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Oban nurse's house despair

by Kathie Griffiths
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A nurse desperate for a home in Oban has blasted a housing association, claiming it lulled her into a false sense of security by telling her she would be shortlisted for a new-build property.

The mum-of-three, whose two older children have a rare condition, with mild learning difficulties as well as disabilities that include sight problems, says she accepted a staff nurse job at Lorn and Islands Hospital only after being reassured by ACHA that there were properties becoming available.

Kirsty Miller, who is originally from Oban, wanted to return to the town after 27 years away to be closer to her dad and to fulfil her nursing dream of working at the same hospital as her granny did.

She told The Oban Times: 'ACHA said they had houses coming available just behind the hospital that would be handy for me and that I'd definitely be shortlisted for one of them. This was in August. I was happy with that, went for the job and was offered two posts.'

But she says she was left 'in limbo' when her start



date arrived and she still had nowhere to go. She said: 'I've been looking everywhere for somewhere to rent but it's very difficult with my children's needs. I was misled by ACHA and they have let me and my family down.'

In desperate measures, she claims she was 'duped' into changing her original application form for ACHA housing – details about stairs and heating, and removing certain needs such as a shower – and in turn was offered a 'nightmare'

three-bedroom flat in Soroba. She said: 'I just about had

a breakdown. It was a nightmare. There were bin bags strewn about, the entry way stank of urine and was covered with it, the lighting was poor. If my children fell there, the damage would be unthinkable – they have spinal rods. I was so desperate I was duped into making changes we couldn't live with.'

I handed the keys back. There had been cats or rats running about in the entry. We couldn't live there. We need a shower, not just a bath. The older children don't want me having to help them in and out.

They want to be independent. With all their health problems, my children deserve a decent home,' she told The Oban Times.

Mrs Miller said after lodging a complaint, she got a letter back from ACHA denying she was told a house behind the hospital would be hers. The family have spent Christmas in Airbnb accommodation, with Mrs Miller's 19-year-old and 15-year-old having the two bedrooms, and she, her partner and youngest daughter, four, sleeping in the living room.

In the hope of getting assis-

tance, Mrs Miller has enlisted the help of Brendan O'Hara MP and Oban councillor Jim Lynch.

She continued: 'I'm at my wits' end. We're in an Airbnb right now. Nurses don't get a great wage but I'm doing it for the vocation. Nursing is my dream job. I work long shifts and nights. The hospital is desperate for nurses but lack of housing doesn't help the situation at all.'

Her husband is working on the Premier Inn building site.

Mr O'Hara told The Oban Times: 'We have helped Kirsty in every way we can, by contacting Argyll and Bute Council, ACHA and NHS Highland directly.'

'This is a terrible situation for any family to find themselves in, particularly at this time of year. This is unacceptable given all the efforts we are making to try to grow the population and economy of Argyll and Bute. There needs to be joined-up thinking across all stakeholders and parties. We will continue to support Kirsty in any way possible.'

ACHA's chief executive,

Alastair MacGregor, confirmed Mrs Miller still had an active Home Argyll application but said the association was surprised she refused the home in Soroba.

The association does not recognise the description she makes of the entrance way of the home that was offered to her,' added Mr MacGregor, who said housing stock in Soroba was in high demand and kept up to high standards.

'The contractual completion date for all of the 107 properties in Glenshellach is August 2019 but shortlisting will only take place for those properties once a handover date from developers is confirmed.'

'The association cannot guarantee Mrs Miller will be made an offer of any of these properties as others' housing needs may have a higher priority.'

'The association refutes Mrs Miller's assertion that she has been left in limbo and misled by ACHA. She is currently on the waiting list so is not in limbo. Her position is no different from others who have been on the list for the same time or a lot longer. It is the association's view that if she had accepted the property in Soroba she would be in a better housing situation than she is now.'

MATHESONS SALE NOW ON

OT

Loch deaths to be remembered

by Kathie Griffiths
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Families of four men who drowned in Loch Awe are to be invited back to a commemoration event marking 10 years since the tragedy.

A fatal accident inquiry that ended in 2011 found the men had been drinking, were poorly equipped and did not take safety precautions.

William Cartt, 47, his brother Steven, 42, Thomas Douglas, 36, and Craig Currie, 30, fell from a small boat in the early hours of March 21 in 2009. Their boat is believed to have capsized in heavy fog as they returned from a pub on the other side of the loch.

In response to the deaths, LochWatch Loch Awe was set up to save lives: a network of loch spotters living, working and driving around it who are



LochWatch's patrol boat ready to save lives on Loch Awe.

ready to help in an emergency by raising the alarm, giving aid and giving an accurate location to rescuers. They also have a small patrol boat fitted with radar and sonar equipment. The loch is 26 miles long.

Iain MacKinnon, who is also a coastguard member,

is its chairman. He said: 'I've been a coastguard for more than 20 years and in that time I've attended 25 fatalities on the loch. I'm touching wood but since LochWatch started, we've not had any.'

'Awareness and getting a safety message out to people is also a big part of our work.'

Water is cold and it can kill. Alcohol and water do not mix. Life-jackets are needed at all times.

'Loch Awe is a beautiful spot, it's been on TV a lot and it attracts lots of people but it can be dangerous.'

He added: 'Next March will be the 10th anniversary of the four men's deaths. We will be inviting their families to come to commemorate them. It will be a low-key event, we don't want to sensationalise what happened but it's important that it's remembered.'

LochWatch has a fund to keep up its work, helped by donations from the four men's families. Funds are also used to help pay for fuel and maintenance of the patrol boat. More volunteers are also needed.

To find out more about LochWatch go to facebook.com/lochwatch

Argyll men and women to receive honours

A number of men and women from Argyll and Bute, and the Highlands and Islands have been named in the New Year's Honours list, writes David McPhee.

Oban monument conservationist John Beaton, who works for Historic Environment Scotland, receives an OBE for services to the built environment and the community in Argyll.

Alistair Livingston, a volunteer from Mull, also receives an OBE for his services to the Coastguard. He is part of the Tobermory Coastguard Rescue Team.

Jennifer Minto, chairwoman of the Islay WW100 group, has been given an OBE for services to World War One commemoration and the community in Islay.

Jonathan Eugene Hart, from Spean Bridge, who volunteers at Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, was given an OBE for services to mountain rescue in Scotland and to charity.

Sheriff Colin Mackenzie DL, of Lewis, has been given

an OBE for services to the communities of the Western and Northern Isles.

Mairi Levack, from North Uist, was awarded an OBE for services to sport and young people on the Islands of North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist.

Councillor for Mid Argyll, Donald MacMillan, from Lochgilphead, received a BEM for services to local government.

An OBE also went to Graham Bell from Argyll who spent 24 years as the CEO of the Kibble Group – a specialist centre for young people at risk, and is a founding director of The Leader (Scotland), which helps with personal and business growth.

Mr Bell received the title for services to education, residential child care and social enterprise.

Duncan MacInnes, from Skye, will also be able to add an OBE to his name for his services to the arts and natural environment in Sleat.

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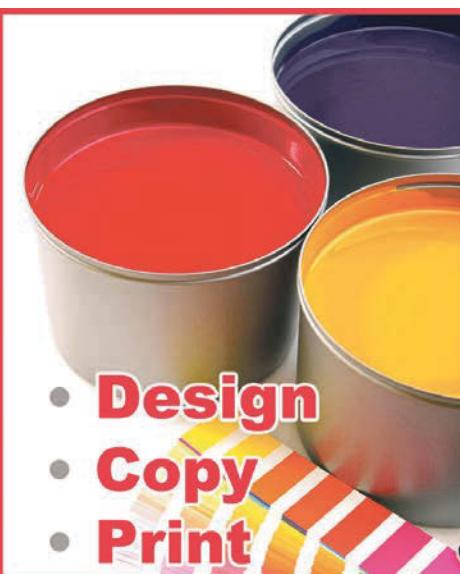
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New Oban access guide being made

by Kathie Griffiths
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A new access guide is being compiled for Oban with help from high school pupils.

So far about 20 shops and facilities across the town have been checked over by a group of pupils, including Cameron Allen, who has brittle bone disease and George Croft, both 17.

The students' help was enlisted by Oban and District Access Panel to replace a now out-of-date paper guide from almost a decade ago.

'We had a wee flash of inspiration and got in touch with Oban High School to see if they could help,' said Jim Tolmie, panel chairman.

During visits around town, the students have been looking at inside shops and venues as well as pavements outside.

'Everyone has been very



Cameron Allen and George Croft have been checking businesses and facilities for the new access guide.

friendly and helpful and has been interested to hear what we have to say,' said Cameron.

'There are lots of old buildings in Oban but there are ways changes can be made to make getting round them and into them easier. We also noticed there are areas where there are dropped kerbs on

one side of the road and not on the other,' he added.

Mr Tolmie said: 'We want businesses to be aware of the valuable work the students are doing to help us. We've got support from BID4Oban and we hope anything the students pick up will sow seeds to get businesses thinking what they

can do to make improvements if any are needed.'

A free training session for all businesses has been organised for Tuesday February 19 in the Corran Halls from 11am to 3pm.

'We hope as many businesses as possible will show up to find out how they can address the issue of access in a broader sense. It's not just about being accessible, it's also about being usable. We won't be able to get everything we want but we can start to sow the seeds,' added Mr Tolmie.

Any BID4Oban members are asked to let the Stevenson Street office know they will be attending.

Oban and District Access Panel is keen that new builds and change of uses for premises 'get it right from the start' so its members try to comment on any applications that are lodged with planners.

Community funding

Questions have been raised over the funding given by Argyll and Bute Council to community councils in its area.

At a recent meeting of the policy and resources committee, it was agreed that council officers should examine concerns about the current terms of discretionary community council grants.

Nearly £25,000 is given by the local authority to community councils as administrative grants, with nearly £7,000 more given in discretionary grants out of reserves of £10,000.

Three community councils – Islay, Cairndow and Tiree – have requested additional funding from the council, but Councillor Gary Mulvaney was reluctant to explore the possi-

bility. He said: 'I am comfortable with the recommendations, but let's have a look at setting a budget in view of some of the really difficult decisions. There is some really difficult stuff when you look at school crossing patrols, the road safety unit, and yet you have this chunk of money that sits there and we haven't focused on it at all.'

Douglas Hendry, the council's executive director of customer services, called on community councils to recognise the financial challenges facing the authority.

He said: 'There is a question in there for community councils, given the overall financial stringencies as to how to use funds that are available.'

Charity solo row plan

Find out more about one Oban man's mission to be the first person to row solo around Scotland.

Seasoned skipper and ocean traveller Roy Finlay will be at the Corran Halls on Saturday

January 5 at 8pm to talk about his long-held ambition and how he plans to travel 1,000 miles in two months in a rowing boat,

setting off from the Solway Firth on April 20.

Money raised from the challenge will go to charities working in the Oban area including Hope Kitchen and Carr Gomm.

Tickets are £10 each available from the Corran Halls or Hope.

Read more about it in next week's *Oban Times*.

January Sale at Gordons!

The January blues may be under way with Christmas been and gone, but do not worry. Here at Gordons Chemists we are here to help you get ready for the year ahead, with bigger and better savings than ever before!

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OT

Prayers for new minister still need to be answered

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Parishioners on the heavenly isle of Tiree are still waiting for their prayers to be answered and that they find a new minister soon.

White sandy beaches and crystal clear waters are just some of the perks of the job that the Church of Scotland hoped would attract applicants earlier this year but the post is still vacant.

Although the island might not have the tropical temperatures of paradise, it would offer the right person a unique opportunity to live and work there.

Tiree is not the only parish without a minister, there are still vacancies for Coll and Jura too.

On Tiree, the new minister would be lucky enough to live in a manse just yards from a beach with views to



the Treshnish Isles, Mull and Iona.

The parish covers all 30 square miles of the island, which does experience good weather and is known as the 'sunshine isle', with church numbers changing through the seasons.

The right applicant would

have to have the desire to fully immerse themselves in island life, said Jo Bennett, who is the clerk of the congregation's nominating committee.

The church building dates from 1902, although Tiree has a long Christian tradition going back to St Columba and his companion Beithene, who

The minister who takes on the job in Tiree will live in this manse which has a stunning view towards Mull and Iona.

was the abbot on the island in the sixth century AD. The local population is around 650 and boasts the highest proportion of Gaelic speakers in the Inner Hebrides.

Aside from supporting the congregation, historically the minister at the church has also been a chaplain at Tiree High School.

The job advert says: 'We seek a minister who finds that their heart resonates with this island and this community; who can meet us where we are and help guide us towards where we should be; who can be Christ in this place to people who need His love. Tiree is not a place that allows for anything

other than going all in.' The advert also warned:

'People will know when you leave the Manse; they'll know where you've been visiting; what you've been buying in the Co-op and when your cooker has stopped working. But they will also wave and stop for a chat when they see you; notice the work you put in to visiting, and come by with food or invite you round for dinner when your cooker isn't working.'

A Church of Scotland spokesperson confirmed all three posts are still vacant and added: 'For the moment the services are being taken by a Reader – a type of ministry which does not include administering sacraments.'

NHS Highland misses targets

Latest figures from ISD Scotland (Information Services Division) confirm that NHS Highland has again failed to meet 62-day cancer treatment guarantee and the three-week waiting time standard for alcohol treatment.

Only 79 per cent of patients received cancer treatment within the 62 days, with the maximum wait for cancer treatment being 226 days. NHS Highland has missed this target in the past five quarters.

The Scottish Government set a target which expects 95 per cent of patients found to have cancer to begin their first treatment within 62 days of referral for tests and scans.

The Scottish Government also set a target that 90 per cent of people who need help with alcohol problems will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment.

In NHS Highland, 86.6 per cent of patients were seen within three weeks in the third quarter of 2018. NHS Highland has not met the three-week waiting for the past five quarters.

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Business Gateway and Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team are hosting a lunchtime informal drop in session at:

North Pier (nr Harbour Master's office), Oban
Tuesday 8th January 2019
1200-1400hrs

Why not come along to our session and talk things through with one of our advisors.

If you are not able to make it along to the informal session but would like to speak to someone please get in touch to arrange an appointment at a suitable time.

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Business Gateway Argyll and Bute would like to wish our clients a successful 2019



Gold mine given its final go-ahead

by Kathie Griffiths
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Cononish gold mine at Tyndrum has got the final go-ahead to start production.

Scotgold was given the news from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park bosses that the company had satisfied all 19 conditions it needed to meet before being allowed to start work.

Richard Gray, chief executive of Scotgold said: 'I'm pleased to say that we've had the green light and we are going into production after getting confirmation from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Planning Authority that all of the 19 pre-start conditions and other obligations, relating to our planning application have been met.'

'As a consequence the company's subsidiary, SGZ Cononish Ltd, will initiate development



The trial processing plant at Cononish.

activities at its Cononish gold and silver project,' he added.

National park bosses unanimously approved revised plans for the gold mine at Tyndrum back in February, subject to the list of conditions being met.

Mr Gray said: 'While the complexity of this process has resulted in an extended timeline, Cononish can now move forward into the development phase with a more thorough

understanding of the issues of concern. We are delighted to have reached this point and are looking forward to a very exciting 2019, bringing the Cononish project into production.

'We can now put our implementation plans into action and anticipate the first rock-breaking activities at the Cononish mine portal starting early in the new year. We hope

our many stakeholders will follow us on this journey, culminating in first gold production planned for end of 2019,' Mr Gray added.

The official start date for working on the tunnel to reach the gold is January 7, Mr Gray told The Oban Times.

'We already have the first crew on-site putting up fences and tidying up the road. The main machinery is also on-site. We have a core crew ready to rock and roll. We will soon start to recruit for the second shift of workers, another half a dozen guys.'

'It will take about six months to get to where the gold is.'

'We will order the processing plant to arrive in the autumn then start recruiting for that shift.'

'By this time next year, when we're eating Christmas pudding, we should have gold in our hands,' he said.



Senior citizens enjoy their Christmas lunch.

Full house for Oban senior citizens' lunch

There was not an empty seat in the house at this year's senior citizens' Christmas lunch in Oban.

The event, which is run by the Rotary Club of Oban in partnership with the Crerar Trust, was held at the Oban Bay Hotel on Monday December 10.

The Oban Bay Hotel is part of the Crerar Hotels Group and the trust funds the cost of the lunch, with Oban Rotary organising the event and ferrying attendees to and from the hotel.

The lunch was compered by Rotary president Iain MacIntyre.

Entertainment was provided by Neil Mackay and Michael Garvin on drums and accordion respectively, with Clare Jordan as their vocalist.

Raffle prizes were provided by Ian 'Gilla' MacInnes of D and A Munn and Tommy McQuade of Morham and Brochie.

Santa was once again in the disguised form of Phil White.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'It was generally agreed that a good time was had by all; indeed many said on leaving that this was the most enjoyable, with all concerned looking forward to next year.'

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OT

Like 'a plaster on a major wound'

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



New flood defence barriers have gone up next to the Black Lynn but have stopped short of a house left nine inches under water in the October deluge.

Flood victim Hugh Carmichael says the black barriers are as helpful as putting 'a plaster on a major wound'.

Workmen were onsite last week putting the specially commissioned low-level flood defence in place.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council confirmed the black barriers going up were part of the flood defence solution.

But Mr Carmichael said his heart is still in his mouth every time heavy rain falls and he is not convinced the new barriers will save his



Oban's flood barrier is now in place next to the Black Lynn.

property 'if and when' the burn floods again.

"They've put sandbags down, dug a mound of earth to build up the side of the burn near my houses and now put these barriers up but it's just like putting a plaster on top of a major wound."

The barriers have gone up by a broken bit of fence near the bridge end, not near my

house. It's the burn that's the problem. It needs dredging and made wider at the point behind my house so that the water level stays lower. For some reason the council seems adamant that it won't touch it.

I still want them to dredge the burn but nobody is saying anything. All I want is a simple yes or no answer but they

won't give it to me. I'm just waiting for the floods to happen again. The height of the water was enormous with the last heavy rain. People who've seen the sandbags and pile of earth at the back are asking me if that's all the council are doing. They say it's a joke.

"Now they've got the barriers up but it's like a job half done," he said.



A number of cruise ships will visit Oban this year.

Workshop will focus on cruise tourism

Cruise tourism offers potentially significant benefits for a number of businesses operating in key cruise destinations in the Highlands and Islands.

To help businesses maximise their opportunities, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is running a workshop focusing on routes to market for local businesses, including tourism, food and craft.

The two-day interactive workshop delivered in partnership with Oban and

Lorn Tourism Alliance Ltd and BID4Oban includes case studies and the different routes to market, all tailored to the local area and the cruise market visiting Oban.

Participants will complete an action plan for their business, tailored for the cruise market, and have access to a range of additional resources. Local collaboration opportunities for each destination will also be explored.

To take part in Oban on January 16 and 17, reserve a place at www.bid4oban.co.uk

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Thief jailed for 12 months

An Oban man was sentenced to 12 months in prison the week before Christmas.

'He came here today expecting the worse,' said defence agent Edward Thornton last Wednesday at the town's sheriff court.

Lewis Stewart MacLachlan, whose address was given as 29 High Street, Oban, had previously admitted breaking into the China Restaurant, Stafford Street, Oban, two

nights running, on July 12 and 13 this year, and another break-in at a common close at George Street, Oban, and stealing a mountain bike on January 12.

In the first charge, the 37-year-old entered the restaurant via a back window and stole £150 in cash. The following night he threw a brick through the front window, stole a quantity of cash and then caused damage

and destroyed property. The stolen cash, damage and loss of a day's trading cost the restaurant £2,000.

Earlier in the year, on January 12, a resident of George Street, Oban, found their mountain bike had been taken from the common close and reported this to the police along with a full description; the door of the close had been forced open.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes

had called for reports on MacLachlan before he passed sentence.

The 37-year-old had also been on a community payback order for assaulting a man in November 2016; his victim's injuries left him permanently disfigured. He also admitted possessing heroin at an address in Oban in February 2017.

Mr Thornton asked the

treatment testing order instead of prison.

'It seems to me that he seems to have a problem with addiction; he is addicted to drugs and also to alcohol.'

He said that the treatment order would prevent 'the revolving door of prison and relapse'.

But Sheriff Hughes said he had the protection of the public to consider, giving MacLachlan four months

for stealing the bicycle and eight for the two break-ins at the restaurant, to run consecutively.

He will also have to pay £400 compensation to the victim of his attack.

The sheriff did not rule out the possibility of a drug treatment and testing order once MacLachlan had served his sentence and deferred sentence for the drug offence until June 2019.

Christmas joy for three Oban charities

Christmas came early for three Oban charities which received a total of £4,250 from West Highland Housing Association.

The association presented the cheques to the charities ahead of the festive holidays.

New Start Oban received £2,500, Soroba Young Families was awarded £1,000 and £750 went to Glenshellach Growers.

New Start Oban helps people who are or have been homeless by providing basic items such as bedding, towels, cooking utensils, cutlery, crockery, to basic buckets, mops, cleaning materials and small electrical goods.

Soroba Young Families Group is a nursery and a learning and development initiative sup-

porting families with children under three. Its share of cash will go towards its Birth to 3 Centre that has more than 100 children registered and has a waiting list for some sessions.

Glenshellach Growers is a community gardening project at Rhuvaal Road, Oban.

While handing the cheque over to the growers, chairman of WHHA Dougie MacKie said: 'We are delighted. Hopefully many of our tenants will benefit from what is happening and enjoy the fresh fruit and vegetables.'

And Duncan Woodward said: 'It's absolutely important. We don't charge a lot for membership, so we rely on raising funds and this is brilliant and unexpected.'



Dougie MacKie hands over £750 to Duncan Woodward, Jean Boardman and George MacMillan at Glenshellach Growers. 17_T52_WHHA01

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Lismore pupils bring Christmas cheer

Lismore Primary School's Christmas activities began on December 10 when they entertained the community at the annual Holly Lunch in aid of Lismore Community Transport.

Dressed in Christmas jumpers and elf hats, the children performed songs and recited poems before joining the audience in singing some festive carols.

The celebrations continued on Tuesday December 18 when parents, friends and the community were invited to a Victorian Christmas Experience.

The event was a real taste of Christmas in Victorian times, with children and staff dressed as Victorians.

Guests were first invited to take part in a quiz to find out about the many Christmas traditions which began in the Victorian era. The children were able to demonstrate their knowledge of these by helping

with the answers. They also showed visitors how they had made crackers, Christmas cards and wrapping paper.

The guests were then invited into a brightly lit Victorian Street where they were offered mulled spicy punch, roast chestnuts and Christmas cake. There were also some treats to buy, including gingerbread snowflakes and bird seed baubles.

A town crier welcomed everyone before introducing the afternoon's entertainment – a short Nativity in the form of a poem, with carols for everyone to join in, followed by a selection of fun poems and songs and rousing renditions of We wish you a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells.

There were then cups of tea and mince pies for all, rounding off a festive and enjoyable start to the Christmas season.



Above and top right: Lismore's Victorian Christmas Experience and Nativity were a huge success.



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More than any other date on the calendar, January 1 is the most commonly held reference point of time in this part of the world for taking stock of where our lives are and how we feel about our past, present and future.

This self-evaluating happens commonly on an individual level at birthdays – particularly when multiple decades are reached – and when other anniversaries are marked.

Because at New Year whole populations are doing this simultaneously, the presence of self-analyses set against our years on earth is accentuated. The prevalence of the New Year's resolution is everywhere at this time of year and although there is a fair amount of fashion, commercialism, grandstanding and gimmickry involved in it, I think the general concept is a good one.

2019 will mark a few meaningful milestones on my own time line that make the turning of this year feel more significant than others of the past. This year I will turn 40, Skipinnish will turn 20 and 2019 also marks 20 years since my father passed away. In their own different ways,

these three markers of linear movement through life are significant.

These reference points of time in our lives are useful in giving us the perspective to evaluate what is important to us and what is not.

When we started the band I was a fresher year student aged 19 with no real plan for what my future life might entail other than generally wanting variety, freedom and progression while trying to maintain a good level of morality and decency as a human being. I was having a great time studying and partying in Glasgow and heading off to pubs, village halls and festivals up and down the country at weekends with the band.

Twenty years on and approaching 40, I don't really feel much has changed in my outlook on life and I have no wish for a clearer vision of my future. I am, hopefully, slightly wiser, but other than a few grey hairs, a couple of scars and a few extra stones I don't feel that too much has changed.

Throughout these 20 years I've managed to have plenty of variety, freedom, independence and among all the

rough and tumble some sort of progression has hopefully been made.

At the beginning of every year when contemplating specific aspects of life to work on to improve our journeys and increase our contribution to the world there is a range of fairly standard as well as some very specific activities on which to concentrate.

As we enter 2019 one of the main areas of life that is very much on my mind more than other years, – added to by a recent dream I had – is making time to visit people who have been an important part of the previous years of our lives.

I'm going to delve into this subject further in next week's article but in the meantime, trips to Iona, Mull, Barra, Benbecula, Perthshire, Lochgilphead, Edinburgh, California, Tiree and many other places to see certain people are being planned.

In the blink of an eye, 20 years can pass and in the blink of an eye people too pass and we lose the chance to see them and to meet again. So, while we are all still here time should be made for these powerful human connections.

Happy New Year to you all.



Left: Strip the Willow and the Dashing White Sergeant were the highlights of the Barcaldine Primary School Christmas Ceilidh, held at Barcaldine Castle. The night's entertainment also included Scottish and Christmas songs and tunes plus The Three Wise Mice nativity; and right, the sound of Jingle Bells could be heard throughout Sutherland's Grove as Barcaldine pupils enjoyed a festive time in the woods, decorating their wood palace with lights and tinsel.



Salen pupils take centre stage

Salen Primary School on the Isle of Mull has won The Scottish Salmon Company's winter show competition, held in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland.

The school was awarded cash to help it plan and produce its end of term show, The Little Shepherd. The prize included a bespoke one-day workshop with the National Theatre of Scotland plus £500 towards set design, sound and lighting, props and costumes.

The Little Shepherd was performed in a mixture of English and Gaelic and took place on Tuesday December 18.

A selection of schools across the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides were invited to apply to win funding following a tour of theatre performances presented as part of Theatre in Schools Scotland.

Two theatre practitioners from the National Theatre of Scotland visited Salen Primary School on Tuesday December 4 to help and advise children on developing a script, set design, staging and other technical assistance.

This is the third consecutive year SSC has supported the initiative.

Mairi Maclean, headteacher at Salen Primary School, said: 'We are so excited to have won this year's winter show competition. It is wonderful to have the support of The Scottish Salmon Company and we can't thank it enough for helping us make this year's Christmas show a truly special one.'

'Our Christmas show is a community highlight, this year's production really engaged our pupils, developing what we hope will become a lifelong passion for the arts.'

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OT

JULY



Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo, and Fred Sirieix paid a visit to Oban to film a new television series, and the sunset on the night they arrived had Mr Ramsay wanting to move to the area. The celebrities, who were a huge hit with locals, were in town filming the ITV programme called The Ultimate Road Trip.

JULY



Two Oban women received MBEs – Sine MacVicar, far left, former head teacher of Dunbeg Primary School, and Oban-born former racing driver Susie Wolff, nee Stoddart.

AUGUST



Oban's Station Square was packed with more than 100 people cheering on Willie Neilson as the 29-year-old wheeled into Oban having completed a 737-mile cycle – from Land's End to Oban, raising more than £12,000 for three charities close to his heart – Alzheimer's Scotland, the Craighalbert Centre, and the Beatson Cancer Charity.

SEPTEMBER



Lucky reader Tracey Campbell scooped £2,500 in our Spot The Ball after entering the competition just three times. The Oban mum-of-two said at the time: 'This really was third time lucky! When I heard a prize had to be won last week, I thought I might as well have a try. I couldn't believe it when I got the phone call saying I'd won.'

SEPTEMBER



Praise be! Four first-time mums at Oban Baptist Church each had a baby girl, one after the other. Amy Inglis, Melody McCulloch, Becky Anderson and Moilla Holban were all friends through church before finding out they were expecting new arrivals.

2019

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OCTOBER



Torrents of rain, high tides and strong winds flooded roads and the long-stay car park in Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban. Drivers were stopped in their tracks by the rising water. One driver, who had left his car in the car park while visiting friends on Mull, returned to find it submerged in the floodwater.



Oban High School pupil Cameron Allen inspired us in October having raised £1,700 for the Brittle Bone Society. The Appin youngster, who suffers from the disease, hopes to get his private pilot's licence soon.

NOVEMBER



Sweethearts John and Sue Hicks returned to Oban after half a century to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. The happy couple, from South Wales, married two years after a romantic break to the town in 1966 and had always wanted to come back.



Thousands headed to Oban for the eighth winter festival, again bringing families and friends from near and far into the bustling town for 10 days of events and shopping. Pictured are cheeky satusma girls grabbing a kiss from bellringer Stuart Smith outside Oban Distillery.

DECEMBER



Susan Simpson, the Highlands ambassador for SiMBA, is backing a new charity that is asking women to donate their wedding dresses or occasion gowns to help heartbroken families. The dresses will be unpicked and turned into beautiful outfits for babies who have died through miscarriage, stillbirth or from a neo-natal death. She is looking for volunteer sewers and stitchers as well as donations of gowns. Mrs Simpson has booked a space at Oban's Rockfield Centre on Saturday January 12 for anyone interested in helping in any way.

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OT

POLICE FILES

■ About 1.25am on December 27, in Lorn Avenue, Oban, a man, 19, allegedly breached bail curfew conditions by being outwith an Oban address overnight. Police arrested the man who also allegedly committed a breach of the peace at Oban Police Station. The man was charged, held for court and a report submitted to the procurator fiscal (PF).

■ There was an attempted break-in at Dunollie Stores, Corran Brae, Oban at 7.10am on Christmas Day. A door was slightly damaged but no entry was gained.

■ About 3.45pm on December 24, at The Original Factory Shop, Combie Street, Oban, a 25-year-old man allegedly stole some training shoes. Police are currently trying to trace the man.

■ Between 5.30pm on December 19 and 8am on December 21, on Drimvargie Road, Oban, a red Vauxhall Corsa was damaged by having the bonnet dented by someone jumping on it.

■ About 3.30pm on December 20, in Catalina Avenue, Oban, a man, 26, was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman. The man was charged and a report was submitted to the PF.

Anyone with any information on any of the incidents above should call the police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Charity serves up 'Hope' on a plate

by Kathie Griffiths

kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Christmas Day diners at Hope Kitchen got a big helping of warmth, friendship and festive food thanks to Oban generosity.

Top chef and forager Gary Goldie, who lives in the town, took charge in the kitchen to serve up six festive courses with the help of donations and a band of volunteers.

Centre manager Lorraine MacCormick said: 'We started off with 32 people for dinner but more kept coming in through the door. We had more than 40 in the end and about 10 volunteers – some were regular helpers and others who we had never seen before.'

'Our chef for the day, Gary, was so chilled and relaxed in the kitchen. He said it was the easiest Christmas dinner he'd ever made and I said it was the tastiest I'd ever had. Everyone enjoyed it.'

The festive courses included a prawn cocktail starter, beetroot soup, turkey with all the trimmings and a Vegan alternative, Christmas pudding with meadowsweet ice cream, homemade mince pies and finally cheese with oatcakes.



'We didn't quite make the cheese and oatcakes, we were all so stuffed! We had so many donations from the community to make this happen. The police also called in with a hamper for us on the day and one man

dropped by with a card, a poem he had written about us and a Tesco voucher to help us out when supplies start to go down in the New Year. We are so grateful to everyone. Thank you very much,' added Ms MacCormick.

Chef and forager Gary Goldie serves up Hope's Christmas Day dinner with the help of volunteers.

American hunters reported for firearms offences

Two American hunters have been reported to the procurator fiscal for firearms offences after posting images of themselves next to dead goats on Islay.

Police Scotland confirmed that a 33-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man have been reported.

There was widespread outrage last October when Larysa Switlyk posted images next to the wild goats.

The 'professional huntress', who hosts an American television show titled Larysa Unleashed, captioned a photograph of herself behind one of the dead animals.

She said: 'Beautiful wild goat here on the Island of Islay in Scotland. Such a fun hunt. They live on the edge of the cliffs of the island and know how to hide well. We hunted hard for a big one for two days and finally got on this group. Made a perfect 200-yard shot and dropped him.'

A spokesperson for Police Scotland said: 'Following several complaints of wild goat 'trophy' hunting on Islay in September, Police Scotland can now confirm that a 33-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man from the USA have been reported to the procurator fiscal for firearms offences.'

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Cinema receives £28,000 for improvements

by David McPhee
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Phoenix Cinema started the New Year in high spirits after receiving a cash injection of £28,000.

The community-owned cinema has received £22,000 from the Crerar Trust and £6,000 from Oban Common Good Fund.

The money will be used to repair the roof and to develop the inside of the cinema, including a new concession stand.

A post on the cinema's social media page read: 'We are very excited to be able to announce that we have received our first funding awards to support the development of the cinema.'

'This money will go towards refurbishing the cinema roof and developing the foyer area.'

'Thank you to all our supporters and thank you to our customers, volunteers, staff and fantastic voluntary board of directors – together we are what makes the cinema.'

'This is an exciting time for



our wee community cinema.'

Oban Phoenix Cinema chairman Gary Brown told *The Oban Times*:

'Those who have been to the cinema recently should have noticed an improvement in the cinema experience.'

'The board of directors has secured the services of a funding and procurement expert who will be tasked

with raising funds for the development of the cinema.'

'Funding already received has ensured that the temporary fix of the cinema roof will be followed up with a full repair in the spring.'

'March should see the opening of a new concession stand in the middle area and a consultation is currently under way in how we can

Gary Brown, chairman of Oban Phoenix Cinema board, is looking forward to leading more improvements at the community movie theatre.

improve our disabled access.'

'These will improve the customer service with a view in the future to incorporate a larger screen two and to improve the facilities all round.'

Crerar Hotels owns among others the Oban Bay Hotel, the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa, and Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa, and in the last 10 years has donated more than £4 million to community groups and charities through its trust.

Oban Common Good Fund is administered by Argyll and Bute Council and allows organisations to apply for funding towards 'one-off' projects.

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Drax Group to take over Cruachan Power Station

Cruachan Power Station powered into the New Year under new ownership, after it was bought by Drax Group.

The company took over the reins from Scottish Power on December 31.

Drax shareholders approved the acquisition to purchase Scottish Power's last gas and hydro stations for £702 million in cash.

The portfolio consists of Cruachan pumped storage hydro (440MW), run-of-river hydro locations at Galloway and Lanark (126MW), four CCGT stations: Damhead Creek (805MW), Rye House (715MW), Shoreham (420MW) and Blackburn Mill (60MW), and a biomass-from-waste facility (Daldowie).

Scottish Power sold the assets in order to become the first major UK energy company to generate all its electricity from wind power.

The company's chief executive Keith Anderson said: 'We are leaving carbon generation

behind for a renewable future powered by cheaper green energy. We have closed coal, sold gas and built enough wind to power 1.2 million homes.'

Ignacio Galan, chairman of Scottish Power's Spanish owner, Iberdrola, said energy companies needed to be part of the solution to climate change: 'Iberdrola is acting now to cut carbon emissions 30 per cent by 2020 and be carbon neutral by 2050. The sale of these generation assets is consistent with our strategy,' he said.

Will Gardiner, chief executive officer of Drax Group, said: 'The board believes there is a compelling logic in our move to add further flexible sources of power to our offering, which will accelerate our ability to deliver our strategic vision of a lower-carbon, lower-cost energy future for the UK.'

Iberdrola and Drax have agreed to a 'risk sharing mechanism' for 2019.

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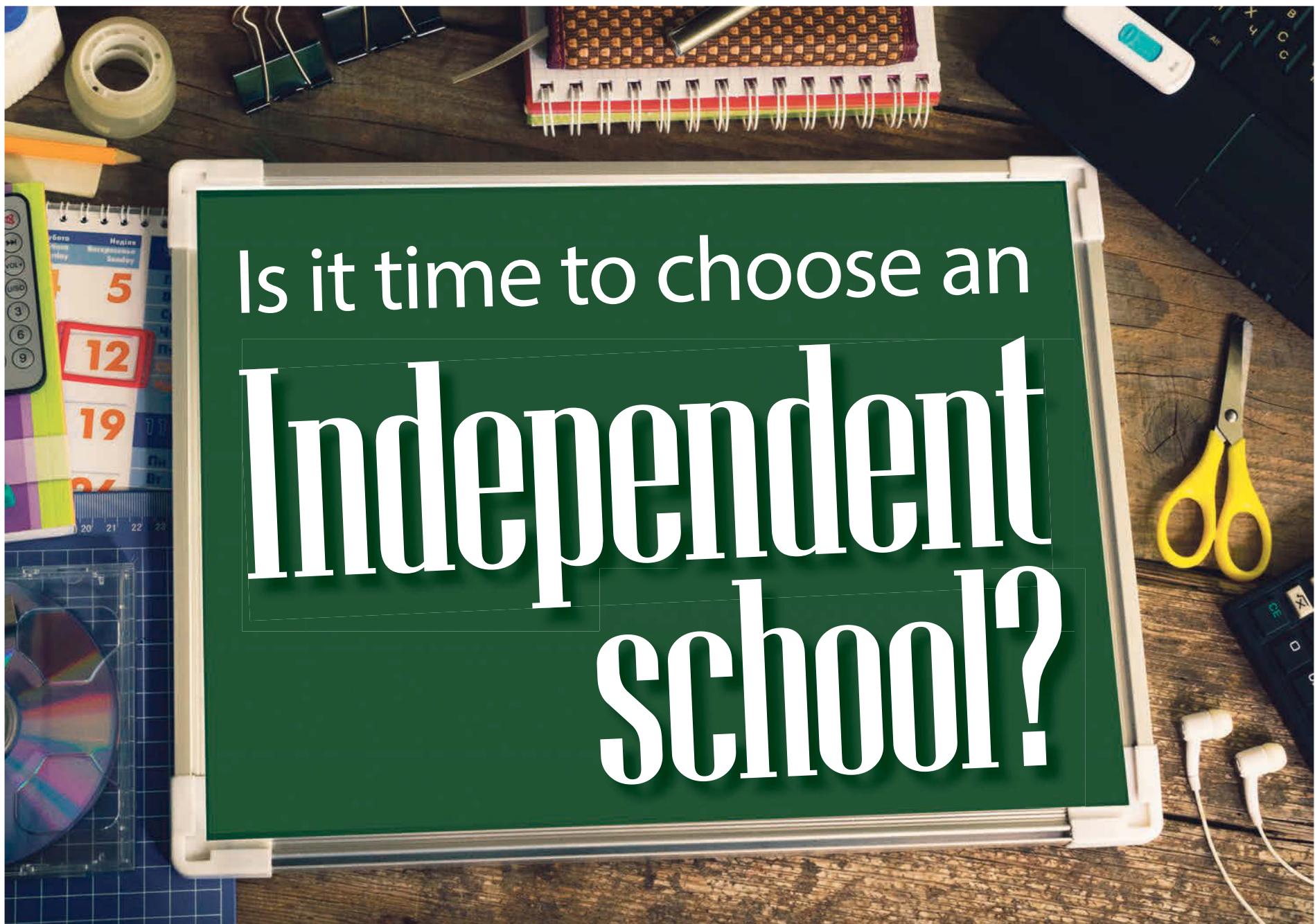
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is the one who is finding it hard to make that fit you cannot help but wonder if they would be better off in the independent sector.

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With state school budgets being ever tightened do the extra-curricular activities and enhanced pastoral care of the independent sector look like money well spent in proving for you child's future?

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unprecedented rise in consumer culture with families near brainwashed into believing that buying bigger, better, faster, newer is best. We are moving away from this mindset and a realisation is dawning

that experience, not possessions, is what binds us and creates stronger, happier families. Would your children benefit from experiencing independent education?



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for entry to Riley Junior School in January 2019 and for Year 9 in February 2019. Scholarships are awarded in March for benefit in the Autumn term. Applications close on Wednesday 16th January for 9-12 year olds and Friday 15th February for Year 9 scholarship assessments.

Previous academic scholars at Strathallan have gone on study at some of the top universities in the UK and around the world. Several of our scholars have

represented Scotland and GB in 15 sports including Rugby, Swimming, Hockey and Skiing. Strathallan Music scholars have taken up places at reputable music and performing arts colleges such as BMI.

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New book puts old photos in the frame

After decades of research by his descendants, a new book has been published containing the unique photographs of Archie Chisholm.

Procurator fiscal at Lochmaddy in North Uist from 1881 to 1913, Archie was a keen amateur photographer and champion of crofters' rights.

The book, by Michael Cope, makes it possible for the first time to appreciate the significance of Chisholm's images of the Outer Hebrides in late Victorian and Edwardian times, drawn together from museum archives and private collections.

His photographs reflect life, work and play in the Western Isles – cattle marts and village fairs, fishing and golf, whaling and crofting, family gatherings and eviction, but, above all, Hebridean landscapes and seascapes.

Photographs of the same scenes today highlight changes, or the lack of them, over the past 100 or so years. Delightful images show his own family and neighbours in North Uist relaxed and having fun, picnicking on the beach or at local festivities.

As a campaigner for improved communications, Archie took a keen interest in chronicling Western Isles ferries and one very striking image shows a horse being hoisted onto a steamer.

This book will be of special relevance to those interested in the history of the postal services in the Western Isles, for Archie created a Cairt Phostail series showing his own images and local postmarks are reproduced beside the postcards.

Locations are identified in a map section and the sources of all images and their dates are collated in tables.



This striking image shows a pony being hoisted onto a steamer at Lochmaddy.

Here's to the year

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com



The threshold of a new year is probably as good a time as any to remember and reflect on the one it succeeds.

At the risk of sounding like something from Hugh MacDiarmid's, A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle, Burns' Holy Willie's Prayer and Kipling's If, here, by request from some of its exiles, is my take on the ups and downs and the joys and travails of life in Morvern in the last 12 months – warts and all.

As this is being written on Christmas morning perhaps I should begin with the positive.

First up must be the continued success of the silica sand mine tucked away inside the mouth of Loch Aline and sending out the finest product of its kind in Europe on small coasters to southern markets.

Not long ago there was talk of shutting the mine down and turning the site into a boat builder's yard. Fortunately that did not happen as it is now at the heart of the community, providing year-round employment for more than 25 men and women.

The former Highlands and Islands Development Board, which for a few years owned the Rahoy deer farm, used to calculate that for every one person employed in rural areas at least seven benefit and so it must be in Morvern.

It is a pity that the Forestry Commission and the hydro scheme builders won't take a leaf out of Lochaline Quartz Sand Ltd's book and use the sea. If they did, the only road out of the parish would be in a better state of repair.

One of the finest pieces of workmanship seen in Morvern for many a year has to be a new footbridge over the River Aline where it flows out of Loch Arriens near the Snag Pool on Ardtornish estate. Completed only a few weeks ago, this essential crossing giving access to Morvern's most popular sandy beach for mums and toddlers in the summer, comprises two heavy metal girders skilfully hidden from view by timber cladding.

The seasoned timbered decking and hand rails are exquisitely finished down to the use of wooden dowels instead of steel bolts. Overall, this welcome, high-quality structure which will undoubtedly outlive most of us, would

The Rahoy Hills Wildlife Sanctuary where deer are being killed after 45 years. Photograph: Iain Thornber.



not look out of place in a ducal deer park and is well worth viewing.

It was designed by Michael Faryma, estate joiner who, along with his assistants, put it together in trying conditions. I hope they found something extra in their Christmas stockings for all their initiative and hard work – they certainly deserved it.

Mention must be made of the skill and dedication of the captains and crew of CalMac's Lochaline-Fishnish ferry who keep open the link between Mull and Morvern long after their colleagues elsewhere in the sound have hung-up their sea boots. Thanks also to NHS Highland health board which continues to support and finance the medical centre in Lochaline and to Dr Susan Taylor, the locums, and their team who look after an ever-increasing ageing population.

Living on the edge and at the end of the road,

we should be grateful for what we have on our own doorstep compared to other communities in the Highlands and Islands where patients have to drive or sail many miles to see a doctor.

A huge thanks to a local resident who, rain, hail or shine, cycles almost daily from Lochaline to the top of Glen Liddesdale picking up bags of litter which louts keep chucking out of their car windows. Without the herculean efforts of this anonymous knight of the road, the Morvern approaches would be a great deal less attractive.

The death in August of Jimmy Laurie, Acharn, farm manager and head shepherd of Ardtornish estate for a long number of years, removed a popular and well-known figure from Argyll's sheep and farming circles. Jimmy's family, who must have given an estimated 300 years' combined service to the estate and is one of the very few left in Morvern who can



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ground, known for its alpine flora, lying between the summits of Beinn Iadain and Beinn na h-Uamh, for the establishment of a nature reserve.

There was an understanding no shooting would take place so that if the wildlife began to decline roundabout it would find sanctuary here. Mr Cadbury felt that if the plants and grasses had survived rain, snow, natural fires, sheep, goats, deer and cattle since the last Ice Age, there was no need to start interfering with silly management regimes.

Something is now going desperately wrong. More and more deer are being sacrificed in Morvern for new, grant-rich tree plantations which will bring about an ecological disaster through under-grazing and that, in turn, will have a greater effect on the flora and fauna than the alternative.

Members of SWT might wish to question the direction in which the organisation is moving when deciding to renew their annual subscription by recalling the words of King George VI who so rightly said: 'The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after.'

There used to be a saying among the more irreverent west-coasters that only the Almighty and David MacBrayne knew when the ferries were going to call and that the Almighty had to go to David MacBrayne for the information. Echoes of this surfaced recently when Morvern was left without mail or newspapers because CalMac's Oban-Craignure ferries did not sail. Perhaps the time has come for our post to be routed along a more predictable land link through Perth instead of Glasgow and Oban, and that Strontian becomes Morvern's sorting office.

A woodland group has registered an interest with Scottish ministers in acquiring Killundine estate (8,000 acres) and anticipates hearing very soon that its application has been validated.

It is difficult to know what benefits, if any, this will bring to Morvern should it go forward. Do we really want to see more rich agricultural land disappearing under trees to pick up a grant, or lumps of concrete thrown over a river for yet another hydro scheme; deer shot out and mature trees cut down to help finance the buyout?

go back more than three generations, came in with the Lowland sheep.

A man with a natural and practical understanding of the land, Jimmy may not have written any scientific papers or given many talks on the subject, but in his own quiet and canny manner he accrued more knowledge of the hill and the ways of its sheep and cattle in his little finger than many of today's high-flying advisors. We are unlikely to see his like again and send James, his son and successor, best wishes for many more gatherings.

Staying with the land, there is widespread condemnation of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) for sanctioning the slaughter of deer on its Morvern property for the first time in more than 40 years.

In 1975 the late Christopher Cadbury, Quaker philanthropist and conservationist, made a gift to the nation of 1,750 acres of

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This week we go back to 1995, when Andrina MacKinnon, manageress of the Regent Hotel in Oban, presented Peter Livingston with a gift for organising the annual old folk's Christmas party. Peter has been secretary and treasurer of the Oban and District Old Folk's Welfare Committee for several years,



All quiet in the Ballachulish of earlier days. Photograph from Roamer Archives



ATOM BRANDS

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

There is a lot to look forward to in Oban

The start of a new year for many of us is a time to reflect and reboot, and also a time to look forward.

But as we peer into the fog that is Brexit, not knowing what sort of deal will be brokered and how we will fare in Scotland, it is tempting to think there is nothing but doom and gloom. But actually, here in Argyll, there is a lot to celebrate.

The Queen's New Year's Honours List has seen no less than nine people honoured for services to HM Coastguard, local government, residential childcare and social enterprise, arts and the natural environment, and sport and young people. And while we are delighted to add our congratulations to all recipients, we also know that for everyone recognised here, there are many more who devote their working life and leisure time to helping others.

Hope Kitchen, again, ensured that those in need were catered for at Christmas, with chef Gary Goldie dishing up a six-course festive lunch to more than 40 people on Christmas Day. On the lead up to Christmas and in the weeks and months ahead, this Oban team will continue to bring hope and love to those in need.

And we were delighted to hear that the team at Oban Phoenix Cinema got off to a cracking start this year with the news that it received £22,000 from the Crerar Trust and £6,000 from the Oban Common Good Fund. This social enterprise is a huge bonus for the town and the cash will go a long way to help the team realise its plans to improve the cinema going forward.

many friends, particularly the Telfers, who had a croft in Laggan where we were billeted.

It was an idyllic time as travel in those days was not as it is today.

Back in Netley, work on the building trade had become very scarce.

At the age of 17 in 1950, I therefore joined the Royal Navy.

I never forgot my time in Mull and in 1969, while serving as a chief petty officer on HMS Ajax, we made a visit to Oban.

As my captain had an estate at Kilmelford, and learning of my history, he allowed me to visit Lochbuie, where I met some of those I had known then in their 90s. I also met Helen Telford (MacMillan, I think) and welcomed her and her family on board.

We then went to anchor in Loch Melfort near the captain's house, where the local pub had to resort to jam jars as they ran out of glasses.

I left the Royal Navy in 1972 and in 1976 my wife and I took a campervan back to the area, visited Captain Harry Keats and renewed my love of the area. We did not, however, visit Mull at that time.

Fast forward to May 2007 when, as chairman of the Royal Naval Association in Netley, eight of us motored to Oban once again and to Mull where we had a glorious stay in Tobermory, visiting, of course, Lochbuie and Laggan.

I had a word with the present laird Jim Corbett, who had been about six years old in 1948.

On Saturday May 11, 2019, four of us are coming to stay in the Lagnakiel Highland Lodges for a week.

I am very much looking forward to it and would be very pleased if there was anyone left alive from those days. Sadly, Captain Keats is no longer with us. I hope to have a day in Mull during this week.

Brian Sandom,
brian@thesandoms.com

Thank you

I would be very grateful if you could put a little mention in the paper to say a huge thank you to everyone that has supported me this year in my fundraising.

My total raised from end of January is £6,670.

Of that £3,500 went to the Belford hospital, £150 to the local Macmillan Nurses, £2,100 to The Highland Hospice, £400 plus bags of food to Lochaber Food Bank, and £520 and bags of new items to Lochaber Women's Aid.

Liz Macmillan, Fort William

Appeal to trace old friends on the island of Mull

I was 87 years old on June 5 and live, as I always have, in Netley, near Southampton.

In 1948, I was working as an apprentice bricklayer with my father, and uncle, when we were sent to Mull to work on the estate at Lochbuie.

We remained there for six weeks and made

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Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bliadhna mhath ùr dhuibh uile!

Tha mi 'n dòchas gun robh fior shubhachas mur timcheall nuair a ghabh sibh beannachd le 2018 agus a chuir sibh failte air 2019, agus tha mi cuideachd an dòchas gun robh sibh ann an sunnd gàire agus beagan spòrs nuair a nochd i! Bu mhath leam gu dearbha gur ann mar sin a bhithreas fad na bliadhna ùire seo dhuibh, le slàinte, sonas, misneachd, agus aighearrachd. 'S dòcha gum bheil e beagan mì-reusanta dhomh a bhith ag iarraidh uimhir ach tha mi 'n dòchas gum faigh sinn uile roinn de na sólais sin aig a' char as lugh! Bidh mi tric a' cuimhneachadh air amannan bliadhna ùire nam òige is mar a bhiodh m' athair agus nàbaidhean ag aithris faclan à bàrdachd Mhàiri Mhòr nan Òran nuair a bhiodh iad ag òl deoch-slàinte. "Seo a' Bhliadhna Ùr thug solas dhuinn!" Bha e nàdarra gu leòr gum biodh iad uile beò ann an dòchas air adhartas nan cuid suidheachaидh ann am bliadhna ùr.

Dè a dh'iarradh tu fhèin

ann an 2019, gu pearsanta agus dhan dùthach? 'S e mo bheachd gun cuireadh a' mhòr-chuid deagh shlàinte dhaibh fhèin agus dhan teaghlaichean árd air liosta rùntean na bliadhna ùire. Bhiodh e nàdarra cuideachd dhuinn a bhith an dòchas ri tèarainteachd dachaigh agus teachd-a-steach dha na bhaineas dhuinn, agus nach bu mhath gun iarramaid leithid sin dhan na h-uile le aithne gun toireadh sin leasachadh bunaiteach air cor uimhir feadh na dùthcha againn a tha beò ann am bochdainn.

Saoilidh mi le cinnt gum bheil fadachd oirnn uile crioch fhacinn air a' bhutarrais anns am bheil ceist Brexit agus dealachadh Bhreatann bhon Aonadh Eòrpach. Ged is e mo bheachd pearsanta gum b' fheàrr fuireach san aonadh thug toradh an reifreinn stiùir eile dhan Riaghaltas, ach gu deimhinne 's olc a chaidh iad ri cùisean agus tha sinn a-nise an cunnart dealachadh deireadh a' Mhàirt gun aonta malairt shusbainteach de sheòrsa sam bith. Bhiodh e ceàrr a ràdh nach robh an seòrsa barganachadh seo toinnt agus doirbh ach

tug gear carson a tha mòran a' faireachadh nach do chuir Ministearan deatamachd gu leòr dhan a' phriomh obair. Bha seo gu ire ri linn na bha, is na tha fhathast, de dh'eas-aonta nam measg mun t-slighe air adhart gun ghuth air prìomh phàrtaidh dùblain air leth-chois le neo-dheimhinnteachd poileasaidh! Cha b' iongnadh mì-chinnt am measg mhòran den t-sluagh agus bidh sinn an dòchas gun tig aonta air innleachd adhartais a bhios gu math na dùthcha gu lèir.

A happy and prosperous new year to you all! Health and income security are natural priorities in our new year wish lists and if we extend that aspiration to include all of those who have little or nothing, we might achieve some real change in 2019! Blundering over Brexit is creating confusion and insecurity and we desperately need statesmanship and clarity of purpose from all MPs to progress the best interests of our country.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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 or those supplied without a contact phone number 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. Fax: 01631 568001.

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DISTRICT NEWS

KILLIN

The December meeting of Killin SWI took the form of a party night.

All demonstrations and a lovely finger buffet were provided by members.

The competition winners were: Christmas card: first Fiona Booth, with Margaret Galloway in second.

Favourite Christmas Tree Decoration: 1 Anne Rose; 2 Bunty MacGregor; and 3 Sheila Aitken.

On Wednesday afternoon, December 19, once again thanks go to the ladies for hosting the school children's Christmas party which was held in McLaren Hall.

The children, dressed beautifully in gorgeous party outfits, looked stunning. The afternoon was enjoyed by the children, top table guests and SWI committee and members.

As usual the balcony was available for members of the public to watch the children enjoy the games and dances.

TAYNUILT

Carol singers in Taynuilt raised £220 in just two hours for the village hall funds.

A message of thanks was posted online, which said: 'Well done everyone who came along and sang, Davie and Janice who prepared the mulled wine and mince pies, and all those who kindly donated money'

GLENORCHY AND INNISHAL

The next Glenorchy and Innishal Community Council meeting will take place on Wednesday January 9 from 7.30pm.

The meeting will take place in the Dalmally Community Centre and there will be a discussion on local issues including SSEN pylons.

Members of the public, representatives of other community groups and schools are welcome to attend.

LOCHGILPHEAD

Councillors have given their backing to a proposed heritage-led regeneration project for Lochgilphead.

At a recent meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, Argyll and Bute councillors agreed recommendations to consider a potential financial commitment of £386,220 from the council towards a Lochgilphead Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

Last school run for Angus after 35 years

Bus driver Angus Douglas has dropped off his last passenger after a 35-year school run, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Parents and passengers from across the decades marked his final Dalmally school run with a celebration at the Ben Cruachan Inn on the last day of term.

Among those there to wish Mr Douglas well were 11-year-old Ruaraidh Rankin, Mr Douglas's last school passenger and Duncan MacDougall who was the very first to be picked up 35 years ago.

Ruaraidh's mum Rhona Rankin helped organise Mr Douglas's farewell surprise - although he will still be running his Highland Rovers bus hire business from Awe Service Station.

West Coast Motors will now be running the Dalmally school bus service from Oban.

Mrs Rankin said: 'There were Angus's most recent passengers and past passengers and parents of older pupils who've since left the area who turned up to thank Mr Douglas and wish him well. He has been an absolute gem.'



Ruaraidh Rankin with Angus Douglas and Duncan MacDougall after Mr Douglas's final school run.

We just wanted to show our appreciation for everything he has done. We always knew our children were in safe hands with him even in the worst weather and worst road conditions.

'I think he only ever missed one day in all the 35 years because the weather was just too bad. Angus is a marvellous, reliable man. He would never leave a child standing alone if any parents were a bit late. He'd always wait.'

'He is a big loss and we are going to miss him lots on the school run.'

Mr Douglas also picked up and dropped off Oban High School pupils travelling from Dalmally train station.

As well as gifts and thank you notes, Mr Douglas was presented with a passenger list spanning the last 35 years with more than 120 names on it.

Race night winners



A four-figure sum was raised at a race night organised by the Oban branch of the SNP at The View hosted by Harry McMaster and his bookie pals. Members and supporters braved a stormy night to enjoy a bit of a hoolie of their own.

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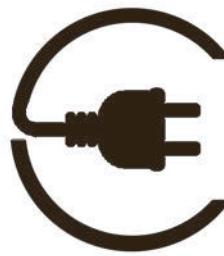
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YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

New Iolaire visitor centre moves to planning stage

The building of a world-class visitor centre in the Hebrides, which will tell the story of the Iolaire tragedy, has taken a step forward after unanimous agreement within a working group of stakeholders to move the project to detailed planning and funding stage.

A thorough scoping exercise, facilitated by the Iolaire Working Group, has established that there is a viable and sustainable business case for the proposed centre which will mark the maritime disaster at Stornoway's Number One pier.

Recruitment of a project manager is now planned to take place to progress the detail of the project plan, business case and funding package required to build the centre.

Project funding has been committed by Highlands and Islands marine equipment firm Gael Force Group with matched assistance and resource support agreed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to fund the detailed development of the project plan through 2019.

Announcing the next stage, businessman Stewart Graham said: 'The unimaginable grief that the island suffered as a consequence of the Iolaire tragedy has had a profound and lasting, though largely unspoken of, impact on every aspect of our island life and culture, our population and our island economy.'

'Although quietly marked and told, the story has not had the wider national or international recognition that it should. As well as tragedy there are, of course, stories of heroism, fortitude, resilience and

the quiet dignity shown by islanders in the wake of this tragedy.'

'Our shared vision is for a world class visitor centre built in the heart of Stornoway which will, along with the wider story of the island's maritime history and war involvement, tell the story sensitively and with due respect, more than a century after the tragedy.'

'We should expect that what we create will encourage people from all over the UK and further afield to visit the island.'

'Not only would this be a lasting

commemorative introspection, but as a world-class visitor experience the centre would provide a major, transformational, economic boost for the islands and look positively towards the future.'

'We are grateful to the public for sharing their enormous support and valuable feedback on the project vision during the initial consultation period earlier this year.'

The public can support the project financially and also keep in touch via the website www.iolaire.org.

Turn to pages 24 and 25 for more.

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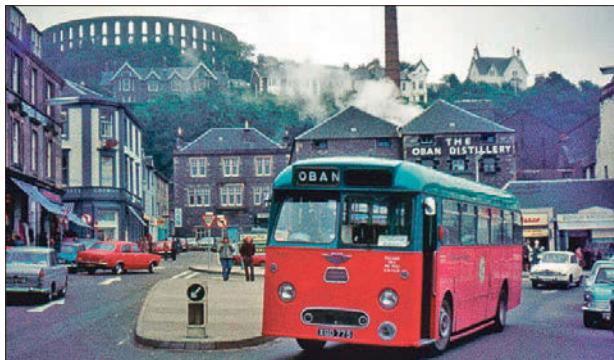
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XGD776 was photographed on August 19, 1972 in Oban, heading for Ganavan Sands.

Take a trip down memory lane – on Argyll buses of old

Retired doctor John Sinclair has added to his collection of bus books, with this latest selection of colour photographs covering the islands of Arran, Bute and Cumbrae, the old county of Argyll, and a few places on the fringes of these areas.

John is a lifelong bus enthusiast who had the foresight and interest to photograph bus operators large and small in the late 1950s, 1960s and later.

As a student, John created a technique of low-cost travel and accommodation which would allow him to travel to different areas and

photograph the local buses operating in their habitat.

In July 1965, the soon-to-be junior doctor travelled from his home in Edinburgh to Argyll and the Clyde Coast.

The majority of the photos in this book date from that trip, with a few others from subsequent decades.

From Campbeltown to Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead to Oban, this book also takes in the island of Arran, including stops in Brodick and Whiting Bay.

Published by Stenlake Publishing Ltd, the book is available by visiting <http://stenlake.co.uk>

So, are you festive quiz champion?

Music - Christmas Number Ones...

1. Bob the Builder - Can we fix it? - 2000
2. Cliff Richard - Saviour's Day - 1990
3. Hallelujah - Alexander Burke - 2008
4. Do they know it's Christmas? - Band Aid - 1984; Band Aid 2 - 1989; Band Aid 20 - 2004
5. The Beatles - I wanna hold your hand - 1963
6. Stay another Day - East 17 - 1994
7. Mary's Boy Child / Oh, My Lord - Boney M - 1978
8. Two become One - Spice Girls - 1996



Oban Otters at their prize-giving in December.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 9. Mull of Kintyre/Girls School - Wings - 1977 | 2. Annie Lennox |
| 10. When a Child is born - Johnny Mathis - 1976 | 3. Prince Albert |
| | 4. Jacob Marley |
| | 5. Pennsylvania |
| | 6. Widow Twankey |
| 1. Twelve drummers drumming | 7. It's A Wonderful Life |

Christmas General Knowledge

8. Tchaikovsky
9. Six
10. Deep pan, crisp and even!

Sport

1. Quarter-final
2. Goldenhill
3. Garioch
4. Ernie Els
5. Tennent's West Division 2
6. Mossfield, Oban,
7. Newtonmore
8. June
9. Oban Otters
10. Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club

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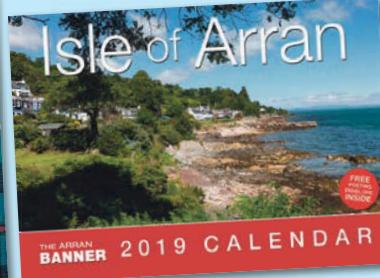
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Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Happy New Year to all readers of *The Oban Times* Glasgow Letter! I think 2019 is going to be a cracker down in Glasgow – with loads of interesting events on the horizon throughout the year.

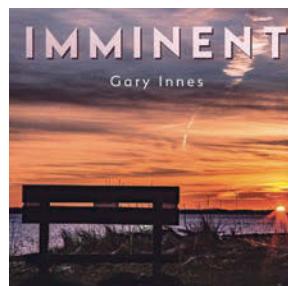
As well as live gigs coming up in Glasgow, there is also plenty of new recorded traditional music coming out of the city. Last week, I did a couple of Christmas gigs with Mànran for their shows in Broadford, Skye, and Inverness. Both their box player Gary Innes, and fiddle player Ewen Henderson had just received the first batch of their respective new CDs as we headed up the road from Glasgow.

Gary Innes' album Imminent...

Gary's second album (like his first) is comprised entirely of his own material: a wealth of fresh new tunes as well as songs on subjects close to Gary's heart. It even features Gary's impressive



singing debut (on a lovely song called Starlight), as well as guest performances



Gary Innes's new album will be launched at Celtic Connections.

While it is certainly not short on thought-provoking and quiet moments, *Imminent* is primarily an upbeat and uplifting record – appropriate given its title was inspired by the imminent arrival of Gary and his lovely wife Hannah's first child due this spring.

Congratulations to Gary on that news, but also on a brilliant second solo album – which is currently available to pre-order from his website and will be launched in the Drygate Brewery at Celtic Connections on Saturday January 19.

Ewen Henderson sings Gaelic

This is a pre-cursor to a fuller album coming soon. As an awareness-raiser for the eventual recording of the proper album, it has had the desired effect!

On its release, it became something of a West Highland social media sensation – started comically by Ross Martin from Morar (guitarist with Dàimh) and resulting in the album appearing everywhere from people's showers, toilets, and even an appearance on top of a Christmas tree!

I realise, of course, that Christmas is over and I am perhaps too late to be telling you about this record; but with classics such as Taobh Loch Éitibh, A' Pheigi a' Ghràidh, and Mo Ghleannan Taobh Loch Liobhann, it is the perfect purchase to get you through the long January evenings and I dare say it will feature at many after-parties and cèilidhs in Glasgow when

most of the rest of the town has gone to bed!

This CD is on sale from Ewen's website and, of course, we all look forward to the release of his full debut Gaelic singing album soon.

Clydebank Christmas ceilidh!

Just before the Christmas holidays began, the Clydebank Highlanders signed off with a Christmas ceilidh on Friday December 14.

The chairman was Gordon McKeever, who also sang. Mary C MacLean, Colin Fisher, Jim Spence, and John MacMillan on fiddle provided the audience with a great night of music and song. Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist and the piper was Robert Wood.

The president and the committee would like to thank their patrons for their continued support and send best wishes to all for the New Year.

WIN £200 WORTH OF SHOPPING

TROLLEY

DASH

COURTESY OF TESCO OBAN

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&Cs for exclusions). All you have to do is collect four tokens over four weeks, token four is printed opposite. Get your tokens to us by 10am Thursday January 10 and you will be entered into a prize draw to win this fantastic trolley dash.

All four tokens must be sent in a single envelope to Oban Times Trolley Dash Competition, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HB.

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 Wyvern Media Ltd and their immediate families are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision is final.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Winner must be at Tesco, Lochside, Oban, PA34 4HP for 9.30am January 21. 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. Winners may be asked to partake in publicity relating to the competition.

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 13, 2018, to January 3, 2019, 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 Thursday January 10. Only one entry per subscription permitted. Entrant must be able to attend the trolley dash in Oban on the January 21, 2019.



M' ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 03 AM FAOILLEACH
THURSDAY 03 JANUARY

- 16.15 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 18.15 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.05 **ÙR | NEW:** Guthan na h-Iolaire – Raibeart MacPhionghain (rpt)
- 19.10 The Quay Sessions – Iain Morrison (rpt)
- 19.35 Oir a' Chuain Shiar (rpt)
- 20.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 22.30 Nochd (rpt)
- 23.00 Mach a Seo (rpt)
- 23.30 Ceathair air Chuart (rpt)

DILHOINE 04 AM FAOILLEACH
FRIDAY 04 JANUARY

- 10.45 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 12.45 The Quay Sessions – Sam Outlaw (rpt)
- 13.10 Oir a' Chuain Shiar (rpt)
- 14.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 16.00 FilmG – Mar a Thachair Do Dh'fhearr a Sgur a Dhol Dhan Eaglais (rpt)
- 16.05 FilmG – Bho Clach gu Clach (rpt)
- 16.15 FilmG – Coig Puing a Tri (rpt)
- 16.20 Binneas – Na Trads (Duncan Chisholm) (rpt)
- 16.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 18.30 Machair (rpt)
- 18.55 Guthan na h-Iolaire – Iain F Macleòid (rpt)
- 19.00 An Là – News
- 19.25 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
- 19.40 **ÙR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Greenock Morton v Ross County
- 21.45 Tommy Burns (rpt)
- 23.05 **ÙR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights
- 23.30 Ceathair air Chuart (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 05 AM FAOILLEACH
SATURDAY 05 JANUARY

- 11.15 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 13.15 Binneas – Na Trads
- 13.30 Port (rpt)
- 14.25 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 16.45 An Là – News
- 17.00 The Quay Sessions – Iain Morrison (rpt)
- 17.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 19.30 Bus Ghlascu (rpt)
- 19.55 Machair (rpt)
- 20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 22.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Doolin
- 23.30 Tommy Burns (rpt)
- 24.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)

DIDMHNAICH 06 AM FAOILLEACH
SUNDAY 06 JANUARY

- 19.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 11.00 Puir-adhair (rpt)
- 11.30 Peigi Wood – Na Bannan (rpt)
- 12.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019
- 14.00 Cò Ach...Cathy Ann? (rpt)
- 14.30 Ceann an Righ (rpt)
- 15.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Live Curling – Perth Masters
- 2019 (rpt)
- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 18.15 An Là – News
- 18.30 Seachd Là – News Review
- 19.00 Guthan na h-Iolaire – Mairi NicLeòid
- 19.05 Fianais (rpt)
- 19.35 Guthan na h-Iolaire – Ceitidh Bell Nic Dhòmhnaill
- 19.40 Tha Thu air Aigean M'Inntinn
- 19.45 Leugh Mi (rpt)
- 20.15 Cuimheachan – An Iolaire (rpt)
- 21.00 Piper Alpha: An Sgàil (rpt)
- 22.00 Doolin (rpt)
- 23.00 Dhan Uisge (Loch Lomond) (rpt)

DICIADAIN 09 AM FAOILLEACH
WEDNESDAY 09 JANUARY

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
- 19.00 Eileanan Fraoch – Stafainn (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là – News
- 20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
- 21.00 Scotstar: Teasaiginn Eiginnreach
- 21.45 Sgeul Slainte (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh – Pudar's Peant (rpt)
- 23.00 Sar Sgèòil – As The Women Lay Dreaming (rpt)

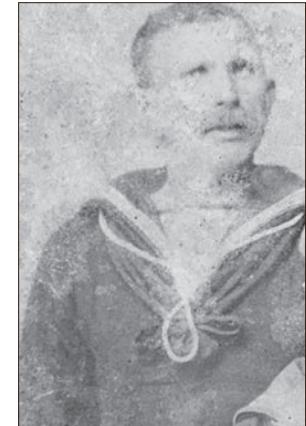
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The Beast of Holm.



Malcolm Macdonald, grandfather of the author, was lost in the disaster.



Donald Morrison (Am Patch) and John Finlay Macleod in the 1970s; and right, the watch found in the pocket of casualty Malcolm Macleod.



The Iolaire disaster

by Eric MacIntyre
editor@obantimes.co.uk

When the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, the Western Isles could look forward with guarded hope for the first time in four years.

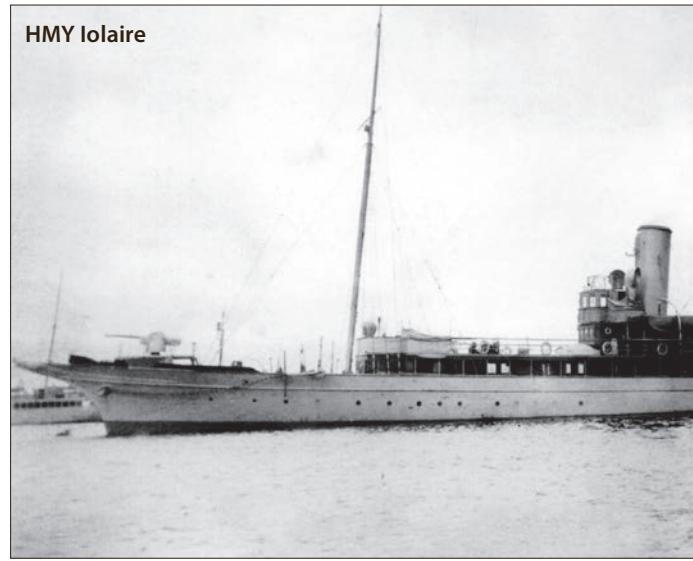
The Spanish flu epidemic was still claiming lives and the mourning for the dead and tending for the wounded were major concerns.

Nothing, however, could have prepared the people of Lewis and Harris for what befell them on January 1, 1919 when the HMY Iolaire foundered near the entrance to Stornoway harbour while bringing men home on leave.

The genesis of the Iolaire disaster lay in the desire by the Admiralty to allow as many naval ratings and men of the mercantile marine as possible home to the islands on leave for the first peacetime New Year since 1913.

But this noble aim ran far ahead of the ability of the transportation system to cope. As hundreds of men streamed out of the trains at Kyle of Lochalsh, there were two ships available to take them onwards to home and loved ones. The first was the MacBrayne's mail boat the Sheila and the second was HMY Iolaire, a pre-war luxury yacht known as the Amalthea, but now re-named to share the name of the Stornoway naval base, HMS Iolaire. The Iolaire did not have the capacity for the numbers requiring passage

HMY Iolaire



home. The build up to the catastrophe, as indeed all other aspects of the disaster, are fully covered in the book, The Darkest Dawn – Call na h-Iolaire – The Story of the Iolaire Tragedy, Acairbooks, 2018.

The authors Malcolm Macdonald and Donald John MacLeod have spent lifetimes researching the topic and it is sad to report that Donald John died before he could see the wonderful fruits of his labour in print.

In the confusion at Kyle some sailors even came off the Sheila to join a brother or friend on the Iolaire with heart-breaking consequences. The men from Lewis and Harris had in some cases served all through the war as members of the Royal Naval Reserve. They had seen ac-

tion, survived sinkings where many others drowned and, incredibly, there were even those among them, some who had been invalidated out of the army or naval service, but had chosen to re-enlist of their own volition when they felt stronger again.

Malcolm Macdonald's grandfather, who bore the same name, perished that night and he had, in 1917, survived the explosions and tsunami which devastated Halifax, Nova Scotia.

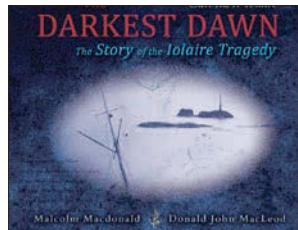
The crossing of the Minch was largely uneventful in spite of worsening weather and soon the lights of Stornoway beckoned men up on deck. But joy was to be short-lived as a navigational error drove the Iolaire on to the treacherous Beasts of Holm, which many of those on board knew

What's on at The Nevis Centre

Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of 12 and under. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

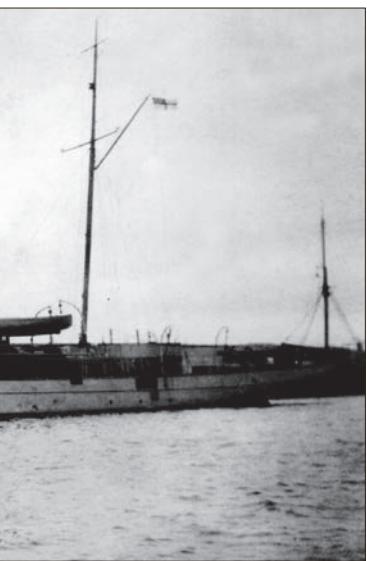
The Nevis Centre
An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk



Above: book cover; right:
The graves of Iolaire vic-
tims in Sandwich cemetery;
and below, small boats
attempt hopeless rescues
on New Year's morning.



After 100 years on



the mast and clung on all through the stormy night till rescued in the morning.

The Darkest Dawn is not only the definitive account of the disaster, it is also one of the best books produced on any aspect of the Great War.

The Iolaire disaster is still little known outwith the Highlands and Islands and this book should do much to rectify that situation. The authors deal with all aspects – such as the blame attributed to the officers by the official enquiry – in a calm and dignified manner, but the major strength of the work is in the way in which it sets the tragedy in its social and historical context.

Pen portraits are provided of all those who drowned and the survivors, and these make heart-rending reading in their stories of children orphaned and the later privations which the Iolaire disaster wrought on Lewis and Harris.

Acairbooks has also recently republished A Family in Skye 1908-1916, by Isobel Macdonald, which deals with the impacts of the war on a neighbouring island.

When the Iolaire was wrecked at Holm, 174 Lewismen, seven from Harris, 18 crewmen and two men returning to the base from leave died, a total of 201 souls. The little pony and traps that had come into Stornoway to carry men home soon turned into funeral biers.

well as fishermen before the war.

Utter confusion resulted among the crew and desperate men chose to take their chances by jumping off the now doomed yacht which was a mere 20 yards from the rocks. With no lights and the heavy sea running, they stood little chance of making land.

One hero of the disaster was John Finlay Macleod from Port of Ness who swam ashore with a rope using his local knowledge that the third wave in a sequence was his best hope of making land, thereby saving at least half of those who survived the disaster. The only man to be rescued and landed on Stornoway Pier was Donald Morrison, known as Am Patch, who had climbed

The disaster was little spoken about for decades and many widows never again wore anything but black clothes. Several poets have tried to capture the essence and impact of the tragedy, among them John Macleod whose father perished and who was later minister of Oban Old Parish Church. He wrote:

I sat on a stone beside her
A round bonnet on my head,
My father's bonnet.
The blue suit in strips
As they tore it from his body
When they found him
Cold, drowned on the shore,
Folded by hands of love
And a broken heart
Like a loyal dress for a wedding.

The tragedy is now the subject of exhibitions of artefacts and paintings, musical tributes, with a national commemorative event was held on Tuesday (January 1) in Stornoway, as islanders feel more able to discuss it.

The Darkest Dawn will be a major contributor to that process of re-evaluation for an island people who suffered unimaginable loss and grief that New Year's morning.

All images are reproduced with kind permission from Acair and with grateful thanks to all sources as detailed in The Darkest Dawn by Malcolm Macdonald and Donald John MacLeod.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 3RD JANUARY

Oban Health Walk

Oban Congregational Church Hall

10am - 11.30am

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY

Oban Dance Academy

- Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall

All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY

Oban Dance Academy

- Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall

All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY

Oban Dance Academy

- Cheerleading

Glencruitten Church Hall

All Day

parkrun

Ganavan Sands, Oban

9.30am

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Disco

Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm

Free Entry

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY

Hill Walk

Ardgour, Fort William

All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk

for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

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MONDAY 7TH JANUARY

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilphead

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club

Guest Artists and Craig McFadyen Trio
The Inveraray Inn. 8pm

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

www.obanphoenix.com for more details

FRIDAY 4

12:00/17:15 SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG

12:30 THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS PG

14:45/17:45 BUMBLEBEE 12A

14:45 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U

19:45 TULIP FEVER 15

20:15 AQUAMAN 12A

17:30 SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG

20:00 AQUAMAN 12A

20:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U

TUESDAY 8

14:30 SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG

15:00/17:00 BUMBLEBEE 12A

17:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U

19:30 AQUAMAN 12A

20:15 TULIP FEVER 15

WEDNESDAY 9

14:15 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U

15:00/17:00 BUMBLEBEE 12A

17:30 SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG

19:30 AQUAMAN 12A

20:00 TULIP FEVER 15

THURSDAY 10

14:30 SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE PG

15:00/17:00 BUMBLEBEE 12A

17:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U

19:30 AQUAMAN 12A

20:15 TULIP FEVER 15

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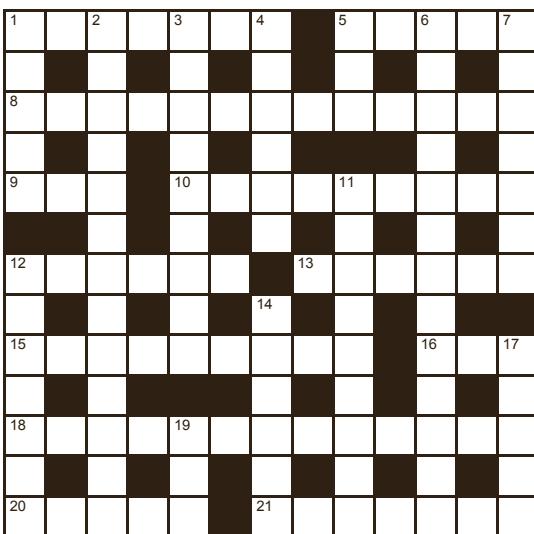
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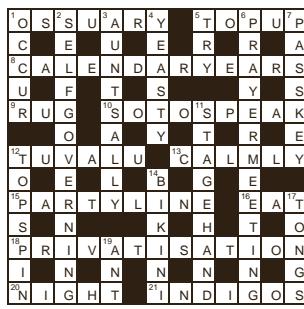
MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down
TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie
SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

Crossword**Across**

- 1 Heavy Spars (7)
- 5 Visible (5)
- 8 rustworthy (13)
- 9 Blast (3)
- 10 Brown rodent (6,3)
- 12 Hostile attitude (6)
- 13 Manage to leave (6)
- 15 Ruin with intent (9)
- 16 Warm bath (3)
- 18 Being dazzled (4-9)
- 20 Send, as payment (5)
- 21 Overact (3,2,2)

Down

- 1 All out attack (5)
- 2 Welcoming area (9,4)
- 3 Wolf spider (9)
- 4 Rush (6)
- 5 Edible grass seed, traditionally eaten by the Scottish? (3)
- 6 Overabundance (13)
- 7 Support (7)
- 11 Port of the Netherlands (9)
- 12 Consultant (7)
- 14 End line (6)
- 17 Author of fables (5)
- 19 Fly larva (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

Oban Burns Supper

Friday 25th January 2019

Tickets will be on sale in the Regent Hotel on Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Monday 14th between 6.30pm and 8.00pm.

Alternatively contact John MacLean on 01631 565519

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 9th January

At 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
Craig McFadyen Trio
Supporting players most welcome

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on



Mull youngsters get their show on the road

Mull Youth Theatre is bringing an exciting new event to primary schools.

Called Show On The Road, it is taking all the skills offered to youngsters in the theatre to primary schools on Mull, Iona and the mainland.

Andi Stevens, MYT co-ordinator, said: "There are lots of children who live too far away from the theatre who are missing out on our weekly performing arts workshops, so we thought we could take it to them instead."

Thanks to funding from The Bridge Awards and the Waterfall Fund, Andi is planning a three-year run of classes to be held with primary schools in the area.

Mull Youth Theatre will bring workshops to schools in Bunessan, Iona, Lochdon, Ulva, Dervaig, Salen, Tobemory and Kilchoan, giving the children a fun in-



Mull Youth Theatre will be taking its show to primary schools across Mull and Iona.

roduction to performance and movement.

There will be opportunities at a later date for children from various schools to come to the theatre to collaborate.

Teachers' packs will be provided so the learning can continue in schools and clubs through a sustainable project.

Children living in remote areas have limited access to these type of opportunities, so Show On The Road gives them a chance to try out something new while building confidence and having a positive effect on their mental health.

Boatmans Cottage

Availability in February and March

Three nights' accommodation in a two bedroom holiday cottage, dinner at the Tayvallich Inn and a self service continental breakfast.

Availability Friday to Monday or Tuesday to Friday.

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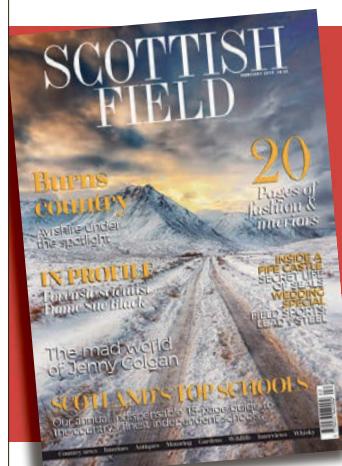
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Heathfield, Ayr
01292 880080
01292 880440



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



SCOTTISH
FIELD'S
FEBRUARY
ISSUE
OUT NOW

Scottish weddings... Jenny Colgan...
Romantic getaways... Ayrshire
insights... The life of Robert Burns...
Inside Myres Castle... Dame Sue
Black... Spinach recipes...

New Year, New Car!

COME AND SEE US THE TESCO JANUARY SALE EVENT SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY.

ISUZU D-MAX TRIUMPHS IN THE 2019 WHAT VAN? AWARDS

The multi award-winning Isuzu D-Max has been awarded What Van? 'Pick-up of the Year' for the second consecutive year, a testimony to our ongoing desire to provide the best working pick-up for professionals. The Isuzu D-Max was awarded What Van? Pick-Up of The Year for 2019 with the title praising both its substance and style yet again. This accolade being hot on the heels of being crowned, Pick-up of the Year in the Commercial Fleet Awards!

The Isuzu D-Max emerged victorious, beating strong competition from rivals in a highly contested sector. Judges were impressed by the economy and refinement of

the innovative 164 PS turbo diesel engine, that provides impressive performance and builds upon the Isuzu D-Max's reliable workhorse character.

With a 3.5 tonne towing capacity and over 1 tonne payload, the Isuzu D-Max was also praised for providing a quieter, more economical driving experience. The 1.9L turbo diesel engine meets Euro 6 standards without the need for the addition of AdBlue, unlike most of the Isuzu D-Max's competitors.

The breadth of the Isuzu D-Max range also impressed judges; with single, extended and double-cab formats available, as well as a wide choice of trim levels. Coupled with the attractive five-year/125,000-mile warranty

package and 5 years' roadside assistance (in the UK & Europe), the Isuzu D-Max proved it was truly built for the professionals who use it.

What Van? editor and judge James Dallas said of the win: 'With competitive prices, proven off-road and workhorse ability, a full range of body styles available and a frugal engine that requires no AdBlue, the Isuzu D-Max deservedly retains its Pick-up of the Year prize.'

Isuzu UK Managing Director William Brown commented: "This second consecutive award for the Isuzu D-Max is a testimony to the great product which our customers already love and trust. Isuzu is proud to make reliable and quality vehicles for the professionals that need

them, and this award highlights the Isuzu truly is a step above the rest."

Following an already successful year for the award-winning Isuzu D-Max, winning the Pick-up of the Year" again for 2019 is a fitting finale to 2018. The award-winning Isuzu D-Max has already had a successful 2018, being crowned 'Pick-Up of The Year' at the 2018 WhatVan? Awards, 'Most Reliable Pick-Up' for 2018 by Professional Pick-Up & 4X4 magazine, 'Best Workhorse Pick-Up' for 2018 by Trade Van Driver, 'Best Pick-Up 2018' by Scottish Field, Van/Truck Brand of the year 2018 by On The Tools and most recently, Pick-up of the Year in the Commercial Fleet Awards 2018.



AWARD WINNING DEALER COMES TO ARGYLL
ON SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY AT TESCO, OBAN

THE AWARD WINNING ISUZU D-MAX
BACK2BACK WINNER!

ISUZU
THE PICK-UP
PROFESSIONALS



S & S SERVICES HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ARGYLL FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS AND THIS WEEKEND IT IS COMING TO YOU.

Tesco Oban Roadshow JANUARY SALE EVENT

ON SATURDAY 12TH AND SUNDAY 13TH
AT TESCO CAR PARK IN OBAN. JOHN SPICER WILL BE SHOWCASING SOME AMAZING JANUARY SALE
OFFERS. IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR CAR YOU WISH TO VIEW
PLEASE CALL JOHN ON 07831 808702

AWARD WINNING DEALER COMES TO ARGYLL



SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY AT TESCO OBAN



One of the longest serving Subaru & Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services are a family run business aiming to meet each customers individual needs. S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979 from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr. An escalating client base was soon formed and the business relocated to Mossblown.



Whilst at Mossblown, Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business. For almost two decades cars were sold and serviced and many friendships formed.

The family business was further enhanced when John's wife Lesley joined the business in 1997. It was in the latter nineties that the business had out grown the location and plans were put in place to build an impressive state of the art showroom and workshop at Ayr.

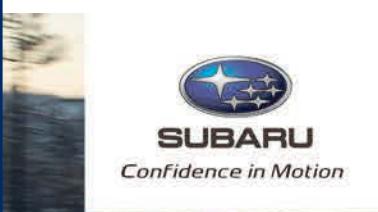
The plans soon became a reality and S & S moved to Old Bridge Road, Ayr in September 2000. Now on the to the 3rd generation with Matthew Spicer, business has flourished to unbelievable standards meaning that S & S are now the top UK Subaru dealer. Achieving Subaru UK's dealer of the year status continuously from 2007, S & S Services are your number one for Subaru, Isuzu and Great Wall franchise, with a large stock of new and used cars at competitive prices.

S & S Services have been supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years and this weekend, they are coming to you!

**SATURDAY 12TH
JANUARY**

**SUNDAY 13TH
JANUARY,
TESCO, OBAN.**

John Spicer will be showcasing some amazing car offers. If you have a particular car you wish to view, please call John on 07831 808702.



(BETTER where it MATTERS)

**WINTER WEATHER?
GET A GRIP.**



Subaru Forester Range
FROM ONLY £26,510

S & S SERVICES HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ARGYLL FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS AND THIS WEEKEND IT IS COMING TO YOU.

Tesco Oban Roadshow JANUARY SALE EVENT

ON SATURDAY 12TH AND SUNDAY 13TH

AT TESCO CAR PARK IN OBAN. JOHN SPICER WILL BE SHOWCASING SOME AMAZING JANUARY SALE OFFERS. IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR CAR YOU WISH TO VIEW PLEASE CALL JOHN ON 07831 808702

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TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

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568001

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
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This is an exciting opportunity to join the leading global construction materials and solutions company - LafargeHolcim. You will work at Glensanda quarry on the west coast of Scotland. Glensanda is a dynamic fast-paced environment where no 2 days are the same. It is operational 24 hours a day and is the largest granite quarry in Europe.

As a day shift or shift electrician, you will be expected and encouraged to work to the very highest safety standards. Performing planned and reactive maintenance will form a large part of your day-to-day duties. You will also be involved in installation projects and carry out various other electrical duties as required. You will join an enthusiastic team of Engineers who maintain and develop the electrical systems on site.

There is an attractive shift pattern for the shift electrician position; this will involve day and night working with generous time off. For the day shift position, there are opportunities to work various day shift patterns.

We are looking for a time served Electrician with BS7671 to the 17th or 18th Edition who is IT literate. It would be desirable if you have had previous experience of an industrial environment and equipment. Knowledge of control and automation would also be beneficial; however, this is not essential, as first class training will be provided as part of ongoing personal development. The key aspect is that you are motivated and willing to learn. A full UK driving licence is necessary for this position.

If successful in your application, you will enjoy a competitive salary and stakeholders pension package with employer's contribution. You will also enjoy one of the attractive rotas with 33 days holiday per annum. A high standard of accommodation is available free of charge should you meet the criteria. Other benefits include an extensive employees UK wide discount scheme and childcare voucher scheme.

To apply for this position please email a copy of your CV and a covering letter to: Alastair Anderson, Electrical Manager – quoting REF: 2019 email: alastair.anderson@aggregate.com

Closing date 28/01/19

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https://applications.historicenvironment.scot/pages/job_search_results.aspx?searchtype=all

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Due to increased demand for our services, we
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SCOTTISH
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OUT NOW

Billy Connolly... Healthy recipes...
Adventure photographer
Hamish Frost... Perfect party tips...
Fife special... Sit down with Ed
Byrne... Crathes castle gardens

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 4th January 2019 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on Friday 11th January 2019 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893.

Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on Friday 25th January 2019 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 10.00am - 12 Noon.
Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email - Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)

Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 25th January 2019 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853.

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Monday 18th January 2019 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444.

Argyll and Bute Council

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION

REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2019/2020

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 should be registered for education during the week commencing 14 January 2019.

Parents should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

A list of all schools can be found on the Council's website <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools>, this includes:-

- Gaelic Medium Education
- Denominational Schools
- Non-denominational Schools

A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or from Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000).

Anne Paterson/Louise Connor
Head Of Service Community Services: Education
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



Proposed Assignment of a Grazing Share

Mary Livingstone is applying to the crofting commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at Balindefor, Ardchattan and Muckairn to Gregor Livingstone in the Airds, Kirkton and Balindefor Common Grazings of Balindefor Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1HW.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of this advert.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr Andrew Iain Cameron has registered his croft, Cnoc Bhan, Acharcle, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 17th September 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5550.

First Registration of a Croft

Stuart MacCormick Ross has registered their croft, 9 Craignish, Craignish, Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19 January 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5509.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Katherine McKinlay has registered their croft, Balure Croft, Killean and Kilkennie Parish on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19 January 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5509.

PUBLIC NOTICES 31

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number Development Address Proposal Description

18/05826/MSC	Land 45M NW Of Ardgour Parish Church, Ardgour	Erection of house
--------------	---	-------------------

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish

Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear.

In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost.

No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/ Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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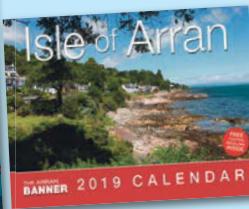
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Antiques and Collectables



"OLD CAMPBELTOWN"

lovely, rare print of old Campbeltown by "Mackinnon" (1886), suitable for framing (16" x 12"), glossy finish to thick paper, £75 Telephone 01586 554537².

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Genuine Automobile Association (A.A.) classic car badges from the 1960's & 1970's. Original shape, chrome with yellow background. Ideal Christmas present. Fixings included, grille or badge bar versions. Can post for £3.00, £20

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Audio Equipment

LARGE GHETTO BLASTER Twin Tapes/CD, £10 Telephone 01397 772326.

Bicycles and Equipment

CYCLE HELMETS Junior & Senior, £5 each Telephone 01397 772326.

JD BUG DIRT SCOOTER Great condition. White but chunky scooter with big chunky tyres. Excellent for every day use. Brake on rear wheel, £40 Telephone 07951 025003.

MOUNTAIN BIKE good condition, £50 Telephone 01397 772326.

Building / DIY

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578².

TOOLS FOR SALE, offers Telephone 01631 563279.

CDs, DVDs and Videos

BANACER Series 1 & 2, only played once, £10 Telephone 01397 712619 evenings.

MCCLOUD Series 1 & 2, only played once, £6 Telephone 01397 712619 evenings.

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QUINCY series 1 & 2, £10 Telephone 01397 712619 evenings.

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

TOE-TEC BOOTS New Size 8, £10 Telephone 01397 772326.

TOE-TECS BOOTS New Size 8 Protected oil resist etc, £20 Telephone 01397 772326.

Computers and Games

MSI LAPTOP COMPUTER all instructions and connections, hardly used, £60 Telephone 01397 772326.

Domestic Appliances

BREAD MAKER Stainless steel, Morphy Richards, excellent condition, used only a few times. Calls evenings, can deliver to Oban, £45 Telephone 01852 300154.

WASHING MACHINE very good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 563279.

ZANUSSI FLOOR SWEEPER Airlife (too heavy for owner), £22 Telephone 01546 850287.

Domestic Pets



BORDER COLLIE BITCH

- ISDS REG 4 years old in January. Friendly & good with children. White & Black. Very keen worker but not top notch. Excellent pedigree. Good home needed. Tel 07599 299654

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JAY-BEE BED Christmas guest? We have a new unused Jay-Bee single folding bed with mattress in original packaging. Delivery can be arranged, £95 Telephone 07703 130367.

TWO CEDAR WOOD LOUNGE UNITS very good condition, £25 each Telephone 01631 563279.

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VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578².

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YORK CROSSTRAINER Platinum series, 360 HRC heart rate control, measures pulse, 15 training programmes including fat burn & hill profiles, wattage & body fat. Large screen display, time, speed, distance, RPMs & calories. Ballahulish, £80 Telephone 07774 168109.

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Hobbies and Crafts

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

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14" FLAT SCREEN TV, £10 Telephone 01631 563279.

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2 KITCHEN CHAIRS Good wood. Carved, £20 each Telephone 01546 850287.

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REGATTA SINGLE AIRBED as new, £10 Telephone 01631 565142.

Home Office

OFFICE FAN White perfect condition, £8 Telephone 01397 772326.

Small Computer Desk

Excellent condition. Measures: L=82xH=79xW=50-58 cm. Calls evenings can deliver to Oban, £40 Telephone 01852 300154.

Indoor sports equipment

DART BOARD with wall case, £10 Telephone 01397 772326.

JIMMY WHITE SNOOKER CUE & case, £10 Telephone 01397 772326².

Kitchen

BODUM TEA POT Brand new, calls evenings. Can deliver to Oban, £15 Telephone 01852 300154.

BODUM WINE COOLER Transparent purple, brand new. Can deliver to Oban, calls evenings, £12 Telephone 01852300154.

Leisure and Lifestyle

PORTABLE HOOD HAIR DRYER 'Carmen Salon Style' Model 5102. Three heat settings, see online for details. Good clean condition, £30 Telephone 01631 770698.

VIBRATING FOOT MASSAGER/SPA used just once (use water), £10 Telephone 01397 772326².

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SINGLE ELECTRIC UNDERBLANKET Dreamland Starlight Ecoheat blanket. Extra foot warmth. Machine washable. Brand new and in box, £10 Telephone 01631 358731.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

Personal Notices

Freema MacDougall

would like to thank family, relatives and friends for flowers, cards, gifts and hospital visits during her recent illness. Grateful thanks to Dr Quayle; the crews of the Isle of Mull and the Isle of Arran and the medical and nursing staff on Wards A & B of the Lorn and Islands Hospital, for their care and kindness.

ENGAGEMENTS

MACKINNON - WILSON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Kirsty Netta, younger daughter of Iain and Ishbel MacKinnon, Achadhbeag, Tobermory to Ross Booth, only son of Ian and Elizabeth Wilson, Cuilabhaile, Fionnphort.

DEATHS

CALLANDER - Archibald, formerly of Cairndow, passed away at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on Thursday, December 20, 2018, late of 1 Crosshouses, Inveraray, twin brother of Billy and brother of Nigel. Funeral service will be held at Kilmorich Parish Church, on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 12.00noon, thereafter to Kilmorich Cemetery. A retiral collection will be offered for Kilmorich Parish Church Funds.

CANNON - Roger. Peacefully at home with his family, Dr Roger Cannon, retired GP, beloved husband of Mabel, dearly loved father of Ian, Nikki and Nigel and loving granpa to Fraser, Rachael, Lewis, Kirsten and Ben. Funeral service to take place at Daldowie Crematorium, Broomhouse, on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at 10.45 am. Family flowers only please.

JOHNSTON - Passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on December 26, 2018, following an illness borne with great dignity, Janet Malcolm Horsburgh Johnston, aged 91 years, "Strathspey", 47 Boswell Road, Inverness, beloved wife of the late Thomas (Tom) Johnston and dear mother of Pauline. Funeral particulars from D. Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness. Tel (01463) 712255

REID - Peacefully at Lorn and Isles Hospital on December 25, 2018 in her 75th year Ann, beloved wife of the late Alasdair Reid and much loved aunt and great-aunt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACNEIL - Anne would like to thank Father James MacNeil for celebrating Requiem Mass and for spiritual comfort. Many thanks to neighbours and

friends for their kind support, Mass and sympathy cards received following Effie's passing. Finally my thanks to the attending emergency services and all those who paid their last respects at church and cemetery.

MEMORIALS

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

Times go by and memories stay Loved and remembered every day

Also loved ones gone before and after

- From your daughter Anne.

HAY - In loving memory of our mum and gran, Mary, (née Beaton), died December 31, 2014.

Time slips by and life goes on but thoughts of you are never gone.

- The family.

JACKSON - In loving memory of my dear mother Liz, who died so suddenly on January 6, 2006.

Always in our thoughts.

- Love Iain xxx.

LAUDER - Stephen - 3/3/65 - 4/1/14. Treasured memories of our darling son Stephen

In our hearts your memory is kept

To treasure, to love and never forget

No verse, no flowers, no tears can say

How much we miss you every day

You always had a smile to share Time to give and time to care Always thoughtful, always kind

These are the memories you left behind.

- Love Ma, Dad and families xxx

MACCOLL - Archie (Kilmoinaig).

Nam chridhe Gu siorraidh

- June Anne xx

Love and miss you grandpa

- Archie, Jessie, Kate and Freddie xxxx

MACINNES - Duncan. Six Years Anniversary.

It isn't what we write

It isn't what we say

It's how we feel deep inside

As we think of you today

Missing you always.

- Love Nellie and all the family.

MACLELLAN - Short but precious memories of our darling infant son Christopher, called to Heaven on January 1, 1991. Our brightest star in the sky Loved forever.

- Mum, Dad, Craig and Calum.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our brothers Neil, who died January 3, 2004 and George, who died January 5, 2009 in the Phillipines. The call was sudden, the shock severe

To lose two brothers we loved so dear

Love forever.

- Ian, Rory, Christine, Donald and Marina xx.

McKINNON - Treasured memories of my dear husband Charles McKinnon who died suddenly on December 28, 2005. Also my dear mother who died July 26, 2001, Catherine Brown, at Kilchattan, Colonsay.

Deep are the memories Precious they stay

No passage of time

Will take them away.

- May, Colonsay

MUNN - In loving memory of Mary Ann, who passed away December 28, 2008 It's ten long years since that sad day

When my dear mother passed away

I loved you then

I love you still

I always have

And always will.

- Your loving son Neil, daughter in law Mairi -Anne and grandchildren Kieran, Kyle and Ryan.

ROBERTSON - Cherished memories of a loving husband and dad, George, who passed away on January 6, 2011.

Always precious memories of the days when you were here Love always.

- Margaret, sons George and Lorne and daughter-in-law Helen.

ROSS - In Loving Memory of our darling Gail MacKenzie, who died on 5th January 1994.

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed, and always dear.

Always in our hearts.

Mum and David.

Obituary: John W the voice of shinty

Born: May 26, 1934, Edinbane, Skye.

Died: Saturday, December 15, 2018, Inverness.

The world of shinty has lost one of its great characters with the passing of John Willie Campbell at the age of 84.

He was a Skye man, former president of the Camanachd Association, science teacher, broadcaster and Gàidheal.

John Willie provided results for BBC Scotland, BBC Highland and Gaelic radio and television throughout that time, as well as writing for a wide range of newspapers.

'A voice is not very much without substance behind it,' said the late Jack Richmond on the occasion in 1992 of the BBC marking the retirement of one of its most distinctive Scottish personalities, the shinty commentator John Willie Campbell of Skye and most latterly Gorthleck, near Inverness.

Shinty as a sport and way

of life owes John Willie Campbell a great deal.

The current Camanachd Association president, Keith Loades, said: 'John Willie Campbell was one of the most significant figures in shinty in the 20th century. He served the game in every capacity from his boyhood as a player in Skye, through university to the full range of administrative duties and responsibilities imaginable.'

'Within the game he will be remembered as a distinguished president who navigated some quite stormy waters in the 1980s, introduced new structures and competitions, and faced many challenges with a calm and dignified manner throughout. He would never have been happier than the day Skye Camanachd won the Camanachd Cup in 1990.'

Beyond the confines of the shinty communities, John Willie was also one of the best-known voices in Scottish broadcasting and an outstanding chronicler

of the game's playing side. There are many people who knew little of shinty itself but were regular devotees of his results reporting on BBC Scotland of a Saturday evening and his contributions to BBC Highland and Gaelic radio and television in a career which spanned over 20 years, beginning in 1968 and ending in 1991.

And all of that while contributing enormously to shinty in schools in the Inverness area.

'He has left us a remarkable legacy in the shape of his records of the sport and his veritable mountain of press cuttings, meticulously kept throughout his media career.'

'The Camanachd Association and shinty in general will be forever in his debt and his passing marks the end of an era and a contribution to our sport and heritage which is unlikely to be matched.'

John Willie had a favourite tale he enjoyed telling, which may well be true. He was once missing a score for his

THOUGHT for the week

Happy 2019 for you! May God bless you for this new year!

Have you heard? God wants to be involved!

Wherever you are at here at the beginning of this new year, whatever the circumstances are at the moment, God wants to be involved in your life.

He can't help it ... it's in His nature, that's the very nature of His being! He wants to be involved in your life!

And it's in our nature to live with Him, our Maker, who wants to be our heavenly Father. He has made us to live with Him, that's our main purpose.

And, yet, we're still trying to live our lives by ourselves, on our own. At least, that's what I'm doing, being so used to living an independent life. But I'm learning to surrender more and more to God, growing in trusting Him, understanding that He is undeniably loving me and all people.

Think about it. Who else

would send his own Son (Jesus Christ) for us to die, so that we can live freely with Him, God, our Father? That's the unique message that Jesus brought us.

And that message is for you too!

So, wherever you are in life, no matter what the circumstances are at the moment, God wants to be involved in your life.

It's our personal choice to what end He can be influencing our lives. Allow Him to be involved, open up for Him, and He will more and more become part of your life.

Be blessed as you discover more and more of who God is in your daily life!

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Willie Campbell,



broadcast and the deadline loomed. He phoned a shinty player to check the result and spoke to his mother. He was told she didn't have the score, but the woman added: 'But if you listen to the radio at half past five, John Willie will have them all.'

The sympathy of the whole shinty community, throughout the world wherever his contribution was felt,

is extended to his wife Margaret in Gorthleck, Stratherrick, his older sister Mairi in Australia, his son Donald in Edinburgh and daughter Shona in Inverness, his five grandchildren, Eilidh, Rory and Peter (Shona's) and Hannah and Catherine (Donald's), as well as the extended family and friends in Skye and elsewhere.

GRADUATIONS



AMANDA LOUISE HILL

Congratulations to Amanda Hill who graduated from UWS with a Postgraduate Diploma in SCPHN (Health Visiting). Amanda is the wife of David, daughter of John and Morag Kerr.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S
JACKPOT
£800

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvern Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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J McNulty
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JANUARY



Left: Oban Lorne Ladies player Erika Scofka was selected to join a squad of 30 for the Italian national team training camp ahead of the Six Nations; and above, members of Oban Kyokushinkai Karate Club who passed grading tests – left to right, Charlie McLaughlin, Donald Robertson and Tobiasz Fituch. Front: Leona McLaughlin, Alan Boase, Stanislaw Kupzak, Franek Kupczak, Florence Hill and Lily Walsh.

FEBRUARY



Oban High School pupils were named participants in the 2018 SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship. The pupils involved were pictured with, left to right, SP Energy Networks chief executive Frank Mitchell, Glasgow Warriors players Pat MacArthur and Matt Fagerson, and Glasgow Warriors managing director Nathan Bombrays.

MARCH



The Oban BJJ team that competed in the West of Scotland Winter Cup at Ravenscraig. Back row, left to right, Coogie Potter, Tomasz Kapusta; front row, left to right, Dawid Loukil, Mateusz Grabiec, Ruarigh Black, Liam Roberts.

Left: Councillor Roddy McCuish, left, with Camanachd Association president Keith Loades when it was announced that the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final would be coming to Oban.

APRIL



It was announced that Keanna MacInnes, the daughter of former Oban Celtic shinty player Donald MacInnes, would be representing Scotland at swimming in the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

MAY



Oban Lorne Ladies celebrate winning the National Bowl final at Murrayfield. The ladies thrashed Garioch 45-5.

JUNE

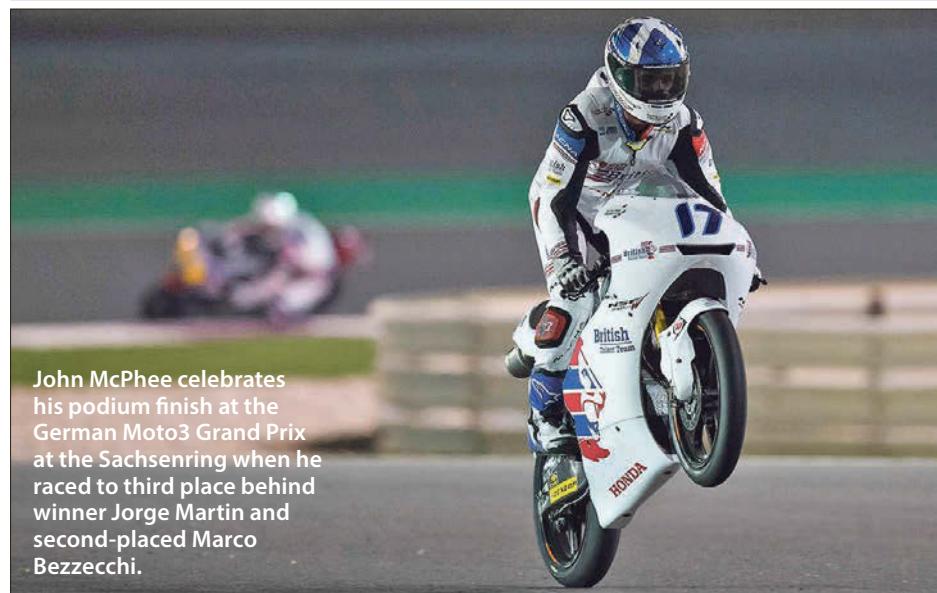


Rotary president Tommy McQuade, left, and Oban Times group operations director Keith McIntyre, second left, congratulate Oban Camanachd C on their success in winning the annual Rotary Club of Oban Am-Am golf competition.



The Oban Camanachd squad celebrate after winning the Scottish Sea Farms Celtic Society Cup at Taynuilt. They defeated Kyles Athletic 2-0 in the final at Taynuilt Sports Field.

JULY



John McPhee celebrates his podium finish at the German Moto3 Grand Prix at the Sachsenring when he raced to third place behind winner Jorge Martin and second-placed Marco Bezzecchi.

AUGUST



Competitors set off in the 2018 Oban Sea Kayak Race around Kerrera. It is the biggest sea kayak competition in the UK.



SEPTEMBER



The victorious Newtonmore team, who defeated Lovat to lift the 2018 Camanachd Cup at Mossfield in Oban, far left; and left, Oban Lorne Ladies got the new season off to a winning start with a very comfortable 61-0 victory away from home against Glasgow University.

OCTOBER



The Tiree Wave Classic windsurfing event kicked off for its 32nd year. With 86 competitors, it was the biggest to date, with a 21 per cent higher attendance than in 2017.

NOVEMBER



Oban's Robert MacIntyre performed magnificently to earn his passage into golf's top flight by finishing 12th on the Challenge Tour and earning his card to compete on the European Tour.



Players from Oban, Lochaber and Stornoway took part in a team squash competition at Lochaber Leisure Centre, with Oban winning the overall title with unbeaten performances by Neil Fraser and Grant Addison, supported by Michael Kelly and David Devine.

DECEMBER



Oban Otters held their annual swimming gala, which saw many impressive performances and club history being made.



Oban's Abi Evans goes over to score her first try for her country during her ninth cap for Scotland. The match against Canada was a thriller with the Canadians just edging out the Scots 28-25.

2018 shinty review of the s

We have reached the business end of the shinty season as The Oban Times looks back on the second half of 2018.

July 2018

On the field round-up

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore's excellent winning run continued and they moved two points clear of Lovat at the top of the Premiership.

Lovat had played two games more, while Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic were also very much in the mix. Oban Camanachd took maximum points from games against Skye and Kingussie but suffered a narrow 2-1 reverse at Lovat.

Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie remained a point ahead of Fort William with a game in hand. Oban Celtic lost to Inveraray but defeated Strathglass.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

The Newtonmore seconds retained the league title, finally seeing off Glengarry, when they beat the Skye Camanachd second team 3-1.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

The Kyles Athletic colts finished the month five points ahead of Bute and Lochside Rovers as the title race looked to be a three-way battle.

After beating the Inveraray seconds at the end of June, Lochside Rovers recorded four straight victories during July to go on a spectacular winning run.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

The Lovat reserves held a three point advantage over Lochcarron at the summit. The Caberfeidh seconds were seven points adrift but had three games in hand.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Strachur were just a point away from the league title, and promotion to South 1, after they won 3-1 at Bute.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

Kilmallie, Newtonmore, Kingussie and Lovat all reached the last four of shinty's premier competition. It took penalties to split Kilmallie and Newtonmore at the end of the month, with 'More reaching the final.

Artemis Macaulay Cup

Finlay MacRae's goal gave Kinlochshiel a 1-0 semi-final success over Lovat, while Kyles Athletic defeated Oban Camanachd 2-1 to set up next month's final at Mossfield.

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup

Callum MacDougall scored twice and Innes Blackhall got the other as Kilmallie beat Glasgow Mid Argyll 3-2 to win the Balliemore Cup.

Sutherland Cup

The Sutherland Cup Final will be a derby clash between the Kingussie and Newtonmore second teams after both won their semi-final ties against their Skye and Fort William counter-parts.

Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1

Skye took maximum points from league games against Strathspey, Glasgow Mid Argyll and Ardnamurchan.

Marine Harvest WCA Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

Badenoch & Strathspey overcame Lochaber 2-0 to reach the final where they will face Skye who received byes all the way through.

Young Scots star on Irish tour

Scotland U17 completed another successful Irish tour, recording hard-fought wins over Meath U17 and Dublin U17.

Scotland dominated the game against Meath at Trim, eventually running out convincing (6-6-3) 33-4 (1-0-1) winners.

The young Scots then won the annual meeting with Dublin U17 (5-9-3). (3-0-9) 36-18 (5-9-3).

Kingussie's Ruaridh Anderson scored 21 points over the two games.

The Scots were skippered against Meath by Oban Camanachd's Cameron Sutherland and by Kingussie's Alexander Michie against Dublin.

August 2018

Scotland Women's Squad Announced

The Scotland Women's squad for the Shinty/Camogie international against Dublin Ladies was announced.

The game was to be played on the main Bught Park pitch ahead of the senior Shinty/Hurling international between the Scotland and

Ireland senior sides for the first time.

CRA marks President's term

Following the Camanachd Referee Association AGM, current vice-president Deek Cameron presented a memento to the outgoing president, John Sloggie, on the occasion of his retirement following many decades' service to shinty.

On the field round-up

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore extended their lead at the top of the table to three points. It was also a good month for Oban Camanachd who notched league wins against Kinlochshiel, Caberfeidh and Lochaber.

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William took over at the top, leading Kilmallie on goal difference, although the Canal Parks side had a game in hand.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

With Newtonmore already champions, Fort William beat Glengarry 4-2 in the battle for second place.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

The Kyles seconds remained top but second placed Bute had a game in hand and reigning champions Lochside Rovers were putting a good run together. Lochside's only league match in August was a 1-0 triumph over title rivals Kyles with Lennon Campbell scoring.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochcarron drew level with the Lovat seconds at the top of the table with only goal difference keeping Lovat in front.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Strachur retained their three point cushion at the summit.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

Lovat and Kingussie drew their semi-final tie with Lovat eventually winning through to next month's show-piece final on penalties.

Sutherland Cup

The Newtonmore seconds lifted the trophy courtesy of a 5-2 win over the Kingussie seconds in the final.



Newtonmore were last season's big winners, with their first and second teams winning six of the

The Badenoch side are pictured with the Scottish Cup after their 3-0 win over Lovat at Mossfield.

Strathdearn Cup

The Newtonmore colts are on course for an historic treble after the edging out the Kingussie colts in their semi-final clash. They will meet Fort William who beat Skye to reach the final.

Bullough Cup

Lochside defeated Glenorchy 5-2 to set up a final meeting with the Kyles Athletic reserves who got past Strachur.

Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1

Badenoch & Strathspey and Skye Camanachd continued to take maximum points in the title race.

September 2018

On the field round-up

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore's narrow 3-2 win over Oban Camanachd at the Eilan was enough to win back the league title. 'More were presented with the trophy after winning 3-1 at second placed Kyles at the end of the month. Skye kept their survival hopes alive by beating Caberfeidh but Glenurquhart were already relegated.

Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie sealed the league championship and a speedy return to shinty's top flight, beating Beauly 5-1 in their final league match which was a final game in charge for Mark MacPherson.

Oban Celtic rounded off their season with a 7-2 win over Beauly in what was Kenny Wotherspoon's final game as boss.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

The Fort William seconds

pipped Glengarry to a second placed finish, behind champions Newtonmore colts.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute and Lochside continued to chase the Kyles seconds in the title race. However Kyles' chances suffered a blow when they lost 1-0 to Lochside.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

The Lovat seconds clinched the title and promotion to North 1.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup

Newtonmore won the Scottish for a record 33rd time, beating beat Lovat 3-0 in the final at Mossfield. Evan Menzies scored twice, either side of a Glen Mackintosh strike. Evan Menzies took the Albert Smith medal as man of the match and 'More captain Andy Mackintosh stepped forward to receive the Camanachd Cup from Tulloch Home's George Fraser.

Strathdearn Cup

The Newtonmore seconds completed the "treble", adding the Strathdearn Cup to the league title and the Sutherland Cup won earlier in the season after beating the Fort William seconds 4-0 at the Bught Park.

Bullough Cup

Lochside Rovers scored four goals in the opening 16 minutes as they defeated the Kyles Athletic second team 5-2 to lift the Bullough Cup at Strachurmore.

Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1

Skye stayed two points ahead of Badenoch & Strathspey in the title race, setting up a

title decider in Portree next month.

Marine Harvest WCA Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

Badenoch & Strathspey won the WCA Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, defeating Skye Camanachd 4-1 in the final at The Dell.

The final was broadcast live on BBC ALBA for the first time.

Marine Harvest WCA Challenge Cup

Glenurquhart were WCA Challenge Cup winners with Abi Stoddart grabbing a hat-trick as they beat Inverness 4-3 in a tight final.

WCA North Double

The North ran out 5-3 winners in the senior meeting against the South. Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald scored all three goals for Lisa MacColl's South side but Eoghan Stewart's North won as Laura Gallacher netted twice with Skye trio Sarah Corrigall, Caitlin MacLean and Lorna MacRae getting the others.

Skye's Sarah Corrigall was named player of the match.

Earlier in the afternoon, the North U14 overcame South U14 4-1.

North U21 Lift Caol Cup

The North U21 lifted the Coal Cup but it took a Findlay MacDonald goal three minutes from time to cancel out Jonnie MacAskill's opener.

The North eventually came out on top in a penalty shoot-out.

Lochaber High win Great Glen Shinty Sixes

Lochaber High School won the Great Glen Shinty Sixes. With eight teams taking part, Lochaber beat Glenurquhart 4-0 in the final with top scor-

season - part two



seven competitions they entered.

Photograph: Neil Paterson

er Max Campbell, Hamish Shaw and Cameron Whyte amongst the goals.

Beauly U14 win MacMaster Cup

Beauly U14 beat Fort William U14 2-0 in the Kenneth MacMaster Cup Final.

Callum MacIver and Rory MacColl got the goals.

Youth Finals Day in Taynuilt

Oban Camanachd defeated Col Glen 3-1 to retain the MacQuiston Cup. Ross Campbell gave Oban Camanachd and Lennon Campbell added a second. Connor Kennedy pulled a goal back but Lennon Campbell got his second to confirm a 3-1 victory.

Oban Lorn won the U14 National Development League, beating Ballachulish in the final.

October 2018

Garry Reid names Scotland Squad

New Scotland Head Coach Garry Reid named his squad for the forthcoming Marine Harvest Shinty / Hurling international against Ireland.

There were first senior caps for Andrew MacCuish, Evan Menzies and Arran MacPhee.

Meantime, Scotland U21 Head Coach Alan MacRae also named his pool for the meeting with their Irish counter-parts in Dublin and there was a first call-up for 16-year-old Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Sloss.

2018 Annual Marine Harvest Shinty Awards

The 2018 Annual Marine Harvest Shinty Award winners were announced.

Newtonmore's Paul John MacKintosh was named

Coach of the Year, while his player Rory Kennedy was Player of the Year.

Newtonmore were also Club of the Year to complete a senior hat-trick of successes.

Stewart In At Kilmallie

Kilmallie announced that John Stewart is their new first team manager, replacing Mark MacPherson who led the club to a National Division title and Balliemore Cup success last season.

On the field round-up

Marine Harvest Premiership

Skye Camanachd were relegated following their defeat to fifth placed Oban Camanachd at Mossfield. This was Iain Hay's final manager as Oban Camanachd manager.

Marine Harvest National Division

Inveraray took the second promotion place at Fort William's expense after beating Beauly in their final match.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers beat the Inveraray seconds 3-2 but it wasn't enough to retain the title. Ahead of the match with Kilmory, who were unable to complete the season because of team raising difficulties, having all their results erased, Lochside went into their final match trailing leaders Bute, who have completed their league programme, by two points but, significantly, the Islanders held a goal difference advantage of six goals and they were crowned champions.

Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1

Skye Camanachd were crowned Marine Harvest National Division 1 champions for the third successive season after drawing 5-5 with nearest challengers Badenoch & Strathspey at Pairc nan Laoch.

head cut, raised the Marine Harvest Quaich.

Scotland Ladies defeated Dublin Ladies 13-2 to win their three-game series. Goals from Zoe Reid (twice), Lorna MacRae and Kirsty Deans and a Sarah Corrigall point sealed the win.

London Shield semis

Skye Camanachd U17 won through to this the London Shield Final after beating Kingussie U17 7-0. The Islanders will face Fort William U17 in the final after they came from behind to defeat Glenurquhart U17 4-1.

Inverness At The Double

Inverness won both the U14 and U17 Ferguson Shipping & Transport Inter-District Shields following the annual tournaments.

November 2018

On the field round-up

Young Scots win in Dublin

Scotland U21 turned in a great performance to beat Ireland U21 25-13 at the GAA National Games Development Centre, Dublin.

Roddy Young and Iain Robinson both scored twice whilst Findlay MacDonald and Alexander MacMillan got the other goals.

Skye Are Champs Again

Skye Camanachd were confirmed as Marine Harvest WCA National Division 1 winners for the third successive season after drawing 5-5 with nearest challengers Badenoch & Strathspey at Pairc nan Laoch.

Skye snatches London Shield

Ruaraidh MacLeod turned in a man of the match performance, scoring twice to cancel Greig Kelly's counter, as Skye Camanachd U17 beat Fort William U17 2-1 to win the London Shield.

North take honours

North U17 defeated the South U17 8-0 at An Aird but it took penalties to separate North U14 and South U14.

Ross Gordon scored four times for the North U17 with his Skye club-mate Martin Pringle netting twice. Kinlochshiel's Duncan Matheson and Kieran MacPherson from Kingussie got the others so Skye's William MacKinnon raised the trophy.

North U14 retained the Fraser MacPhee trophy but only just after they beat the

South U14 on penalties following a 1-1 draw. Inveraray's Coll MacKay put the South ahead but skipper Euan MacCormick from Beauly equalised.

December 2018

2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup - Draw

The 2019 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw was made live on Oban FM's Sports Show.

The pick of the first round ties sees Inveraray host Kyles Athletic and Kinlochshiel have home advantage against Lovat.

Stephen Sloss Is Boss

Oban Camanachd confirmed that Stephen Sloss will be their new manager. Stephen Sloss takes over from Iain Hay who led the side to Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup success last season.

Roll of Honour

Newtonmore were the big winners, with their first and second teams winning six of the seven competitions they entered. Only Kinlochshiel stood between them and a clean sweep.

Two trophies went to Oban with Oban Camanachd lifting the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup and Lochside Rovers winning the Bullough Cup.

Marine Harvest Premiership - Newtonmore

Marine Harvest National

Division - Kilmallie

Marine Harvest North

Division 1 - Newtonmore

Marine Harvest South

Division 1 - Bute

Marine Harvest North

Division 2 - Lovat

Marine Harvest South

Division 2 - Strachur

Tulloch Homes Camanachd

Cup - Newtonmore

Artemis Macaulay Cup

- Kinlochshiel

cottages.com MacTavish

Cup - Newtonmore

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow

Celtic Society Cup - Oban

Camanachd

Liberty British Aluminium

Balliemore Cup - Kilmallie

Sutherland Cup

- Newtonmore

Strathdearn Cup

- Newtonmore

Bullough Cup - Lochside

Rovers

Marine Harvest WCA

National Division 1 - Skye

Camanachd

Marine Harvest WCA Valerie

Fraser Camanachd Cup

- Badenoch & Strathspey

Marine Harvest

WCA Challenge Cup

- Glenurquhart



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WEATHER

Thursday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.

Friday

Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Sunday Light cloud and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday January 3, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.51	3.4	10.00	1.4
	16.11	3.5	22.38	1.4
Fri	04.30	3.6	10.49	1.3
	16.47	3.6	23.14	1.3
Sat	05.07	3.8	11.31	1.3
	17.22	3.7	23.50	1.2
Sun	05.46	3.9	12.10	1.3
	17.57	3.8	**.**	**
Mon	00.26	1.1	06.21	4.0
	12.48	1.3	18.31	3.8
Tues	01.03	1.2	06.56	4.0
	13.25	1.4	19.06	3.8
Wed	01.39	1.2	07.32	4.0
	14.01	1.4	19.40	3.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

The Oban Times SPORT



INSIDE
THIS WEEK:
SPORTS REVIEW
OF THE YEAR

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
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OBAN TIMES WEATHER
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 39



Both teams line-up before the Boxing Day match at Mossfield. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Celtic's Boxing Day challenge

The Oban Celtic annual Boxing Day challenge match between the over 35s and the under 35s took place on a perfect Mossfield pitch despite the rain.

This annual event is played in memory of former players

Vince Carnie and Jamie Pearson.

The match started at a brisk pace with chances being missed at both ends and both goalkeepers having to look lively to keep their goals intact.

The half time whistle came with the youngsters leading 3-1 thanks to goals from Daniel MacMillan, Ross MacMillan and Dylan Cook. Kenny Wotherspoon was on target for the old heads.

In the second half the



John MacCormick battles with Andrew MacDonald during the match which the youngsters won 4-3.

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

youngsters went further ahead with a fine strike from Andy MacDonald.

This seemed to spark the elder statesmen into action with Kenny Wotherspoon netting his second goal of the game and a further strike from Scott Burnett made the score 4-3. Try as they might the old guard could not get an equaliser so the match ended in a narrow win for the youngsters.

The players and club officials then retired to the Masonic Lodge where youngsters' cap-

SHINTY

tain Andy MacDonald was presented with the Carnie and Pearson Trophy by the two families.

The club's senior player of the year was Ross MacMillan with Scott Mossman named under 17 player of the year.

The club would like to thank the people who provided the food and teas at the match and the Masonic Lodge for use of the facilities for the evening entertainment.



Winning under 35 captain Andrew MacDonald and player of the year Ross MacMillan with the Carnie and Pearson families.

Long trip for Saints in Scottish Cup

FOOTBALL

Oban Saints make the long journey to Rothiemoraine in Aberdeenshire on Saturday to take on Rothie Rovers in the fifth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup with the winners securing a place in the last 16 of the national cup competition.

With the all-weather pitch at Oban High School closed for the festive holidays, Saints have had nowhere to train for this vital fixture so in preparation the Oban side organised a full-scale practise match last Saturday at Glencruitten.

Saints will face a tough test as Rothie Rovers are a good side but co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell are confident that if they have a full squad available then they have a great chance to progress to the last 16 of the cup.

Rothie beat BS AFC 5-3 in round one. In the second round they defeated Syngenta 3-2 and in round three they beat Newport 1-0. Most impressive of all was a 1-0 win over top Caledonian League side Dalziel HSFP in round four. All these games were away from home.

Saints defeated Gartcosh United 3-2 in round one, then hammered St Johns from Perth 9-1 in round two. This was followed by an impressive 3-1 win away at Lowson United in round three followed by a comprehensive 5-1 home win over East Kilbride Thistle in the fourth round.



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Christmas spirit on menu at Fort lunch

by Mark Entwistle
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The true spirit of Christmas was in evidence in Fort William when more than a dozen homeless and vulnerable people sat down to a traditional Christmas lunch thanks to the generosity of local volunteers and businesses.

The event, held in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church hall, was organised by Corpach couple Stanley and Carol Ross.

Mrs Ross first had the idea of a meal as a result of her work with Ypeople, a registered Scottish charity providing support to vulnerable groups, homeless help and youth services.

Then her husband suggested providing the whole traditional Christmas day lunch, not just for local homeless, but those who are vulnerable, or even just those faced with spending Christmas



From left: Stanley Ross, Joanne Bolton, Linda MacCallum and Carol Ross in the kitchen preparing the special Christmas day lunch in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William.

Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

alone. 'There were 10 guests and 11 helpers and of those 11 helpers, I'd say about half fell into the groups we were hoping to help,' Mrs Ross told the Lochaber Times.

'It was a traditional Christmas lunch. There was a choice of soups, melon, tra-

ditional turkey and gammon with all the trimmings, followed by dessert, tea, coffee and Christmas cake. There was also a vegetarian option courtesy of The Wildcat restaurant in Fort William.'

The kitchen staff included a trained chef and everyone

was given a gift thanks to the Lochaber Foodbank, which had also donated supplies, including a turkey.

Mrs Ross continued: 'The local lunch club made the soups and prepared the veg and also made a big trifle.'

'There were two other turkeys kindly donated by butcher John Macmillan. We also received donations of money to buy food and we also had donations from Tesco, Morrisons and Marks and Spencer.'

'We had catered for between 30 and 40, so there was quite a lot of food and things left over so a lot of people went away with parcels of food for themselves and for people they knew who would appreciate it. It was really lovely. There was a super atmosphere and everyone was clearly having a good time. What a wonderful day it was for everyone involved. We all sat down together for the lunch. Brilliant meal and

great company – what more can you ask? Quite a few of the guests said it was the best Christmas they had ever had. The youngest guest was a girl of 19 and the oldest was in their 80s.'

Mr Ross added: 'It's also one of the best Christmases we've ever had and I think we will definitely hold it again next year. The monetary donations also made it possible for a minibus to be hired to pick up those living a bit outside the town.'

Mrs Ross added that the special lunch had not been aimed at promoting Christianity, but rather compassion for everyone.

'It was not about promoting the love of Christ but rather showing it,' she said.

'We couldn't have done it without the great support we had, from all the donations to helpers and most especially those who prayed for us. We thank them all from the bottom of our heart.'

Mountain rescuer is given OBE

A mountain rescue volunteer from Lochaber has been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Jonathan Hart, from Achnacarry, a Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team volunteer for over 20 years and the chairman of Scottish Mountain Rescue, has been given the accolade for services to mountain rescue in Scotland and his charity work.

Mr Hart, who runs Coastguard operations for Argyll and the Hebrides areas, said if it was not for the support of other team members and his partner, Emma Pearce, who is also a team member, he would not be honoured in this way.

Mr Hart was among four people from Lochaber, Skye and the Western Isles who have been recognised in this year's honours, which recognise their achievements.

Sheriff Colin Mackenzie DL, of Lewis, gets an OBE for services to the communities of the Western Isles and Northern Isles.

Duncan MacInnes, from Skye, gets an MBE for services to the arts and natural environment, and Mairi Levack, of North Uist, picks up a British Empire Medal.

A large advertisement for Matheson's Furniture. It features a red double-decker bus with the text 'Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 565195' and '3 JAN SOROBIA ROAD'. The background shows a landscape with mountains and hills. A pink balloon is attached to the top left corner of the banner, and a blue balloon is attached to the bottom right corner. The main text on the banner reads 'MATHESONS SALE NOW ON' in large, bold letters.

LT

Roamer's winter blast from the past

This week we have a small festive season selection of photographs courtesy of the Roamer archive.

Possibly the oldest of the three images, going by the postmark and stamp on the reverse, is the postcard showing snow clearing at the Locheil Monument in Fort William, while another shows more snow, this time at Corrour Station.

The third shows a curling match on the frozen pond at Inverlochy Castle Hotel with guests and locals.

Accordion and fiddle club

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club is hosting a musical evening on Tuesday January 8 at 7.30pm at the Railway Club, Inverlochy.

Guest artists are the Ian Cruikshanks Trio. Everyone welcome.




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70 years since Morar and Lochalsh hydro switch-ons

It was 70 years ago last month that electricity started flowing from the hydro power stations at Morar and Lochalsh when they were switched on for the first time.

These were the first two hydro power stations developed by the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board.

Morar and Lochalsh power stations were the beginning of SSE's hydro revolution, when

its early iteration – the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board – brought renewable power to the Highlands.

Morar Power Station was switched on by crofter Mrs Catherine MacKenzie. As she turned the wheel to open the gates to a new phase in Scotland's history, Mrs MacKenzie was reported to have said in Gaelic: 'Let light and power come to the crofts.'

Now, 70 years on since SSE's first two renewable assets became operational, the energy company has constructed more than 60 hydro power stations and more than 60 onshore and offshore wind farms..

Jim Smith, SSE Renewables managing director designate, said: 'Our company has always had renewables at its heart.'

Time to refuel?



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Rescue team turns to drones

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Picture the scene. Freezing temperatures, a thick blanket of snow, tricky terrain and a vast area of open space to cover.

It's a daunting prospect for the volunteers of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, but it is a scenario which they face on an all-too-frequent basis.

Over the years, the dedicated and brave volunteers have used a combination of techniques and experience to aid stricken walkers who get lost or need medical assistance in the hills.

But recently, Scotland's busiest mountain rescue team has found that using drone technology has proved to be a life-saver – in some cases, literally.

Team member Mike Smith said: 'The drone is becoming an invaluable tool for our mountain rescue.'

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team has two Mavic drones in its fleet, having bought them from North East England UAV expert Heliguy.

Embracing this modern technology has been beneficial to the crew for a number of reasons – helping it to scale and search large areas quickly, especially those which are remote and difficult to access by foot, and allowing the volunteers to do this without placing team members into danger.

This is crucial. After all, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team covers a vast area. While the majority of rescues take place on Ben Nevis, the crew is responsible for an area which exceeds 5,000 sq km, from Creag Mheagaidh in the east to Rum and the Small Isles in the west. On average, the team carries out more than 100 mountain rescues each year.

Mike said: 'Everywhere we operate is dangerous and the main problem in the mountains is that travelling even small distances can take a long time. But using the drone and its high-quality zoom camera allows us to scale difficult terrain much quicker and get the information a lot safer. I would

say that using a drone makes it 50 per cent quicker than traditional methods to do a search. It widens the search area for us, allowing us to get an overview of the area – how big it is and inspect areas of concern, such as cornices (an overhanging ledge of snow), which can be 40 feet long.

'This is vital, especially when we are inspecting avalanche sites – which is our highest-risk activity – and allows us to make decisions about deployment. It means we can check out the area without having to climb up.

'Once we send our crew out, the drone allows us to see where they are and what the conditions are around them.

'We also use it for 3D mapping, to take photographs and create a 3D image of the area, which is great if we are not familiar with an area.'

The rescue team used drone technology at the start of last year when searching for a hillwalker who plunged 1,600 feet to his death on Ben Nevis.

Polish hiker Marcin Bialas, 36, fell in an area close to Observatory Gully and

Gardyloo Gully on January 21. He fell through a cornice and was buried deep below the surface. At the time of the fall, near to the summit, the search area was more than 30ft deep with snow. Due to this hostile environment, it took five months to find his body. While the rescue teams couldn't save Mr Bialas' life, using a drone made the search for his body a lot easier and safer.

The story of Mr Bialas was tragic, but there are many examples of how the mountain-rescue team has used its drones to create happy endings. One such incident happened with two cragfast climbers, who were stranded approximately 3,600ft up Ben Nevis. Thankfully, they were rescued by helicopter 40 minutes later, after their location was confirmed by an image captured by the drone.

Mike said: 'We carry a lot of kit, so the fact the drones are light, foldable and easy to carry is a big advantage. They are easily deployable and we can operate them with gloves on.'



A member of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team pilots a drone.

January Sale at Gordons!

The January blues may be under way with Christmas been and gone, but do not worry. Here at Gordons Chemists we are here to help you get ready for the year ahead, with bigger and better savings than ever before!

Gordons Chemists are known for their amazing offers, and this month is no different with Garnier Intensive 7 Day Lotion only £1! Better than half price, saving £1.99! Nivea Men's Shaving Gel 200ml is Half Price at only £1.63. Hurry, because these deals won't last long!

Start the New Year right with the Paradox Oil Capsules 60pk, only £6.99 saving £3! Nivea Visage Q10 and Vitamin C Cream 40ml is only £5.49, so look fresh for January and save £5.50!

Treat your teeth with Sensodyne Rapid Relief Toothpaste 75ml, was £4.99, now £2.49, saving £2.50! Smell fresh with Garnier Mineral Anti-Perspirant Deodorant 150ml and ONLY £1!

Clean up after Christmas with wipes for you and wipes for the Kids! Pampers 4x64pk half price at only £3. Garnier Pure Active 2 in 1 Wipes are ONLY £1.50!

Keep the hands in check with O'Keef's Working Hand Cream 96g, only £4.99, saving £3!

For the house, Andrex Gentle Clean Toilet Roll 16pk only £5.99, that's just 37p a roll! Dettol Anti-Bacterial Laundry Cleaner 1ltr was £3.99, now £2.49!

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With 9 stores across Scotland, we have a store near you, or if you want to beat the crowds, you can get our great deals online at www.gordonsdirect.com.

A grid of nine circular promotional offers on an orange background. Each circle contains a product image and its price, along with the original price and a 'save' amount.

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- £6.99 save £3 Paradox Oil 1000mg Capsules 60pk RRP £9.99
- £2.49 save £2.50 Sensodyne Rapid Relief 75ml RRP £4.99
- £5.49 half price Nivea Q10 + Vit C Day Cream 50ml RRP £10.99
- £1 save £1.03 Garnier Mineral Anti-Perspirant Deodorant 150ml RRP £2.03
- £1.50 half price Garnier Pure Active 2-in-1 Wipes 25 Pack RRP £2.99
- £1.63 half price Nivea Men Sensitive Shave Gel with 0% Alcohol 200ml RRP £3.25
- £3.00 half price Pampers Fresh & Clean Wipes 4x64 Packs RRP £6


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LT

More blasts from the past via Australia

David and Trudi Mackenzie, occasional correspondents from 'Down Under', have sent the *Lochaber Times* another selection of photographs and memories.

The couple were among a large number of families from the Fort William area who emigrated to the Australian suburb of Frankston, Victoria, in the 1950s and 60s.

David writes: 'I have some old photos of New Year's Eve in the 1950s when we all got together at my parents' home. Unfortunately all the old folk have passed on.'

'And I have photos of the fancy dress parade in Fort William when the town nearly all dressed up.'

'I also have a good story I sent to the Australian Scottish Banner with the title 'From

the Mod in Fort William to Sydney Opera House' – a story of Rosemary Gunn who now lives in Sydney. I still keep in contact as we were children together in Seaview Terrace.

'A well known Fort man, Donald Maclean, turned 80 last week. His sister Margaret worked for years in the paper shop. I hope the photos in this letter are useful. I remember well when the Arab Legion pipe band came to the Fort. As a youngster, I was not impressed there were no kilts and that they wore tea towels on their heads!'

'The shinty boys' photograph shows my brother-in-law Robbie Murray, who is the shortest fellow standing up.'

'Robbie would have been

about 86 now but passed away a few years ago and there may be some old shinty players that remember.'

'The photograph has the same background as the Arab Legion pipe band - the old Fort shinty park.'

'The other photograph of the three boys was taken at the old wash house at the end of Seaview Terrace.'

'I was back there in 2015 and the old wash house was in need of repair, not to mention the washing green was now a jungle.'

'There are a number of folk that have lived in Frankston who are now back in the Fort. Bill Rogers and his wife who ran the newsagency at the station were married here and Elaine Clarkson has also returned to the Fort.'



David Mackenzie in his younger days in Seaview Terrace, with David Davidson, far right, and a boy he thinks is Duncan Young in the middle.



David's brother-in-law, Robbie Murray, far left, in this photograph of shinty lads at the old park in Fort William.

Motorists face long diversions amid bridge work on A82

Fort Augustus swing bridge will be closed for 10 nights, leaving drivers faced with a 28-mile diversion, as part of two months of work on the A82.

The bridge work will involve replacing mechanical items as they are approaching the end of their serviceable life.

As some of the items are located on the underside of the deck, the bridge will have to be swung to the 'open' position, closing the road to traffic, to allow safe access. These closures are planned over 10 nights – five nights starting from Monday January 28, 7pm to 6am, and five nights starting Monday February 4, 7pm to 6am. Work on the wider project is due to start on Monday January 7 and last eight weeks.

Chairman of the A82 Partnership Stewart MacLean requested the start time of the overnight closures be changed to the later time of 9pm, in accordance with current practice for full closures of the A82. However, a BEAR Scotland spokesperson told Mr MacLean a phase of the maintenance will involve a noisy operation and will have to be carried out before 10pm as, with the site being in the centre of Fort Augustus, it would be inappropriate to do it later at night. The spokesperson also assured Mr MacLean that arrangements had been made for emergency service cover. The south side of the bridge will be covered from Fort William, while the north side will be covered from Inverness.



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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STARTING A BUSINESS OR LOOKING FOR SUPPORT TO GET BACK INTO WORK?

Business Gateway and Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team are hosting a lunchtime informal drop in session at:

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Why not come along to our session and talk things through with one of our advisors.

If you are not able to make it along to the informal session but would like to speak to someone please get in touch to arrange an appointment at a suitable time.

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Business Gateway Argyll and Bute would like to wish our clients a successful 2019



Bringing the Lochaber Times to life

Every Thursday, in a tiny room at An Drochaid, Claggan, Fort William, the week's edition of the *Lochaber Times* is brought to life.

Talk Lochaber is a registered charity providing a talking newspaper for the visually and reading impaired in Lochaber.

Run entirely by volunteers, the service started in 1999 and the 400th edition was recorded in May 2010.

Articles are also drawn from *Lochaber Life*, *De Tha Dol*, *Westword* and, occasionally, *Scottish Memories*.

In a special feature for our festive edition, Lin Ramsay from Talk Lochaber tells how the *Lochaber Times* is turned into an audio programme.

The magic is easily explained by the teamwork of 32 people who have the privilege and fun of contributing in various ways.

These volunteers are the editors, technicians, adminis-

trators and readers who take turns to produce an audible version of the written paper on a USB stick.

Some of the team are also committee members. The committee, chaired by Catriona Menzies, meets every three months and includes a listener representative.

Staff at An Drochaid play their part by collecting reusable envelopes, delivered by postal staff, containing the previous week's sticks.

Work starts on a Thursday afternoon when the day's volunteer removes the USB sticks from the envelopes and loads them into an electronic machine which cleans off the previous week's news.

The envelope labels are checked against the list, counted and relabelled. This takes about an hour and is a job for meticulous folk.

Meanwhile the editor buys two copies of the *Lochaber Times*, scours them for an hour's worth of 'reading aloud' and cuts out articles in manageable sections.



These are then stuck on scrap A4 sheets of paper. Currently these are the backs of old hotel menus, kindly donated by a local hotel. This is so they can be held close to a microphone without rattling.

Articles from community newspapers and *Lochaber Life* may also be included. In the evening, the technician for that week sets up the recording equipment, now computer controlled.

When the readers arrive, each is allocated five or six articles, sometimes including associated pictures.

One or two old hands are very good at describing the pictures and adding their own colourful comments. Some just prefer to stick to reading the print.

The technician monitors the sound from four mikes and an hour later, after erasing any blips, copies the master

recording on to 45 sticks.

All that remains to do is to re-pack the plastic envelopes, lock up shop and deliver the sack to a post office early Friday morning, for Saturday delivery of the news.

The Royal Mail has delivered items for the blind free for many years. Long may that continue.

Talk Lochaber has been recording news for almost 20 years, starting in the

basement of Belford Hospital, transferring to the Angus centre and now in An Drochaid.

Initially, 79 cassette tapes were sent out. Presently there are around 40 listeners. The modern medical miracle of cataract replacement may explain the reduction in numbers.

Jo Cowan, Joy Roberts, Iain Ferguson and George McFarlane were among the instigators and Patrizia Gillies is the longest serving editor, also acting as treasurer and rota secretary.

It is one of three Highland members of the Talking Newspaper Federation, but one of few in Scotland to provide a weekly edition rather than a monthly digest.

Should anyone know of someone who could use the service or join the volunteers the person to contact is secretary Heather Gunn. She delivers a boom box and envelope to new listeners as one of her roles.

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Fort pet owners encouraged to make diet resolutions

One of the most common of New Year resolutions concerns losing weight, especially after a festive fortnight which sees us all eating and drinking far too much.

But it's not just a good resolution for humans to make, but also one on behalf of their four-legged companions.

Because we care about our dogs and cats so much, we can often be tempted to over feed them, or be constantly slipping them too many treats or wee tit-bits from the table.

In reality this is not really being kind and can lead to problems caused by pets becoming overweight.

To try to help combat this, Crown Vets in Fort William will be hosting a free weight management open day on Friday January 11 at its Inverlochy surgery.

Registered veterinary nurse Sophie Hardy says she and the practice's other qualified vet nurses will be on hand to give pets a weight assessment and advice to owners on how to tackle unwanted weight gain.

No appointment is necessary and there will be special weight loss diet pet food available to buy on special offer.



Vet nurse Sophie Hardy checks out Betsy the cat's waistline.

Sophie explained: 'As in humans, pets being overweight is a growing problem. This can lead to serious health issues.'

'We are keen to help owners monitor their pets' weight by providing comprehensive weight management programmes, starting with a free weight check and body condition score.'

'Drop in, see the nurse have an assessment and then book into the main clinic for an actually weight consultation.'

'It's also an open day to try and promote our weight loss diet, which they can purchase at half price on that day.'

Caol author hopes that crime will pay

The West Highlands is well established on the tourist map, but now a Fort William-born author is hoping to put the area on the literary map as well, writes Mark Entwistle.

Journalist Fulton Ross has chosen Lochaber as the setting for a new series of crime novels that he hopes will strike a chord with book lovers both at home and abroad.

The first in the series, entitled The Unforgiven Dead, follows the attempts of a Highland police officer to catch a killer whose crimes echo macabre folk tales.

'My main character, Angus 'Dubh' McNeil, lives in Glenugie,' said the 39-year-old. 'He has inherited the dubious gift of second-sight and is pulled into a murder inquiry when the daughter of the new laird – a wealthy American with more than a passing resemblance to Donald Trump – is murdered in apparently



Fulton Ross.

impossible circumstances.' Inspiration for the book struck unexpectedly one night.

'I was footering about online and stumbled upon a digitised book of Highland folk tales,' explains the former Lochaber High School pupil. 'One of the tales concerned a fairy host known as the Sluagh in Gaelic, the Unforgiven Dead in English, hence the title.'

Fulton, who grew up in Caol, studied at Glasgow University, before becoming a sub editor

with local newspapers and then The Herald. As well as The Unforgiven Dead, he has written two other crime novels, both set in Glasgow.

'I wasn't a big reader as a child, which is perhaps unusual for an author, although I grew up surrounded by books,' says Fulton.

Both Fulton's parents were, and still are, avid readers. Now retired and living in Spean Bridge, his mother, Kathleen, taught French and German at Lochaber High School, while father, Walter, worked for Nevis Range.

Fulton was more interested in sport. Shinty was his real passion – he won caps for Scotland under-21 and then at senior level in 2001.

Although he did not put pen to paper until his late 20s, Fulton harboured ambitions of being a writer since about 17, when he discovered the work of the late Iain Banks.

'I remember being blown away by The Crow Road,' he says. 'It was one of the first 'adult' books I read. Banks writes so well – apparently effortlessly – and his books are full of great characters, ideas and humour.'

Now living in rural Co Tyrone with his GP wife, Fulton divides his time between looking after his children – Finlay, nine, Hannah, seven, and Olly, five – working freelance as a sub-editor for the Belfast Telegraph and writing.

Fulton is currently looking for a publisher for The Unforgiven Dead and has taken the novel approach of launching a campaign on Inkshares.com, a US publisher. His campaign runs until February 2 and he is hoping Highland book lovers will back it by logging on to www.inkshares.com/books/the-unforgiven-dead

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View from the Chamber



What a fantastic year of events we've had at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

We've hosted a business breakfast with Charlotte Wright, chief executive officer of Highlands and Islands Enterprise; a late lunch with Fergus Ewing MSP, cabinet secretary for the rural economy; two GDPR guidance seminars and an employment law seminar.

We've also held regular events that let newer members introduce what they do and site visits that allow us a peek behind the scenes at some of our bigger employers, including Marine Harvest.

We've also run training sessions on getting the best out of digital technology, social media for tourism and a Chinese visitors workshop with a Chinese cultural expert from Glasgow University, as well as a tourism panel event with key industry figures during Lochaber Ideas Week.

We brought a wide range of events aimed at inspiring the whole community. We ran business workshops on leadership, creativity and social media, plus mental wellness

in business and the ultimate networking event – Around Lochaber in 80 Tables. Question Time offered everyone the chance to put their issues to politicians, while Eddie the Eagle and Alastair Campbell gave us inspiration and insight into the real people behind the public image.

We topped it all off with a gala dinner where inspirational tech entrepreneur Dale Murray wowed us with the story of her fight to build her business.

We're delighted at the attendance and great feedback we've had from members about the events in 2018 and look forward to bringing you even more great business events in 2019. If you'd like to come along, give us a call about joining the chamber on 01397 705765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk

Giant drilling rig heads to Kishorn

When the Ninian Central oil production platform was towed out of Loch Kishorn in May 1978, at just over 600,000 tonnes, it was the largest concrete structure ever moved across the face of the earth.

More than 40 years later, another giant of the oil and gas industry is due to arrive at Kishorn at the beginning of this month.

Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) has landed its first major contract and the yard that produced the super-sized Ninian platform will now host a visit by the largest semi-submersible offshore drilling rig in the world, the Ocean GreatWhite.

Owned by Diamond Offshore, a global offshore drilling contractor, the Ocean GreatWhite weighs in at 60,800 tonnes and is a sixth generation harsh environment drilling rig capable of drilling down to 10,000m in 3,000m of water. With a



Ocean GreatWhite is a Leviathan of the seas.

draft of more than 23 metres, the rig needs deep water for anchoring and Loch Kishorn provides ideal sheltered conditions.

The Ocean GreatWhite has made her way from Singapore, via Las Palmas in the Canaries over the last five months assisted by the Alp Defender, a large ocean-going offshore supply vessel.

The rig is destined to start a drilling contract in the

North Sea early in 2019. The Ocean GreatWhite will not be drilling whilst at Kishorn. During its time there, it will be made ready for its drilling programme with Corpach-based Ferguson Transport and Shipping providing marine agency and stevedoring support.

Alasdair Ferguson, a director of KPL, recently visited the rig in Las Palmas and commented: 'I couldn't fail to be impressed by the sheer scale of the Ocean GreatWhite. We hope the berthing and support to the rig at Kishorn will herald a new era of engagement in the oil and gas industry at Kishorn.'

KPL, a joint venture between and Leiths (Scotland) Limited and Ferguson Transport and Shipping, was created in 2008 to promote the regeneration of the Kishorn Yard and dry dock as for the manufacturer

of renewable energy components, decommissioning and support to the North Sea oil and gas sector.

The yard and the dry dock were very busy in the early years of the North Sea oil and gas boom, employing more than 3,000 people and generating a huge contribution to the Highlands economy.

Howard Doris, the yard operators, finally succumbed to insolvency in 1988 and the yard lay largely dormant until 1992, when the dry dock was resurrected to enable the casting of the two 2,500-tonne concrete caissons that support the Skye Bridge.

KPL secured a comprehensive masterplan permission in 2013 and have been promoting the yard and its unique dry dock for use by the renewables and oil and gas sectors for the last five years following significant investments in site infrastructure.

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Santa and a friendly snowman brought festive cheer to the Claggan branch of SPAR.

Festive cheer for all ages



The cast of the Ardnamurchan High School panto.



Youngsters enjoy the Caol Community Centre Christmas party.



Santa took time out from his hectic festive schedule to help Lundavra Primary School pupils cross the road.

Ardnamurchan High School pupils gave two performances of this year's panto The Little Mermaid to rapturous applause.

From the hilarious interaction between Captain Aargh, played by Alasdair Tait, and Dame Dusty, played by Ben Gregg, to the evil machinations of the undersea with Octavia, played by Niamh MacLellan, and from the soaring and dramatic vocals of Mariel, played by Janie Patterson, to the lovely plaintive solos of Prince Derek, played by Rachel Bolton, the show was held together by Bastian, a crab played by Kay Christian, whose non-stop puns had the audience groaning and laughing in equal measure.

The full cast and support team were: Mariel, Janie Patterson; Octavia, Niamh MacLellan; Dame Dusty, Ben Gregg; Captain Aargh, Alistair Tait; Triton, Mary-Ann MacPherson; Prince Derek, Rachel Bolton; Bastian, Kay Christian; Corky, Kirstyn Rowantree;

Crusty, Angus Dunn; Aqua, Lilianna Alexander; Briny, Holly Cameron; Coral, Isabella Sutherland; Shell, Rona McIntyre; Storm, Sally Patterson; Sandy, Maisie Gregg; King, Ella Christian; Queen, Maisie Gregg; Dr Love, Rachael White; Pedro, Isabella Sutherland; Herald/Narrator, Liam Cameron, and Random Santa, Christopher Millar-Craig.

Dancers: Lilijana Alexander, Holly Cameron, Liam Cameron, Mya Carmichael. Ghost/Attractive Octavia, Mya Carmichael; Unfortunate Souls - Ellis McConnachie, Nicholas Tait, Anya Stewart, Flora Sutherland, Matilda van de Peer, Maisie Carmichael, Seamus McIntyre. Make up: Eden Gordon and Rachel Herron.

Panto band: Dugald MacIntyre, Nathan Pleming, Herbie Patterson, Rachel Ford, Frances MacDonald, Ishbel MacIntyre, Freddie Patterson, Aaron Mellis, Cameron Bungey, Mitchell MacPherson, Eilidh

MacArthur, Ellen Munro, Maighsi Rough and Bethan White.

Choreography: Lilijana Alexander. Backstage: Cheryl McIntyre, Jamie Rowantree and JJ Blackley.

Lights: Joseph Tait, helped by Sean Turner. Sound: Ian Kammerath and Anna Jackson.

Stage director: Mrs P Kennedy. Musical director: Mrs J Campbell. Backstage director: Mr A Dawes.



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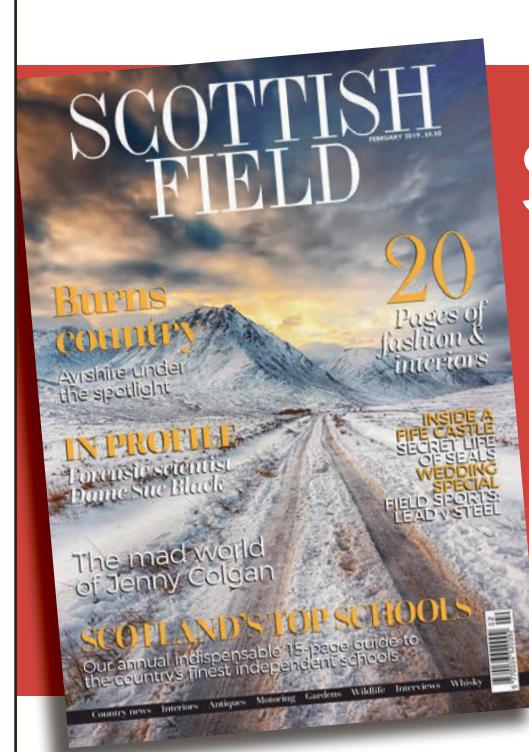


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Members of Kilmallie Singers hit all the right notes when they performed a festive programme in Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church.



Families of Liberty Aluminium's Lochaber smelter staff had great fun at their Christmas party in the Moorings Hotel, Banavie.



Caol Primary School pupils performed for members of Caol Lunch Club.



Little Learners Nursery, based in Inverlochy, enjoyed a Christmas outing to the soft play area at the Nevis Centre in Fort William last week.



Lochaber High School pupils wrapped and delivered parcels to the elderly on behalf of Lochaber Rotary Club.



St Columba's Primary School pupils also performed at a gathering of Caol Lunch Club.



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Christmas joy as UistWind secures cash

North Uist will get its community-owned wind farm next year, after the fundraising campaign passed £400,000 on Christmas Eve.

The total raised by UistWind – a project driven by the North Uist Development Company (Trading) – was £408,000 by close of play on December 24.

The project is for two 900kW turbines at Criongrabbal, near Clachan-na-Luib, which will cost around £3.5million to build. Commercial loans are covering most of it, but the community needed to raise a minimum of £350,000 as its equity stake in the project.

Mustapha Hocine, chairman of North Uist Development Company, said: 'It is the best possible Christmas present for North Uist that we have exceeded our target for the community share offer. This means more people will benefit from the target interest rate of four per cent and the community benefit will be even greater.'

Institute pupils create stunning poppy display

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A group of pupils in The Nicolson Institute in Stornoway has been working on knitting poppies over the last month – ahead of the Iolaire memorial service which took place on January 1 – under the tutorship of teacher Alison Macdonald.

Four weeks ago they only had 15 completed, so asked for some help to reach their target of 201 poppies to represent the 201 lives which were lost on HMY Iolaire on January 1, 1919.

With the great level of interest shown in the project, through support from staff and the community, the total number of poppies knitted soared to more than 400.

'We are overwhelmed with the support from within the school and also from the local community. It's an amazing example of the power of a simple idea'

The poppies were then all attached to a net and it was anticipated that the stunning display would form a prominent part of the Iolaire commemoration events.

Ms Macdonald, who led the project, said: 'We are just overwhelmed with the support from within the school and also from

the local community. It's an amazing example of the power of a simple idea and also the way in which this year of remembrance of the Iolaire disaster especially has brought a huge reaction from the island community.

'The islands very obviously want to remember and want to show that they honour the memory of those who lost their lives defending the country in time of war.'

Nicolson Institute rector Frances Murray added: 'The completed display is a simple but extremely powerful symbol of remembrance.'

'Our pupils continue to make us proud in so many ways, and their work on this project is another example of this.'



Nicholson Institute pupils attached the knitted poppies to a net.



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Work on Staffin community plans set to start in summer

Work on a community-led housing, health and business development in north Skye could start next summer.

A total of seven affordable houses, a medical surgery and business space will be created in Staffin.

Staffin Community Trust (SCT) is hopeful the legal process currently under way to secure the development site, on the Stenscholl township's common grazings, will be completed and the land will be in its ownership early in the new year.

Highland Council granted planning permission for the scheme earlier in 2018 and the Scottish Land Fund subsequently awarded a grant of £231,700 to allow SCT to buy the ground and the current Staffin Surgery from NHS Highland. SCT and its partners – the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) – are now working hard to secure the funding for the development, with the

construction work to start hopefully by next summer. It would be the first affordable housing development in Staffin for 20 years and comes as the community has suffered a significant population decline in that time.

SCT is hopeful the new housing will help increase the Staffin Primary School roll and the community's long-term sustainability.

The project also includes a business units building and a workshop/storage base.

SCT would buy the existing surgery – which dates back to the 1950s and is known locally as the Nurses' Cottage – so it could be converted into an affordable home. Staffin's district nurses lived in the building when it was first built but is no longer fit for purpose.

SCT has received nine expressions of interest in the new homes from local families and couples. Two of the properties will be owned by SCT, two by HSCHT and two by LSHA and they will

be a range of mixed housing tenure.

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie said important progress had been made in recent months and securing the land would be a hugely significant marker for the development.

"There is still a vast amount of hard work to do, particularly in securing the necessary capital funding, but we are heartened by the support from the community and our partners in delivering this vital development for the benefit of Staffin for decades to come," he said.

Staffin Community Council chairman John MacKenzie added: "This development will assist the stability of future generations and families, we hope this is just the beginning of more exciting projects to come."

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More than any other date on the calendar, January 1 is the most commonly held reference point of time in this part of the world for taking stock of where our lives are and how we feel about our past, present and future.

This self-evaluating happens commonly on an individual level at birthdays – particularly when multiple decades are reached – and when other anniversaries are marked.

Because at New Year whole populations are doing this simultaneously, the presence of self-analyses set against our years on earth is accentuated. The prevalence of the New Year's resolution is everywhere at this time of year and although there is a fair amount of fashion, commercialism, grandstanding and gimmickry involved in it, I think the general concept is a good one.

2019 will mark a few meaningful milestones on my own timeline that make the turning of this year feel more significant than others of the past. This year I will turn 40, Skipinnish will turn 20

and 2019 also marks 20 years since my father passed away.

In their own different ways, these three markers of linear movement through life are significant.

These reference points of time in our lives are useful in giving us the perspective to evaluate what is important to us and what is not.

When we started the band I was a fresher year student aged 19 with no real plan for what my future life might entail other than generally wanting variety, freedom and progression while trying to maintain a good level of morality and decency as a human being. I was having a great time studying and partying in Glasgow and heading off to pubs, village halls and festivals up and down the country at weekends with the band.

Twenty years on and approaching 40, I don't really feel much has changed in my outlook on life and I have no wish for a clearer vision of my future. I am, hopefully, slightly wiser, but other than a few grey hairs, a couple of scars and few extra stones I

don't feel that too much has changed.

Throughout these 20 years I've managed to have plenty of variety, freedom, independence and among all the rough and tumble some sort of progression has hopefully been made.

As we enter 2019 one of the main areas of life that is very much on my mind more than other years – added to by a recent dream I had – is making time to visit people who have been an important part of the previous years of our lives.

I'm going to delve into this subject further in next week's article but in the meantime, trips to Iona, Mull, Barra, Benbecula, Perthshire, Lochgilphead, Edinburgh, California, Tiree and many other places to see certain people are being planned.

In the blink of an eye, 20 years can pass and in the blink of an eye people too pass and we lose the chance to see them and to meet again. So, while we are all still here time should be made for these powerful human connections.

Happy New Year to you all.

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LT

JULY



Stagecoach bus depot bought by Acharacle-based Shiel Buses which was started 40 years ago by director Donald MacGillivray (pictured) and his brother.



Despite the wet and blustery conditions, the team of almost 50 helpers and cooks took on an epic challenge to serve hot food to help raise cash for vital stem cell treatment for Gary Campbell, 29, who was diagnosed with primary progressive MS.

AUGUST



Above, Glenfinnan Highland Gathering Chieftain Aonghas Grant BEM. Regarded as a Highland musical treasure, he is known as the left-handed fiddler of Lochaber and has enjoyed a musical career that has spanned more than six decades.

Right, Britain's youngest steam train driver, Matthew Earnshaw, 30, right, with Fort William's Lewis MacLean, 19, the youngest qualified steam fireman in Britain.



SEPTEMBER

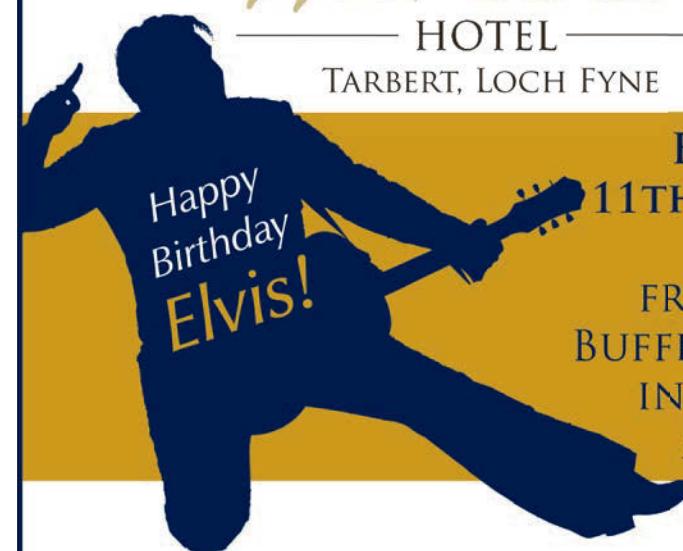


Thirty-two-year-old Lochaber doctor Finlay Wild reclaimed the MacFarlane Cup for the ninth consecutive year, recording a personal best time.

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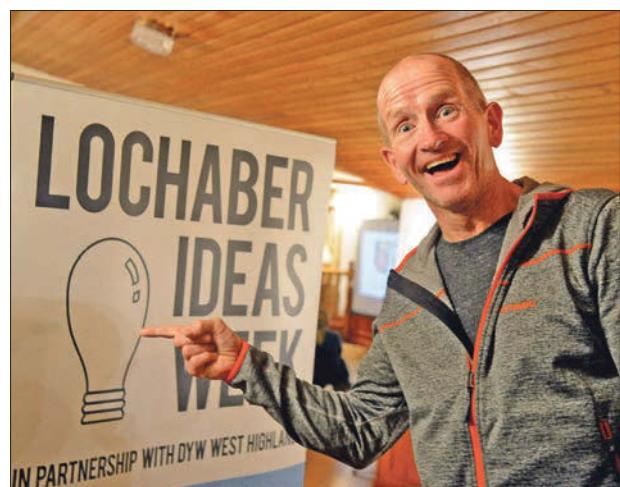
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OCTOBER



Recent heavy rainfall saw swollen rivers and localised flooding in parts of Lochaber. This amazing scene captured at the lower falls in Glen Nevis.

NOVEMBER



Eddie the Eagle helped light up the first day of Lochaber Ideas Week.



Primary one pupil Fionn Togher, five, cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the new Strontian Primary School, watched by head teacher Pamela Hill.

DECEMBER



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service group manager Pat McElhinney with much sought-after toy Kevin the Carrot.



The pipes and drums from Lochaber's infantry battalion, The Highlanders (4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland), led the parade to Garrison Memorial Church for the annual church service ahead of the battalion's Christmas lunch.



LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Lots to look forward to in Lochaber

The start of a new year for many of us is a time to reflect and reboot, and also a time to look forward.

But as we peer into the fog that is Brexit, not knowing what sort of deal will be brokered and how we will fare in Scotland, it is tempting to think there is nothing but doom and gloom. But actually, here in Lochaber, there is a lot to celebrate.

The Queen's New Year's Honours List saw four people honoured for services to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, arts and the natural environment, and sport and young people. And while we are delighted to add our congratulations to all recipients, we also know that for everyone recognised here, there are many more who devote their working life and leisure time to helping others. We are truly fortunate that we live in communities that look out for each other and where people think nothing of offering their time and talents wherever there is a need.

In true Christmas spirit, Corpach couple Stanley and Carol Ross organised a special lunch where a dozen homeless and vulnerable people sat down to a full traditional Christmas Day feast thanks to the generosity of volunteers and businesses. And on the lead up to Christmas and in the weeks and months ahead, Lochaber Foodbank will offer essentials and love to those in need.

While there may be plenty of uncertainty in the coming months, one thing that we can be sure of is that where there is need, there will be local people stepping in to help.

many friends, particularly the Telfers, who had a croft in Laggan where we were billeted.

It was an idyllic time as travel in those days was not as it is today.

Back in Netley, work on the building trade had become very scarce.

At the age of 17 in 1950, I therefore joined the Royal Navy.

I never forgot my time in Mull and in 1969, while serving as a chief petty officer on HMS Ajax, we made a visit to Oban.

As my captain had an estate at Kilmelford, and learning of my history, he allowed me to visit Lochbuie, where I met some of those I had known then in their 90s.

I also met Helen Telford (MacMillan, I think) and welcomed her and her family on board.

We then went to anchor in Loch Melfort near the captain's house, where the local pub had to resort to jam jars as they ran out of glasses.

I left the Royal Navy in 1972 and in 1976 my wife and I took a campervan back to the area, visited Captain Harry Keats and renewed my love of the area. We did not, however, visit Mull at that time.

Fast forward to May 2007 when, as chairman of the Royal Naval Association in Netley, eight of us motored to Oban once again and to Mull where we had a glorious stay in Tobermory, visiting, of course, Lochbuie and Laggan.

I had a word with the present laird Jim Corbett, who had been about six years old in 1948.

On Saturday May 11, 2019, four of us are coming to stay in the Lagnakiel Highland Lodges for a week.

I am very much looking forward to it and would be very pleased if there was anyone left alive from those days. Sadly, Captain Keats is no longer with us. I hope to have a day in Mull during this week.

Brian Sandom,
brian@thesandoms.com

Thank you

I would be very grateful if you could put a little mention in the paper to say a huge thank you to everyone that has supported me this year in my fundraising.

My total raised from end off January is £6,670.

Of that £3,500 went to the Belford hospital, £150 to the local Macmillan Nurses, £2,100 to The Highland Hospice, £400 plus bags of food to Lochaber Food Bank, and £520 and bags of new items to Lochaber Women's Aid.

Liz Macmillan, Fort William

Appeal to trace old friends on the island of Mull

I was 87 years old on June 5 and live, as I always have, in Netley, near Southampton.

In 1948, I was working as an apprentice bricklayer with my father, and uncle, when we were sent to Mull to work on the estate at Lochbuie.

We remained there for six weeks and made

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Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk

Bliadhna mhath ùr dhuibh uile!

Tha mi 'n dòchas gun robh fior shubhachas mur timcheall nuair a ghabh sibh beannachd le 2018 agus a chuir sibh failte air 2019, agus tha mi cuideachd an dòchas gun robh sibh ann an sunnd gàire agus beagan spòrs nuair a nochd i! Bu mhath leam gu dearbha gur ann mar sin a bhithreas fad na bliadhna ùire seo dhuibh, le slàinte, sonas, misneachd, agus aighearachd. 'S dòcha gum bheil e beagan mì-reusanta dhomh a bhith ag iarraidh uimhir ach tha mi 'n dòchas gum faigh sinn uile roinn de na sólais sin aig a' char as lugh! Bidh mi tric a' cuimhneachadh air amannan bliadhna ùire nam òige is mar a bhiodh m' athair agus nàbaidhean ag aithris facian à bàrdachd Mhàiri Mhòr nan Òran nuair a bhiodh iad ag ol deoch-slàinte. "Seo a' Bhliadhna Ùr thug solas dhuinn!" Bha e nàdarra gu leòr gum biodh iad uile beò ann an dòchas air adhartas nan cuid suidheachaидh ann am bliadhna ùr.

Dè a dh'iarradh tu fhèin

ann an 2019, gu pearsanta agus dhan dùthach? 'S e mo bheachd gun cuireadh a' mhòr-chuid deagh shlàinte dhaibh fhèin agus dhan teaghlaichean àrd air liosta rùntean na bliadhna ùire. Bhiodh e nàdarra cuideachd dhuinn a bhith an dòchas ri tèarainteachd dachaigh agus teachd-a-steach dha na bhaineas dhuinn, agus nach bu mhath gun iarraim leithid sin dhan na h-uile le aithne gun toireadh sin leasachadh bunaiteach air cor uimhir feadh na dùthcha againn a tha beò ann am bochdainn.

Saoilidh mi le cinnt gum bheil fadachd oirnn uile crioch fhacinn air a' bhutarrais anns am bheil ceist Brexit agus dealachadh Bhreatann bhon Aonadh Eòrpach. Ged is e mo bheachd pearsanta gum b' fheàrr fuireach san aonadh thug toradh an reifreinn stiùir eile dhan Riaghaltas, ach gu deimhinne 's olc a chaidh iad ri cùisean agus tha sinn a-nise an cunnart dealachadh deireadh a' Mhàirt gun aonta malairt shusbainteach de sheòrsa sam bith. Bhiodh e ceàrr a ràdh nach robh an seòrsa barganachadh seo toinnt agus doirbh ach

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; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: inquiries@ipso.co.uk. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

DISTRICT NEWS



Ardnamurchan High's festive dance

S6 students at Ardnamurchan High School enjoyed their annual Christmas dance recently, with chosen band Nae Plans keeping the young people on the floor for almost every dance.

Head Girl Kay Christian and her team of S6 helpers ensured the evening ran like clockwork and with the usual refreshments

provided in partnership with Trish Kennedy, everyone had an excellent evening.

'My thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas dance such a success this year and a huge well done to all our young people whose exemplary behaviour made for a great night,' said head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig.

Sensory Care Christmas lunch joy



Lochaber Sensory Care Social Group at their Christmas Lunch in the Alexandra Hotel. Photograph: Iain Ferguson alba. photos

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

I'll tell you why I'm phoning' (as we say in Lochaber) was the opening gambit by a Fort William hotelier to a kindred spirit in the Borders. 'Have you got a party of French people in on a New Year coach tour?' The Borders hotel was, indeed, playing host to 40 Free French. 'Aye, well, could you tell the courier to take an inventory from them all – as we're short of seven wee vases, a dozen butter dishes, a few dinner plates and Heaven knows how many ashtrays, after they stayed here last night, and I reckon they thought our hotel was staging some form of Collectors Fair – for the Free French!' Two days later a very large package arrived at the Fort hotel. 'Fragile, with care', it said on the outside. And inside it? Seven wee vases, a dozen butter dishes, everything, indeed, bar a partridge in a pear tree.

A few of Earth's treasures were deposited at the world famous West Highland Museum the other day. Without ceremony. A dumper truck came trundling along the High Street, clattered through Cameron Square, and came to a halt on the museum doorstep. The driver then delivered all the exciting 'artefacts' unearthed in the course of the digging up of Middle Street for the 'service road'. Fiona Marwick, curator secretary of the Mmuseum, duly catalogued the hoard, as follows. 'A twisted mole trap – minus mole, a cast iron kettle, a wheelbarrow wheel, fire tongs (looking the way you'd expect them to look after supporting a roadway for more than a century), two pickaxes, and, best of all, a length of Fort William Lighting Company cable. This latter is set in bitumen in a wooden trough, and protected by an iron plate – a quite brilliant thing to have.'

Incidentally, lots of people have been asking about the final fate of the Kennedy Monument, for so long the focal point within Cameron Square, but has now been demolished. Well, the many large sections of sandstone form part of the Loch Linnhe shoreline opposite Seafield Gardens. The result has been receiving universal condemnation from the locals. I don't know where the railings ended up, but there's a fair chance that Kenny MacKenzie's bike was

still attached to them. Kenny and his contemporaries – myself included – used to chain our bikes to the railings, having cycled into town from the village and Claggan. Then we went up to the YM to play billiards. For some reason we frequently forgot our bikes – and walked home or got a lift to the Road End in the chip van. Kenny was the most forgetful of us all, however, and frequently had to come back into town to collect his bike from in among the railings and Sydie's posters and placards.

Fort William's temporary tourist attraction finally flew away on Friday. After being laid up in the West End Car Park for three days. Aye, the Sea King helicopter was on its holidays from Lossie. But it suffered an ailment. Something to do with the Lochaber weather, apparently, and was grounded for treatment. And, during each day the 'paraffin budgie' certainly drew the crowds, including classfuls of pupils from Fort William primary and cameramen and camerawomen galore.

Crossed carrier bags caused problems for Alan Worsdall. Alan arrived back in the Fort after a short visit to Manchester, during which he had arranged his baggage for the return trip by way of two Poundstretcher bags. In one was his accumulated washing, the other contained sausage, bacon and eggs for next day's Paper Mill breakfast fry-up. However, in all the rush to get in to work, you can guess what happened. Yes, Alan dropped off one bag at home, and opened the other one at the Mill. It contained semmit, socks and drawers.

That naturalised Highlander from Stockbridge, Willie Anderson, ken, has bought a budgie. 'I'm calling it Ken, ken', Willie told me. 'I couldnae get a maroon one, otherwise I'd have named it Willie Bauld. Like masel, ken'.

Interesting sight outside the Grand Hotel last Wednesday a 'Blue Maria' pulled up. The police driver got out, opened the back door, and 'let out' Rotarian Alistair Grant. Alistair had been running late at the Belford and looked like missing the 1pm start of the Rotary meeting. Luckily, he was 'lifted' by the polis. Somewhat unfortunately for Alistair, however, his exit from the Blue Maria coincided with the arrival, on foot, of a few Rotarians. So, he hasn't heard the end of it since.

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Ten-pin bowlers enjoy festive fun night

Members of Fort William's 10-pin bowling league recently enjoyed a Christmas fun night in the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

Players in festive fancy dress took part in two games. As well as normal pin scoring, they played a fun version of scoring where points were awarded by the number of strikes and spares achieved.

The first game was won by Gaynor 'Batgirl' Weldon on 13 points, followed by Pam 'Superwoman' Weller on 11 points. Pam also won the highest conventionally scored game with 168 points.

The second game was played with the lights off, which was challenging for some, although others – including the winners – thought they played better when they couldn't see.

This second game was won by 'Rock On' Tommy McKnight with 11 points. James 'Zorro' Porter finished second place on a tie break, also on 11 points. Tommy also had the highest conventionally scored game with a 177.

The next league night is on Monday January 7.

Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 1, 2 and 12. There were no winners so the jackpot for the next draw on Thursday January 10 will be £200.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 4, 5 and 10. The £1,000 jackpot winner was Helen MacLean. The next draw will be on January 10 when the jackpot will be £100.

This week's Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers were 3, 13 and 20. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £600.

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Honours even in Boxi

Lochaber Rugby Club's annual Boxing Day rugby match ended in a sporting draw.

Almost 30 players took to the Banavie pitch for a Club Captain's XV against a President's XV clash.

It was a great game played in a great spirit by both teams.

It will be back to league business for Lochaber when they take on Cowal at home on Saturday January 5.



Right: Jonathan McCook tackles Andrew Bell.



Davy Duncan of the captain's team is tackled by Donnie MacDonald, left, and Koni Johnson.



A Club Captain's XV took on a President's XV at Banavie on Boxing Day.

Right: The teams were piped on to pitch by Ben Fulford, followed by referee Ryan Davies and team captains Jonathan McCook and William Stewart.



Jonathan McCook and Lewis Morrison.

Mallaig FC reflect on season to remember

Not many sports clubs can boast a league championship victory and a cup final appearance in their first season of competition.

However, Mallaig Football Club can do just that after the team enjoyed a remarkable debut season as a member of Skye and Lochalsh Amateur Football Association.

The club was crowned league champions after beating Kyleakin in the championship play-off in September. The league and cup double proved elusive for the Lochaber side, how-

ever, as they fell short in the final against their familiar foe Kyleakin.

Manager Jamie MacGregor reflected on the season after the team's final outing of the year last month: 'This season we started with a few footballs, bibs and some overly keen footballers. In February we started a pre-season with no league to play in with only an idea of what we wanted to achieve over the next two years. After the first annual general meeting and a couple of mistakes from myself, it looked like we might have

missed the chance of competitive football in Mallaig for another year and there was a real danger of it never coming back. Luckily we managed to pull something together and find backing by some locals. Michelle at the Steam Inn was one of the first to come forward and back the local football team.

Robert Macmillan of Mallaig Harbour Authority, a former player, and Robert Summers and his crew on the Rebecca Janeen have helped too.

'We have had massive backing from a range of

people including Mallaig Fisherman's Co-op, Duncan Muir and Son, Morar Motors, J Coull bricklaying and roughcasting, Askival B&B and Lawerence Lawrie.

'Over the season we experienced some disappointment and the ultimate high of being league champions but most importantly we now have a seat at the table which will ensure competitive football will be in Mallaig for years to come.'

'This year will show how far we have come as we look to move more into the com-

munity and involving more people by having an under 18 football team competing in the Skye and Lochalsh under 18 league.'

'A massive thank you to everyone who supported the football in every way possible. In 2019, we hope to continue to bring a club that the community can be proud of.'

Players and management of Mallaig FC celebrated the season at the joint Mallaig FC and Fisherman Mission dance on December 21 at Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

Boxing Day clash



Hardy swimmers brave chilly Loch Leven for Santa Swim

Christmas dinner will have tasted that bit better for a group of hardy swimmers as they went for a bracing dip in Loch Leven on Christmas morning.

More than a dozen eager swimmers took time out from opening presents and peeling sprouts to take part in the annual Ballachulish Santa Swim on December 25.

The team, made up of regular open water swimmers, juniors and newcomers, headed out from the Isles of Glencoe Hotel for the festive dip in the loch. Some of the more experienced swimmers swam out towards the islands in the loch, while the less experienced enjoyed a shorter dip in the shelter of the bay.

Although wet suits were optional, a Santa



Some of the swimmers who took part in this year's Santa Swim at Ballachulish.

suit, or at least a jaunty hat or some tinsel, was compulsory.



A field of 59 runners took part in the Boxing Day race.

Wild triumphs again in Cruim Leaccain Hill Race

There was a good field for Lochaber Athletics Club's Cruim Leaccain Hill Race 2018 (Boxing Day Race), with member Finlay Wild first home in a time of 00:43:02, more than two minutes faster than his win in the same event last year.

The annual seven-mile race, starting at Tomnaharich, Tirlundy, was run in good spirit as 59 runners took to the start line.

Following closely behind Wild in second place was Lochaber Athletic Club's Esmond Tressider, who ran the circuit in 00:44:25, with Andrew Barrington in third in 00:45:42.

The first Male Vet 40 runner home was HHR's Ryan MacKenzie in a time of 00:48:10 and Ian Mackellaig was the first Male Vet 50 runner home in 00:51:51.

Lochaber's Isla MacKay was the first female over the line in a time of 00:56:59, finishing in 26th overall. Fellow Lochaber Marie Meldrum was the first Female Vet 40 home in a time of 00:58:55.

Full results available at: lochaberac.co.uk.

The next race is on New Year's Day and the Aonach Mor Uphill Race, a 4km race with a 610m climb. The race starts at 11am at Nevis Range.



There were plenty of smiles during the race on Boxing Day.

LOCHABER TIMES SPORT



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THIS WEEK:
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Fort BJJ club is fighting fit for 2019

The Ultimate Fighting Challenge series of broadcast mixed martial arts fights has seen the sport boom in recent years.

One of the big beneficiaries has been Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, which many of the top professional fighters include in their repertoire of skill sets.

Here in Lochaber, Fort BJJ is a 'No Gi' Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club based in Fort William, whose members mainly train in the 10th Planet System founded by Eddie Bravo in the United States.

10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu is a non-traditional style which eschews the use of the familiar white gi uniforms, recognisable from other martial arts such as judo and karate.

Fort BJJ has been going for nearly three years now, with a coaching team of Eddie

Lopez, Miguel Alvarez, Stuart Fraser and Paul MacGillivray.

Although not an official 10th Planet school, Fort BJJ is an affiliated club under Steven Thompson of 10th Planet Glasgow and as such is the only club in the Highlands where students can train in the 10th Planet system, which now has more than 100 schools around the world.

It was in 2003, after earning a black belt under BJJ legend Jean-Jacques Machado, that Bravo opened his first 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu school in Los Angeles.

Bravo's system emphasises developing students for submission-only grappling competition rather than points.

Fort BJJ members train in the town's Nevis Centre



Fort BJJ members going through some moves. Photos: Iain Ferguson alba.photos

where the club has its own matted space.

Members are aged from 16 upwards and the club accepts both male and female members.

Lopez told the Lochaber Times: 'We are very lucky in that we have a very strong link with the 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu school in Glasgow, with our members regularly making trips down to train and, in return, brown belt Steven Thompson, coming up from Glasgow.'

With 18 members on the books, Fort BJJ is steadily growing in strength with a number of its students competing in a mixture of submission-only and submission/points-based tournaments.

Members have visited – and

been visited by – clubs and students from as far apart as Ireland, Amsterdam, Berlin and Croatia, to name just a few.

Not all of its members, however, take part in competition bouts, with the club also welcoming those who wish to train simply for fitness and self defence.

Fighter

Lopez himself comes from a Muay Thai background and also spent four years as a fighter with Lochaber Boxing Club from 2008 onwards.

A company director who is also a retained firefighter, he says people's reasons for wanting to try out BJJ are always different.

'We are a very welcoming club with a great atmosphere. There is none of the bowing

and strange foreign terms that you find in more traditional martial arts such as karate and judo.

'We are very relaxed. We do have grades but that's not what it is all about for us. We are about learning and evolving and finding ways of grappling which are as efficient as possible.'

'You will certainly get fitter and will see big improvements in your flexibility and suppleness. Everyone has their own personal goals.'

Lopez says the club is exploring female-only classes for later this year and, with each class only costing £5 and a monthly seminar for those who want to attend just an extra £20, it means some of the best martial arts and combat sports training in the

BJJ

Highlands is available right here in Fort William.

For anyone wishing to find out more, Fort BJJ has a strong online social media presence with its Facebook page boasting numerous videos and photos to give visitors a good idea of what is involved.

Lopez added: 'What I love about this system is the sense of freedom you get, of people training together in a friendly way, evolving, helping each other get better.'



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