with the right support things will get better.'

'We see people's lives getting better every week at our groups simply because people took that first step and reached out for help.'

'We are looking forward to an exciting 2022, we have some new plans in the pipeline, and we look forward to working with more local partners and to supporting more of our local community.'

'We truly believe that together we can do this.'

## ARGYLL & BUTE CONSULTANTS LTD INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

Covering Argyll  
and the Islands

*Iain would like to wish all his clients a Prosperous New Year*

16 Hazelburn Business Park Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6HA  
Tel: 01586 553777 iain.reid@a-bconsultants.co.uk



Director: Iain Reid  
ACIBS DipPFS

ARGYLL & BUTE CONSULTANTS LIMITED IS AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY



COME AND SEE US IN 2022 AND START THE NEW YEAR  
HEALTHY AND PLASTIC FREE.

**Go Naked Veg Ltd**

Stevenson St, Oban,  
PA34 5NA



NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS MON 27TH - SUN 2ND JAN - BACK TO NORMAL HOURS 3RD JAN  
MON CLOSED, TUE 8AM-6PM, WED - FRI 8AM-5PM, SAT CLOSED



### Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site  
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space  
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or  
enquiries@maccdl.co.uk for further information



## VENUE West Loch House & functions - Licensed Guest House -

West Loch House, (formerly West Loch Hotel) sits overlooking West Loch Tarbert on the beautiful Kintyre Peninsula in the West Coast of Scotland.  
A perfect base from which to explore Kintyre, islands of Arran, Islay, Gigha and Jura.



West Loch House  
is the perfect  
location for your  
party or small  
function



Come party with us

Campbeltown Road, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6YF  
Email: westlochhousetarbert@gmail.com  
Telephone: 01880 821120

OT

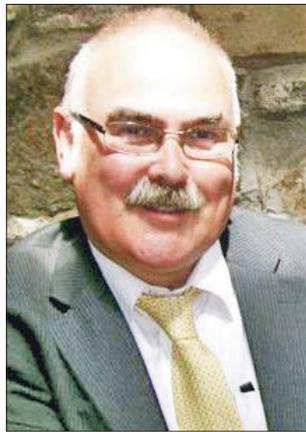
# ACHA chief Alastair to retire after 17 years

The chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) is retiring after 17 years in the job.

Alastair MacGregor, head of the ACHA Group which includes Argyll Community Housing Association and its maintenance subsidiary Argyll Homes for All, is to retire at the end of May 2022.

He has worked in the housing sector for 37 years, 32 of these as a chief executive. He spent 15 years at Queens Cross Housing Association in Maryhill, Glasgow, before leading ACHA for the past 17 years.

He said: 'It has been the honour of my working life to have worked for so long in the tenant-led community-based housing association sector in Scotland. I have met and worked with so many dedicated people, tenants, colleagues, voluntary board members and elected members. Thank you to



Alastair MacGregor.

all of them for the support they have given me.

'Housing is the most important base of the pyramid of life. If we don't get housing right, so much else in life is difficult. I turned 60 recently, a landmark for reflection. I decided it was the right time to pass on the baton. I have no plans to sit

with my slippers on, smoking a pipe. I am an active crofter and also want to do private work in the not-for-profit sector.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish, ACHA's chairman, said: 'Alastair will be sorely missed as will his knowledge of Argyll and Bute and its people. He leaves behind him a great legacy of providing good quality homes for people across Argyll and Bute.

'On a personal note, I will miss his guidance in all matters, not just housing. This has been invaluable to me in my role as an elected member since I first joined ACHA in 2007.

'One bit of wisdom I did not listen to was when he told me often how great his beloved Partick Thistle FC was!

'I am sure after a lifetime in public service, working for the good of others, we will see Alastair involved in other roles.'

# Boaty M

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Seafaring grandad of four, Donald MacFarlane is getting ready for his next adventure in the wake of his hero explorers.

The 56-year-old who lives in Oban has just got a job looking after the fleet of small boats onboard the UK's polar research ship the Sir David Attenborough.

Just after Christmas he will head south to England for two weeks isolation before flying from RAF Brize Norton to the Falkland Islands where he will join the ship bound for South Georgia in the South Atlantic.

Inspired from childhood by the likes of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, the former Luing lobster catcher and salmon fisherman from Seil will be working in temperatures that could plummet to minus 20 or 30.

Donald will help repair and maintain the small boats as well as drive them and there is



Out fishing, Donald MacFarlane, left, with John Cameron and boat owner John MacAlister.



A close encounter with a huge coconut crab in the jungle on one of Donald MacFarlane's many adventures.

**HOGMANAY**  
**FIREWORKS!**

The display starts at midnight, from McCaigs Tower.

**STAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN!**

#ScotlandLovesLocal #Loveoban #ObanMinded

**Bliadhna Mhath Ùr - Happy New Year from everyone at BID4OBAN**

Oban Business Improvement District  
www.bid4oban.co.uk

We've built our reputation on building...

*beautiful homes*

**But did you know?**

We also fit kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, glass replacements, decking, fascias, soffits and much more. If you need it, we can do it in super quick time.

Our team of local, highly qualified joiners are ready to work with you on any project, large or small

**15 years of serving Lochaber - trust us to get the job done!**

**LANGAN & SMITH**  
BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Call us or call in today:  
Langan & Smith Building Contractors  
Unit 21, Ben Nevis Way  
Fort William, PH33 6PR  
Tel: 01397 705599  
Available 24hrs  
Email: langansmith@btconnect.com

# McBoatface job for Oban granddad Donald



**Donald MacFarlane with his kit bag ready to go to sea again.**

‘The careers officer assumed I wanted to be an officer in the Merchant Navy. To do that I needed maths and physics. I just wanted to go to sea,’ he added. ‘I couldn’t get my maths and physics, so I took up fishing,’ he said.

He fished salmon from Easdale, then worked for Chris Stephenson on Seil lobster fishing. With his father born on Luing, Donald went on to marry his teenage sweetheart Lesley from the island.

He worked all round Britain on trawlers and scallopers, working his way up from deckhand to mate and was skipper of various boats before joining the Merchant Navy when his three daughters were grown up. He now has four grandchildren, too – two boys and two girls, aged from four to 13.

‘My family is very important

to me. With some of my past jobs I could never predict when I’d be home again. With this new job I know I’ll be back in April. When I first went to sea before the days of mobile phones, that was it – when you were gone you were gone,’ said Donald.

Just some of the colourful experiences out on the waves included working for a yacht chartering company in Turkey and water-skiing for a cancer charity from Easdale Island down the Sound of Luing over the Corryvreckan out to the Garvellachs Islands and back in one go.

While working part-time on the Kerrera ferry, he once helped save a man who fell in from the North Pier and at the age of 21, a French crabber he was working on just off Ardmore Point hit rocks in a hurricane and sunk. He and the rest of the crew made it to a lifeboat and were eventually rescued by a Tobermory boat called Defiance. For five years

he worked for North Star Shipping in the North Sea and from there he went to the Indian Ocean, involved in sovereignty patrol of the British-owned Chagos Islands, seven miles south of the Equator, known as the third most remote place on the planet. ‘It was fantastic. I did lots of free diving and was one of the first civilians to go from one tip of the archipelago’s main island walking 11 miles through the jungle followed by a 32-mile bike ride. I had to get the then Prime Minister Theresa May’s permission to do it!’ added Donald.

Four years ago he heard about the Sir David Attenborough ship being launched and advertising for able seamen.

‘I applied but didn’t get a job. I kept following the website and about three months ago I saw they were looking for a coxswain and Able Seaman. This time I got it. It’s incredible. I’ve had three months of planning. You can’t forget a

thing. Once you’re out there, that’s it,’ said Donald.

‘Ever since I was a small boy I’ve been fascinated and inspired by the tales of early explorers like Shackleton. It’s epic I’m going to the South Pole like him. To think one of his voyages out there was on a 22ft lifeboat is mind-blowing.

‘My life has been one long adventure but this next chapter is so special. It’s been on my bucket list for a long time. Usually you have to be rich or a scientist to get this kind of opportunity but I’m just me,’ he added.

The Sir David Attenborough has a crew of about 30 and can accommodate 60 scientists and support staff, with onboard laboratories and equipment to study the ocean, seafloor, ice and atmosphere. Marine robotics and remotely operated vehicles – including the famous Boaty McBoatface – capture data from the deep ocean and previously inaccessible locations under the ice.

a chance the new job will see him circumnavigate the globe.

Born at Kilberry near Tarbert, Donald moved with his family to Clachan Farm at the age of four, starting school at Kilninver Primary School. From a young age, he

would go out on his shepherd father’s small wooden boat. By the time he was 10, he could hand haul in a creel as well as an older man and had hands of leather.

Going to school was more of a challenge, said Donald.

## It's time to roll up your sleeve again



The new Omicron variant of COVID-19 is highly infectious and spreading fast. Our immunity reduces gradually over time so it's important for every adult to get the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster. It gives you more protection and should significantly reduce your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.

**Book your COVID-19 Vaccine Booster now or check arrangements in your local area at [nhsinform.scot](https://nhsinform.scot) or call 0800 030 8013.**



OT

# Club shares favourite photographs

Oban Photographic Club hopes to snap up more members in the New Year. From landscapes to landmarks, wildlife to the more quirky, here is a selection of some of its members' favourite shots.

The club has been in existence for more than 60 years, making it one of Scotland's oldest.

Interested in joining? Visit the club's website at <http://www.obanpc.co.uk/>

The club's Maurice Wilkins said: 'The only qualification required for membership is enthusiasm. Our members enjoy taking photographs and showing them to others. We also enjoy learning from those with more experience and teaching those who have less.'

'Whether you have the most expensive digital camera, a point and shoot or a simple phone, you're equally welcome to join us for fun practical evenings, competitions, travelogues, instruction, model evenings and outings.'



**Dramatic Skies** by Edwina Aitken. This was taken during the summer around 0100hrs, showing a beautiful display of noctilucent clouds. They are only visible between the months of June to August, after the sun goes down and when conditions are right. They are so elusive that prediction cannot be made for when they will appear. Some nights they may only appear for five minutes - other nights they can put on a fantastic display lasting hours. Copyright Edwina Aitken.



**Adult male buzzard** by Keith Thorburn. 'I have been following these buzzards since the parents were going back and forward to the nest with food for the one hatchling they had. This is the adult male buzzard. I will be trying to photograph them both throughout the winter, from one of my hides,' said Keith. Copyright Keith Thorburn



## WIN £200 WORTH OF SHOPPING

# TROLLEY

# DASH

COURTESY OF TESCO OBAN

**ENTRY FORM**

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

email .....  I have included my 4 tokens (please tick)

Your entry must be received by 10am Tuesday 11th January. Send your entry to Oban Times, Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban PA34 4HB

We all spend far too much money over Christmas and New Year, so how great would it be able to fill your shopping trolley COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE in January?! Courtesy of our friends at Tesco in Oban, one lucky reader will win the chance to fill their trolley with up to £200 worth of goods (see T&C's for exclusions). All you have to do is collect 4 tokens over four weeks starting on 9th December, get them to us by 10am Tuesday 11th January and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic trolley dash. What are you waiting for, banish those post-Christmas blues and start collecting your tokens!

All 4 tokens must be sent in a single envelope, along with a completed entry form (opposite), to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, PA34 4HB by 10am Tuesday 11th January

One token from each week is required, multiple entries are allowed, but must be submitted in separate envelopes. Photocopied tokens will not be accepted. Winners must agree to take part in publicity, Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.

**Terms and conditions**  
Winner must be at Tesco, Lochside, Oban, PA34 4HP for 10.30am January 17th. Excludes tobacco, lottery, baby food, non-food items and alcohol. Quantity limited to two per item. The winner will be given a hand held scanner to monitor spend to the value of £200. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.

**Digital subscribers**  
Digital subscribers who have an active subscription covering the period from December 2021, to February 2022, can enter the competition by sending their name, address and email address that they subscribe with to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB by 10am Tuesday January 11. Only one entry per subscription permitted. Entrant must be able to attend the trolley dash in Oban on the January 17, 2022.



Left: Glencoe Flow by Graham Cameron. 'I had been meaning to take this picture for a considerable time as I like the shape of the road and the juxtaposition of the lights and the landscape. The exposure here is four minutes,' said Graham.

Copyright Graham Cameron.



The Scenic Route by Gordon Milne. 'This one was taken in January during the early days of last winter's lockdown with almost no traffic on the A82. The sun on the Buachaille provided the perfect backdrop,' said Gordon.

Copyright Gordon Milne.



Piper aboard Lady of Avenel by Jean Sinclair. This unusual photograph of a piper playing in the rigging was taken at an enjoyable Sessions and Sail musical evening aboard the 102ft Brigantine 'Lady of Avenel' which was alongside Kerrera pier in July 2021.

Copyright Jean Sinclair.



No paddle required by Hugh Wilson. Taken at the Falls of Lora below Connell Bridge. Copyright Hugh Wilson.

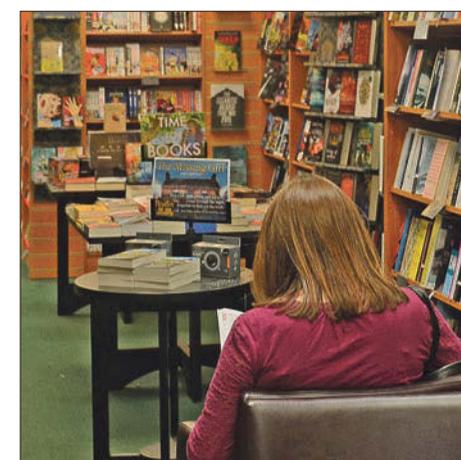


Plenty of fish in the sea by Audrey Peddie. This digital edit is made up from 16 individual photographs, selectively merged together then textures added to give a surreal artist feel. Copyright Audrey Peddie



Oban Reflections by Alistair Reid. 'I just liked the peaceful still autumn Oban night,' said Alistair.

Copyright Alistair Reid.



The Missing Girl by Maurice Wilkins. 'I enjoy candid photography and I was fortunate to have my camera with me in the bookshop. The title of the 'Thriller of the Month' proved to be the perfect title for the picture,' said Maurice.

Copyright Maurice Wilkins.

■ All these images are copyright of the individual photographers who took them, kindly shared with The Oban Times for this feature but not to be re-used without their permission.



Do a lateral flow test before you travel,  
mix with others or visit busy places.



Living safely  
this winter



OT

# Review of the year



**JANUARY:** Over the last three decades, Craobh Haven skipper Duncan Phillips had voyaged eight times the equivalent of sailing round the world - and crossed the infamous Corryvreckan thousands of times.

At the helm of his motor launch Farsain, the 80-year-old had safely transported sightseers on boat trips during the swirling whirlpool and out to the islands sitting out of the picturesque harbour that has been his home since returning to his native Scotland from Essex.

He had also run a water taxi service for appreciative residents at the north end of Jura and there have been numerous rescues out at sea and boats that needed to be towed back to a safe haven.

The Oban Times was there to catch on camera Mr Phillips retiring and handing over his boat and business to friend and new owner Tony Daley.



**JANUARY:** Young Jack Grant started the New Year afresh with a mission to clear up a roadside near where he lives.

Upset by the mess, the Kilchrenan Primary School pupil got little brother Hamish, three, and mum Issy with baby Rory in tow to help pick up discarded cans, crisp packets, tissues and takeaway leftovers. He even asked dad Douglas to build him a bin cart to take on his regular clean-up rounds.

A big fan of save-the-planet crusader David Attenborough, Jack wanted to do his best to keep the Ardanaisig road waste-free and sent a letter and poster to The Oban Times asking us to help him stop the litter bugs.

## Part one: January to June

**FEBRUARY:** Community nurses on Mull were tackling wild terrain and the elements on foot to vaccinate residents.

District nurse Moira Westland and staff nurse Cara Donnelly went the extra mile to get Covid vaccinations to remote clients by relying on their own two feet to reach remote residents' homes that were not easily accessible from the roads.

Most of the island's roads are single-track and narrow, with off-road trails to get to some places surrounded by wilderness and high cliffs



plunging to the sea, secret sandy beaches and rocky coves.

Moira said that determination to keep the vaccination programme on target was powering her on.



**FEBRUARY:** Young people were making themselves seen and heard as part of a growing campaign to protect 'people's park' Ganavan from the threat of more houses being built. This group of friends, all aged under 12, took themselves and placards to the popular beach to make their point.



**MARCH:** Sparks were flying when Oban Airport was featured in an edition of Top Gear, above.

Millions of TV viewers tuned in as hosts Freddie Flintoff, Chris Harris and Paddy McGuinness battled to prove which vehicle was the ultimate off-roader.

The airport was just one of the Highland and west coast locations included in the popular programme.

Viewers watched as the daredevils took it in turn to be towed along the scenic runway - behind their vehicles at high speed.

**MARCH:** A lick of fresh paint 100 feet above Oban, right, was all in a day's work for these workmen painting the town's distinctive distillery chimney.

Keen photographer and Keep Oban Beautiful (KOB) stalwart Maurice Wilkins caught the bird's-eye shot on camera for The Oban Times.

The paint job was part of an annual inspection to keep the tall chimney spic, span and safe and KOB was hoping people would follow the distillery's lead by joining in a socially-distanced clean-up of the town that weekend.

Covid meant the usual co-ordinated Spring Clean community event could not happen, but KOB was encouraging people to get out on their own or in their bubbles to pitch in with litter-picking.





**MAY:** Dalmally said a special farewell to its sub-postmistress Gilli Chrystal when she retired and shut up shop on its award-winning post office for the final time.

Trumpeter Garry Thompson played the last post on Wednesday May 19 to mark Gilli's retirement after two decades behind the counter and to mourn the end of the postal service in Dalmally, which dated back to the 1800s.



**April:** Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald was back on the beat welcoming tourists returning to town. On the day that non-essential shops, pubs and other hospitality venues opened their doors again, Kay and fellow ambassador Joe Reich were out and about on the meet-and-greet frontline.

**MAY:** Photographs were snapped showing Cruachan Dam being transformed into a set, where a scene for a new spin-off Star Wars TV series was to be filmed.

Production crews took over an area of landscape above Loch Awe and the Corran Halls in Oban - both guarded by security.

Although renting it out to show makers, Argyll and Bute Council was keeping a vow of silence saying it was not in a position to make any comment.

Despite the hush, The Oban Times understood it was for a new Disney + Channel show, likely to be the Kenobie series.

The Oban Times was sent photographs by walkers who spotted partly-under-wrap spaceship props at Cruachan, which were a big giveaway.



**APRIL:** Firefighters battled for 15 hours to extinguish a raging wildfire on a hill near Oban.

At the peak of the blaze, beyond the Scottish Water installation near Pennyfuir, there were four appliances at the scene after the fire broke out on April 16.

Crews from as far away as Inveraray's retained station and volunteers from Dalmally, Appin and Tyndrum joined Oban firefighters using beaters and specialist knapsacks and hoses to get the flames, seen from miles around, under control.

Firefighters had to walk their way in from Pennyfuir to get to the burning hillside.

Dramatic photographs were captured by people in the town, with the orange glow of flames shooting up into the sky with landmark McCaig's Tower in the foreground, and there were others with the fire looking perilously close to homes.

The area on the hill was full of gorse and vegetation popular with a variety of nesting birds.



**JUNE:** Barra marked the official opening of its new Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) with the help of royalty.

HRH Princess Anne visited the island by helicopter to visit the service in Castlebay.

The Princess Royal was accompanied on June 7 by Vice Lord-Lieutenant Elizabeth McAtear, who is based in Barra and is a founder member of the Barra CAB.

Figures from 2020 showed they helped 327 people with 546 problems resulting in an extra £141,550 coming into homes from new or additional benefits claimed, extra wages due or a reduction in debts.

Strategic manager for Western Isles Citizens Advice Service Steven Hankinson, who was there to welcome Princess Anne, said the real figure was much higher.

**JUNE:** A community council took matters into its own hands to flush out badly behaved campers.

Taynuilt Community Council decided to rent a portable toilet and put it down by the lower pier in the hope campers would use it instead of leaving toilet paper, wipes and worse in the wild. Signs also went up reminding all visitors of their responsibility to leave no trace and explain the etiquette of camping in a remote spot.

Renting the temporary toilet was going to be trialled over one month.

If a success, it would be rolled out longer.



Next week:  
Review part  
two: July to  
December

OT

# Oban Openreach give Home-Start boost

Openreach's 3,200-strong workforce across Scotland has launched a Christmas campaign for parenting charity Home-Start to support some of the nation's most vulnerable families and children.

Volunteers from the business set out to collect 5,000 gifts for 1,100 children across 18 Home-Starts - from Orkney to Stranraer. Employees who could not make it to collection points also raised nearly £4,000 in Scotland to buy more gifts and vouchers for the charity.

Oban engineers Justin Emsley, Kaitlynn MacLeod and Matthew Blunsden made a bumper delivery to Home-Start Lorn in Oban to hand over dozens of priority items on the charity's shopping list for 55 local children this Christmas. Gifts included games, toys and books, arts and crafts, selection boxes, cosy blankets, and hats and gloves along with wrapping materials and gift bags.

Openreach Argyll patch manager David Rafferty said:



Chris Farmer, left, and Openreach Scotland service delivery director Fraser Rowberry load up a van ready to deliver to Home-Start.

'Openreach is focused on wellbeing in our workforce and giving to others is fundamental to this. Earlier this year our fibre engineers collected thousands of items for food banks, and we decided to do it all again for Home-Start to support vulnerable families

this Christmas. This time the whole of Openreach and BT Group has got behind it.

'We know times are tough for so many families in the Oban area right now. We want to help make sure there's a smile on the face of every child supported by Home-

Start this Christmas. We've been overwhelmed with support and it's nice to know that we'll make a difference to the local community this Christmas.'

More than a decade has passed since Chris Farmer's family was first involved with

Home-Start, and the charity's support was even more vital when the mother of his children passed away, leaving him to bring up two small children single-handed.

Openreach engineer Chris said: 'Home-Start is close to my heart as they helped us out as a family when my kids lost their mum. It wasn't the easiest of times, with my son and daughter both being under six, but the help we got was amazing and we're in a good place now. We're still in close contact with the Home-Start co-ordinator who helped us to this day - even though she's retired now, she has become a family friend.'

'This has been a fantastic opportunity to give something back this Christmas and the support from across the company has been overwhelming. It's brilliant to see what can be done collectively as a team. It's going to make a big difference on Christmas Day when kids wake up to a bagful of toys, games, chocolate and sweets - there's a multitude of

gifts been donated.'

Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support providing compassionate, confidential help to families with young children through challenging times. With more than 180 local, independent Home-Starts across the UK, and more than 10,000 fully trained home-visiting volunteers, the charity supported 56,000 children in 27,000 families last year. More than 100 children are referred to their services every day.

Vivien Waterfield, deputy chief executive for Home-Start UK, said: 'We are delighted that Openreach is supporting our families with this incredible project. Our goal is to make sure no parent feels alone, by standing alongside families with compassionate, non-judgemental community-based support. It has been a difficult year for families so we are thrilled that these Christmas gifts will help bring a smile to children and their parents.'



**FIELD & FOREST**  
YOUR MACHINERY PARTNERS

**SALES & HIRE**

**QUALITY NEW & USED MACHINERY**

- GRAPPLE SAWS
- TREE SHEARS
- HYDRAULIC HAMMERS
- GRABS
- CONE SPLITTERS
- FIREWOOD PROCESSORS
- WOOD CHIPPERS
- MULCHERS
- STUMP GRINDERS
- STUMP SHEARS
- LOG CLEANERS
- KINDLING MACHINERY
- FLAILBOT



Call your machinery partner on:

**01506 862 371**

www.fieldandforestltd.co.uk  
sales@fieldandforestltd.co.uk

**THE SPORTS SHOP**

**THE NEW YEAR BRINGS  
A NEW START**



**We have all the clothing, footwear and equipment you need for your journey in to sports, fitness and health**



Please support your town and **SHOP LOCAL**

**Follow us on facebook for latest deals and offers**

**Open Mon- Fri 9am-5.30pm, Closed 1st & 2nd January  
4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ**



**SALE!**  
BEDS, SOFAS, FURNITURE,  
CARPETS, CURTAINS & BLINDS

**STARTS 4TH JAN 10AM!**

**mathesons**  
FURNISHINGS

**mathesons.co.uk**

Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban | 01631 565 195

# Rockfield school snap brings back memories

This is a week for readers getting in touch... Colin A Vincent recently contacted us with this photograph.

He said: 'I came across this photograph recently - I don't think that I have seen it for over 70 years, and wondered if it might be of interest to you.'

'It is of the class that commenced in Rockfield School in 1943 and this photo is of the 're-qualifying' or 'qualifying' class in, I think, 1948 or 1949. At this time such classes moved from Rockfield up to the High School, where the photo would have been taken. The class teacher (for both years) was Miss May Flemington who lived in the building at the corner of Glenshellach Road and Drimvargie Terrace.

'I am fairly sure of most of the names, but have put a question mark next to those which I am not so sure about and have used an X when I have forgotten the Christian name. There are four out of the 36 whom I

remember well enough, but their names escape me.

'If you do decide to publish this I would be very interested to know if your readers know the missing names - and the errors due to my failing memory!'

## In the photograph

Back row from left: Angus MacDonald; Coll MacDougal (one-time Oban Times reporter 'McCaig', who died a few years ago); Hector Campbell (A) (possibly became the proprietor of what was Livingston's garage in Shore Street. There was another Hector Campbell, given the title Hector Campbell (B)); John MacDonald?; X Tinto?; Stuart McIvor; ? (I think that he came into the class four or five years after 1943); ? (I don't know why I cannot recall this name - became a well-known figure in Oban); Billie Craven; Iain MacArthur (Doctor's son, well known bus driver and friend



to many. Died the same year as Coll MacDougal); Hugh Ross.

Middle row from left: Christine MacDougal; ? (Again, I cannot remember their name but they became a

well-known figure in Oban); Natalie McCowan?; Louise McTaggart; Margaret Smart; Eileen Tomson?; X May; Pamela Harrison; X Helpburn; Susan Jamieson?; X Coltart?;

X Baird?; ? (This tall girl at the extreme right was one of the three or four from the base at Dunstaffnage. I think she came from Stoke-on-Trent).

Front row from left: Marlene

Craven; X Graham; Derek McCann?; Colin Vincent?; Alan McInnes; Ian Turner?; Scott McAdie; Stewart Gabriel; Hamish Balantyne; John Stewart; Nancy Manson?

## Musings of former Provost of St John's Cathedral

This week reader Jane Lendrum sent us this contribution to share.

The photograph is from her father's papers. Charles McAlester Copland was Provost of St John's Cathedral in Oban from 1959-1979.

Ms Lendrum told us: 'I was going through some papers belonging to my late father. Among them I found this photograph, which I thought you might be interested in.'

'The signed photograph was given to my father by the late MacNeil of Barra in 1969, a year before his death.'

'With this photograph is a piece typed by my father referring to the burial of the said MacNeil.'

'Dad used to regale us with this tale of the solemn occasion at Kisimul Castle when the coffin was being lowered into the grave and it didn't fit the space

prepared. They had to reconvene the next day once some of the stone had been chipped away to accommodate the coffin.'

The following is the typed script that Charles McAlester Copland attached to the photograph.

'We must have met them [MacNeils] somewhere and stayed with them in the delightfully restored castle.'

'He made me promise to take his funeral.'

'The call came when we were on holiday in the south. I left the family and the car in Manchester Airport, flew to Glasgow; flew to Tiree and waiting two hours celebrated for the three and four piskies on Tiree.'

'Caught the big MacBrayne for Barra and met the mourners and the coffin.'

'At Barra, the coffin to go in rowing

boat to castle: very heavy. RC priest now with me: made sure coffin did not fall through boat before we went in.'

'He had got all ready, cement-lined hole in chapel and stone ready except for date. Lyon Herald at service. All well till came to lower coffin. Lead then oak, too long by a few inches. We decreed the committal would be next day.'

'They chipped out three inches and all went well.'

MacNeil of Barra, who was buried in the chapel in Kisimul Castle, although not without some drama.



### Our expertise includes:

- + Bookkeeping / Cloud Accounting
- + Business Planning & Forecasting
- + Payroll Services
- + Internal & External Audit
- + Insolvency & Debt Counselling
- + Tax Planning

## Making plans for the future of your business?

We've been working with businesses in Argyll and the Isles for over 40 years and we're fully equipped to help you prepare for the future.

To find out how we can help, contact us today: [info@wyliebisset.com](mailto:info@wyliebisset.com)

**Wylie Bisset**  
Chartered Accountants,  
Business & Tax Advisers

# Lomond really is the school of 'choice'

With a wide range of subjects on offer, through either traditional SQA qualifications or one of two International Baccalaureate programmes, Lomond really is the school of 'choice' for families looking for a quality education in the West of Scotland.

With the added convenience of a school bus for weekly boarders, we offer families in the West of Scotland a boarding school option close to home, with a welcoming environment and excellent pastoral care for children aged 9 to 18.

As a non-selective school, our academic results are exceptionally high, and we believe that this is because we help our pupils to find a pathway which suits their individual needs, thus allowing them to get the very best from their education. In S5 and S6 pupils have the option of three pathways: SQA Highers and Advanced Highers, the IB

Diploma Programme or the IB Career-related Programme with specialisation through an HNC in Business. This choice is unrivalled in Scotland and ensures that we have the right pathway for all.

*We believe that balance is what drives happiness and success*

We believe that balance is what drives happiness and success and we aim to deliver a learning experience which is engaging and fun, giving every child the tools they need to pursue a successful life beyond school. Our young people enjoy an enhanced curriculum which provides enrichment and experiences beyond the classroom. From extra-curricular activities to life changing trips, coming to Lomond School opens the

door to a range of opportunities which help to develop confidence, respect and an outward looking approach, all of which will serve our young people well now, and in the future.

Our boarding house, Burnbrae, is a modern purpose-built facility, separate to the main school campus. With up to 60 boarders, the house is small enough to truly provide a family feel and being home to boys and girls provides a unique opportunity for siblings to live together in the same house. All our pupils are respected and treated as individuals and our staff actively support their personal, social and educational development. To find out more about boarding at Lomond School, book to meet our Registrar in Oban on Saturday 26 February 2022.

T: 01436 672 476

E: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com)

W: [lomondschool.com](http://lomondschool.com)



 **LOMOND SCHOOL**  
SCOTLAND



## Lomond. The School of Choice.

Meet our Registrar in Oban,  
**Saturday 24 February 2022**

Weekly & full boarding with school bus

E: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com)  
[lomondschool.com](http://lomondschool.com)

OT

# DISTRICTS

## Past, present and future, you can rely on Oban

As always at this time of year, many of us take a bit of time and pause for reflection.

This year has been a tumultuous one for everyone, primarily due to the ups and downs of Covid and the unpredictability that has been forced on many of our lives.

While life began to open up again this year with the development of the Covid vaccine, offering us some hope for the future, the ongoing impact on jobs and health has undoubtedly taken its toll.

Thankfully, in Oban, we have many organisations and charities who have been there for us, helping support families and individuals. The list is long but many have been featured in The Oban Times. They include Hope Kitchen, Argyll Wellbeing Hub, Oban Rotary Club, Keep Oban Beautiful, the Dove Centre, Adventure Oban, Oban Community Council, BID4Oban, all are among the many groups whose unstinting work, support and fundraising efforts have sustained us, not only during the past couple of years, but well before that.

We thank them all, and wish everyone a peaceful New Year and best wishes for 2022.

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



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

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

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## Rotary delivers cards and gifts to Oban pensioners

Rotary Club of Oban has been busy bringing festive cheer to as many of our older community members as possible.

While the annual OLDS Christmas lunch had to be cancelled again this year due to Covid concerns, a team of hardy Rotarians, led by OLDS convener, past president Ken Moncrieff, were able to deliver 300 Christmas cards and gifts, personally signed by current President Kees van Rein, to folk around the town.

Along with the cards, there was also a lovely box of chocolates, a calendar and a small gift.

The club also ran the Christmas raffle with food hampers won by six lucky winners pulled from the hat, Isabel Grout of Connel, Pauline Black of Torosay Court, Anne Whitehead of Lynn Court, Jill Matthews of Lynn Court, Grace Wilson of Cawdor Terrace and Jessie MacFarlane of Dalintart Drive.

The hampers were delivered by Santa Claus (past president Iain MacKinnon) and Mrs Claus (junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter) with much fun and laughter.



Santa Claus – past president Iain MacKinnon – and Mrs Claus, junior vice president Ciorsti Baxter, get ready to deliver the Christmas hampers to the town's pensioners.

The club is extremely grateful to Calum MacLeod and family of Ee-usk and Piazza for generously providing the chocolates, MacQueen Bros for assisting with entries to the raffle and to BID4Oban for financial support.

President Kees said: 'The Rotary Club of Oban would like to wish all our OLDS a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and hope that we have managed, in some small way, to spread a little love, thoughtfulness and fellowship this year in particular.'

## Youngsters' Christmas card competition brings festive cheer

This year's annual Rotary Club of Oban Christmas Card competition saw another fantastic set of entries in the P1-3 and P4-7 categories.

The competition was organised by Rotarian Youth Convener Andy Lambert and his team.

Hundreds of entries were received from all the primary schools across the district on the theme of Christmas; Past, Present & Future. Winners and runners-up from each category were to receive prizes of Love Oban vouchers to the value of £30 and £15, respectively.

Certificates and prizes will be awarded in the first week back to school in January 2022.

In the senior contest, the winners were Lexie Harris, first place, P5 Park Primary School and in second



Lexie Harris's winning entry.

place, Ellis (no last name supplied), P4 Rockfield Primary School

In the junior section, first place went to Eleanor Strain, P2 Kilninner Primary School and Harris Jones, P3 Arinagour Primary School, was second.

There were a number of commended entries. Andy Lambert



Eleanor Strain's winning entry.

said: 'A huge thanks to all the head teachers, teachers and children who supported the contest. And a special thank you to BID4Oban for sponsoring the prizes and posting cards on their website

'Many thanks to past president Graeme Fraser and the staff at ALBA Art Shop, Albany Street

for collecting the cards and the Rockfield Centre for allowing them to be displayed.

'Not least a massive thanks to our fantastic judges Val Hamilton and Val Leckie from the Rockfield Centre for doing the hard job of picking the winners. We are reliably informed that the glitter got into some very unusual places.'

The two Vals said: 'We had an entertaining afternoon judging this year's competition. It was very difficult to select just two successful entries for each category but after much deliberation and lashings of hot tea and Christmas gingerbread we managed.'

President Kees remarked: 'It's always a delight to enjoy and share the creative imagination of our young people and 2021 has been no different. The standard of entry has again been outstanding.'

'Surely the future is bright if it is the hands of these talented young people.'

**RS STOVECRAFT**



Shop will reopen on  
Thursday 6th January at 10am

Lorne Street,  
Lochgilphead,  
Argyll PA31 8LU,  
Tel: 01546 603111

Wishing  
all our  
customers  
a Happy  
New Year

**01546 603111**

Opening hours:

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Contact us on

**07470 699572**

at any other time.



**GRS TRADE  
CENTRE LTD**  
Supplier To Trade & DIY

Windows & Doors ■ Garage Doors ■ UPVC Fascia, Soffit & Gutters ■ Conservatories ■ Double Rebated Composite Doors  
Replacement Sealed Units ■ Silicone ■ Expanding Foam  
Solvent Cleaner ■ Fixings ■ Poly Top Nails ■ UPVC Trims

Covering Argyll, Lochaber & The Islands

**Tel: 01631 571155**

**Email : sales@grstradecentre.co.uk**

Unit 13, Old Tweedmill, Soroba Road OBAN PA34 4HQ



## Santa visits Soroba House

On Wednesday December 15 Soroba House held a 'quiet' grotto specifically for children with additional needs and sensory needs in a quiet and safe environment.

On Sunday December 19 they held another grotto for children of any age in specific time slots to ensure all Covid safety measures were met.

The grottos were free of charge, with people asked for a donation, if able, with all proceeds going to the Scottish Autism charity.

The local craft fair, which was held at the same time, also donated table hire fees to the charity.

The total donations, which included a contribution from hotel staff, reached £525, which the hotel's owners topped up to £750 for the charity.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

"S iad gillean mo rùin a thogadh mo shunnd, gur seo a' Bhliadh' Ùr thug solas duinn, ....!" Sin fear de na h-òrain air am biodh nàbaidh bhom òige a' toirt langan madainn na bliadh' ùire, ged nach b' è seinneadair a bh' ann idir! Mun àm sin, tràth ann an caogadan naodh-deug, bha an ceud, ceathrad is seachd croitear air Oighreachd Ghleann Dail an Eilein Sgìtheanaich an impis na cuibhreannan mu dheireadh a phàigheadh den iasad a thug an riaghaltas dhaibh ann an 1905 gus an oighreachd a cheannach, agus an cuid chroitean fa leth mar phàirt den sin. B' e toradh ris nach robh dùil a bh' anns an tairgse iasaid sin nuair a thàinig e, agus cha b' iongnadh fìor theagamhan agus iomagain a bhith air coimhearsnachd le gann dà sgillinn a shuathadh iad ri chèile. Dh'fhàg an dragh sin gun robh buidheann beag de na teaghlaichean a roghnaich an oighreachd fhàgail seach a dhol ann am fiachan airson caogad bliadhna, ach ghabh an 147 eile ris agus ged nach robh mise a' tuigsinn chùisean aig an àm 's neònach mura robh na croitearan sin uile a' cur luach nach bu bheag air a bhith an impis an cuid dhachaighean is chroitean a bhith pàighte 's gun iad an eisimeil neo fo spòig uachdarain neo bàillidh tuilleadh. Bha iad air a bhith a' ruith na h-oighreachd bho 1905 le taic is stiùir Roinn Àiteachais an Riaghaltais, agus 's iad na seirbheisich chatharra sin a bu choireach dha na h-uireasbhaidhean a th' air bonn-stèidh Oighreachd Ghleann Dail chun an

latha an-diugh.

Ach a dh'aindeoin an eagail a bha na lùib ghabh na daoine ris an dùbhlán agus ann an 1905 b' iad croitearan Ghleann Dail a' chiad fheadhainn a fhuair sealbh air an cuid fearainn fhèin, gann fichead bliadhna an dèidh dhan t-Siorram Ivory caismeachd a-staigh dhan Ghleann air ceann feachd phoileas agus shaighdearan. Abair dà latha, ann an ùine cho goirid! Fhuair Croitearan Oighreachd Ghleann Dail an tèarainteachd cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach seo gann trithead bliadhna bho 1876 nuair a thachair an geama iomain air Pàirc na Banrigh ann an Glaschu mun do sgrìobh Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, agus ged a bha i fhèin agus càch a bha an làthair aig pàirc a' chluiche aighearach bha gu leòr feadh na Gàidhealtachd aig an àm sin fhathast a' fulang geur-leanmhainn gun lasachadh, agus a dhùisg strì an fhearainn. A' coimhead air ais saoilidh mi gun robh muinntir na sgìre san do thogadh mi, a' dh'aindeoin 's gun robh iad fhathast gu math bochd, moiteil às an cuid athraichean a ghabh an ceum eachdraidheil a thug dileab cho susbainteach, agus iomadh Bliadh' Ùr shòlasach dhaibh!

Ged a tha mòran choigrich san àite a-nise tha sliochd nan ceatharnach a rinn an t-strì fhathast mothachail agus moiteil à gaisge nam feadhainn a chaidh romhpa, agus a tha, mòran dhiubh, aig fois ann an Cladh Chille Chomhainn sa Ghleann. Tha mi a' guidhe sàr Bhliadh' Ùr shòlasach dhuibh uile!



## At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



## Wishing you well

A year ago, I reflected on the events of 2020, unprecedented as they were by Covid and its impact on us all.

I wrote last year: 'Suffice it to say, it has been a year unlike any I can recall – and it looks as I write as if this dreadful pandemic has a considerable course to run.'

Perspicacious perhaps, if unlikely at that coming from me. Indeed, the past 12 months have again been dominated by Covid and, in recent days and weeks, the variant called Omicron, predicted by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, as reported in The Oban Times, to threaten a 'tsunami of cases'.

I am sure this dreadful illness will continue to dictate much of our lives in 2022 but hopefully with less severity than we have become used to. I am ever the optimist and trust that better times await in the coming year.

As I also wrote this time last year, I would like to thank all those who have helped me in a wide variety of ways, including the simple fact of friendship and good times shared in good company. There have also, of course, been those doing vital jobs whose efforts and commitment contribute to make life the joy that it is. You know who you are.

But what else lies ahead? Sadly, my previous perspicacity offers no suggestions for 2022 other than, hopefully, a prosperous time economically for Oban and Argyll and the Isles. With luck, the tourist industry, so vital for all of us, will thrive. I commended recently the new campaign to make the town a year-round destination, and repeat my hopes for that ambitious initiative. Otherwise, I hope we all enjoy a great year and remain in good health and spirits.

Hogmanay is imminent and the majority of us will celebrate the turning of the calendar into 2022. May I wish you all a happy and successful new year. I hope to be able to continue to engage with you dear readers and look forward to your entertaining responses.

## What do you think?

Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dear Community of Oban, originally Ros and I came to Oban to lead the Baptist Church for two to three years to help build it up and see it flourish.

Ten years later! – in June 2021 – we finally laid down the responsibility and stood down from the leadership of the church.

In these later days I have been learning to live with the impact of a rare form of dementia called Lewy Body. However, as we break into a new year, I believe that there are other possibilities, that are a potential emphasis of my ministry, that are still to come.

For the last 50 years the primary focus of my

ministry has been to point to Christ. From the early beginnings of a trepidatious taking on of a new charge in Edmonton, North London, to the present day in Oban. Working on the premise that we are all obligated to share the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus. This call into service must have continuity and credibility. It is not just the task of the minister to pull all the strings – however much they may want to!

My illness serves to mean that I now, more than ever, walk close to God as he sustains and strengthens me.

In a previous Thought for the Week I wrote

about the impact on my mental health of Covid-19 and the restrictions. Despite all these challenges, I firmly believe we have a God who loves us and wants to partner with us to see His Kingdom come.

As we look to 2022 let us seek God's direction for us individually and as a community.

'Come, let us go to the mountain of God to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us his ways, and we may walk in His paths.' **Isaiah 2: 3**

Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk into the paths of peace.

Reverend Ian McFarlane

# WELL DONE TO EVERYONE THIS YEAR

Wishing festive greetings to all. Remember to check for Festive Slimming World recipes on the website.

WE WILL BE BACK IN THE NEW YEAR

Gillian

   [slimmingworld.co.uk](https://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)



**Slimming**<sup>®</sup>  
WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives

Oban



Times

AND ARGYLLSHIRE ADVERTISER.

1861 – 2021

Celebrating 160 years of the Oban Times serving the communities of Argyll, the west Highlands and islands.

EXTRACTS OF  
ADVERTS FROM 1862

## GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS

**Mrs MCARTHUR**  
Begs to intimate to the Inhabitants Of Oban and surrounding district, That she has now opened that Shop In George street, next to Mr McArthur, Flesher, with a carefully selected stock Of General Grocery Goods; and hopes By punctual attention to all orders she May be favoured with, to secure a share Of Public Patronage.  
31st December 1862

**TO LET**  
FROM WHITSUNDAY FIRST, 1862  
**THE GEORGE HOTEL, OBAN**  
Presently occupied by Mrs McCall: Inside accommodation, two Public Rooms, seven Bedrooms, Kitchen, and one small Bed-closet. Outside – Byre, two-stalled Stable, Hay Loft and Coal Cellar. Garden attached. The House is well situated, within two minutes walk of the Steamboat Pier, and commands a good view of the Bay.  
Apply to  
William Cumstie & Sons  
Oban, 27th Jan 1862.

**Messrs BUCHANAN & DICK**  
Beg to intimate that their  
**MRS SIMPSON**  
Intends going South about the middle of the Month to make her Spring Purchases of Millinery, Flowers, Straw Bonnets, etc, which will be laid out for Sale early in April. *Special Orders Carefully Attended to.*  
Oban, 1st March, 1862.

## BOY WANTED

**An Active Boy Wanted**  
Apply Immediately  
JAMES MILLER, BOOKSELLER, OBAN.

LADY'S NURSE  
Mrs McEWAN,

Who is in possession of Testimonials from Professor Keiller and other eminent medical Men, will be happy to attend on any ladies in Oban or the neighbourhood, requiring her services. Terms moderate. Address Mr Ewen, Lochenebeich, Bonaw. References kindly permitted to Dr Campbell, Oban

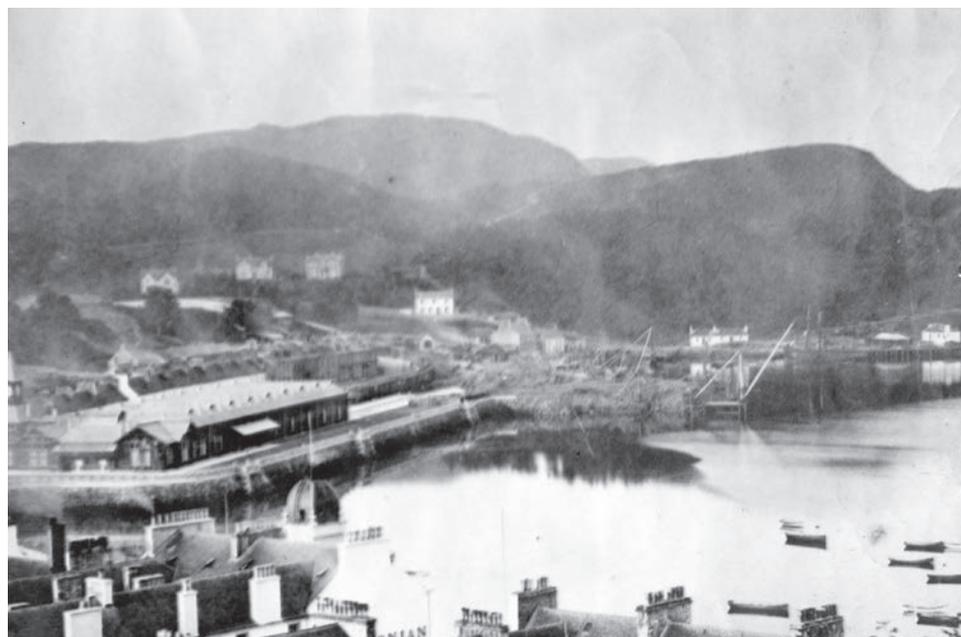
**ANNUAL HIRING MARKET**  
Intimation is hereby given, by order of the Magistrates and town council of the burgh of Oban, that, in order to meet the wish of the Community, a market will be held at Oban, on The Second Tuesday of April and October, For Hiring Servants, and other purposes  
By Order, Angus Gregorson, Town Clerk

## MILLER'S

**Wonderful Shilling's Worth**  
OF CHEAP WRITING MATERIAL  
FOR THE MILLION,  
Being 82 Articles of the Finest Quality, for ONE SHILLING,  
TO BE HAD ONLY FROM  
James Miller, bookseller and Stationer, Oban

Notice to Parties who have Recently  
Lost Sheep.

Two CHEVIOT EWES have been in the Undersigned's Parks, near Oban, since January last, and which have now two lambs. It is requested that the Owners will come Forward and prove their property.  
WM. CUMSTIE & SONS, OBAN  
April 30th, 1862



Oban Railway Station opened in June 1880 to house the newly arrived Callander to Oban Railway. Alongside the new railway station, which was sited on land reclaimed from the foreshore, was a new well-equipped concrete pier which doubled in size after 20 years.

IN THE YEAR that Oban celebrates its 210th anniversary as a burgh of barony and The Oban Times marks its 160th year as a publication, it would be fitting to give our readers a brief summary of the early history of the town that developed rapidly from very humble beginnings. It is commonly said that Oban 'hasn't changed' – in fact, this could not be further from the truth. The town's look, character and community has altered numerous times over the centuries as the burgh and the surrounding lands of Lorn adapted to commercial and social pressures. Worldwide notoriety as a tourist mecca, fishing port and transport hub were not the starting point for the town's rapid transformation but in improved transport links in the mid to late 1800s, particularly by sea then rail.

## OBAN – THE NAME

The name Oban is believed to have been derived from the larger Gaelic descriptive title An t-Oban

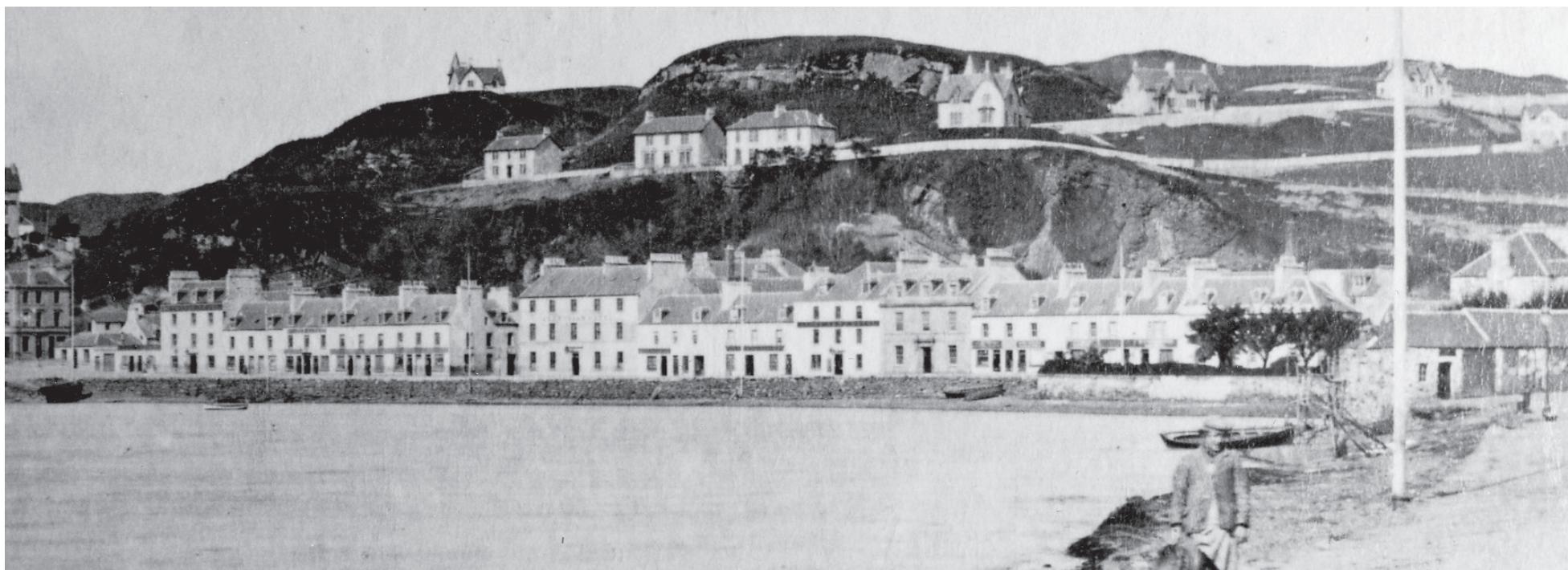
Latharnach (little bay of Lorn – 'Ob' meaning creek or bay, with the diminutive 'an') and the hamlet was of much lesser standing to Dunolly (Dunollie), the sixth century Dalriadan stronghold which became the seat of the Clan MacDougall, or Dunstaffnage Castle, built by the MacDougalls in the 13th century and now held by the Campbells.

Planned town building in Scotland can be divided into two major periods; the first from the 12th to the 14th century, and the second covering the 18th century. The first recognised house building began between 1712 and 1715, and within 50 years there had been added a post office and a custom house, both seen as indicators of rising wealth and business potential. However, by the end of the 18th century, the town's recorded population remained under 600 people, mainly based around Shore Street and High Street.

As in common with most 18th-century town plans, Oban evolved around a town square, Argyll Square, with secondary streets arranged in a grid-iron around this central point. However, the sharply rising rock formations which surround the bay limited the space for building. Street names also betray the time scale of the development, with High Street most common in 18th century planning and usually forming a long straight street leading to a market place (Druimvargie – market ridge).

More prominent was George Street, probably named after King George III, who reigned during the town's most significant period of development. Statistics alone, however, fail to paint the full picture, for while the foundations of Oban's first 'house' – it is believed to have been a store room for a Renfrew-based trading company – are recorded in 1715, the records ignored thatched, dry-stone dwellings with mud floors which were regarded as 'huts' or the numerous similar habitations in neighbouring Glenshellach, Glencruitten and along the shore of Loch à Mhuilinn (Lochavullin) beneath Druimvargie. Folklore suggests that Glenshellach alone was home to some 120 families who scratched a living from the land, shore and sea.

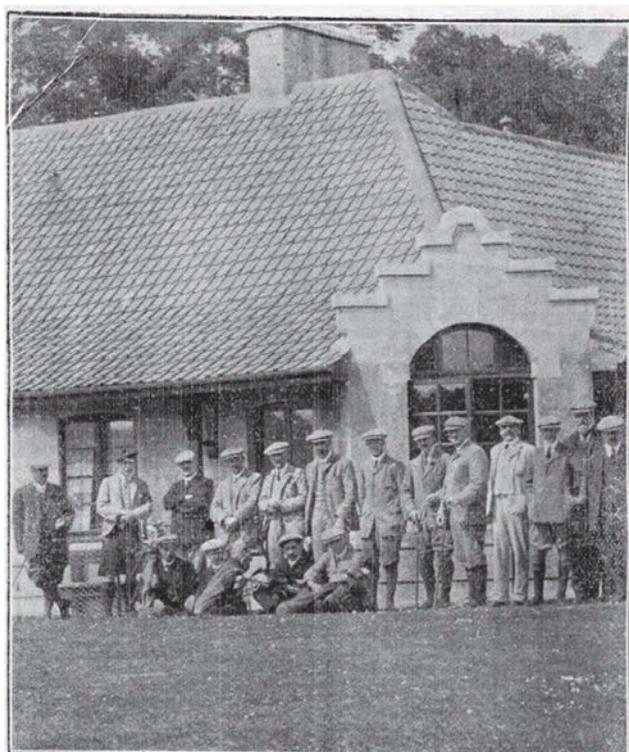
There was also an established inn, 'Tigh-clacha-gheodha' (house of the creek stone – so called as it was built from the dark rock which stood in today's Airds Crescent, and is still evident in much of the rock behind Stevenson Street, Combie Street and Tweedale Street). The inn, positioned on the southern side of the north bridge over the small river which divided the town, the 'Black' Lynn, was to be rebuilt on the same site and latterly



The Oban shoreline of pre-1880 viewed from the Custom House in Shore Street

became aptly named the Bridgend Bar – and today still occupies the same address under the guise of Aulay’s Bar.

The area of land within what was to become a burgh boundary was owned by three main families. The Duke of Argyll, held lands to the south of the river and had plans for a village along the shoreline, while the north and east were under the control of the MacDougalls of Dunollie or the Campbells of Dunstaffnage. As the 18th century came to a close there was considerable demand for land to be sold, either in feus for housing, small sections of estates, or for industrial development on a small scale. Over the next 100 years many areas of Oban and its immediate locality would change hands on numerous occasions. Around 1760, a Customs House was built at the south end of Shore Street and by 1767 the town had a post office. Despite encouragement from London and Edinburgh in the form of the Government Fisheries Board, attempts to establish Oban as a commercial fishing port in 1786 were frustrated by poor road links and a bounty on the use of salt to cure fish – Oban would eventually be recognised as an important fishing port but not before another 100 years had passed.



CHAMPION GOLFERS AT OBAN  
Visit of Braid, Vardon, Taylor and Fernie for Exhibition Match July 1910

## MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION

Proud to have been working in the  
Oban area and advertising in the  
Oban Times for over 40 years.

### MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Sales@mkmacleod.co.uk  
01546 602989  
macleodconstruction.co.uk

## GLENCRUITTEN OBAN

25  
YEARS  
AGO

### TWO- AND THREE-BEDROOM FLATS FOR SALE TO FIRST-TIME BUYERS

## MACLEOD

Joint venture by  
MACLEOD Homes and Scottish Homes  
**M. & K. MACLEOD LTD**  
Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead  
Telephone (01546) 602989 for details

## W. D. SEMPLE

### WHY BUY YOUR NEW CAR FROM W.D. SEMPLE?

1. Its just a short drive away, meaning less fuel and less time out of your day
2. Take advantage of our service department for all your maintenance and repair needs
3. When you shop locally, more money will stay in your local economy

Supporting Argyll and the Islands since 1953  
Islands Special - Ask about our same day servicing

Come and view New and Pre-Reg Renaults and Dacias ready for immediate delivery

W.D. Semple - the oldest established Renault dealer in Scotland

APPROVED RENAULT DEALER - WWW.WDSEMPL.COM - FINANCE AVAILABLE \* T&C'S APPLY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Inveraray - 01499 302150 Lochgilphead - 01546 606767

## RENAULT INTRODUCE TWO NEW MODELS IN THE *Laguna* RANGE

25  
YEARS  
AGO

THE *Laguna* DIESEL  
22 MULTIVALVE

THE *Laguna* RTI  
16 VALVE

THE LAGUNA RANGE STARTS FROM £11,844\*

- Remote Control Central Door Locking
- Electric Front Windows

- Power Assisted Steering
- 60 Watt Hi-Fi with Fingertip Control

Beautifully WORKED OUT BY RENAULT

### W. D. SEMPLE

Shore Street, Inveraray  
☎(01499) 302150  
Highbank Park, Lochgilphead  
☎(01546) 606767

# Oban Times

AND ARGYLLSHIRE ADVERTISER.

## a potted history

**1861:**

The young James Miller, a bookseller and stationer based in George Street, launched Oban's first penny monthly magazine: The Oban Monthly Pictorial Magazine and Register of News for Argyll and the Isles.

**1866:**

Due to its growing success, the publication changed to The Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser and became a weekly newspaper, printed on a Saturday from new premises in John's Lane

**1868:**

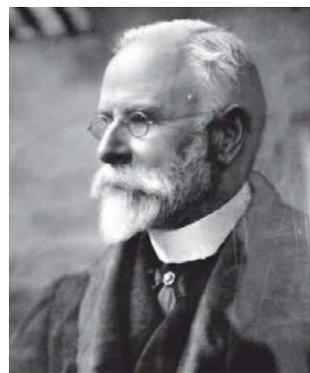
The Oban Times expanded to seven columns across four pages and began printing on the 'revolutionary' hand-fed Dawson's Wharfedale Swift News Machine Printing Press. Mr Miller became good friends with Duncan Cameron around this time - an Edinburgh-based publisher and stationer.

**1876:**

Stiff competition came in the form of Alex Black's Oban Telegraph, published on a Friday and The Oban Weekly as the public's demand for the written word became insatiable. The Oban Times prevailed as Argyll and the isle's foremost weekly newspaper.

**1882:**

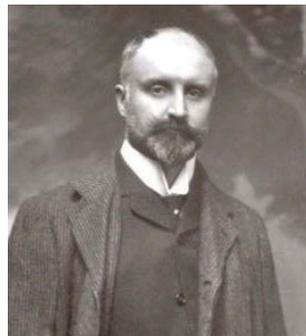
Mr Miller died of complications arising from Tuberculosis at the age of 39. His sister, Miss Miller (a spinster), became the main benefactor of the business. She eventually convinced Duncan Cameron to buy it. He invested £4,000 and disposed of the book-selling side of the business.

**Duncan Cameron Snr.****1883:**

Work started on The Oban Times building on The Esplanade. At a cost of just under £3,700, it houses offices, a ground floor shop and three

residential upper-floor flats. Its opening ceremony was a lavish and lively affair held at The Great Western Hotel with the guest list including 12 joiners, 10 plumbers and the 17 members of the Oban Times staff.

The same year, 21-year old Duncan Cameron Jr took over as editor and manager of The Oban Times. He was also a JP in both Edinburgh and Argyll. It was a turning point for the newspaper when his campaigning for the council to allow reporting on the full deliberations of council meetings came to pass.

**Duncan Cameron Jr.****1885:**

Cameron Jr turned his attention to the huge number of evictions taking place across the Highlands. The Oban Times threw all its weight behind the need for reform of Land Laws and he came out in support of the crofters and cottars against unfair rents and untenable restrictions. He became their champion, but in turn many of the landowners boycotted The Oban Times. Soon after, he was recalled to Edinburgh to help drive the growing family business, whilst his younger brother Waverley replaced him at The Oban Times.

**Waverley Cameron****1891:**

Waverley Cameron tragically died in a yachting accident off the coast of Lismore. He had been an excellent writer



**In 1883 The Oban Times building had been completed on Oban's seafront and Duncan Cameron hosted a lavish celebratory dinner in the town's Great Western Hotel for the staff of The Oban Times and the many tradesmen employed to construct the new premises.**

and shared his brother's extreme interest in the social and public life of the town of Oban. A large memorial cross stands on the eastern coast of the island near Achnacroish, looking northwards to the family's ancestral homeland of North Lorn. For several years thereafter, the Oban Times was edited by two distinguished journalists of their day; Mr. Banks and Mr. Fleming, until Duncan Cameron Snr's daughter, Flora Anne Blair took over as editor.

**1898**

The first Linotype setting machine in the West Highlands was installed and shortly thereafter, a Lancaster reel-fed machine, thus allowing eight pages to be printed in one go.

**1911**

The widowed Mrs. Blair married George A Macaulay of the Edinburgh police. They moved to Oban where she took up full control, with her husband as company secretary, of the newly incorporated firm of Oban Times Ltd.

**Flora Anne Macaulay (née Cameron)****1919**

Post war, many people emigrated to Canada hoping for a better life. This triggered the

start of subscriptions to The Oban Times with most copies going to Canada so that the diaspora could keep up with news from their hometowns and villages. This outnumbered sales of the newspaper in Oban for a while.

**1924**

Duncan Cameron Jr returned to Oban to assist his sister with the running of The Oban Times during this difficult era.

**1934**

Alan E Cameron, youngest son of Duncan Cameron Jr joined the editorial staff in Oban after serving an apprenticeship on the Glasgow Herald.

**Alan E. Cameron****1941-1945**

The outbreak of the 2nd world war meant many Oban Times staff, including Alan, were called up for national service and newspaper print was rationed. Another recession meant that new machinery was hard to obtain due to the government earmarking everything for exportation to raise revenues. Tough times!

**1952**

With both Mrs Macaulay and Duncan Cameron Jr

now in their 80s, Alan was appointed as editor, although Mrs Macaulay was very much involved in the business right up to her death, aged 99.

**1973**

The readership of the Oban Times peaked at 27,000. Due to newsprint shortages the company had to set about ordering in bulk from Scandinavia and needed a home where state of the art machinery and storage could be combined.

The move to a purpose-built press at Lochavullin was achieved in 1975. A new Goss Community four-unit web-offset printing press was introduced, which cut the production time by 75 per cent.

In 1975, Alan E Cameron suffered a severe accident and whilst he made a remarkable recovery, it was decided that the Cameron family, after 100 years in charge, would sell up to the Falkirk based Johnston family, who owned the Falkirk Herald.

Alan Cameron and his brother Waverley B Cameron accepted a non-executive role with the Johnston Press consortium.

Under the guidance of Ian Nicolson who became managing editor then commercial manager and Stuart Fairlie who had joined the reporting staff a number of years before, Johnston Press moved the whole of the operation to Lochavullin.

However, life within a large commercial newspaper did not suit The Oban Times.

Its unique role within the communities of the West Highlands was of only peripheral interest to Johnston Press and within five years the decision had been made to move the business on.

**1983 TO PRESENT DAY**

The Oban Times returned to private and independent ownership when Howard Bennett with his wife Joan acquired the titles of The Oban Times, the Campbeltown Courier and The Argyllshire Advertiser from Johnston Press. As a young man, Mr Bennett studied at the London College of Printing before his work within the industry took him off to countries around Europe and North America and it was during a stint in New York that he met Freddie Johnston of Johnston Press. A few months later, talks led to an opportunity to buy the Oban Times group of newspapers. Fast forward 38 years and the company now known as Wyvex Media publishes in excess of 30 titles both in print and online, including Edinburgh-based Scottish Field magazine and a plethora of tourism publications. Wyvex also owns and publishes Fish Farmer for a vital Scottish industry with worldwide ramifications. We've been through world wars and pandemics, but we are still here to regale the extraordinary history of the Oban Times and all those that came before us. Happy 160th anniversary to us!

**Howard and Joan Bennett**



EDITION: 30 OCTOBER 2014

If any year during the last 10 was to sum up climate change it would have to be 2014 when torrential rain and flooding opened our eyes to the reality of the challenge facing us. Hector Macdonald paddling up Lochavullin Road, passing submerged cars was a shocking sight.

# CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING CLIMATE

Featuring many of our weather reports from the last 10 years



A decade on from our 150th anniversary celebrations the weather is a bigger talking point than ever before, for all the wrong reasons.

The Oban Times has marked its 160th anniversary in the same year that the UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

The COP26 summit this year worked towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The weather, like births, marriages and deaths, is part of weekly newspaper life. Our archive is full of reports of gales, storms, floods,

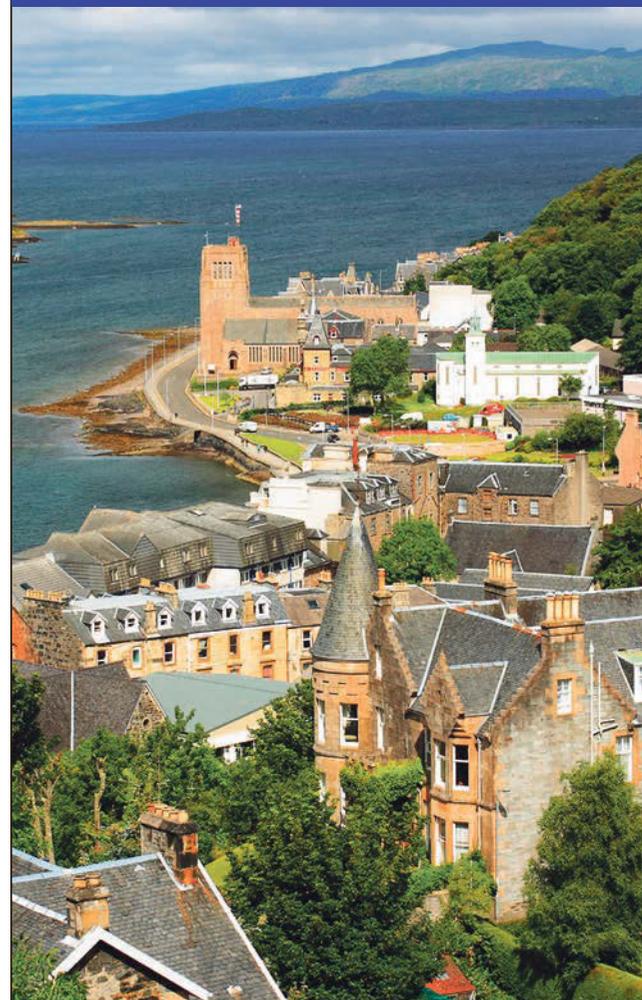
fires, high tides, boats lost and property destroyed. A good photograph of bad weather is always a prime candidate for the front page.

Looking at the last 10 years there is a marked increase in the number of weather-related stories and the intensity of the events reported. Flood damage, landslides and rock falls caused by the intensity of the rain storms are an increasing part of life. So are fiercer grass fires and stronger gales.

'Once in a lifetime event' and 'not in living memory' are two phrases we keep writing, because that's what these things are.

We can only hope that COP26 was a success or what will we be reporting by the time of our 175th anniversary?

Pleased to support  
the Oban Times  
Happy 160th  
Anniversary



- Love Local • Use Local • Stay Local
- #ScotlandLovesLocal #loveoban
- #ObanMinded

Oban Business Improvement District  
www.bid4oban.co.uk

**SALE!**  
BEDS, SOFAS, FURNITURE,  
CARPETS, CURTAINS & BLINDS

STARTS 4TH JAN 10AM!

mathesons FURNISHINGS  
mathesons.co.uk  
Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban | 01631 565 195

**25 YEARS AGO**

**MATHESONS FURNISHINGS**

Tel: OBAN (01631) 565195  
THE HOME FURNISHERS

At MATHESONS FURNISHINGS we offer a large selection to furnish your home exactly as you want it. Offering a large choice of Carpets & Vinyls, Bedroom, Lounge and Dining Furniture, Lounge Suites, Beds, Curtains, Blinds and co-ordinating Fabrics — from leading manufacturers — we can cater for Hotels, Guest Houses, Offices, Chalets, Bedsites, Letting Accommodation and the Family Home.



**EDITION: 13 JANUARY 2011**

January 2011 had the heaviest snowfall for more than 50 years in Oban. All major roads in and out of the town were blocked, leaving Saturday shoppers stranded in town; seven inches fell within two hours.



**EDITION: 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Another massive landslide after heavy rain and closed the A83 Rest and Be Thankful only days after it had reopened following an earlier slide.



**EDITION: 1 APRIL 2021**

People could only look on in horror as the Lochavullin area of Oban flooded again this year and called for a 'final fix' of prevention measures.



**EDITION: 5 MAY 2011**

Colonsay had to contemplate evacuations in 2011 after fire spread across the tinder dry island after a week without rain and high temperatures.



**EDITION: 11 OCTOBER 2018**

The start of October 2018 saw another round of flooding, submerging cars and causing heartbreaking damage to people's homes and possessions.



**EDITION: 21 FEBRUARY 2013**

The relief road for Rest and Be Thankful was opened; the original route further down the valley was repaired and renovated for modern traffic giving a single track, back-up for when landslides hit the main A83.



**EDITION: 7 JANUARY 2016**

Lochgilphead nurse Jane Else said she was lucky to be alive after her car was hit by a landslide on the A83 on the Rest and Be Thankful in December 2016 when more than 200 tonnes of debris was washed down the hillside onto the road.



**EDITION: 31 MAY 2012**

Ice cream supplies in Oban were running low with the West Coast hotter than Madrid, Rome and Nairobi in May 2012



**EDITION: 26 JULY 2012**

Heavy rain caused another landslide onto the railway at Lochaweside in 2012, only a mile away from where a train had been derailed two years before.



**EDITION: 6 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The worst flood in living memory said residents of Clachan in Kintyre when a freak thunderstorm brought torrential rain and the burn through the village burst its banks.

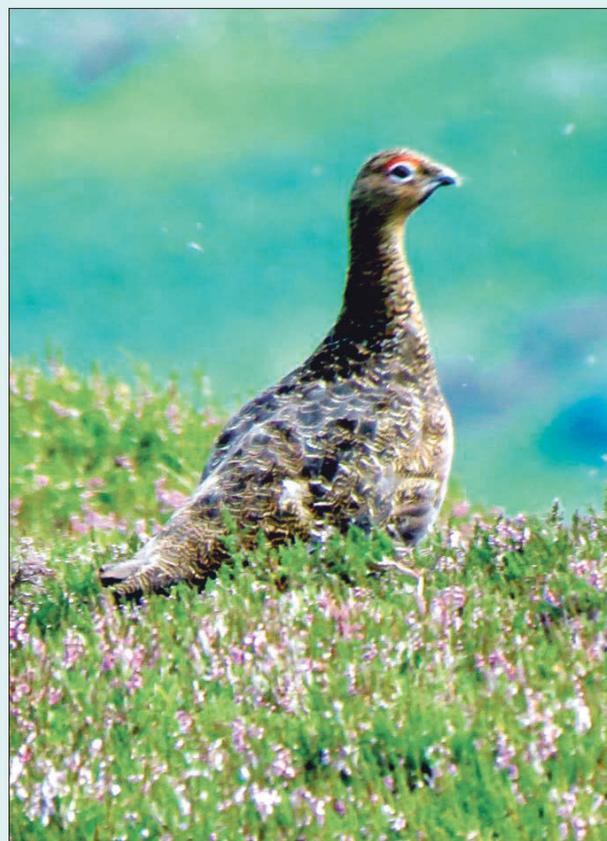
Questions 1-16 – history

1. What Hebridean island is the only place in Britain where prehistoric mummies have been found?
2. The Trushal Stone is said to be the tallest standing stone in Scotland, at more than 5.7 metres/20 feet high and 6.5 feet broad. But where is it?
3. To what island do people travel to see the Cave Picture of the Crucifixion?
4. During Roman times, what was the name of the tribe inhabiting Argyll?
5. Fingal's Cave is on Staffa, but where is Fingal's Grave, the burial place of this hero in Celtic folk stories? Bonus: Where are Fingal's Limpet Hammers?
6. For what island are two saints said to have raced, what were their names and by what trick did the winner gain his victory?
7. What is the name of the small hill by Iona Abbey?
8. Why are there so few trees on Lewis?
9. Where was Kenneth MacAlpine, the first king of a unified Scotland, crowned?
10. Where was the Stone of Destiny before it was taken to Scone by Kenneth II?
11. Duncan and Macbeth are buried on the same island. Where?
12. Which Scottish king died of a fever on the Isle of Kerrera?
13. Where is the Well of Heads and how did it get its name?
14. If you want to make a fast fortune in Scotland, you should hunt for the Jacobite treasure. But where is it hidden?
15. The explorer Dr David Livingstone's family came from which island?
16. What was the identity of the 'Tartan Pimpernel', who helped more than 2,000 Allied servicemen to escape from France in World War II and where was he born?

What do Muck and Mons Olympus, the tallest mountain in the Solar System, have in common? From what Argyll castle did John Cleese say King Arthur's mother was a hamster? Why should you be wary when sailing by Canna? Oban is the capital of what island in New Zealand? What is the name of the monster of Loch Morar? What links the Isles of Seil and Bernera? Argyll and Bute has 23 inhabited islands - but can you name all of them? Find the answers to these, and a great many more, in this **West Coast Christmas quiz**.

Questions 17-23 – science and nature

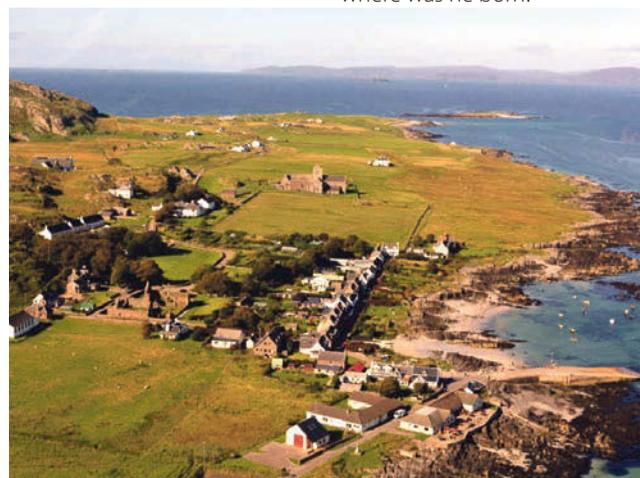
17. Why should you be careful sailing near the Isle of Canna?
18. What is the only chemical element named after a place in Scotland and why do you see it at New Year?
19. Grouse, partridge, pheasant. Can you arrange these game birds in order of their size?
20. Arran has three endemic tree species, among the most endangered in the world. Can you name one of them?
21. Kinlochleven was the first village in Scotland to have what?
22. How far away can an eagle see a rabbit?
23. Scotland's rare rainforest, the Caledonian Forest, once covered 15,000 square kms of the country, but today less than one per cent of the original native pinewood survives in isolated pockets. In which National Nature Reserves in Argyll and Lochaber can you still walk in it?



Red grouse, a bird associated with August. But is it bigger than a partridge? Photograph Charlotte Clough.

Questions 24-42 – geography

24. Argyll and Bute has 23 inhabited islands. How many can you name?
25. In which mountain ranges are the following peaks: A. Goat Fell; B. Sgurr nan Gillean; C. The Cobbler; D. Ben Nevis; E. The Ring of Steall; Sgùrr a' Mhàim, An Gearanach, Stob Coire a' Chàirn and Am Bodach; F. Beinn an Òir, Beinn Shiantaidh, and Beinn a' Chaolais; G. Ben Lui.
26. The Firth of Lorn, a 16-mile-long inlet separating Mull from Oban, is a continuation of Loch Linnhe and the Great Glen, part of the vast Great Glen Fault stretching from Orkney to Donegal. Can you name the eight other firths within the Scottish border?
27. Fladda, Lunga and the Dutchman's Cap are all part of which island group?
28. Seil and Kilniver; Bernera and Lewis. What have these two pairs in common?
29. Where is the UK's largest missile range?
30. There are more than 25,500 lochs in Scotland, with the Western Isles and Sutherland having the highest concentration. On what lochs



The village of Iona and its world famous abbey. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

**Happy New Year from all of us at Hire & Supplies**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**

**We thank you for your custom and look forward to seeing you in the New Year**

**HIRE and SUPPLIES**

1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban Argyll PA34 4HA  
Tel: 01631 566306  
www.hireandsupplies.com

**Calling all tourism businesses... 2022 is underway!**

**Advertising on our maps and Holiday West Highland is now available to book!**

Our beautifully illustrated tourist maps reach hundreds of thousands of visitors (and locals!) and Holiday West Highland is the premier magazine packed with everything our visitors need to know about making the most of their west coast holiday.

**Earlybird offers available**  
Don't delay, book your business on your local map and in Holiday West Highland today!  
**Contact Fiona or Suzanne on 01631 568000**



The Crinan Canal.

do these towns and villages stand?

A. Inveraray; B. Fort William; C. Killin; D St Fillans; E Fort Augustus; F Arrochar; G Tarbet; H Strontian; I Ballachulish; J Bowmore; K Pennyghael.

31. Scotland has 900 offshore islands, but which one is the most remote, annexed by Great Britain in 1955?

32. Where are the Five Sisters?

33. Where is 'doon the watter'?

34. What is the Hielan'man's Umbrella?

35. How many capes are there in Scotland?

36. If you caught a ferry from the following ports, where would you arrive?

A. Feolin; B Sconser; C Tayinloan; D Wemyss Bay; E Kilchoan; F Fishnish; G

Achnacroish; H Claonaig; I Cuan; J Ellenabeich; K Kylerhea; L Portavadie; M Galmisdale.

37. On one estimate, Argyll and Bute has a 3,000 mile long coastline, but why is it hard to be sure?

38. Put these mountain and hill classifications in order, highest first: Hughs, Corbetts, Munros, Grahams. What classes do the following belong to? A. Ben More, Mull; B Askival, Rum; C The Pap of Glencoe; D Ben Hogh, Coll.

39. Can you name your local RNLI lifeboat, or any others from these West Coast RNLI stations? A. Arran; B. Barra; C. Campbeltown; D. Tobermory; E. Oban; F. Islay; G. Mallaig; H Kyle of Lochalsh; I. Portree; J. Leverburgh.

40. The Northern Lighthouse Board operates 207 lighthouses across Scotland and the Isle of Man, from its bases in Edinburgh and Oban. Where are these lighthouses? A. Dubh Artach; B Fladda; C. Wee Donald; D. Hyskeir; E. McArthur's Head; F. Neist Point; G. Ruvaal; H Skerryvore.

41. Place these lochs north to south: Loch Awe, Loch Rannoch, Loch Tay, Loch Earn.

42. There is a 220km canal network in Scotland, including the Crinan Canal, 'the most beautiful shortcut in the world', which was opened in 1801 to save ships from a treacherous 100-mile trip around the Mull of Kintyre, Britain's longest peninsula. How many of Scotland's other four canals can you name?

## What's on at Oban Cinema



### Friday 31 December

Spider-Man: No Way Home   12A	12:15/14:15
West Side Story   12A	15:45
Mothering Sunday   15	17:30
The Matrix Resurrections   15	19:30
Spencer   12A	20:00

### Saturday 1 January

Closed New Year's Day

### Sunday 2 January

Spider-Man: No Way Home   12A	12:15/14:15
West Side Story   12A	15:45
Mothering Sunday   15	17:15
The Matrix Resurrections   15	19:15
Spencer   12A	19:45

### Wednesday 5 January (screenings marked with ★ are captioned)

Spider-Man: No Way Home   12A	12:15/14:15
West Side Story   12A	15:45 ★
Spencer   12A	17:15 ★
The Matrix Resurrections   15	19:15 ★
Mothering Sunday   15	19:45 ★

### Thursday 6 January

Spider-Man: No Way Home   12A	12:15/14:15
West Side Story   12A	15:45
Spencer   12A	17:15
The Matrix Resurrections   15	19:45
Mothering Sunday   15	19:45

Key: HOH - Captions for the hard of hearing.

Join our mailing list at [www.obanphoenix.com/mailling-list](http://www.obanphoenix.com/mailling-list)

Face coverings must be worn when moving within the building. Once seated you can remove your face covering. All showtimes are subject to availability and change. Updates can be found on our Facebook page.

**obanphoenix.com 01631 562905**



Oban Lifeboat on a call out. But what is the lifeboat called? Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

● QUIZ CONTINUES ON PAGE 28



**YOUR LOCAL RADIO LISTINGS**  
Tune in to 103.3 Fm or listen live at  
[www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com) or on the Tuneln app.

For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk)

<b>MONDAY:</b>	8am-12pm 12-3pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Lunch with Bob G Drive Times with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary Calum McLuckies Show David Cullen Show
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-12.30pm 1pm-3pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Ken Hunter Macky on FM Drive Times with Archie Darling Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron Oban Pride on the Waves with Jay & Crystal
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-2pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Steve Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-4pm 4pm-6.45pm 6.45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Anna & Phil The Brunch Show With The One Bob G Country, Rhythm & Blues show Teeny & Tiny Show with Harry & Janet Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 2pm-4pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10am-11am	Breakfast Show with Andy Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling Evening Show with Dave Hobbs Sunday Morning with Breege
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	11am-2pm 3pm-5pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Brunch with Stephen Mental Musings with Mer New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham.

**Questions 43-53 – Beyond Argyll and Lochaber**

43. Which man from Ulva gave his name to an Australian island, lake, mountain, tectonic plate, suburb in its capital city of Canberra and two rivers?

44. The Caribbean island of Nevis is named after Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. True or false?

45. Which city in Pakistan was called Campbellpur - 'Campbell City' in Sanskrit - after Sir Colin Campbell until 1978?

46. Which city in Alberta, Canada, is named after a beach on Mull where its police chief, Colonel James MacLeod from Skye, holidayed as a child?

47. How many Campbelltowns are there in the world?

48. Oban is the capital of which island, the southernmost in the New Zealand archipelago? Bonus: What small isle sits opposite Oban in New Zealand?

49. Lochiel lies on the border between which two countries?

50. The world's busiest district Mong Kok - meaning 'crowded corner' in Chinese - in Hong Kong was formerly called what?

51. The sprawling commercial district of Glenorchy is home to which Tasmanian city's only ice rink?

52. The New Hebrides in the South Pacific Ocean is now known as what island group?

53. What do Muck, Benbecula, Jura, St Kilda, Glenelg, Torridon, Coll, Arran, Oban, Talisker and Laphroaig have in common with Mons Olympus, the tallest mountain in the Solar System?

up a chasing helicopter by shooting a grenade out of the baddie's hand and onto the cockpit floor - boom!

56. 'Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries!' John Cleese taunted King Arthur from atop Castle Aaaargh in Monty Python and the Holy Grail - but what Argyll castle was the setting for Castle Aaaargh? Bonus: In which Lochaber and Argyll glen was the Bridge of Death scene filmed?

**Questions 57-62 – song and dance**

57. On which island can your feet make music on the 'Singing Sands'?

58. What island inspired Felix Mendelssohn to write the Hebridean Overture?

59. Which two Highland dances are commonly executed one following the other without a break?

60. If you danced a Gillie Chaluim, what equipment would you need?

61. What is a puirt-a-beul?

62. Can you finish the lines in this song?

Aye the Crinan Canal for me,  
It's neither too big nor too ...

Oh! It's lovely and calm when you're frying your ...,  
Or makin' a nice ... ..

You can go for a stroll on its ...,  
To loosen your muscle bound shanks,

You can darn your socks while you're still in its ...,  
The Crinan Canal for me.

**Questions 63-65 – folklore**

63. What is the name of the monster of Loch Morar?

64. What are the magical powers of the Fairy Flag in Dunvegan Castle?

65. What is the name of the famous haunted cave on Mull?

**Questions 66-68 – food and drink**

66. What is the only Single Malt Scotch Whisky to bear a Royal Warrant?

67. Which King of Dal Riata gave his name to a kind of sausage?

68. Arran Banner, Isle of Jura, Shetland Black and Highland Burgundy are all types of what?

**WEST COAST FE**

**History**

1. South Uist.

2. Near the Butt of Lewis in the parish of Barvas. It is the solitary remains of a stone circle built 5,000 years ago, a second Callanish. The second last standing stone was removed in 1914 and used as a lintel.

3. Davaar, an island at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch, separated from the mainland of Kintyre by a tidal, shingle causeway called the Doirlinn, or Dhorlin.

Davaar is known for two things. The first is a lighthouse, built in 1854 by the famous lighthouse engineers David and Thomas Stevenson - the father of author Robert Louis Stevenson.

The second is a vivid life-sized depiction of the Crucifixion on a sea cave wall, discovered in 1887 by a yachtsman, who promptly fainted, and attributed by locals to a money-spinning miracle. However, it was painted in secret by a local art teacher named Archibald MacKinnon, who was told to do so in a dream that year.

When the townsfolk found out it was not the work of God but a man named MacKinnon, he scarpered - either in exile, or in worry about using school materials. He returned to restore the painting twice in 1902 and 1934 - the last at the invitation of the Town Council.

The painting has been restored several times by art teachers from Campbeltown Grammar School, once after it was vandalised in 2006 when a caricature of Che Guevara was painted in red and black over the figure of Christ.

4. Argyll was home to a tribe called the Epidii, or 'horse people'.

5. Killin. Fingal's Grave, a standing stone in a field behind the school, is said to mark the spot where the mighty Fionn, or Fingal, lies buried. He is believed to have died about the end of the Iron Age, in 283 AD.

Bonus: Colonsay. Fingal's Limpet Hammers are a pair of standing stones, 10'8" and 8'8" high, in a field west of Loch Fada in Lower Kilchattan. A limpet hammer is a device for breaking limpets off rocks. The name apparently stuck because the stones are similar in shape to limpet hammers used locally and, of course, they are so large that only a giant like Fingal could wield them.

6. Lismore. St Columba and St Moluag. St Moluag cut off the little finger of his left hand and threw it ashore, thus claiming to have landed first.

7. Dun I - pronounced 'dun-ee'.

8. Many of the trees on Lewis were destroyed by the scorched earth policy of Viking warrior Magnus III. The Outer Hebrides suffered vast deforestation over the centuries with Vikings destroying the tree population to prevent locals making boats.

9. Kenneth MacAlpine was crowned at Dunadd Fort in Kilmartin Glen. Kenneth I was King of Dal Riada (841-850), King of the Picts (843-858) and King of Alba, the two united kingdoms (843-858).

10. Dunstaffnage Castle.

11. Duncan and Macbeth and other Scottish kings are buried on Iona, in the Ridge of Kings.

12. Alexander II of Scotland landed in Horseshoe Bay on the Isle of Kerrera in 1249, to begin a campaign to reclaim the Hebrides from Norway. But his campaign never got off the ground: he was taken ill and died in a field nearby, called Dail Righ, the King's Field to this day. In the same spot in 1263, a fleet of 120 longships, under the command of Norway's King Haakon I, moored on its way to the Battle of Largs - and defeat at the hands of Alexander's son, Alexander III, who regained the Hebrides for Scotland.

13. A well on the west shore of Loch Oich. Seven men's heads are carved

round it in stone: seven brothers murdered their nephews.

14. The Jacobite gold was a large amount of gold coin provided by Spain to finance the Jacobite rising in Scotland in 1745 and rumoured still to be hidden at Loch Arkaig in Lochaber.

15. Lismore.

16. The Reverend Donald Caskie, minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris, born in Bowmore, Islay.

**Science and nature**

17. A peak of volcanic rock, called tuff, on Canna's eastern edge contains so much iron that it deflects compass needles on nearby ships, which point to the hill rather than north. Hence its name 'Compass Hill'.

18. Strontium, a metal named after Strontian. Strontium salts are added to fireworks to create red colours.

19. Descending: pheasant, grouse, partridge.

20. The Scottish or Arran Whitebeam, the Bastard Mountain Ash or Cutleaved Whitebeam and the Catacol Whitebeam.

21. Electricity as a result of the hydro-generating station at the local aluminium smelter plant.

22. An eagle can see something the size of a rabbit more than three miles away.

23. Tainish NNR, Glasdrum Wood NNR, Ariundle Oakwood NNR.

**Geography**

24. Bute, Coll, Colonsay, Danna, Easdale, Eilean da Mheinn, Erraid, Gigha, Gometra, Inchtavannach, Innischanon, Iona, Islay, Jura, Kerrera, Lismore, Luìng, Mull, Oronsay, Seil, Shuna (Luìng), Tiree, Ulva.

25. A. Arran Mountains. B. The Cuillin, Skye. C. Arrochar Alps. D. Grey Corries. E. Mamores. F. Paps of Jura. G. Tyndrum Hills.

26. Scotland's nine firths are Clyde, Lorn, Pentland, Dornoch, Cromarty, Moray, Beaulay, Tay, Forth. The Solway Firth borders with England.

27. The Treshnish Isles.

28. Both pairs are linked by bridges over the Atlantic Ocean.

29. The Hebrides Rocket Range on Benbecula, North Uist and South Uist.

30. A. Inveraray, Loch Fyne. B. Fort William, Loch Linnhe. C. Killin, Loch Tay. D. St Fillans, Loch Earn. E. Fort Augustus, Loch Ness. F. Arrochar, Loch Long. G. Tarbet, Loch Lomond. H. Strontian, Loch Sunart. I. Ballachulish, Loch Leven. J. Bowmore, Loch Indaal. K. Pennyghael, Loch Scridain.

31. Rockall, lying 301 km from Hirta in the St Kilda archipelago. Soon after Rockall was annexed in 1955, an 84-year-old local councillor J Abrach Mackay, a member of the clan Mackay, protested: 'My old father, God rest his soul, claimed that island for the Clan of Mackay in 1846 and I now demand that the Admiralty hand it back. It's no theirs!' The British Government ignored his protests. In 1978, eight members of the Dangerous Sports Club held a cocktail party on the island. The deepest point in Scottish seas is the Rockall Trough, with a depth of around 2,500m. For comparison, the summit of Ben Nevis is 1,345m above sea level.

32. Kintail.

33. Down the Clyde.

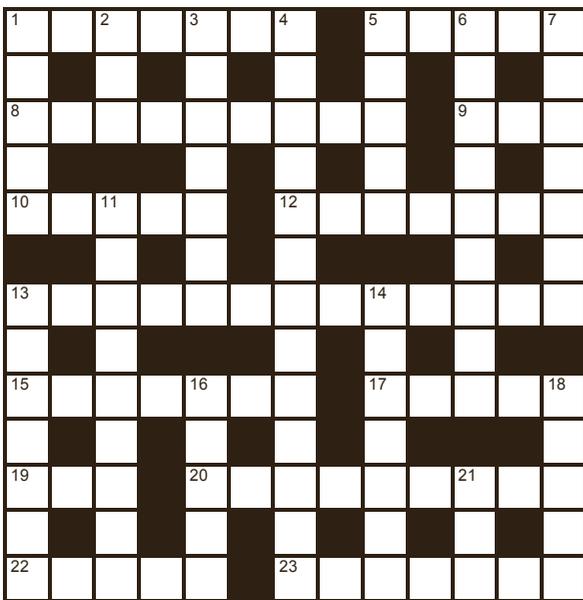
34. The bridge where Glasgow Central Station crosses Argyle Street and affords ample shelter.

35. Two: Cape Wrath and Cape Difficulty in the Sound of Harris.

36. A. Feolin, Islay. B. Sconser, Raasay. C. Tayinloan, Gigha. D. Wemyss Bay, Bute. E. Kilchoan, Tobermory or Drimnin. F. Fishnish, Lochaline. G. Achnacroish, Oban. H. Claonaig, Lochranza. I. Cuan, Seil or Luìng. J. Ellenabeich, Easdale. K. Kylerhea, Glenelg. L. Portavadie, Tarbert. M. Galmisdale, Mallaig or Muck.

37. Coastlines are difficult to measure accurately because of the Coastline Paradox. It is a paradox that occurs when measuring a coastline

**CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 1 Cake flavouring (7)
- 5 Turning point? (5)
- 8 A plant of the legume family (4,5)
- 9 Purchase (3)
- 10 Mechanical man (5)
- 12 Resistance to change (7)
- 13 Tome of knowledge (9,4)
- 15 A throw type (7)
- 17 Curing time... (5)
- 19 ...healer (3)
- 20 Talkative (9)
- 22 Repetition (5)
- 23 In the direction against the wind (7)

**Down**

- 1 Eye shield (5)
- 2 Thumbs-down (3)
- 3 Crustacean (7)
- 4 Characters, odd and even used since the 12th century (6,7)

**5 To follow (5)**

- 6 One of which will be lost & replaced (4,5)
- 7 Footpath sign (7)
- 11 Eatery aboard (6,3)
- 13 Apply again for delivery ( )
- 14 Traveling (2,5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**



**Questions 54-56 – film**

54. The lunar landscapes of which Hebridean island stood in for Jupiter in Stanley Kubrick's movie masterpiece 2001: A Space Odyssey?

55. In which 1960s James Bond film starring Sean Connery did 007 kill SPECTRE henchmen in Argyll? Clues: in one scene, where Loch Craignish stands in for the Adriatic coast, Bond blows up chasing speedboats with a flare gun, and in the second, set in the hills above Lochgilphead, he blows

# WEST COAST FESTIVE QUIZ ANSWERS



Davaar Island. Photograph Shona Barbour.

that causes the total length of the coastline to increase each time you measure it with a smaller unit of measurement, due to the extra features that can be measured.

38. Descending: Munros, Corbetts, Grahams, Hughs. Munros are mountains at least 3,000ft high; Corbetts are mountains between 2,500ft and 3,000ft high with a prominence of at least 500ft; Grahams are mountains between 2,000ft-2,499ft high with a drop of at least 150m. Hughs are 'Hills Under Graham Height' - 'a hill with attitude, not altitude'.

A. Ben More is Mull's highest mountain and its only Munro.

B. Askival is Rum's highest Cuillin and a Corbett.

C. The Pap of Glencoe, standing guard at the entrance to Glencoe, is a Graham.

D. Ben Hogh, Coll's tallest peak, at only 106m high, is very definitely a Hugh.

39. A. Arran, Rachael Hedderwick. B. Barra, Edna Windsor. C. Campbeltown, Ernest and Mary Shaw, and Alastair Greenlees. D. Tobermory, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay. E. Oban, Mora Edith MacDonald. F. Islay, Helmut Schroder of Dunlossit II. G. Mallaig, Henry Alston Hewat. H. Kyle of Lochalsh, The Spirit of Fred Olsen. I. Portree, Stanley Watson Barker. J. Leverburgh, Stella and Humfrey Berkeley.

40. Here are a few West Coast lighthouses you may have spotted flashing in the distance, but not known what or where they are:

A Dubh Artach sits on a remote skerry 18 miles (29 km) west of Colonsay and 15 miles (24 km) south-west of the Ross of Mull. Once part of a land bridge between Scotland and Ireland, Dhu Heartach today is a rounded, dark green mass of basalt, 240 feet (73 m) long, 130 feet (40 m) wide, rising 35 feet (11 m) above sea level.

Between 1800 and 1854, 30 ships were wrecked on the reef. A 44m (145ft) high lighthouse, which also warned of the fearsome Torran Rocks, was erected in 1872 by Thomas Stevenson, father of the novelist Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS). The rock is subject to extraordinary sea conditions, with waves over 92 feet (28m) recorded by keepers.

RLS wrote: 'An ugly reef is this of the Dhu Heartach; no pleasant assemblage of shelves, and pools, and creeks, about which a child might play for a whole summer without weariness, like the Bell Rock or the Skerryvore, but one oval nodule of black-trap, sparsely bedebled with an inconspicuous fucus, and alive in every crevice with a dingy insect between a slater and a bug. No other life was there but of sea-birds, and of the sea itself, that here ran like a mill-race, and growled about the outer reef for ever, and ever and again, in the calmest weather, roared and spouted on the rock itself.'

RLS's connection with the construction of Dubh Artach played a significant part in his 1886 novel Kidnapped, during which David Balfour and Alan Breck Stewart are shipwrecked on the Torran Rocks and Davie is marooned on Erraid.

B Fladda is one of the Slate Islands. There were two keepers at the

lighthouse. It is reported that up to 19 people lived within the two cottages, which only had five bedrooms. The Fladda boatmen came from several generations of the McLachlan family, who were also Luing fishermen.

Originally the island had no soil. Peat was brought over from ships returning from Ireland with supplies of slate, providing fertile soil. Fresh water was brought in small wooden barrels from Luing, as there was none available on the island. The large enclosed garden was an excellent resource for the Fladda lighthouse families.

C. Wee Donald is the local name for Holy Island's inner lighthouse, facing Arran, built in 1877 by David and Thomas Stevenson. The outer lighthouse, or Pillar Rock, was the first lighthouse built with a square tower, in 1905.

D Hyskeir (Oigh Sgeir) Lighthouse is situated on rocks approximately five miles south-west of Canna and eight miles west of Rum. The 39-metre-high (128 ft) white tower marks the southern end of the Minch, warning ships of the Mills Rocks, Canna and Hyskeir itself. It was built by David and Charles Stevenson in 1904 and manned until 1997, becoming one of the last lighthouses in Scotland to be automated. The keepers were briefly known for their one-hole golf course.

E A stumpy lighthouse on top of 39m (128ft) cliffs on the remote east coast of Islay, McArthur's Head is located to the south of the entrance to the Sound of Islay, six miles (10 km) from Port Askaig. The slopes of Beinn na Callich Beag rise another 130m (426 feet) behind. It is one of seven lighthouses on Islay and built by David and Thomas Stevenson in 1861. Like Ruvaal Lighthouse, further up the coast, McArthur's Head Lighthouse is only really accessible by boat. The overland walk is boggy and challenging. Even this is not easy due to the tides and landing conditions.

F Neist Point is one of the most famous lighthouses in Scotland and can be found on the most westerly tip of Skye near the township of Glendale. The lighthouse tower is 62 feet high and stands 142 feet above sea-level. The light from the tower is equal to 480,000 candles and can be seen from up to 24 miles away.

G Ruvaal or Rubh'a' Mhàil Lighthouse, on the remote northern tip of Islay, marks the north entrance to the Sound of Islay. It was built in 1859 by the brothers David and Thomas Stevenson, to warn of the Neva Rocks to the west. It consists of a brick 34-metre-high (112 ft) cylindrical whitewashed tower, with 158 steps to the top. Today it is listed as a building of Architectural/Historical interest, but in 1861, the design of the keeper's cottages was criticised in a report as looking 'more like dog kennels than anything else'.

H Skerryvore, on a remote island 12 miles south west of Tiree, is Scotland's tallest lighthouse. The height of the tower is 156ft with a diameter of 42ft at the base, tapering to 16ft at the top. The beautiful symmetry of the outline of the tower ranks it amongst the most graceful of all lighthouse towers.

41. Loch Rannoch, Loch Tay, Loch

Earn, Loch Awe.

42. The Caledonian, the Forth and Clyde, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union, and the Monkland, the last no longer navigable. The Crinan Canal runs nine miles between Ardrishaig and Crinan, through 15 locks and crossed by seven bridges. Every time a boat goes through the locks about 300,000 litres of water are used, but it's fed by seven reservoirs to stop it running dry. Until the coming of the railways, the fastest way to travel between Glasgow and Inverness was by steamer using the Crinan Canal and the Caledonian Canal, usually calling at Oban en route.

### Beyond Argyll and Lochaber

43. They are all named after Lachlan Macquarie who left Ulva aged 14 to forge a successful career in the British Army, becoming governor of New South Wales in 1809. Today he is hailed as the 'Father of Australia'.

44. False: Its original name Santa Maria de las Nieves, 'Our Lady of the Snows', was shortened to Nieves and anglicised to Nevis.

45. Attock, Punjab.

46. Calgary, Alberta, known as the 'Sandstone City'.

47. One - in Scotland. However, there are at least eight Campbelltowns and Campbelltons.

48. Stewart Island. Bonus: Ulva.

49. Mexico and Arizona in the United States.

50. Argyle.

51. Hobart.

52. Vanuatu.

53. They are all features on the surface of Mars.

### Film

54. Harris. At Loch Airigh, the rock, known as anorthosite, is similar in composition to that found on the moon. The rocks of these lunar-looking lands are known as Anorthosite and can also be found on the moon.

55. From Russia With Love. The motorboat chase was begun off the coast of Turkey, at a small village called Pendik near the Greek border, but delays and hassles led to it being abandoned and completed, along with the helicopter chase, near Crinan, where the surroundings were deemed pretty enough to replicate the rocky coastline of Turkey. Needless to say, the shooting was hampered by bad weather.

56. Castle Stalker. Bonus: The Bridge of Death was filmed at the Meeting of the Three Waters in Glencoe.

### Song and Dance

57. Eigg.

58. Staffa.

59. Strathspey and reel.

60. Two Highland broadswords or a sword with its scabbard crossed. This is the Highland sword dance.

61. The mouth music tunes of the Highlands and Islands, often used for dancing when no instruments.

62. Aye the Crinan Canal for me, It's neither too big nor too wee, Oh! It's lovely and calm when you're frying your ham,

Or makin' a nice cup of tea You can go for a stroll on its banks, To loosen your muscle bound shanks,

You can darn your socks while you're still in its locks, The Crinan Canal for me.

### Folklore

63. Morag.

64. When the Fairy Flag is unfurled in battle, the enemies of the Macleod will see twice as many Macleods as there are in reality. The Fairy Flag can only be used three times, and it has been used twice already.

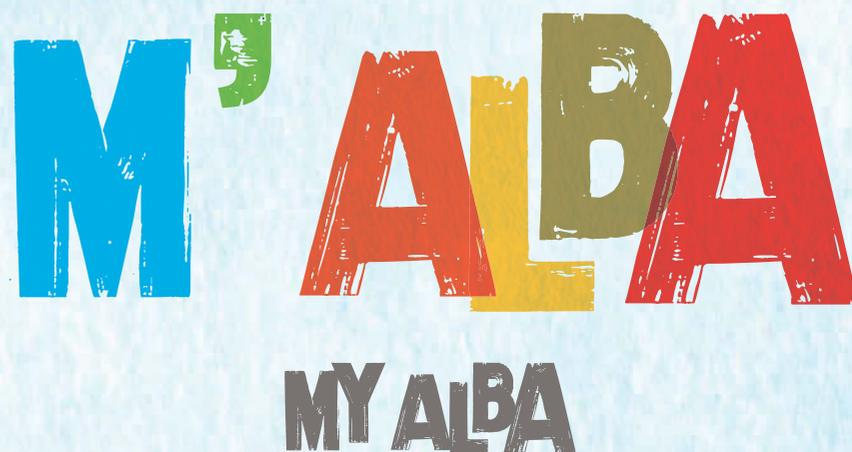
65. Mckinnon's Cave.

### Food and drink

66. Laphroaig is Prince Charles' favourite whisky. He first visited the distillery in 1994 and bestowed a Royal warrant on it.

67. Lorne.

68. Potato.



### DIARDAOIN 30 An Dùbhlachd THURSDAY 30 December

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.55 An Là
- 19.00 Spors na Bliadhna 2021
- 20.00 Cruth-tìre na h-Alba - Changing Landscapes
- 21.00 Gaisgich sna Glinn
- 22.00 Bannan S8 Ep3
- 22.30 Under Canvas/Music from Eden Court
- 23.00 Eilean nan Dineasair

### DIHAOINE 31 An Dùbhlachd FRIDAY 31 December

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.55 An Là
- 19.00 A' Bhliadhna 2021
- 20.00 Oidhe Challainn le Robert Robertson
- 21.00 Miann na Maighdinn Mara - Hiort/Mermaid Tales – St Kilda
- 22.00 Seòid a' Chidsin/ Seoid na Callain
- 23.00 OMC! Comedy Sketch Show
- 23.30 Ceilidh na Bliadh' Uire 2021

### DISATHAIRNE 1 Am Faoilleach SATURDAY 1 Am Faoilleach

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 17.55 An Là
- 18.00 Ceilidh na Bliadh' Uire
- 19.00 Mòd 2021 Mòd na Cloinne
- 20.00 Cruth-tìre na h-Alba - Changing Landscapes
- 21.00 Ceol Roc Ceilteach/Folk that Rock
- 22.00 Bannan S8 Ep4
- 22.30 Bannan S8 Ep5
- 23.00 OMC! Comedy Sketch Show
- 23.30 Under Canvas-Music from Eden Court
- 23.55 Seòid a' Chidsin: Seoid na Callainn

### DIDÒMHNAICH 2 Am Faoilleach SUNDAY 2 Am Faoilleach

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 16.55 A' Bhliadhna 2021
- 17.55 An Là
- 18.00 Scottish Premiership- Dundee Utd v Dundee United
- 19.45 Julie Fowlis-Ceol Aig Baile
- 20.00 Alleluia!
- 20.30 Mach as mo Rathad/Born to Drive
- 21.00 Gaisgich sna Glinn
- 22.00 Bannan (S8 Ep1)
- 22.30 Alistair Maclean – An Sgeulaiche
- 23.30 OMC! Comedy Sketch Show

### DILUAIN 3 Am Faoilleach MONDAY 3 Am Faoilleach

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.55 An Là
- 19.00 Iorram- Boat Song
- 20.30 Fuine
- 21.00 Trusach - Afro-Gaidheil
- 22.00 Bannan (S8 Ep2)
- 22.30 Maorach – Hebridean Shellfish
- 23.30 Mach as mo Rathad/Born to Drive

### DIMÀIRT 4 Am Faoilleach TUESDAY 4 Am Faoilleach

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.55 An Là – NEWS
- 19.00 Siubhlachan/Time Traveller
- 19.35 An Sgoil Bheag Mu Dheireadh/The Last Little School
- 20.30 Gàrraidhean Mòra na h-Alba
- 21.00 An Là /Tide
- 22.00 Bannan S8 Ep3
- 22.30 Ceolmhor@Piping Live

- 22.55 Machair
- 23.25 Dàn
- 23.30 Alleluia!

### DICIADAIN 5 Am Faoilleach WEDNESDAY 5 Am Faoilleach

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Speaking Our Language: The Inside Story
- 20.00 An Là
- 20.15 Julie Fowlis – Ceòl aig Baile
- 20.30 Golf: Mun Cuairt Alba
- 21.00 Opre le Daniel
- 21.50 Dhan Uisge/River Douchary
- 22.00 Bannan S8 Ep4
- 22.30 Under Canvas/Music from Eden Court
- 23.00 Miann na Maighdinn Mara - Hiort/Mermaid Tales – St Kilda

### DIARDAOIN 6 Am Faoilleach THURSDAY 6 Am Faoilleach

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Dealbhan Fraoich
- 19.30 Sgeulachd Syd agus Millie/Two Go To Tolsta
- 20.00 An Là – NEWS
- 20.30 An Lot/The Croft
- 21.00 Sulaisgair: An t-Sealg/The Hunt
- 22.00 Bannan S8 Ep5
- 22.30 Afganastan – An Tir Fo Leòn: Rioghachd/Afghanistan-Kingdom
- 23.20 Dhan Uisge/River Douchary



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

## CASK & Still TRAILS

### THE NEW APP FROM CASK & STILL MAGAZINE

#ScottishWhiskyTrail

START EXPLORING! DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP TODAY

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000  
 Lines open: Mon to Thu 9am- 5pm, Fri 9am- 4pm  
 E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
 Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

SPONSORED BY NFU MUTUAL OBAN

For your insurance needs call  
 Euan Warnock and Donna  
 MacDougall on 01631 567 036



Around the markets

**Caledonian Marts Ltd, Stirling, Tuesday December 21:** sold 1628 Prime Lambs, Ewes & Tups at their Weekly Prime Stock Sale.

All roads led to the Cally, with a roaring trade throughout. The Overall Average levelled at 285.61ppkg or £124.74pph. Heavy Lambs 45.6kg + (418) averaged £137.40. Topping the Sale pence per kg for two pens of Texels at 341ppkg went to C & K Malone, Pitcairn. Pounds per head went to DS & RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill for a pair of outstanding Beltex's at £164. Other Leading Prices:- 32.1kg-39kg Suffolk 294p Muirmealing; £114 Muirmealing Blackface 277p Glenturret; £107 Glenturret Texel 321p Blairmore; £122 Blairmore 39.1kg – 45.5kg; Cross 300p Middle Ballat; £131.50

Middle Ballat; Beltex 327p Lintibert; £147 Lintibert Mule 265p Middle Ballat; £119 Middle Ballat Suffolk 297p Glenrigg; £131 Upper Onston (Orkney) Blackface 283p Braeleny; £118.50 Braeleny Cheviot 300p Lomond Muir; £135 Lomond Muir Texel 341p (Twice) Pitcairn; £150 (Twice) Pitcairn Texel X 330p South Flanders; £150 South Flanders 45.6kg-52kg; Cross 283p Claylands & Meikle Seggie; £135.50 Claylands Suffolk 289p Claish; £140 Middle Ballat Mule 267p Braeleny; £124 Braeleny Blackface 271p Braeleny; £126 Braeleny Texel 323p Doune Farms; £160 Doune Farms Beltex 328p Easter Ochtermuthill; £164 Easter Ochtermuthill 52.1kg+; Suffolk 268p South Flanders; £145

Pitcairn; Texel 264p South Flanders; £148.50 West Balgothrie Beltex 300p Easter Ochtermuthill; £160 Easter Ochtermuthill Cast Ewes Cast Ewes met an extremely stronger trade than the previous week. Leading the way at £180 for Texels from G Whyte, Lintibert. Other Leading Prices Texels £180 Lintibert £168 Lomond Muir £165 Finmont £160 Lintibert Blackface £79 Pirnhall £78 Pitcairn & Ledcharrie £75 Lomond Muir Cheviot £121 Braeface Suffolk £143 Lintibert Mule £126 Blairmore

£122 Pitcairn  
 £120 Blairgorts

**Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, Tuesday December 21 sold:** 396 prime sheep. New season lambs (203) averaged 267.0p (+12.6p) and sold to 297.7p per kg for a pen of 43kg Texel crosses from Dunearn Farm, Nairn selling to Messrs John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall and £138 gross for a pen of 47.5kg Beltex crosses from Inshes Farm, Inverness. Feeding sheep (193) sold to £135 gross for a Texel ram from 2 Ardmore, Edderton. "A smaller show of prime lambs forward sold at increased values on the week. Unfortunately, the numbers forward today were insufficient to the demand we have here at Dingwall on a weekly basis. There were hardly any export weights forward with the sale consisting of mostly heavies or store type. There were a small number of ewes forward with no pure continental

types in sight. There were one or two pens with a bit of power about them which met a firm enquiry and many more of this commodity could easily have been sold." Other leading prices per head and per kg – New season lambs: DSX – Smallburn Farms, Duffus, £136, 219.4p; Tex – Enyhalow, Conon Bridge, £134, £129, 268.0p, 243.4p; TexX – Wester Balloan, Urray, £134, £110, 265.4p, 258.8p, The Meadows, Grantown on Spey, £131, £129, 278.3p, 251.9p, Dunearn Farm, £129, £128, £127, £122, 277.3p, 276.1p, 268.8p, Conon Mains, Conon Bridge, £129, £124, 280.4p, 269.6p; Chev – 2 Ardmore, £132, 261.4p, Conon Mains, £129, 271.6p; BeltX – Inshes Farm, £132, 290.5p; Cross – Inshes Farm, £132, 261.4p, Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £119, 258.7p; CHM – Dunearn Farm, £129, 258.0p; BF – Inshes Farm, £117, 254.4p, Drynie Farm, £104, 244.7p; SuffX – £104.50, 261.3p.

Feeding sheep: TexX ewe – Mid Fleenas, Nairn, £134, £118; DSP ram – £131; Mule ewe – Mid Fleenas, £120, £100, Alvie Estate, Kingussie, £117, Morayscairn Farm, Alves, £110; Chev ram – 2 Ardmore, £119, £111, £89; Zwb ewe – Faillie House, Daviot, £116; SuffX ewe – Morayscairn Farm, £116, £92; Zwb ram – Faillie House, £115; Belt ram – Woodside, Muir of Tarradale, £105; Chev ewe – 2 Ardmore, £91, Bruan Park, Ulbster, £81; CHM ewe – Asleisk Farm, Alves, £83; Lyx ewe – Morayscairn Farm, £81; CharX ewe – Alvie Estate, £81; Cross ewe – Morayscairn Farm, £80; BF ewe – Drynie Farm, £78.

**Notice to Vendors**  
 Could all vendors of prime lambs please deliver their lambs to the Mart before 10.30 A.M. to allow us time to have them clipped prior to the start of the sale. Thank You.

**NEW PIONER STEADY 400 IN STOCK FITTED WITH NEW YAMAHA F15**  
**£7,350 INC.VAT**  
**BEAT THE PRICE INCREASES**  
**ATV TYRES**  
**COMPLETE SETS TO FIT ALL ATVS**  
**£400 PLUS VAT**

TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072  
 www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk  
 john.stoddarts@btconnect.com  
**FINANCE AND DELIVERY ARRANGED**

**CASK & Still TRAILS**

**THE NEW APP FROM CASK & STILL MAGAZINE**

**#ScottishWhiskyTrail**

**START EXPLORING!**  
**DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP TODAY**

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

**SCOTTISH FIELD**  
**January**

**Subscribe and receive a FREE bottle of Arran malt whisky**

**Happy New Year...**  
 So that was 2021... Stephen Jardine's Credo...  
 The Hebridean Baker recipes... Quiz of the Year...  
 Stunning aerial photography... Seafront interiors...  
 Artist Mouse Macpherson... A Perth garden...  
 Rule, Britannia! writer... Book reviews...



# S&S SERVICES



SCOTLANDS NO1 DEALER

## NEW YEAR, NEW CAR! COME AND SEE US AT TESCO JANUARY SALE EVENT FRIDAY 21ST TILL SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY

### Isuzu D-Max continues strong sales performance

- Isuzu D-Max sales are up 13.55% year to date
- Sales mix shift with double cab automatic up 49% over last year
- Isuzu D-Max V-Cross proves to be the best-selling variant in the range

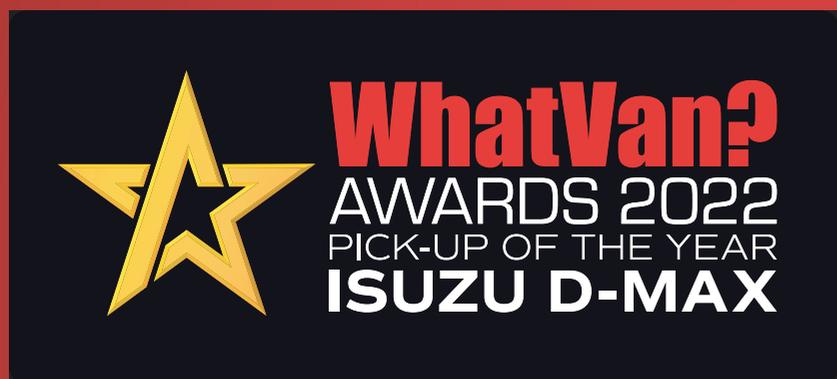
Sales of the All-New Isuzu D-Max, which launched earlier this year, have been strong throughout 2021. At the close of November, sales of the Isuzu D-Max were up 13.55% year to date over the same period last year, with a total of 3,368 Isuzu D-Max pick-ups registered so far in 2021. Overall, the pick-up market in the UK ended November 17% up on a year to date basis, with this years November sales up 31.2% over the same month last year, according to the latest figures published by the SMMT.

There has also been a significant shift in the sales mix within the Isuzu D-Max range, with sales of the double cab automatic version currently 49% up over last year, and the range-topping Isuzu D-Max V-Cross becoming the brand's best-selling variant. Isuzu UK, along with the entire automotive industry is facing increasingly complex trading conditions because of the worldwide shortage of components, semi-conductors, and key materials, which is having a detrimental impact

on vehicle production and availability. William Brown, Managing Director, Isuzu UK said: "The early success of the All-New Isuzu D-Max has been both rewarding and challenging, with customer demand for the

new vehicle outstripping our currently constrained supply. The situation is frustrating for us all, as we could sell many more vehicles than we are currently able to. However, the whole industry is facing these challenges head-on, and whilst

we are not impacted as severely as most other manufacturers, we are constantly working with the factory to satisfy our customers and dealers." Speak to S&S Services to discuss requirements, Tel: 01292 880080.



WHAT VAN? PICK-UP OF THE YEAR  
2018, 2019, 2020



S & S Services has been supporting the people of Argyll for more than 30 years and its coming to you.  
Tesco Oban Roadshow JANUARY SALE event

S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr

Tel: 01292 880080 or John Spicer: 07831 808702

**WANTED MOTOR HOMES**

Caravanettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Social distancing measures in place.

Contact William 07730 130284  
email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

**WANTED  
4x4 VEHICLES**

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

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

**WANTED ALL 4X4'S  
All vehicles considered**

Landrover, Toyota, etc including all pickups  
Old or new, any miles or condition

Tel 07703490572  
or email balgowan4wd@gmail.com  
Ask for Robert

**WANTED**

All types of 4-wheel drive vehicles & pickups, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford and MOT failures, non-runners, etc. Will travel and collect.

**T: 07546 788945**

**WANTED 4X4**

All types of 4x4's, Landrover Toyota, Nissan etc. We also buy MOT failures and accident damage vehicles. Anything considered.

T: 07885 203020 or  
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

**WANTED  
MOTORHOMES**

Camper vans and touring caravans  
Any condition or in need of repair  
Immediate payment

Tel 07703490572  
or email balgowan4wd@gmail.com  
Ask for Robert



**Maxus Deliver9 LWB Van**



Contract Hire From

\***£324**

**PLUS VAT  
per month**



**AUTOSERVICES  
PERTH LTD**

\*Business Users Only

**www.asp.scot**

**NEW  
CAR  
INDEX**



W.D. Semple  
www.wdsemple.com  
Inveraray Shore Street  
Tel.01499 302150  
Lochgilthead Highbank Park  
01546 606767/ 606272



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080 01292 880440



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080 01292 880440



S & S Services  
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr  
01292 880080 01292 880440

## WANTED



Looking for motorhome  
or caravan.  
First time buyers.  
Any make or condition  
considered.

**Tel: 07537 840381**

## WANTED

All touring caravans and  
motor homes, campers  
etc, high mileage, MOT  
failures or damp, all  
considered, any make or  
model, will travel.

**Tel: 07546 788945**



## WANTED

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

**T: 07885 203020**

**Email: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

# CLASSIFIED

### CARRIER SERVICES

**DEREK WILSON**  
**- CARRIERS LTD -**

**DAILY SERVICE OBAN - GLASGOW**  
**MULL, COLL, TIREE, COLONSAY, ISLAY**

*Building on 30 years of Service Excellence*

**Tel: 01631 562655 email: dwoban@gmail.com**  
Units 2/3 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin, OBAN PA34 4HB

*Covid precautions in place*

### PLUMBING SERVICES

**CITY**  
**PLUMBING**

For all your bathroom, plumbing  
and heating needs

7e Glengallan Road | Oban | PA34 4HG  
Tel: 01631 567640 | Fax: 01631 569808

facebook.com/cityplumbingsupplies twitter.com/cityplumbingsupplies

### HEATING SERVICES

**0%**  
FINANCE  
AVAILABLE

**NO CALL  
OUT CHARGE  
FOR OBAN &  
SURROUNDING  
AREA.**



**Tralee**  
Heating Services

- LPG & Natural Gas
- Landlord & Safety certificates
- Installations
- Repairs
- Servicing

All Heating Services for  
domestic & leisure

M: 07590 440 877  
E: traleebaygas@gmail.com  
W: www.traleeheatingservices.co.uk



### TIMBER KIT HOMES & CONSTRUCTION

**MACLEOD**  
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



- TIMBER KITS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- AGGREGATES
- PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- JOINERY & REFURBISHMENT
- CONSERVATORIES
- SCAFFOLDING

www.macleodconstruction.co.uk  
Tel: (01546) 602989 • Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk



**CASK & Still**  
TRAILS

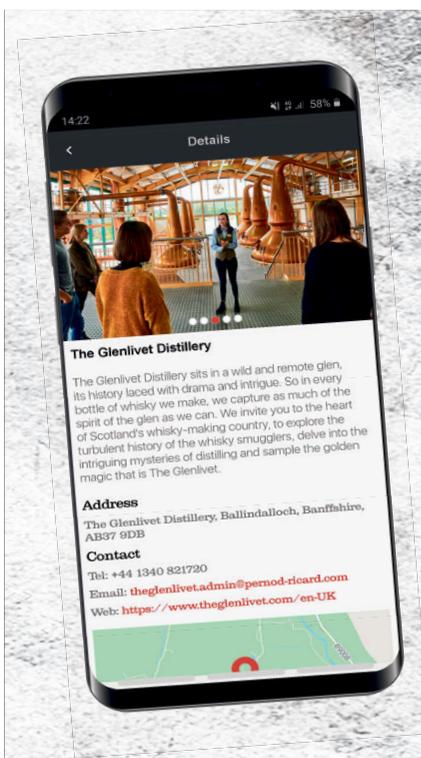
**THE NEW APP FROM  
CASK & STILL MAGAZINE**

**#ScottishWhiskyTrail**

**START EXPLORING!  
DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP TODAY**



like us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes



# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/02495/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	38 Balephetrish, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UY
21/02409/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 4, Land North Of Ballygowan Farm, Glenlonan, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/02305/PP	Change of use of land to form camping area and motorhome/caravan stances with toilet block and store/waste area and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land West Of Gleneven, Pennyghael, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/02307/PP	Formation of access road	Land South Of Calgary Farmhouse, Calgary, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
21/02354/PP	Demolition of rear extension and erection of replacement single storey rear extension	Lovedale, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute, PA76 6SJ
21/02193/PP	Demolition of byre, erection of dwellinghouse (ancillary and holiday letting use) and installation of septic tank and air source heat pump	Garden Ground Of 1 Salum, Ruaig, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6TR
21/02079/PP	Redevelopment of vacant site to facilitate a garden centre with modular built shop and craft beer bar with roof terrace	29 Lochside Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4HP
21/02332/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Rosedale And North East Of Middleton Farm, Middleton, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/02411/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of 1 bothy ('caravans') and composting toilet	Land Approx. 1300 Metres South West Of Ballygowan Farm, Glenlonan, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/02191/PP	Rehabilitation of Kengharair House to form three dwellinghouses, erection of single storey porch extension and formation of deck areas	Kengharair Farm, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QR
21/02430/PP	Alterations to include; formation of external ramped access and alteration of existing store room to form accessible toilet facilities	Pennyghael Hall, Pennyghael, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA70 6HB
21/02067/PP	Alterations and extension to guesthouse and erection of ancillary detached building to rear	Wellpark, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AQ
21/02068/LIB	Internal and external alterations, extension to guesthouse and erection of ancillary detached building to rear	Wellpark, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AQ
21/02408/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3, Land North Of Ballygowan Farm, Glenlonan, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/02485/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land North West Of Sukha, Balevullin, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
21/02508/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment/septic tank	Plot 2 Land North Of Tanunda, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
21/01861/PP	Alterations and erection of single storey rear extension (retrospective)	Ballygrant Inn, Ballygrant, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA45 7QR

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

#### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 20/02358/MFF

Proposed development at: Dunstaffnage Fish Farm, North Of Ganavan Hill, Dunbeg, Argyll And Bute

The proposed development at the address noted above is subject to environmental impact assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to a EIA Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Modification of fin fish farm (Atlantic Salmon) from 9 x 80m circumference cages to 14 x 100m circumference cages, including increasing biomass to 2350 tonnes and installation of replacement feed barge.

Possible decisions relating to the application are: approval of the application without conditions; approval of the application with conditions; or refusal of the application.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental report and the associated planning application(s) may be inspected electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically during the emergency period. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk), or tel. 01546 605518. In the event of the emergency period ceasing, documents will be available for inspection by appointment during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD. Documents will be available for a minimum of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the additional information may be purchased from Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, Barcaldine Hatchery, Barcaldine, Argyll, PA37 1SE at a cost of £10.00

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the additional information should make them in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice. Written comments can be submitted by email to [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

Signed: Mrs S. Davies, Major Application Team Leader on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council  
10 December 2021

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

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



## Argyll and Bute Council

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS

#### Oban and Lorn

Refuse and recycling collections over the festive period will be carried out on the normal scheduled day(s).

Moleigh recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

#### Mull and Iona

Refuse and recycling collections over the festive period will be carried out on the normal scheduled day(s).

Glengorm recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

#### Tiree, Coll and Colonsay

Tiree, Coll and Colonsay refuse and recycling collections due over the festive period will be carried out on the normal scheduled day(s).

Gott Bay recycling and civic amenity site on Tiree will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

Information is also available on the Council website.

To find out more about living and working in

Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**69%**  
of the business community  
read the regional press

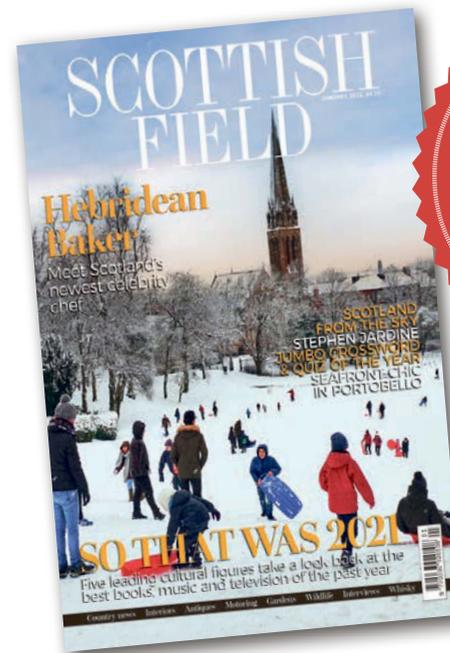
Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



**Regional Press**  
closer to home

# SCOTTISH FIELD

## January



**Subscribe**  
and receive a  
**FREE** bottle  
of Arran malt  
whisky

**Happy New Year...**  
**So that was 2021... Stephen Jardine's Credo...**  
**The Hebridean Baker recipes... Quiz of the Year...**  
**Stunning aerial photography... Seafront interiors...**  
**Artist Mouse Macpherson... A Perth garden...**  
**Rule, Britannia! writer... Book reviews...**

# RECRUITMENT

# IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

## Inverness

**NHS Highland Estates  
Department**

**Administrator**

**£18,546 rising to £19,918 pro-rata  
30 hours per week**

NHS Highland Estates Dept. requires an Administrator to undertake a range of duties, including in-house database and electronic filing systems.

The post is for 30 hours per week. Applicants should be computer literate and knowledgeable in Office 365 and hold a full, current driving licence. The base for the post is Mid-Argyll but other areas may be considered within Argyll & Bute HSCP. Annual leave entitlement starts at 27 days, rising to 33 days after 10 years service and 8 days public holidays, pro-rata.

Starting salary is £18,546 rising to £19,918 pro-rata.

Informal enquires to Moyra Sutherland, Estates Support Manager:-  
moyra.sutherland@nhs.scot or Tel: 01546 604924

Applications can be made on <https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/> search ref: 076056



[www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk)

Full time positions available for the following:

**Joiners** (Mid Argyll & Oban)

**Bricklayers** (Mid Argyll & Oban)

**Electrician** (Oban)

**Labourers** (Mid Argyll & Oban)

**Machine Operative** (Mid Argyll)

For more information call 01546602989 or  
email [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)



**HIJOBS HIJOBS**  
Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net) Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)

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

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its mission to generate sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

## SENIOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER – ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS

Location: Currently homeworking, with the option to adopt a hybrid style of working based on individual role, style, and preference when HIE offices fully re-open. HIE has offices across the Highlands and Islands; the normal office location is Lochgilphead, flexibility on other HIE office locations may be considered

Starting salary £37,866 per annum, excellent benefits package.  
Potential salary progression to £43,068 per annum.

Permanent, full-time: 35 hours per week

We are looking for an experienced and proactive senior development manager to play a key role in providing intensive client engagement and development support to a defined portfolio of clients with the ambition and potential to achieve significant business growth and impact on the wider economy.

As a key member of the Argyll and the Islands area team, you'll:

- Work intensively with a defined client portfolio to agree an "Account Growth Plan" which will be implemented over an agreed time-period. Activities, whilst not exhaustive, will include: a business diagnostic, identification of areas of growth potential, actions required to accelerate and achieve business growth opportunities etc.
- Act as a conduit to and from the client, bringing fresh insight to help deliver business advantage. There will be a particular focus on innovation and international trade.
- Actively identify new areas of growth and pursue these opportunities. Effective management and monitoring of the client portfolio in conjunction with local area management and Enterprise Support.
- Assess the potential for new account managed businesses through proactive business engagement. Work where necessary with the appropriate team in Enterprise Support and local authority economic development teams.
- Take responsibility for the development and the effective project management of a portfolio of projects. This may include for example, Regional Growth Deal projects.
- Work in collaboration with HIE's sector teams to support development of business growth ensuring strong linkage between HIE's sectoral route maps and account management.
- Using the wide range of HIE products, including finance, achieve leverage to enhance growth. Where appropriate, undertake formal due diligence to support project appraisal.
- Develop an appropriate account team using internal specialists and/or external colleagues where required.
- Proactively share insights, evidence base and knowledge to inform HIE's propositions, products, services, and information offering.
- Actively manage client relationships ensuring that all potential points of contact and influence are being served appropriately.
- Analyse the client's Business Plan, and assess the basis for any HIE engagement from a growth perspective.
- Lead client facing interaction and projects, managing complex delivery and demanding stakeholders.
- It's essential that you have strong client engagement/business management experience, with the ability to build strong client relationships. You'll also have a good understanding of HIE's products and services and the funding routes available to clients, and will use your strong analytical skills to provide advice and guidance to clients through business diagnostics, as well as identifying potential areas for growth, and actions required to accelerate growth.

**TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT**  
[www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk) and search for reference number 1008.

**CLOSING DATE:** 12 January 2022.

**JOB REFERENCE:** 1008

**INTERVIEW DATE:**  
24 January 2022 – via MS Teams.



## The Ideal Gift SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2022



FROM  
**£13.50**  
including  
P&P\*

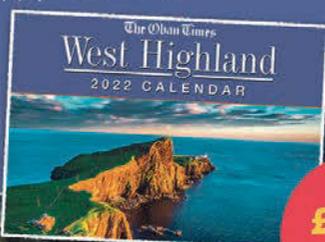


Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars.  
To see all the images from our 2022 range visit: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

\* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW



FROM  
**£9.50**  
including  
P&P\*



FROM  
**£9.50**  
including  
P&P\*



ORDER ONLINE at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

or call us on **01778 392014**

OR POST ALL ORDERS to: Wyvex Media Subscriptions, FREEPOST  
RUAC-JUXA-GYAU Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings,  
West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH



**HIJOBS HIJOBS HIJOBS**  
Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net) Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net) Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net)



like us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

## GOLDEN WEDDING

**DAVIS - HILL** - On December 30, 1971 in Inveraray, June (née Davis) to Kenneth. Happy Anniversary Mum and Dad.

## DEATHS

**CORNISH** - Jean. Peacefully on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in the care of North Argyll House, aged 96 years. Much loved mother of Bob, David and the late Ron, grandmother of Paul and Caroline, great-grandmother of Isaac, Jacob, Molly, Megan and Mathilda. Funeral service at St John's Episcopal Cathedral on Friday, January 7, 2022 at 2pm. Family flowers only, please.

**McRAE** - Peacefully at her home on the Isle of Iona on December 20, 2021, Sheila Mary (née Campbell), dearly

loved wife of George and devoted mother of Fiona and Gordon. Mother-in-law of Jim and Sally, dearest grandmother of Jessica, Archie, Campbell and Ciara. Formerly of Bearsden and Balloch, Inverness. Funeral service to be held at Iona Parish Church on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 12.00 noon thereafter to Inverness Crematorium on Friday, January 7, 2022 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to local charities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACLEOD** - The family of Peter MacLeod, The Wheelhouse, Ganavan, Oban would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support received following his recent death. Thank you to Rev Peter Park for his wonderful,

comforting service, and to Catriona MacFarlane and staff of Hamish Hoey & Sons for the efficient and compassionate way they undertook all funeral arrangements. Thanks to everyone who attended Peter's funeral and paid their respects at Pennyfuir Cemetery, and grateful thanks to Iain MacIntyre for delivering the eulogy. A special thanks to all the wonderful Carers of Oban who have helped Peter to stay at home up until he passed away. Moran taing dhuibh uile.

## MEMORIAMs

**BYRNE** - Remembering our wonderful Mum, Granny and Great-Granny Vera, who passed away on December 20, 2018.

Missed every day.  
- From all the family.

**FERGUSON** - In loving memory of my dear mother Jessie, who passed January 2, 2011.

A special person, a special face Someone I loved and can never replace  
Never selfish always kind  
These are the memories you left behind  
Remembering loved ones gone before and after.

- Daughter Anne.  
**HAY** - Precious memories of our Mum and Gran, Mary. Lovingly remembered.  
- Kate, Elaine and families.

**MACCOLL** - Archie (Kilmonivaig).

Nam chridhe gu Siorraidh  
- June Anne. x  
Love and miss you grandpa  
- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie xxxx

**MACLELLAN** - Precious memories of Christopher on the anniversary of him being called to Heaven on January 1, 1991.

Our brightest star in the sky.  
Loved forever.  
- Mum, Dad, Craig and Calum.

## CHARITY DONATIONS

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**  
Together we will beat cancer

Help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured

**DONATE TODAY:**  
Treasurer, Cancer Research UK Oban & District, Glenside, Polvinister Road, OBAN, PA34 5TN Tel: 01631 564420

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR  
Cancer Research UK is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103).  
Registered address: Cancer Research UK, 2 Redman Place, Stratford, London E20 1JG

**OBAN CHARITABLE TRUST**  
**Hameart Flat**  
providing a break from cancer

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

REACH OUT TO HELP OUT  
01631 564954  
www.obanflat.uk

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
**Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch**  
*Donations always gratefully accepted*

Please contact  
**Marie Curie Care**  
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House  
Station Road, Oban  
01631 571009

**THE DOVE CENTRE**  
By Oban Hospice  
Donations always gratefully received  
**24 Stevenson Street Oban PA34 5NA**  
Tel: 01631 561315  
www.obanhospice.org.uk  
@obanhospice

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**McLELLAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

John Calvin Peter Amanda

Over 86 yrs of Funeral Experience from our Compassionate Team

Established 1923. Quality Funeral Care in Lochaber  
Welcoming Function Rooms for Memorial Gatherings  
Flexible Viewing Times for Families & Friends  
Burial and Cremation Services. All Faiths & Celebrant  
Direct Cremation with Unique Memorial Service Option

**Other Services Include:** The Lochaber Funeral Plan - Peace of Mind for the Future. Headstone Design & Renovation. Bereavement Care.

EST 1923 DUDLEY ROAD, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6JB  
01397 702128 (24 HRS) WWW.MCLELLANFUNERALS.CO.UK

QUALITY CARE SINCE 1923

**MANSON & MACBEATH FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

Chosen for Our Care...

Tel (24 hour): 01397 701110  
Inverlochy, Fort William, PH33 6NB

Your Leading & Only Locally Owned Funeral Directors in Lochaber

**Fourteen years of digital archives**

Available to Digital subscribers

The Oban Times LOCHABER TIMES

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Fundraising Office  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ  
Tel 0300 100 0200  
In memory of Dawn Joyce

**SCOTTISH FIELD**  
January

**OUT NOW!**

Subscribe and receive a FREE bottle of Arran malt whisky

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

I hope everybody has had a relaxing few days over Christmas and is ready to bring in the New Year.

Clearly, it will be a quieter New Year than many of us hoped for.

Two Hogmanays ago, I had a year off without a gig so I jumped in the Trail West van on December 29 and never looked back until the 2nd!

The boys played a gig in Tallan Iochdar in South Uist, had a full day of tunes and craic at John Alex McKay's house in Torlum, Benbecula, then got the ferry to Uig for a big Hogmanay bash in the Broadford Hall.

One particularly funny memory occurred as we arrived at the hall. Earlier in the month, I had pre-recorded a programme for BBC Alba to go out on the 31st in which I

presented highlights of BBC hogmanay shows over the years – right back to the 1950s.

When we arrived in Broadford Hall, one lady saw me and said: 'What are you doing here?! I thought you were on the telly tonight!'

The next day, with a slightly cloudy head or two within the squad, we first footed Edinbane hall where The Cast Ewe Ceilidh band were playing for a New Year's Day dance. It was an unforgettable few days full of wonderful music and great pals. It seems a very, very long time ago now. Unknown to us at the time, we would be locking down only a matter of months later.

The following Hogmanay could not have been more different. I spent it in lockdown with my mum and dad (I always escape home to the

Highlands as soon as I hear a lockdown might be looming!) and, by 10.30pm, my folks were fast asleep on the couch and I was watching Still Game all by myself! I woke them up at midnight to bring in the bells with a dram but it was a far cry from the year before celebrating with a packed Broadford Hall. Only a few months ago, when the country was relatively restriction free, myself and the Trail West boys planned exactly the same extravaganza as two years previous.

Unfortunately, like everything else, that has fallen by the way side yet again but at least this year I have secured a promise from my Mum and Dad to stay awake and keep me company until at least midnight!

New Year, of course, doesn't

have to be about big dances and huge crowds cheering as the clock hits midnight and the piper plays Auld Lang Syne. It is primarily a time for reflection on the year gone by, hope for the year ahead, and memories of absent friends.

A quieter Hogmanay this year will give us all more time to do that. And, my goodness, there is much to reflect on after the last couple of years. Like everyone else, I will be hoping for a return to normality in 2022 but, for the time being, I wish you all whatever you would wish yourself for the coming year.

**It may end up being a quieter hogmanay than planned, but you can't ask for a better view than of Ben Nevis to help bring in the bells.**



## OBITUARY Peter MacLeod, The Wheelhouse, Ganavan

It was with great sadness that the Oban community learned of the passing of one of its most prominent and favourite sons, Peter MacLeod, who lived at The Wheelhouse, Ganavan.

Peter passed away on Sunday December 12 and was interred at Pennyfuir Cemetery on Tuesday December 21 with a large crowd gathered to mark his passing.

Peter was born on June 9, 1933 in Ruaig Schoolhouse on the island of Tiree. He was the only child of Robert MacLeod, who was the schoolmaster there and his wife Christina MacKinnon who was also a teacher at the school.

At the age of three, the family moved to Peter's beloved Benderloch, where he grew up in the old Lochnell Schoolhouse, spending his days playing on Tralee Beach, climbing Ben Lora, and making dens at Keil Farm.

As an only child, he was delighted to be joined by evacuee children from Dumbarton in the family home during the war years. Peter's father was the Captain Mainwaring of the Home Guard in Benderloch and strategy meetings were held in the schoolhouse, often late in the night, with Peter listening in to these discussions and the formulation of plans for resistance should Benderloch ever be invaded!

Peter went on to secondary school at Oban High, travelling by train every day on the Ballachulish to Oban railway line. One can only imagine the mischief and pranks he, and the other children, got up to



Peter MacLeod.

on the train on a daily basis. Playing shinty and football were his passions at a young age. He wasn't, however, so keen on school work!

Leaving school, he joined the Royal Bank of Scotland in Oban at aged 16, and among his first jobs was keeping the boiler stocked with coal to heat the building! It was at this time he first got involved with boats, which was to become a lifetime passion, and he became very active with Oban Sailing Club and racing Mirror dinghies. Peter then went on to undertake his National Service, mostly based in Devizes in Wiltshire, and he enjoyed it so much that he later joined the Territorials, where he achieved the rank of Captain.

On returning to Oban, Peter got involved with Oban Round Table, and became chairman, overseeing charitable activities and various events in the town.

He first met his beloved Jean at a dance in Connel Village Hall featuring Bobby MacLeod and His Dance Band. Peter and Jean married in Lairg, Sutherland in 1957, and went on to have 56

very happy years together, until Jean sadly passed away in 2013.

Peter achieved success in his banking exams and as a result was promoted to office manager at the Royal Bank's Kinlochleven branch, his first stay in the village.

Then, in 1965, at the tender age of 32, he was appointed as the youngest ever bank manager in the Royal Bank to its Tobermory Branch. He was absolutely delighted to move there, which was the home of his grandparents.

He bought his first yacht, Moonraker, when in Mull, and he was a founding member of the Western Isles Yacht Club. Peter was also very active in Tobermory drama club and wrote a play called Mrs McGinty Downstairs. In the play, Peter's pet Golden Retriever, named Bran, was trained to hide under a bed on stage and appear on command to dramatic effect at a certain point in the play. Unfortunately, Bran got bored leaving the stage after two minutes with the players wondering what to do next!

Peter then moved back to Kinlochleven, this time as manager, where he became a founding member of Glencoe Boat Club, and loved to participate in the many sailing events and regattas in Lochaber.

A move to Wick in Caithness as manager followed in 1973, where he was encouraged to pursue his love of music – in particular the playing of the accordion and participating in Scottish Dance Band music. Peter was a self-taught accordion player, and played the

box at many events. Together with Addie Harper of the Wick Scottish Dance Band, he formed the Wick Accordion & Fiddle Club and he was honoured to be invited back to Wick in 2015 to be formally awarded honorary membership of the club.

After three years as bank manager in Wick, Peter was ominously summoned to the Royal Bank's headquarters in Edinburgh. Filled with trepidation as to where he would go next, he was asked by the general manager if he would MIND(!) moving back to Oban as manager. On phoning his wife Jean that afternoon she immediately started packing!

A move to The Wheelhouse in Ganavan followed in 1976, and this was to become the family home for over 45 years.

The move back to Oban was when Peter's love of sailing came back to the fore. He had been a very proud member of the Royal Highland Yacht Club for many years and went on to become their Commodore. In 1977, he crewed on Pepsi in the Fastnet Race, one of the biggest classic offshore races in Europe. He was founding chairman of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings, and was also treasurer of Oban RNLI for 12 years. His hospitality and musical entertainment on board Snoopy, his Nantucket Clipper, were renowned throughout the West Coast and the islands.

Peter, back in Oban, also maintained his strong interest in traditional music and was appointed president of the Oban and Lorn Strathspey & Reel Society. Many locals and

visitors to Oban greatly enjoyed his compering of the annual Fiddler's Rally concert in the Corran Halls. He was also a Burns enthusiast and was often asked to speak at the annual suppers held in the Bard's memory, the most memorable one being in 1978 a Burns Supper in Moscow, which at that time was part of the old Soviet Union.

Peter was appointed an Honorary Sheriff at Oban's Sheriff Court in 1988, and went on to serve 25 years on the bench, retiring at the age of 80. However, he was not a natural Sheriff and often had great disagreements with court officials - he always wanted to let everyone off!

In his later years, he enjoyed his many coffee outings to local favourites such as Robin's Nest in Taynuilt, Poppies in Connel, and the Ben Lora Café in Benderloch. Peter was at his happiest amongst the company of good friends and familiar faces, and because of the regard in which he was held in the community he had an enormous amount of friends and acquaintances. He was, however, especially grateful in later life to Viv MacDonald for all she did to help him in The Wheelhouse over the years, and also the wonderful home carers of Oban, who became good friends and were instrumental in allowing Peter to stay at home until his passing.

Peter was especially proud of his two boys, Garry and Lorne, and all that they have achieved in their life. They have been wonderful supportive sons to their father, visiting him regu-

larly and helping him in every way since Jean's passing. Garry, Peter's oldest son, who lives in Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire wished it to be recorded that his brother Lorne, who lives in Oban, was a most devoted son visiting two to three times a day and taking his father away on many trips well beyond Oban. Peter was also very fond of Garry's partner, Kate, and her wonderful warmth, humour and caring manner brought great joy to him.

He was also devoted to his only grandson Calum Peter MacLeod, and one of Peter's proudest days was attending Calum's graduation in Edinburgh. Peter was so delighted when Calum met Fiona and he loved their recent visit to Oban, when he could spend time with them and hear of their latest exciting expedition to the Western Isles.

Peter was especially proud when Willie Lawrie of Kinlochleven, composed a pipe tune, 'Peter MacLeod of Ganavan', and this lovely and special tune was played on the pipes by Jamie MacGregor at the graveside at Pennyfuir.

Peter MacLeod was a man of many parts, gifted in all that that took his interest but he was essentially a family man, proud, too, of his island and highland heritage which he always endeavoured to promote. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him for the unique personality that he was, which saw him able to generate in equal measure friendship and enthusiasm wherever he went.

Iain MacIntyre

OT

January

Robert MacIntyre, right, declared himself 'pretty happy' after he got his 2021 campaign off to a solid start at the weekend finishing tied 16th in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship. Understandably, after his long lay-off over Christmas and New Year, there were initial signs of rust during his opening round and, after finding himself three over for his first seven holes, Bob did exceptionally well to recover to post an even par 72.



# Sport high

March



Ezra Manning and Olivia Bruce were the top Strava Challenge performers



Having secured a front-row start in qualifying, John McPhee's Qatar GP unfortunately came to an early end in Losail after he got caught up in another rider's incident on lap three. John didn't have the best of starts and found himself losing a couple of places off the line but soon recovered and was back in third during the opening lap. Pushing hard and staying with the leading group, his first race of the year was then brought to an early conclusion.

April



Gary McDonald, right, became the first person to cycle the West Highland Way in under nine hours, setting a new record for the second time in less than a year. Gary completed the West Highland Way in less than nine hours on his bike. Perhaps better known locally for his success in the Scottish Six Days Trial, Gary broke a six-year-old record last August when he cycled the 96-mile route from Milngavie in nine hours, 28 minutes and 34 seconds, knocking an hour off the previous best time.

January

Unable to physically visit her family in Crieff at Christmas, Oban mum Rosemary Young, left, decided to walk the equivalent distance and raise much-needed cash for charity instead as part of Oban-based Healthy Options' 5 to 10 and More campaign.

February



The shinty world was mourning the death of Oban's Dougie MacIntyre Senior, above, generally regarded within the game as one of its greatest players and to some possibly the 'best of all time'. Dougie died on Friday February 19, aged 89. Apart from his two years' National Service with 'The Argylls', Dougie lived his entire life in Oban where he gained a reputation as an outstanding all-round sportsman excelling at fishing, badminton, golf and football. But he will always be best remembered for his unique ability as a shinty player.



February

Oban Lorne Rugby Football Club coach Andrew Johnston and his family, right, didn't let the grass grow under their feet during lockdown II. In the six weeks from the start of January to the Calcutta Cup kick-off on Saturday February 6, the quintet, including wife Ethel and children Charlie, Harry and Jack, walked and cycled more than 1,300 miles between them for the Doddie Aid Challenge, raising money and awareness for Doddie Weir's MND charity.



# Highlights January to June



...ers at Tieve High School.

An initiative organised by LiveArgyll's Active Schools and Sport team was a huge success. The School Strava Challenge was aimed at encouraging young people in secondary schools across the area to keep active and healthy while in lockdown and not having access to regular school activities. Staff and pupils in every secondary school were challenged to walk, run or wheel as many kilometres as possible over a five-week period. The schools were pitched against each other to add a competitive element and pupils vied for top spot in their school community. A total of 10 schools, 378 pupils and 112 school staff amassed an incredible 29,670 kilometres during the challenge.



Sport and leisure services across Argyll began to open up again.

LiveArgyll opened its swimming pools and gyms and Atlantis Leisure in Oban was about to open its gym, climb cube, sports hall and tennis and squash courts. Nick Wesley, general

## April

manager at Atlantis Leisure, said at the time: 'We are really excited that the team at Atlantis Leisure is getting ready to re-open our doors after more than four months of closure.'

## May



The reopening of Oban Bowling Club's green saw capacity attendance at weekend competitions and a good turn-out for week night rinks. The winners of the George Barnett Balloted Triples trophy were, left to right, Helen MacLean, Marian Carr and Donald MacLean.

## May

Oban Saints Under 15s were back in competition taking on Milton Rovers in the Glasgow and District Youth Football League Divisional Cup group match at Oban's Community 3G pitch. The young Saints started the game well, with defender Logan Black putting a headed chance over the bar in the opening exchanges.



## June



Three teams from Oban set off for Peebles last weekend for their first competitive mountain biking competition since Strathpuffer in February 2019. Glentress Forest was the destination for a seven-hour endurance event attracting entrants from across Scotland and the north of England. Covid arrangements meant racing with no support and minimal equipment on the 11kms of natural single track descents and crippling climbs. North Argyll Cycle Club fielded three pairs and a solo rider. The teams fell into order and lapped consistently as the drizzle dried off throughout the day. Initial rusty technique after a long break developed into a more focused effort and all the riders pushed hard to the end.

## June

Oban High School's under 14 girls rugby team played their final game of the 20/21 season for the Bradbury Cup. This was also the last chance for the girls to say farewell to their senior coaches Poppy McKillop and Isla MacGillivray. Although Isla will continue to work with the squad after summer, Poppy was off to college in Glasgow. The girls took a moment before kick-off to present Poppy with flowers and a card as a token of their appreciation for her hard work and motivation to grow and improve girls rugby at Oban High School. The game was fast-paced and with little competition at the breakdown, lots of tries were the order of the day. Some lovely footwork and agility provided the opening try of the day for the Sharks. Numerous tries were exchanged as referee Allan Wright endeavoured to keep up with play.



Part two – July to December – in next week's Oban Times

# Season's greetings from the sporting community – part 1

## Isle of Seil Golf Club

The Isle of Seil Golf Club would like to say thank you to our enthusiastic greenkeeper Mark McDougall (who had to cope with summer sunshine with drought, then rain in the autumn) and to our roving professional Craig Lee who commenced this season to support coaching for members and Easdale and Kilninver Primary Schools.

We look forward to Craig returning next year.

2021 was a year to celebrate 25 years since the founding of the club with many fun com-

petitions and a 'back to front course over the sea'.

Many thanks to the committee, all essential and much appreciated volunteers who work both on and off the course, all participating members who play for fun or in competitions, and also to our non-playing supporters.

A Happy Christmas to all members and best wishes for 2022 - Pat Mill, secretary.

## Oban Lorne RFC

I just wanted to take the opportunity to drop everyone a quick note to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year and hope that



Isle of Seil Golf Club members.

we all have a 2022 that brings more cheer to us all.

We at the club are a rugby family and I urge you all to do what you can to reach out to one another just to say: 'Hi. How are you?' That call might make someone's day. Just knowing that there's someone else out there thinking about them will make a difference.

I also want to thank everyone who has contributed their time to help coach at all levels of rugby within the club, we sincerely appreciate all that you do for Oban Lorne Rugby Club.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, and if you are interested please get in contact with us at obanlornerfc@gmail.com.

So let's all take this period to reflect, eat, drink and be merry and come back stronger, fitter

and more committed than ever.

And if you're a player of any age or a parent, thank you all for continuing to support the club. Without you all we have no club. I, like you, will be looking forward to 2022 and the prospect of more competitive matches. Here's hoping that Covid doesn't get in the way of that again.

So best wishes to all for a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and hope to see you all back in 2022 on and off the Park - Darryl Williams, president.

## Oban Ravens Squash Club

2021 saw the pre-Covid formed Oban Ravens Ladies Squash Team coached by Colin



Oban Ravens Squash Club

MacNiven fly for the first time with the restart of competitive games and matches around Scotland.

The new home/away strips and kit were rolled out and the team are extremely grateful for the continued support of all its sponsors in what has been a challenging year for everyone.

The team continues to go from strength to strength and trains every Thursday from Atlantis Leisure.

This year has seen many new team players join the Ravens and also the return of a few seasoned players.

Squad training restarts on Thursday January 13 2022. There is a lot more squash to be played next year!

January will also see the launch of the team's Facebook and Instagram social media pages which has been out-

sourced to a local professional social media company.

Many events and competitions are in the pipeline already for next year including the long-awaited return of Ladies Bootcamp in the autumn.

Thanks to our coach Colin MacNiven whose tireless dedication and devotion continues to drive the team on to bigger and better things.

Seasons greetings to all the 'Ravens', their sponsors and supporters and wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2022.



Oban Lorne Minis in action.




**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
A JIFMAR COMPANY

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780  
M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk  
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 30 December, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

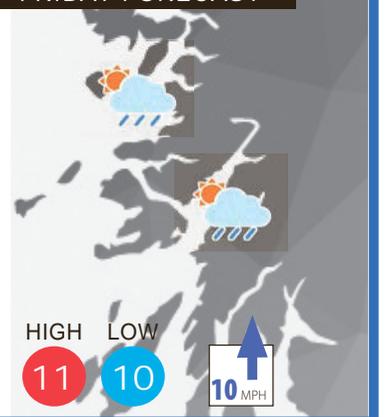
<b>30</b>	0229 3.3 0818 1.4 TH 1450 3.6 2117 1.4	<b>1</b>	0416 3.8 1024 1.0 SA 1636 3.9 2257 1.0	<b>3</b>	0548 4.1 1212 0.8 M 1809 4.0	<b>5</b>	0116 0.7 0719 4.2 W 1350 0.8 1936 3.8
<b>31</b>	0326 3.5 0924 1.2 F 1546 3.8 2209 1.2	<b>2</b>	0503 4.0 1120 0.8 SU 1723 4.0 ● 2345 0.8	<b>4</b>	0030 0.7 0634 4.2 TU 1301 0.8 1853 3.9	<b>6</b>	0202 0.8 0804 4.0 TH 1437 1.0 2018 3.6

### OBAN WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.	<b>Friday</b> Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 10°C to 11°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.
--	---	--	--

### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardrishaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30



HIGH 11 LOW 10 10 MPH

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & OBAN TIMES



COLLECT YOUR FINAL TOKEN in the Tesco Trolley Dash competition

No 8596

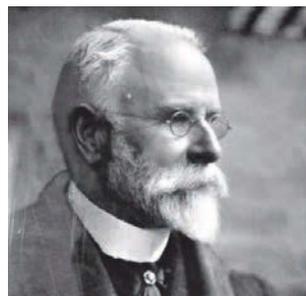
Thursday 30 December, 2021

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



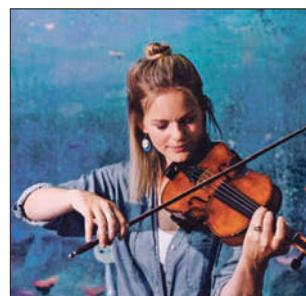
### Happy birthday!



#### The Oban Times looks back at its 160 year history

• See pages 20-25 for more

### Pilgrim Souls



#### Lochaber musician launches debut album

• See page 7 for more

# SANTA VISITS KILMALLIE TOTS



Santa was literally the centre of attention at the recent Kilmallie Baby and Toddlers Christmas party. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# Corpach Marina boost

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@lochabertimes.co.uk

The Thomas Telford Corpach Marina (TTCM Ltd) project received some seasonal good news with confirmation it is to get a grant of £400,000 from the Scottish Government.

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth Tom Arthur last week confirmed to local MSP Kate Forbes, who had written on behalf

of the Caol Regeneration Company to Holyrood mandarins over the issue.

Mr Arthur, who has responsibility for the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), which has already supported the Corpach Marina project in the past, told Ms Forbes his officials had recently undertaken a review of all current RCGF projects across Scotland to understand the nature and extent of cost increases and subsequent funding gaps, in order to ensure progress continues to be made.

Mr Arthur told Ms Forbes: 'I am pleased to confirm that I have now agreed that the Corpach Marina project will be amongst many projects across Scotland that will benefit from a grant uplift from RCGF this year to help them move along to completion.'

'The agreed grant uplift for the Corpach Marina project is £400,000 for this financial year, which will be directed through Highland Council.'

'I look forward to being updated in due course on

Continued on page 2.

**SALE!**  
STARTS 4TH JAN 10AM!

BEDS, SOFAS, FURNITURE,  
CARPETS, CURTAINS & BLINDS

mathesons.co.uk  
Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban | 01631 565195

mathesons FURNISHINGS

LT

## Omicron restrictions come into effect

Temporary measures to limit the spread of the Omicron variant whilst the accelerated booster vaccination programme takes effect have come into force.

From 5am on Sunday December 26, attendance at large events has been limited to 100 people for indoor standing events; 200 people for indoor seated events; and 500 people for all outdoor events (seated or standing).

One metre physical distancing has been reinstated in all hospitality and indoor leisure settings, including pubs, restaurants, gyms, theatres and museums amongst others. Table service is also required in settings where alcohol is served for consumption on the premises.

Nightclubs closed for a period of at least three weeks from Monday December 27, however they have the option of remaining open if they operate with table service and physical distancing, in line with the requirements for other hospitality businesses.

All of the temporary meas-

ures are to be reviewed on Tuesday January 11.

The restrictions are backed by £375 million in business support with full details to be announced shortly, following discussions with business organisations and local authorities. Hospitality businesses are already eligible for top-up funding through the December and January Business Top Up.

Further guidance has also been published to support businesses to take reasonable measures to limit the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Economy Secretary Kate Forbes said: "These temporary restrictions are targeted at reducing the spread of Omicron while the accelerated vaccination programme takes effect.

"I understand how difficult this has been for businesses in recent weeks but we must reduce our contacts and limit the spread of the virus."

Read the guidance: [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/)

## Mental Health Matters

NIC GODDARD

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

A friend once accused me of being a 'pathological optimist' and given some of my rather unconventional life choices and adurance to continue putting a positive spin on things even when it's blatantly clear that if there was a plan, life has not worked out according to it, that is probably a fair accusation.

Even I have struggled to find silver linings during the last two years, though, and despite managing to find plenty to feel grateful for, I feel as though I have mostly tried not to think or slow down for fear of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the unprecedented times we are living through.

I think we have all spent time during these last two years considering our priorities, appreciating what we still have and understanding the value of what we may not have.

I know that time spent with my parents after 18 months apart, during which all of us had considered the possibility that we may not see each other again, was both precious and gave us all an opportunity to



Nic is looking forward with optimism, just not blind optimism.

say all the things we wanted to have said just in case when we said goodbye this time it was for another very long period.

Living with Covid has become part of our day-to-day lives, from buying a sparkly festive mask to wear this Christmas to ensuring we have sufficient lateral flow tests on hand to get us through the festive period.

As we enter into a third year of living alongside coronavirus, with numbers of infected people currently rising daily, once more as I ponder on what the year ahead may hold, I can-

not ignore the fact that Covid will be part of what lies ahead for us in 2022.

I don't tend to make New Year resolutions, but I do take the opportunity of one year coming to a close and a new year starting to take stock of where I am in my life and give some consideration to where I might want to be in the year ahead.

This time last year many of my plans for the year ahead took Covid into consideration. I checked cancellation policies when booking gigs, events or trips and grouped plans into high, medium and low risk categories accordingly.

As I start to think about what 2022 may hold, I remain hopeful that maybe this will be the year that we are able to return to a time when life is not overshadowed by Covid, all the time knowing that if that came true, that low-lying anxiety may well give way to concerns about the climate crisis, the plight of refugees or worries about the state of our political system.

I am unsure whether I yearn

for a return to a simpler time when I didn't worry about things or whether to feel guilty for not having previously worried as that just suggests I was being naive or blind to the world around me.

I think the biggest lesson that 2021 has taught me is to do what I can from where I am. To help when I am able, to share what I can, to stand up for what I believe in and to look after those who are precious to me, which includes myself. To continue to look for, to find and to celebrate all that is good and hopeful but to also keep my eyes open to what might not be good too.

Optimism but perhaps not such blind optimism as before.

I'm still planning trips and adventures, still making the most of the opportunities I have and raising a glass, taking a deep breath and welcoming in 2022 with gratitude for being here to do so.

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

## Corpach Marina project receives £400,000 to move to next phase

Continued from page 1.

the completion of the third phase of the development and how it will realise the many benefits to the local communities as you set out in your letter.'

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times: 'Corpach Marina is an excellent initiative, which has come through many challenging times.'

'I'm delighted that through my representations as a local MSP, the minister has agreed an additional £400,000 which will allow the project to move to the next critical phase.'

'This is the result of several meetings with all the key stakeholders involved in the initiative. It is a timely and welcome Christmas present for Fort William.'

There are already 66 boat owners who have expressed an interest in a berth in the new marina, which will open, it is hoped, in April - some 200 years after the opening of the nearby Caledonian Canal.

Phase three of the project will see the construction of the breakwaters, pontoons and linkspan at the marina site.

Giving their reaction to the news, the directors of Caol



The marina project is to get a grant of £400,000 from the Scottish Government.

Regeneration Company stuck with the Christmas theme, saying they were delighted to learn of some 'great news from the East' and described Ms Forbes as a 'shining star' for her commitment to and support for the project for more than four years.

Andy McKenna, chairman of TTCM Ltd, commented: 'This is what we have been working towards for months and months and it's a fantastic early Christmas present for everyone involved with the project.'

'We still have a lot of work to do but we will be celebrating the marina opening 200

years after the opening of the Caledonian Canal in 1822.'

And Donnie Corbett, chairman of Caol Regeneration Company Ltd, praised the ongoing commitment of his volunteer directors and of the team leading the marina project.

He said: 'Everyone involved has stuck with this over the years, through thick and thin.'

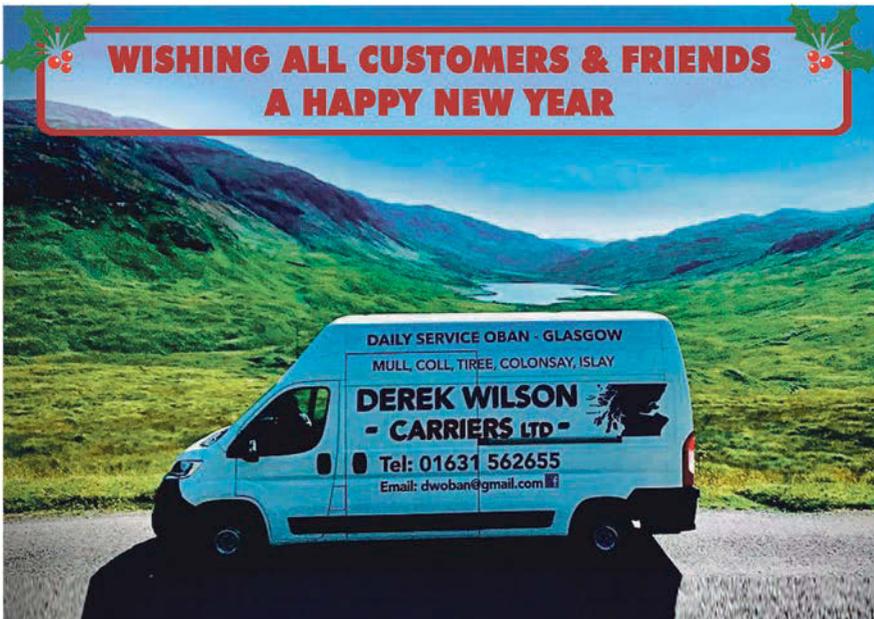
'This announcement takes us much nearer to our goal of realising all the benefits that will flow from the completed marina, slipway and cafe.'

'I want to thank all of them for their determination,' he added.

# DEREK WILSON CARRIERS LTD

**DAILY SERVICE OBAN - GLASGOW | MULL, COLL, TIREE, COLONSAY, ISLAY**  
**FOR ALL YOUR FREIGHT FORWARDING AND COURIER SERVICES**

**WISHING ALL CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**Telephone: 01631 562655**  
**email: [dwoban@gmail.com](mailto:dwoban@gmail.com)**  
**web: [www.derekwilsoncarriers.co.uk](http://www.derekwilsoncarriers.co.uk)**  
**Units 2/3 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin, OBAN PA34 4HB**



# All change in top jobs at smelter and estate

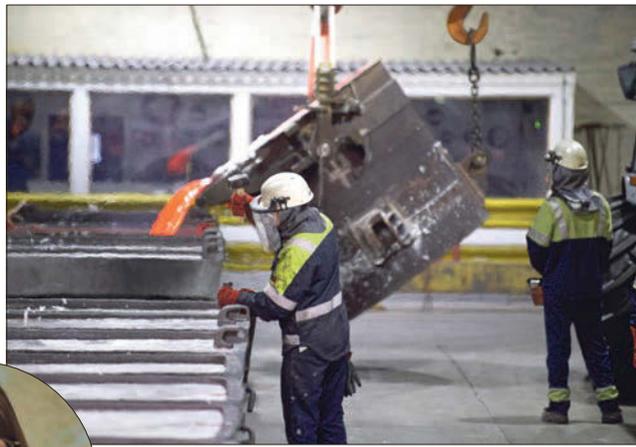
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@lochabertimes.co.uk

It is all change in the top roles of two GFG Alliance subsidiaries in Lochaber.

Long-serving managing director Brian King has now retired and is replaced as managing director of Alvanche British Aluminium, which operates the Lochaber Smelter in Fort William, by Tom Uppington.

Mr King joined the Lochaber Smelter in 2015. He had already had a long career in aluminium smelting prior to this, having managed smelters in Lynemouth and Anglesey while working for Rio Tinto.

Over at Jahama Highland



Alvanche British Aluminium site in Lochaber; above right, ABA managing director Brian King, who has now retired; left, Julia Stoddart, chief operating officer of Jahama Highland Estates; and below right, Tom Uppington takes over leadership at Lochaber Smelter. Brian King and main photographs: Iain Ferguson



Estates, which oversees more than 114,000 acres that came with the purchase of the smelt-

er operations, Julia Stoddart leaves her role as chief operating officer.



A GFG Alliance spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'After two years successfully leading Jahama Highland Estates, Julia Stoddart is moving on to set up a new land management consultancy. She leaves with our thanks and best wishes.'

'Dimitri Harrison, a long-time consultant to GFG, will take over the running of the estate.'

'At the same time, Tom Uppington has been appointed managing director of Alvanche British Aluminium, taking over leadership of the full Lochaber operations from Brian King who has retired.'

'Tom will lead the project to expand the smelter, including construction of a new recycling and billet plant, which received planning permission from the Highland Council in September.'

## Body found in search for hillwalker

Officers searching for Bo'ness hillwalker Stuart Baillie, 60, who was reported missing after failing to return from a walk in Glen Nevis on Monday December 20, have recovered the body of a man.

Formal identification has yet to take place but Mr Baillie's family has been informed. There are not thought to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death and a report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Mr Baillie had set out to walk on a route to Aonach Beag and Aonach Mor from the Steall Falls car park in Glen Nevis.

He was reported missing around 6.35pm after not returning as planned. He was last heard from around 2.10pm on the summit of Aonach Beag. Personnel from the Lochaber and Glencoe mountain rescue teams, and Police Scotland were involved in searches, along with the Search and Rescue Dogs Association and the HM Coastguard helicopter.

## Glencoe pub and mountain legend scoop gold in awards

The Clachaig Inn at Glencoe has taken the gold award in the Walkers' Pub of the Year category in the The Great Outdoors (TGO) Magazine Reader Awards 2021.

Announcing the win, TGO said of the popular Lochaber watering hole: 'Nestled in a glen of impossibly craggy peaks and razor-toothed ridges, The Clachaig is a hillwalking institution - it's almost sacrilege to be in Glen Coe and not pay the inn a visit.'

'With Bidean nam Bian and Aonach Eagach on its doorstep, it's the perfect post-adventure watering hole - and you're sure to see climbers, scramblers and hikers galore sharing tales of the day's epic adventures.'

'From roaring fires and foot-tapping live music to hearty meals and cosy accommodation, not to mention a huge array of malt whiskys and craft beers, there's something from everyone at The Clachaig.'

'Just a legendary pub in an awesome location,' said one voter. Another put it as follows: 'Great music, great welcome and always a brilliant atmosphere.'

Posting on its Facebook page after the gold award



The late Dr Hamish MacInnes.

was announced, the Clachaig commented: 'We're hugely grateful for the support of all our customers. You just keep us going with all your cheer and support, especially in these hard times.'

'And of course, we can only keep on doing what we do by virtue of our managers and staff. This year they've really pulled out all the stops and kept the show on the road in some really difficult and challenging conditions.'

There was another top accolade which went to Lochaber, with the gold award for Outdoor Book of the Year going to The Fox of Glencoe by

the late Dr Hamish MacInnes, who died aged 90 last year.

TGO commented: 'A legend in the field of mountaineering, Hamish MacInnes - otherwise known as The Fox of Glencoe - pioneered many of Scotland's most challenging climbs and numerous routes overseas.'

'Tenacious and inventive by nature, he dedicated much of his life to mountain safety and rescue.'

'As well as founding both the Search and Rescue Dog Association and the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, Hamish's revolutionary MacInnes Stretcher is still used worldwide, and his all-metal ice axe was a game-changer for modern alpinism.'

'He was also a prolific author, publishing 26 books. Written and compiled before his death in 2020, The Fox of Glencoe chronicles Hamish's adventures in his wry, elegant style, as well as including contributions from his close friends.'

'It's the definitive collection of stories from a mountain life lived to the full. As he passed away recently, this award would be a fitting tribute to the great man,' commented one voter.

**ARAY FISH LIMITED**  
WWW.ARAYFISH.COM

**ORDER NOW FOR DELIVERY**  
**W/C 10th JAN 2022**  
**PLACE YOUR'S BEFORE 1PM MONDAY 10TH JAN**

*HAPPY new year*

**ORDER HERE**  
WWW.ARAYFISH.COM

Includes social media icons for TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram.

LT



Sunday, January 2 – Stob Dubh (883m, Corbett); Beinn Ceitlein (845m, Corbett Top)

This Corbett deserves its name, dark and forbidding, steep-sided with a huge gash on its S flank. This route traverses the entire massif which forms the hub of a splendid panorama of the Glen Coe and Glen Etive Hills. A slightly modified return missing out the small summit of An Grianan extends the distance slightly but reduces the ascent.

Total distance: 11km, 1007m ascent or 13km, 938m ascent.

For more detail of the route please visit [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club) or Nevis Hillwalking Club Facebook page.

Please note the walks may change at short notice due to conditions on the day and Covid restrictions.

If you are a keen hill walker and want to know more about our club, participate in walks or are interested in becoming a member, contact us at [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

# Golden opportunity to spark snow sports boom

The Scottish ski season is ready to return with a bang this month after two lost years due to the Covid pandemic.

That's the view of Snowsport Scotland CEO Trafford Wilson, who believes the first full season since the beginning of the pandemic, ongoing uncertainty around overseas travel, plus the impact of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, create the perfect conditions for a snow sports boom in Scotland as its five resorts prepare to fully open this month.

More than 750,000 tickets are sold at Scottish snow sports venues every year in an industry worth more than £30 million to the nation's economy annually. The Scottish Ski Industry (SSI) also supports more than 1,000 employees, as well as almost 50 elite athletes involved in the Snowsport Scotland performance programme.

However, the pandemic has



significantly restricted the last two winter seasons, meaning the upcoming 2021/22 ski season is pivotal to the recovery and future of the industry.

However, despite the difficulties, Mr Wilson, who marks four years at the helm of Snowsport Scotland in May, believes Covid provided an opportunity by putting the

industry under the magnifying glass and highlighting its importance to Scotland's economy and tourism industry.

He said: 'While Covid has been a massive headache to say the least, particularly the stop and start nature of it, it's also provided the opportunity to gain heightened support from the Scottish Government and

**Ben Joshua and Kody Cumming of Fort William, enjoying some fun at Glencoe Ski Resort.**

Photograph by Robert Perry.

other agencies and promoted the national importance of the snow sports industry.

'Snow sports matter in Scotland. As evidenced through independent research the snow sports industry injects £30m into the Scottish economy every year, supports a workforce of more than 1,000 professionals, plays an important role in tourism, and allows literally hundreds of thousands of people each year to enjoy the physical and mental benefits that snow sport activities offer.'

In response to the many financial setbacks spurred on by Covid, the Scottish Government provided a £7m 'ski centre fund' to safeguard Scotland's commercially run

snow sport centres – Nevis Mountain Range, Glencoe Mountain Resort, The Lecht Ski Centre, Glenshee Ski Centre, Bearden Snowsports Centre, Snow Factor – Glasgow, Newmilns Snowsports Centre and Glasgow Ski and Snowboard Centre.

However, for the centres and the communities around them to thrive, Mr Wilson believes more investment is needed, which will hopefully be achieved in part by strong ticket sales this season.

Mr Wilson said: 'There's a golden opportunity to get people thinking about coming to Scotland as concerns remain about travelling abroad. We hope this opportunity allows more people than ever before to experience snow sports in the UK; and want to come back for more in the years to come.'

'It's fundamentally important we have a good season.'

**DONT  
PANIC  
WE ARE  
HERE!**



**Festive opening hours**

**Wednesday 29th -  
Friday 31st December  
8am-12pm**

**Re-open  
as normal  
Wed 5th  
Jan**

THE  
**BATHROOM  
SHOWROOM**

THE BATHROOM EXPERTS

7e Glengallan Road, Oban Tel: 01631 567640

**CITY  
PLUMBING**



**ALLIED  
SURVEYORS  
SCOTLAND**

**Home Reports and  
Valuations**

**Local surveyors operating throughout Argyll,  
the Highlands and Islands**

Dunoon 01369 705000  
Helensburgh 01436 674976  
Fort William 01397 705541

[www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com](http://www.alliedsurveyorsscotland.com)



**ARGYLL  
REMOVALS  
& STORAGE**

• **REMOVALS** • **STORAGE**  
• **HOUSE CLEARANCE**

Phone Duncan on 01631 567345  
or email: [info@argyllremovals.co.uk](mailto:info@argyllremovals.co.uk)

# MSPs' concerns over Harris losing ferry link during Uig harbour works

Two MSPs for the Western Isles have contacted both CalMac and the Scottish Government due to concerns stemming from news that ferry capacity will be reduced on the Uig triangle in 2022, writes Mark Entwistle.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant says she is concerned about news that Tarbert will be without a mainland ferry link from September 2022, while the Uig linkspan is upgraded.

CalMac is consulting on the 21-week timetable from Monday September 12 next year which would discontinue the ferry connection to Tarbert on Harris during improvements to the Uig harbour on Skye.

The linkspan upgrade will also include a new terminal building and dredging in preparation for new vessels.

The ferry service from



Rhoda Grant MSP.

Lochmaddy, North Uist, will be rerouted to Ullapool with increased sailings from Lochboisdale in South Uist.

Labour MSP Mrs Grant said the Harris community was a vibrant, enterprising community which was being given 'short shrift' by CalMac and the Scottish Government's mismanagement of ferry strategy.

'In addition to the, frankly

ridiculous, proposals of a reduced capacity ferry service during the peak season of summer, 2022, CalMac is now adding insult to injury by telling Harris that its lifeline ferry services are just not that important, and they don't qualify for a temporary alternative,' she added.

'To advise an entire island that they will have to use the neighbouring island's already oversubscribed service without additional capacity being provided is jaw-dropping.'

Mrs Grant went on to claim that the only reason the Uig linkspan was having to be upgraded in the first place is because the Scottish Government did not listen to the community's wishes that would have led them to order a vessel to fit the existing infrastructure.

'Instead the Scottish Government have chosen to

cut off a community from essential economic and health travel links in order to build a new pier for a ferry that hasn't been delivered yet, doesn't meet requirements laid out by the operator and which we are unsure if or when it will arrive,' she added.

'I wish I could say I was surprised, but unfortunately the inability of this government to hit water if it fell out of a boat no longer surprises me.'

Mrs Grant has now written to CalMac to ask for further consideration on how it can meet its legal obligation to provide a lifeline service to the communities of Harris.

Meanwhile, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Alasdair Allan, has asked the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure adequate transport links to Harris are maintained through next year.

Several island individuals and authorities have already highlighted the severe disruption and economic damage which the proposed arrangements would bring to the community and economy of Harris.

Mr Allan commented: 'We have already heard that the removal of the mezzanine deck on the Uig triangle would cost the island's economy up to £9m next summer. Now, islanders are being asked to consult on proposals which would completely remove the Tarbert connection from September for nearly half the year.'

'The alternative for travellers to and from Harris is to go via Stornoway. Yet no additional capacity or timetabling is planned for the MV Loch Seaforth, the busiest route in the network. This will result in longer journeys and put even more pressure on CalMac staff

and the network during the start of the dry-dock season, and could potentially cause a string of visitor cancellations.

'It is clear that we need to ensure additional capacity. I have therefore asked the Scottish Government what steps they will take to ensure adequate connectivity between Harris and the mainland.'

'I also highlighted the harm this will cause to an already-debilitated island economy directly with the Minister for Transport.'

Residents on Skye are being given the opportunity to provide feedback over plans to introduce an alternative timetable for the ferry service while work at Uig Harbour is under way. A presentation is now available online. Visit, [www.calmac.co.uk/uig-harbour-upgrades-community-consultation-december-2021](http://www.calmac.co.uk/uig-harbour-upgrades-community-consultation-december-2021)

**MONDO**  
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN PIZZA

**Peri Peri Fury**  
PERI PERI CHICKEN & BURGERS

**WE KEEP IT SIMPLE • FOCUS ON PRINCIPLE**

**Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year and thank you for your loyal custom. We could not attain this level of success without your steady support. Your satisfaction is our number one priority and we will always aim to provide you with a first-class service. Happy New Year to all our wonderful customers!**

**George Street, Oban**  
**01631 565786/686**  
Order online:  
[www.mondoperiperi.co.uk](http://www.mondoperiperi.co.uk)

**Of Oban**

**Kebabish**  
Enjoy Life, Enjoy Kebabish!

**Happy New Year to our customers! Our management and workers would like to thank you for giving us a fantastic opportunity to serve you well in every way possible. It is our earnest desire to keep you satisfied with our Food quality, services, and deliveries. You are our motivation for every step of the way. May this new year bring you more blessings and remember; we value you so much our dear customer.**

**George Street, Oban**  
**01631 563900/566885**  
Order online:  
[www.kebabishofoban.co.uk](http://www.kebabishofoban.co.uk)

LT

## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

2021 has been another of the strangest years yet for business, with continuing restrictions and rule changes, adapting to staff absences, Covid regulations and guidance and unpredictable income streams.

With so much uncertainty, and information to navigate, the pandemic has made the work of a Chamber of Commerce more vital than ever. We're proud of the work we've been able to do throughout the year to help our members weather the Covid storm.

Events are a key part of the work a Chamber does, and we continued to adapt events for online access, ensuring that businesses were able to get the support, training and information they needed from wherever they are. Looking back through the year, we've hosted over 30 events for businesses to help across a range of business issues and sectors.

Most of the events have taken place virtually, but by October we were delighted to once again bring our members together for our first in-person networking lunch since March 2020. Once we got used to being together in a room again, it was lovely to



see people chatting naturally, re-establishing connections and making new contacts – all in a Covid-safe way.

Over the year we've hosted round tables with key politicians and government ministers, run online security seminars, employment law updates, tourism guidance sessions, aquaculture insights sessions, a unique tri-chamber online networking event with Inverness and Caithness Chamber members, visits to key industry; not to mention the welcome return of Lochaber Ideas Week in November. This celebration of innovation and resilience in business brought the business community together, culminating in a fantastic Ideas Week Gala Dinner.

Whatever 2022 brings, you can count on the dedicated team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to be here to help the businesses in our community continue to adapt and thrive.

## Church organ refurb appeal launched

A fundraising campaign has been launched to help meet the cost of repairing the organ in Fort William Kilmallie (Duncansburgh Macintosh) Church.

The organ has been at the centre of worship since 1906, providing music at Sunday services, weddings, funerals and numerous special occasions including performances from visiting choirs from across the world, writes Iain Ferguson.

Now it is in need of special care to ensure it will carry on these important roles well into the future and a fund has been launched to help meet the £11,361 cost of the work.

During its lifetime, it has been converted from the original water engine to an electric blower and has undergone tuning and maintenance. It had a major overhaul in 1983 when it was completely dismantled, thoroughly cleaned and rebuilt in six weeks by specialist organ builder and restorer Michael MacDonald from Glasgow.

Unfortunately, only 16 years later, more intervention was needed as problems with the wall behind the organ led to



Reverend Richard Baxter with the organ which, after more than a century of serving the congregation of Fort William Kilmallie Church of Scotland, is now in need of servicing.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

dampness and dust causing deterioration of the leather and rusting of some metal work.

This was quickly dealt with and the organ was restored to full working order by the same company.

Ironically, the work needed now is due to an improvement in the church which saw air source heating being fitted in 2019 to maintain a constant temperature in the building.

This has caused much of the old leatherwork to dry out

and no longer fit properly. The appeal for funds has already raised just over half the total needed. Information on how to donate can be found on the church website [www.thedmac.co.uk](http://www.thedmac.co.uk).

Reverend Richard Baxter told the Lochaber Times: 'It is an interesting instrument built by Messrs Forster and Andrews of Hull in 1906 to the specification of Dr Hollins, the blind Edinburgh organist. 'The quality of materials,

construction and workmanship rank them among the best of all the Victorian organ builders. The organ is widely appreciated not just by the church, but by visiting choirs, and musicians often come to play the instrument.

'The wider community appreciates the instrument for weddings, funerals, concerts and community events. Hopefully the work will be carried out early in the new year.'



## NEW BUILD DEVELOPMENTS

- LOCAL & TRUSTED TIMBER KIT SPECIALISTS
- BESPOKE DESIGN USING SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES
- FROM LAND TO COMPLETION ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

## 3 &amp; 4 BEDROOM OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**KILMELFORD** - A desirable and quiet location that is just south of Oban on the A816

**FERNOCH** - A desirable and quiet residential development in Lochgilhead, close to all amenities

If you'd like more information please email us and we will respond when we reopen on the 10th of January.

**MACLEOD**  
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



## GET IN TOUCH TODAY

Sales@mkmacleod.co.uk  
01546 602989  
macleodconstruction.co.uk

## HIGHLAND FASTENERS

Happy New Year!

## FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Thursday 30th December 07:30 – 17:00

Friday 31st December 07:30 – 13:00

New Year's Day Closed

Sunday 2nd January Closed

Monday 3rd January 07:30 – 17:00

Back to Our normal hours of business

Highland Fasteners Ltd, 23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll  
01631 570584 e-mail [sales@highlandfasteners.com](mailto:sales@highlandfasteners.com)

## SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

We would like to wish all our customers a Happy New Year

- ✓ Septic Tank Emptying & Cleaning
- ✓ Septic Tank Installations & Inspections
- ✓ Groundworks & Landscaping
- ✓ Accredited Installer

Contact: T: 01546 607046 / 07917 358285  
E-mail: [septic tankservicesltd@gmail.com](mailto:septic tankservicesltd@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.septic tankservicesltd.com](http://www.septic tankservicesltd.com)



# Fort musician to release debut solo album, Pilgrim Souls

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@lochabertimes.co.uk

Fort William musician Megan Henderson has proved she is a master of her craft in her beautiful debut solo album Pilgrim Souls, set to be released on Friday January 21.

Megan, who is a member of award-winning Scottish folk group Breabach, grew up in the Fort and studied classical violin at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The multi-instrumentalist, who is also an in-demand session musician, was also nominated as Instrumentalist of the Year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards in 2012.

Also an accomplished singer, Megan was commissioned to write the music for the album for Celtic Connections' New Voices in 2019. She wrote the record inbetween a heavy



touring schedule and premiered the music to rapturous applause at the festival.

Pilgrim Souls is Megan's response to the dream-like, impressionistic paintings of Highland artist Christine Clark, which seek to reflect the beauty of the human spirit as it turns to nature for renewal.

The first single from the record, The Dawn Chorus, will be released on Friday January

7. The track, which builds in momentum from a light and intricate melody towards a powerful, meandering sound was inspired by Christine's painting of the same title which depicts a colourful awakening.

Speaking ahead of the launch Megan said: 'I'm really excited about putting this record out because it's my first solo project.

**Megan Henderson will release her debut solo album on Friday January 21.**

Photograph by Elly Lucas.

'I wanted to capture the energy and emotion that Christine's artwork makes me feel and I am delighted to be able to share it with everyone.'

'My music is influenced by a mix of genres - trad and classical mainly. I drew inspiration for the album from fellow Fort William native and artist Christine Clark, whose paintings depict - in her own words - 'imagined landscapes and narratives which transport us to unknown lands, conveying moments of solitude, love, hope, beauty and loss.'

'This is something I really connected with and wanted to reflect in my own art.'

The album features two tracks with vocals - The Composer and Pilgrim Souls.

The Composer features Megan's enchanting Gaelic vocals and has a soft and delicate sound. Meanwhile, the title track is hauntingly beautiful with Laura-Beth Salter's emotional vocals describing a love story. Almost Home, which is an uplifting and optimistic tune, is another highlight.

Artists joining Megan on the album include Jack Smedley (fiddle), Mairi Campbell (viola), Su-a Lee (cello, saw), Olav Luksengård Mjelva (Hardanger), Anna Massie (mandolin), Laura-Beth Salter (voice and mandolin) and Alistair Iain Paterson (piano, harmonium).

The album was recorded by Euan Burton in June 2021 over three days at GloWorm Recording Studio in Glasgow. Pilgrim Souls was recorded completely in a live setting, with an added recording from Norway-based

Olav Luksengård Mjelva. Megan will launch Pilgrim Souls at a special Celtic Connections show at the Mitchell Theatre in Glasgow on Sunday January 24. Christine Clark's art will feature as a projected backdrop and Megan will perform tracks from the record alongside an ensemble featuring fiddles, Hardanger fiddle, cello, mandolin, harmonium, piano and vocals. Megan added: 'I'm delighted to return to the Celtic Connections stage to officially launch this body of work which I created two years ago. I feel humbled to be joined by so many exceptional musicians on the night for what will be a poignant show for me.'

Pilgrim Souls will be available to buy on CD and stream and download on all digital platforms, on Friday January 21. Visit [www.meganhenders-onmusic.com](http://www.meganhenders-onmusic.com).

### The Little Salon & Spa

#### UNWIND & RELAX YOUR MIND

**BODY MESSAGES**  
ABHYANGA INDIAN MASSAGE • BALINESE MASSAGE  
• SWEDISH MASSAGE • DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE •  
SCANDINAVIAN HOT STONES MASSAGE •  
BLACK SHEEP SIGNATURE MASSAGE

#### RE-ENERGIZE YOUR SPIRIT

**QUICK FIX MESSAGES**  
FACE MASSAGE • INDIAN HEAD & NECK MASSAGE  
WITH STEAM • ARMS & HAND MASSAGE • FOOT  
REFLEXOLOGY WITH STRETCHING • BACK &  
SHOULDER MASSAGE WITH STRETCHING •  
FULL LEG MASSAGE WITH STRETCHING

#### REJUVENATE YOUR BODY

**BEAUTY TREATMENTS**  
BODY SCRUB • WAXING • THREADING •  
MANICURE • PEDICURE

#### RESTORE CALM

**COSY AMBIENCE**  
OUR COSY PINWOOD DECOR PUTS YOU  
AT EASE THE MOMENT YOU WALK IN.  
OUR SPA HAS 2 MASSAGE ROOMS, A SHOWER ROOM,  
2 NAIL STATIONS AND A PEDICURE STATION

Our team of skilled therapists will pamper you with our International range of massages and beauty treatments.

Open: 10am - 7pm  
For appointments, please contact: 0139 7712158

**Black Sheep Hotels**  
Open the Comfort of Travellers

**THE WHISPERING PINE LODGE**

THE LITTLE SALON & SPA, THE WHISPERING PINE LODGE, SPEAN BRIDGE PH34 4DZ, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM.

## 2022 HAPPY NEW YEAR

COME AND SEE US IN 2022 AND START THE NEW YEAR HEALTHY AND PLASTIC FREE.

**Go Naked Veg Ltd** Stevenson St, Oban, PA34 5NA

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS MON 27TH - SUN 2ND JAN - BACK TO NORMAL HOURS 3RD JAN  
MON CLOSED, TUE 8AM-6PM, WED - FRI 8AM-5PM, SAT CLOSED

## MACC Business Park

### Workshops available to let

Sizes ranging from 62 Sqm to 1500 Sqm on secure business park site  
Onsite offices, accommodation, internal and external storage space  
Flexible lease terms available

Contact MACC Developments Ltd Office on 01586 551555 or  
[enquiries@maccdl.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@maccdl.co.uk) for further information

LT

## Crabs and lobsters unite the UK's political parties

It's rare to hear about cross-party consensus in UK politics, but on Monday December 6 this happened in the House of Lords at Westminster and for a most unusual reason – crabs and lobsters.

The ten-legged crustaceans were debated late into the night, with Lords agreeing to support a government amendment declaring that animals such as crabs, lobsters and prawns experience feelings such as pain and should be included in the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill.

The amendment was laid on behalf of the government by Conservative peer Lord Benyon and sponsored by opposition Labour peer Baroness Hayman of Ullock and Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Bakewell of

Hardington Mandeville. It is believed to be only the second time this has happened in recent history.

Following Brexit, the UK government launched an Action Plan for Animal Welfare, including the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill which is currently making its way through the UK Parliament.

After the debate in the House of Lords, it will now include decapod crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters and prawns and cephalopod molluscs, such as octopus and squid. If passed into law, their welfare would have to be considered in any future policy decision-making. It would also pave the way for their inclusion into other UK animal welfare legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act.

# New project to reduce marine life becoming tangled in fishing gear

A ground-breaking project is helping reduce mammal, shark and turtle entanglement in creel fishing gear in Scottish waters.

NatureScot has published a report on the first phase of the Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) project, the first of its kind in the UK, which brings together commercial creel fishers, NatureScot, research scientists and marine mammal conservation and rescue charities to better understand the scale and impacts of marine animal entanglement in Scottish waters.

Entanglements in fishing gear and marine debris can have welfare and conservation impacts on marine animals, causing injury, impairment and death.

Entanglement is the largest



**A humpback whale caught in creel fishing gear.** Photograph: Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

identified cause of death due to human activity in minke and humpback whales in Scottish waters and the only known cause of human-driven mortality in basking sharks and marine turtles. During at-sea surveys, more than 22 per cent of live minke whales observed on the west coast of Scotland

showed evidence of previous entanglements.

The project involved interviewing 159 creel fishers about their fishing practices and their experience of entanglements. A total of 146 entanglements over a 10-year period were reported.

Only a small number of these entanglements were previously known, demonstrating that entanglements are hugely under-reported.

The interviews also revealed that a wider range of species were involved than previously known.

Fishers also participated in training events and workshops to promote best practise, reduce entanglement risk and safely disentangle large marine animals from fishing gear. This training gave fishers the ability to call on each other and

provide a rapid response to any entangled animal.

Dr Kirstie Dearing, NatureScot's Fisheries Advisor, said: 'We all find it upsetting to see our majestic marine species in distress, so we're really heartened by the strong commitment and willingness of the fishing industry to work towards practical, safe and sustainable solutions on the issue of entanglement.'

'We will only solve this problem by working in collaboration on potential legislative changes. The new reporting obligation will also help us to understand the extent of the issue more clearly.'

Based on feedback from the fishers, the report recommends a number of ways to combat marine entanglement, including trials of weighted ropes



We've built our reputation on building...

*beautiful homes*

**But did you know?**

We also fit kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, glass replacements, decking, fascias, soffits and much more. If you need it, we can do it in super quick time.

Our team of local, highly qualified joiners are ready to work with you on any project, large or small

**15 years of serving Lochaber – trust us to get the job done!**

**LANGAN & SMITH**  
BUILDING CONTRACTORS

**Call us or call in today:**  
Langan & Smith  
Building Contractors  
Unit 21, Ben Nevis Way  
Fort William, PH33 6PR  
Tel: 01397 705599  
Available 24hrs  
Email: langansmith@btconnect.com

**Get in touch.**

Find out from DYW West Highland how **your business** will benefit from the drive, energy and diversity that **young people** bring to the workplace

Visit [www.dywwesthighland.org](http://www.dywwesthighland.org) or email [info@dywwesthighland.org](mailto:info@dywwesthighland.org)

**Young Person's Guarantee**

**DYW** | WEST HIGHLAND  
Developing the Young Workforce



A dead basking shark being released from entanglement.

- ropes which sink rather than float - and tighter regulation to limit the amount of gear in the water and caps on creel numbers, all of which were supported by fishers involved in the study. Other recommendations include developing seasonal distribution maps of vulnerable species to identify potential high risk areas and trials of 'on-call' - or ropeless - fishing systems.

## The Croftless Crofter

NIC GODDARD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



# Joy of the precious gift of time

This has been one of my least crafty years, writes Nic Goddard.

A return to increased working hours, no requirement to sit alongside children engaged in arts and crafts and no real outlet for selling my wares has meant my soft fruits were eaten rather than preserved and I more or less hung up my crochet hooks this year.

But a month off from one of my jobs, coupled with a spot of festive nostalgia, means I have found myself digging out craft supplies and enjoying making gifts for people I love this year.

It began with chopping a couple of rogue branches off our Christmas tree and deciding to use them to make a wreath. I headed off into the woods armed with secateurs to cut some willow branches to weave them into.

Then, as we decorated our

tree with an assortment of decorations, the more fragile requiring unwrapping from being stored all year, meant it was like opening a new gift. So many of our decorations were gifts from others, made by us over the years or precious souvenir ornaments that coupled with festive music and maybe a glass or two of mulled wine, I find myself getting teary-eyed with memories of Christmases past.

When all the Christmas cake mix wouldn't quite fit into the big tin, instead of making small cakes for us to eat now, I baked a smaller loaf shaped cake which I have marzipanned, iced and decorated and posted down to my parents so they can share our cake with us even if they are not here at our table this year.

I have felted, crocheted, stitched and beaded a variety



Made with love - some of Nic's handmade decorations.

of tree ornaments to send to family and friends. I have spent several hours trawling through photographs to create photo calendars for family members

featuring snaps of happy times of us all together.

All of these activities have taken me far more hours than I would have worked to earn

what I may have spent on gifts for them but have given me such joy.

I hope they will also bring love and joy to the recipients who will think of me not just when they unwrap the parcels but also every time they sit down over the festive period to enjoy a slice of cake, each month next year when they turn to a new page on the calendar and see another happy memory captured on camera and each Christmas to come when they decorate their trees and hang up something made by me just for them.

The best gifts I have been given are those which had love and thought put into them. I will definitely try to remember this when I'm next considering the best gift for someone along with making sure I let people know how precious the gift of their time has been to me.

# It's time to roll up your sleeve again



The new Omicron variant of COVID-19 is highly infectious and spreading fast. Our immunity reduces gradually over time so it's important for every adult to get the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster. It gives you more protection and should significantly reduce your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.

**Book your COVID-19 Vaccine Booster now or check arrangements in your local area at [nhsinform.scot](https://nhsinform.scot) or call 0800 030 8013.**

LT

# Peatland restoration jobs boost as NatureScot expands green project

NatureScot's Peatland Action programme is expanding with a boost for new green jobs in the wake of COP26.

The expansion includes nine new roles across Scotland covering a range of skills, from land management and technical expertise to financial, project management and communications skills.

Recruitment is now under way for the positions, which will support the Scottish Government's 10-year £250 million commitment for peatland restoration.

The jobs boost was a key commitment in NatureScot's Action Plan for nature-based jobs, which identified peatland restoration as an important area for growth.

The recent UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in Glasgow highlighted the

critical role that peatlands in good condition can play in naturally capturing and storing carbon.

As a 'nature-based solution' to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, peatland restoration can help protect nature, improve water quality and contribute to the local economy.

Peter Hutchinson, Peatland Action programme manager, said: 'Peatland restoration is a relatively new and growing sector in Scotland.

'In the last ten years, NatureScot has built a highly dedicated team, growing from just ten staff to more than 30. We are now looking to expand further to meet the growing ambition to restore Scotland's peatlands and we hope these roles will be followed by more opportunities in the near



The redeclaration of Blawhorn Moss National Nature Reserve on November 8. As part of the event an eight-metre long sample of peat was extracted. Photograph: Dougie Barnett/SNH.

future. This is a really exciting time to join us and be part of the green jobs revolution,

working on projects that are making a real difference to tackling the twin crises of na-

ture loss and climate change. 'Peatland restoration is not only a win for nature and cli-

mate, but also for job creation and for communities across Scotland.'

The roles currently being advertised on the NatureScot jobs webpages are: Project Officer - Highland, Skye and Lochalsh and Central Scotland - three posts; Communications Officer; GIS and Database Officer; Programme Administrator; Funding Officer, 1.5 posts; Workforce Planning and Development Manager.

## WIN £200 WORTH OF SHOPPING

# TROLLEY

# DASH

COURTESY OF TESCO OBAN

**ENTRY FORM**

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

email .....  I have included my 4 tokens (please tick)

Your entry must be received by 10am Tuesday 11th January. Send your entry to Oban Times, Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban PA34 4HB



The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

TOKEN  
FOUR

LOCHABER TIMES  
& Oban Times

We all spend far too much money over Christmas and New Year, so how great would it be able to fill your shopping trolley COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE in January?! Courtesy of our friends at Tesco in Oban, one lucky reader will win the chance to fill their trolley with up to £200 worth of goods (see T&C's for exclusions). All you have to do is collect 4 tokens over four weeks starting on 9th December, get them to us by 10am Tuesday 11th January and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic trolley dash. What are you waiting for, banish those post-Christmas blues and start collecting your tokens!

All 4 tokens must be sent in a single envelope, along with a completed entry form (opposite), to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, PA34 4HB by 10am Tuesday 11th January

One token from each week is required, multiple entries are allowed, but must be submitted in separate envelopes. Photocopied tokens will not be accepted. Winners must agree to take part in publicity, Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd and their immediate family are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.

**Terms and conditions**  
Winner must be at Tesco, Lochside, Oban, PA34 4HP for 10.30am January 17th. Excludes tobacco, lottery, baby food, non-food items and alcohol. Quantity limited to two per item. The winner will be given a hand held scanner to monitor spend to the value of £200. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity'.

**Digital subscribers**  
Digital subscribers who have an active subscription covering the period from December 2021, to February 2022, can enter the competition by sending their name, address and email address that they subscribe with to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB by 10am Tuesday January 11. Only one entry per subscription permitted. Entrant must be able to attend the trolley dash in Oban on the January 17, 2022.

## A political space for Western Isles women

Women in the Western Isles are being encouraged to stand in the local government elections in May 2022.

An online workshop run by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Elect Her will take place on Tuesday January 18 at 7pm with representatives from Elect Her, an organisation working to motivate, support and equip women to stand for political office, present to provide advice and answer questions.

Hannah Stevens, Elect Her director, said: 'We need more women in elected office across Scotland. When women have access to political leadership, there are gains for the whole of society, not just women. It is fantastic Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is creating space for women to have conversations about what it means to stand for local council and what support is in place if you do so.'

The workshop will take place on Microsoft Teams and a link will be provided nearer the time. Anyone interested can register now by visiting EventBrite: Women into Politics - Western Isles Tickets.

# Expert team effort on correct safety advice

Mountaineering experts are teaming up to ensure people heading for Scotland's hills and mountains this winter have easy access to the correct information and advice.

Although much of the information currently available is well-meaning, it can sometimes be contradictory, inappropriate or wrong making it potentially dangerous.

To tackle the information tangle, Scotland's leading mountain skills and safety organisations have joined forces for a fourth #ThinkWINTER campaign to direct people to the most relevant free sources of advice on winter hiking, mountaineering, mountain biking and ski/snowboard touring in Scotland.

The joint venture between Mountaineering Scotland, Scottish Mountain Rescue, Glenmore Lodge, Mountain Training Scotland, Developing



Scotland's mountains are stunning but have added dangers in winter. Photograph: Duncan Gray.

Mountain Biking in Scotland and Snowsport Scotland aims to cut through the confusion and provide a trusted and reliable source which everyone can access.

Throughout the winter,

information, advice and tips will be shared through social media posts using the hashtag #ThinkWINTER as well as on the organisations' websites and through talks and online events.

Stuart Younie, chief executive officer of Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Tackling the Scottish mountains in winter conditions can be a serious undertaking and it requires careful planning as well as additional skills and equipment beyond what is needed for summer hill walking.'

'With so much information available online and on social media, we want to make sure people know how to access reliable, up-to-date information to help them keep safe and enjoy their winter adventures.'

'We are delighted to be working with organisations, professional instructors, safety experts and mountain rescuers to ensure we are providing advice that is relevant, useful and, above all, trustworthy.'

Damon Powell, chairman of Scottish Mountain Rescue, the umbrella organisation for most mountain rescue teams

in Scotland, added: 'Spending time in our mountains and wild places across Scotland has become more important than ever, whether you are new to the hills or an experienced mountaineer. If you are lucky enough to be able to enjoy Scotland's mountains, when many would say they are at their finest, we would urge you to #ThinkWINTER and ensure you are suitably equipped with the necessary skills to enjoy our incredible outdoors safely and thereby support our volunteer teams who will help you any hour, any day and any weather. And remember, if you are lost, injured or in an emergency, dial 999 ask for police, then Mountain Rescue.'

Trusted information sources for winter mountaineering include general mountaineering information at [www.mountaineering.scot/activities/thinkwinter](http://www.mountaineering.scot/activities/thinkwinter).



Do a lateral flow test before you travel, mix with others or visit busy places.



Living safely  
this winter



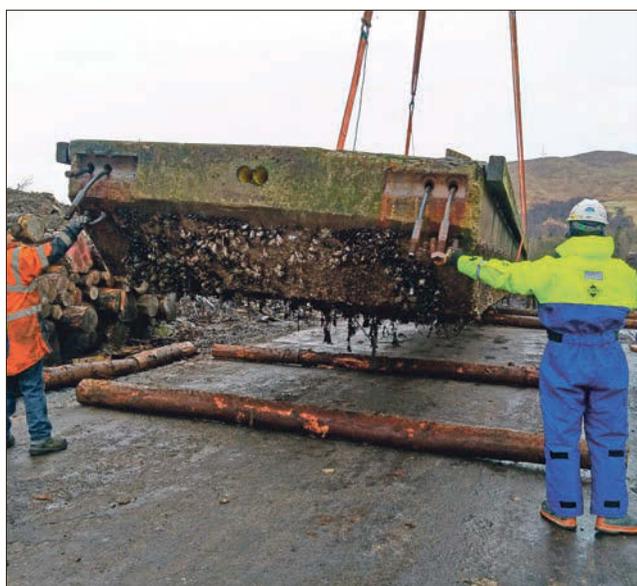
LT

# Review of the year

## Part one: January to June



**JANUARY:** The Isle of Eigg Brewery project team raised the initial £125,000 investment it needed to build Scotland's first community-owned micro-brewery.



One of the breakwaters is unloaded by crane after arriving in Fort William. Photograph: FWMSC.

**JANUARY:** Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company Limited took delivery of four massive secondhand concrete breakwaters. The giant, barnacle-encrusted structures will form the north part of the area being developed to extend the existing Fort William pontoons and become a marina.

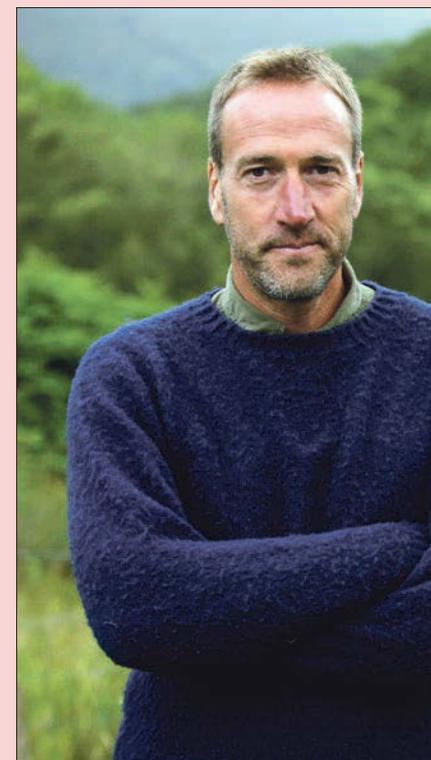
**FEBRUARY:** Alvance Aluminium began consulting on plans for a new £94 million recycling and aluminium billet plant, right, at its Lochaber smelter as it developed Fort William's position as a leading international producer of low-carbon aluminium.



**FEBRUARY:** Tanya and Alan Ross, pictured with daughter Livia, say they are overwhelmed by the success of the first Star Trek Challenge in aid of their charity STAR for Harris, set up in memory of their son.



**MARCH:** Tributes were paid to Ranald MacDonell following his death. He became 23rd Chief of Glengarry in 1999. He is pictured here at the Glenfinnan Gathering in 2012. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



**APRIL:** Right: Owners of Cruise Loch Linnhe Neil Cameron, left, and Colin Whitehead, right, with skipper Karl Spierling, launched an exciting new venture on the region's most famous waterway. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

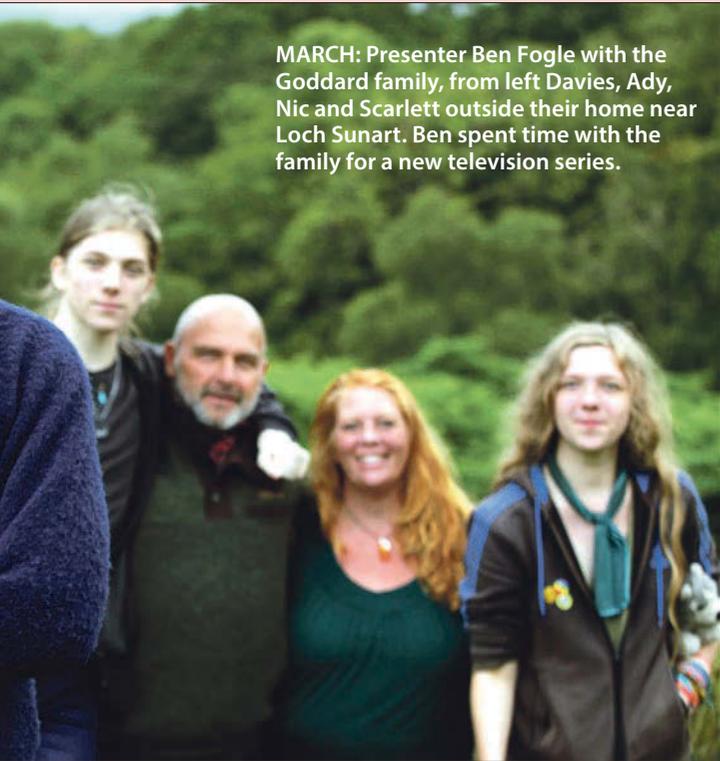


**MAY:** A group committed to securing a viable future for Kinloch Castle on Rum, above, is marching on in defence of the building despite its asset transfer attempt being knocked back by current caretakers NatureScot.



**MAY:** One of two golden eagles translocated from the Highlands to the south of Scotland, Edward, to boost the species' tiny numbers in that part of the country. Photograph: South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project.

**MARCH:** Presenter Ben Fogle with the Goddard family, from left Davies, Ady, Nic and Scarlett outside their home near Loch Sunart. Ben spent time with the family for a new television series.



**APRIL:** Glasgow couple Manjunika and Davinder Singh set off from home at 6am on Monday to be among the first passengers on the Jacobite steam train which was making its first journey on the West Highland Line since lockdown was lifted. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



**JUNE:** Right: Caol Primary School pupil Isla Ross and Joan Ling of Caol Community Council helped dig the first turf to mark the beginning of work on the new flood defences which will run along the foreshore and riverside to protect the village. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



**JUNE:** A helicopter was used to waterbomb a wild fire that raged across 250 acres of woodland and grass close to Glenfinnan Viaduct. Glenfinnan Estate called in assistance from a helicopter firm as Scottish Fire and Rescue Service personnel joined workers from Glenfinnan, Glenaladale and Fassfern estates and others in the battle to extinguish the flames. Photograph: Claudia MacFarlane.

Next week:  
Review part  
two: July to  
December

LT

# The evolution of Father Christmas

by Fiona Scott

fscott@lochabertimes.co.uk

Today Father Christmas is probably the most popular symbol of the festive season in the UK, but how did this jolly, gift-bearing, elderly man evolve?

Winter festivals and rituals have long been held around the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year) to celebrate the end of winter and welcome the arrival of spring. A figure dressed in green with a wreath made of holly, ivy and mistletoe was said to represent the coming of the new season.

## Anglo-Saxons: introducing King Winter

In the 5th and 6th centuries this figure was known to the Saxons as Father Time or King Winter. It was tradition to dress up as this figure and then be invited into your neighbour's homes to eat and drink by the fire. The belief was that if you were kind to Father Time the winter would be milder.

## Vikings: Norse god Jul



When the Vikings settled in Britain in the 9th century, they held midwinter celebrations. It was said that the Norse god, Odin, disguised himself as a character called 'Jul', wore a blue-hooded cloak and brought gifts to the good and punishments to the bad!

## Tudors: the spirit of good cheer

In the 15th and 16th centuries, the idea of Father Christmas (or Old Man Winter as he was

also called) first appeared. He was seen as a figure that was linked to adult entertainment, such as feasts and games. He was depicted as a large man dressed in green or red robes who embodied the festive spirit of good cheer.

## A Victorian revival

After the Puritans prohibited the celebration of Christmas in 1644, the concept of Father Christmas became less popular until it was revived

in the Victorian era. By the 19th century, family life was seen as much more important and Christmas became a time for children as well as adult celebration. Father Christmas was now known as a bringer of gifts.

## Is Santa Claus the same as Father Christmas?

Although these two figures are pretty much one and the same today, the origins of Santa Claus were very different...

St Nicholas was a bishop who lived in the 4th century in what is now Turkey. He is reputed to have helped a poor family by secretly dropping a bag of gold down the chimney for them to find. It landed in a stocking that had been hung to dry by the fire.

By the 12th century the legend of St Nicholas was well-known across Europe. The tradition of giving children gifts on the evening of December 5 (the day before St Nicholas' Day) became popular.

In the Netherlands markets selling toys and treats became popular and people dressed up in red bishop's costumes to impersonate St Nicholas (in Dutch his name was 'Sint Nikolaas', which evolved into the nickname 'Sinterklaas'). It was said that Sinterklaas could pass through locked doors or climb down chimneys to leave presents in shoes and stockings.

The story of Sinterklaas arrived in North America via Dutch settlers in the 17th century, and his name

was adjusted to Santa Claus. By the 19th century he had become the figure that we are familiar with today thanks to an illustrated poem in 1821 that described Santa's red coat, reindeer and sleigh, and changed the evening of gift-giving from the 5th to the 24th December. Two years later in 1823, Clement Clark Moore wrote the now-famous poem that we know as 'Twas the Night before Christmas', in which the idea of Santa Claus as a jolly old man (rather than a bishop) was cemented.

By the 1880s, Santa Claus and Father Christmas had all but merged into the same festive figure in Britain.

## CONTACTUS

EMAIL US AT  
editor@obantimes.co.uk  
TELEPHONE  
01397 703003



## FIELD & FOREST

YOUR MACHINERY PARTNERS

### SALES & HIRE

### QUALITY NEW & USED MACHINERY

- GRAPPLE SAWS
- TREE SHEARS
- HYDRAULIC HAMMERS
- GRABS
- CONE SPLITTERS
- FIREWOOD PROCESSORS
- WOOD CHIPPERS
- MULCHERS
- STUMP GRINDERS
- STUMP SHEARS
- LOG CLEANERS
- KINDLING MACHINERY
- FLAILBOT



**JENSEN**

**GMT EQUIPMENT**

**OMEF**  
SINCE 1991

**FEMAC**

**INTERMERCATO**

**SINDECO**  
A TOOL FOR EVERY JOB

**TerraTech**

**Bandit INDUSTRIES, INC.**

**Duun**  
DUUN Industriemaschinen

**BOMFORD TURNER**

Call your machinery partner on:

## 01506 862 371

www.fieldandforestltd.co.uk

sales@fieldandforestltd.co.uk

## THE SPORTS SHOP

## THE NEW YEAR BRINGS A NEW START



We have all the  
clothing, footwear  
and equipment  
you need for your  
journey in to sports,  
fitness and health



Please support  
your town and  
**SHOP  
LOCAL**

**f Follow us on facebook for latest deals and offers**

Open Mon- Fri 9am-5.30pm, Closed 1st & 2nd January  
4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ

LT

## DISTRICTS

**Past, present and future,  
you can rely on Lochaber**

As always at this time of year, many of us take a bit of time and pause for reflection.

This year has been a tumultuous one for everyone, primarily due to the ups and downs of Covid and the unpredictability that has been forced on many of our lives.

While life began to open up again this year with the development of the Covid vaccine, offering us some hope for the future, the ongoing impact on jobs and health has undoubtedly taken its toll.

Thankfully, in Lochaber, we have many organisations and charities that have been there for us, helping support families and individuals. The list is long but many have been featured in the Lochaber Times.

They include Lochaber Hope, Argyll Wellbeing Hub, Lochaber Women's Aid, Voluntary Action Lochaber and Fort William Town Team.

These are a few of the many groups whose unstinting work, support and fundraising efforts have sustained us, not only during the past couple of years, but well before that.

We thank them all, and wish everyone a peaceful New Year and best wishes for 2022.

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



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

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

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or email editor@obantimes.co.uk We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## PLOCKTON



**The large palm tree in the Plockton Hotel garden which was blown down during a gale on Sunday December 12.**

The large palm tree in the Plockton Hotel garden was blown down during a gale on Sunday December 12.

Planted in the 1950s, the palm trees are a big attraction on Harbour Street.

Mr Tom Cload, who was the gardening expert at The Oban Times, came to live in Bank Street, Plockton, in the 1950s and brought the palm tree plants.

Thirty years ago, Plockton Primary School pupils counted them. There were 52 in Plockton.

On November 23, as part of the Blas Festival, a concert was enjoyed by more than 50 people.

Plockton and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held a gingerbread house competition on Saturday December 4. It had many entrants.

Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society presented its play 'Lockdown in Plockton' on Friday December 10. The one-act play by David Tristram was enjoyed by a full hall curtailed by social distancing.

Plockton High School held two socials in the hall on Tuesdays December 14 and December 21 which were enjoyed by the children and well organised by Margaret Ann Matheson.

The usual yoga, table tennis, playgroup, panto and drama were also held weekly.

The poppy collection for the Earl Haig Fund

in Plockton and District, including Duirnish and Drumbuie, raised £1,613. The collection in Achmore and Stromeferry raised £168.10.

A coffee morning in Plockton Hotel on Saturday December 4 raised £290 for Plockton Drama Club funds.

Once again this year, 2 Frithard Road, Plockton, is attracting a lot of attention as Ewen and Sybil Cameron have decorated their house with a fantastic display of Christmas lights.

Plockton High School Music School moved online this year to stage its seasonal gig. The annual Christmas concert was streamed live on Facebook and Youtube on Saturday December 11. This was the school's first gig since the pandemic and it was enjoyed by many who all thought it was a great idea.

Sam Bilner, along with the Plockton Facebook page's annual calendar of Plockton photographs, raised £900 for Kyle lifeboat.

Recent deaths in the district included: Mary Joan Sangster, Erbusaig; Bill Carruthers, Glenshiel; David Preston, Plockton, who died in Australia; Kathleen Sutherland, Stromeferry, and Catherine MacPhee, Kyleakin. Morag Baird passed away in a nursing home in Glasgow at 93. Morag was born at 39 Harbour Street, Plockton, and was the village's oldest resident. Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relatives.

**New Broadford Hospital handover completed**

Work has been completed on the new Broadford Hospital on Skye.

Development partner hub North Scotland has handed the 24-bed hospital building over to NHS Highland following the handover of the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Hospital in Aviemore in September in a £40 million hub North Scotland development on behalf of NHS Highland.

The main contractor for both hospitals was Balfour Beatty and the architects were Oberlanders and Skye-based Rural Design.

In addition to 24 ensuite in-patient rooms, the new Broadford hospital has a range of services including a midwife-led community maternity unit, an accident and emergency unit, a dental surgery, an X-ray/ultrasound unit and an infusion suite.

Peter Ramsay, project director for hub North Scotland, said: 'The fantastic new Broadford Hospital will bring huge benefits for the communities of Skye, Lochalsh and South West

Ross. We faced a major challenge in progressing construction during the Covid pandemic but the support of all the partners and the community ensured we have delivered a hospital that everyone can be proud of.'

Tracy Ligema, project director for NHS Highland, added: 'All efforts will now go into getting the hospital ready to open for patients at the end of February 2022.'

'Our thanks go to everyone involved in helping to bring this project to this stage. Thanks also to Macmillan Cancer Support for its contribution which is hugely appreciated.'



Donald MacLellan, project manager at Balfour Beatty, said: 'We are extremely proud to have played a key role in the safe and successful delivery of this essential hospital.'

'Our team's wealth of expertise and experience in providing healthcare facilities across Scotland has ensured this hospital will service residents and the wider community for many years to come.'

The new hospital is in a stunning location on the shore of Broadford Bay, between the current Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital and Broadford Medical Centre.

During construction, the Broadford project created seven new jobs and saw two newly qualified graduates employed. Two new apprentices began their careers on the site and the project provided work for 13 existing apprentices.

There was also £11.5 million of work for north-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and £5.1 million of work for other Scottish SMEs.

Time to move?  
You're in safe hands...

We don't just value properties,  
We really value our clients too.

Please get in touch...

**Tel: 01397 708555 Mob: 07971 441180**

sales@petermurphyestateagents.com

www.petermurphyestateagents.com

Unit 1A, Sheraton Retail Park, Lochbridge, Fort William, PH33 7NU



**GRS TRADE  
CENTRE LTD**  
Supplier To Trade & DIY

**Windows & Doors ■ Garage Doors ■ UPVC Fascia, Soffit & Gutters ■ Conservatories ■ Double Rebated Composite Doors  
Replacement Sealed Units ■ Silicone ■ Expanding Foam  
Solvent Cleaner ■ Fixings ■ Poly Top Nails ■ UPVC Trims**

Covering Argyll, Lochaber & The Islands

**Tel: 01631 571155**

**Email : sales@grstradecentre.co.uk**

Unit 13, Old Tweedmill, Soroba Road OBAN PA34 4HQ

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Make your voice count in local elections, say Lochaber Greens

In the Fort William and Ardnamurchan by-election on Thursday December 2, only 25.6 per cent of the electorate voted, writes Dr Kate Willis, right, who came third for the Scottish Green Party in the ballot.

So, of the 8,939 people registered to vote in the ward, only 2,307 people actually did so. Voter turnout of 25 per cent is considered to be normal and reasonable for local council elections, which is shocking. As a candidate standing in the by-election, I knew voter turnout might not be great, but I had expected more than 25 per cent.

Local elections give us the chance to vote for candidates who really understand local issues and will represent us and our community on the council. An engaged and active local representative on Highland Council is becoming ever more important in areas like Lochaber that are remote from the increasingly Inverness-centric council headquarters.

Voting in local elections may not get your pulse racing, but it's a hard won right and responsibility and we should take it much more seriously than we currently do.

Scotland might have the most democratic election system in the UK, with voting in local elections now extended to include 16-year-olds and resident foreign nationals and the use of the single transferable vote (STV).

However, what many people may not know is that Scotland is the least locally democratic country in Europe, due to the large land area and population sizes within each regional council area. This is why local councillors are so important. They are elected to administer important issues ranging from schools, landlords and care of vulnerable people to planning and public transport. In Lochaber, we have seven councillors out of a total of 74 in Highland Council, so it is important local representatives are elected wisely and by as many people as possible.

In the 11th century, King Malcolm III of Scotland appointed sheriffs as local representatives of his feudal power. More self-contained local authorities have been around in some form since the 17th century. From 1890 to 1973, these were county councils, then regional and local councils until 1996 when John Major's government established the current unitary

authorities.

The STV was introduced in 2007 and is a form of proportional representation, an important safeguard against the kind of outcomes that a first past the post system can deliver,

where councils and national governments can be dominated by political parties with votes from a tiny proportion of the electorate.

The STV is also why we put a number against each candidate in order of preference when we vote, instead of just marking a single cross against one candidate. Of the 2,307 ballot papers received for the December by-election, 20 papers were invalid as they were not completed correctly and many also missed the opportunity to vote for more than one candidate.

The next council elections are in May 2022. Make it one of your New Year resolutions to vote in the May elections and, before you vote, to find out what the candidates are proposing to do for you and your community. Make your voice count in May 2022.



## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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



“S iad gillean mo rùin a thogadh mo shunnd, gur seo a’ Bhliadhn’ Ùr thug sòlas duinn, ....!” Sin fear de na h-òrain air am biodh nàbaidh bhom òige a’ toirt langan madainn na bliadhn-ùire, ged nach b’ è seinneadair a bh’ ann idir! Mun àm sin, tràth ann an caogadan naodh-deug, bha an ceud, ceathrad is seachd croitear air Oighreachd Ghleann Dail an Eilein Sgitheanaich an impis na cuibhreannan mu dheireadh a phàigheadh den iasad a thug an riaghaltas dhaibh ann an 1905 gus an oighreachd a cheannach, agus an cuid chroitèan fa leth mar phàirt den sin. B’ e toradh ris nach robh dùil a bh’ anns an tairgse iasaid sin nuair a thàinig e, agus cha b’ iongnadh fìor theagamhan agus iomagain a bhith air coimhearsnachd le gann dà sgillinn a shuathadh iad ri chèile. Dh’fhàg an dragh sin gun robh buidheann beag de na teaghlachan a roghnaich an oighreachd fhàgail seach a dhol ann am fiachan airson caogad bliadhna, ach ghabh an 147 eile ris agus ged nach robh mise a’ tuigsinn chùisean aig an àm ’s neònach mura robh na croitearan sin uile a’ cur luach nach bu bheag air a bhith an impis an cuid dhachaidhean is chroitèan a bhith pàighte ’s gun iad an eisimeil neo fo spòig uachdarain neo bàillidh tuilleadh. Bha iad air a bhith a’ ruith na h-oighreachd bho 1905 le taic is stiùir Roinn Àiteachais an Riaghaltais, agus ’s iad na seirbheisich chatharra sin a bu chòir dha na h-uireas-bhaidhean a th’ air bonn-stèidh Oighreachd

Ghleann Dail chun an latha an-diugh. Ach a dh’aindeoin an eagail a bha na lùib ghabh na daoine ris an dùbhlhan agus ann an 1905 b’ iad croitearan Ghleann Dail a’ chiad fheadhainn a fhuair sealbh air an cuid fearainn fhèin, gann fichead bliadhna an dèidh dhan t-Siorram Ivory caismeachd a-staigh dhan Ghleann air ceann feachd phoileas agus shaighdearan. Abair dà latha, ann an ùine cho goirid!

Fhuair Croitearan Oighreachd Ghleann Dail an tèarainteachd cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach seo gann trithead bliadhna bho 1876 nuair a thachair an geama iomain air Pàirc na Banrigh ann an Glaschu mun do sgrìobh Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, agus ged a bha i fhèin agus càch a bha an làthair aig pàirc a’ chluiche aighearach bha gu leòr feadh na Gàidhealtachd aig an àm sin fhathast a’ fulang geur-leanmhainn gun lasachadh, agus a dhùisg strì an fhearainn. A’ coimhead air ais saoilidh mi gun robh muinntir na sgìre san do thogadh mi, a’ dh’aindeoin ’s gun robh iad fhathast gu math bochd, moiteil às an cuid athraichean a ghabh an ceum eachdraidheil a thug dileab cho susbainteach, agus iomadh Bliadhn’ Ùr shòlasach dhaibh!

Ged a tha mòran choigrich san àite a-nise tha sliochd nan ceatharnach a rinn an t-stri fhathast mothachail agus moiteil à gaisge nam feadhainn a chaidh romhpa, agus a tha, mòran dhiubh, aig fois ann an Cladh Chille Chomhainn sa Ghleann. Tha mi a’ guidhe sàr Bhliadhn’ Ùr shòlasach dhuibh uile!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dear Community of Oban, originally Ros and I came to Oban to lead the Baptist Church for two to three years to help build it up and see it flourish.

Ten years later! – in June 2021 – we finally laid down the responsibility and stood down from the leadership of the church.

In these later days I have been learning to live with the impact of a rare form of dementia called Lewy Body. However, as we break into a new year, I believe that there are other possibilities, that are a potential emphasis of my ministry, that are still to come.

For the last 50 years the primary focus of my

ministry has been to point to Christ. From the early beginnings of a trepidatious taking on of a new charge in Edmonton, North London, to the present day in Oban. Working on the premise that we are all obligated to share the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus. This call into service must have continuity and credibility. It is not just the task of the minister to pull all the strings – however much they may want to!

My illness serves to mean that I now, more than ever, walk close to God as he sustains and strengthens me.

In a previous Thought for the Week I wrote

about the impact on my mental health of Covid-19 and the restrictions. Despite all these challenges, I firmly believe we have a God who loves us and wants to partner with us to see His Kingdom come.

As we look to 2022 let us seek God's direction for us individually and as a community.

‘Come, let us go to the mountain of God to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us his ways, and we may walk in His paths.’ **Isaiah 2: 3**

Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk into the paths of peace.

Reverend Ian McFarlane

# WELL DONE TO EVERYONE THIS YEAR

Wishing festive greetings to all. Remember to check for Festive Slimming World recipes on the website.

WE WILL BE BACK IN THE NEW YEAR

Gillian

[f](https://www.facebook.com/slimmingworld) [t](https://twitter.com/slimmingworld) [i](https://www.instagram.com/slimmingworld) [slimmingworld.co.uk](https://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)



**Slimming**<sup>®</sup>  
WORLD

touching hearts, changing lives



The Crinan Canal.

do these towns and villages stand?

A. Inveraray; B. Fort William; C. Killin; D St Fillans; E Fort Augustus; F Arrochar; G Tarbet; H Strontian; I Ballachulish; J Bowmore; K Pennyghael.

31. Scotland has 900 offshore islands, but which one is the most remote, annexed by Great Britain in 1955?

32. Where are the Five Sisters?

33. Where is 'doon the watter'?

34. What is the Hielan'man's Umbrella?

35. How many capes are there in Scotland?

36. If you caught a ferry from the following ports, where would you arrive?

A. Feolin; B Sconser; C Tayinloan; D Wemyss Bay; E Kilchoan; F Fishnish; G

Achnacroish; H Claonaig; I Cuan; J Ellenabeich; K Kylerhea; L Portavadie; M Galmisdale.

37. On one estimate, Argyll and Bute has a 3,000 mile long coastline, but why is it hard to be sure?

38. Put these mountain and hill classifications in order, highest first: Hughs, Corbetts, Munros, Grahams. What classes do the following belong to? A. Ben More, Mull; B Askival, Rum; C The Pap of Glencoe; D Ben Hogh, Coll.

39. Can you name your local RNLI lifeboat, or any others from these West Coast RNLI stations? A. Arran; B. Barra; C. Campbeltown; D. Tobermory; E. Oban; F. Islay; G. Mallaig; H Kyle of Lochalsh; I. Portree; J. Leverburgh.

40. The Northern Lighthouse Board operates 207 lighthouses across Scotland and the Isle of Man, from its bases in Edinburgh and Oban. Where are these lighthouses? A. Dubh Artach; B Fladda; C. Wee Donald; D. Hyskeir; E. McArthur's Head; F. Neist Point; G. Ruvaal; H Skerryvore.

41. Place these lochs north to south: Loch Awe, Loch Rannoch, Loch Tay, Loch Earn.

42. There is a 220km canal network in Scotland, including the Crinan Canal, 'the most beautiful shortcut in the world', which was opened in 1801 to save ships from a treacherous 100-mile trip around the Mull of Kintyre, Britain's longest peninsula. How many of Scotland's other four canals can you name?



Oban Lifeboat on a call out. But what is the lifeboat called? Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

● QUIZ CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

# HIGHLAND CINEMA

FRI 31ST DEC - THU 6TH JAN



**FRIDAY 31ST DECEMBER**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 10:15am + 12:40pm. West Side Story (PG) 11:15am. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 2:45pm + 6:45pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 3:15pm + 6:15pm.

**SATURDAY 1ST JANUARY**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 1:15pm. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 2:30pm + 6:45pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 3:35pm + 6pm.

**SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 1:15pm. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 2:30pm + 6:45pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 3:35pm + 6pm.

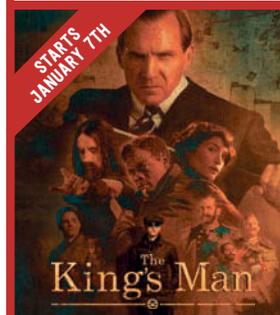
**MONDAY 3RD JANUARY (S - SUBTITLED SHOWING)**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 11am + 1:30pm(S). Highlands From The Air (U) 11:10am. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 12:15pm, 4pm + 7:30pm(S). The Matrix Resurrections (15) 3:45pm(S) + 7:15pm.

**TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 1:30pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 12:45pm, 4pm + 7:15pm. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 4:15pm + 7:30pm.

**WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 11am + 1:30pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:10am. West Side Story (PG) 12:15pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 4pm + 7:30pm. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 3:45pm + 7:15pm.

**THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY**  
Clifford The Big Red Dog (PG) 11am + 1:30pm. Highlands From The Air (U) 11:10am. West Side Story (PG) 12:15pm. Spider-Man: No Way Home (12a) 4pm + 7:30pm. The Matrix Resurrections (15) 3:45pm + 7:15pm.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A ONE-SEAT GAP BETWEEN BOOKING PARTIES IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL SHOWINGS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



FILM SYNOPSIS, TRAILERS, TICKETS AND TO SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER:  
[WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK](http://WWW.HIGHLANDCINEMA.CO.UK)



LT

JANUARY



Fort William Football Club (FWFC) became one of the smallest football clubs in the world to have its own specially-designed and officially registered tartan. Aptly named 'Mon the Fort' and woven by the firm of Ingles Buchan, it features an expert blending of the black and yellow club colours throughout the pattern, combined with the green of Claggan Park and the white snow of Ben Nevis. Football mad former 'Caol boy' James Burns, who now lives in Italy, was the man with the tartan dream and after working hard alongside FWFC management it became a reality. Our picture shows FWFC first team captain John Treasurer with junior team members Lewis Luxton, left, and Jack Stephen modelling the new tartan. Photograph: Johnpaul Peebles, ABrightside Photography.

JANUARY



A fundraising page set up by an Inverness man raised more than £2,000 towards the cost of surveillance equipment to deter vandals at Fort William Football Club. Clachnacuddin Football Club fan William Corbett set up the GoFundMe page after hearing about the latest vandalism at the club's Claggan Park ground which resulted in damaged seats, broken bottles, forced entry to the clubhouse and the lifting of recently laid turf covering new drainage areas on the park. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba,photos.

FEBRUARY

Fort William's Mikayla Parton became the sixth recipient of the Fort William Mountain Festival's Scottish Youth Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture. The young winner needs to have shown resilience and determination to succeed within their chosen area of expertise, shown results through their own efforts and ideas, given back to their community, whilst being thought of as an example of excellence by others. Mikayla, a 23-year-old Scottish elite downhill racer, epitomised these



winning principles. Her meteoric rise to the top of the international downhill mountain bike race scene, from riding her first trail bike in 2015 to placing fifth at the UCI Mountain Bike World

Championships 2020, can be attributed to an obvious raw talent, constant hard work, dedicated training, motivation, focus and a dogged determination for success. Photograph: Dave MacLeod.

# Sport highlights

## Part one: January to June

FEBRUARY



A young man from Caol turned his passion for football into a full-time job which has taken him round the world as an international and domestic coach for Celtic Football Club. Ruaridh Macinnes, 23, left Lochaber High School to study sports at college in Glasgow and was also accepted for a place on the Celtic's Pathway to Coaching course. On completion, he was one of only two members of the class to be offered a position with the club. Since then Ruaridh has travelled the world coaching youngsters in Chicago, Montreal, Australia, Scotland and Ireland. In his 'own time' he is also head coach of Clyde FC Under 19s and coaches Glasgow Gladiators disabled footballers in their leagues.



MARCH

Glencoe rugby supremo Helen Nelson was included in a 19-strong training squad ahead of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics Rugby 7s tournament due to take place in July and August. No stranger to the abbreviated game, the former Lochaber Rugby Football Club player led the Scottish squad in its HSBC World Rugby Women's Sevens Series debut in Biarritz in 2019 and has played a key role in the national set-up. In March this year she joined the Team GB camp at Loughborough University ahead of its pre-Olympic tournaments and the 2021 HSBC World Sevens Series. Photograph: Bill Murray/SNS Group.

APRIL

A primary school pupil from Caol raised more than £900 for Oxfam by walking an astonishing 20,000 steps a day over the Easter holidays. Donnie Monk, eight, told his mum and dad at the beginning of the holidays he wanted to do something to help starving children. Specifically, he wanted to help them get access to clean water. The family chose Oxfam because they knew the charity worked to overcome poverty and suffering and funded the building of wells in communities. During the challenge, Donnie ran 5km four times, climbed the Pap of Glencoe and the Half Ben, did walks and races around Nevis Range, walked round Arisaig and Glenfinnan and all the way to Peanmeanach Bothy.

MARCH



In a ground-breaking move, Fort William Shinty Club appointed the former Scotland international and current Camanachd Association youth director Willie MacDonald, above, as its paid club development officer. The three-year appointment, the first of its kind, was made possible thanks to support from SportScotland Direct Club Investment funding, matched by the club and its sponsors. The aim of the post was to boost youth and family membership, increase the club's support for the Lochaber Memories project group and create an opportunity for young people with a disability in Lochaber to take up shinty. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba,photos.



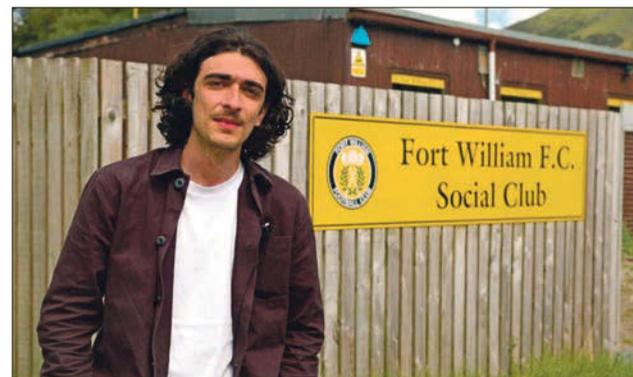
# January to June



## APRIL

Shinty clubs across Lochaber stood ready as the Camanachd Association continued to work towards a return to action in June. Several cup draws were made in April including the Alvance Aluminium Balliemore Cup which took place in Fort William. Tom Uppington, Alvance

managing director, said: 'With several employees representing Ballachulish and Lochaber teams in the cup, we understand the importance of shinty and the tournament in promoting traditional sport and outdoor activity in the community.' Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



## JUNE

Players and supporters of Fort William Football Club played a starring role in a new five-part mini series which encapsulated the legacy impact of Scotland's qualification for UEFA EURO 2020 in communities across the country.

The Land of Football was aired by the Scottish FA and focused on the fans

that had been inspired by Scotland men's return to the big stage for the first time in 23 years. Presenter Chris McQueer chatted to fans at one of the most picturesque football pitches in the world - Claggan Park.

## JUNE



Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC) held its annual regatta, with six boats taking part in a maritime 'Tortoise versus Hare' event on Loch Linnhe. The annual event usually takes place over two days in the summer but, like everything, this year was a little different as it was reduced to one day and became the opening race of the season due to Covid. The race took the form of a pursuit race where the slowest boat starts first with the faster boats starting at a timed distance behind. The faster boats then try to overtake the 'Tortoise' before the time limit expires. As the time limit approached, the Soling Solaris, with LYC Commodore Hamish Loudon, pictured with his team far right, at the helm, just managed to overtake the 'Tortoise', a Solo boat named Cool Dude helmed by Keith Falconer, with Andy McKenna's Fireball racing machine in hot pursuit.



## MAY



A visit by three boxing champions over three days to Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club saw excited enthusiasts watching, listening and picking up tips on all aspects of the sport. Former International Boxing Federation (IBF) Featherweight Champion, Welsh, British and Commonwealth champion

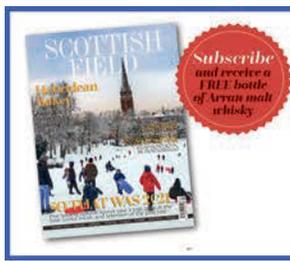
## MAY

Lee Selby asked to re-visit the club after dropping by in 2017, when he was touring Scottish clubs. On hearing about his trip, fellow boxers - Commonwealth Games gold medal winner, European champion and world championship

contender Jamie Cox and Commonwealth champion Gavin Gwynne - asked if they could also come along, which they did. The three fighters spent time in and out of the ring, allowing club members of all ages and skill levels to go one-to-one with athletes at the top of their sport. Photograph: Johnpaul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

Alex Stewart was crowned Fort William Golf Club's KMF Cars Open Champion, following a nervous wait in the clubhouse. Club captain Dougie Duncan was delighted with the number of entries for this popular event, with a good turn out of members and a few visiting golfers taking part on a relatively dry and sunny day. The first golfers teed off at 7.10am for what was to become a well-contested competition. Fort William Golf Club was delighted to see visitors from other Highland clubs at the competition and gave special mention to David Holmes, from Nottinghamshire, who was on the first day of his holiday in the Highlands and decided to take part, having originally planned to play a round on his own.

### Next week: Review part two: July to December



# Season's greetings from the sporting community – part 1

## Ballachulish Camanachd Club

Like all shinty clubs, Ballachulish Camanachd was relieved to start playing again in the spring, despite what developed into a rather disjointed season.

However, managers and coaches were pleased about the enthusiasm and consistently high numbers attending training, and the commitment shown by many of the younger players.

Ballachulish supporters were equally pleased to see shinty return to the Jubilee Park and were fortunate to enjoy most home matches being played in warm, dry weather.

At the other end of the age scale, John MacDonald and Eoin Fyfe's work with the primary children has led to

an enthusiastic squad who did well in their first season of competition.

Away from the pitch, club members embarked on a fundraising virtual tour of all the shinty clubs in Scotland, walking, running, cycling, climbing and golfing their way to achieve a target of nearly £2000 in order to provide the club and the community with another defibrillator, courtesy of the Skye-based charity Lucky2BHere.

More recently, squad members ditched any vanity and raised over £400 for the Movember charity.

Awards for the season were Player of the Year – Jack MacLean; Manager's Player of the Year – Cian MacPhee; Young Player of the Year – Neil Minnis; Top Goalscorer – Lewis Bryson.

The club would like to thank



Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd, left, and Ross McLean, Ballachulish. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

all their supporters and sponsors, and wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and a peaceful New Year – Andy Thornton, secretary.

It's hoped that the traditional inter-club New Year match will be played on Monday January 3.

## Lochaber Rugby Club

Lochaber Rugby Club returned to action on a high for the 2021/22 season with all teams playing very well.

The senior team are sitting in third place in their league going into the break with our under 18s, who have been entered into a league structure, also doing very well but with only one pitch and a lot of fixture

clashes with the senior team. That being so, thanks has to go to the council and High Life Highland for making Canal Parks available at very short notice and Killmallee Shinty Club for all the work they had done on the pitch, keeping it in good order and giving us the use of their changing rooms.

Lows are obviously the struggle with the pandemic and the resulting late cancellation of games but all credit must go to all sports clubs and sponsors for keeping faith and keeping going and offering the youth of Lochaber the opportunity to compete in whatever sport suits them best.

Season's best wishes to all our sporting club neighbours and wishing all our supporters and sponsors a very happy



South Lochaber Thistle Under-15 girls with coach Roman Tot.

Christmas and prosperous 2022 - Charlie Donaldson, president

## South Lochaber Thistle FC

This has been a difficult couple of years for everyone and it has just underlined for all associated with the club how important the connection between mental and physical health is.

We set out to provide football, cradle to grave, because we know that making those connections: team mates; coaches; supporters - people sharing a common goal - can make all the difference.

At SLT we are lucky to be rooted in the community. We want everyone, from the primary kids, through the

ladies to the men's team, via the coaches and committee to know we're here for you.

We want to be a beacon of hope and to say: talk if you need it. We're here for you. It's ok NOT to be ok.

But, we'd also like to remind you, that it is ok to BE ok and we hope you all have an amazing time and party like you've not been allowed to for two years. From us all we wish you a merry Christmas and a messy New Year - Alan Gray, coach.



Players were among the volunteers who turned out for a recent day of action to help get Lochaber RFC club and ground ready for the new season. Photograph: Lochaber RFC.



**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
A JIFMAR COMPANY

**SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES**

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780  
M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk  
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 30 December, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>30</b>	0229 3.3 0818 1.4 TH 1450 3.6 2117 1.4	<b>1</b>	0416 3.8 1024 1.0 SA 1636 3.9 2257 1.0	<b>3</b>	0548 4.1 1212 0.8 M 1809 4.0	<b>5</b>	0116 0.7 0719 4.2 W 1350 0.8 1936 3.8
<b>31</b>	0326 3.5 0924 1.2 F 1546 3.8 2209 1.2	<b>2</b>	0503 4.0 1120 0.8 SU 1723 4.0 ● 2345 0.8	<b>4</b>	0030 0.7 0634 4.2 TU 1301 0.8 1853 3.9	<b>6</b>	0202 0.8 0804 4.0 TH 1437 1.0 2018 3.6

### FORT WILLIAM WEATHER

<b>Thursday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.	<b>Friday</b> Light rain and a gentle breeze Temperatures 10°C to 11°C.	<b>Saturday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.	<b>Sunday</b> Light rain showers and a moderate breeze Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.
--	---	--	---

### FRIDAY FORECAST

Ardershaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

HIGH 11 LOW 10 13 MPH