

FREE INSIDE

self build & renovation

24 page pull out and keep Supplement

NEW YEAR - NEW AGENT
AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK
FREE PREMIUM LISTING
ON **rightmove**

ARGYLL Estate Agents

SWITCH FOR FREE - SAVE 20% WHEN YOU SELL

Telephone: 01631 561130 www.argyllestategents.com

SNOW CHAOS

Protest over playpark anniversary

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Parts of Argyll and Bute were hit with a weather bomb this week with difficult driving conditions causing chaos at both ends of Oban.

A band of heavy snow passed over the region between 7am and 11am on Tuesday - depositing accumulations of up to three inches on all routes, with the A85 between Oban and Pennyfuir, the A83 between Lochside and Minard, the A816, A8003 and B844 near Kilninver all shut for periods of time.

Police worked alongside BEAR Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council to try to keep the roads clear, leading to the latter issuing a statement pointing out the hazards of attempting to drive in bad weather.

'Driving in winter is very different than at other times of the year,' the council warned.

'Extreme weather, including flooding and snow, create different hazards we are not used to dealing with on a regular basis. We need to be able to adapt the way we drive to the conditions and we need to be prepared for all eventualities.'



Traffic was at a standstill on the road between Dunbeg and Oban on Tuesday morning but snow angels Suzie Croucher and Alison Robertson came to the rescue of stranded motorists near Kilninver.



Gritters were on duty from 4am, treating routes 'in order of priority' and the local authority advised drivers not to attempt to travel unless absolutely necessary.

Bus routes were hit and West Coast Motors reported 'severely disrupted' services from the Oban area through to Dunoon, while the treacherous conditions forced the closure of a number of primary schools in Argyll and

Bute, including Craignish, Easdale, Inveraray, Kilmodan, Kilninver, Lochgoilhead and Strachur.

Among all the chaos there also came tales of true altruism. Snow angels Suzie Croucher and Alison Robertson came to the rescue of drivers struggling to get up Balnacarry Hill, near Kilninver. The pair from Luing had left home at 7.30am to get to work in Oban but

only got as far as the hill before getting stuck themselves.

The friends, who had been travelling in separate cars, left their vehicles to walk up the hill to check on reports of a woman and child in a car but they were fine, said Ms Croucher.

The women then drove back to Seil to call in at Ms Croucher's mum's house to borrow a spade before setting out again for another attempt.

They used the spade to help get four or five cars up the slippery, slushy slope.

'It wasn't just us helping. The police officer gave us a hand and so did John Morgan, who's from Luing,' said Ms Croucher.

Just after 11am a gritter arrived to clear and grit the route making it passable for traffic.

All roads were reopened by 11.30am.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark (FoOCP) are planning a peaceful protest to mark the one-year anniversary of the closure of the facility at Atlantis Leisure.

The park for five- to 15-year-olds has been closed since March 2018 after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

An event at the venue has been arranged to mark the passing of time and FoOCP are inviting supporters to join them on Saturday March 16 at 11am.

Lyndsay Elliott, chairwoman of FoOCP, told The Oban Times: 'We acknowledge that Argyll and Bute Council is working towards a resolution, which we appreciate, but the progress is painfully slow. We want to remind all those involved in finding a solution why the community raised more than £180,000 to build the big playpark in the first place.'

The group is also looking for green-fingered volunteers to help with planting and weeding at the millennium garden over the year. A planning event will be held on Friday February 22 at 4.30pm at Atlantis.



Enjoy glare free vision this winter

From **£99** complete

Kodak UVSun Polarised Lens
Bifocal and varifocal options also available

JOHN WALLACE
Optometrists

ORTHOKERATOLOGISTS & VISION THERAPISTS

11-12 ARGYLL SQUARE, OBAN
ARGYLL PA34 4AZ
TEL: 01631 563170

OT

Street lighting will cost £120,000 to fix

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Street lights on Islay have been causing issues for some time and it could cost £120,000 to fix them – half of Argyll and Bute Council's street lighting budget for the year.

Shore Street in Port Charlotte had been in darkness for around two years and, more than a month ago, the same happened in Main Street. And while half the lighting on Main Street and Shore Street came back on at the weekend, the overall problem persists.

Highlighting the issue, one resident said: 'In the four years that we have lived here, we have actually never seen any working street lights in Shore Street and recently the lights in Main Street went off too.'

Another said: 'At the store, it is terrible and I fear for people heading towards the west end or down towards the hotels.



Councillor Alastair Redman.

We need the LED lighting the village was promised years ago – and we need it now, before there is a frightful accident that could have been prevented.'

In a letter to Councillor Alastair Redman, Argyll and Bute's executive director for development and infrastructure Pippa Milne said the outages on Shore Street were caused by degrading wall brackets and water ingress.

'This has caused dangerous electrical load tripping all

fuses,' she said. 'This being the case, our electricians have had to disconnect the street lighting to ensure safety to the public to ensure they don't receive an electric shock. This appears to now to be the case on Main Street.'

The council is now looking at installing lighting columns on the streets.

'These works will need to be outsourced due to the nature of the works been so specialised,' Mrs Milne said. 'The budget needed will be in the region of £120,000, which is just under half of our annual budget for street lighting.'

Councillor Redman said: '£120,000 for one street's lights? That is an insane cost. As for public opinion being split, all I can say is that everyone in the village wants the lights back on. Take it from someone who lives in Port Charlotte. The entire centre of Port Charlotte is now in darkness.

'We in Argyll and Bute pay first world levels of council tax yet for many of our islands we are receiving third world levels of repair and maintenance speed.

'I worry that leaving whole streets without lighting is becoming the new norm and this cannot be allowed to happen.'

A council spokesperson said: 'We are committed to investing a significant amount of the street lighting budget in installing lighting columns in Shore Street and Main Street.

'Street lighting in this area is coming to the end of its natural lifespan and wall-mounted brackets are no longer an option.

'Replacing street lighting is expensive, particularly when removing old wall mounted units, making good the buildings, and installing and wiring new lighting columns. We will ensure best value through our procurement process.'

Islay distillery could be back in business soon

Plans are progressing to revive a former island distillery which closed its doors 36 years ago, writes Euan Carr.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee was due to hear plans for the former Port Ellen Distillery at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday January 23).

The original distillery, located beside the A846 road, was established as a malt mill in 1825 before becoming a distillery eight years later. It was closed in 1983.

In October 2017, Diageo announced plans to re-open it in 2020, along with its closed distillery in Brora in the Highlands.

The plans are contained in a 'proposal of application notice' (PAN), which means that community consultation must take place for at least 12 weeks before a formal planning application can be lodged.

A report for the meeting by council planning officer David Love said: 'There has been a number of permissions over the years for partial demolition

and change of use at the site but none has been implemented.

'The original buildings are all category B-listed. There is no detail as to what works may be required to the buildings within the PAN.

'The PAN seeks to notify the planning authority of a prospective major planning application to reopen the former distillery with new buildings, associated infrastructure and visitor experience.

'The applicant intends to hold a public meeting on January 29, 2019, between 4pm and 9pm at Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen.'

In announcing the reopening plans in October 2017, Dr Nick Morgan, Diageo's head of whisky outreach, said: 'This is a truly exceptional moment in Scotch whisky.'

'Port Ellen and Brora are names which have a uniquely powerful resonance with whisky-lovers around the world and the opportunity to bring these lost distilleries back to life is as rare and special as the spirit for which the distilleries are famous.'

MACLEOD

MAINTENANCE & SMALL WORKS

One call solves it all

BEFORE



External building painting & renovation

AFTER

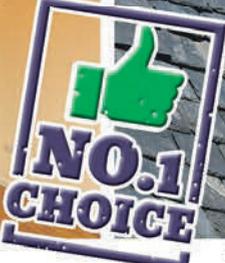




Office refurbishment



Roof leadwork replacement



Let MacLeod Small Works & Maintenance team give your home a facelift!

With a team of skilled tradesmen, we're ready to tackle any construction challenge on almost any scale, from simple minor works to grand renovations.

Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR Tel: 01546 602989 Fax 01546 603789
Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk www.mkmacleod.co.uk



Liz Crawford with Tesco manager Robert McIntyre after spending her £200 winnings.

Liz shares luck with family and Oban charity

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Lucky Liz Crawford is sharing her trolley dash winnings with Oban charity Hope Kitchen.

Mrs Crawford's entry in 'The Oban Times' trolley dash competition, courtesy of Oban's Tesco supermarket, was chosen at random after she collected four tokens from the newspaper to be in with a winning chance.

On Monday she took her husband Colin along to the store to help her fill their shopping trolley with £200 worth of goods.

The couple from Oban made sure to fill a big bag with tinned foods and cupboard essentials to give to Hope. Also in the trolley was bumper packs of washing powder and dishwasher tablets for their two daughters who have families of their own.

'It's surprising how it can all mount up but we're happy with our load and we'll be sharing it with Hope Kitchen and our daughters.

'It's definitely worth people entering these competitions. It's not difficult collecting tokens! I'd recommend it.'

Store manager Robert McIntyre said: 'It's nice to know a local customer and a good cause are going to benefit from the competition. We're very pleased for them.'



Colourful cast of Taynuilt's 2019 panto *There Was An Old Woman*. 16_T04_Taynuiltpanto01

Taynuilt panto is sell-out success ... oh yes it is!

Audiences lapped up panto time in Taynuilt, making it a sell-out success.

Seats at all three shows were full to see Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society's laughter-packed pantomime

entitled *There Was An Old Woman*.

It was bright, brilliantly garish in true panto tradition and loud – and that's without mentioning the Dame's negligees.

Dad and son team Gary and Finlay Brown were hilarious as the Dames, while the giant creepy bug was another favourite.

The talented cast spanned all ages, making it a genuine,

heart-warming community production, giving people a cheery January treat to chase away the winter blues.

This is one mighty village tradition that should run and run.

Driver who crashed near school banned

A driver who lost control of his car and crashed near to Lochnell Primary School was banned from driving for three months and fined £300.

'If an accident like this had happened during school time, when a child had been standing in front of that sign, then a real tragedy could have resulted,' said Sheriff Patrick Hughes at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

'When any of us takes a vehicle onto the road we take on a responsibility for ourselves and also other road users. It is important we do everything we can to keep them safe.'

He told 21-year-old David Cioban: 'The sentence imposed today is not just something that applies to you but must also send a message to all drivers in this area.'

Cioban, of 26 Strathmore Gardens, Rutherglen, who works as logistics and plan-

ning supervisor on a building project at Barcaldine, had admitted to driving without due care and attention.

The accident happened on February 11, last year, on the A828, within the 30mph zone and near Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch.

At the time of the incident, Cioban was travelling south towards Oban when he lost control of the vehicle, mounted the footpath, crossed the cycle track and collided with the sign, damaging both it and his car.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said a walker witnessed the crash: 'The driver got out of the car to look at the damage. She made to go towards the car to see if he was OK but he got back in the car and, in her words, "he just took off".'

The witness told police: 'I saw the car spin and hit a big

sign.' Damage to the cycle track counter sign was costed at more than £40,000.

Police took debris from crash site and searched the area; they found Cioban's car parked at his workplace and damage to the vehicle matched. He approached them and said: 'Sorry guys it was me; this is my car.'

Cioban's defence agent Laura McManus told the sheriff: 'This happened when he had recently purchased the vehicle, a BMW with rear-wheel drive. The conditions were quite snowy and it is fair to say Mr Cioban was not accustomed to driving his vehicle in such conditions and he accepts that he lost control of the vehicle.'

An expert report prepared in his defence showed the sign had remained upright and the vehicle's airbags did not deploy, indicating that its speed was not excessive.

POLICE FILES

■ At about 10.05am on Wednesday January 16, on the A816 in Kilninver, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 51, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 3.35pm on Wednesday January 16, on High Street, Oban, two men, both aged 26, were stopped and searched by police and were found to be in possession of cannabis. The men were charged and issued with recorded police warnings.

■ Between 8.15pm and 8.30pm on Wednesday January 16, at Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, a turquoise Trax mountain bike was stolen.

■ At about 12.30am on Friday January 18 in Dunbeg, two people were disturbed in a garden and seen in Dunbeg Primary School grounds. Police attended but the suspects had run off. Police are advising local residents to ensure that houses and vehicles are secured at all times and

to call police if they notice anyone suspicious.

■ At about 10pm on Friday January 18 at licensed premises in Oban, a man allegedly acted in a threatening manner towards staff having been refused service due to his level of intoxication. On leaving the premises, the same man smashed a pane of glass within the door. Police were called but the suspect had already left the area.

■ At approximately 5.30pm on Saturday January 19, on the A85 at Taynuilt, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 50, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 1am on Sunday January 20 at Shore Street, Oban, a man aged 43 behaved in a disorderly manner by shouting and swearing. Police arrested and charged the man. He was later released with a recorded police warning.

■ If anyone has information they can contact police on telephone number 101.

ENJOY LIFE
ENJOY KEBABISH

End a busy day with a buffet evening
...and a drink with your meal
Award winning quality | Authentic flavours | Fully licensed

Kebabish
Of Oban BUFFET RESTAURANT . A LA CARTE . TAKEAWAY

95-99 George Street Oban PA34 5NR 01631566885, 01631563900
e: info@kebabishcurryhouse.com
www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

Order Online: www.kebabishofoban.co.uk
Like us on facebook

OT



Rockfield's two bookbinding sessions were a hit with Oban creatives at the weekend.

Workshops booked up at Rockfield

Designer Beth Lancaster was at Oban's Rockfield Centre at the weekend to share her book binding talent at two hands-on workshops. The

morning session looked at Japanese-style stab-stitch book binding and the afternoon workshop created junk journals using up old paper and cards.

Lots more workshops are coming up at the centre, including how to make a movie on a mobile phone. To find out more, go to therockfieldcentre.org.uk

Calls for Oban drugs mapping

by David McPhee
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



Calls are being made for a drugs mapping exercise to be carried out in Oban to gauge the true extent of the problem and to help those with addiction.

As it stands, no such study exists. The only figures available are how many clients used the needle exchange service locally, which rose to 21 in August 2018, up from 17 at the same time the previous year.

However, following the release of the numbers recently, Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute's policy lead for health and social care, told The Oban Times: 'The numbers are relatively small. I have not got the perception that there is an increasing drugs problem in the town.'

When asked about a mapping exercise, Mr Green added: 'I don't know how feasible it is to have a study of how many people are taking drugs. We would have to be pretty intrusive and it would be a massive amount of work and I don't think you could guarantee to be successful.'

However, fellow councillor Julie McKenzie said Oban 'absolutely' had a problem with drugs.

She told The Oban Times: 'Oban, like any other Scottish town, is not immune to drug-related issues. Often it's the most vulnerable drug users who are not in touch with services.'

'I am aware that there have been issues with overdoses over the Christmas period with individuals being taken

to the local A&E.

'I think it's time for a mapping exercise to ascertain the true nature and extent of drug use in the area. Most people who take heroin will be poly drug users, meaning they will use a combination, including prescribed drugs that are bought illicitly on the street.'

Councillor McKenzie said there was a need to move away from stigmatising drug users and 'realise that it could be anyone of us that needs help at any given point'.

'I am a former drug worker,' she added. 'That's why I am calling for a mapping exercise. It's not about being intrusive or targeting drug users in any kind of negative way. All research and data required by such an exercise could be captured anonymously.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Julie is right to argue that a better understanding is needed as all the evidence shows that across the country the pattern of drug misuse has changed in recent years.'

'Finding out how that has affected Oban and putting in place strategies to deal with it is the right approach and I would urge action on that issue from those responsible.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership previously said: 'We provide a range of support mechanisms in Oban, and Argyll and Bute generally, for people who use drugs.'

'These include harm reduction nurses, needle exchange services and opioid substitution therapy such as the prescription of methadone.'

'We would also like to emphasise that we would actively encourage anyone using drugs to access the services we provide locally.'

Ron Senior, from Addaction, Scotland's largest drug and alcohol charity, said: 'Our frontline Addaction staff work hard to support people with problematic alcohol or substance use in Argyll and Bute.'

'We put service users at the heart of everything we do, so we have individual assessments and action plans before one-to-one work begins. We meet people at times and places that suit them and work together to get them into recovery, no matter how long that takes.'

'When we see the difference drug and alcohol support makes to individuals and families, we're in no doubt that this is an important part of Argyll and Bute's communities. At the end of the day though, charities like ourselves can only operate in places where our services are commissioned.'

'If research can show the need for investing in drug and alcohol services, then we're in support of that. Drug and alcohol problems are public health issues, so increasing these services can benefit everyone. The more people we can reach across Argyll and Bute, the more support we can provide. This could change the outlook today and for the future.'

To find out more about Addaction, visit <https://www.addaction.org.uk/our-services-scotland>



Fashion changes, but style endures



Black is the new black

Choose a statement kitchen this season



Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Visit our showrooms and get inspired!
1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

Oban to the 'four' in holiday survey

Oban remains a top choice for staycationers, according to Scotland's longest established self-catering agency.

Data collected by Cottages & Castles revealed that the Gateway to the Isles was fourth on the list of the country's top five holiday destinations which was topped by Loch Ness, with Loch Lomond in second, Skye third, and Arran completing the holiday map.

Kilfinan House, near Tighnabruaich, was among the top three most visited large houses

in 2018, with figures showing a seven per cent increase in bookings compared to 2017.

Jemima Kirkwood, manager of Cottages & Castles, said: 'There's no doubt that the effects of Brexit and the subsequent fall in the value of the pound against the Euro and the US Dollar, has resulted in more holiday-makers choosing a staycation. Scotland has so many outstanding places offering the ideal holiday destination for families and large groups, with an abundance of outdoor attractions on your doorstep.'

Visiting motorist banned for dangerous driving

A visitor to Oban reversed the wrong way down Argyll Square and found himself losing his driving licence.

Craig Peter Donnachie was found guilty by Sheriff Patrick Hughes on Tuesday last week of dangerous driving.

Oban Sheriff Court was shown a CCTV recording of the incident, which took place late at night on January 29 last year.

Donnachie left his car parked outside the front of a hotel on Argyll Square near to the pedestrian crossing. He reversed back around the side of the hotel, well into Airds Place, swinging the car across both carriageways to pull into a parking space on the opposite side of the road.

In the recording, Donnachie, of 7 South Street, Greenock, is accompanied out of the hotel by a member of staff who gestures with his arm back towards Airds Place. He then



gets into his car and carries out the manoeuvre. A police car appears immediately. It was late at night with no other traffic or pedestrians.

Donnachie, 42, told the court the member of staff advised him that he could not leave his car in front of the hotel and told him where he could park. He had not appreciated that the road in front of the hotel was one-way.

Sheriff Hughes fined him £300 and disqualified him from driving for 12 months.

Housing plan given ministerial approval

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Construction work on phase three of the Dunbeg Development Corridor Masterplan officially got off the ground on Monday.

Representatives from Link, Argyll and Bute Council and West Highland Housing Association welcomed the minister for local government and housing for Scotland, Kevin Stewart, to a sod-cutting event at the site which will feature 600 new homes.

The project, approved by Argyll and Bute Council in May 2017, is being supported by the Scottish Government with £35.5 million from the Affordable Housing Supply Programme to allow the development of 300 affordable homes.

Mr Stewart told The Oban Times: 'This investment will make a real difference, not just by providing more homes, but



also supporting the economic regeneration of the area.

'I am really pleased to have been asked to come along and cut the sod to mark the start of work on phase three.'

Chairwoman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Councillor Elaine Robertson thanked Mr Stewart for his attendance and added: 'This development will be a huge asset when it is completed, bringing much-needed, high quality, affordable homes to families. It will help to

put Dunbeg on the map as a sought-after location, and will hopefully encourage people to live, work and visit this beautiful area.'

Link, in partnership with its subsidiary West Highland Housing Association, has already completed the first 75 affordable homes on the site, including 50 intermediate rent-to-buy properties and 25 social rent homes.

Link chief executive Jon Turner said: 'This event marks an important step in our mas-

Minister Kevin Stewart cuts first sod at Dunbeg phase three.

terplan, which seeks to transform the Dunbeg corridor area into a family orientated, vibrant and sustainable rural place.

'It is envisaged the development will also have wider social benefits and be a catalyst for shops, cafes, community uses and commercial activity.'

West Highland Housing Association chief executive Lesley McInnes added: 'A unique opportunity exists to create a gateway to Oban and the Isles, in which we will deliver a mix of houses for sale and rent.'

In addition to Dunbeg, Mr Stewart also visited Link and West Highland's new development of eight affordable homes at Albany Street and the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) funded works at Kirk Road.

Argyll College and SAMS students unaffected by planned strike action

Students in the Oban area were unaffected by the Educational Institute of Scotland Education Lecturers Association (EIS-EELA) strike last Wednesday.

Colleges in other parts of Scotland suffered some disruption due to the 24-hour strike by lecturers over pay, but neither the Argyll

College, University of the Highlands and Islands, or the Scottish Marine Institute at Dunbeg were troubled.

A spokesperson from Argyll College said: 'None of our Oban-based staff took part in Wednesday's strike action, and across our 10 learning centres less than one per cent of staff

participated. As a result our students have been largely unaffected.

'We will continue to communicate with and support students during any future industrial action.'

Further strikes are planned for Tuesday February 5, Wednesday March 6 and Thursday March 21.

Oban officer retires after 30 years



A well-known Oban police officer carried out his last patrol on Thursday. PC Charles Masterson, better known as 'Big Chick', retired after 30 years of service. Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Police Division paid tribute to the 'one of a kind' officer, saying: 'He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and many in the local community which he served.'

COMING SOON
TO OBAN

SILVERLINE
GREETINGS CARDS

STOCKING A WIDE RANGE OF
GREETINGS CARDS, GIFTS,
WRAPPING PAPER, TAGS, PARTY
BUNTING, HELIUM BALLOONS
AND LATEX BALLOONS,
HAND MADE CHOCOLATE
BOXES, PARTY CAKES FOR
ALL OCCASIONS, JEWELLERY,
FASHION AND MUCH MORE.

89-91 GEORGE STREET OBAN
NEXT TO KEBABISH
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS
YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

OT

Leave barrier alone, councillor appeals

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban's Black Lynn flood barrier is ready and waiting to defend against high waters but vandals could ruin it all.

Councillor Jim Lynch is pleading with those still messing with the barrier units and throwing sandbags into the burn to leave well alone.

Vandals who tampered with the sandbags and removed one of the barrier's units earlier this month throwing it in the burn have already been branded 'shameful' by Argyll and Bute Council but, according to reports made to Councillor Lynch, those responsible are 'still at it'.

He said: 'They are still at it. Messing around with the barrier and throwing sandbags into the water is irresponsible and dangerous. They have been put there for a reason - to protect people and their



Councillor Jim Lynch.

properties. It's frustrating that this is happening. I'm asking people to leave it alone and would encourage families to talk about it with their children so they understand why the barrier and sandbags are there and how important they are.'

The low-level barrier has now been appropriately filled

with ballast to weigh it down and has been turned the right way round since an article appeared in The Oban Times pointing out it appeared to have been wrongly installed.

Councillor Lynch is also calling on Argyll and Bute Council to make sure pumps are closer to hand than Helensburgh the next time the Black Lynn floods.

'We must make sure we are ready if something similar to the October floods happens again. If we're ready to respond and the pumps are nearby, then we are half way there to saving problems,' he said.

A second drop-in session is now being organised by the council for people to have their say on flooding in their town.

There was an initial consultation in June 2018 but since then the severe floods on October 9 caused widespread flooding in the

Lochavullin area as well as other parts of the town resulting in local residents and businesses experiencing significant damage and disruption.

A flood study being carried out by Argyll and Bute Council, together with EnviroCentre Ltd, wants to hear about people's experiences and thoughts as well as to gather any photos that could help.

Met Office climate change projections are predicting extreme tidal levels could rise by up to 0.5 metres along the coastline by the year 2080 and that the area will suffer greater flooding of drains and watercourses.

The drop-in will be at the Rockfield Centre on Wednesday January 30 from 11am to 5.30pm. Anyone who cannot attend can still send information or suggestions to ObanFRM@envirocentre.co.uk.

Book your place for Oban Gaelic Gathering

Argyll and Bute Council is encouraging people to book their places for the second Gaelic Gathering, which takes place at Oban's Corran Halls on Saturday March 2.

The free event brings people together to celebrate Gaelic history and consider how to strengthen and grow the language in Argyll and Bute.

It provides an opportunity for organisations, community groups and individuals to meet national organisations and share ideas on how to develop Gaelic.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for Gaelic, said: 'The first Gaelic Gathering was very successful and I'm delighted that it is back for 2019. It's such an important event and it presents a real opportunity for everyone with an interest in Gaelic to share thoughts and ideas on how we can help it flourish.'

'As a council, we are committed to doing what we can to ensure a long-term future for Gaelic in Argyll and Bute. It's in all our interests that Gaelic prospers in Argyll and Bute.'



Councillor Robin Currie.

Holding a Gaelic Gathering every two years is part of the council's Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022, which was developed to get more people to learn and speak the language and make the most of the economic benefits that it brings.

The Gaelic Gathering will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Although entry is free, those interested should book their place via <http://tiny.cc/gaelic>

The event is bilingual and translation headsets will be available for anyone who requires them, and the venue is fully accessible. A light lunch will be provided.





Cairngorm Group
tougher.warmer.smarter

Fashion changes, but style endures



Black is the new black

Choose a **statement** kitchen this season



Visit our **showrooms** and get inspired!
 1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
 Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
 6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

[Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@cairngormgroup.co.uk)

www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

First month has passed in a flash

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



I had expected to have a nice quiet January at work but it has been anything but, thank goodness, as the month has passed in a flash.

Our office in Stevenson Street has been a busy wee place with lots of people planning ahead and coming in to buy their tickets for Oban Live. It has definitely been busier than last year at this time and it is so nice to have something to look forward to when it's cold and dark.

We're also busy with our LoveOban vouchers, which sold really well just before Christmas, and they're still going like a fair. They do make things so much easier

WHERE IS THIS?



when you're struggling to think of what to get someone. You know that they can be used to buy anything from a massage, to a lovely dinner, to a haircut, which means they really do suit everyone.

Personally, I would much rather give a gift I know will be used and appreciated rather than spend hours and give myself a headache

trying to choose something because I'm never sure I've got it quite right.

I've also been working on a list of all the events that are coming up in 2019 which is nearing completion but if anyone would like anything added, then let me know by emailing kay@bid4oban.co.uk by the end of January.

It's good to be able to plan in advance and make sure your event doesn't clash with anything else.

That's also one of the best uses of Oban Town Diary, so don't forget to add your events as soon as possible and hopefully everyone will check what's on and avoid having three coffee mornings on the same day.

The photograph last week was of the car park for the Rockfield Centre. This week's may be a little easier.

Argyll and Bute is poor for broadband speed

A recent survey has placed Argyll and Bute Council third from bottom out of every local authority area in Scotland for broadband speeds.

The survey, carried out by the consumer magazine Which?, measured the broadband speeds of all of

Scotland's 32 local authorities in the year to September 2018, carrying out 277,575 speed tests.

It found that the average broadband speed in Argyll and Bute was a mere 7Mbps, with only Shetland and Orkney doing worse with registered speeds of 6.7Mbps

and 3Mbps respectively. The Scottish Government defines superfast broadband as having 'speeds greater than 30 Mbps', and has made a commitment on several occasions to ensure that 'every home and business in Scotland [has] access to superfast broadband by 2021'.

Oban High's fest event inspires special release

Skerryvore are to release a new music video and a special edition of their EVO album tracks Soraidh Slàn and The Rise on Burns Day, January 25, with all proceeds going to Oban High School Pipe Band (OHSPB).

The project was inspired by a mind-blowing on-stage collaboration between the two bands at Skerryvore's signature music festival Oban Live, in June 2018.

The slow, respectful air Soraidh Slàn, a farewell to loved ones lost in 2017, plays before The Rise, an upbeat note delivered by all eight Skerryvore musicians playing at full pelt. Both were written by the band's co-founder Martin Gillespie (Highland bagpipes) and produced by Alan Scobie (keys).

The new adapted tracks bring a pipe band flare with the addition of snare drum sounds and instrumental



Skerryvore and Oban High School Pipe Band perform at Oban Live last year.

drum solo, as performed with OHSPB at Oban Live.

The six-minute music video, an absolute must-see, was directed and filmed by Dòmhnall Eòghainn MacKinnon and stars Skerryvore and members of OHSPB. In the video's atmospheric opening, Soraidh Slàn plays as viewers hear spoken words from William Blake's Introduction to the Songs of Innocence 'Piping down the valleys wild', while

watching stunning drone footage of the Isle of Tiree and Oban. It then leads into the track The Rise with footage of OHSPB at Oban's McCaig's Tower and the moment that inspired the project, on stage with Skerryvore at Oban Live 2018.

Around 4,500 people at Oban Live 2018, and 93,000 viewers on Facebook, witnessed the unique moment when the 25-strong OHSPB joined Skerryvore on stage.

Around 17 pipers performed Soraidh Slàn.

The haunting atmosphere was soon switched up to full adrenaline-pumping speed when 15 drummers from the school band joined the pipers and all eight Skerryvore musicians for an extraordinary performance of The Rise, including a spectacular drum solo accessorised by LED drumsticks and stage-lighting production.

Since it was founded in 2005, Oban High School Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, has had unprecedented success, claiming the titles of Scottish, European and World Champions in Novice Juvenile, and being crowned Champions of Champions in 2010.

Pipe Major MacColl said: 'We are really grateful to Skerryvore to have this track and video released with proceeds going to OHSPB.

Joining them on stage for such an exciting spectacle at last year's Oban Live, as well as featuring in this stunning music video, has been a real highlight for OHSPB.

'Working with Skerryvore on this project has brought fantastic and well-deserved opportunities for the young people to showcase their hard-earned talents to thousands of people and provided them with an experience that they will never forget.'

Martin Gillespie added: 'Huge credit and thanks goes to Angus and all the young people in OHSPB. Their professionalism, talent and enthusiasm are very impressive and inspirational. They are a joy to work with.'

Download Soraidh Slàn and The Rise on all formats, out Friday January 25. The full length music video will be available on Skerryvore's YouTube and Facebook page.

Bagpipes are booming in the islands

There are now around 30 pipers across Lewis and Harris schools, many of whom are members of the Lewis and Harris Youth Pipe Band.

As a means of securing future progress, the newly formed committee has registered the band as a charity and put a development plan in place. The band practises on a regular basis and now boasts a development section as well as the regular pipe band. New members are always welcome.

LHYPB intends to compete at the Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Championships, in Livingston on March 10. Some 65 bands participate in the event which has a range of options such as quartets for beginners, a freestyle for a fusion of music styles and instruments as well as the regular pipe band competition. LHYPB won third place in the Debut A section the first time they competed in 2016 and it is hoped they will improve on this performance.

Heart and Soul of Scotland

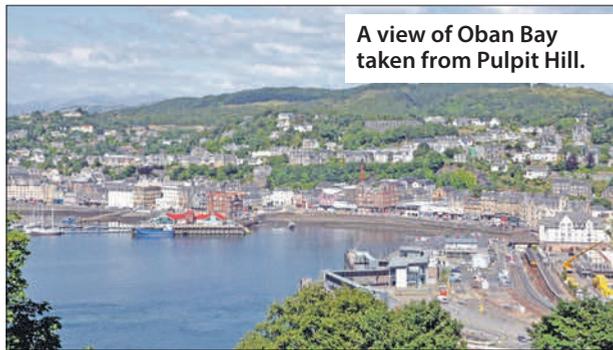
A new campaign has been launched to encourage visitors to explore beyond Glasgow and discover Scotland's Adventure Coast - Argyll.

Wild About Argyll, which is behind the promotion, has also posted a video detailing some of the region's highlights - including towns, islands, scenery, and wildlife, with a soundtrack by Skerryvore.

The video encourages visitors to make the best of both worlds.

Glasgow is a cultural powerhouse of music, art, architecture, design and innovative food and drink experiences.

It's vibrant and dynamic, and has been voted the



A view of Oban Bay taken from Pulpit Hill.

world's friendliest city.

Argyll and the Isles, known as Scotland's Adventure Coast, has a coastline longer than France, 23 inhabited islands and more than 2,000km of trails. There's also 7,000 years of history and some

of Scotland's best food and drink.

To watch the video, visit <https://youtu.be/BXXqSJkf7ug> and to find out more about the campaign, visit www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk/heart-and-soul/

Man placed on supervision after disturbance

A man caused trouble when living in accommodation for vulnerable people, Oban Sheriff Court was told last week.

Lee Martin Spence, 29, was living at Room 2, Solas, Albany Street, Oban, and had previously admitted behaving in a threatening and abusive manner by shouting, swearing, striking doors and attempting to gain access to the rooms of other residents.

The housing association property is to support, accommodate and assist vulnerable people, and one of his fellow tenants was so distressed that he had to be taken to hospital.

During the incident, which began at 2am on November 21 last year, Spence began to bang on doors and in particular kept asking one other client to go and buy alcohol.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes

called for reports on Spence and, after reading these, he placed Spence on a community payback order last week. This involves supervision by a social worker for two years' rehabilitation and 150 hours of unpaid work in the community. He must live at his mother's address at Rothesay, Isle of Bute, and undergo a restriction of liberty order between 5pm and 4am for 12 months.

The Oban Times reaches more than half of all households in Argyll

That's more than 28,000 readers

Inserts in the Oban Times £40/1000
Volume discounts available

Put your leaflets flyers brochures menus In the hands of your customers

Instead of your printed material gathering dust make it work for you with a cost effective distribution service.

Call us on 0161 568000

The Oban Times

OT

Dunbeg's Kirk Road fails surface inspection

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A road in Dunbeg which received a £1.75 million grant has failed its latest inspection, just days before construction was to start on hundreds of new homes.

The village's Kirk Road will serve 600 new homes that are scheduled to be built between Dunbeg and Ganavan.

Work on the first phase is due to get under way on Monday January 21 with the cutting of the first sod.

However, the road surface failed its latest inspection and further work will have to be done.

Dunbeg resident and community councillor Allan Strang said: 'How can they get away with this shambles? It's been a year since they cleared the tree line on Kirk Road to start the works.

'Why has it taken so long to



Dunbeg's Kirk Road failed its latest inspection.

complete? We're not getting any clear answers from Argyll and Bute Council.'

Fellow community councillor Bill Harvey said: 'I think you could say that members

of the Dunbeg Community Council were not impressed.

'The whole road has to be redone we understand; general opinion was what a waste of money. Hopefully, they get

the culprits to pay and watch whoever redoes the road.'

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Elaine Robertson added: 'The issue with the new surface on Kirk Road is most

unfortunate, and I would like to assure the people of Dunbeg that council officers are working closely with the contractors to arrange repairs and to minimise the disruption.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'A quality inspection of the road surface has been carried out and it has been determined that further work is required to bring it to an acceptable standard.

'This work will be carried out by our contractor at no additional expense to the council. This will result in some traffic disruption, the details of which will be communicated as they become available.'

When completed, the work promises to boast a six-metre carriageway, with a three-metre footpath and cyclepath on one side and a three-metre verge on the other.

There will also be lighting installed along the length of the road.

Drive to help people on low incomes

The Scottish Government is urging low-income families in Argyll and Bute to find out how they can maximise their income and reduce costs.

The Financial Health Check is a one-stop personalised service on money matters. One call to the free helpline is all it takes for families to find out what they are entitled to.

Low-income families could benefit from the service which is being delivered by the Citizens Advice network in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government.

Aileen Campbell, cabinet secretary for communities and local government, said: 'The Financial Health Check is an invaluable source of support for families on a low income and friendly, experienced advisers are on hand to walk through all options.'

People can access it by calling the free helpline on 0800 085 7145 and get the financial support they need and are entitled to.

Safety figures at Clyde naval base are 'reasonable', claims councillor

An Argyll and Bute councillor has criticised figures for safety incidents at HM Naval Base Clyde, writes Euan Carr.

The MoD stated last year that a total of 505 incidents were reported at Faslane since 2006, while a freedom of information request has also revealed 284 at Coulport, making a total of 789.

The figures were revealed last week after a freedom of information request to the MoD by SNP MP Deirdre Brock, who branded them 'a shocking record of accidents and incidents'.

But Councillor George Freeman, who lives in Garelochhead, said no concerns had been raised over the number of incidents reported at Faslane and Coulport.

Councillor Freeman said: 'Unfortunately, some of



Concerns have been raised about safety at the naval base.

the reports relating to safety incidents that have appeared in the media recently have been misleading.

'Although the reports highlight that there have been 789 incidents at HM Naval Base Clyde, most of the media reports do not highlight that these have taken place over the past 13 years which

equates to approximately one per week.

'Given that HMNBC is the largest industrial complex in Scotland, with many thousands of workers on site, and given that these figures include the most minor incidents, the figures reported certainly do not appear to be unreasonable.'

Appeal to patients over appointments

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is reminding members of the public that if they cannot make appointments to call in and let staff know.

Kristin Gillies, from the HSCP, said: 'Every month

thousands of people attend appointments with a health and social care professional either in the community or in one of the hospitals across Argyll and Bute.

'The vast majority of people attend on the day, or call in if

they can't make it. In a small number of cases, however, people don't attend appointments and don't let us know. We understand things can crop up at short notice but we would be really grateful if they could call in and let us know.'



SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2019

CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S COUNTRYSIDE AT THE 2019 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA DINNER



THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2019
AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT:
www.scottishruralawards.org/buy-tickets-for-2019

PROUDLY PARTNERED BY

SCOTTISH FIELD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

ROYAL HIGHLAND & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

OUR SPONSORS

Chiene-Tait
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GILLESPIE MACANDREW

ArdMoore
The outdoor clothing experts

holidaycottages.co.uk

@ruralawards Scottish Rural Awards www.scottishruralawards.org

Dad of two confronted by man wielding knife

A holidaymaker who thought someone was knocking at the wrong caravan by mistake late at night opened the door to be confronted by a man with a knife who told him: 'Time to die.'

The 52-year-old victim told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday: 'He stepped and spoke and lunged at the same time.'

His teenage son and daughter were asleep in the caravan at the time. He managed to push off his attacker, Gordon Hughes. Once back in the caravan with the door locked, he telephoned for the police.

Since that night on July 4, 2017, Gordon Hughes, aged 20, has been detained under mental health legislation and is now at The State Hospital, Carstairs.

In the accused's absence, Sheriff Patrick Hughes deemed that Hughes, from

Glasgow, had carried out the charges libelled after having been found unfit to plead: striking his victim on the body with a knife, to his injury; having a knife with him without reasonable excuse; and behaving in a threatening or abusive manner uttering threats of violence.

Hughes, who has a history of mental illness from his childhood, was holidaying with his parents in the neighbouring caravan at Oban Caravan and Camping, Gallanach Road, Oban.

The victim, from Midlothian, said: 'I felt a scratch on my arm and I pushed him away. I think he fell over the tow bar of my vehicle. I was in a T-shirt and pyjamas.' The wound was a centimetre-long cut on his right forearm.

I was more worried for my children. It was a traumatic



Oban Sheriff Court.

experience for everyone concerned. It is not what you expect on your summer vacation.'

Police were at the campsite within 10 minutes. He said: 'The police officers were superb and helped allay the fears of my children.'

Hughes was found by police in the neighbouring caravan.

Constable Lewis MacIntyre told the court he had arrived after two other colleagues and had gone to this caravan be-

cause the light was on. He said: 'Hughes' mother answered the door and said, "I think it is my son you are looking for". I found a male lying on his back in the living room area. He had a stab wound to his abdomen and was repeatedly shouting, "I want to die".'

The officer recovered a kitchen knife with a four-inch blade from the scene and went in the ambulance with Hughes to Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.

On the day in question, Hughes' mother said he had taken his medication as usual but had later vomited. She had checked on him and thought he was asleep in bed but she awoke as he returned. Her son was very agitated and told her: 'I have gone out in this campsite and I have scared a man.'

He then produced the knife and, telling her he wanted to kill himself, stabbed

himself in the stomach. The wound was so deep it needed stitching.

'I ran for a sponge there was blood all over the place,' she said. Shortly after this, the police arrived.

Hughes' mother told the court her son was first diagnosed with autism when he was five, and he also suffered from learning difficulties and ADHD. He had other mental illness diagnoses and had not responded well to some medication.

She said the family had repeatedly had difficulty in getting treatment for him. She added: 'There was no help, I was desperate for help.' The family had moved home. 'No one has come to our house in Scotland; not a mental health nurse, not a social worker.'

Sheriff Hughes deferred sentence until February 11 for medical reports to be received.

£5,000 grant awarded to islands project

The Crerar Trust has awarded a grant of £5,000 to Islay and Jura Community Enterprises (IJCE).

IJCE, trading as The Mactaggart Leisure Centre, is seeking to install a Hypolyser electro chlorinator machine which will generate chlorine for use in the swimming pool and this grant will be used to help fund its purchase.

Rather than buy drums of chlorine from mainland chemical companies, the leisure centre will only have to purchase bags of salt. This salt is dissolved in water in a brine tank and the mixture then pumped through an electric cell to produce chlorine which is dosed directly in to the swimming pool.

Gary Scott, chief executive of IJCE, said: 'A big thank you to the The Crerar Trust for kickstarting our fundraising campaign to purchase a Hypolyser machine. Our chemical costs will be reduced by 50 per cent.'



Oban Rotary gives cash boost to Hope

The Rotary Club of Oban raised £260 from the raffle at its annual charter dinner and this sum was donated to Hope Kitchen. Rotary Club president Iain MacIntyre handed over the cheque to Hope Kitchen manager Lorraine

MacCormick, accompanied by colleagues Ann Forbes and Fiona Ferris. Supporting Iain were Rotarians David Finlayson, Ken Moncrieff, Ken Oxland, Peter Tosh and Ronnie Frew. A further sum of £200

forming part of the donations received from Oban Rotary's annual Christmas carol concert was later donated to Hope Kitchen in line with the club's commitment to support local good causes.

Argyll and Bute MP hosts fishing summit

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has called for wider recognition of the vital role of the fishing industries in the west coast of Scotland following a summit in Glasgow.

Around 50 skippers, processors and exporters, mainly from the west coast, met in Glasgow on Friday January 11 for a fishing summit hosted and organised by Mr O'Hara and the Communities Inshore

Fisheries Alliance (CIFA). The summit was also attended by Fergus Ewing MSP, cabinet secretary for the rural economy and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I had become concerned that politicians, the media and other commentators were increasingly using the term "the Scottish fishing industry" as if there was just one fishing

industry in Scotland, with one set of concerns and one shared, common view as to the future of the industry.

'I was very keen to give the smaller guys in the industry, particularly here on the west coast, the opportunity to raise their concerns aired directly with politicians from both from Holyrood and Westminster. And I'm delighted to report, they didn't waste that chance.'



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean

Foundation Apprenticeship

What does it offer your son/daughter

- ▶ A progression route to university
- ▶ An alternative to a Higher
- ▶ Valuable work experience
- ▶ Opportunity to study at college and school

Apply now for subjects in: **Business skills; Engineering; Children and Young People;**

Contact the school's guidance teacher or Argyll College UHI

www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/school

Jahama boss jumps ship for MacBrayne's

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Duncan Mackison, the chief executive of Jahama Highland Estates, which manages the 114,000 acres of land for the owners of the Liberty British Aluminium smelter at Fort William, is to join CalMac owner David MacBrayne Ltd. The board of David MacBrayne announced on Tuesday that former Royal Marines officer Mr Mackison would be its new group chief executive and will start on March 1.

Jahama Highland Estates is a subsidiary of Lochaber smelter owner GFG Alliance, which intends to build a new alloy car wheels plant nearby. Mr Mackison took up the

role with Jahama Highland Estates in the summer of 2017 amid much fanfare over GFG Alliance's plans for its new projects in Lochaber.

MacBrayne's chairman David McGibbon said the board was delighted.

'Duncan brings considerable marine experience to this role. He is a former Royal Marine commando officer and, more recently, was managing director of Serco Defence, where he had responsibility for managing aviation and maritime contracts for the Ministry of Defence.

'This included the provision of vessels to provide maritime support to the Royal Navy. Duncan also has considerable experience and a strong track record in deliver-

ing service contracts to both central and local government.

'Looking ahead, the group faces many challenges. We will continue to deliver ferry services to the Clyde and Hebrides through our subsidiary company, CalMac Ferries Limited.

'In addition, we will also be addressing the forthcoming tender process for the new contract to deliver ferry services to the Orkney and Shetland Islands, a process which has already begun.

'This year will also be an important year in the development of the port facilities at Marchwood, a contract which is operated for the Ministry of Defence through our joint venture company, Solent Gateway Limited.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The first weekend of Celtic Connections got off to a great start and I managed to attend concerts consecutively on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The following is an overview of each event.

Tiree: A Toast to 10 Years of Tiree Music Festival.

This gig attracted a standing crowd of more than 1,500 to the Fruitmarket in Glasgow's Merchant City area. The size of the gig, the calibre of the bands and the lively capacity crowd reflected the extent to which TMF punches above its weight as a small festival on a remote island with a population of only around 700.

A highlight of this night for me was playing a set of tunes alongside Gordon Connell, who joined a whole host of musicians from various bands on stage as the TMF All Stars.

Without Gordon's influence on the music of Tiree, the festival would never have been conceived and it is excellent that Daniel, Stewart and the rest of the TMF team recognise this by always having him as an integral part of the fabric of the festival.

An amazing line-up for TMF 2019 was announced and tickets are already well on the way to sell-out.

Allan Henderson – The Formative Playlist.

By a fairly large margin, this was the most enjoyable seated concert I've been at in many years.

The concept was unusual. A programme chosen at random from a shuffling playlist on a giant onstage MP3 player made up of tracks that had been influential in Allan's early life. Once selected, the songs or tunes would be played by the on-stage line-up of top performers, but only after the track, the band and the reasons for inclusion would be given by Allan.

This man needs a radio or television career. Good as the music was, it was Allan's informative and very witty and highly entertaining intros that were the highlight of the show.

I was riveted throughout both halves of Allan's show and on the edge of my seat in anticipation for what band, track and introduction was coming next.

Carmicheal's Ceilidh – The Life of a Legend.

As a mark of accordion legend John Carmicheal's recently celebrated 80th birthday, this combination of chat show and concert was the perfect way to allow an audience of his fans to enjoy a fascinating and hilariously funny look back over his incredible career.

Hosted expertly by BBC Take the Floor's Gary Innes, the first half was a Parkinson-style chat with John along with guests and fellow octogenarian musical legends Fergie MacDonald and Alasdair Gillies.

As with Allan's concert, the chat and stories were fascinating and hilarious. The second half was a concert and the music was phenomenally good. The energy and charisma that John displayed is a clear indicator as to why he had such hugely successful performance career.

I think Gary Innes and Allan Henderson should approach the BBC to co-host a regular chat show with guests like this. I would never miss an episode!

SHOP LOCAL

We call it the '**Oban £££**'
because every pound bought stays in Oban!

Love Oban Vouchers AVAILABLE NOW

The perfect gift, available from:
Alba, The Sports Shop, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Websters of Oban and the Bid4Oban office



Visit www.bid4oban.co.uk to find out more

Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



The Tayvallich Inn

Now reopen after our
SUPER REFURBISHMENT!

What better way to celebrate and lift your spirits in January than with our:

HAPPY Weekend

Special drinks promotions and great food all weekend:
25th/26th/27th January.

Super deals on 'wines, spirits, beers on tap and soft drinks!
Feeling hungry? 2 courses just £14 and 3 courses £18.

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL
www.tayvallichinn.com

For reservations contact us on **01546 870282**

Want to join our team? We are looking for a Commis Chef - please get in touch if interested



FRESH LOCAL

SEAFOOD

THE SEABED RESTAURANT
at The Anchor Hotel

CALL TO BOOK
01880 820577

Harbour St Tarbert PA29 6UB



Have you got the right ingredients for this job?

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



If you can stand heat, get into the kitchen.

Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre is on the look-out for a new cook to help put its cafe on Argyll's food map.

The ideal candidate would be responsible for running the busy kitchen that feeds up to 100 tourists and locals each day during the summer.

The new cook would also supervise and manage other kitchen staff. Experience is necessary for the role and so is a friendly face with a love of people and good food.

The job would be full-time from April to October and then part-time hours in winter when the centre is open Fridays to Mondays 11am to 4pm.

Centre manager Jane Churchill said: 'We need somebody who loves both food and people and can help



Kitchen staff Rikki and Rachel at Luing's Atlantic Islands Centre.

us get people talking about the food in the centre for all the right reasons. We have some excellent local suppliers from bread, to seafood to jam and eggs and we'd like to develop

this more. It's a great position for somebody and we really want to see if we can find anyone locally from around the Oban area before we open it out further afield.

'We're also looking at trying to source some accommodation on the island.

'Being cook here is an absolutely vital role - it's pivotal to the centre.'

Tribute paid to former councillor

The convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has paid tribute to former councillor, the Rev Roderick M Mackinnon, who died recently.

Rev Mackinnon, who hailed from Bunavoneadar, Harris, was elected to represent the new Lochboisdale ward from 1975 to 1981 and a former chairman of the social work committee. He was the Church of Scotland Minister in South Uist at that time.

Convener Norman A Macdonald said: 'Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends.'

Oban Army Cadets wants new recruits

The Oban detachment of the Army Cadets is looking for new recruits. Boys and girls aged between 12 and 18 years are welcome to join. Activities include military themes, canoeing, mountain biking and archery. Meetings are on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm at the Cadet Centre in Tweedale Street. Go to armycadets.com to find out more.

An Oban restaurant is hosting a eight-course meal and wine tasting event

Attention all food and wine lovers - the Manor House in Oban will be hosting a French wine tasting dinner next month.

The restaurant will be serving a eight-course meal on February 7 and each dish will be accompanied by a pairing glass of wine.

Oban foodies will be able to enjoy hand-dived scallops, gin-cured salmon, and roasted wood pigeon, and red deer venison, to name a few of the ingredients.

Not forgetting the wine enthusiasts, who will be in their element as a Guy Chatfield, from Inverarity Morton, educates them on tipples such as Chablis Colombier, Vouvray Vieux Vauvert, and Maury Mas Janeil VDN.

Speaking about the night, head chef, Gerard McCluskey promised it would be a lively atmosphere.

The french classically trained chef said he likes to put on a few taster sessions a year.

'We are a two Rosette establishment,' he said. '[We] want to be pushing ourselves for more accolades this year. For me, it is testing out the balance of flavours of food I am producing this year.'

Gerard, who describes his food as a french take with a modern twist, has been a chef for 13-years and spent three of those in Oban at the Manor House.

'I have really enjoyed it,' he said. 'They have given us the freedom to do what we want

to do. We have been able to be really creative.'

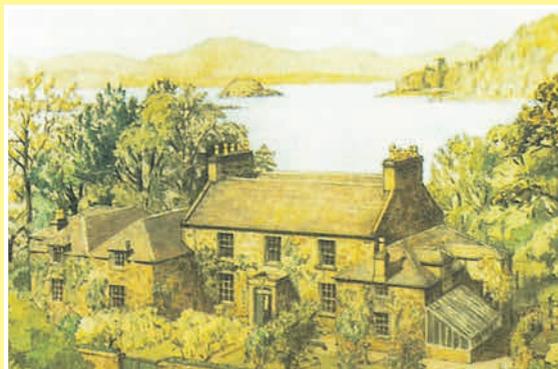
The former East Kilbride man said he is most looking forward to serving his hand-dived scallops dish.

'It is a bit different from what people are used to,' he added.

The evening will cost £95. To book, call 01631 562087. The full menu with wines can be viewed on the Manor House website. www.manorhouseoban.com



ADVERTORIAL



Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

Join us for a very special

8 Course Wine Tasting Dinner -

French cuisine accompanied by French wines

Thursday 7th February £95

Overlooking the Harbour

Gallanach Road • Oban 01631 562087 www.manorhouseoban.com

OT

Iona aims to beat the blues

Iona McMurdo has been appointed Beating the Blues coordinator for Argyll and Bute.

Beating the Blues is an on-line cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) course for the treatment of low to moderate anxiety and depression which can now be accessed by people living in Argyll and Bute.

Iona can assist with any technical difficulties, helps keep people motivated and provides support in order to help steer people through the programme.

She also keeps GPs up to date with progress reports for their patients while they are working their way through their recovery journey.

Nikki Gillespie, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's local area manager for mental health, said: 'We are very excited to be able to offer this service to the people of Argyll and Bute.'

'Studies have shown that 70 per cent of patients with mild to moderate depression who complete the online CBT programme require no further treatment and 89 per cent of participants rated Beating the Blues as helpful.'

Accessing the course is easy and referrals are available through a GP.

Patients receive an activation code within a few days of referral, authorising

access to the programme.

The programme is simple to use and doesn't involve any special computer skills but just a laptop or PC.

People who feel the service would be beneficial to their health and wellbeing are advised to speak to their GPs to discuss if the programme is suitable for them.

The therapy has been available in other health boards in Scotland for the past 10 years as part of a Scottish Government initiative.

The Beating the Blues programme helps people make sense of their feelings and uses interactive tools to help people change their thinking pattern, and learn how to overcome negative thoughts about themselves.

There are video clips which follow other people who are suffering from anxiety and depression, and exercises to complete which help put the new thinking techniques into practise so that the course can really make a difference.

The course has been designed to be completed in people's own homes and patients are in control of when and where they want to complete the online CBT therapy.

There is no need to visit clinics or sit waiting for an out-patient appointment.

Patients can quickly access the programme within



Iona McMurdo helps people with depression and anxiety.

seven days of being referred.

It is completed over eight weekly sessions which helps people to better self-manage and be in more control of dealing with their emotions.

Case studies have shown that CBT is just as effective as antidepressants for treating anxiety and depression and more effective at preventing the symptoms returning.

The therapy works for most

people who complete the course. It is a step-by-step method which means that the more it is used and the more tasks undertaken, the better people will feel.

There is information about the Beating the Blues programme on the website <http://www.beatingtheblues.co.uk>, including a demonstration video of the programme components.



Jill Denton offers support to smokers who want to quit.

Jill wants to help smokers to quit

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has appointed Jill Denton as a smoking cessation specialist to offer free support to residents in Mid Argyll, Islay and Campbeltown.

While smoking rates have fallen significantly over the past 20 years, 17 per cent of people in Argyll and Bute continue to smoke.

Jill said: 'Being smoke-free may take a number of tries before you're able to quit for good, but it can be done. Many people at this time of year know that smokers make resolutions to quit without available support.'

It is really important for

everyone to know that you are twice as likely to quit for good if you get the right professional support.

'People who have never tried to quit or have tried many times, I am keen for them to get in touch with me. I am really pleased to be helping people overcome their challenges to finding the right solutions and tools to quit for good.'

Jill will be in Campbeltown Library on Tuesdays from 10am-6pm until March 26; Wednesdays at Argyll Pharmacy Room, Lochgilphead, 10am-4pm until March 27; while residents on Islay can ring 07707 868351 or email jill.denton@nhs.net.

TRUST

RELIANCE SINCERITY COMPETENCE CREDENCE ASSURANCE COMMITMENT INTEGRITY

Local press in print and digital is **THE MOST TRUSTED** source for local news and information

- Local press in print and digital 74%
- Local commercial TV 73%
- Search engines 43%
- Social Media 22%
- Other websites 39%

Source: YouGov 2018

Krisp Cards
Cards Calendars Gifts

2019 Calendar & Diary Sale
50% OFF
USING CODE: **KCAL19**

ScottishField
ScottishField
Kintyre
Isle of A
The Oban Times
SCOTTISH CLANS
CALENDAR 2019

Shop online at www.krispcards.co.uk

Dunollie Preservation Trust marks 21st birthday

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Almost 19,000 people visited Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds in 2018, leading the way for a special anniversary year.

The driving force behind the bustling visitor attraction celebrates its 21st birthday this year and the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust plans to mark it with a series of new projects and events.

The trust, set up in 1998, turned its attention to Dunollie after it had carried out urgent conservation works on Kerrera's collapsing Gylen Castle.

More than 5,000 artefacts, textiles and archives dating as far back as the 15th century have been unearthed and catalogued by volunteers in Dunollie House.

By 2012, the trust secured a lease of the servants' quarters which were restored and converted into a small museum. In the six years that Dunollie



Dunollie explorers and their families having fun. 16_T04_Dunollieexplorersclub

has been open, it has shown 'significant growth', said a trust spokesperson.

Events already planned to make 2019 a year to remember include an international Clan MacDougall gathering from July 30 to August 4.

More than 230 tickets have been sold for the gathering, which will bring MacDougalls

from across the world to take part in a programme of events, activities and talks celebrating their ancestral clan seat. More details will be released this spring.

Saturday saw the restart after Christmas of the trust's Explore Outdoors Club for under-fives and their families. The weekly club, that will run

until March 16 from 9.30am to 11am, started as an out-of-season activity to give local children and their families a fun morning in the outdoors, hunting and gathering materials for fun heritage-inspired craft activities.

A first for this year and a must for local history enthusiasts will be a Dunollie Links

Conference all about castles of Argyll. The dates in the diary are Friday February 15 and Saturday February 16. Dunollie Links is the trust's community engagement programme working with a range of volunteers, educational and community groups to help develop special knowledge and skills in the heritage sector.

Speakers at next month's conference will cover a variety of subjects, including exploring the meaning behind place names, what archaeology can tell about how people lived and take a look at ancient castle textiles.

Every Wednesday until March 13 from 2pm to 4pm, the public is being invited to spend A Day At Dunollie to uncover more of its history by taking part in a guided tour and listening to traditional Scottish tunes from resident piper Donald MacDougall.

To find out more about these and other events coming up at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds visit dunollie.org

Opticians look at lens recycling

Oban opticians are looking into joining the UK's first free national recycling scheme for plastic contact lenses.

If the town takes up the initiative, wearers would be able to drop off their used soft lenses and packaging at an official recycling point.

The lenses would go on to be washed, separated and shredded before being melted and formed into plastic pellets for use in new plastic products such as outdoor benches.

Both Specsavers and Carol Lekalake in George Street said they were interested in finding out more about the scheme.

Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative is also looking into it.

An estimated 3.7 million people nationally wear contact lenses. About 20 per cent of wearers admit they dispose of them by flushing them down the toilet or the sink. The new scheme hopes to reduce plastic waste in landfill and the oceans by providing a simple and practical alternative.

The scheme is a collaboration between the medical manufacturer Johnson & Johnson Vision and the recycling firm TerraCycle.

'Seventy-seven per cent of British contact lens wearers said they would recycle if they could and we share their interest in reducing the amount of plastics in the environment,' said Sandra Rasche, of Johnson & Johnson Medical.

Argyll and Bute HSCP expresses support #smearforsmear campaign

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is promoting the campaign #smearforsmear to encourage women to attend

cervical screening appointments following research that the number of people going for smear tests is lower than ever.

The HSCP is very keen to

motivate women living in Argyll and Bute to access cervical screening and not to ignore the invitation letters and reminders.

The cervical screening test only takes around three minutes to complete.

A sample of cells is taken from the cervix and sent for

testing to check for anything out of the ordinary.

For more information visit the website www.jostrust.org.uk or NHS Inform.

Maintenance Free Roofline



- 50 year guarantee
- Facia & soffit replacement
- Registered Freefoam installer
- Woodgrain colours available



- ROOFLINE • SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFS
- TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS • DRIVEWAYS
- WINDOWS & DOORS • GARAGE DOORS • CONSERVATORIES

CONTACT William Clarke
t. 01866 833049
m. 07789 488805
info@cruachanhome.co.uk
www.cruachanhome.co.uk



DON'T BE STUCK IN THE DARK!

FOR ALL YOU'RE POWER, HEATING AND LIGHTING NEEDS FOR SITE AND DOMESTIC USE.



HIRE and SUPPLIES

1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Oban Argyll PA34 4HA

Tel: 01631 566306

www.hireandsupplies.com



Send us your business news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

Seafood Temple has best office view in Oban

Following the closure of the Seafood Temple in Oban, the building has since been transformed into desk space, begging the question: is this the best office view in town?

This was certainly the opinion of Dungallan Studio's four new inhabitants: Graham MacEachen, architect; Daniel Freytag, designer and co-founder of HeyWow; Lorna Freytag co-founder of HeyWow; and Pauline Clifford, of Pauline Clifford Communications.

Speaking about her new place of work, Pauline said: 'I would say it has got a calm and tranquil atmosphere in the office, so it is nice.'

Lorna said: 'It is an inspirational space, inside and out. We don't feel disconnected from the town. If you look that way, you can see the town and if you look the other way, you are in the middle of nowhere.'

Daniel added: 'It is a creative studio. We are all doing similar things, albeit different. It works really well. We all help each other out. What I like about it is everyone knows the Seafood Temple.'

The 'studio' was snapped up and leased to Graham, who spotted it on an online classified website. 'It was advertised on Gumtree. There was a commercial space to lease with a great view,' he said. 'This is my ideal office.'



Daniel and Lorna Freytag, Pauline Clifford and Graham MacEachen. 17_T03_Seafoodtemple01

Argyll MSP backs investment bank

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has said SNP plans to establish a Scottish National Investment Bank will help transform inclusive growth across Argyll and Bute.

Last month, Finance Secretary Derek Mackay MSP announced plans for an initial investment in the bank of £130 million as part of his draft budget proposals for 2019/20.

Subject to regulatory and legislative approval, the national investment bank will aim to begin investing in Scottish businesses and communities from 2020 – investing at least £2 billion in its first 10 years.

The investment bank will provide loans of up to £10 million for small- to medium-sized enterprises with high growth potential.

MSPs are set to vote on the Scottish Government's budget next month.

Mr Russell said: 'A national investment bank has enormous potential to transform communities here in Argyll and Bute, and across Scotland. Operating within a core set of principles, the bank will deliver sustainable growth – with both individuals and small local businesses set to benefit.'

william duncan + co
Chartered Accountants
& Business Advisers

Don't forget -

DEADLINE

Self Assessment due the
31 January.



Call us **01 880 820 277**
williamduncan.co.uk

iain.webster@wdargyll.co.uk
susan.mcfadyen@wdargyll.co.uk



**DAILY DELIVERIES TO CENTRAL
SCOTLAND, FORTWILLIAM, MALLAIG &
ARDNAMURCHAN. STORE UPLIFTS**

CENTRAL SCOTLAND - ARGYLL- HIGHLANDS

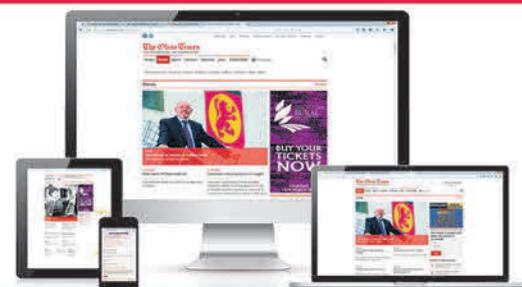


REQUEST A QUOTE

TODAY

01631 569675

07976 745131



**FROM
56p
PER WEEK**

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Now delivering news
7 DAYS A WEEK online
www.obantimes.co.uk

**INCLUDES
FULL website
access and
a DIGITAL
EDITION
of the
newspaper**

Work starts to preserve arches

Work is under way on £200,000-worth of improvements to the Category A-listed Avenue arches, or screen, in Inveraray.

The Avenue screen's existing render needs to be replaced. Weather-proofing works are also required and will be carried out as part of the contract, which is part of Argyll and Bute Council's drive to protect Inveraray's architectural appearance after recent repair and conservation works to buildings through the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for economic development, said: 'Over time, render needs to be replaced for aesthetic and safety reasons and we are pleased to be carrying out these improvements.'

'We aim to ensure any inconvenience is minimal throughout the duration of the work, which we expect to be completed by the end of the summer.'

The council emphasised there will be periods of inactivity during the works, for example when stonework is being allowed to dry.

Local history workshop

As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Written in the Landscape project, Live Argyll archives and the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle are offering a free local history workshop in Lochgilphead Community Centre on Thursday February 28 at 2pm.

The workshop will feature talks about the archive collections and how they may assist people in Lochgilphead and the surrounding area with their local history research.

The workshop will include short presentations from the archivists and the opportunity to get 'hands on' with some of the original records.

There is no charge for attending the workshop but places are limited so advance booking is essential.

Please email jennifer.young@liveargyll.co.uk or phone 01546 604517 to book a place.

Old songs and days

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

iain.thorner@btinternet.com



Last week I wrote about Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy (1804-1870), bard and physician, who lived by the shores of Loch Teacuis where his father, originally from Dunadd, was the Duke of Argyll's tenant farmer.

This week I want to say something about Duncan Macpherson (c. 1835-1931), another Morvern bard, also from Rahoy, who composed some lovely songs which are less well known than they used to be.

Duncan Macpherson was born at Rahoy. He was the eldest son of John and Sarah MacPherson who arrived in Morvern from Ardnamurchan when Sir James Riddell of Caister, Norfolk, began evicting his small tenants in the economic depression following the end of the Napoleonic War.

After the death of his father, Duncan moved to Glasgow. From there he went out to New Zealand about 1880 to join three uncles who had settled in South Island when they were forced out of Ardnamurchan in 1864.

Duncan married and settled on a sheep and cattle station in Otago until the death of his wife by drowning while fording the great Matukituki River. Duncan died at Mount Aspiring on January 22, 1931, when he was struck by a train.

According to his descendants, Duncan maintained a lively interest in the Gaelic language and composed a number of songs, some of which were published in The Oban Times in the 1880s. One of Duncan's best was, Duanag do'n Mhorbhairne - A Song to Morvern, in which he fondly remembers the place of his birth.

The song is in Gaelic and has many verses - too many to include now but here are two of the originals to give a flavour of the language of the time, and translations of the rest. If any reader would like the whole song, please get in touch with me by email.

Chorus:

A ho ro, mo run am fearann,
A ho ro, mo run am fearann,
Mo ghaol a' Mhorbhairne bhoidheach
Anns an robh mi og am leanabh
[A ho ro, my beloved land,
A ho ro, my beloved land,
My love is beautiful Morvern
Where I spent my early childhood]

A 'Mhorbhairne bhoideach chliuiteach
Far am biodh an oigridh shunndach:
Ceal is dannsa 's orain shugraidh
Mu'n Bhliadhn' Uir, aig feill is bannais
[Lovely, renowned Morvern, where the lively young folk used to be,
With music, dancing and playful songs at the New Year,

At markets and weddings]
The healthy, pure water of Beinn Iadain
Running down to the lochs of numerous salmon;

Fine it was to fish for them on Gearr-abhain [River Aline]

Up by the bounds of Achranich
Fiunary of renowned noblemen
With whom the Queen often conversed;
There was not another family in Scotland
Who could match you in preaching from a pulpit [the Macleod ministers]

Your castles were regal and strong:
Ardtornish and Kinlochaline,
Killundine, Dun Fhin and Dun Ban
And high, proud gables of Dungallon
Are not the two sides of Loch Sunart beautiful?

Sunny green Strontian, Laudale,
The Glen [Glencripesdale] and Rahoy
Where the Red-Haired Doctor [John MacLachlan] was a babe

From the Sidhean [Sithean na Raplaich]
You see all together every glen,
Loch and lovely island,
Beinn Hiant, yellow-covered with daisies,
Land of milk, of grass and sprouting branches

The children of Angus [MacInneses] are banished,
There is scarcely a man in the upper half [White Glen].

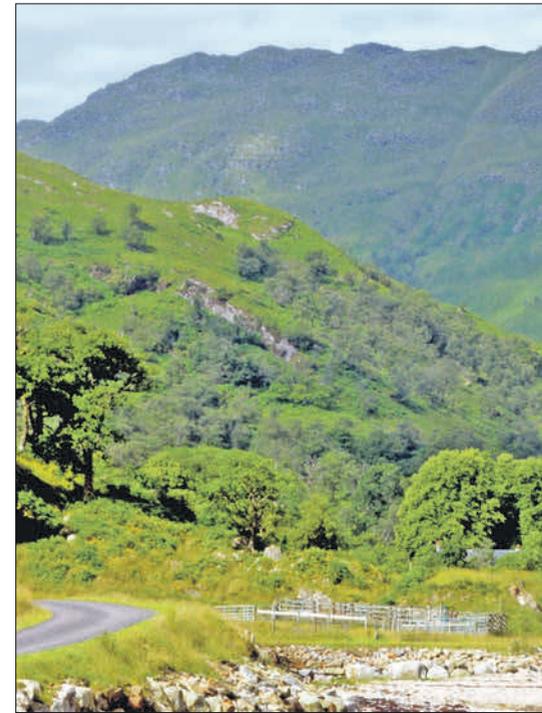
But a graveyard and cold ruins,
Emblems of the days that are gone
The other night I dreamt I was in Rahoy as of yore,

But when I awoke - cause of my distress,
It was as far from me as the moon
Many a happy evening I spent as a child by Loch Teacuis,

Running and jumping with lively abandon
O! these were the beautiful days
A greeting from me across the sea to my friends,

My fellow-countrymen and every Gaelic society:
Health and thousands of blessings be yours,
Whether we meet or not, and forever!

Towards the end of last year I included a poem



in Morvern Lines called, 'I'm fine thanks'. Judging by the number of emails I received about it, it seemed popular. Here is another in the same vein which I hope will go down equally well. Author unknown.

It really is a bore growing old
When longer arms are needed for the letters on the page,

When 'threes' and 'eights' both look the same (a certain sign of age!)

When eyes begin to narrow just to focus on the screen,

When distant objects blur or merge and sight is not so keen

To 'age with grace', is what to do (at least so we are told)

But it really is a bore, growing old!
When glasses, keys and wallets seem to hide themselves each day.

When patience wanes in others, irritated by delay.

When, wearily, you climb the stairs and can't remember why.

When you repeat an oft-told tale and family members sigh,

Accept a trip down memory lane just isn't worth the stroll

As it really is a bore growing old!
When arthritic fingers fumble and the



OVER 1000 SALE PRODUCTS!

WINTER SALE

DON'T MISS OUT!

THE BATHROOM SHOWROOM

7e Glengallan Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 567640

CITY PLUMBING
SUPPLIES
part of the Travis Perkins Group

NOW Open Saturdays 8am - 2pm in January
the-bathroom-showroom.co.uk

s of youth



Laudale is mentioned in Duncan MacPherson's song, *Lovely Morvern*. Photograph: Iain Thornber

waistline's heading south,

When the apple crumble rumbles on the journey to the mouth.

When at breakfast-time and supper you are shovelling the pills,

When lifts are welcome options or you're puffing on the hills.

'Just act your age, silly goat!', you'll sure as hell be told,

But it really is a bore, growing old!

When a needle you can't thread to sew a button on your breeks,

When the doctor's freezing fingers bring the colour to your cheeks.

When no one says 'good morning' or 'good afternoon', but 'Hi'

When assistants have no knowledge of the things you want to buy.

Go with the flow and bite your tongue, on temper keep a hold

But it really is a bore, getting old.

When you're down there tying laces and you wonder with a frown,

What usefully could else be done whilst you're that far down.

When your toenails are like granite and they're almost out of reach.

When no longer is the BBC a font for proper speech

Just drop your standards like the rest, and come in from the cold,

But it really is a bore, growing old.

When you come back from the car park and you cannot find your car,

When you're really not too certain just exactly where you are

When the back-swing's shot to pieces and you cannot follow through

When you cannot hit the b****y ball the way you used to do

Just carry on and play the shots until the old knees fold,

But it really is a bore, growing old.

When you're told it is your birthday and it comes as a surprise,

When you need to be reminded that you haven't zipped your flies

When you've never touched an iPod or on eBay bought and sold

When on reason and reality you barely have a hold

Just swallow hard and take a breath and do just what you're told

But it really is a bore, getting old.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We travel back in time this week to December 19, 1995, and a group of people enjoying the festive entertainment laid on at the Regent Hotel in Oban.



Fort William's Cameron Square of a bygone era. Photograph from the Roamer Archive

Selling your Whisky Cask?

If you own a cask of Scotch Whisky and are interested in selling it, we would love to hear from you.

We are always searching for individuals who wish make a return on their casks, making the process simple and easy whilst offering the best market price.

We will also give 3 bottles of any cask back to you free of charge to enjoy.

Please send details to cask@atombrands.com

 ATOM BRANDS

OT

LETTERS

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

Beyond time for the council to have playpark repaired

As we report on our front page this week, it is now approaching one year since the Oban Community Playpark near Atlantis was closed after failing a safety inspection.

Argyll and Bute Council appears to have made little or no progress in its attempts to have the contractor carry out the essential repairs.

Why is this the case? How hard can it be to persuade the contractor to return and fix the faulty flooring?

Furthermore, how much longer can it take before the work is done?

It is, frankly, ridiculous that the young people of the Oban area, and the many thousands of child visitors to the town, have been denied access to the playpark for nearly a year.

There is huge frustration among the members of the Friends of Oban Community Playpark as a result. Little wonder, then, that the Friends have organised a peaceful protest scheduled to take place in March.

We would urge as many people as possible to support the demonstration on March 16 and let the council realise the level of concern about the lack of action. It is beyond time this issue was addressed and the playpark reopened.

Praise for workers who battled winter

Winter arrived with a vengeance this week across Argyll, with heavy snow contributing to road accidents, traffic disruption and schools being closed.

However, while most of us battened down the hatches and kept warm, as ever there was a brilliant response from the emergency services and other public servants who toiled to make sure the roads stayed open and services were maintained.

We salute you all.

Deer are damaging to Rahoy Hills Wildlife Reserve

Regarding Iain Thornber's Morvern Lines (The Oban Times, January 3), Rahoy Hills Wildlife Reserve is internationally important for its species-rich grassland and Atlantic woodland. These special habitats provide a home for hundreds of different plants, birds and mammals.

Unfortunately, surveys have demonstrated that grazing and trampling by deer have left these areas in poor condition. To allow them to recover, we are working to reduce the pressure to a level that the landscape can accommodate.

Despite your correspondent's claims, our management of the reserve is entirely in accordance with the wishes of the late Christopher Cadbury.

Mark Foxwell,
Reserves Manager, Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Thanks for generosity from team at New Hope Kitchen

On behalf of all the team here at New Hope Kitchen, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to us before Christmas.

We were overwhelmed by people's kindness once again. From individuals, schools, workplaces, supermarkets, nurseries and many local organisations and businesses, we were blessed with many gifts.

Thanks to everyone's kindness, we were able to send out 70 Christmas parcels of food and gifts into the community. These really made a huge difference to the families who received them: 83 adults, 24 elderly people and 71 children all had a wonderful Christmas thanks to your generosity.

On Christmas Day, we were able to serve up a five-course delicious Christmas dinner to 35 people, thanks again to everyone's kindness.

A special thanks for this must go to chef Gary Goldie for cooking it and to all the amazing people who volunteered with us to make Christmas extra special for our guests this year.

We are so fortunate to receive all the support that we do, not just at Christmas but all year round and we are honoured to be in the position to serve this community. Thank you!

Lorraine MacCormick,
service manager, New Hope Kitchen.

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send

it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William.

Statistics show a decline in drug deaths in Argyll

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Councillor Kieron Green are to be congratulated in their continual battle in trying to stamp out a local drug problem which is killing many every day in Scotland.

The hard work of ACHA and its staff and Councillor Green are certainly pushing against the trend of increased drug use. The most recent

figures that I could find, 2016-2017, clearly state no statistical increase in drug deaths in Argyll and Bute. In fact, they have dropped.

Angus Files,
The Glebe, Kilmelford.

History is repeating itself over controls on fishing

I was fascinated to read the article by Iain Thornber on the calls for better controls



Hugh Fitzsimons & Son
Electrical Contractors

New Builds, Rewiring,
Fire Alarms, Showers
and Heating

CALL OR EMAIL QUOTE TODAY

01397 772140
mfitz555@hotmail.com



JANUARY SALE

The Hawaii
Was £5995 Now £4995

- Ex display model • 5/6 Seater • 35 Jets
- Limited edition Spa • Shell Colour – Silver Marble
- cabinet colour – Grey • Has Ozone
- Multi colour LED lights

Can be delivered to your own garden immediately.



Unit 2, Lochavullin Ind Est, Oban, PA34 4PL

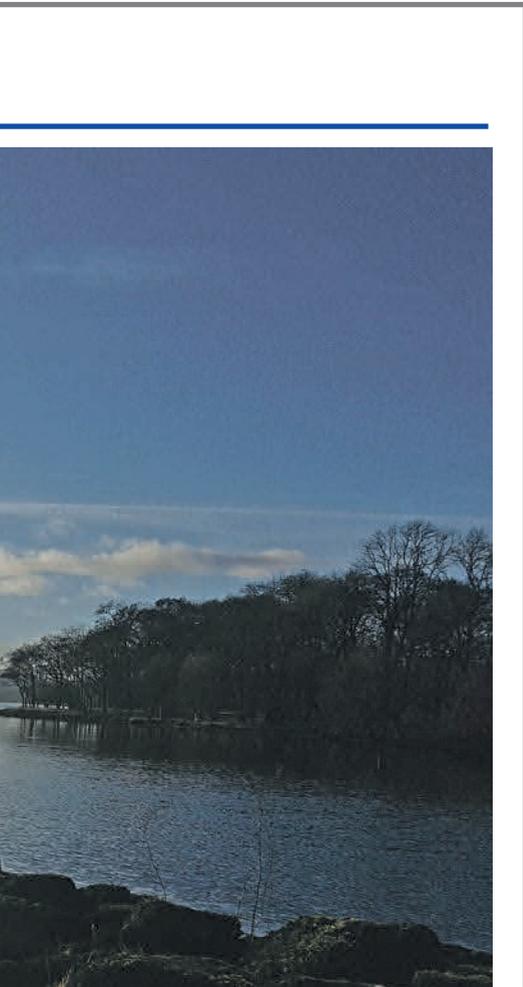
Call us on **01631 566 655**

www.tlcs spas.co.uk

Email - relax@tlcs spas.co.uk



TLC Spas



This week's image was emailed in by Seonaid Cameron from Bonhill, Alexandria, West Dunbartonshire, and shows Loch Awe on New Year's Day, with stunning light.

on fishing, initiated in 1933 by John Lorne Campbell of Canna under the title of the Sea League (The Oban Times, December 27).

History seems to be repeating itself as a large consortium of groups representing coastal communities from the Clyde up to Wester Ross has recently written to the First Minister requesting her to consider reinstating the ban on trawling within three nautical miles of the coast and to introduce better measures to enforce protection within our recently established Marine Protected Areas.

This is in response to numerous reports of illegal trawling within these areas with little apparent enforcement action. It reflects the concern that many who are lucky enough to live along Scotland's beautiful and formerly bountiful west coast hold to ensure that it remains there for everyone to enjoy.

Richard Luxmoore,
Senior nature conservation adviser,
National Trust for Scotland.

High time for another independence referendum

I refer to the supercilious letter in the Lochaber Times dated December 13 from Andrew Green. He refers to the European Union referendum and argues against the official figure of 62 per cent of registered Scottish voters who cast their vote to remain in Europe.

Whether people choose to vote remain, leave or abstain from voting is entirely up to them. That is their democratic right. We live under a majoritarian system. The writer's other comments show utter contempt for Scotland's potential as an independent country.

The Conservatives are tearing themselves apart over Brexit. In 2014, we were told by Unionists of all colours that an independent Scotland would not be allowed into the European Union. They have now reversed that argument.

The one thing that we can be sure of is the reality that if the UK leaves without a deal, other countries will not hold fire on their present agreements to allow the UK to make good on what we lose leaving Europe.

On leaving Europe, no country seeing the disarray in the UK will agree to give the UK advantages of EU membership without obligations. The money men will not suffer half as much as those at the other end of the scale, including the working poor.

Anna Soubry, Conservative MP, attacked 'ideologically driven' colleagues with 'gold-plated pensions and inherited wealth' for ignoring the 'reality' of Brexit. She also confirmed that in private conversations those same Tories accepted that hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost but that it was worth it for Brexit.

Despite this, some people still think that Scotland should continue to be a minor player in the shambles which is Westminster politics. It is high time that the Scottish Government called an independence referendum to enable Scotland to take its place along with all other independent nations in Europe.

Bill Clark, Tomonie.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S math an sgàthan sùil caraid! Sin seanfhacal glè iomchaidh nuair a thathas a' cuimhneachadh air beatha agus bàrdachd Raibeart Burns air feadh an t-saoghail.

Co-dhiù 's ann a' moladh a bha e ann an òran gaoil, ag aithris sgeulachd eirmseach, neo ri aoir, bha cainnt Burns fosgarra 's gun bhacadh. Cha robh e a' cleith a laigsean fhèin is e aig amannan a' nochdadh aithreachas airson earbsa na bha dlùth dha a bhrath.

Chanadh cuid gum bheil sin a' comharrachadh Burns mar neach eadar-dhealaichte anns an t-seadh 's nach eil fèin-mheasadh idir onarach anns a' bhitheantas.

'S coma dè am pàirt de ar beatha làitheil air am beachdaich sinn feumar aideachadh gur e an t-saorsa a th' againn co-dhùnaidhean pearsanta a dhèanamh fear de na buannachdan siobhal-tachd agus deamocrasaidh as prìseile dhuinn. Gu nàdarra bidh amannan ann aig am bi na comasan againn a' dol bhuaithe gun fhiosta dhuinn, neo theagamh le fios dhuinn ach sinn ga àicheadh, agus 's ann an uairsin as dòcha to-radh fèin-mheasaidh a bhith ceàrr.

Ann an iomadach suidheachadh 's dòcha nach eil sin gu bhith gu cus diofar, ach aig amannan tha co-dhùnaidhean an urra rinn aig am bi buaidh air daoine eile agus sin far am bheil cus earbsa ann am fèin-mheasadh cunnartach.

Dh'èirich a' cheist a-rithist bho chionn ghoirid nuair a bha am Prionnsa Philip ann an tubaist rathaid, is e fhèin a' dràibheadh 's e faisg air naochad is seachd bliadhna a dh'aois. Gu fortanach cha do dh'fhuiling duine cus millidh ach gun teagamh dh'fhoadadh sin a bhith air tachairt, agus chan iongnadh ceistean a bhith gan togail a thaobh cuin is còir dha neach sgar a dhràibheadh. Their cuid gum bheil mòran, aig gach aois, a' dràibheadh ach nach bu chòir.

Cuid le dìth eòlais is feadhainn eile le crìonadh comais, agus ann an saoghal anns am bheil carbadan de gach seòrsa a th' air na rathaidean a' fàs nas cumhachdaiche agus nas luaithe chan eil e ceart gum biodh am measadh, a thug cead-dràibhidh dha mo leithid fhìn caogad is ceithir bliadhna air ais, a' seasamh

gun dearbhadh bhon uairsin.

Le dràibhearaidh uidheaman throma mar-thà gan sgrùdadh bitheanta, saoil am bu chòir gach dràibhear càir deuchainn urachaidh a ghabhail gach deichead bliadhna gu aois seachdadh, agus gach trì bliadhna bho sin gu can ochdad 's a còig, is gach bliadhna bho sin air adhart?

Self-assessment is a routine aspect of daily adult life and our judgement of our abilities can be skewed by honest lack of awareness, or denial. In relation to driving ability, that can pose a public risk.

Older drivers need be no less than competent than younger people, but in a world where vehicle power and traffic volume is increasing dramatically, is such an assessment of my own driving ability 53 years ago totally relevant today?

Heavy vehicle drivers are regularly monitored so, in the interests of safety, shouldn't regular assessment of car-driver competency also be mandatory?

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.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephone on 01631 568000; or 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.

HIGHLAND FASTENERS

Up to
60% OFF
workwear

SALE

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

MODIVE LTD

REQUEST A QUOTE TODAY

HULL CLEANING
any subsurface structure
conserve fuel expense

CALL US
01680 812913
VISIT US

mdiveltd@live.co.uk

NO JOB TOO BIG

OT

DISTRICT NEWS

ARDFERN

Four singers and a pianist from Scottish Opera will be stopping off at Craignish Village Hall on Tuesday February 12 at 7.30pm as part of an 18-date tour across Scotland. Opera Highlights 2019 will feature works from Wagner to Gilbert and Sullivan. Go to scottishopera.org.uk to find out more.

COLONSAY

Colonsay Festival of Spring is set for April 29 to May 19 celebrating the island's natural history. Each day will have a mixture of nature and craft activities, as well as guided walks and evening talks. Go to colonsayspringfest.com.

LOCH AWE

Portsonachan Village Hall has a Burns, Kilts and Awe That quiz on Friday January 25 from 7.30pm.

MULL

Mull and Iona Community Trust is hoping to add another public access defibrillator to the 16 it already has in service on the islands. It is encouraging shoppers at Oban's Tesco to use their tokens to vote for their project which also helps to provide CPR training and contributes to the annual cost of maintaining the defibrillators.

Mull Drama Festival runs from March 20 to March 22 this year and is looking for all schools, community groups and anyone else interested in taking part. Plays can be of any genre but should last a minimum of 18 minutes to a maximum of 40 mins. To find out more or to register, contact Elizabeth MacIver on 01688 302 114.

A free story, song and rhyme session for babies up to pre-school children and their families is coming to Tobermory Library on Saturday January 26 at 2.30pm as part of the Scottish Book Trust's Bookbug Sessions.

ULVA

Ulva School Community Association has its annual Burns lunch on Saturday January 26 at the school. Expect Isle of Mull haggis and all the usual toasts and musical entertainment. Adults are £15, children can get in free but tickets must be booked in advance.

Call 01688 500 301 or email annhayesmrcvs@btinternet.com.

KILLIN

Killin SWI celebrated its 95th birthday on Saturday January 5.

The party was held in the Courie Inn, Killin where a beautiful meal was provided by Michael and Lynne Crowe.

The theme for the party was 'the 20s' and many of the ladies dressed in appropriate attire while others wore a themed headdress.

Each member was asked to bring a photograph of themselves taken prior to being 10 years old and there was much fun and laughter guessing who was who. Games were organised by members and another member read a poem titled 'The 20s'.

The afternoon was a huge success and president Kay wished everyone a safe journey home

RUM

A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to help save Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum.

The appeal kicked off on Monday and aims to raise £10,000 to help pay for on-going costs, with a view to fully restoring the castle in the future.

The campaign has already raised more than £1,100.

To find out more, or to donate, visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-Kinloch-castle-isle-of-rum.

OBAN

A Valentine tea dance will take place on February 9 in aid of The Dove Centre.

The event, which will feature music by The Re-Searchers, will be held in Glencruitten Church Hall



Firefighters from Tobermory presented cheques to various Mull community groups. The money (£600) was raised at the fire station's open day, manned by firefighters from Tobermory and Salen. A further £600 was raised for The Firefighters Charity. Photograph: AJ Macleod

Mull firefighters give boost to charities

Firefighters from Tobermory Community Fire Station presented cheques to a number of island community groups after a successful open day.

With the help of their neighbours at Salen Fire Station, they raised £1,200 during the station's open day.

Half of the money was donated to The Fire Fighters Charity, which

supports serving and retired firefighters.

Island groups that received support were the Mull Army Cadet detachment, the Community Hogmanay Fireworks display, Tobermory lunch club and the Salen Church Youth Club.

Watch manager Iain Noble said: 'We are absolutely delighted with

the money raised, and the help we can give to both these community groups and, of course, The Fire Fighters Charity, which is an organisation extremely important to us. I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank all the local businesses for their generous support, and everyone who supported the Tobermory Fire Station open day.'

from 2pm until 4.30pm. Tickets cost £6, which includes afternoon tea, and are available from Button Nose Boutique and from Oban Inner Wheel members.

UIST

The Uist Economic Taskforce Working Group met recently in Uist to continue to progress a range of key strategic projects and initiatives.

Councillor Iain A MacNeil, chairman of the group, commented after the meeting: 'I was pleased to see good progress being made across a range of projects such as the Balivanich Regeneration project.

'Housing remains a concern and the UET Working Group noted with interest the formation of a 'Uist and Barra Housing Working Group' to explore ways in which the demands for future housing for residents and businesses alike can be addressed.

'As housing remains a key component for Uist economy, UET will want to engage with and be kept informed of the work of the housing working group.'

Councillor MacNeil also commented on the Archaeology Symposium held in Lochmaddy.

'I attended some of the sessions and was delighted to see the

interest in the archaeology of Uist. We have long recognised the potential of archaeology in terms of tourism, research and education. It's important we use this project to develop ways to further develop that potential.'

The event was attended by 80 delegates from across the UK and the USA and is part of Scotland's Islands Research Framework for Archaeology (SIRFA) project – a partnership between Lews Castle College UHI, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Shetland Amenity Trust and Orkney Islands Council.

The event was also funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

MONEY FOR YOUR CLOTHES

Why donate when you can be paid?

Weighed and paid at your front door
Clothes in good condition, no stains, no rags,
no underwear, no wet clothes,
and good quality shoes and bedding.

All areas covered.

Tel 07950452395

MAKE THE LEAP



Superfast
your business growth with our digital
subscription...

to the
DIGITAL AGE

FROM
56p
PER WEEK

The Oban Times
www.obantimes.co.uk

NEW
ARCHIVE
FEATURE
access over
10 years
of local news

Send us your district news by emailing:
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Best view in town

Okay, I admit it: I'm jealous.

A former colleague here at The Oban Times, Pauline Clifford, has joined three other creative business people in transforming the former Seafood Temple into office space or, as they call it, a studio.

It is now home to Pauline's communications business, an architect and couple of designers/illustrators.

The Seafood Temple, as all Obanites will know, is the former restaurant on the Gallanach Road, close to Oban Sailing Club, and right on the foreshore.

What a place to work. The views over to Kerrera, as well as Oban Bay, are stunning, as the photograph on our business pages this week illustrates only too well.

On a serious note, though, it is good to see such an important building brought back into use having been left unoccupied for some considerable time.

There are, I realise, people who will lament the fact that it is not being restored as a restaurant but I'm just pleased it is no longer empty.

Well done to the three businesses that have leased it and now occupy such a fantastic workspace.

Back in business?

While I'm on about businesses being re-opened, I was walking the other day down Tweedale Street and noticed a group of men working in the Rockport Hotel. There was also a hydraulic platform on the back of a lorry doing something up high.

I have complained before in this column about the state of disrepair that the 'Woody', as some people still call it, was falling into. It has become a genuine eyesore right in the heart of the town.

With a little luck, the sight of workers toiling in the building is a sign that some businessman is acting to restore the hotel to its former glory.

Not before time.

It would be a real boost for Oban to have the Rockport back in business, especially with the tourist season just around the corner.

What do you think

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.



Councillor Donnie MacMillan BEM accompanied by Oban councillors Roddy McCuish, Jim Lynch, and Douglas Prophet from ACHA's governing body, ACHA chief executive, Alastair MacGregor, and Kenny MacLeod of MacLeod Construction.

First sod is cut for housing development at Kilmartin

The first bit of turf was cut at Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) new build development in Kilmartin.

The development of four two-bedroom semi-detached homes will be built by MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead and will take a year to complete.

The cost of the development is £671,898 with contributions coming from Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Government and ACHA.

Councillor for Mid Argyll, Donnie MacMillan BEM had the pleasure of cutting the first sod.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'I hope I am paying Donnie a compliment when I refer to him as Scotland's oldest councillor. We in ACHA are delighted he is able to do us the honour today.'

'His commitment to affordable housing through his support for ACHA is well re-

spected. We thought it entirely appropriate that he cut the first sod to start the association's first new homes in Kilmartin, in the heart of his ward.'

Councillor MacMillan said: 'It was a pleasure to be asked to launch the site for the new homes in Kilmartin.'

'This is much needed housing and will most certainly benefit the community as a whole and increase the population in the area.'

Sixty foundation apprenticeships available in the Western Isles

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and partners recently secured a Skills Development Scotland contract to the value of £570,000 to support the delivery of foundation apprenticeships for the 2019/20 academic year and beyond.

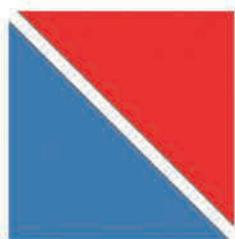
Students can opt to study for a foundation apprenticeship as part of the senior phase of secondary education. They provide the appropriate underpinning knowledge and experience to enable young people to progress to modern and graduate

apprenticeship programmes within the local economy and nationally.

Roadshows are now taking place throughout the Western Isles, at which representatives from the comhairle, SDS and key employers will share more information on the

scheme with parents and pupils.

Up to 60 places on six foundation apprenticeships will be available to pupils entering S4 and S5 in 2019 - in Castlebay School, Sgoil Lionacleit, Sir E Scott School and The Nicolson Institute.



GRS TRADE CENTRE LTD
Supplier To Trade & DIY

Covering Argyll, Lochaber & The Islands

Tel: 01631 571155

Email : sales@grstradecentre.co.uk

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

Windows & Doors ■ Garage Doors
UPVC Fascia, Soffit & Gutters
Conservatories

Double Rebated Composite Doors
Replacement Sealed Units ■ Silicone
Expanding Foam ■ Solvent Cleaner
Fixings ■ Poly Top Nails ■ UPVC Trims

OUTDOORS

Big Farmland Bird Count is back again

Farmers, landowners and gamekeepers across the country are being urged to take part in the Big Farmland Bird Count (BFBC), which is back for the sixth successive year.

The nationwide citizen science project calls on farmers, land managers and gamekeepers to spend 30 minutes spotting species on their patch of land between February 8 and 17 with the results establishing which farmland birds are thriving due to good conservation efforts while also identifying those in most need of help.

Dave Parish, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Scotland's head of lowland research, said: 'Many farmers do a lot on their farms to encourage birds and other wildlife, but the wider public doesn't really seem to appreciate that yet.'

'We are hoping that as many farmers as possible will spend just half an hour counting birds on a part of their farm so that we can tell everyone about the good work that is going on.'

Last year saw a record-breaking 1,000 responses to the UK count, recording 121 species across 950,000 acres. A total of 25 red-listed species were recorded, with five appearing in the 25 most commonly seen species list.

Once all the data is in the results will be analysed by the trust.

All participants will receive a report on the national results once they have been collated.

The Big Farmland Bird Count is sponsored by the NFU, and partnered by FWAG, LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), Kings, Perdix, NFU Scotland and the CLA.

To take part is easy. Simply download a count sheet at the Big Farmland Bird Count website www.bfbc.org.uk; count the birds on a day between February 8 and 17, spending about 30 minutes recording the species and number of birds seen on one area of the farm; and submit the results at www.bfbc.org.uk

Argyll residents urged to watch the birdies

Nature lovers across Argyll and Bute are being urged to take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch from January 26-28, as the survey celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Just one hour every year for the past 40 years has made the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch the largest garden wildlife citizen science project. Hundreds of thousands of people have now taken part, donating more than eight million hours of their time monitoring garden birds since the Birdwatch began in 1979.

This year's event takes place on January 26, 27 and 28, and as usual, the public is being asked to spend just one hour watching and recording the birds in their garden or local green space, then send their results to the RSPB.

In 2018, more than 29,000 people across Scotland took part, counting an impressive 521,428 birds. Over the past 40 years, 130 million birds have been counted across the UK, giving the RSPB an insight into how wildlife is faring.

To mark this year's anniversary, the RSPB is encouraging participants to share their Big Garden Birdwatch stories on social media by answering the question: 'How will you #BigGardenBirdWatch?' This will showcase some of the best examples of how people take part, from building their own birdwatching den, baking birdseed cakes, and dressing up as Batman to see a robin.

Mike Clarke, RSPB chief executive, said: 'Everyone has a role to play in saving nature and protecting our wildlife.'

'Big Garden Birdwatch participants have made a significant contribution to monitoring garden bird numbers over the past four decades. Those taking part work together as part of a community with thousands of other Big Garden Birdwatchers to help the RSPB's work to protect birds, other wildlife and the places they live.'

'Reaching 40 years is a huge achievement and shows just how passionate people across the UK are about their wildlife. The survey started as a winter activity for our youth



Children watching birds at school as part of RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch in 2018.

members. It's now the largest garden wildlife survey in the world and appeals to both children and adults because it's an enjoyable, easy, inclusive activity that anyone can do and a great opportunity to connect with nature.'

For four decades, Big Garden Birdwatch has highlighted the winners and losers in the garden bird world. It was first to alert the RSPB to the decline in song thrush numbers. The song thrush was a firm fixture in the top 10 in 1979. By 2009, its numbers were less than half those recorded in 1979, plummeting to 20th in the rankings.

The survey has also shown the increases in collared dove and wood pigeon numbers and the alarming declines of the house sparrow and starling. While the overall decline in house sparrow numbers reported by participants since the Big Garden Birdwatch began is 57 per cent (1979-2018), in the most recent

decade (2009-2018) numbers appear to have increased by 17 per cent.

Here's how to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch 2019.

Watch the birds in a garden or local park for one hour at some point over the three days. Only count the birds that land, not those flying over.

Record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not the total you see in the hour.

As well as counting birds, the RSPB is once again asking participants to log some of the other wildlife they have seen throughout the year. This year, people are being asked to look out for badger, fox, grey squirrel, red squirrel, muntjac deer, roe deer, frog and toad.

To find out more about the Big Garden Birdwatch, register to take part, or submit results, visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

Stoddarts



SPECIAL OFFER!!
0% FINANCE OVER 3&4 YEARS
AND HALF PRICE FULL CAB!!!
DELIVERY ARRANGED

SPECIAL FINANCE DEALS
ON ALL NEW HONDA ATVS

TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072
john.stoddarts@btconnect.com
www.stoddartsofoban.co.uk

Time to refuel?



- Breakfast Rolls
- Toasties
- Daily Lunch Specials
- Homemade Soup
- Lavazza Coffee

Serving hot food
Monday - Friday
6am - 2pm
Saturday: 7am - 2pm
Sunday: 8am - 2pm

24/7 launderette SELF SERVICE WASH & DRY



HALFWAY FILLING STATION

Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1PX Tel: 01631 562784 Open 24 hours

Send us your outdoor news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000

This week's walks



Polar bear cub Hamish with his mum Victoria.

UK's only polar bear cub celebrates first birthday

Hamish, the first polar bear cub to be born in the UK for 25 years, has celebrated his first birthday at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Highland Wildlife Park.

Born in December 2017, Hamish took his first steps outside in March and has since attracted more than 200,000 visitors to the park, almost doubling previous records.

Hamish was treated to a unique birthday cake with treats and presents from keepers.

Una Richardson, head carnivore keeper at Highland Wildlife Park, said: 'It has been an incredible year and we're really excited to be celebrating Hamish's first birthday. We're hoping Hamish enjoyed the day as much as us, and we made

him a special birthday cake made from ice and presents filled with his favourite treats.

'Our mischievous cub has grown so much since he took his first steps outside in March and is rapidly catching up to his mum, Victoria, although he still has some way to go until he reaches his full adult size, as male polar bears can weigh up to 800 kilograms.'

In the wild, polar bear cubs will stay with their mothers for two to three years, learning key survival skills before leaving to start their own families. When Hamish is ready to leave Victoria, it is hoped he will play a role in the European endangered species breeding programme.

Barbara Smith, RZSS chief executive, said: 'Hamish's arrival

has helped us to highlight the threats that many wild animals are facing and the small changes we can make to really make a big difference.

'As a wildlife conservation charity, we believe we have a duty to help protect this magnificent species which is predicted to significantly reduce in numbers over the next 40 years as the reduction in sea ice, the polar bear's primary seal hunting platform, continues.

'Our polar bears are part of the European Endangered Species Programme and we hope when Hamish is older he will help to reinforce the captive population, which may be needed in the future to help support and restore a markedly reduced and fragmented wild population.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday January 27: Lower Glen Nevis circuit, Glen Nevis

A walk in this famous glen, along the River Nevis at the foot of Ben Nevis to the Lower Falls and back through the forest on the W side. Great winter scenery with a backdrop of snow-clad peaks.

Start from the Braveheart CP in Glen Nevis, NN120739. Take the footpath to the visitor centre then cross the new bridge and head S along the footpath on the E bank of the river. There is an old grave yard after about 4 Km.

Continue beside the river for further 2Km to join a track at Pollubh, which leads to the public minor road at the Lower Falls. Cross the bridge over the Falls and follow the road W for 300m to Achriabhach. Fork left on to the forest track and follow it gradually uphill until it curves N at 100m alt. Thereafter it levels and descends gradually for about 6Km back to the Braveheart CP.

Grade: L; distance: 12km; height to climb: 100m; map(s): LR41, EX392. Meet at Fort William WM at 9.45am, for start of walk at 10am. Leader: Gerry Gilbert 07765830203.

Thursday January 31: Beinn Fhada and Stob Coire Sgreamhach, Glen Coe

An interesting approach, up the nose and along the crest of the first of the Three Sisters of Glencoe, leads to a shapely Munro at the head of the Hidden Valley.

Start from the CP off the A82 at the foot of the Lairig Eilde at NN187562. Take the path SW and cross the Allt Lairig Eilde (stepping stones). Head W up the slope towards the series of rock buttresses that form the flank of the nose of Beinn Fhada. Pass to the right of the first buttress to reach the foot of a ramp at NN178557, below the foot of the second buttress. Turn left and climb up steeply SSW up the ramp, stony at first but less steep and grassy further up. At the top of the ramp, NN175554, easier ground leads NW up to the crest of the ridge at NN174555.

Follow the ridge SW over several

summits to reach the first Top, 931m, then the second Top, Beinn Fhada, 952m. Descend SW to reach a narrow col at 902m, the foot of the NE ridge of Stob Coire Sgreamhach. Direct onward progress is obstructed by a vertical rock pillar. Pass to the left along the base of the pillar for a few metres to reach a groove slanting back rightwards up the rock. Scramble up the groove to reach easier ground on the crest of the ridge and climb to the summit of Stob Coire Sgreamhach, 1072m. Descend the SE ridge to a col at 741m, just before a small summit. Turn NE and descend steep slopes to the floor of the Lairig Eilde and follow the path back to the start.

Grade: S; distance: 11km; height to climb: 1000m; map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at Glencoe village CP at 8.45am, for start of walk at 9am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevis-hillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Saturday January 26:

Carn Dearg, Glas Charn, Glen Oich
A different approach using a hill track that facilitates access from the N up to these remote hills, more often climbed from Glen Roy.

Start from the A82 at the entrance to Aberchalder Farm at NH342034. Limited parking is available in the vicinity or at the car park next to the canal swing bridge. Follow the farm road SW, then cross the river. Turn sharply E and continue uphill S for about 4km on the track to Glenbuck.

Leave the track and continue S uphill on rough ground to the summit of Carn na Larach, 745m. Turn SE down to a watershed then NE up to the summit of Carn Dearg, 815m. Descend NW, soon curving NE to a col, then continue up to the summit of Glas Charn, 790m. Descend NE at first, curving N to pass over two rocky prominences, 562m and 532m respectively. Continue N to converge with a footpath that descends gradually into Glen Buck, high above the Calder Burn. This becomes a track at a sheepfold and eventually turns NW along the edge of some deciduous woodland. At NH346032, take a footpath down through the woodland to reach Aberchalder Farm and return to the start. Total of 17km, 950 ascent. Suggested by Gavin Theobald; coordinated by Kate Willis.

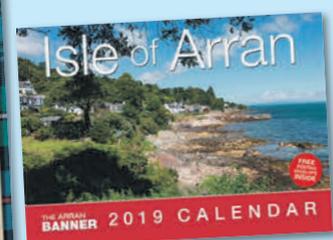
1/2 PRICE SALE Scottish Calendars 2019



FROM
£5.95
including
P&P*



FROM
£3.95
including
P&P*



Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2019 range visit:

www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

* Additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01371 851 868 OR POST ALL ORDERS TO: Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB
Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

The Regent Hotel Valentines Special

*Enjoy a romantic meal,
rose for your partner &
personal photo*

*All while our pianist sets
the mood!*

ONLY
£22.50
BOOKING IS
REQUIRED



The Regent Hotel and Cellar Bar
Esplanade, Oban, PA34 5PZ
Tel: 01631 562341



BREAKING

NEWS

LIVE

VALENTINES NOT JUST FOR COUPLES...

SINGLES PARTY IN The Cellar Bar Saturday 16th Feb



Energy Saving Week

BIG ENERGY SAVING WEEK...

Big Energy Saving Week runs from 21 to 27 January 2019. It is a national campaign to help people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.

The week focuses on raising public awareness of how to switch energy supplier or tariff to get the best deal, access discounts and make homes energy efficient. This is the 7th Big Energy Saving Week and is a partnership between Citizens Advice, the Energy Saving Trust and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with the support of numerous organisations, charities and companies.

People can use the Citizens Advice price comparison tool to compare prices from different energy suppliers. Visit and save today!

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-a-better-energy-deal/compare-gas-and-electricity-prices>

- CHECK
- SWITCH
- SAVE

Radiant heat or a lot of hot air!

HEATING PROBLEMS?

Energy efficient electric heaters supplied across Scotland

Winter is here, prepare now

Low power usage, no servicing, very controllable AND a cosy warmth

German Chamotte Core Electric Heaters:- Very popular just now. A remarkably cosy heat with some of the best running costs of any heating system currently available. We have many



customers who started with one and have come back for more. Using mainly radiant heat, these slim adaptable heaters can be supplied on feet, on castors or can be wall mounted and supplied in any colour.

Storage heater problems? .. an ideal replacement! Also great for conservatories, extensions, cold spots and as a replacement for old oil and gas systems. Our website is the most comprehensive available on this type of heating, please check it out. **Don't be put off by high prices quoted elsewhere for similar heaters, give us a try.**



Far Infrared Heaters:- Modern powerful heating units that don't take up ANY floor space. They can look like a mirror or a picture on the wall. Incredibly efficient and economical, when these far infrared rays touch a surface, energy is released in the form of heat. Perfectly safe, these heaters act in the same way as when we feel warmth from the heat of the sun.



Eighth year of supplying great heating to hundreds of happy customers

Elsco Heating Ltd For more details and a FREE info pack on all our innovative heating products www.elsco.co.uk or phone John on 01343 819676

MANY traditional heaters rely on hot air as a means of heating, even a storage heater is producing warm air out of a grill at the top. All of the hot air from an open fire or stove goes straight up the chimney, it is the radiant heat that gives you that nice cosy warm feeling.



The more a heat source works using radiant heat, the less power is required to heat a room.

German Chamotte fire clay heaters have proved to be popular in Britain over the last few years due to the quality of heat and efficiency and they look more like traditional radiators.

Far Infrared (FIR) heaters are very thin and lightweight, supplied as a panel for fixing to the ceiling or wall with options on looking like mirrors or pictures.

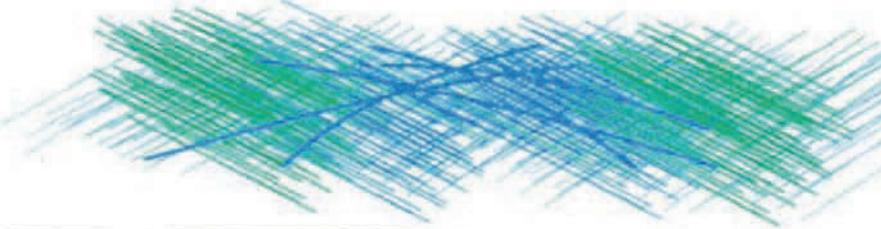
Heaters using radiant heat can save on space and reduce heating bills. Individual thermostats for each heater give unprecedented control and further savings.

Remember you buy heating once, you pay to run it forever, so get it right.

Elsco Heating supplies energy efficient heaters and Far Infrared saunas across Scotland from Elgin and Glasgow.

More info www.elsco.co.uk
Phone 01343 819676

ADRIAN LAYCOCK Ltd CONSULTING ENGINEERS



www.adrianlaycock.com

Hydropower Projects
Planning, Design and Construction
Dams, Lakes, Rivers, Flood Control

2 Malin House, European Science Park,
Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll
tel 01631 705088 / 07787523755
email enquiries@adrianlaycock.com

Brogan Fuels are supporting Big Energy Saving Week

Helping our customers find ways to save on their energy is always important to us. So, this Big Energy Saving Week, we want to help you start saving by sharing a few handy tips.

Need to top up?

Don't leave topping up to the last minute. Get your order in and make sure your home stays warm all winter.

For energy saving inspiration go to


MY HOME
on Facebook



BROGAN FUELS

Part of **certas energy**

Call our Oban depot today on **01631 570670**

**BIG
ENERGY
SAVING
WEEK...**

KENNETH FERGUSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LTD

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR PV INSTALLER



INTRODUCING THE QUANTUM HEATING SYSTEM.

- SOLAR PV (GENERATE YOUR OWN ELECTRICITY)
- INSPECTION & TESTING
- REWIRING & MAINTENANCE
- ALL TYPES OF ELECTRIC HEATING
- ENERGY EFFICIENT MEASUREMENTS
- NEW BUILD INSTALLATIONS
- DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL



Morar House, Connel, Argyll PA37 1PA
Tel: 01631 710862 Mobile: 07917 167477
Web: fergusonelectrical.co.uk



Advertorial

Loans from the Scottish Government help homes stay warm and cut bills

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money-saving improvements to their homes. Up to £32,500 per property is currently available to own-

er-occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems such as biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technolo-

gies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent out; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on a householder's behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until a loan offer in writing is received.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks. Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5 per cent of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

Get in touch now.

If anyone is interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (free from landlines and most mobiles).



Supplying Heating Oil, Commercial & Agricultural fuels



• Local Depot • Reliable Delivery Service • Competitive Pricing •

Fuelling homes, farms and businesses for 65 years'

Heating Oil | Kerosene | Gas Oil | Diesel | LPG
Boiler Maintenance Services | Lubricants | AdBlue

Contact our Connel Depot to order or for a quote:

01631 710 389 www.gleaner.co.uk



Shell Lubricants
Authorised Distribution

Gleaner Oils Connel Depot
Station Road, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PA

Advertorial

GLEANER OILS would like to remind our customers about the importance of regularly checking their heating oil levels and the benefits of having an annual service of their oil fired boiler.

It is our advice to monitor your heating oil levels and order before they get too low, as this means you'll be prepared should the colder weather start earlier than anticipated. On average, between October and March a household will use 2/3rds of its yearly heating oil consumption. Planning ahead and being prepared for the colder weather in the winter months is crucial when your household is reliant on heating oil.

There is a risk of unexpectedly running out of fuel if you do not know how much heating oil you have in your tank. Monitoring your oil levels will reduce your chances of running dry. This is important throughout the year but especially during the winter, when our delivery schedules will be at their busiest. Letting your

heating oil levels run low or even dry could have serious implications for your boiler and heating system. Running out of heating oil often means you will need to pay for an emergency breakdown visit by an OFTEC boiler engineer to safely bleed the fuel lines and restart your boiler. This is not only an inconvenience but could be costly should the breakdown happen at a weekend, or even over the festive period.

An annual boiler service can help to reduce the chances of unexpected breakdowns or maintenance issues over winter. We recommend that boilers are serviced at least every 12 months to ensure they are working safely and efficiently. Routine boiler services help to detect developing problems before they worsen and ultimately lead to a boiler failure. Any faults or problems will be caught early on, reducing the chances of expensive breakdowns and repairs.

Contact our Connel Depot to order heating oil or to book a boiler service. For more information visit: www.gleaner.co.uk, where you'll also find our latest news articles full of advice and top-tips for heating oil customers.

LOOKING FOR FREE, IMPARTIAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY, AND HAVE A WARMER HOME?

Call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to speak to a friendly advisor.

HOME
ENERGY
SCOTLAND



Ferguson Energy Ltd.

RENEWABLE HEATING

T: 01631 566 127 M: 07799358396

- BIOMASS
- HEAT PUMPS
- SOLAR THERMAL
- SOLAR PV
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



WOOD PELLET BOILER

Benderloch, Argyll
4 Bedroom Croft House
Previously Used Oil Boiler



AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Ardintinny, Argyll
2 Bedroom Semi-detached House
Previously Used Storage Heaters



SOLAR THERMAL & SOLAR PV

Isle of Mull, Argyll
1 Bedroom Self Catering Cottage



GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Connel, Argyll
4 Bedroom New Build House

RENEWABLE HEATING

+

SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT
INTEREST FREE LOAN

+

DOMESTIC
RENEWABLE HEAT
INCENTIVE FOR
7 YEARS

=

FREE HEATING



Check out our company profile and customer reviews on the Energy Saving Trust website. Simply search for our company name.



... my heating system



MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC

HEATING SYSTEMS
Approved Ecodan Installer



secure your
energy needs
go off-grid
with renewable
energy

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000

Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Sponsored by
NFU Mutual Oban.
Call Euan Warnock and
Donna MacDougall on
01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs**NFU Mutual**
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

Farming vital to Argyll, union tells members

Travelling from all corners of the Argyll and the islands, around 50 members of National Farmers' Union Scotland met in Tarbert for the regional AGM.

Members also had the opportunity at Stonefield Castle Hotel to meet and quiz the three candidates for one NFUS vice-president position.

At the meeting John Dickson continued as regional chairman, with Peter Kennedy from Glendaruel and Duncan Macalister from Glenbarr remaining vice-chairmen.

In his address to members Bute farmer Mr Dickson described 2018 as 'a horrible year' for farmers and crofters across Argyll and the islands.

Despite hopes of a good early spring to ease the fodder crisis from the previous year, what arrived was the 'Beast from the East', a late spring and one of the worst lambings in living memory.

A warm, dry and sunny summer failed to undo the damage, leaving many farmers and crofters with depleted

bank accounts and resources along with fewer lambs and calves to sell and a lacklustre autumn store trade due mainly to Brexit uncertainty.

He added: 'Last year I used the phrase 'resilient' to describe farmers and crofters in the region.

'That resilience is running out, and this is particularly true for hill sheep and suckler cow farmers.

'And you would think that with the weather we've had through 2017-18, the results of the lambing and store lamb sales this season we would have a cast iron argument to maintain LFASS support - and to increase it with a top-up for harsh weather. Instead we are faced with a 20 per cent cut for 2019 and an even bigger cut in 2020.'

Claiming that without this 'lifeline support payment' farmers cannot keep going in the high hills, Mr Dickson said NFUS continues to press for a full reinstatement of the LFASS money.

'A recent report by the

five Highlands and Islands councils shows that Argyll and Bute, Highland, Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney are the most vulnerable to the loss of agricultural support from the EU.

'It also shows that we deliver the most benefit in public goods of any region in the UK.

'We deliver on landscapes, biodiversity, air and water quality, cultural heritage, animal health and welfare.

'Think how biodiversity would be maintained without farmers and crofters managing the grazing land.

'In many parts of Argyll you're lucky to see sheep and cattle grazing.

'It's no longer viable, yet without grazing by farm animals the biodiversity changes. We end up with wild areas the public cannot access without large amounts of money being allocated to maintain tracks. In the same report it said that 85 per cent of tourists came to Scotland for the scenery and landscape - that's what you and I provide.'



Argyll and the Islands Stalwart Award winner Sandy McKirdy with John Dickson and Sybil MacPherson.

Eighty years a shepherd - and now a stalwart

Shepherd Sandy McKirdy from the Isle of Bute is the recipient of the 2019 Stalwart Award, presented annually by NFU Scotland Argyll and the Islands region.

The inaugural recipient of the award two years ago, Sybil MacPherson, described this year's winner as 'one of nature's true gentlemen' as she presented the quaich at the regional AGM.

At the age of 94, Mr McKirdy is still active looking after sheep and training dogs for sheepdog trials.

Sybil said: 'He is someone of outstanding strength and vigour of body, mind and spirit; loyal, reliable and hard-working.'

'Sandy is never one to blow

his own trumpet. But very few people will have spent more than 80 years tending sheep. Fewer still with his level of knowledge, interest care and dedication. And none with Sandy's ability to 'ken' sheep. What a gift for a shepherd.'

Sandy started farming with his father at Dunagoil Farm on Bute, worked as a shepherd in Argyll before spending almost 40 years shepherding for Bute Estates and the Marquis of Bute.

He retired at 65, but Sandy keeps a daily routine checking on ewes and hogs while training sheepdogs for the local trial.

The Stalwart Award was created in 2016 in memory of Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean.

Markets

Lochmaddy - Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, on January 17 sold 147 weaned calves and store cattle, three adult head of breeding cattle and 25 OTM cattle.

Bullocks (73) averaged 214.8p and sold to 260.0p per kg for a pair of 300kg Limousin crosses from 7 Sollas, Lochmaddy, and £955 gross for a pair of 440kg Limousin crosses from Old Inn, Tigharry. Heifers (73) averaged 201.9p per kg and sold to 237.7p per kg (twice) for a 265kg and 305kg Limousin cross from 13 Balemore, Bayhead, and £815 gross for a 380kg Limousin cross from Old Inn.

Young bull (one) sold to 187.3p per kg and £515 gross for a 275kg Limousin cross from 15 Liniclate, Creagorry.

Breeding cattle (3) sold to £700 gross (twice) for a Limousin cross in calf cow from 10 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, and for a Simmental cross in-calf cow from 8 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy.

OTM cattle (25) sold to 103.7p per kg for a 820kg Charolais cross from 1 Knockline, Bayhead, and £980 gross for a 965kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 12 Rathad Mhic Eion, Balivanich.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks up to 250kg - 9 Grenitote, North Uist, £500, 10 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, 225.0p; 251-300kg - 7 Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £700, 7 Torlum, Benbecula, 250.0p; 301-350kg - 1 Knockline, Bayhead, £850, 246.4; 351-400kg - 15 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, £860, 7 Tigharry, 236.1p; 401-450kg - 3 Holsta, Tigharry, £930, 226.8p.

Heifers up to 250kg - 15 Liniclate, £500, 227.3p.

S&S SERVICES

THE AWARD WINNING ISUZU D-MAX

**IT JUST WORKS
IN ALL CONDITIONS**ISUZU
THE PICK-UP
PROFESSIONALSISUZU D-MAX UTAR FROM
£25,669*
CVOTRWINNER
PICKUP OF THE
YEAR 20185 YEAR
125,000
MILE
WARRANTY3.5
TONNES
TOWING
CAPACITY-OVER-
11
TONNE
PAYLOAD164
PS-OVER-
40
MPG
COMBINEDEURO 6
NO
ADBLUE5 YEAR
UK & EU
ROADSIDE
ASSISTANCEBOOK A TEST
DRIVE TODAY

Full stock list available on our website
www.sandsservices.co.uk
T 07831 808702 or 01292 880080
Finance packages available.

To find out more about the NFU Vehicle
Discount Scheme call John Spicer at
S&S Services on
07831 808702 or
01292 880080



Start of a New Era?

SRDP Farm
Advisory
ServiceNational Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Date: Thursday 31st January 2019
Time: 11am to 2.30pm
Venue: Cairnbaan Hotel, Lochgilphead,
Argyll, PA31 8SQ

Speakers: Kev Bevan, Robert Logan, SAC Consulting

With the Brexit deadline looming now is a good time for you to take a step back and have a fresh look at your business.

Kev Bevan and Robert Logan will challenge and discuss ways to establish a baseline, lift performance and looking at combatting potential issues going forward especially with support payments and the market place.

Booking is essential for catering purposes

Please book your place by contacting SAC Campbeltown
on 01586 552502, alternatively you can book on the
FAS website, www.fas.scot

@FASscot

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

384165AD 10.1.2019

24 page pull out & keep supplement

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

self build & renovation



Your comprehensive guide to self build and renovation, from finance to furnishing



Your **TIMBER & JOINERY SPECIALIST**

WE DELIVER ACROSS ARGYLL



Timber & Sheet Materials • Doors, Stairs & Windows • Solid Oak Flooring
Kitchens & Worktops • Plumbing & Drainage • Aggregates & Cements
Trusses, Lintels & Cement • Metal Profile Sheets • Decking & Fencing
Insulation & Polythenes • Cure It Fibreglass Roofing • UPVC Fascia & Cladding
Garage Doors • Shower & Ceiling Panels • Slates & Roofing

Glenshellach Business Park **Oban** PA34 4HG
T: 01631 566265
oban@rembrandttimber.com

FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER £250 + VAT

Building a future

Whether you're a joiner, builder, tradesman, or home owner, Rembrandt Timber will help you find the materials you need all under one roof, at their Oban branch. Having been the largest independent timber merchant in Scotland for over 35 years now, and with 19 branches around Scotland, they have got the timber, sheet materials, doors, flooring and windows that you need for your job, and, more importantly, they have got the right quality at the right price. To all this add building materials, UPVC, roofing products, decorating, bathroom supplies, and a friendly, knowledgeable service all here at Rembrandt Timber.

Mon-Fri 7.30am - 5pm
Sat 8am - Midday
Open to Trade & Public

www.rembrandt.co

NEW SATURDAY MORNING LOCAL DELIVERY PRE BOOK ONLY

How important our homes are

At times of uncertainty our homes are our best bet

This newspaper is going to press at a moment in time when we are all wondering: what on earth happens next.

Are we Brexiting, going for a second referendum, or indyref2, general election, a hard border, a soft border, a border collie or what?

You just want to go home at the end of the day, shut the door, close the curtains and get away from it all by enjoying your family and your home.

We are not talking 'we're all dooooooomed'! Far from it. Think back over the last century – two world wars, the Cold War, the very edge of nuclear war over Cuba, and any other piece of political brinkmanship or financial depression you care to name.

We have ridden them all out and always will thanks to the comfort and practical support that only our home can give.

Our homes are our biggest asset not just financially but in terms of quality of life, nurturing and supporting our families.

Right now, more than in a very long time, we need our homes for comfort and reassurance and as a financial fortification.

Property always reflects the times in which we live. If we were in the business of social and economic forecasting – or had a crystal ball – we

Self-build makes sense

Self-build has always been the most popular choice in the West Highlands and Islands and today's home-building industry is more geared up for it than ever before. The range of kit homes and materials used in them now never ceases to impress.

A report published by the Scottish Government this month, Planning Economy, Place, says the majority of development in the UK and Scotland is now delivered by private sector developers and investors.

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, there has been clear risk aversion by development markets in the UK.

The consequence is that developers and investors typically seek proven housing markets, or committed (pre-let or pre-sold) developments which are mainly found in larger cities.

Private house builders operate a build-and-sell model which is dependent on development viability and often seek an early 'exit' through sale of a completed and occupied building.

Self-build in our part of the world makes sense in terms of finance and choice.

Enjoy planning your new home or new look home.

would predict that in coming decades more families will revert to two or three generations under the same roof. Think about it – that has always been the social model until the 20th century.

Also that more of us will return to the tradition of a family vegetable garden to supplement our diets and keep costs down.

These are two common-sense traditional approaches to housing and feeding the family unit.

A modern take on much older problems: warmth, water and waste is also com-

ing to the fore. It has been a long time since we have had to worry about these things; we expect always to flick the switch, turn the tap, pull the plug and get what we want to happen at a price we can afford. You can see the solutions filtering into our thinking and our home designs already: more bathrooms, the addition of utility rooms, energy efficiency, water recycling and renewable energy.

These are all factors to plan into your new home or the plans you are making when you extend your home, or renovate an old one.

A.R. CONTRACTS LTD

- Gutters, Patio & Driveway Cleaning
- Roof Cleaning & Treated
- Patio & Driveway Renovations
- Wall Coating with Protective Sealants
- Rough Casting
- All exterior painting & sprayable coatings
- Gutter cleaning, repair & replacement
- All flat roofing & roof repairs

Email: arcontractsltd@gmail.com
 ALL SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES
 COVERING ALL OF THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS
 0800 535 3930 07856 347 036
 Contact us to arrange a FREE visit & receive a FREE No Obligation Quote

money more

The society that's run in *your* best interests

As Scotland's only independent building society, our mutual status means that everything we do is for the benefit of our members.

We offer a range of specialist mortgages and competitive savings products for every stage in life.

Talk to our specialist mortgage advisers about:

- Self Build Mortgages
- Guarantor Mortgages for first time buyers
- Lifetime Mortgages for over 65s

Call 0345 600 4085 or visit scottishbs.co.uk to find out more

SCOTTISH BUILDING SOCIETY



Scottish Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Register No. 206034). Member of the Building Societies Association and the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Scottish Building Society, SBS House, 193 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2EF. Tel. 0131 313 7700.

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE.



Not all your money has to come – just ask the government

The success of a pilot scheme in the Highlands has prompted the Scottish Government to launch a £4million loan fund last year.

After reviewing the success of the pilot administered by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust on its behalf, the Scottish Government decided to take the project nationwide and the trust will continue to administer the fund.

Now people across the entire country who want to build their own homes will be able to apply to the Self-Build Loan.

These loans are available for eligible urban or rural self-builders who are unable to access standard

bank lending to support build completion, allowing access to a traditional mortgage which is used to repay loan. The original Highland Self Build Loan Fund pilot project has now finished.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart announced that the £4 million fund was now open for applications last September.

The Highlands had been chosen for the pilot scheme because self-build is a traditional form of housing supply in many parts of rural Scotland and the islands – and at times, the only form of housing supply – but it has become increasingly difficult to obtain self-build mortgages.

Ronnie MacRae, the trust's chief executive said at the launch: 'While not yet back to where it was, self and custom-build is again a growing market and we're excited to be working with Scottish Government and a range of partners to ensure that this remains the case and the sector goes from strength to strength as a housing option.'

How do you apply?

Applications are now open for the Self Build Loan Fund and you can apply through The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust's website. <http://www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html>

The application process is split

Money money

Get the cash and funding right before you start

Before you pick your architect or choose your kit home or even contact your friendly local planning officer there is one person you need to meet: your financial advisor.

He or she is the key to everything that follows; you could say that they – or rather the result of their work – will have the biggest impact on your new home, extension or renovation project.

When you decide to build your own home, instead of buying, you will get more house for your money, that is a well-known fact but what is the best way of raising that money in the first place?

An important point to remember is that you need more money up front to build a house than to buy a ready-built property; you will al-

ways be working 'in arrears'. You need to buy the land and get the first stage completed on site before the mortgage starts up and cash arrives to fund the next stage. (Though some 'advance' mortgages can be found where the cash is paid at the start of each stage.)

It is worth remembering that a self-build mortgage may also be suitable if you are taking on a renovation, conversion or extending your existing property.

Many building societies or banks will loan up to 80 per cent of the total cost of the land and construction costs or valuation, whichever is the lower, making the whole build process more flexible but some will only loan money on a fixed-price contract, or on an all-trades

basis under the direction of a suitably-qualified project manager

The good news about 'package deals' where you buy a kit house and building services from an existing company – and perhaps even the land – is that they often offer, or source, financial packages. This can save a lot of leg work and grief.

Not all lenders deal in self-build mortgages and that is where a financial advisor comes in; you will benefit from having someone who knows how to hunt down those who do, and those offering the best deals for your circumstances and ambitions.

Finding the right mortgage can be as vital to a self-build project's success as finding the right plot of land.

from traditional lenders

into two stages. The first application will establish applicants' financial status, landownership status, planning status and post completion mortgage status.

If an applicant is successful, they will then need to complete Stage 2 of the application process. This stage will assess the applicants' build programme, cash flow, building warrant and construction approach.

Once an applicant is successful in both stages, they can then be offered a loan to help with their self-build project.

If this sounds like something that may be of interest

to you then please visit <http://www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html> for more information, full terms and conditions of the Self Build Loan Fund and the Stage 1 application form. Or if you would like to speak to someone about the Self Build Loan Fund, you can do so by: Phone: 01463 572 030 Email: selfbuild@hscht.co.uk

Another way to raise finance is through the Rural and Islands Housing Fund which helps people build new homes and bring other properties back into use as homes.

This fund often works with

groups and can also be used to make empty homes ready to rent or sell; the planned homes must be affordable, whether for rent or sale and can include converting former business premises.

To be eligible the project must have a building site or buildings and show there is a need for affordable housing in the area and have local authority support with proof of working with the community. It also has a smaller feasibility fund available to help with architect's design, quantity surveyor's estimates and structural engineer's report.

Get the VAT back

The government has funds and grants available for self-building and renovating some properties but make sure that it is the government giving you the cash and not the other way round.

In short remember to keep on top of your paper work and claim back VAT where eligible.

There are circumstances where you qualify for zero-rated VAT; and a reduced VAT rate at source if any VAT registered business should supply labour, or labour and materials.

Once the project is completed you can reclaim any VAT paid on qualifying materials bought at 20 per cent VAT along with any five per cent VAT invoices.

The rules and regulations can be daunting and there are specialists you can hire to help you through the process. Applying for a reduced rate VAT certificate helps.

THE SELF BUILD LOAN FUND

HERE TO HELP THOSE STRUGGLING TO SECURE SELF BUILD FINANCE

ABOUT THE SELF BUILD LOAN FUND

The Self Build Loan Fund (SBLF) was established by the Scottish Government to support and encourage the self build market at a time where securing mainstream finance can be difficult. The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust administer the fund.

Now available across Scotland, self builders can borrow up to £175,000 to help them during their construction period.



[@SelfBuildFund](https://twitter.com/SelfBuildFund)

KEY FACTS

- Borrow up to £175,000
- Must be able to demonstrate that you have been unable to secure mainstream self build finance
- Used to financially support the construction of your home and then repay your loan with a traditional mortgage on completion
- Fees and interest apply
- Must own a house plot, with planning consent in place

For more information visit our website:

www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund

Or get in touch:

selfbuild@hscht.co.uk 01463 572030



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



We have also recently launched a new website dedicated to providing self and custom build news and information. You can view it here: www.selfandcustombuild.co.uk.



Scotland's
Self & Custom
Build Portal

Freedom from worry and value for money



You could build a new home without an architect but would you want to?

CP Architects – concept to completion

New-build and renovated homes come to life with the support of CP Architects behind you.

The well-known Oban-based team on George Street has more than 30 years' experience in sympathetic renovations which breathe new life into old buildings and a sensitive design approach to each new house site

that recognises that no two locations are the same and each individual client's needs are unique.

'It is never too early to come in to talk to us,' said Iain Campbell, 'to discuss your ideas and aspirations, present and future requirements along with budget and programme constraints.'

'We can help assess your

options from the start; our design and technical expertise guides projects through from concept to completion.'

The team's 3-D modelling programme helps bring ideas to life and tests them out along with their skills in integrated renewable energy systems each individually designed for existing properties and new-builds.



Sustainable design across all types of projects

Extensive experience in rural, coastal and remote environments

Residential • Commercial • Community



cparchitects

110 George Street Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

Tel: 01631 563177 Email: mail@cparchitects.net www.cparchitects.co.uk

When you hire an architect you get 'freedom from worry and value for money'.

That is what the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) will tell you. An architect brings to your project:

- Seven years of studying; the longest training period in the building industry
- A member of a professional chartered body; RIAS or FRIAS, the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, and RIBA, Royal Institute of British Architects.
- Members must carry professional indemnity insurance and uphold the reputation of the profession.
- A professional who can steer you through planning and building legislation.

A good architect listens to what you need the property to do for you and your family and how you want it to look. It is their professional experience that will make sure you get the best for you out of what you have; creating as much home as possible from a plot, materials and construction costs. This will save you money in the long term.

Sustainable construction Chances are you will not have heard of Sandy Halliday, but the manufacturers of the house kit you are buying or your architect will have.

Tonight at the RIAS Bookshop in Edinburgh she will be giving a short talk followed by a question and answer session.

Sandy, AKA Professor Sandy (Sandra) Halliday BSc(Hons) MPhil CEng MCIBSE FRSA wrote the book, literally; the event tonight is to celebrate



A property in the West Highlands was named the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) House of the Year for 2018. Lochside House, West Highlands, the work of Haysom Ward Miller Architects, dazzled the judges. Comments included 'The care in the design and in the building of this house makes it an exemplar of its genre.' 'The scale, material choices, use of the setting and integration into the landscape were all excellent.' 'A sustainable building making good use of wood.' (Photo: Richard Fraser)

the launch of the second edition of one of her work, Sustainable Construction.

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland says the book 'provides a masterclass on the principles and techniques involved in the design and delivery of practical, affordable, high quality sustainable buildings.'

The review continues: 'It presents precedents, theory, concepts and principles alongside 120 wide ranging case studies that highlight current best practice and encourage implementation.'

Prof Halliday is part of Gaia Research an organisation that provides specialist advice on sustainable design and continuing professional development for clients, project managers, engineers and architects striving to create sustainable strategies for the built environment.

Perhaps the most well known example of their work

in the West Highlands is Acharacle Primary School.

Calculating the cost

Architects' fees are part of the overall cost of any project and usually calculated in three ways. You and your architect should decide in advance whether expenses will be included within the agreed fee or charged separately.

Percentage is based on the total construction costs in the building contract including site works; agreement is needed on the services provided, nature of the work and an approximate construction budget.

Lump sum fees work best when the project can be clearly defined right from the start and there are no surprises for either side.

Time charged is the flip-side of that coin and best where the amount of work cannot 'reasonably' be seen; an agreed upper limit is needed and fees are often staged.

Planning to succeed

It has never been easier to navigate the system, thanks to online help and the pre-application services



Main Street, Tobermory in one of Argyll and Bute's 32 conservation areas where extra planning permission approvals are needed.

Make sure you get your planning application and building warrants right, right from the start and you will save yourself no end of time and money – not to mention stress.

Ask any planning officer or councillor and they will tell you the same: talk to your local council's planning department first of all.

Before you begin – when your new home or extension is just a twinkle in your eye and a sketch on the back of an envelope – your first step is to take advantage of the pre-application advice offered by councils.

When planning a self-build project or a major renovation, remodelling or repair, you can save boost your budget by doing the applications for planning permission and building warrants yourself.

Pre the internet revolution few people would have even considered taking this role out of the hands of their architect or agent but times have changed – and so have resources.

Scotland now has eDevelopment.scot – an online service available for anyone to use to prepare and submit planning permission and building warrant applications.

It caters for construction professionals and public alike and links to your local council.

The first step in a planning journey is planning permission in principle, formerly known as outline planning permission.

Approval of matters specified

What's permitted...

Small alterations and extensions can go ahead without applying for planning permission, but how small is small?

The Scottish Government website's planning and architecture pages have all the details, including easy-to-follow flowcharts which talk you through the rules covering everything from sheds, sun loungers, greenhouses and garages, and decking and access ramps, right up to extensions of more than one storey.

...and what's not

We live in a country with an incredible landscape and history; people come from all over the world to see it so it is important that it is protected.

Remember that if you live in a conservation area or if your building is listed in any way you will need to apply for extra permission.

It does not matter if you are building from new, or extending, converting or renovating an existing property you will need consent for all external work and inside if you are altering the historic fabric of the building.

Scotland has 40 areas designated as National Scenic Areas covering 13 per cent of the country. Your plans must take this into account if you are in one of the areas and there are also areas classed as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Ignore this legislation at your peril.

in a condition then goes on to approve the conditions involved in the planning permission in principle; work should only begin when this approval is in place.

Remember also that it is an offence to start building work or demolition without a building warrant. If you do, you could be fined. The rules for building warrants and building regulations in the rest of the UK vary significantly and can lead to expensive mis-

takes – so if you have moved to Scotland from England, Wales or Northern Ireland make sure you are aware of the differences and the impact this might have on your plans and work flow.

You usually won't need to ask your local council for permission to carry out minor work, but you should check with them to make sure. You can be fined and ordered to remove any new building work if you need a Building Warrant and don't get one.

Tom McCardel Associates
chartered architects

The Smithy Studio Barbreck Ardfern Argyll 01852 500335

www.tommccardel.co.uk



We have over 30 years' experience of designing houses, alterations and extensions in Argyll. Our aim is to tailor the design to fit your needs as well as those of the environment.

We like to make the most of natural light as this is at the heart of a healthy home.

From small project to large, it is important that you feel confident that you are receiving

the advice that helps you to achieve what you are looking for.

Give us a call, and come for an initial meeting in our office, which is free of charge.



Friendly Professional Service



Kit yourself out!

Kit homes are one of the most popular ways to build your own home there in the Highlands and islands and they come in all shapes, sizes and materials

How the times have changed when it come to kit homes.

They first saw the light of day in the post Second World War era as a way of boosting the nation's depleted housing stock and wartime neglect.

Back then, when your grandparents or parents were buying their first kit home it was far more primitive than our contemporary computer-designed and constructed homes; the technology available today would make their heads spin.

It was a case of struggling to get the house weatherproof on site during the vagaries of the Scottish climate. Today, entire rooms can arrive, sealed, on site; the hard work has been done undercover in the factory and the time spent on site getting the property weather-tight is minimal.

In the old days it was very much a 'one-size-fits all'

scenario. Today's technology means that a kit home is totally customisable. Want to flip the interior lay out? No problem, think the porch would be better over there?

Today's kits have flexibility built in as standard and some kit home manufacturers have the ability to take your architect's drawings and use their production techniques to build your home from start to finish and give you a bespoke service.

The one proviso for a timber frame home design is making sure that you know what you want at the design stage. Alterations once the kit has been constructed will be costly. That is one point where brick-built wins; you can move a window or door or wall during the construction phase. Try doing that to a timber frame and it will mean a trip back to the draw-

ing board and the factory and that will prove expensive.

Kit homes are the most popular way to build a home in the West Highlands and Islands and some of the leading kits come from manufacturers in the region.

One advantage of having a kit home supplier build your home for you is that they will have their own team of proven tradesmen and women who have worked together before and they know this product inside out – literally! You are saving on time but you are paying for expertise and experience.

You might decide to put the work in the hands of a building firm you know and trust; in the West Highlands the chances are that good building companies will have worked on all the big name companies' kits and have a

proven knowledge and understanding of the product.

Or you are in the building trade yourself and can put together your own team. Job done.

You might decide to project manage the build yourself and hire in the trades and skills as needed. This could save money but most people who go down this route will tell you that the demands on your time will be far greater than you anticipate.

Flexibility truly is the key word. They create and build many different styles of home for many different people and so the choice of bathrooms and kitchens and flooring reflects that wide range; you can even source fittings from other suppliers if you have your heart set on a particular style or type and they will carry out the installation.



Timber frame

The house has a basic wooden frame, covered in waterproof material (like stone or bricks). A number of companies sell timber frame 'kit homes', which are house styles that have already been designed and just need to be put together. This remains one of the most popular choices in the West Highlands.

Steel frame construction

Once the steel frame is built, panels are attached to it. These are coated, or made waterproof in some other way. Building a steel frame house on-site can be quick as much can be made in advance off site.

Alternatives

Across the West Highlands and islands you will find many interesting alternative styles of building; eco friendly and energy saving ideas; turf roofs, insulated concrete form work; water recycling and energy generation.

They are fascinating and use many pioneering techniques. Perhaps the only thing holding people back from experimenting this way is that traditional lenders will not give mortgages.

The best thing about a kit home is that many of these elements and your choices of heating and energy efficiency can be incorporated into your kit.

Is SIPS the next

The choice is remarkable in kit building including some innovative, industry-leading alternatives

Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) technology is considered by some in the industry as the next generation building material for kit homes.

This unique material offers incredible design opportunities for wide open, airy

designs. Used to form the walls and roofs, SIPs kits are growing in popularity with self builders as a kit-only option and with 'turnkey' contractors for a completed house.

Since SIPs don't require roof trusses, this means

designs can feature upstairs rooms and double-height hallways constructed with vaulted ceilings, making them light and spacious.

It is also a material which can offer high levels of insulation with an excellent airtight level.

Renovations • Timber Frame Builds • Doors • Windows • Extensions



D J Campbell Joinery Ltd

4 McKelvie Road Oban Argyll PA34 4GB

tel: 01631 566444 mob: 07768320443 email:- djcampbell1@hotmail.co.uk



A helping hand for self and custom builders...

Scotland's Self and Custom Build Portal has been created to provide advice, guidance and support to those interested in building their own home in Scotland.

How and why was this portal created?

It began with the Scottish Government creating the Self and Custom Build Housing Pilot Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund was created to test new models for increasing self and custom builds in Scotland. The Challenge Fund was open to all and looking for those who could provide an innovative approach to encouraging and supporting self and custom builds across Scotland.

There has been a significant decline in high street lenders providing self-build mortgages and as a result has made it difficult for people to finance self-build projects and decreased the amount of work available for the construction and architectural industries. The Scottish Government have recognised these issues and are putting

new initiatives in place to try to reinvigorate the self-build sector, including the Challenge Fund.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) decided to submit an application for the Challenge Fund with their idea of a new self and custom build portal for Scotland. The portal would be an innovative hub for people to get advice, guidance, funding options and help buying and finding plots. HSCHT were also able to demonstrate their experience in the self-build industry as they have previously helped aid a number of self-build projects. They have led the way in creating new finance models and mechanisms to make self build an easier route to build a home. HSCHT were successful with their application and thus was the beginning of Scotland's Self and Custom Build Portal.

Who is the portal targeted at?

The portal has been set up to help anyone who is considering undertaking their own self or custom build project. The portal provides information on the different self-build routes and finance options available. The interactive 'Getting Started' function allows people to assess their house plans and finances and give an estimated cost of how much their project may cost.

The portal can also help landowners who are looking to sell their plots by utilising our 'Plot Finder' feature. The Plot Finder lets people view different plots that are available in Scotland. If you are a landowner and would like more information on how you can advertise your plot on the Plot Finder, contact hello@selfandcustombuild.co.uk

big thing?

If a member of your family has some special needs a kit home makes so much sense – wider door frames, larger bathrooms or wet rooms and strengthened joists for hoists can be added at the click of a mouse at the design stage.

Most self-build clients choose render as their main choice for the exterior, followed by wood, brick and stone.



www.selfandcustombuild.co.uk



Building your own home?

Sustainable Construction you can rely on...



MACLEOD
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Whether you want MacLeod's to build your whole home from start to finish, or you just need to pick and choose the specialist trade services they offer, they will work alongside you wherever and whenever required in the process.



Stylish, spacious, affordable homes customised just for you



MacLeod Construction... ready to go!

MacLeod Construction is the largest timber frame design and manufacturing company in the area with 40 years' experience and a proven track record in quality timber frame construction. Using the very latest methods and materials they design every frame and panel with the innovative software before manufacturing the kit with an automated frame-maker. It's quick, easy and accurate.

Business Development Director Greig MacLeod tells us 'We are a family run business and passionate about what we do. We offer a lot of services, but house building is our speciality. Our homes are stylish, spacious and affordable and can be customised to your exact requirements. Building a kit home is faster, easier and less wasteful than a traditional build. Our kits are highly insulated and come with double glazing



Building sand

- mortar
- floor screeds



Type 1

- road and footpath construction
- sub base for slabs



40mm angular crushed

- garden landscaping
- decorative driveways
- car parking areas
- drainage construction



Large round stone

- 120-250mm
- large scale ground formations
- decorative garden landscaping

to help keep your heating bills down. All our kits have been designed to accommodate the latest renewable heating systems'.

MacLeod Construction is able to offer a full range of services from obtaining planning permission and building warrant right through to completion.

To help streamline your build-process you can pick and choose trades from any of their extensive service division:

- **Plumbing & Electrical**
- **Windows & Doors**
- **Conservatories**
- **Roofing**
- **Refurb & Joinery**
- **Building Aggregates (sand and stone)**

Working together with you, they can help make your future dream home a reality.

www.macleodconstruction.co.uk

sales@mkmacleod.co.uk

01546 602989



Economical heating systems

Beautiful custom built homes to turn your dreams into reality

Small...but perfectly formed

Wouldn't we all like a beautifully designed home with character and charm? How about lower bills and a more sustainable, less stressful existence? All that can be yours thanks to the rapidly-growing small house movement, giving you the opportunity to live big with the associated cost savings. What's more, a small but perfectly formed home could be yours in a matter of weeks.

Willie and Jane Coghill did just that, choosing The Wee House Company to design and construct their dream custom build home.

Perched on the edge of Scotland, in Caithness, the Coghills opted for a 2 bedroom bespoke design that would make the most of the stunning scenery around the plot.



With an internal floor area of around 80m² this Wee House, lovingly named Bluebelle Cottage, has been optimally designed to take advantage of the panoramic views from the site. As well as an open-plan living/dining area, the house includes a sun room; creating an additional relaxation area for the family. Opening the French doors creates an unexpected feeling of space in the house, while closing them over gives the couple the option of a cosy, peaceful retreat.



The heart of Bluebelle Cottage is the kitchen, featuring a beautiful palette of cream and wood finishes, offset with traditional pewter finish handles. The generous oak-style worktop makes it an inviting space for food preparation and clever use of all available space means there are plenty of cupboards for storage.



Managing a build project of your own can be extremely challenging and that's one of the reasons The Wee House Company is so popular – they take the stress out of the self-build experience. Everything from applying for planning consent and a building warrant to ground works, construction and service installation is taken care of by their dedicated team.

The Wee House Company founder, Jennifer Higgins said, "Our Wee Houses are designed and constructed to achieve the highest standards in safety, sustainability and energy efficiency and we pride ourselves on our exceptional customer care."

"Our clients are really varied. We've built homes for couples looking to downsize, we've helped families stay close together by building in their garden plot and we've built Wee Houses which have become very successful holiday lets. The houses are mortgage eligible so it's also an affordable option for first time buyers struggling to get on the property ladder."

If you've always dreamt of a loch side getaway, a romantic forest retreat or an island escape, it's never been easier – or quicker. The Wee House Company can construct, transport and build a Wee House on your plot in as little as eight weeks!

The company have been designing and building small homes since 2013 and use over 50 combined years of experience in construction and smart design to maximise the functionality and liveability of a smaller floor area. For more information, please visit www.theweehousecompany.co.uk

**Prices start from £99,000 for a 2 bed Wee House*

The Wee House Co.

Modular cottages built on your plot, anywhere in the UK



"I was offered guidance at every stage of the process. The Wee House Company handled everything to do with the planning and building warrant applications. They also took care of all the ground works that were required to get our Wee House into the site and connected to services."

Jane McFadzean

Two Bedroom Wee House, Dalduff Farm, South Ayrshire

Tel: 01292 591715
www.theweehousecompany.co.uk

Living on site

With a self-build property more money is needed up front to get the project started and many families decide to sell their homes and live in a caravan on site to free up their capital.

The good news is that as a tourist area the West Highlands is never short of good quality second-hand static caravans to buy and there will be a market for the home once you come to sell.

You also have another asset, the plot itself, to help keep your costs down; it can hold a shipping container or two for your possessions thus reducing storage fees. It can even make financial sense to build your garage or large garden shed before your home for additional space; that is if you

know exactly where you want it to go and it will not impede work on the house.

A second mobile home or a demountable Portakabin-style building can be a good investment for your washing machine and tumble drier, bikes and big pieces of family kit.

The trouble with living on site is that you are living on a building site and it can mean plenty of mud, which combined with kids and dogs is not a good mix especially when the doors on static caravans lead straight into the kitchen or living space. If you know you are going to be over-wintering or the building process might have to halt on occasions for finance then a built-on timber porch does not look like an

extra expense but an essential.

Inside, a good collection of micro-fleece throws for the fixed upholstery, which can be quickly washed and dried is a good idea as are Turtle-style doormats and runners – the better condition the soft furnishings are in the better price you will get when selling on and there are plenty of professional cleaners with equipment to help put a sparkle on it all when your new house is ready.

And just remember that you are going to want an extra helping of sense of humour; down-sizing your average family and their possessions into such a compact space will produce plenty of times when you are going to need it.



Sinclair Plant & Contracting Ltd

Argyll based building contractors

- Full Turnkey building service and project management
- Groundworks
- Extensions
- Renovations

Sinclair plant & Contracting Ltd have been providing high quality groundworks services throughout Argyll for the last 15 years and are now expanding that service to include a full build option.

With our squad of skilled machine operators and

tradesmen we can now deliver all your building needs from the ground up.

Services

- Site clearance
- Foundations
- Drainage
- Soft & hard landscaping
- New builds/Extensions/Renovations



Before



After

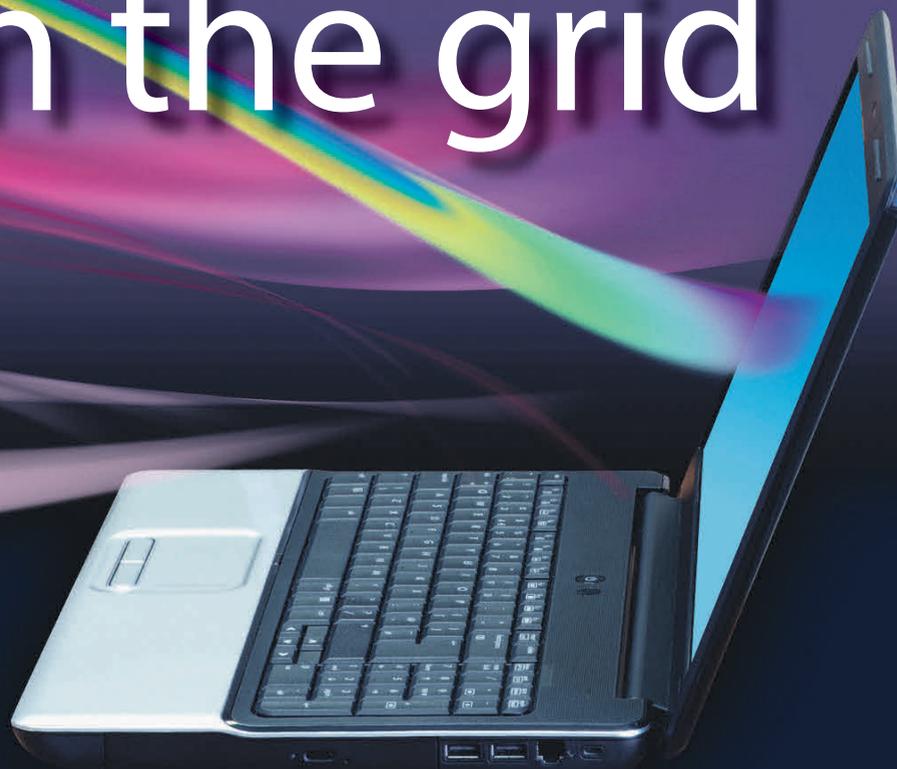
The pictures show the recently completed office building for "Ferguson Electrical Ltd", transforming what was a cramped garden space into a modern office and parking area.

Contact info@sinclairplant.co.uk

tel 01631 710762 / 07825012259

Getting your new home on the grid

As far as your kids are concerned broadband and a mobile signal are essential, never mind about mains water!



Our great-great-grandparents' memories of the Tilley lamp, the earth closet at the end of the garden and the water pump alongside the big stone sink are slowly fading from memory.

There are very few people left alive today who can recall them – though chances are many of us still have a few Tilley lamps on standby for power cuts.

The utilities we expect today were luxuries back then and some of what we consider basic utilities now were just plain unheard of, luxury or not.

Electricity, water and sewerage are just expected to be available and if we are too far away from mains water or drains or power lines then the technology exists to provide them. 'Town gas' in our major population centres is backed up with gas or oil tanks at our homes

outwith the gas supply areas. We also expect landline and mobile telephones and television and broadband as standard utilities laid on in our homes.

When self-building many plots will already be connected to services, or be close to them.

It is a good plan, early on, when looking for a plot to buy to ask about the ease of connecting up to services and the cost; for some budgets this could be a decisive factor in whether to go ahead with the purchase or not.

It goes without saying that getting services on site as soon as possible is an important step. Builders will need power tools and water right from the start.

Ask your children what they would think of living in a house with no, or painfully slow, wi-fi, with no mobile

network and in a shadow unable to pick up satellite television or Freeview via terrestrial television. To youngsters, these services are basic utilities they cannot imagine living without.

Ask some families what they would rather have: a dining room where they can sit and eat together and talk, or a media room where they can watch Sky or Netflix or play games on a massive, wall-covering television with a sound system that rattles the triple-glazing. You know what the answer is going to be.

So it makes sense to check these services out. You might be pleasantly surprised because of the amount of investment in broadband for remote and rural locations by the government. Remember mobile signals can be boosted via broadband.

Energy and renewables

Building a new home means you can benefit from the latest energy-saving technology from the day you move in

Installing green technologies in your self-build offers the chance of energy savings and might also qualify for government schemes or

loans. Organisations like Home Energy Scotland can provide free, in-depth advice custom-designed to your style of home and circumstances.

They can talk you through the options for energy saving and generating your own energy for heating

or electricity. Though there have been changes in recent years, renewable heat incentive schemes still exist and so do feed in tariff schemes for the use of small small-scale, renewable and low-carbon technologies to generate electricity.



Barr Renewables

info@barr-renewables.co.uk
07554 377491 www.barr-renewables.co.uk

Interested in Solar PV?
FACT - Install before April 2019 to qualify for Feed in Tariff.
We work with local tradesmen so you know who you are dealing with.
Is Air Source Right For You?
Get an unbiased opinion as not all properties are suitable.



Solar PV
Wood and Multi Fuel Stoves



Airsource Heat Pumps
Biomass Boilers



***Provide an unrivalled after-sales service!**

**WOOD BURNING STOVES AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
SOLAR PV SOLAR THERMAL**





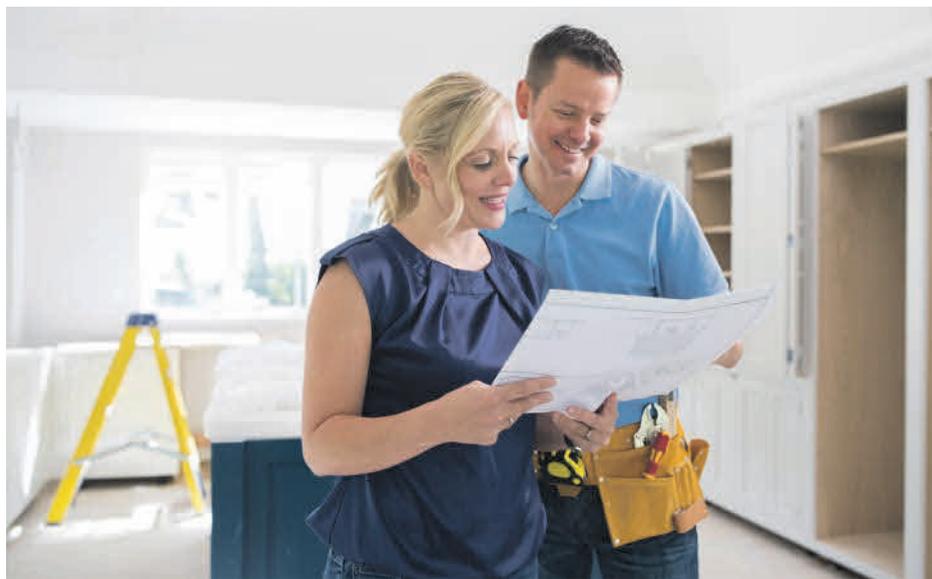


REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND
VAT REGISTRATION No 127 5408 18
COMPANY REGISTRATION No. 397082





Thinking about a self-build project?



Your self-build plans need approval by your local authority planning department and will need to meet Scotland's energy efficiency requirements. For many this will mean home renewables. Home Energy Scotland's specialists are ready to give you tailored and impartial advice on suitable renew-

able technologies, typical running costs and available financial support. Working with your plans, we'll provide bespoke modelling and compare the running cost of different technologies. Our advice covers a lot more too: maintenance costs, getting the best out of systems, Feed-in Tariffs, the

Renewable Heat Incentive and accredited installers. We also provide ongoing support to help you through the installation process, applying for funding and giving advice once your renewables system is commissioned. To find out more call us free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to one of our advisors.

Why build to Passivhaus standard?



Photo credit: Andrew Michler

The international Passivhaus standard is the world's leading standard in energy-efficient building design. In this article, Passivhaus designer Es Tresidder of HighlandPassive.com explains why you should consider going for Passivhaus certification for your new-build or retrofit project, and how you should go about it. The Passivhaus standard is well known as an energy-efficiency standard, and it certainly does that well – Passivhaus-certified buildings typically require 90% less heating than existing buildings, or 70% less than typical new-builds (think annual heating bills of around £100 for a 2-3 bedroom house, for the house being warm 24 hours a day). They achieve this through high levels of continuous insulation, high-quality triple glazing, airtight construction and careful design and attention to detail. But Passivhaus buildings offer more than just energy efficiency, they are also more comfortable, more robust and healthier to live in. Here's how.

More comfortable in winter (and summer)
Passivhaus-standard buildings feel warmer. Walls, roofs and ground floors are better insulated, and the insulation in each element meets the insulation in the other elements with no gaps (thermal bridges). This, coupled with high-quality triple glazed windows, means that the temperatures of the surfaces surrounding you are higher. Warm surfaces mean you lose less heat via radiation and feel warmer. Airtight construction and well-designed ventilation systems eliminate draughts. Well-designed Passivhaus buildings also perform better in summer, staying cooler when the weather gets hot.

More robust
Because Passivhaus buildings are extremely airtight and well ventilated, warm, moisture-laden air does not leak through the building fabric.

This eliminates the risk of hidden, long-term moisture problems within the structure of a building.

Healthier to live in
Plentiful fresh air is provided via mechanical ventilation with heat recovery. This means better indoor air quality than naturally ventilated buildings. Better ventilation and warmer surface temperatures mean that mould, which increases the risk of asthma, respiratory infections and allergies, is eliminated. Occupants often remark on an improvement in respiratory health problems, and an improvement in sleep quality.

How do I build myself a Passivhaus?
The easiest way is to work with a certified Passivhaus designer. This could be your architect (some architects are Passivhaus certified), or a designer who helps your architect design to the standards required. The earlier you get the Passivhaus designer involved, the simpler and cheaper it will be – ideally right at the very start of the project, before any of the design work starts.

The Highlands and Islands are the coldest, windiest places to build a house in the UK, and we spend a lot of our time indoors escaping the weather. On top of that we have some of the highest fuel and electricity prices in the UK. Here, more than anywhere, Passivhaus makes sense; for your comfort, your wallet, your health and the health of the planet.

Recommended resources
UK Passivhaus trust: <http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/>
Excellent magazine focussing on Passivhaus: <https://passivehouseplus.ie/>
Passivhaus blog: <https://elrondburrell.com/>
Passivhaus-focussed podcast: <http://www.houseplanninghelp.com/>
Highland Passive website and blog: www.highlandpassive.com



THINKING ABOUT A HEAT PUMP IN YOUR HOME?

Beneath the surface Scotland is a warm place. However, is a heat pump the right option for you and your home?

We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government.

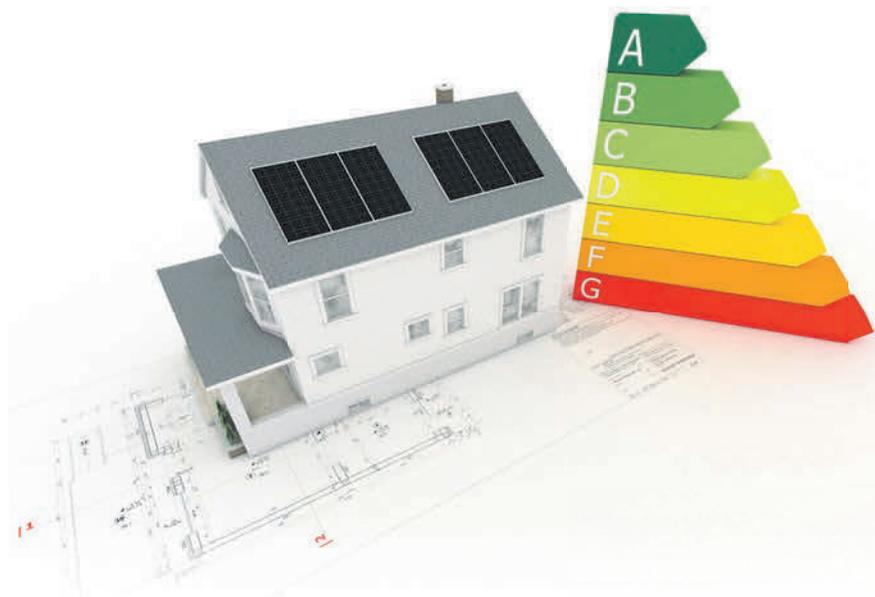
Speak to a renewables advisor at Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.



HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



A new home? Don't waste your energy!



All the planet-saving, greenhouse gas reducing, technological solutions aside, what is nicer on a dreich day than being cosy in front of a wood-burning stove?

Once the choice was coal, gas or oil to fuel both power stations and heat our homes, with the occasional nuclear power station thrown in, of course.

Today you can add sun, water, wind, plants, soil and air to the list as we strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our dependence on non-renewable energy.

These methods of generation are supported by advances in building design and materials to

make new-build properties themselves need far less energy to keep them warm and well-lit, or dramatically improve the energy efficiency of older buildings through renovation and retro-fitting.

So important is the need for us tackle the problems caused by unchecked use of non-renewable fossil fuels that government intervention has seen new building regulations and supporting grant systems to help people finance this work. In Scotland today there

are loans of up to £38,500 for owner occupiers and eligible landlords in the private sector for energy efficient improvements.

If your home project is in a very remote and rural location investing in the technology to live off the grid could be lower than the cost of bringing in a mains supply. And, all the planet-saving, greenhouse gas reducing, technological solutions aside, what is nicer on a dreich day than being cosy in front of a wood stove?

Backwoodsman

If your new house specifications include a wood burning stove and sectional chimney as part of your heating mix then giving early consideration to the best placement for the installation may well help you avoid a headache later down the track.

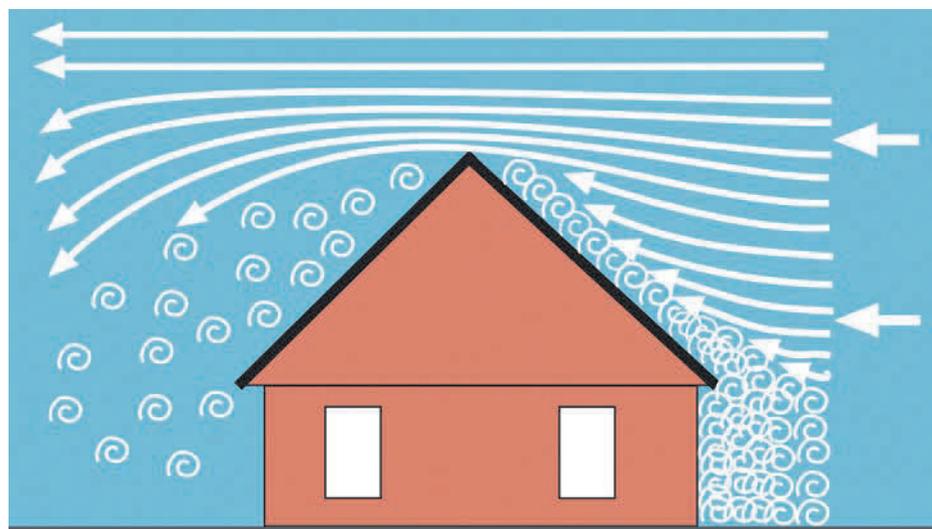
As with any stove installation the demands of the chimney should come first. This is easy to overlook but chimneys have to generate a reliable draught under a great

variety of weather conditions and if their basic needs aren't met they can be miserable and even dangerous to live with.

Many modern houses are designed to have large glazed areas combined with open-plan spaces leaving little suitable wall space for a stove. Often the chimney is expected to play second fiddle to the stove and is forced into a situation far from ideal (such as hard on the eaves)

purely because there is no alternative space available.

If you're looking for a trouble-free installation and years of good service from your stove and chimney then good chimney design is key and sorting out these details early during the design phase is the best time to do it. We are always happy to offer advice, even at the very early stages of the build project. To discuss your requirements further please contact us on 01631 720539.



Understanding the effects of wind force and pressure around the building is important in good chimney design.



Backwoodsman



Our family run business has distributed stoves and chimneys and provided a heating consultancy service for Argyll, Lochaber and the Western Isles for over 40 years.

Quality Stoves - contemporary & traditional
Water Heating Options • Complete Chimney Systems
CAD Design • Surveys & Specifications
Retail & Trade Supplies • Showroom by Appointment

Please call us for further details or visit our website.

www.backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

Barcaldine OBAN Argyll PA37 1SG Tel. 01631 720539

**Graeme's
Waste
Solutions Ltd**

www.gwsscotland.co.uk

Additional services provided include drain jetting & drain CCTV surveys. All at competitive prices!

Contact: 07788 233 119



Milligan Transport: *Delivery problem solved*

No matter how remote your delivery in the West Highlands and Islands, Milligan Transport can do it.

This Mallaig-based company specialises in land and sea transport.

They delivered an alligator to the Isle of Rum to act in a television documentary, so your kit home or building materials will be all in a day's work.

The star of the show is the landing craft Spanish John

2, actually the third vessel to carry the name; the original, a Navy-surplus vessel was legendary in West Highland waters. This incarnation was Clyde-built in 2003 at Alexander Noble and Sons of Girvan.

Sitting at 20m long and 6.5m wide, deck cargo can be up to 40 tons. Power comes from twin 236 hp Daewoo engines. Loading can be either via the 3.6m wide bow door ramp, or with a 23t per metre Palfinger

hydraulic crane operated by radio remote control.

They deliver equipment and feed to fish farms daily.

Plant and diggers are regular cargos and so are sand and aggregates, council skip lorries with refuse and recycling skips, towing fish farm cages. She has also been a platform for movie making and also featured in the new Ford Eco Sport advert that has just started airing on television.



For all your Highlands and Islands transport logistics...



Milligan Transport is a family run company based in Mallaig, specialising in the movement of freight, by road and by sea including the famous Spanish John 2

Craigard, Mallaig, Inverness, PH41 4RG

Tel: 07900 564 475 Email: greigmilligan@btinternet.com

 Spanish John www.milligantransportltd.co.uk

An island li

Do you want to join an island community or build yourself a home in magnificent isolation on the mainland? Don't be daunted by the logistics, when it comes to living on islands or in remote rural places, we've been doing it for centuries... we're experts.

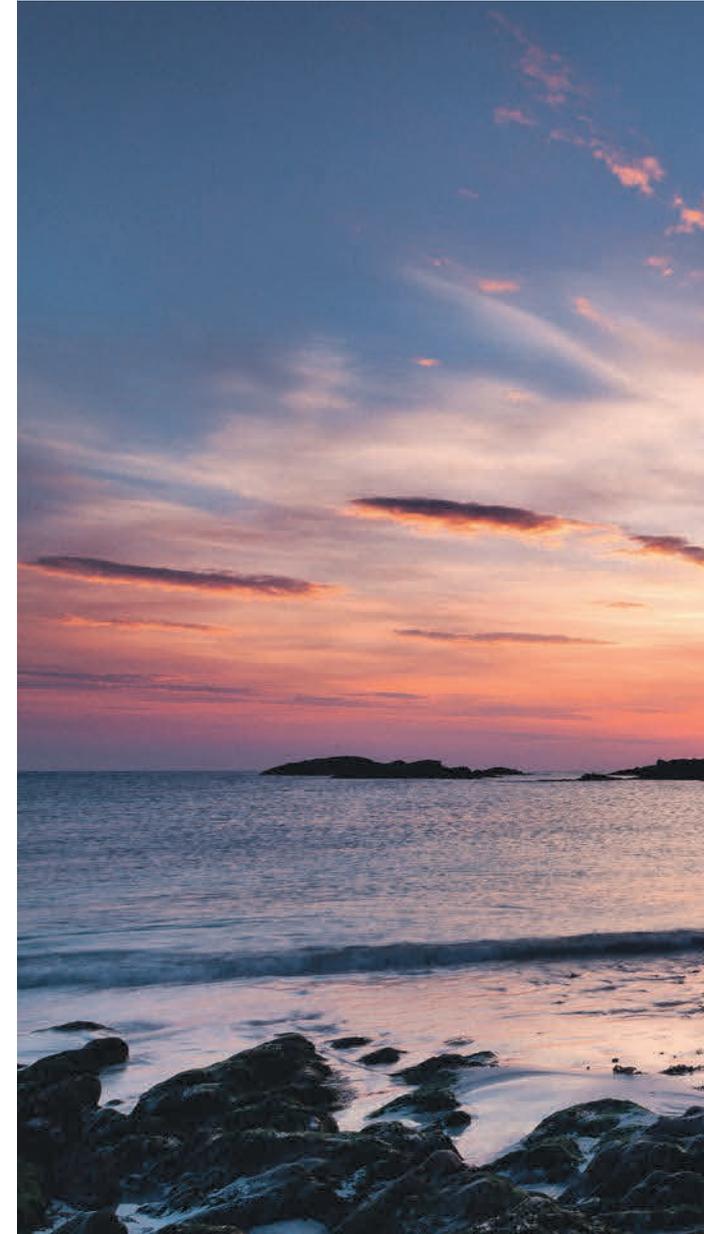
If you can comply with all the planning permissions, building warrants and regulations, and you have the money, you can build anywhere; it's a simple fact of life. That includes the remotest spot you can find on the West Highland mainland or the islands.

There are islands that would be offended if you called them remote. Do not forget that in Argyll, with its many peninsulas, and Lochaber's wild mountains there are places on the mainland that it can take longer to reach than an island with a ferry service.

Remember that people have lived here for centuries; people in this part of the world know how to get to remote places – and how to get very large loads to remote places. We've had plenty of practice.

Do not just take our word for it; take a walk along to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminals at Oban or Kennacraig. You will see the skilled deck hands loading builders' merchants' lorries laden down with materials and roof trusses bound for Mull and Islay and from there onto Jura or Iona.

Many of you will have quietly cursed under your breath and reversed back to a passing place to let a lorry carrying earth moving plant



go by, on its way to dig out some new foundations.

It is easier, for example, to get planning permission to build on a plot in the communities of Tobermory on Mull or Bowmore on the Isle of Islay than a remote mainland spot which is in the middle of an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) where you will find yourself having to provide reports on environmental impact to bodies like SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency). You might have to prove that there is a need for a house in this particular spot or there could be residency conditions linked to employment.

No community ever stands still; new houses or renovations and extensions are always taking place. Early contact with the council planning department will always pay dividends, especially the pre-planning guidance on offer.

Islands and remote rural communities are desperate for new families. Your children might mean the difference between a closure or an extra teacher for a primary school. The different areas have different incentives to help make this happen.

Utilities can be expensive and take time to install in a remote location; but nothing that cannot be solved with an innovative approach to waste water disposal, a good quality private water supply and system (it will need to be tested and approved) and the many alternative types of power generation available today. There are some excellent examples to be found all over this region; many of them award-winning.

Just don't be naïve when it comes to the extra expenditure of cash and time – but one of the ways you can help keep this as low as possible is to be thoroughly, thoroughly organised. You have to be

Life for me!



right first time, or face a day-and-a-half ferry journey, or an 80-mile round trip on single-track roads, to return the wrong part for the right one or pick up extra materials, while the weather closes in or workers have to wait.

Don't even let the lack of a ferry service worry you; transport companies here have boats and vehicles that can get anywhere.

You will see a ferry timetable tucked on the dash board of many a builder's van along with the obligatory old copies of the Daily Record and a few used paper coffee cups and crisp bags. Everyone has got the CalMac app on their mobile phones. Ferries do not just take you to islands; they will also cut your journey time on the way to mainland peninsulas at Corran Ferry, in Lochaber, and Portavadie to Tarbert in Argyll.

One obvious piece of advice is make sure that the majority of the build project takes

place during the summer timetable when there are more ferries running, often earlier and later in the day – a blessing for your logistics.

If you are transporting materials and people yourself, remember to book well in advance during the height of the tourist season and on days when major events like Highland games and agricultural shows are taking place. You will also have the advantage of longer daylight and (hopefully) better weather.

Land

If you already have a plot then one of the hardest parts of the job is over.

If you are searching for a plot always check the ease and cost of connecting to utilities in this location. Make sure that you have a right of access; some roads can look public but are in private ownership and you might have to cross someone

else's land to get to yours.

Also make sure that you are not in a black spot for mobile phone reception (not uncommon) and that you can pick up a satellite signal or are in range for Freeview for terrestrial broadcasting. But that said, you will be pleasantly surprised by how many islands and remote communities do have superfast broadband thanks to government investment.

Materials and design

If living on an island with a stunning sea view or in a remote rural spot is your dream remember that by your very choice you will almost certainly experience West Highland and island weather at its most enthusiastic.

Design and materials should be used accordingly and that does not just mean your home. Your garden will need hedging, shrub screens, and plants that are salt spray, deer and rabbit-proof.

Thorne Wyness Architects

01688302746
www.thornewyness.co.uk



Energy Saving Design



WK Soudan Ltd

New builds, renovations and extensions

House plots for sale - Tarbert & Whitehouse - Plant Hire
Registered Road and Street Works Contractors

Stock Fencing
Deer Fencing
Security Fencing
Wooden Fencing
Kerbing & Slabbing
Block Paving
Concrete Work
Turfing



Seeding
Top soil
Ground Work
Tarring
Site clearance
Foundations
Drainage
Septic Tank

Cnoc Don, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XR

wks@btinternet.com

Tel: 01880 730 260 Mob: 07881 704 619



Registered



HIGHLANDSLATESUPPLIES

RECLAIMED & NEW SLATE

We have the largest stock of reclaimed Ballachulish slate in the North of Scotland, also a wide range of good quality reclaimed Welsh. We also offer competitive rates to buy slates on or off the roof. Delivery service throughout Scotland with our flexible transport system at competitive rates.

www.highlandslatesupplies.co.uk
Telephone 07778 829604



A local business with an excellent workforce and vast experience in the industry.

Taylor & Wishart Scaffolding
50 Macdonald Terrace
Lochgilphead
PA31 8TE

07584 189072 or
07747 536523

We can scaffold anything.



Don't move – improve



SCOT VANCE CONTRACTORS
Civils & Utilities

ALL ASPECTS OF CIVIL'S & UTILITIES CONTRACTING

- ✓ Site Clearance & Landscaping.
- ✓ Site Access & Road Formation.
- ✓ Kerbing & Tarmac Paving
- ✓ Cable & Water Pipe Tracks.
- ✓ Foundations & Concrete Works.
- ✓ Ditching & Drainage Systems.
- ✓ Sewer & Septic Tank Connections.
- ✓ Road & Street Works
- ✓ 24/7 Emergency Call Out

Tel: **01397 772760 or 07738538607**

Email: svcivils@outlook.com



You love your home it is in a great place, with a good primary school nearby and you have all made some valued friends in the area, so you want stay put and renovate.

It might be that essential structural work needs to be done or a complete re-wire; that major fixtures like the heating, bathroom or kitchen are so tired they have to be changed.

A central heating system is a major investment and not something you make very often, so you will be amazed at how more efficient and well-designed your new investment is.

This work is going to cause

some upheaval, so while you are at it why not do it all in one go and remodel to include a utility room, a new bigger porch or knock the dining room and kitchen into a big, bright and modern family living space.

Think of your house as a blank canvas, and paint a new masterpiece for your family. A brand new home would have an en-suite bathroom, or an extra shower room and additional lavatory downstairs, so why not add these to yours?

Not only will they make your home more enjoyable but also these kind of improvements will put your house back at the top of the list of attractive

properties if you should ever change your mind and sell. Suddenly your older house would be well able to compete with far newer properties with more extras.

If it makes emotional sense to stay put and renovate, it also makes sound economical sense as well if you sit down and really plan out what you needs to be done and what you would like to do as well. Consulting an architect and a financial advisor might give you a pleasant surprise and you can afford to do more than you think because of the value the work will add to your property, a real win-win situation.

Is your renovation your great innovation?

Which renovator are you? The one who has bought an uninhabitable shell to turn into a home or the one who wants to breathe new life and space into the home they have loved for so long.



There you were, searching for the perfect plot of land upon which to self-build your dream home and suddenly there it was: the wreck you knew you had to rescue.

The roof is all but gone, you can see the rafters; one wall has buckled in, the others are only standing out of force of habit but you can see what it can be once again.

Friends think you are crazy and that it would be cheaper just to bulldoze the entire site and start again, but you know differently.

It is all down to the 'three Rs' of renovation, restoration or remodelling. What needs to be done?

Renovation is renewing what you already have in place and adding new parts where necessary, whether it is floor boards or an entire wall. Restoration returns a room or home back to its former glory, respecting the original, or period, features. Remodelling changes the actual structure or use; like ripping out a wall,

moving the kitchen to the other side of the house, or adding an extra bathroom, sunroom or annexe.

The chances are that you will probably be doing a mixture of all three.

If the property is a listed building, or in a conservation area, you must apply for the necessary permissions.

A house that is run down and in need of repair can be a potential bargain and be the best way to put your finances to work and get more home for your money.

For a start they will almost always have road access, water, electricity, sewerage and mains gas, where available making it easier, quicker and cheaper to get connected to the services.

Take into account that in more rural spots when there is a septic tank this might need renewing or repair and if there is a private water supply it might not comply with the latest standards or pass the newer health tests

without some major work being carried out.

You will need a surveyor's report. Remember that if it is a major endeavour, comparable to building a new home, an architect will prove just as valuable on this project.

If it is a very old and decaying property the first jobs will be to stabilise it and stop any further decay.

Planning permission and building warrants will be needed for a major rebuild or remodelling, but if you can keep within permitted development rights this will save more money. These rights can vary and what might have been fine where you lived before in the UK might not be the same in your new location.

Once again this is where planning officers can advise you.

Though they are becoming more rare, there can be grants or VAT concessions available for certain costs. It is worth checking to see if you qualify.

Mull Hire
Tools & Plant
01680 300422

From foundation to fireplace, tools and plant for your DIY.

Diggers, dumpers, drills, access equipment, pumps, garden equipment and more.

Mull Hire & Chainsaw Service

Salen Aros, Isle of Mull. Tel: 01680 300422

CARPET & FLOORING
SERVICES (OBAN)

Unit 1 Lochavullin Ind. Estate.
Lochavullin Rd, Oban PA34 4PL

Tel: 01631 563684 Tel: 01631 562060

carpetservoban@btconnect.com

robertsfloorcoverings@btconnect.com

moduleo[®] Design Floors Karndean Designflooring amtico

COE CONTRACTS LTD

Fencing, Dyking, Landscaping and General Contracting
Thirty Years' experience in...Fencing, from garden to security.

Dry stone walling and all types of masonry

Landscaping and groundworks.

Operated excavator plant hire. 1.5 ton to 15 ton

NO JOB TO BIG OR SMALL

For a competitive quote call the office on

01855 811408 07979 867870

email: coecontractsLtd408@btinternet.com

MAURICE LOCKHART

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

mauricelockhart2@aol.com

Tel: 01631 564628 Mob: 07766 428380

**new installations, repairs,
maintenance, electrical testing,
fire alarms, rewiring.
All electrical work undertaken.**

SELECT REGISTERED

Highland Blindcraft

Great night's sleep in a Highland Blindcraft bed 'hand made with a touch more care'

Wake up refreshed with a spring in your step by updating your bed and give your bedroom a fresh new look.

Highland BlindCraft makes beds to order in the workshop above its large, bright showroom on Ardconnel Street in Inverness.

And it now has fantastic new ranges of bedroom furniture too – inspired by the latest designs showcased at the Birmingham Furniture Show.

Executive manager Denise Clark said: 'Your sleeping environment can really affect the quality of your rest. If you're not sleeping well or waking up with aches and pains, then chances are you do need a new mattress.'

To find the bed that's just right for you, try out the various choices available in the showroom, including traditional springs, pocket springs and memory foam.

Have a little lie down, take

your time to relax and feel the true support of each mattress, as there are different levels of firmness.

The friendly staff are fully trained in all the different types and fillings, and are dedicated to finding your ideal bed. Because all its mattresses are manufactured on site, you can often see the components of the bed.

A lot of our staff are very experienced and have been creating beds for many years. They love when some of the customers come to see their own mattress being made.

The factory can also make non-standard sizes of beds and mattresses for almost every situation, including caravans or boats.

They're not just the most comfortable beds you'll ever sleep in – as customers are happy to testify on Facebook.

They're also elegantly stylish.

Denise said: 'We're working

closely with a local textile manufacturer who produces a range of the most amazing wool and tweed fabrics. Customers can choose the fabric for their headboard and divan base – with perhaps a matching bespoke footstool.

'Our beds work really well with our new furniture ranges.

'And to help customers achieve the complete look we have a large range of inspiring accessories such as mirrors, pictures and bedside lamps, luxurious pillows and beautiful bedspreads.'

Prices are very competitive and because Highland BlindCraft's beds are manufactured in Inverness, they can guarantee delivery dates and ensure excellent high production standards and after sales service.

To find out more visit Highland BlindCraft at 39 Ardconnel Street or www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Wood and wonder

Doors

There is something elegant and reassuring about a wooden front door, be it high gloss or matt-painted, or the natural beauty showing through. It is the first impression that always counts. That's why we all take so long deciding how to decorate and then adorn it with handles, bells and names plates. Inside, doors help to create and develop how the interior looks. Will you go for laminate, solid wood or will it be painted? Will it have glass panels to help spread light and increase the feeling of space? Which wood grain appeals the most? Choose the right handles and no one notices; choose wrongly and they will glare at you.

Floors

The development and growth of laminate floors has been phenomenal and the choices and price ranges are staggering. You can achieve any look, from cool and light-giving, golden and warm, to dark and gleaming, making rich coloured rugs look like gems. In solid woods the traditional favourites of pine and oak are being joined by bamboo and block wood flooring, including the traditional parquet blocks which are becoming popular again.

Stairs

If you are renovating a house, a new flight of stairs is the equivalent of a nose job; it can change the look so completely. Even if you are just updating your look, today's technology enables a new flight to be added far more easily and affordably than ever before. The stairs can be an elegant statement within your living space or entrance hall or just the way you get upstairs, there is so much choice available within design and the range of products. One thing is for sure make sure the space underneath is never wasted.



Quality hand crafted beds

Special offers throughout our range

Check in store for details



Opening Hours & Contact Details
Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm Sunday: Closed

Telephone: 01463 233662

Fax: 01463 710809 Email: sales@highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Address: Sales Office, Factory and Showroom,
39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness, IV2 3HB
Scottish Charity Number SC030764

Moving home?



Don't forget your change of address cards

01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

krisp print

Time for your new home to blossom

Take the indoors outdoors and bring the outdoors indoors to make the most of your garden throughout the year

Your new home needs the perfect setting; it is time to reach for your wellies and pull on your gloves.

If you have renovated instead then chances are you inherited a garden with established trees and plants along with the property which will all need a major overhaul and a fresh look at the garden layout. Here's some advice from people who have been there, done that and now got a lovely lawn to prove it:

Decide what you want from your garden when you are designing your home; it is never too soon to start. A garden room with sliding glass doors and a patio or decking, all with carefully placed heating indoor and out, will keep your garden in play nearly all year round.

It is never too early for action. Knowing where you want external power points for garden lighting and heating and pipes for taps or water features makes it easier and more economical to install when the house is being built. The same applies to garden paths, hard standings for sheds and summer and greenhouses and locations for decking.

Do a bit of snooping; check out neighbouring properties and see what plants are thriving there

Decide early on if you will need extra top soil; your builders will probably have good contacts for supplies.

Once your house is up and the interior is being worked on, go outside and take photographs of the house from all sides, from the road and looking out of the windows and, when the stairs are in from all the upstairs windows.

Print out copies and set to work doodling and planning your planting.

A garden truly is another room; coordinate the look of door fittings, lights both on the house and in the garden, timber paints and stains and ornaments and planters.

You are not the only one who will be using your garden; make sure there are plenty of bee and butterfly-friendly plants and lots of berries for birds come wintertime.

Gardens, like Rome were not built in a day. Take your time and remember: noone ever planted too many snowdrops.

LOGSPAN



"We are delighted with the Finman BBQ Hut. All our friends have admired it and commented on it. We have already had great nights in it. The quality of build is superb, and a very efficient fitting team. We were impressed when we first saw them but Logspan and its product have exceeded our expectations." Alastair



Logspan is a family owned business that is dedicated to selling quality timber products that are affordable. Whether it's a custom designed Log Cabin to live in, a BBQ Hut or Garden Office we have a product to suit at the right price. We'll help from design to completion. Our Glasgow showsite has the largest range of Timber Buildings in Scotland.



Free nationwide delivery on all orders



**Milton Brae Road, Milton,
Dumbarton, G82 2TX**
Tel: 01389 887497
www.logspan.com
Email: info@logspan.com





Curtains & Blinds



Sofas & Seating



Dining & Storage



Carpets & Flooring



Castle or bothy, flat or mansion,
new build, conversion or extension,
caravan or yacht.
Or even a Lighthouse.
WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE.....
INSPIRATION AVAILABLE HERE.



Beds & Bedroom Furniture



LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Oban author wins book prize

An Oban author and children's book publisher has been named the winner of the 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize.

Alan Windram's book, *One Button Benny* (Little Door Books), which was illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter, is the story of a little robot who has a special button that he is only allowed to press in an emergency, and of what happens when he finally has to press his button to help his friends.

The winning book was announced in an exclusive video to schools and registered groups.

The winner was chosen by children across Scotland,



Alan Windram is a co-founder of Little Door Books which published *One Button Benny*.

aged between three and seven years old, who voted for their favourite by submitting a class vote online or at home, via the Scottish Book Trust website. More than 17,000 children voted.

The award is run by Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, with support from Browns Books for Students. The Bookbug Picture Book Prize celebrates the most popular new picture books by Scottish authors or illustrators. The

runners-up were *Eric Makes a Splash* by Emily MacKenzie (Bloomsbury) and *I am Bat* by Morag Hood (Two Hoots Books).

Alan Windram is an author and co-founder of Little Door Books, which has published work by Vivian French MBE, Emily Dodd and Fort William author Barry Hutchison. Earlier this year, Little Door Books was highly commended at the Saltire Literary Awards in their Emerging Publisher of the Year category.

A free copy of each of the three books on the shortlist was gifted to every Primary 1 child during Book Week Scotland (November 19 to

25), in the Bookbug P1 Family Bag.

Alan Windram said: 'I don't really know quite what to say, I am so thrilled, excited and humbled that so many children voted for my book with Chloe to win this fabulous prize.'

'Like Benny, I am absolutely over the moon. Congratulations go to Morag and Emily on their fantastic picture books, and thank you so much to everyone who took Benny to their hearts and voted for *One Button Benny* to win. We are all different, we are all special and we all have something to give.'

Continued on page 56

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFER

3 course Table d'hôte

£20

THE OLIVE GARDEN
MEDITERRANEAN & SEAFOOD

Sunday Carvery is back!

3rd February

OPEN from 12noon as normal

1st FEBRUARY

SUNDAY CARVERY

ONE COURSE: £10.00

TWO/THREE COURSES: £15.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12: £7.50

UNDER 3'S: FREE

www.theogoban.co.uk

2 RAILWAY PIER, OBAN, ARGYLL, PA34 4LW

TEL 01631 570347

Ballet West's Nutcracker tour opens in Oban

Taynuilt's Ballet West opens its Scottish tour of The Nutcracker in Oban at The Corran Halls this Saturday January 26.

Six other venues to follow are Stirling, Dundee, Livingston, Glasgow and Greenock before it ending in Edinburgh on February 16.

Students from Ballet West's High Performance Lower School in Oban will be making their debuts in the production and nearly 200 young dancers from the

Upper School at Taynuilt, together with guest artists and students on the company's associate programmes from some of the other towns will be taking part in the 11 performances.

Produced by the company's choreographer Daniel F Job, the production will be led by Ballet West's award-winning Principal Dancer Natasha Watson in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Performances are at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.



The curtain goes up on The Nutcracker on January 26.

Skye to host first Gaelic music fest

Gaelic music lovers can look forward to the first ever music festival dedicated to the language.

Beò Festival, to be held on Friday May 17 and Saturday May 18, is a music festival focused on promoting Gaelic, featuring the finest bands around that speak the language. The new hòrò-gheallaidh ceilidh festival will take place in the beautiful and enchanting Armadale Castle Gardens on the Isle of Skye, in what will be a landmark event for the Gaelic language and culture.

With a line-up that includes The Vatersay Boys, Trail West, Beinn Lee, Dàimh and Hò-Rò, the festival is sure to be pencilled in to any Gaelic music lover's calendar this year.

Beò Festival organiser John Robertson said: 'We feel that there are so many great bands around that have been influenced by Gaelic why not



The festival is being held in Armadale Castle Gardens.

do something to promote Gaelic whilst also having an amazing time at an amazing location.'

The festival will be held on the grounds of Armadale Castle, which looks on to the Sound of Sleat, with great views over to the mainland. The organisers wanted to give as many people as possible the chance to play on a main stage, which includes a

great band of girls from the Lochaber area called the Full Floor, who will be playing in front of the Beò Festival crowd.

The festival will be offering camping tickets but if that's not quite your style, make sure and book your accommodation in the area now.

For more information about Beò Festival, visit beofest.co.uk





be delicious!

with
Slimming World

Serving up first class support – in and out of group

Our generous eating plan makes slimming easier than you ever thought possible!

Instead of telling you what you can and can't eat, Food Optimising puts you in control. You don't need to worry about weighing all your food, counting points or monitoring every mouthful.

Join your nearest warm and friendly group today!

NEW CLASS

FORT WILLIAM

Opening
Thursday 24th January
Salvation Army Hall
16 Belford Road, Fort William
Thursday 3pm, 5pm & 7pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,
Glencruitten Road
Wednesday 9.30am,
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

LOCHGILPHEAD

Lochgilphead
Baptist Church
Union Street/ Argyll Street
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

CAMPBELTOWN

Masonic Recreational
Lodge, St John Street
Tuesdays 1pm,
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Rhona 07880 878 906

slimmingworld.co.uk
0344 897 8000   





EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF MACHRIHANISH



SPRING SWING
STAY & PLAY

from **£80*** pp/pn
1 March - 30 Apr



MIDWEEK
STAY & PLAY

from **£101*** pp/pn
1 May - 30 Sep



WILD
WEEKENDS

from **£106*** pp/pn
1 May - 30 Sep

Offers all include golf, accommodation, breakfast and more!

For information or to book, call **01586 810 000** or email reservations@machdunes.com.

MACHDUNES.COM

*Offers subject to availability. Rates include VAT and £3 per room night resort fee and is based on 2 people sharing a hotel room or 4 people sharing a 2-bedroom cottage. Offer dates vary - please visit MachDunes.com for complete details.



Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



TMF 10

A brilliant evening was held on Friday night in the Old Fruitmarket to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Tíree Music Festival. Skerryvore and Trail West were the hosts and had invited some special, surprise guests who have played at previous festivals, including Dun Mòr, Sandi Thom, Jill Jackson, and ourselves, Tide Lines – as well as The TMF All Star Ceilidh band, including Angus Macphail, Gary Innes, and Gordon Connell.

The Boss!

Some months ago, over a pint of beer, Seonaidh MacIntyre from Trail West spoke to me of an idea he had to perform a selection of Bruce Springsteen songs in a folk style.

I very much echoed Seonaidh's enthusiasm for Springsteen (having loved his music for years and having recently read his excellent autobiography) and so a collaboration was born.

With the year of The Boss's



70th birthday colliding with the 10th anniversary of Tíree Music Festival, Daniel Gillespie has kindly afforded us the opportunity to put the collaboration together for the festival in July – and we launched the project on stage in the Fruitmarket as the finale of the gig last Friday evening.

The band (named the Tíree Street Band, a Hebridean

pun on Springsteen's E Street Band) consists of members from Trail West, Tide Lines, Skerryvore, and Rura – every one of us massive Springsteen fans. Myself, Seonaidh, and Alec Dalglis shared verses of the song Waiting on a Sunny Day, which is being used as the official hashtag for TMF as the organisers hope, as always, for good weather!

Ewen Henderson, Hamish Napier, Gary Innes, Steve Byrnes, Ali Hutton, and Connal MacDonnagh, performed music from Gary's latest album, *Imminent*, on Friday night at Celtic Connections.

Festival club

After the TMF gig, myself and Seonaidh were standing in the bar at the festival club when a girl came up and commented that she recognised our accents as 'Highland', so was wondering if we had been at the show in the Old Fruitmarket. We commented, of course, that we had; and smiled to ourselves that she obviously hadn't noticed we had been on stage for half the evening! She then came away with: 'What did you think of that Springsteen thing? It was a bit random, was it not?'

Gary's gig

The following evening, I attended Gary Innes's show in the Drygate Brewery at which he played material from his excellent new album,

Imminent. This was a great night as Gary talked us all through the thought process behind the tunes and songs in his usual light-hearted way, but also with some very poignant moments. Karen Matheson and Kim Carnie made guest appearances to sing together on *Swan Song*, the single released ahead of the album, and sang beautifully together.

Next up...

There are too many great gigs to choose from at Celtic Connections this weekend.

Friday sees Shooglenifty and the Kinnaris Quintet perform in the Barrowland Ballroom. Saturday is a big night with a Gaels Le Chèile's concert in the CCA featuring Àrchú, Anne Martin, and Dlù; Sineag MacIntyre with Tim Edey in St Andrew's in the Square at 7.30pm; Niteworks in the Barrowlands; Breabach and Steph Geremia in the Old Frutimarket at 8pm; and Ingrid Henderson and Iain MacFarlane with Hecla in the MacKintosh Church at 7.30pm.

Deadline for small arts funding

Organisations and individuals involved in Scottish Traditional Arts have until February 1 to apply for grants of up to £1,000 from Creative Scotland-funded initiative, Tasgadh.

The fund is managed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal on behalf of Creative Scotland to provide support for traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase their work.

Visit feisean.org/tasgadh where a full list of grants offered is published, as well as some case studies of successful applicants from previous rounds.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Chief Executive Arthur Cormack said: 'Having operated Tasgadh for three years now, demand has demonstrated there is a need within the traditional arts sector for access to small grants which offer a fast decision.'

'Creative Scotland continues to support traditional arts directly and will deal with larger projects through other routes.'

The Columba hotel
North Pier
Oban
01631 562 183

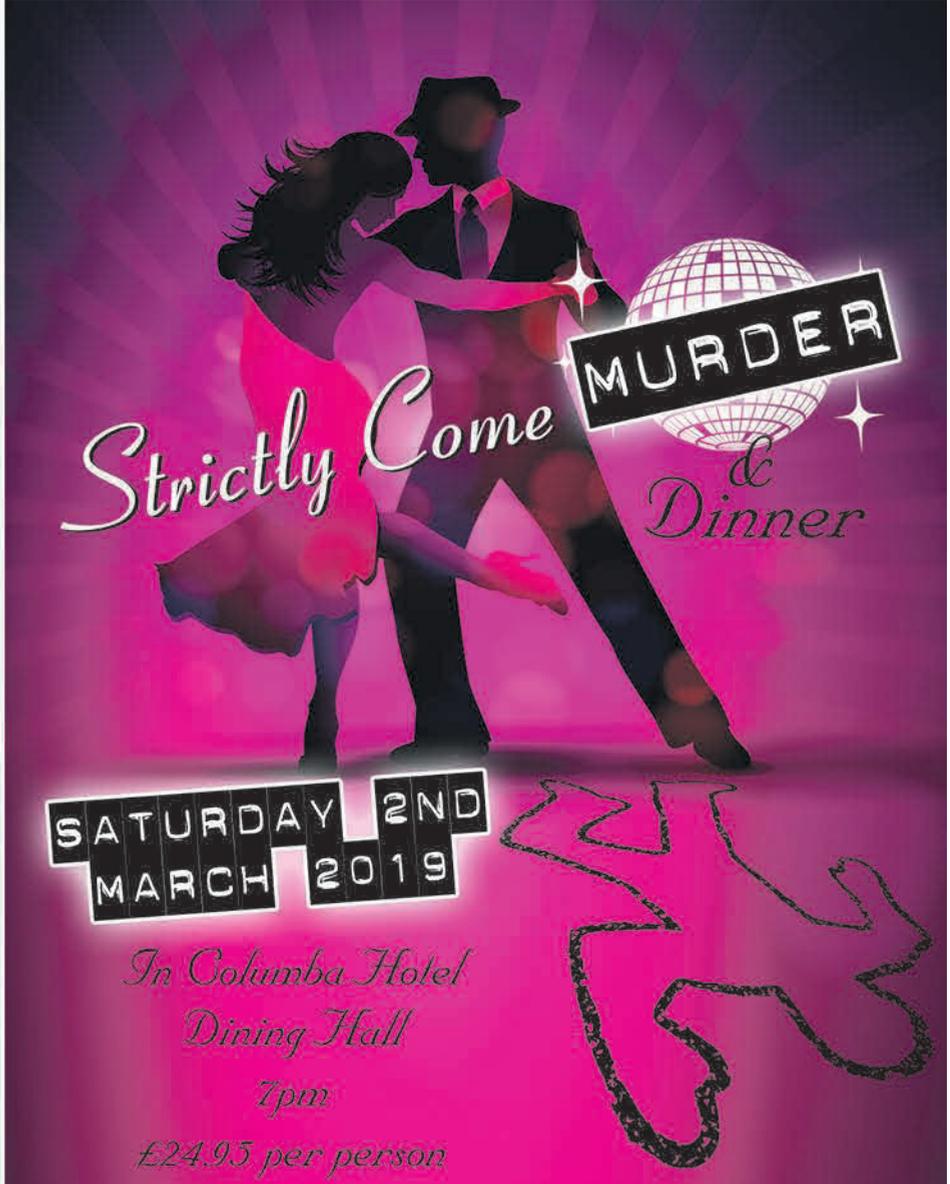



Murder Mystery at Wizard school

Murder mystery + Lunch
in Columba hotel Oban
Saturday 2nd March 2019
2:00pm
24.95 PER ADULT
14.95 PER CHILD AGE 8-12



COLUMBA
HOTEL - OBAN



Strictly Come Murder & Dinner

MURDER

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2019

In Columba Hotel
Dining Hall
7pm
£24.95 per person

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 24 AM FAOILLEACH / THURSDAY 24 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)
21.00 Air a' Chanàl (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Nochd S2
22.30 Rita Hayworth (rpt)
23.25 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018
23.30 Mach à Seo (rpt)

DIHAOINE 25 AM FAOILLEACH / FRIDAY 25 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là - News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Fianais (rpt)
20.00 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
20.30 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.35 **UR | NEW:** Breabach Travelling Folk
21.00 Third Lanark (rpt)
22.00 An Klondike (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Easdale) (rpt)
23.00 Nochd S2 (rpt)
23.25 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 26 AM FAOILLEACH / SATURDAY 26 JANUARY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
17.45 An Là - News
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)
21.00 Port S4 (rpt)

22.00 Ceòlmhor@Piping Live! (rpt)
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Nochd S2
23.00 Scottish Premiership
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 27 AM FAOILLEACH / SUNDAY 27 JANUARY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
18.15 An Là - News
18.30 Seachd Là - News Review
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)
20.00 Bus Ghlaschu (rpt)
20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt)
21.00 Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach (rpt)
21.45 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt)
22.00 Port S4 (rpt)
23.00 An Klondike (rpt)
23.55 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018 (rpt)

DILUAIN 28 AM FAOILLEACH / MONDAY 28 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
19.00 Eileanan Fraoich - Uibhist a Tuath (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 An Lot S3 (rpt)
21.00 Trusadh - Stròc (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** TradFest
22.30 Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach (rpt)
23.30 Nochd S2 (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 29 AM FAOILLEACH / TUESDAY 29 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (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: Teasairginn Eiginneach (rpt)
21.45 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh - Stròc (rpt)
23.00 Ceòlraidh (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 30 AM FAOILLEACH / WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
19.00 Eileanan Fraoich - Uibhist a Tuath (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Leugh Mi
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Farpaisean Chon-Chaoarach
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Mach à Seo
22.30 TradFest (rpt)
23.00 Air a' Chanàl (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 31 AM FAOILLEACH / THURSDAY 31 JANUARY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne
Children's programming
19.00 O Mo Dhùthaich (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 Còisir Shoisgeulach (rpt)
21.00 Air a' Chanàl (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** Nochd S2
22.30 Losgadh air a' Phàp (rpt)
23.25 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018
23.30 Mach à Seo (rpt)



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

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

Seil to stage pantomime

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Heigh-ho, heigh-ho it's off to Seil panto you must go.

Lines are being learned, backdrops painted, magic mirror polished and tickets are on sale now for a double-showing of Snow White and The Seven Seileachans at Seil Island Community Hall.

More than 20 islanders will tread the boards in time-old fashion on Saturday January 26 when the curtains lift for two performances of Snow White – the fairest panto of all – at 3pm and 7pm.

The community cast of young and older are supported by a behind-the-scenes crew taking charge of props, choreography, make-

up, music, set, sound, lights and costumes.

John Colston, who penned this year's panto offering, plays Squinty, one of the Seven Seileachans. His six pals are Wrinkly, Leaky, Snoozy, Windy, Cranky and Psycho, so brace yourselves for a fairytale show that will be far from 'Grimm'.

Wicked

In the tiny Kingdom of Seil everyone, except for the Wicked Queen, is excitedly waiting for the return of their beloved princess Snow White after a gap-year in Africa.

But who will keep Snow White safe from her wicked stepmother? Will it be the hen-pecked king, sparkly-winged godmother Fairy Dust, the children, PC

Percy Posy or the revolting slate workers who want higher wages?

Be patient as all will be revealed on the stage – as well as the hall floor in front of the curtains and in the central aisle when the action spills out into the audience. So bring your throat sweets and be prepared to cheer, shout, boo the baddies and hoorah the heroes.

Tickets for Seil Drama Group's fifth panto production are on sale now at Balvicar Store for £5, which includes juice and ice-cream in the interval.

Souvenir programmes are £1 and DVDs capturing the show's magic moments will go on sale at the store in February – oh yes, they will!



Oban author wins 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize

Continued from page 27

Marc Lambert, chief executive of the Scottish Book Trust, said: 'Many congratulations to Alan Windram and Chloe Holwill-Hunter for winning this year's Bookbug Picture Book Prize. It's wonderful to see so many children taking part in the voting process, and we hope they enjoyed reading the shortlist, which was gifted recently in the Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag.'

Mairi Kidd, interim head of literature, languages and publishing, said: 'Reading for pleasure is a precious gift

and it's great to see Bookbug encourage children to think about their reading choices, discuss books with those around them and make their voices heard.'

'Huge congratulations to illustrator Chloe Holwill-Hunter and especially to author Alan Windram, whose young company Little Door Books also published One Button Benny. This is a brilliant endorsement for all Alan's hard work and belief in the power of stories.'

Claire Smith, sales manager for Browns Books for

Students, said: 'Very well done to all of the shortlisted authors and illustrators for this year's Bookbug Picture Book Prize, and a huge congratulations to Chloe Holwill-Hunter and Alan Windram for winning this year's award.'

'Browns Books for Students are proud of our ongoing partnership with Scottish Book Trust. It is a privilege to have such a strong association with Scottish Book Trust and supporting them with their outstanding work, in the development of reading and literacy in Scotland.'

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochgilhead

Thursday 24 - Saturday 26 Jan

Mary Poppins Returns (U) 130 mins
Emily Blunt takes on Julie Andrew's role, and it's supercali...

24/01 at 5pm, 26/01 at 2pm

Bohemian Rhapsody (12A) 134 mins

A foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer.

24/01 at 8.30pm, 26/01 at 5pm

Films We Love: Nae Pasaran! (12A) 96 mins

(£5/£3) English and Spanish - subtitles throughout.

BAFTA Scotland winning documentary about the Rolls Royce workers in East Kilbride who stood up to Chilean

dictator, Pinochet. Before **Nae Pasaran!** we will screen a 10 minute short: **Mining Poems or Odes.**

25/01 at 5.30pm

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

(12A) 134 mins "Old school Potterheads will rejoice" USA Today

25/01 at 8.30pm

A Star is Born (15) 136 mins

Lady Gaga steps effortlessly into Barbra Steisand's shoes in Bradley Cooper's remake.

26/01 at 8.30pm

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings.

Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.

Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



the fairest of them all



Above: PC Percy Posy in a scene with Seil 'royalty' King George, the Wicked Queen and her daughter Paisley; and left Three of the Seven Seileachans: Windy, Squinty and Psycho.

Travellers' tales fire up the engines for Bookends 2019

Victory Hall was packed to capacity when traditional storyteller Jess Smith returned to Benderloch on Saturday.

The author and champion of keeping the traveller tradition alive got a warm Argyll welcome at what was Bookend's first event of 2019.

Jess, who was one of Bookend Festival's featured authors of 2018, was back to present *A Sense of Identity* – a home-grown film about travelling folk, airing their stories and their place in Scotland.

Among those interviewed by Jess in the film was David



Jess Smith

Pullar, great grandson of the late Betsy Whyte, who wrote *Yellow On The Broom*.

Jess shared a few extra tales on the night and the audience shared some of theirs too. A former lorry driver

remembered giving a lift to a group of travellers and their cart in the back of his truck after their pony had died on the road, while another man remembered the sea gypsies who would call at his mother's house on Mull to collect rabbit skins and would travel to islands on skiff boats.

More pop-up dates to look forward to in the lead up to this year's Bookends Festival in September include Tuesday February 12, Monday March 18 and Wednesday April 17.

Go to bookends.scot for more on Bookends.

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN



In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
3.00pm, 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walk
Oban Congregational Church Hall
10am - 11.30am

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Jono
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY

Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading
Glencruitten Church Hall
All Day

parkrun
Ganavan Sands, Oban
9.30am

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Rhuvaal
Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm
Free Entry

SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm
£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 28TH JANUARY

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilthead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY

Slimming World
Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban
9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details. To list your event, please call 01631 568000

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

www.obanphoenix.com for more details

FRIDAY 25

13:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U
16:15 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
17:00/19:15 STAN & OLLIE PG
19:15 THE FAVOURITE 15

TUESDAY 29

14:00/19:15 THE FAVOURITE 15
16:30 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
17:15 THE DAWN WALL 15
19:15 STAN & OLLIE PG

SATURDAY 26

10:45/19:4 STAN & OLLIE PG
11:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U
14:15/17:00 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
15:15 BUMBLEBEE PG
17:45 THE YUKON ASSIGNMENT PG
19:30 THE FAVOURITE 15

WEDNESDAY 30

14:45 THE YUKON ASSIGNMENT PG
16:30 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
17:15 THE DAWN WALL 15
19:15 STAN & OLLIE PG
19:15 THE FAVOURITE 15

SUNDAY 27

12:00 BUMBLEBEE PG
12:00/19:00 STAN & OLLIE PG
14:15 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
14:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U
17:00 MONTHLY MUSICAL: SISTER ACT
17:15 THE YUKON ASSIGNMENT PG
19:00 THE FAVOURITE 15

THURSDAY 31

13:30/16:15 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
16:30 TAN & OLLIE PG
18:45 THE FAVOURITE 15
19:00 NT LIVE: I'M NOT RUNNING 12A

MONDAY 28

14:15/19:15 STAN & OLLIE PG
16:30 MARY POPPINS RETURNS U
16:30 MORTAL ENGINES 12A
19:15 THE FAVOURITE 15

www.obanphoenix.com
Tel: 01631 562905

What's on at 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
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

An Aird, Fort William



Sinopia String Quartet.

Quartet set for Oban concert

Sinopia String Quartet will be performing in Oban next month.

Gabi Maas, Daniel Paterson, Daniel Meszoly and Laura Sergeant are four young string players who started working together in 2012 at the start of their professional careers.

They have built up a well-known reputation across Scotland and will be playing works by Frank Bridge, Borodin and Debussy.

The concert, organised by Oban Music Society, will be in St John's Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday February 10. Tickets can be bought at the door.

Everyone is welcome.

New author send 'write' message to young readers

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Taynuilt author Matthew Hall is celebrating his coming of age with the publication of his first book.

The 21-year-old, who is also an Oban youth worker, has always loved a good story and credits bedtime tales and shared storytelling on family holidays for his passion for spinning a storyline of his own.

His children's book, *Just Like Daddy*, is due to be published on January 31.

The story follows Sarah who is playing 'house' with her friends Toby and Laura. She wants to be daddy but Toby says she has to do what a girl does. You can find out what Sarah does next by reading the book.

'There is a happy ending but in essence it's an early message to children that if there's something you



really want to do then don't let anyone stand in your way. Don't be pigeon-holed. The book is about being an individual and doing what makes you happy. I really hope that message gets through,' said Matthew.

If the opportunity comes up, Matthew hopes to visit local schools to read from the book.

Former Oban High School pupil Matthew also spent

time on work experience with *The Oban Times*.

He said: 'Funnily enough one of my first jobs was to interview an author out at Connell whose publisher was Austin Macauley – the same company that has signed me up for my book. You couldn't write it could you? It's such a coincidence.'

Austin Macauley is an independent publisher with offices in London, New York

Matthew Hall's first book *Just Like Daddy* is out on January 31.

and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

There are plans in the pipeline for a second book targeting a slightly older audience, but Matthew is keeping tight-lipped about the plot while he 'mulls' it over.

'I will always keep writing. Whether it becomes a full-time career, I don't know. It's still very much a hobby for me and a way to relax. I've always wanted to write a book since I was a child. I used to write short stories for fun for my teachers when I was about six but I'm not sure if any were ever read! I had books full of them, I wish I still had them now. Whenever I wasn't with friends, I was always writing.'

'I'm lucky to be doing what

I'm doing now. My writing and youth work is massively important to me. It's rare to do two things that you care so passionately about, especially at my age.'

Matthew was just 18 when a letter first arrived from the publisher with two contracts inside.

'I was blown away by it. It was such a surprise to hear back from them. I'd sent it out to a few [publishers]. It's been an interesting and quite lengthy process from then until now but we're almost on the shelves now.'

'I've had input about the illustrations for it and got to proof the cover. I feel very blessed at this age to have already achieved something I wanted to do as a child.'

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

competitions

WIN

A COOKING EXPERIENCE WITH NICK NAIRN



Nick Nairn
COOKSCHOOL
the home of great food

Scottish Field have teamed up with the Nick Nairn Cook School to offer two lucky readers the chance to win a 'Just You & Nick' one day cooking experience at the school at Port of Menteith. Winners will receive a telephone consultation with Nick to help design a bespoke menu. They will have the school and Nick to themselves for the entire day. Nick will teach them how to cook their menu and join them to eat and drink.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: *Where is the Nick Nairn Cook School?*

Prize must be taken in 2019. Transport is not included. Any additional costs are not covered by the prize.

WIN

AN EPICUREAN INDULGENCE AT THE PEAT INN FOR TWO PEOPLE (WORTH £355)



Relax in one of eight luxury suites before heading to the restaurant for a beautifully crafted six course tasting menu. Let us serve you breakfast the next morning before you enjoy a day in the Kingdom. The Peat Inn, by St Andrews, is a 5-star restaurant with rooms and Michelin Star Chef Proprietor, Geoffrey Smeddle, uses the finest Scottish ingredients to create delicious and contemporary cuisine.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: *How many suites does The Peat Inn have?*

Valid Tues - Thurs, subject to availability, based on 2 people sharing a room. Drinks not included. Must be taken by 31 May 2019.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2019.

Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve Whisky.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

ARDSHIEL
HOTEL
Restaurant & Whisky Bar



dine with us



visiting Campbeltown
Come stay with us

Great whisky & gin bar..

If you are looking for a venue with character, in a beautiful setting, look no further.

CALL TO BOOK

01586 552133

VISIT US ardshiel.co.uk





Special guests helped Tiree Music Festival get its 10th year celebrations off to a great start at Celtic Connections.

Campbell connects at Celtic music celebration

Two days, three concerts and four hundred miles.

That is what Celtic Connections does to you – it gets under the skin and brings you alive in January to get you moving again, writes Oban FM's Campbell Cameron.

Artistic director Donald Shaw and his team have once again pulled together a fantastic range of music and that diversity was reflected in Thursday's opening concert Syne of the Times.

Celebration

This was a celebration of the Feis movement's work since 2002, with 7,000 youngsters now training with the masters of their musical art. Masters such as fiddlers Lauren MacCall and Oban's Aiden O'Rourke who joined Duncan Chisholm and Taynuilt's box maestro Donald Shaw to curate the works that Feis has inspired

and commissioned, including Harvest and Kin.

All in all, 120 musicians filled the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall stage to create a cacophony of sound for the grand finale. What a spectacle it was!

Friday saw me pedal the auld Rover off down the road and back again to enjoy Speysider Hamish Napier's clever composition The Railway, which celebrates the reopening of Grantown and cultural centre on the Speyside line.

With a six-piece band, including his brother Finlay on vocals and Lochaber guitarist Ewan Robertson, Hamish's music took us on the journey from Granton to Nairn and Aberdeen in the days of steam and diesel.

I had only intended to take in the first half as it was A Toast to Ten Years

of Tiree Music Festival at the Fruitmarket too, but I stayed to the end of the line for The Railway. Things were getting lively when I arrived at the historic Fruitmarket venue and the Dun Mor Ceilidh band were getting up to full throttle.

Tiree Music Festival is 10 this year and this was a chance to reminisce and get a little nostalgic at the success of this amazing island event held each year in July.

The punk rocker with flowers in her hair, Sandi Thom, is back this year as will be surprise guests of the Glasgow night, Tide Lines with The Oban Times' very own Robert Robertson at the helm. Robert not only guided his band through an energetic set that had the audience dancing wildly, but he then topped the finale with a Highland version of Springsteen's hit Dancing in

the Dark – the very first video revelation for me in the long gone Rox bar in George Street, Oban. The now world-famous Skerryvore also played a great set.

Celtic Connections runs until February 3 at 20 Glasgow venues, with 2,100 artistes performing more than 300 shows.

Springsteen

A unique collaboration at this year's Tiree festival will be a tribute to The Boss Bruce Springsteen, a collective performance from some artists on the Scottish folk scene who have been inspired by the man himself.

Other acts in this year's line up are Jill Jackson, Mánran, Niteworks, Trail West, Gunna Sound, Face the West, Funbox and Heron Valley, not forgetting stalwarts Skerryvore who have performed every year since it began.

Your local radio listings

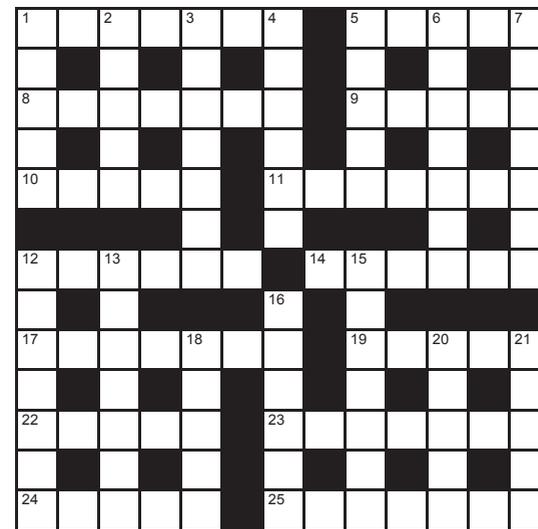
Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.com or on the TuneIn app. For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk



MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
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 with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view – Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show – David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass – Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Give a clear picture of (7)
- 5 Needed to post (5)
- 8 Interlace... (7)
- 9 ...entangle with (5)
- 10 Lose one's cool (5)
- 11 Removing the skin (7)
- 12 Leg coverings (6)
- 14 To the rear (6)
- 17 Fatty (7)
- 19 Remove clothes from a line (5)
- 22 Eucharistic plate (5)
- 23 Break in verse (7)
- 24 Weird (5)
- 25 Suricate (7)

Down

- 1 Spur on (3,2)
- 2 Writer Chekhov (5)
- 3 (?) 100, an 80s group (7)
- 4 Eerie (6)
- 5 Boot item (5)
- 6 Of the buttercup family (7)
- 7 Shape having three or more sides (7)
- 12 Wander (7)
- 13 Sparkle (7)
- 15 Hold tightly (7)
- 16 Photographic equipment to use online (6)
- 18 Small quantity (5)
- 20 Remove feathers (5)
- 21 Unite one plant onto another (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



COLOUR krisp print

your life with litho and digital printing

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

01586 554975

New year fa

It is a sobering thought, but as the UK's farming unions have pointed out: Brexit will mean that, for the first time in a generation, UK politicians will have direct responsibility for ensuring our nation is properly fed.

NFU Scotland, NFU England and Wales, NFU Cymru and Ulster Farmers' Union sent a joint message earlier this month to Westminster which said that in the face of this fundamental responsibility, there is a very real risk that a disorderly Brexit will lead to an immediate reliance on overseas imports, produced to lower standards, while many UK farms struggle to survive.

'The implications, not only for domestic food supply but for the careful management of our cherished countryside, would represent an historic political failure.'

The message continued: 'Our organisations remain committed to playing their part in managing Brexit in the best interests of farmers and the UK public in the years ahead, but we believe that leaving without a deal on March 29 will lead, very quickly, to the opposite outcome.'

The unions have urged Parliament to recognise the severe impact No Deal will have and to take

all steps necessary to avoid such a departure. Or to paraphrase Churchill's famous speech: 'Never have so many relied on so few to keep their bellies full at a price they can afford'.

This is an important time for the West Highland farming community...

■ To keep united in its professionalism and skill in producing quality products and support one another's endeavours.

■ To celebrate people like 94-year old Bute shepherd Sandy McKirdy as the region's stalwart; with an award presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region at its AGM in recognition and memory of the dedication shown by Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean.

■ For the Highland Cattle Society to celebrate its 128th show and sale; the story of the breed and the society are testament to the determination and resilience of Scottish farming. As the society says, written records go back to the 18th century and the Highland Cattle Herd Book, first published in 1885, lists pedigrees since that time.

Highland Cattle societies have been started in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, France, Switzerland and Norway. There

are Highlanders in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Estonia, USA, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Faroe Islands.

■ For firms like Hamilton Brothers to be holding open days at its Campbeltown depot when farmers can meet manufacturers and see the latest agricultural, construction and ground care machinery.

■ And for firms like Gordon Agri Ltd and Argyll Engineers Ltd to be providing our farms with good value new and used vehicles and all of these firms keeping them well serviced.

Now perhaps more than ever, farming needs the RSABI. The Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution was founded in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and in recognition of the deep agricultural depression at the time. Today the thoroughly modern RSABI provides financial and practical support and friendship to over 600 individuals and their families across a range of occupations with the common theme of working on the land in Scotland.

The year 2019 is going to be an 'interesting time' as the wording of the supposed Chinese curse goes, but the farming community in the West Highlands and islands is ready to take it on.



Here's what your Supporter Scheme donation can achieve:



Join our supporter scheme as an individual supporter for as little as £25 a year.

£25 or £2 a month over a year provides 3 hours of helpline support, making a big difference to someone from the agricultural community who is struggling to cope.



Join our supporter scheme as a business supporter for as little as £150 a year.

£150 over a year funds 4 case officer visits to help agricultural people get back on their feet during troubled times.



Join our supporter scheme as a corporate supporter for a minimum of £500 a year.

£500 over a year allows RSABI to help 2 struggling farmers plan the way forward.

Join today | www.rsabi.org.uk | 0300 111 4166

Scottish Charity No. SC009828

Zetor Proxima 120 4WD, Brand New, 2 Year Warranty, c/w ZX3.1P Loader	£51,995
Zetor Major 80 4WD, Brand New, 1 Year Warranty, c/w ZL26 loader	£34,995
Zetor Utilix, Brand New, c/w Wessex Hydraulic Snow plough.....	£26,995
Massey Ferguson 5445 4WD, 2010, c/w MF loader	£26,995
Zetor Major 80 4WD, 2015, c/w Trima X21 loader	£24,495
Manitou Maniscopic MLT 634-120 LSU, 2009, c/w pallet forks	£20,995
Massey Ferguson 5455, 4WD, 2004, 95HP, air con.....	£17,495
Kubota ME8200 4wd, 2007, c/w Kubota LA1251 loader Turf Tyres.....	£17,495
Kubota ME5700 4WD, 2008, only 2700 recorded hours	£17,495
Renault Ceres 335 X 4WD, 2002, c/w Mailleux MX75 loader, 95HP approx	£15,795
McCormick CX105 4WD, 2005, SF05 EGC, 24/24 Xtrashift, 40k	£15,495
John Deere 6100 4WD, 1996, c/w Mailleux MX 80 loader, 75HP	£14,795
Case CX80 4WD 1998, c/w Quicke 2300 loader and 4ft fork	£14,495
Case 4230 4WD, 1996, 1 owner from new, V5 document, 85HP, 2 spools	£11,495
Deutz Fahr Agro Prima 4.55, 1994, 82HP, reg: L220 PSP, Star Cab	£11,995
Zetor 6340 4WD, 2002, c/w Loader /bucket / much fork.....	£10,495
Case 895 4WD 1993, K831 MSA, c/w Quicke 330 loader with 4ft fork.....	£9,595
Massey Ferguson 390 2WD, 80HP, 1990, 80HP approx., drawbar	£9,495
Kioti CK22 Compact 4WD, c/w Kioti KL120 Loader with 4ft Bucket.....	£8,495
Deutz Fahr DX 3.90, 4WD, 1985, reg: B775 XSL, 2 spool, PUH, top link	£7,995
JCB 8014 Mini Excavator, 2013, 1.5 tons, 3 buckets, rubber tracks	£11,995
JCB 8018 Mini Excavator, 2011, 1.6-ton, c/w 3 buckets, rubber tracks.....	£10,495
JCB 8008 Micro Excavator, 2012, ROPS bar, 1 ton approx	£8,295
Ammann AV12-2 Double Drum Vibrating Roller, 2011.....	£6,595
Kubota RTV 1140 Utility Vehicle, 2013, Road registered, 4 seater Crew Cab.....	£9,495



Gordon Agri, Loch Lomond. www.gordonagri.co.uk
Tel: 01360 661001 Mob: 07801 052 007

GORDON AGRICULTURE
TRACTORS, MACHINERY & ATV SALES

Farming 2019



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR CAMPBELTOWN OPEN DAY!

WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 2PM-8PM

- Shop garden equipment, clothing, toys, collectibles and more in our showroom
- See the Latest Agricultural Construction and Groundcare Machinery
- Meet the Manufacturer
- Enjoy Snacks & Refreshments

Hamilton Brothers
PART OF THE HAMILTON ROSS GROUP

Hamilton Brothers Campbeltown, Roading, Argyll, PA28 6LU
TELEPHONE 01586 553031
website www.hamiltonbros.co.uk
email info@hamiltonbros.co.uk

ARGYLL ENGINEERS LTD



SPECIAL JANUARY OFFERS

2019 New Polaris Ranger XP1000, Full cab, Heater, Front rack, Nerf bars, Choice of 3	£17,500 + vat
2019 New Polaris Ranger Diesel, Half cab,	£12,000 + vat
2019 New Polaris Ranger 570, Half cab, Choice of 2	£8,000 + vat
2019 New Polaris Sportsman X2, Road legal lights, Power steering	£7,000 + vat
2014 Suzuki Kingquad 500 EPS, 1000 hours	£3,750 + vat
2014 Yamaha Grizzly 550, 600 hours	£3,500 + vat

***0% FINANCE AVAILABLE ON NEW MACHINES*,**
ALL MACHINES IN STOCK, PLEASE CALL TO ARRANGE A DEMONSTRATION

*Finance is subject to approval

Call: 01631 565011



128th Annual Spring Show & Sale

www.highlandcattlesociety.com



Make sure you are ringside in Oban this Spring for our Premier Show & Sale.

10 & 11th February

Oban Livestock Centre, PA34 4SD

An event not to be missed!

West Coast PROPERTIES

✓ SALES ✓ LETS ✓ COMMERCIAL ✓ ESTATE AGENTS ✓ NEWS

Tips to help you save money on your heating bills this winter

With the Met Office confirming that the Beast from the East could return this year and fuel prices hitting an all-time high, there is no better time to look at ways to reduce your heating bills.

According to ComparetheMarket, the average household energy bill in 2018 was £1,706, a rise of over £400 in just three years. As 62% of your energy costs come from heating and hot water usage, this is an ideal place to start if you are looking to save yourself some money. NHBC, the UK's leading warranty provider for new homes, is offering all home owners some tips to help you lower your heating bills this winter:

1. Switch energy suppliers

If you have used the same provider for years, you are probably paying too much for your energy. The cheapest deals are available for home owners who are prepared to switch suppliers, particularly those who are on a standard tariff. Energy regulator Ofgem estimates that consumers

could save up to £245 a year by switching. Take a look at a comparison website to see how much you could save.

2. Be in control of your temperature

It is best to have as many controls as possible so you can be in charge of how you heat your house. Install a thermostat in your main living area. Once the temperature hits the one set on the thermostat, your boiler will turn off until the temperature drops again. By adding thermostatic valves to your radiators you can lower the heating in rooms you don't use so often. According to the Energy Saving Trust, these measures could save you £75 per year.

3. Turn down your thermostat

Experts recommend you set your thermostat to 18°C rather than a costly 20-25°C. Just by lowering your thermostat by 1°C



you could reduce your heating bill by 10%. Consider putting an extra jumper on instead.

4. Timers

Paying money to keep your home heated while you are out the house isn't cost-effective or an efficient use of energy. British Gas and the Energy Saving Trust both advise using a timer to control your heating so it's only on when you need it to be.

5. Spend a little – save a lot

If you live in an older property

you may benefit from improving your insulation and upgrading your boiler. Spending a little now can save you money in the long term. Better insulation will reduce unwanted heat loss and minimise drafts, while newer condensing boilers can reach 90% efficiency in comparison to older non-condensing boilers which don't usually reach more than 65% efficiency.

6. It's the little things

There are lots of little things you can do which all add up to help you keep your home feeling warmer:

- Don't block radiators with bulky furniture as it will only stop the warm air circulating;
- When your heating is on, close your curtains, trapping the warmth indoors;
- Open and close doors – yes, both. If you have a south facing room that benefits from lots of direct sunlight, it will naturally be the warmest room in the house. Leave the door open to allow the heated air to circulate around your home. Once the sun has

moved round, close the doors to keep the warmed air inside your main living areas.

Neil Smith, Head of Standards, Innovation & Research at NHBC, said: 'For many home owners, the biggest burden on their winter finances is the cost of keeping their home warm.'

'We believe it's not only important for home owners to invest in their older properties, but for good information and advice to be made available to help consumers save money on their energy bills.'

'People living in houses built in the past 10 years will typically have lower energy bills as they are built to comply with the latest energy efficiency standards – but people in all types of properties can make small adjustments to achieve a warmer home for less this winter.'

For more tips on how to keep your heating costs down, download the handy fact sheet from NHBC's website.



10 Linnet Court, Ardrishaig

No. 10 Linnet Court enjoys a quiet location on the banks of the Crinan Canal. Built in 1998, the accommodation consists of Kitchen/ Dining Room, Lounge, Hallway, 2 Double Bedrooms & Bathroom. There is off-road parking and car port to the side of the property.

The local primary School is only a five-minute walk with the centre of the village around ten minutes away.

The close by Canal Towpath is used by Dog walkers/ Runners/ Cyclists etc., with the Canal itself a hive of activity.

2-bedroom semi-detached house

1241 **Offers over: £115,000** EPC: D66

Rockfield, Tarbert



5-bedroom Detached Stone House

1340 **Offers Over: £295,000** EPC: F23

Rockfield is a beautiful stone house located in the desirable area of Pier Road in Tarbert. The property is currently set up for use as two flats but could easily be changed into one family home. The property consists of Lounge, dining room, kitchen bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor. The upper floor consists of Lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom and three bedrooms. While the property would benefit from some upgrading, the location and surrounding garden ground will make it an attractive proposition.



Ingleside, Tarbert

We are delighted to market this stunning 5-bedroom detached Victorian Villa set in a prime location within the picturesque village of Tarbert. Its elevated position within the village allows for beautiful views across Tarbert Harbour and the hills beyond. The property has been sympathetically restored in recent times to introduce the comforts of modern living whilst retaining many of the original features throughout the house, such as ceiling roses, cornicing, internal doors, window shutters and skirtings.

This family home with its mature well-maintained and landscaped garden is impeccably presented.

5-bedroom detached Villa

1317 **Offers Over: £392,500** EPC: F36

- Large Victorian Villa
- Original Period Features
- Genuine walk in condition
- 5-bedrooms
- Large garden
- Parking

argyll 4 sale
2916

Call us today on
01546 603118
enquiry@argyll4sale.net
www.argyll4sale.net

10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead,
Argyll, PA31 8LZ

West Coast **MOTURING**

✓ GARAGES ✓ DEALERSHIPS ✓ PRIVATE SALES ✓ NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000 FAX: 01631 568001
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm
POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm
E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

FORD FIESTA 1LTR ZETEC



Ecoboost, 2016, sport body kit, lots extras, air con, sat nav, DAB, Bluetooth, USB, 2+month warranty+1 yr MOT, 27,000m, manual, petrol, (more info on local FB groups)

£7,650 ono

Tel 01852 200342

LAND ROVER DEFENDER 110

Utility 64 plate, 30,000 miles, full service history

£27,600 inc VAT O.N.O

Telephone 01852 300487

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

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

CARS WANTED

Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.

Tel: 07759054754

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures, High Mileage etc considered. Best prices paid. Will collect.

Tel: 07546 788945

WANTED

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

Tel 07546 788945



SUZUKI ALTO

with only 12500 miles on the clock, 1 previous owner, runs like a new car, £20 road tax, owned 3 years only selling as need larger car, very cheap to run

£2000ono

Tel 07880 995319

WALKER BAY RIB DINGHY



3.1 metres accepts up to a 15hp engine. Stable boat. Ideal tender for fishing.

£325 ono

07709 086934

WANTED

for immediate cash payment and free collection all types of 4x4 vehicles double cab and single cabs pickups shogun landrover defenders Isuzu Landcruiser Navara I200 Toyota Hilux discovery any vehicle considered old or new any condition running or not high miles rotten chassis over heating top price paid without any hassle we also buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial vans and trucks.

**Tel 07703490572 or email
balgowan4wd@gmail.com
ask for Robert**

WANTED 4X4s FOR CASH

All 4x4 vehicles, all makes and models wanted. Guaranteed best price, no hassle, free collection anywhere. Land Rover Defender, Discovery, Freelander Range Rover, Vauxhall Brava, Toyota Hilux, Land Cruiser, Mitsubishi, Shogun, L200, Pajero, Nissan Navara, Terrano, Patrol, X Trail, Isuzu Trooper, Rodeo. + All other 4x4 Vehicles, 4X4 Pickups, etc. Single vehicles or fleet purchases. Any age nearly new or old, any conditions from perfect to written off, non runners, rotten, no MOT, high mileage, blown engine, overheating etc. Cash in hand, no hassle, best cash price guaranteed.

Call today on 0778 985 5381

WANTED

Touring caravan or motorhome to purchase. Any size considered, cash waiting

Tel: 07365 441945

WANTED

Trail, Trials or Motocross bikes, any age or condition considered.

Tel 07972 803870

MUNRO'S OF OBAN

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs
All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosofoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

**NEW
CAR
INDEX**

SUZUKI
Gordon Motors
UK Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire
PH7 4BQ
Tel.01764 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors

RENAULT **DACIA**

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

ISUZU

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

Great Wall

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

SUBARU

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

WD Semple

Scotland's most established Renault dealer

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



New KADJAR

SUV by Renault

8.9
out of 10



Reevoo

Read 71 reviews



FROM **£199**
PER MONTH*

THE ADVENTURE begins here

EMBARK ON THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME WITH THE RENAULT KADJAR, a small SUV that'll turn any trip into an adventure, whether on road or off.



The Renault **Kadjar**
STARTING FROM ONLY **£20,595**
OR **£199 per month***



The Renault **Captur**
STARTING FROM ONLY **£15,795**
OR **£199 per month £199 Deposit***



The Renault **Clio**
STARTING FROM ONLY **£13,615**
OR **£169 per month £199 Deposit***

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

REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE	REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
18	Dacia Stepway LAU TCe	Grey	30	£10,750	64	Renault Clio DYN NAV 1.2	Black	32,000	£7,150
66	Renault Captur DYN DCI NAV 120	Black	18,000	£12,250	64	Vauxhall Corsa SXi 5dr	Silver	35,000	£5,500
66	Dacia Sandero LAU DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,950	14	Skoda Rapid TDi	White	27,000	£6,950
66	Renault Clio S NAV DCi-90	Red	11,000	£12,200	63	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCi Visa	Black	48,000	£7,550
66	Renault Clio 1.2 DYN NAV	White	14,000	£9,750	13	Renault Megan DYN DCi EST	Black	75,000	£5,750
66	Renault Captur TCe DYN NAV	Cream	18,500	£10,250	13	Kia Rio Petrol	Black	44,000	£4,750
65	Dacia Logan EST LAU TCe	Silver	19,000	£6,950	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£8,950
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	12	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	Blue	42,000	£5,750
64	Renault Twingo SCe Play	Blue	12,000	£5,950	61	Renault Megan HB EXP 1.6	Blue	23,000	£4,500
64	Renault Clio DYN TCe	Red	16,000	£7,500					

RANGE OF LOWER PRICED CARS UNDER £2000 RENUALT CLIO RENAULT CLIO AUTO KIA PICANTO GS

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER
Inveraray - 01499 302150 Lochgilphead - 01546 606767

NEW YEAR, NEW REASONS FOR CHOOSING ŠKODA AS FRESH JANUARY DEALS ARE ANNOUNCED

- Generous finance deposit contributions of up to £3,000 for Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative)
- Servicing plan included on selected models
- 3 years roadside assistance package on selected models
- £500 test drive voucher redeemable on selected new ŠKODA orders
- £500 test drive voucher redeemable on selected new ŠKODA orders



ŠKODA is delivering a range of deals and offers that are guaranteed to see off the winter blues. Thanks to finance deposit contributions of up to £3,000* (5.5% APR Representative), service packages on selected models and test drive reductions across the range, buyers drive an exceptional deal on an award-winning new ŠKODA. The biggest savings can be secured on the Superb range, which is available with a finance deposit contribution of £3,000 when purchased with a Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative). Customers who take a test drive before placing their order can also secure a voucher** entitling them to £500 off the OTR price - enough for multiple tanks of fuel or even a weekend away. For further peace of mind (and more savings), Superb buyers benefit from a inclusive ser-

vice plan^ that covers the two consecutive services (1 x oil and 1 x oil and Inspection service). SE Technology models are excluded from this offer. And it's not just buyers of ŠKODA's biggest models that benefit from incredible savings. The recently updated new Fabia comes with up to £2,450 finance deposit contribution (TSI engines receive £1700 deposit contribution) when financed through a Solutions PCP* (3.9% APR). The offer is available on all models except the Fabia S, and means that buyers can drive off in ŠKODA's feature-packed supermini for an unbeatable price. Customers also benefit from 3 year roadside assistance and can receive a £500 voucher** towards their purchase by simply taking a test drive before placing their order.

Generous finance deposit contributions,

test drive voucher** to the value of £500 and a service package that covers the first two services are also available on ŠKODA's popular SUV models. The Kodiaq attracts a deposit contribution of up to £2,000 when financed with a Solutions PCP* (5.5 APR Representative). The offer excludes vRS and SE Technology models. The Kodiaq's smaller sibling, the Karoq, comes with a finance deposit contribution of up to £1,950 when financed with Solutions PCP* (6.9% APR Representative) and is available on all models except SE Technology.

Customers looking to start 2019 with an adrenaline rush can pick up the remarkable Octavia vRS with a finance deposit contribution of £2,500 when financed with a Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative). Buyers can snap up the most powerful production

vRS model ever built (2.0 TSI with 245PS), with the first two services covered and a £500 voucher** simply for taking a test drive. Offers on the Rapid Spaceback and Citigo complete ŠKODA's January deals. The Citigo is available with a finance deposit contribution of £1,500 when financed through a Solutions PCP* (6.8% APR Representative), while the Rapid Spaceback is available with a £1,700 deposit contribution when financed through a Solutions PCP* (6.6% APR Representative). Both cars are offered with three years roadside assistance and a £500 voucher** for taking a test drive. The offer excludes the Citigo S trim level.

ŠKODA's January offers are expected to be extremely popular with buyers, and customers are urged to act quickly to secure their deal as quickly as possible.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND START YOUR ŠKODA EXPERIENCE
TODAY CONTACT WEST END GARAGE DUNFERMLINE 01383 668 195, EDINBURGH 0131 297 0739 AND STIRLING 01786 235238

THE ŠKODA TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE

£500 OFF WHEN YOU TEST DRIVE A NEW ŠKODA BEFORE 31 JANUARY#

ALSO AVAILABLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR KAROQ FINANCE OFFER

Up to £1,950 Towards your finance deposit†	+	6.9% APR Representative*	+	2 SERVICES Included^	+	3 YEARS Roadside assistance
---	---	---------------------------------------	---	--------------------------------	---	--

DRIVEN BY SOMETHING DIFFERENT

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2018

West End Garage Dunfermline

Unit 2 Halbeath Motor Park, Crossgates Road, Halbeath, Dunfermline KY11 7EG
01383 668 195 www.westendskoda.com

West End Garage Edinburgh

4 Cultins Road, Sighthill, Edinburgh EH11 4DG
0131 297 0739 www.westendskoda.com

West End Garage Stirling

Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ
01786 235 238 www.westendskoda.com

Images are for illustrative purposes only. Model shown is not UK specification and may include features or options which are not available in the UK. West End Garage is a broker and not a lender and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them.

*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle: subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.

With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s+. Subject to availability & status. Excludes SE Technology. T&Cs apply. Ordered by 1 April 2019 from participating retailers. †KAROQ petrol engines receive £1,450 deposit contribution and KAROQ diesel engines receive £1,950. Indemnities may be required.

^Service plan covers first two consecutive services limited to 1 x Oil and 1 x Oil and Inspection service. Accurate at time of publication. ŠKODA Financial Services. #£500 voucher available for orders placed between 20 December 2018 - 31 January 2019 and registered by 31 March 2019. Subject to availability. Retail customers only, excluding SE Technology models, CITIGO S Trim & KODIAQ vRS. Excludes Channels Islands and Isle of Man.

Official fuel consumption WLTP for the ŠKODA KAROQ range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 50.4 (5.6) to 32.8 (8.6). NEDC derived CO₂ combined emissions for the ŠKODA KAROQ range are 134 to 118 g/km.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures (known as WLTP). The CO₂ figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info or consult your retailer. Data correct at December 2018. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations (including non-UK) and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please contact your retailer for further information. For fuel consumption data based on the outgoing test cycle (NEDC equivalent data), which is the 'official' UK fuel consumption data until 31.12.18, please consult your retailer.

S&S SERVICES

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF ARGYLL FOR OVER 30 YEARS

IMPRESSIVE CARS SHOWCASED IN OBAN

Oban's Tesco car park featured some impressive cars last weekend, with S & S Services showcasing a fleet of its vehicles.

The dealership, which has been selling cars for 40-years and has been Subaru UK's Sales Dealer of the Year multiple times, regularly supplies Obanites with new Subarus and Isuzus. And it was no

different his time around, with at least five people driving away from Tesco's in a new car.

Speaking to The Oban Times on Sunday, John Spicer of S & S Services said business had been good.

The company aims to visit Oban every five to six weeks and Mr Spicer anticipates his next visit will be in March.



PICK-UP CHECK-UP

YOUR FREE ISUZU CHECK AWAITS

The more efficiently you keep your Isuzu running, the easier it is to enjoy the journey. Keep your pick-up in tip top condition with our complimentary check-up - carried out by experienced technicians using specialised tools and diagnostic equipment designed specifically for Isuzu.

for more information call
01292 880080



+ PLUS Receive a set of FREE Isuzu approved wiper blades, your FREE windscreen washer fluid topped up and even a FREE vehicle air freshener.



S&S - SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER 2017

THE AWARD WINNING ISUZU D-MAX

PRACTICAL & DEPENDABLE

NEW COLOUR
SAPPHIRE BLUE



ISUZU
THE PICK-UP
PROFESSIONALS

CHECK OUT THE NEW
ISUZU D-MAX COLOURFUL
CHARACTERS

YUKON FROM
£22,999[†] CVOTR



5 YEAR
125,000
MILE
WARRANTY

3.5
TONNES
TOWING
CAPACITY

—OVER—
1.1
TONNE
PAYLOAD

164
PS

—OVER—
40
MPG
COMBINED

EURO 6
NO
ADBLUE

5 YEAR
UK & EU
ROADSIDE
ASSISTANCE

**BOOK
A TEST
DRIVE
TODAY**

S&S SERVICES, HEATHFIELD, AYR TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN M: 07831 808702

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

SCOTTISH WATER, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS at LAND WEST OF SEWAGE WORKS, CLACHAN SEIL, ISLE OF SEIL.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Matthew Taylor, Specialist Services, Scottish Water, 31-33 Henderson Drive, Longman North, Inverness, IV1 1TR. E:matthew.taylor@scottishwater.co.uk

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at Seil Island Community Hall on 6th February 2019 between the hours of 2.30pm to 6.30pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Matthew Taylor, Specialist Services, Scottish Water, 31-33 Henderson Drive, Longman North, Inverness, IV1 1TR. E:matthew.taylor@scottishwater.co.uk before 6th March 2019.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Planning Application Pre-application consultation

Link Group is conducting a pre-application consultation on the following development proposals on land at **Upper Achintore, Fort William, accessed via Connochie Road.**

1. An application for Planning Permission in Principle for a new residential development of up to 325 dwellings including landscaping, access and associated site development works.
2. An application for Planning Permission for phase 1 of new residential development consisting of up to 200 dwellings, including landscaping, access and associated site development works; and for enabling works (roads, access, drainage and services infrastructure) for all phases of development.

Both applications relate to the same area of land and will be accompanied by a masterplan and EIA.

A public exhibition of plans for the proposed development will be held at **Lundavra Primary School, Lundavra Road, Fort William between 4.15pm and 7.45pm on Monday 4th February 2019**, where representatives will be available to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

Further information may be obtained from Peter Brett Associates (PBA), 160 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 2HG. Tel. 0141 352 2360 or email glasgow@peterbrett.com. Comments can be left at the event or be made by email/postal return by Friday 15th February.

Please Note: No Application has been submitted to the Highland Council in relation to this proposal. Any comments made to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the Council and would not be considered as part of any future application(s). If the prospective applicant subsequently submits formal applications for planning permission, there will be an opportunity to make representations on those applications to the Council.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

E B M Dawson
33 Achadafail
0.19 ha – Site for a dwelling house
Case Number 92946

J M Thomas
83 Lochyside (Ben-View)
0.0085 ha – Amenity ground
Case Number 94780

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 22/02/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

M R MacEachen
A MacEachen
1 Toigal, Arisaig & Moidart
92924
0.033 ha
Reason – Proposed new development
No Conditions
Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

First registration of a croft

Frank Beaton has registered their croft 21 Airds Bay, Airds Bay, Ardchatten & Muckkairn on the Crofting Register held by the Register of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20th September 2019. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5555

DALMALLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM

**31st January 2019
7.30pm
Dalmally Golf Club,
Dalmally**
The AGM will take place on 31st January 2019. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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
18/05981/FUL	Land 30M North East Of Fulnafern, Arivegaig, Acharacle	Erection of a crofthouse, extension of the access, and installation of a septic tank and soakaway (Plot 2)
19/00086/FUL	Land 110M SW Of Old Inverloch Cottage, North Road, Fort William	Install a low head hydro power plant and associated infrastructure
19/00105/FUL	Land West Of The Cypresses, South Laggan, Spean Bridge	Installation of 1 x DSLAM telecommunications broadband cabinet
18/05980/FUL	Land 30M North East Of Fulnafern, Arivegaig, Acharacle	Erection of house, extend access road, installation of foul drainage (Plot 1)
18/05964/FUL	Lochaber High School Camaghael, Fort William	Proposed 250kW PV array to supply Lochaber High School

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk



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...



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

The Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011 AMENDMENT ORDER 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Highland Council propose to make an Order entitled as above in terms of Sections 32(1) and 45(2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

When the Order comes into effect the Order will create parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles only on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 1 hereto and delete parking places for the use of disabled persons' vehicles on the areas of road detailed in the Schedule 2 hereto

Copies of the proposed Order, as drafted, together with a copy of the relevant plans, a copy of the Authority's Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order and a copy of the Orders to be amended, can be inspected at the Highland Council Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William on weekdays during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders should write to the undersigned specifying the Order to which objection is being made, and the grounds of the objection. All letters of objection must be received by the undersigned within 21 days from 25 January 2019. Paul Nevin, Legal Manager, The Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness

This is the Schedule 1

PROVISION OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES

Town	Street	Area of road designated as a disabled persons' parking place	No. of places	Manner of standing in Parking Place
Fort William	Mamore Crescent	On the south side of the street, outside No. 34 Mamore Crescent for a distance of 6.0 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.01 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Fort William	Lochaber Road	On the south side of the road outside No.20 Lochaber Road Road, extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6.0 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the plan No.02 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Fort William	Kennedy Road	On the west side of the road outside No.99 Kennedy Road , extending in a southerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby,as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.04 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Kilmallie Road	On the east side of the road, outside No.7 Kennedy Court extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No 05 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Caol Fort William	Blar Mhor Road	On the east side of the road, opposite No 115 Blar Mhor Road for a distance of 6.0 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the plan No.06 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Inverloch Fort William	Lochy Road	On the south side of the street, outside No.13 Lochy Road extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan. No.07 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Inverloch Fort William	Inverloch Court	On the west side of the street, outside No.7 Inverloch Court, extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the Plan No.08 annexed and signed as relative hereto	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Fort William	Wigton Place	On the north east side of the road, outside No.5 Wigton Place, extending in westerly direction for a distance of 6.0 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on Plan No.09 annexed and signed as relative hereto.	1	Parallel to the kerb line

This is the Schedule 2

REVOKE/REMOVAL OF DISABLED PARKING PLACES

Caol, Fort William	17 Erracht Drive	On the north-east side of the road, opposite number 17, for a distance of 6.6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red or thereby as referred to in the Schedule of the Principal Order and as shown on the plan No.3 annexed and signed as relative to the Principal Order and which area of road with its parking place is hereby delete from the said Principal Order	1	Parallel to the kerb line
Fort William	Alma Road	On the north side of the road outside No.20 Alma Road, extending in a westerly direction for a distance of 6.6 metres or thereby as shown outlined in red on the plan No.11 annexed and signed as relative to the Principal Order as amended by The Highland Council (Lochaber) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) Order 2011 Amendment Order 2017 No,2 and which area of road with its parking place is hereby delete from the said Principal Order as amended aforesaid	1	Parallel to the kerb line

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/02751/PP	Variation of Condition 17(i) relative to planning permission reference (18/00375/PP) to amend finished floor levels	Land West Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm Dunbeg Argyll And Bute
18/02741/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Strathappin House (Plot 2) Portnacroish Appin Argyll And Bute
18/02740/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Strathappin House (Plot 1) Portnacroish Appin Argyll And Bute
18/02718/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Dunvalanrigh Ledaig Oban Argyll And Bute
18/02633/PP	Installation of mesh fencing system	Oban R N L I South Pier Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS
18/02630/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and associated works.	Plot 4 South West Of Erray House Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
18/02771/PP	Change of use of holiday unit to dwellinghouse	Alltnacree North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RD
19/00028/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/00009/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Plot 3, Fields Adjacent To Ach Na Caorach Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

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

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



69%
of the business community
read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



Regional Press
closer to home

1/2 PRICE SALE Scottish Calendars 2019



Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars.
To see all the images from our 2019 range visit:

www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

* Additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on **01371 851 868**

OR POST ALL ORDERS TO: Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB

Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

✓ BUY LOCAL ✓ SELL LOCAL ✓ TRADE LOCAL ✓ SWAP LOCAL

MOBILITY

TOWER MOBILITY INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS



LIFT AND RISE RECLINERS
ROLLATORS, SCOOTERS
WHEEL CHAIRS

HANDY AIDS TO DAILY LIVING.

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS

Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ
01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk



BLINDS

ApolloBlinds

Inspiring Ideas
Expertly Delivered

since 1972

NEW Roman Collection

INTRODUCTORY
OFFER
**20%
OFF**

see our website for details and more offers!

01631 295 010

plus
www.apollo-blinds.co.uk/argyllandlochaber
FREE HOME CONSULTATION AND FREE INSTALLATION

69%
of the business community
read the regional press



Regional Press
closer to home

SEPTIC TANK CONTRACTING

MBC
MARTIN BOYLE CONTRACTING LTD

Scottish Water Approved Contractor.

- SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING AND CLEANING
- SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION
- HIGH PRESSURE JETTING & CLEANING



Est 2005 • Isle of Jura



Callum Simpson
07917 358285
(Argyll and the Islands)

Martin Boyle
07782 313517
(Jura, Islay & Colonsay)

info@mbcargyll.com

'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

REMOVALS & STORAGE



MacQueen Self Storage Ltd.

Unit 7A2, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848 Fax: (01631) 570627



Steel container hire and sales.
Clean, Dry, Accessible 24 hours.
Lorry loader hire.

Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
(01631) 564848
info@macqueenbros.com

GET SMART
with the Oban Times annual digital subscription
AND SAVE
from as little as **56^p** per week



- ✓ Full website access
- ✓ Electronic edition
- ✓ Access to archives

The Oban Times
www.obantimes.co.uk

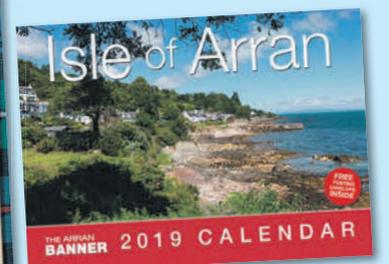
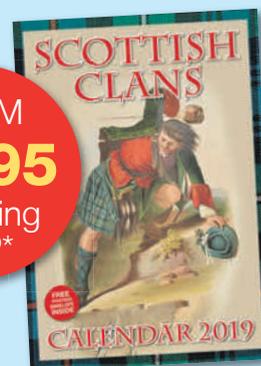
1/2 PRICE SALE Scottish Calendars 2019



FROM
£5.95
including
P&P*



FROM
£3.95
including
P&P*



Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2019 range visit:

www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

* Additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on **01371 851 868**

OR POST ALL ORDERS TO: Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB

Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

Private sales free listings for items under £100

Antiques and Collectables

OAK TABLE Old Victoria oval table, folds in half, barley sugar legs, usual age related marks. Valued at £250. Can email photos, £50 Telephone 01631 720369.

STANDARD BOWLING JACK-LIGNU Bowling ball, Standard Jack, Lignum Vitae, Antique, inscribed " J.Riley", £10 Telephone 01586 554537.

Baby Equipment

MOTHERCARE PRAM TRAVEL SYSTEM and playpen, sold together or will sell separately, £150 Telephone 01631 720235².

Books

PAPERBACKS 30 paperbacks, mostly new or as new. Well known authors. Bargain, £12 Telephone 01631 720369.

Building / DIY

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

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

LADIES JACKET F&F black & white, size 12, brand new. Calls evenings, can deliver to Oban, £25 Telephone 01852 300154.

Domestic Appliances

ZANUSSI VACCUUM CLEANER Little used, £22 Telephone 01546 850287.

Furniture

2 OLD FASHIONED DINING ROOM CHIARS Carvings on the back, £40 Telephone 01546 850287.

SINGLE BED with guest bed, VGC, £25 Telephone 07833 551164.

SOFA FOR SALE in

beautiful condition, Cost £1000 will accept, £95 Telephone 07919 106318.

TV/MUSIC CENTRE CABINET Mahogany appearance. H82 W60 D44. Taynuilt, £59 ono Telephone 01866 822071.

WOODEN STORAGE UNIT With Baskets, H29½ x W41" x 12"D, £20 Telephone 07833 551164.

Garden

CAST IRON STAGS BOOTSCRAPER Heavy garden ornament/bootscraper, 2 stags on 17" long strip of cast iron, each stag 6" tall, weathered brown, £10 Telephone 01586 554537.

GARDEN ORNAMENTS Snow White & Seven Dwarfs concrete garden ornaments. Very large, whole set weighs ½ ton. Snow White 3½ feet tall, dwarfs 2 feet tall, brand new, varnished to preserve colours. Will deliver, £375 Telephone 07951 293090.

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

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578².

Health and Fitness

BODYMAX FOLDABLE FLAT BENCH Exercise bench. Cushioned with foldable legs for easy storage. Hardly used. Owner's manual. (Campbeltown), Free Telephone 01583 441181.

INDOOR ROWER Con-

cept II rowing machine, as in many commercial gyms, excellent condition, monitor, handbook, one owner, cost £800, £95 Telephone 01583 441181.

Hobbies and Crafts

FABRIC FOR PATCHWORK/QUILTING Fat Quarters, various colours, From £1.50 Telephone 07456 638545.

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

Home Entertainment

LCD TV Sony Bravia 40" LCD TV in good working order. North Connel, £50 Telephone 07899 878112.

Home Office

EXECUTIVE OFFICE DESK Excellent condition. 3 drawers right. 1 drawer+ filing drawer left. Measures: L=153x-D=75xH=71.5cm. Calls evenings, £60 Telephone 01852 300154.

SMALL COMPUTER DESK Excellent condition, measures :L=82x-H=79.50xW=50 to 58cm, round front. Calls evenings, can deliver to Oban, £35 Telephone 01852 300154.

Hunting and fishing equipment

ABU GARCIA SPIN-MASTER ROD Abu Garcia spin master series, 12ft rod, 919330, f11, cork handle, £25 Telephone 01586 554537.

DAIWA, WHISKER FLY ROD Fishing rod, Daiwa whisker fly, #7-9, cork handle, wt98-11'3" h, very good condition, £25 Telephone 01586 554537.

DAIWA, WHISKER FLY ROD Whisker fly fishing rod, #7-9, (WT 98-11'3"H) Cork Handle, excellent

condition, (£50 on eBay), 25 Telephone 01586 554537.

FLADEN FISHING ROD, 9FT Fladen rod, "Avant-Garde", 9ft, 30-60g /1.2oz, no. 537, neoprene handle, (some scratches to body), £15 Telephone 01586 554537.

SHIMANO TWIN POWER, FLY ROD Mega rare. Twin power series, (Shimano), fly 10668, #6-8, length 10'6", 3 section, aftma line, velvet case, quality, £50 Telephone 01586 554537.

Kitchen

BODUM WINE COOLER Brand new, transparent purple colour. Call evenings. Can deliver to Oban, £10 Telephone 01852 300154.

FOOD MIXER Kitchen chef classic food mixer. Blender/mixer/juicer/mincer, as new, unused. Metal mixing bowl, £60 Telephone 07514 466297 or 01631 562834.

Mail Order

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentroof and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Mach-

rianish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

Miscellaneous

FROZEN FOOD 80 frozen chicks, food for raptors, reptiles etc. Not livestock, these are frozen. Free Telephone 01586 554537.

Photography

COLLECTION OF OLD CAMERAS 20 old cameras in need of TLC, untested, £95 Telephone 01631 720159.

Printing and Stationery

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL, market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print. Contact on Telephone 01586 554975.

THANK YOU CARDS new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new

arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print on Telephone 01586 554975.

Wanted

RURAL LAND WANTED around half acre, freehold. To situate static home. Fort William, Fort Augustus or Inverness areas. Telephone 07432 401804.

Oban Times
TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times
TRADE CLASSIFIED

Oban Times



like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

PERSONAL

THANK YOU

Jean Gillies, Corpach, wishes to thank Rev Richard Corbett and all family, relatives, friends and neighbours for phone calls, gifts and all visits I received when in the Belford Hospital and Abbeyfield. Home now and making slow progress.

All Good Wishes for 2019 to all.

Happy 60th
Birthday
Hilda Donn
24/01/59
Love all the family

DEATHS

ELLIOTT - Peacefully on January 17, 2019, Alexander Somerled MacDoanld (Sandy), in his 97th year. Formerly of Easdale and Oban. Survived by his wife Josephine; children Duncan, Catherine, Alison and Megan and nine grandchildren.

FERGUSON - Catriona Mairi MacIver (née Finlayson). Peacefully at home 'Aros', Achmore on Sunday, January 20, 2019, Catriona Ferguson, loving wife of Duncan, devoted and cherished mother of Sarah and Aonghus, much loved sister of Sheila, James and the late John, sister-in-law, aunt, niece and friend to many. Funeral service on Thursday, January 24 at 2 pm in Church of Scotland, Kyle of Lochalsh, thereafter to Balmacara New Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to local Macmillan Nurses and Kyle Community Nurses. Aig fois. Enquiries to D. N. Munro, Glenshiel and William T. Fraser and Son, Inverness.

GROOM - Peacefully at home with family on Friday, January 18, 2019. Helen Groom (née Nelson), aged 71, of Butterchurn Cottage, Barcaldine. Much loved wife of Ken, mum to Steven and Claire (and their respective partners Clare and Stu) and granny to Jack, Ruby and Penny. Funeral service will be at Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 1pm on Wednesday, January 30, followed by burial at Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations to Cancer Research welcome. Wear what you feel comfortable in. We want to thank the following for supporting us at this difficult time: NHS Staff (including district nurses Lorna, Lynne and Kathryn, doctors McPhee and McElroy and Neil Robertson); Macmillan nurse Aelstje Oosterhof; Charlie from Marie Curie; and all our lovely friends.

MACGILP - On January 18, 2019, in the Mull and Iona Community Hospital Duncan Archibald MacGilp aged 93 years. Loving and much loved husband of Morag (née MacMillan), adored dad of Moira and the late Angus, respected father-in-law and special grandad. A

friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday, January 25, 2019 at 11.30am thereafter to Tobermory Top Cemetery. Psalm 4-8.

MACLEOD - Jenny MacLeod (née Macfadyen), 86, Port Appin, sadly passed away on January 19, 2019 at Lochside Care Home, Helensburgh. Treasured mother grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. The funeral will be held at Appin Parish Church on Friday January 25 at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Lochside Care Home Entertainment and Comfort Fund. As a family, we would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences.

MCGLYNN - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 17, 2019, Catherine (Cathie) McGlynn, née Jackson, aged 86 years, of Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig and formerly of 16 Brodie Crescent, Lochgilphead, beloved wife of the late Teddy, loving mother of Shona and David, and cherished granny of Tom, Karen, Fiona and Roddy. A dear auntie to all the family. A good neighbour and friend to many, and a much respected former work colleague. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Ardfenaig Comfort Fund and Dementia UK. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

WARD - Alan, died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, January 19, 2019. Funeral service will take place in Nether Lochaber Parish Church, Onich on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 1.30 pm followed by Internment at Innis-na-Birlinn cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Highland Hospice and Macmillan nurses can be given at the church door.

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS
Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS
Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

MACLEOD - Janet (Gill) of Ballimore Estate, Kilchrenan, beloved wife of the late John MacLeod. Loving mother to Gordon, Alastair, Fiona, Douglas, and Niall. Grandmother to 15 including Katie, Heather, Angus, Oona and Archie. Memorial service, Barclay Viewforth Church, Edinburgh on Friday February 1 at 11am, interment at John's grave in East Calder cemetery at 1pm.



Also to announce the death of Janet's son Alastair MacLeod who sadly passed away in his home in Orkney just before Christmas. Alastair was well known across the Highlands and Islands, Orkney and Shetland for his work as a careers officer and environmentalist. Retiring to write leaving a large legacy of short stories. Alastair's funeral was held at St. Magnus Cathedral and he was buried by the Standing Stones of Stenness on the Winter Solstice, Friday December 21. As we laid Alastair to rest to the sound of the pipes a glorious sun was setting over Loch Stenness, to the other side through the mist of Loch Harry a huge near full winter moon was rising. "Dear Brother you will be deeply missed".



MEMORIALS


Oban Memorials
Monumental Sculptors
Modern and Traditional Memorials, Lettering, renovations and Brochure available on request.
Unit 4, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB
01631 563123 or 07765815982
email: info@obanmemorials.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORBES - Grace and family would like to thank relatives and friends for all their support during Mike's illness and after his death. Heartfelt thanks to Dr Emma Boyle, district nurses, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Dove Centre. Special thanks to Rev. Carol Leech for conducting Mike's comforting service and Rev. George Cringles for playing the organ, John Simpson for bible reading and St. Modan's Church. Also many thanks to D&A Munn Ltd who went the extra mile to make sure all was taken care of for the family and organising Soroba House for excellent buffet. Thanks to Euan Dewar for perfect playing at the graveside. Thanks also to all who donated for the two charities, £842.20 was collected.

HILL - The family of the late May would like to thank everyone for all the kindness and support shown to them at this sad time and to all who attended the service and graveside. Thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for the uplifting service and to Catriona and staff at Hoey's for their excellent service and to the Royal Hotel for the catering. A very special thanks to all the nurses and carers for the care and attention given to May, as they made it possible for our mum to remain comfortable in her own home.

MITCHELL - Malcolm, Marie, Colin and Debbie would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards, phone calls, floral tributes and expressions of sympathy. Thank you to the doctors at the Lorn Medical Centre and the district nurses for all the help they gave to enable Bob to be cared for at home as was his last wish. Thank you to Co-operative Funeral Directors and to

all who attended Cardross Crematorium and Abbotsford Hotel for catering afterwards. Finally to all who generously donated £204 to Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland and Dementia UK.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mum Isabel, who passed away on January 27, 2018. Sorely missed.
- Margaret and family.

CAMPBELL - Remembering our friend Mairi, "Corrairigh", passed away January 28, 2017. Thought of with great affection.
- Catherine and Anne.

KERR - Remembering our father, father-in-law, papa, and great-papa Willie, who died January 29, 2015.
- Love John, Morag and family x

MACBETH - Lizzie. Unforgettable mother, granny and great granny, died January 24, 2010. The roses will bloom again.
- Mima and family, Fort William, Arbroath and Darlington.

MACCONNACHER - Treasured memories of May, a devoted wife, mum, gran and nana, died January 27, 2015.

Many a day your name is spoken
Many an hour you are in our thoughts
A link in our family chain is broken
You have gone from our home

But never from our hearts
- Alexander, Jill and William, Sander and Laura, Darren, Cameron, Craig and Jamie. xxx

MACDONALD - Precious memories of David Hepburn (Davie), who passed away on January 26, 2001. Miss you and love you always.

- Margaret, Elspeth, David, Roslyn and Ewan. With all our love from your three grandchildren.
- Kyle, Emma and Ally.

MACLACHLAN - Ann. In loving memory of our wonderful mum and granny, who passed away January 23, 2016.

Deep in our hearts
You will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.
- Love Hugh, Rosemary, Nan, Alisdair and families, Kilchoan.

MACLACHLAN - In loving memory of my sister-in-law and our dear aunt Ann, who passed away January 23, 2016. Forever in our thoughts.
- Inserted by Chrissie and family, Kilmory.

MACNEIL - Remembering with love Patricia Buchanan, died January 21, 2014. A dear wife, mother, sister and friend, remembered always.
- Auckland, Glasgow and Oban.

PEARSON - Treasured memories of Jamie, our precious son, brother, brother-in-law and darling uncle to Gemma, Ashleigh and Rian, taken from us on January 24, 1996, aged 27.

Loved and missed always.
- Mum, Dad, Audrey and Gregor xx

SMITH - Precious memories of Angus, a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and adoring granpa, who sadly passed away on January 23, 2013. Forever in our hearts
Always on our thoughts.
- Myrtle, Angus, Isobel, Calum and families.


like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/
obantimes

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ
Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

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

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009



The Macmillan Unit Team in September raised £552 as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

THOUGHT for the week

We may think we have our problems with Brexit and Britain finding its way back into happier relations with our European neighbours.

Across the Atlantic, President Donald Trump has his problems having failed to persuade his opponents to back his plans for the wall with Mexico. This is despite agreeing to secure temporary rights for the 'Dreamers', children who entered the country illegally with their parents. His opponents fear that his proposals go against all their nation stands for, including its history of welcoming incomers.

America's history owes much to the founding fathers, whose vision was for religious freedom, a vision that was to be embraced by everyone. They valued democracy, rights, liberty, opportunity and equality.

Thomas Jefferson, the main author of the Declaration of Independence, asked a very good question: can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God?

Our national bard, Robert Burns, supported the cause of the American Revolution that led to the Declaration of Independence. He also championed internationalism and the brotherhood of men (and women). As many celebrate his birth this month they will hear familiar words:

'For a that, and a' that
'It's coming yet for a' that,
'That man to man, the world o'er,
'Shall brithers be for a' that'.

The values of tolerance, freedom, respect for others and a desire to welcome the stranger are just as important today.

**Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear,
Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven
and Nether Lochaber.**

Healthy Working Lives Award for Oban, Lorn and Isles

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership is delighted to announce that its Oban, Lorn and Isles locality has maintained their Healthy Working Lives Gold Award.

Caroline Henderson, local area manager, Lorn and Islands Hospital, said: 'I am really pleased that we have maintained our Healthy Working Lives Gold Award.

'This is good news for our locality and is recognition of the Health and Social Care

'We held a series of activities and events to promote and encourage a healthier workforce.'

Partnership's continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of staff.

'To maintain this award, we held a series of activities and events to help promote and encourage a healthier workforce.

'These included locality staff being involved in a range of health awareness events during the past year such as Breast Cancer Awareness Week and Dementia Awareness Week. Some of our office-based staff took part in the On Your Feet Britain campaign which encourages staff to stand when possible during the working day - for example, when they are on the phone.

'Lorn and Islands Hospital canteen has also achieved the

Healthy Living Plus Award through the wide range of healthy options that are available, including breakfast bars, fruit bowls and salad bowls as part of a healthy eating campaign.

'In addition, there have been a range of other events held in the hospital, including a coffee morning, arranged by the Macmillan Unit Team in September, which raised £552 as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.



JOHN McLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
DUDLEY ROAD • FORT WILLIAM • PH33 6JB
Tel. 01397 702128 www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk



Funeral Service

We pride ourselves on our professional and caring approach to every funeral.



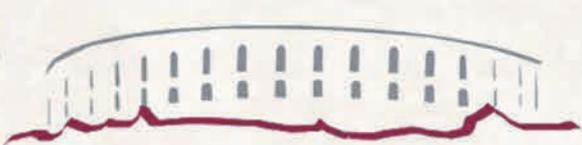
Pre-paid Funeral Plans

We offer Golden Charter Funeral Plans to suit your requirements.



Memorial Stones

We offer a range of elegant and distinctive memorials.


D&A MUNN LTD.

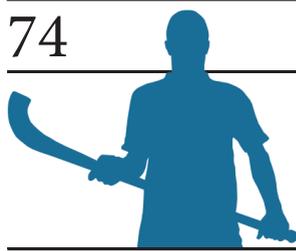
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est. 1880
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

24 hour family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son.

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

D & A Munn have been responding to the needs of the bereaved in Oban and the surrounding areas since 1880, a tradition we are very proud of.

Telephone: 01631 562562 Fax: 01631 562203
Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk Website: www.munns-oban.co.uk



SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Kenny Wotherspoon back with the red and blacks

New Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss has named Kenny Wotherspoon as his assistant ahead of the 2019 shinty season.

Wotherspoon comes into the post with three years' experience managing Oban Celtic, the last two of which were in the Marine Harvest National Division.

Stephen said: 'Kenny will be my number two. He's been a manager in his own right which is a huge help but he'll also find that everything is amplified in the Premiership whether it is the speed the game or the skill on show; the whole set up is amplified. Kenny will be an asset to the squad as we look to turn all the undoubted potential into something positive.'

Kenny, who also managed the South U21 squad last year, said: 'I'm really looking forward to this. The club has made me feel very welcome. I spoke to the players, Stephen and the Oban Camanachd committee prior to getting started. I know I'm taken a step back to be an assistant manager when I was previously a boss in my own right before but it will also be a massive step up with everything that's involved in Premiership shinty.'

So how will the synergy between Sloss and Wotherspoon work? 'Stephen has had a glittering playing career,' said Wotherspoon. 'He is very knowledgeable where shinty is concerned and he's done very well previously coaching the Oban Camanachd U14s and U17s. He's even stood in with the first team any time Haybo [Ian Hay] was unavailable. He told me what he was looking for and I described what I'd be able to offer from my experience in management. I'll get the chance to put forward my thoughts and bring something to the table whether it's training, tactics or on the match day itself but Stephen is the key man and the final decisions rest with him.'

Kenny played youth shinty for Oban Camanachd before turning out for a successful Lochside team, winning South 1 and 2 as well as six Bullough Cups. He even played around half a dozen times for the Oban Camanachd first team. 'There was great competition for places back then,' he recalls. 'I was trying to get into a forward line that had the likes of Fraser Inglis and Dougie MacIntyre.'

Wotherspoon left for Oban Celtic in 2007 but now makes his return 12 years later.

'I know many of the boys already. Some were involved with the South

U21s last season while I know others socially or through work.

'I'd like to thank Gareth (Evans) and Stephen (Sloss) for the chance to work with the Oban Camanachd squad and I just hope the parks hold up well through February so the boys can get their match sharpness for the start of the new season.'

Sloss looks to give Oban Camanachd every advantage

He's just a couple of months into the job and new Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss is working hard to ensure Oban Camanachd have every advantage going into the new shinty season.

'The preparations for both Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers are going well,' said an upbeat Sloss. 'We've no injuries in either squad and, so far, it's all been very positive. Our fitness training has been very good, we are using sports psychology and providing the players with information on nutrition, and we are also looking at how we do warm-ups and carrying out all the analysis we can to avoid injuries. So we will look to build up every advantage we can get and if we can mix all that in with additional commitment from the players, we'll be ready to take on anybody.'

Sloss stored a great deal of knowledge about the current squad before taking over the manager's position from Ian Hay. 'I was lucky enough to be at nearly every Oban Camanachd game last season so I know the potential is there. No team ever overran Oban Camanachd last season. However, Haybo [Ian Hay] wasn't able to get the same team on the park two Saturdays in a row and that needs to change.'

Defender Scott McKillop has provided his manager with an early boost, returning to training after suffering a foot injury when abroad.

There is also the appointment of assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon to help on the sidelines.

'While Kenny and I are obviously involved on a regular basis,' added Sloss, 'we will also be able call on folk like David MacCuish to come in and assist with training and that helps mix things up and it also keeps things fresh. Brian (MacCallum) and George (Easton) at Lochside are also involved. Oban Camanachd, along with the likes of Skye and Fort



The new Oban Camanachd management team Stephen Sloss, left, and Kenny Wotherspoon.

William, have had the best young players around in recent years so it is important that these players can see that there's a pathway through to the first team.'

Sloss expects to be working with much the same group of players that took the side to a fifth place finish in the Marine Harvest Premiership and Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup success last season. 'While there have been additions to the squad from Lochside ahead of the past few seasons, there is likely to be more continuity this time around,' he noted. 'We have a really strong squad and there's a settled first team pool of around 19 players. Oban Camanachd have had success in a lot of competitions in the past, including the Camanachd Cup but Haybo has arguably built the club's best-ever league team.'

Oban Camanachd have been looking into the possibility of arranging a fixture for Saturday January 26. What is confirmed though is a full training match on Saturday February 2, the visit of Glasgow Mid Argyll to Mossfield a week later, followed by a meeting with Ballachulish and a testing encounter with Newtonmore at the Eilan ahead of the start of the competitive season.

Madej Oban switch confirmed

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss confirmed that Daniel Madej has joined the side from local rivals Oban Celtic.

While a number of shinty's top flight clubs have lost some regulars ahead of the new season, Oban Camanachd have been able to add to their pool.

Sloss said: 'Daniel (Madej) looks to be enjoying his training with us and he's a good addition to the squad considering he previously played for the Scotland U21s.'

Madej will be a familiar face to new Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon, who knows the player well from their time together at Oban Celtic. 'Daniel had an on-off season last year with injuries,' he said. 'He now has a fresh start and the chance to test himself in the Premiership season. He'll hopefully get a good pre-season under his belt and be able to enjoy an injury-free spell which should see him find his form again.'

Oban Celtic friendly throw-up times

Oban Celtic have confirmed the throw up times for their pre-season friendlies.

New manager Dougie MacIntyre's first match in charge will be a friendly meeting with Glengarry at Mossfield on Saturday February 2, throw up is at 1pm.

Oban Celtic are off to the Taynuilt Sports Field a week later to play Taynuilt with the Robert Wylie Memorial Cup at stake. Throw up is again at 1pm.

The final pre-season friendly is against Inveraray at Ganavan on Saturday February 23 with a 1pm

start. The Oban Celtic second team also have a warm-up game as they welcome St Andrews University to the Oban High School all-weather pitch on Saturday February 16. Throw-up is at the earlier time of 10.30am.

Lochside friendly switch

Lochside Rovers have a change of fixture for their final pre-season friendly on Saturday February 23.

The Oban side were to face Taynuilt for the JC Trophy as the clubs remember John Cameron but that will now be contested when the teams meet in Marine Harvest South Division 1 in the new season.

Ballachulish will now visit Mossfield to face Lochside instead on the final Saturday before the new season starts.

Kilmallie coaching team

Recently appointed Kilmallie first team manager John Stewart has announced his coaching team for the 2019 season.

Stewart took over from Mark MacPherson, who stood down at the end of last season after four years in charge.

However, Mark MacPherson has agreed to come back into the fold as Stewart's assistant manager which is a major boost to the club. He will be a popular choice among the players and he comes with considerable experience and a great knowledge of the newly promoted squad.

Ryan Stewart has been leading the pre-season fitness training and he will be the team trainer. Stewart is passionate about fitness and training and the players are already feeling the benefits from his sessions.

Kilmallie will also hold their annual general meeting Caol Community Centre on Saturday January 26.

This is an important date for the club as they reflect on the last year and plan for the season ahead. The AGM is also an opportunity for the board of directors to hear the views of players, members, helpers and supporters. The directors for the new season will be elected at the AGM, which starts at 11am.

Fort William bosses continue

Victor Smith and Adam Robertson

continue in charge at Fort William next season.

The Fort only missed out on promotion by a point last season but they will start this term without influential defender James Tangney who suffered an accident when spending time abroad.

Kinlochshiel pre-season

Kinlochshiel have confirmed their pre-season schedule.

'Shiel start at home to Inverness on Saturday February 2 before playing Inveraray at the Winterton a week later.

Kinlochshiel host neighbours Skye Camanachd in their final pre-season friendly on Saturday February 23.

Kinlochshiel hope to be finally playing their home games on their new pitch in Balmacara but this will be weather dependent.

Aberdeen University stay up

Aberdeen University have opted to continue playing in Marine Harvest North Division 1 this coming season.

The students finished bottom of the league last season and were expected to be relegated.

However, they successfully put forward the case that they will be able to better progress as a club by maintaining their North 1 status.

2019 Garry tournament

The countdown is on ahead of Glengarry's popular annual indoor tournament to contest the Johnstone Rose Bowl at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday January 26.

The tournament starts at noon.

Lewis youth festival

The annual First Shinty Festival at the Lewis Sports Centre attracted 63 youngsters who were given the chance to develop their skills and play a number of games.

Several Camanachd Leòdhais were on hand to provide coaching and the event is another sign of shinty's increased popularity in the western isles.

UHI recruitment call

The University of the Highlands and Islands are looking to recruit shinty players to compete in this season's prestigious Littlejohn Vase competition, which takes place at St Andrews on Wednesday February 20.

Anyone interested in playing university shinty for UHI, and who has a student card and are a full- or part-time student at UHI (any campus), should contact Kingussie and Scotland U21 defender Rory MacKeachan by email at: rory_mack@hotmail.com

Benefits of sport

sportscotland and the Camanachd Association want to understand the wider benefits experienced from

taking part in sport. They are asking club members aged over 13 to tell about their sport and the physical activities involved both with their club and in everyday life.

They are also keen to understand how individuals first became involved with their clubs, what they feel the benefits of taking part are and how sporting participation helps them achieve their goals.

As a thank you, every survey completed by February 11 will be entered into a prize draw for £1,000 worth of sports equipment for the club concerned.

The prize draw will be run by sportscotland and the winning club will be notified by February 28.

The survey can be found at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FTBDMJ9>

Duncan Clark, Fort William

Fort William lost one of their most fervent supporters when Duncan Clark passed away peacefully, aged 85 years.

Shinty was in Duncan's blood and he passed that on to sons Ali, Duncan Jnr, and Jimmy, who inherited his love of the game.

Grandsons Struan, Cameron, Arran and Ruairaidh play for the club and for Inverloch while another grandson, Lewis, has represented Scotland at U17 level and plays for the current Fort William senior team.

Duncan's twin brother, Donald from Newtonmore, passed away recently and his funeral was the same day as Duncan's passing.

Duncan M MacDonald, Caberfeidh

The shinty community in general and Caberfeidh Shinty Club in particular were saddened to learn of the passing of Duncan MacLennan MacDonald at his home in Inverness on Tuesday January 15.

Duncan was formerly headmaster at both Contin and Fodderty primary schools where he took great interest in the promotion of shinty and became involved with the Ross-shire Camanachd Association.

After moving from Contin to Fodderty, he took up residence with his wife and family in Strathpeffer.

Duncan's interest in shinty continued and he was very soon involved with Caberfeidh Shinty Club where he served for 11 years as Secretary from 1988 to 1999.

During his time with the club, Duncan took a huge interest in the youth teams and managed the U14 team when they were the first winners of the North Area U14 League in 1986 and again in 1987.

Duncan and his wife Jean moved to Inverness a few years ago to continue his retirement but kept up his interest in the Strathpeffer community.

Despite his failing health he was able to attend the Strathpeffer Highland Gathering last August.

Duncan is survived by his wife Jean, four daughters, two sons and his grandchildren.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £950

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.

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.

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.

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 Wyvex 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

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
C MacFadyen Connel
N MacKenzie Killin

OT

SHOOTING



Sinclair McKinnon, Bobby McColl, Stuart Charnock, Ronald Jenkins and David Hay Thorburn.

Tarbert Gun Club get off to a wet start

Tarbert Gun Club recently held their first competition of the new year. It was also the January leg of the Winter League team shoot.

A big turnout of competitors in damp conditions with little hail to upset the shooters.

Down the line saw high scoring but no maximums. Sporting set-up saw a lot of scores spoiled as a very fast and low mini target ruined many of the cards.

High gun was won by Andrew MacDonald. Close behind was Ally McDonnell, thanks to his missing his last target of the day.

Results: Class A: 1 Andrew MacDonald, 2 Ally McDonnell, Brian Baird. Class B: 1 Jonathan Gargan, 2 Ronald Jenkins, 3 Drew Gall. Class C: 1 David Hay Thorburn, 2 Andy Peden, 3 Adam Currie. Class D: 1 Roy Laird, 2 Ian McVicar, 3 Shaun Doy. Class E: 1 Bill Bidmead, 2 S McDonald, 3 Buddy Peterson.

Winning team: Archie MacGilp, Jonathan Gargan, Andy Peden, Roy Laird and Martin O'Keefe.



Inveraray Carpet Bowling Club's 2017 prizewinners.

06_a12invbowls01

Bowling club festive pairs competition

Inveraray Carpet Bowling Club recently held its annual festive pairs competition.

It was won by George Morrison and Alan Cameron, who each received a turkey as their prize.

The runners up were Duncan Robertson and Margorie McQuarrie.

The New Year bottles competition was won by Donnie McQuarrie and Alan Duff.

Runners up were David Duff and Scott MacIntyre.

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Impressive display

Oban Lorne	45
Uddingston	7

Tennent's West Division 2

On a cold and sunny Saturday afternoon Oban welcomed Uddingston RFC to Glencruitten for a top of the table clash between the teams in second and third position in West Division 2.

Oban were looking to continue their run of form following last week's win away at Loch Lomond by overturning one of their away defeats earlier in the season when Uddingston won 15-7 in a tight game.

A healthy crowd was on hand in fantastic conditions looking to enjoy the fare on offer with ex-players invited to come for a free pie and a pint at half-time. The Glencruitten playing surface was in fantastic condition yet again, a testament to Argyll and Bute groundsman Ian Hay for all his hard work over the season.

Coach Andrew Johnston had to shuffle the cards yet again with a number of players coming back into the team. Corrie Louw and Radi

Maksimov returned in the front row, with captain Iwan Roberts coming back into the squad with regular half backs Vasil Borisov (injured) and Finlay Carmichael unavailable.

With the sun shining in their eyes, Oban were keen to make an early impression and that got off to a great start with some early pressure being absorbed by the visitors.

Mazy run

When Oban turned over ball in the Uddy half, their powerful centre took off on a mazy run through the middle of Oban's defence. A number of tackles were missed until he was halted just inside the Oban 22. This was a warning that Oban were not going to get things all their own way.

After 10 minutes of the action, Oban were first to cross the try line after a succession of rucks took the ball deep into the Uddy 22. Young scrum-half James Divers was on hand to dive over the line and put Oban 5-0 ahead with his first senior try for the club.

Five minutes later, Oban were to extend their lead when Owen McDonald finished off after a rampaging



Stephen Povey makes an acrobatic dive between the posts.

run through the visitors defence. The big doctor has been in fantastic form on his return from injury and his dynamism really drives the team forward.

Oban were working really hard in defence and snuffing out any opportunities for the visitors with some excellent tackling and organisation.

Calum Murray was next on the try-scoring list. When Uddy turned over ball in the Oban half, the ball was hacked forward and the Oban PE teacher outpaced the home defence to latch on to the ball and dive over in the corner to extend Oban lead to 17 points to nil after 26 minutes of the game.

Radi Maksimov was to secure the bonus point try for Oban just before half-time when he powered through the visitors' defence to score an outstanding try. Another player who has been sorely missed these past few weeks,

hopefully he can keep up his form in the coming weeks.

Oban were to go into half time with a 24-0 lead and some positive words in the break from the coaching team saw them hoping to keep the pressure on.

It took some time for Oban to get their noses further ahead but with an hour of the game gone, Owen McDonald was to score another fantastic try to extend the Oban lead to 31 points, the extra points being converted by Ferg McCoss, who took over the kicking duties from Carmichael.

Stephen Povey was to further extend the Oban lead when he was on hand to support a break through the centre of the Uddy defence and take the pass to go under the posts. A fantastic shift from the vice-captain who had to play at prop and had a fantastic all round game.

With the game now com-



Radi Maksimov scored two tries on the day.



Determination written all over the face of Lorne Sinclair.

Oban Ladies learn who their Scottish Cup opponents are

Oban Lorne Ladies have been drawn in Pool 2 of the Sarah Beaney Scottish Cup competition with the first round of fixtures taking place on Sunday March 3.

First up for Oban is a visit to Glasgow to take on Premiership opposition Cartha Queens Park RFC before a home tie against West of Scotland RFC on Sunday 10th.

The Green Army will be confident of their chances ahead of the cup fixtures after having an impressive showing in National League 2 where they narrowly missed out on the championship to an impressive Ayr side.

Ladies' training continues every Tuesday (high school) and Thursday (Glencruitten) from 6pm. All new players are welcome to come along and join in.

from the Green Machine



Photos: Stephen Lawson

fortably in Oban's hands, the coaching team made a raft of changes with young Sean Gordon and Michael Mackinnon going into the second row and young winger Robert McLaughlin from Dalmally taking the place of Callum Murray. Tommy Sutherland also had a cameo appearance after coming for the ex-players' lunch. Uddingston came back at

Oban hoping to salvage some pride and took play deep into the Oban 22 after an attempted interception left a massive hole in the Oban defence for the Uddingston forwards to exploit.

Rewarded

Oban were struggling to reorganise and conceded a number of penalties as they looked to keep the visitors at bay. Uddingston were to

be rewarded with a try when their big No8 was adjudged to have grounded the ball on the base of the posts and was awarded the try.

With Oban disappointed to have their defence breached, there was still time for Radi Maksimov to score his second try of the day right at the death, again converted by McCoss who finished with a five out of seven success rate.

Impressing

There were a number of stand-out performances on the day with every player involved really stepping up to the plate. McDonald and Maksimov were the outstanding forwards, closely followed by Lorne Maclachlan and Lorne Sinclair, who continue to excel. Young David Cameron also had a fantastic performance in the midfield, moving to inside centre after impressing on the wing in recent weeks.

Saturday's result lifts Oban back into second place in the table above Uddingston. With seven fixtures remaining against lower placed opposition, Oban are favourites to clinch what could end up being a second promotion place depending on the outcome of next season's league reconstruction.

Next week Oban are back on their travels when they head to Clydebank to play at the new 4G pitch there. This will



Doctor Owen McDonald barges his way over the line after a rampaging run.

RUGBY

be a 3pm kick-off and played under floodlights to allow for the Clydebank team to play their second team fixture beforehand. The teams met at Glencruitten earlier in the season where Oban recorded a comfortable 71-7 win.

Oban Lorne's next home fixture is on Saturday February 23 against league strugglers Millbrae.



James Divers scoring his first senior try for Oban.

Young rugby players entertain at Glencruitten



Oban Lorne and Mid Argyll under-14s line up before last Saturday's game at Glencruitten.

Oban Lorne U14s hosted Mid Argyll on Saturday at Glencruitten in a curtain-raiser to the 1st XV's important game against Uddingston.

Both youth sides fielded large squads, with Mid Argyll travelling with an impressive 17 players.

Oban also boasted a squad of more than 20, giving the coaches a 'good problem' in selecting a team that would give all the players valuable game time.

Fantastic scores

After a tight start to the game, Mid Argyll ran out as 28-0 leaders

at half-time with some fantastic scores. Oban did have a few moments of magic in the first half with impressive runs from Thomas Jackson and Mull's Charlie Knight.

Mid Argyll were boosted with some S3 players, still young enough to play U14 rugby. This proved to

be the difference in the later stages of the game as they ran out comfortable winners.

Reduce

Oban did, however, improve and scored a couple of tries to reduce the deficit.

The game was played in good

spirits and backed by a very healthy following of parents and supporters.

U14 players will have more opportunities to play with local sides in the coming months with the second half of the Argyll Dalriada season.

OT

SQUASH



World ranked squash player Alan Clyne from Inverness will be coaching at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday and Sunday. Photo: Squash Site

Clyne gets set to deliver in Oban

Top Scottish squash player Alan Clyne will be courting attention this weekend when he drops into Atlantis Leisure to deliver coaching sessions to both adult and junior members of Oban Squash and Tennis Club.

Ranked 25 in the world, Clyne, 32, is the current Scottish number two and has represented his country in the past three Commonwealth Games.

Inverness-born Clyne claimed his eighth Scottish national title in March 2018 and has risen to a career high of 24th in the world singles rankings, while competing extensively in the World Series.

Last weekend he kicked off his 2019 PSA World Tour campaign when competing in the Tournament of Champions in New York. The tournament attracts some of the best players from around the world with matches played in the iconic Grand Central Terminal.

Clyne will be at the Centre from 10.30am to 6pm on Saturday and from 10am to 5.30pm on Sunday. Spectators welcome.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round – Oban Saints 3, Thorn Athletic 1; Premier Division – Barrhead Arky 5, Dunoon 2; Premier Division One – Hillington 4, Campbeltown Pupils 4; Port Glasgow 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two – Villa Park v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round – Lochgilphead Red Star v Oban Saints; Premier Division – Dunoon v Motherwell Thistle; Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Ferguslie Star; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Glynhill Moorcroft.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s no game; Regional Cup – Under 14s 6, Erskine Yellows 0. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (2), Innes Jackson, Ruairidh Buchanan, Ross Mackay and Craig Rankine. Under 15s 1 v Lochgilphead Red Star 5; Saints goalscorer was Ross Higgins; Under 16s v Winton Rovers, postponed.

This Sunday's fixtures: League – Clyde SOF v Under 13s; Under 14s v Rutherglen Glencairn; Under 15s v St Patrick's Sports Academy; Scottish Cup – Rowallan (Kilmarnock) v Under 16s.

Saints prove to be a

Oban Saints	3
Thorn Athletic	1
West of Scotland Cup – 4th round	

Oban Saints bounced back from the disappointment of their Scottish Amateur Cup penalty shoot-out exit with an excellent West of Scotland Cup win over former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Thorn Athletic at Glencruitten last Saturday.

The Johnstone men sit proudly on top of the Caledonian League Premier Division, one of the top amateur leagues in the country, and looked set to provide Saints with arguably their biggest test of the season so far.

Already out of the Scottish Amateur Cup, the West of Scotland Cup remained the only chance of bagging one of the major trophies for both sides who provided another highly entertaining spectacle for the Glencruitten faithful.

With hard frost forecast, Saints had Mossfield booked as a back-up.

However, there was no need to put the contingency plan into effect as Glencruitten was once again in excellent condition and a credit to the Argyll and Bute Council grounds staff.

Saints management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell made two changes

to the side knocked out of the Scottish Amateur Cup by Rothie Rovers, bringing in Jamie Graham to replace Ruairidh Horne at right back and Kerr Newbigging in midfield for the injured Daniel Croarkin.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Jamie Graham, Steven MacLeod, captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Kerr Newbigging partnered Willie Gemmell in the holding midfield roles with Matthew Kelly just behind a front three of Craig MacEwan, Donald Campbell and Lewis Cameron.

Sparring

Saints kicked off attacking the railway end and, after some early sparring, conjured a good opening on the left for Lewis Cameron after some neat interplay between Donald Campbell and Scott Maitland. Cameron burst into box, however, Thorn captain and Scottish Amateur internationalist Ryan Crawford made a perfectly timed sliding interception to deny the Saints wide man a shot at goal.

Graham Douglas in the Saints goal was pressed into action in the 15th minute making a comfortable save from a Jordan Devine header after Stuart McCann had helped on a Ross Horne



Kerr Newbigging keeps a close eye on and Jamie White.

throw-in from the left.

The visitors were enjoying a good spell with danger man Devine following up his earlier header with a shot from 28 yards which flew high over the Saints crossbar.

The deadlock was broken in the 19th minute when Lewis Cameron tricked his way past Ian Paterson on the corner of the Thorn box and picked out Craig MacEwan in the middle whose cushioned volley into the bottom corner left keeper Liam McWilliams rooted to the spot.

Matthew Kelly doubled Saints' lead just three minutes later, slotting home from close range after a neat one-two with Craig MacEwan had opened up the Thorn defence once again.

Kerr Newbigging, who impressed in the middle of the park in his first start for eight weeks, received a talking to from referee Michael Kerr in the 29th minute for a heavy challenge on Jamie White on the edge of the centre circle.

The Thorn sideline and their large travelling support was becoming more vocal, too much so for Mr Kerr who felt the need to calm things down with a word or two for substitute Paul Young on the half-hour mark.

Thorn right winger Stuart McCann halted a quick Saints

counter attack with a trip on Lewis Cameron after 32 minutes which Central Scottish Amateur Football League referee Kerr, who had an excellent game, was content just to punish with a free-kick keeping his cards safely in his pocket.

The Saints defence kept the potent Thorn attack, which had run in 30 goals in the previous three rounds, well marshalled with captain Dene Cassells in particularly impressive form. There was, however, one scare just before the end of the first half which Saints had dominated for the most part when a suspiciously offside looking Jordan Devine raced through on goal but sent his low shot wide of the right-hand post of Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

The visitors made a change for the start of the second half bringing on Connor McGregor to replace Stuart McCann on the right wing.

Survivors

A neat turn and shot over the crossbar from the edge of the Saints box from left winger Tom Smith proved to be his last involvement as he made way for Dean Scott, one of just a handful of survivors from Thorn's last visit to Oban almost four years ago.

The visitors continued their determined start to the second half without seriously testing the Saints back four which were well protected by holding midfielders Willie Gemmell and Kerr Newbigging. Thorn eventually managed to get the ball into the Saints box in the 56th minute, however, Graham Douglas was able to punch Connor McGregor's right wing cross clear under pressure from Jordan Devine.

Saints made their first change in the 65th minute giving Lewis Cameron a well deserved breather and replacing him with James Ford. It



Donald Campbell is closely marked by Ian Paterson.



A delighted Matthew Kelly doubles the Saints lead.

Thorn in the flesh

only took five minutes for Ford to make his mark on proceedings with the third goal which Saints needed to make the tie safe.

Jamie Graham made a terrific interception on the half-way line and played the ball up to Craig MacEwan. Saints' top goalscorer in each of the past two seasons advanced to the edge of the box and laid the ball off to the overlapping Jamie Graham who picked out James Ford with an inch-perfect cutback which Ford clipped into the net past the right hand of Liam McWilliams.

Thorn threw on Paul Young and Darren Lamont for the final 20 minutes at the expense of Jamie White and Ross Horne. The change gave the visitors fresh impetus and they came close to opening their account when Jordan Devine lifted a Dean Scott cross over the Saints crossbar. Donald Campbell made



Celebrations after Craig MacEwan's opening goal.

Match report and photos: Derek Black



Captain Dene Cassells was influential in the centre of the Saints defence.

way for David Beaton in the 73rd minute just before a tame Dean Scott shot from the edge of the Saints box was easily saved by Graham Douglas.

Matthew Kelly was penalised for a late challenge in the 75th minute which gave Thorn deadball expert Paul Young the chance to influence proceedings. Thorn's free-kicks up to that point had been easily dealt with, however Young's accuracy immediately put the Saints defence under more pressure with Willie Gemmell having to head the veteran left footer's delivery behind for a corner kick.

Pressurising

The visitors were at last showing glimpses of the form which has lifted them to the summit of the Caledonian League Premier Division with Jordan Devine again making a nuisance of himself and pressurising Jamie Graham into a mis-hit clearance which bounced back off the right-hand upright before

Dene Cassells thumped clear.

Dean Scott whipped a dangerous 77th minute corner kick from the right across the six-yard box where striker Jordan Devine sent a stooping header narrowly wide of target.

Matthew Kelly made way for Fraser MacFarlane in Saints' final change in the 78th minute.

Deflected

Thorn found the net three times from corner kicks on their last visit to Glencruitten and set pieces again looked to be their most likely route to goal. Playmaker Dylan Blair found the head of Darren Lamont with a corner kick from the left which the big defender sent well wide of target after a Dean Scott shot across the face of goal had been deflected behind.

As the Saints defence and midfield sat deeper to protect their highly prized clean sheet, the influential Dylan Blair was able to get on the ball more and set up Connor McGregor for a chip over the Saints crossbar in the 87th



Jamie Graham beats Paul Young in the air.

minute. Thorn were rewarded for their perseverance with a deserved, albeit fortuitous, 89th minute consolation goal. Dylan Blair was once again heavily involved, providing the pass for Jordan Devine's 25-yard shot which looped up off the right thigh of Steven MacLeod and beyond the stranded Graham Douglas.

Excellent save

Dean Scott had the final opportunity of the afternoon in the third of the four additional minutes allowed by referee Michael Kerr. After finally managing to get behind the Saints defence, the Thorn wide man was thwarted by an excellent save low down to his

FOOTBALL

right by Saints number one Graham Douglas.

Mr Kerr's final whistle brought to an end another exciting encounter between the two old rivals, with Saints by far the more satisfied to go safely into the hat for Tuesday evening's fifth round draw and a place in the last 16 of the competition.

Saints remain on cup duty this coming Saturday when they travel down the A816 to face Lochgilphead Red Star in the first round of the SAFL's Jimmy Marshall Trophy. Kick-off at the Lochgilphead Joint Campus 3G is 2pm.



James Ford, far left, makes it 3 - 0.



SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780
M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban



WEATHER

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

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
3°C to 5°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 24, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	01.42	0.3	07.42	4.1
Thur	14.25	0.7	20.09	3.8
Fri	02.29	0.4	08.26	4.0
	15.12	0.9	20.53	3.6
Sat	03.17	0.6	09.11	3.7
	16.01	1.1	21.40	3.4
Sun	04.07	0.9	10.00	3.4
	16.54	1.4	22.35	3.1
Mon	05.01	1.2	10.58	3.2
	17.54	1.6	23.50	2.9
Tues	06.02	1.4	12.25	3.0
	19.06	1.7	***	**
Wed	01.20	2.9	07.12	1.6
	14.12	2.9	20.31	1.8

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

Ardrishaig	-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



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Saints prove to be a
Thorn in the flesh

**NORTH WEST
MARINE**
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
SPONSORS OF THE
OBAN TIMES WEATHER
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 79

Bob secures partnership with Orion Group

Glencruitten golfer Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre is set to swing into action in 2019 with a new partnership with the Orion Group.

The link-up brings together two success stories in the Highlands, with Robert hailing from Oban and the Orion Group based in Inverness.

Robert will be flying the Orion Group flag in his rookie season on the European Tour after the 22-year-old was among four Scots to graduate from the Challenge Tour in 2018.

The left-hander headed into last week's \$7,000,000 Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship event, which is part of the Rolex Series for the first time, sitting 29th in the 2019 Race to Dubai.

The event in Abu Dhabi was headed by the likes of Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Martin Kaymer, Dustin Johnson and Tommy Fleetwood.

Robert made the cut in three of his first four events of the new season before the festive break, finishing joint 15th in both the South African

Open and the Alfred Dunhill Championship.

'We are delighted to have struck up a partnership with Robert,' said Paul Savage, Orion Group managing director.

'He is an exciting young prospect, having wasted no time finding his feet in the professional ranks, and we are thrilled to be associated with him, especially as he comes from the Highlands.'

Robert added: 'I am thrilled to have linked up with Orion Group and excited to be working with such a successful company in the international recruitment business.'

'I am really pleased with my start on the European Tour and this was another big boost making the cut in Abu Dhabi.'

Robert's Bounce Sports stablemate Grant Forrest also made the cut but unfortunately Liam Johnston failed to make it for the last two days.

Round one saw Robert card a two-under-par 70 which featured five birdies and three bogies.



Robert partnered Ryder Cup player Tommy Fleetwood in the last round at Abu Dhabi.

GOLF

In the second round, three birdies and two bogies saw Bob record a one-under-par round of 71.

The Oban golfer then carded a level par 72 in round three, scoring two birdies and two bogies.

Bob partnered Ryder Cup player Tommy Fleetwood in the final round. The Glencruitten golfer was disappointed with his score of 73, one over par, with one birdie and two bogies for a four-round total of 247 to finish in joint 63rd place and pick up a cheque for \$15,000.

'Bob MacIntyre: probably better than I was at 22,' said 2017 Race to Dubai winner Tommy Fleetwood.



Paul Savage, Orion Group managing director.

Robert MacIntyre.
Photo: Bounce Sports



MATHESONS SALE

NOW ON

SOFAS • BEDS • CARPETS • FLOORING • CURTAINS • BLINDS

**Tweedmill, Soroba Road,
Oban. Tel: 01631 565195**

3 JAN
SOROBA ROAD

LOCHABER TIMES

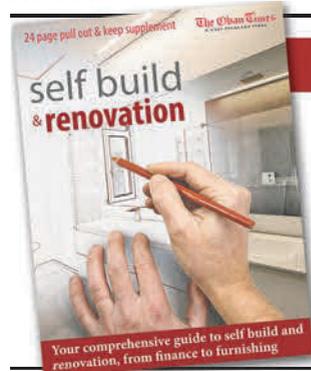
& OBAN TIMES

No 8443

Thursday 24 January, 2019

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

95p



FREE INSIDE

self build & renovation

24

page
pull out and keep
Supplement

INCLUDES
FULL website
access and a
DIGITAL EDITION
of the newspaper

FROM 56p
PER WEEK

LOCHABER TIMES Now delivering news
& Oban Times 7 DAYS A WEEK online
www.lochabertimes.co.uk

Families rally to support blaze-hit Fort nursery

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Parents and friends connected with a Fort William nursery are rallying in support of the pre-school facility after its outdoor learning huts were completely destroyed by a fire at the weekend.

Staff at Stramash outdoor nursery, near Inverlochy, were left 'shocked' and 'shaken up' when two of its hand-built wooden yurts, used by toddlers to learn and play, were razed to the ground on Sunday night.

Firefighters

Firefighters battled the blaze in two instalments over 12 hours as flames engulfed the buildings, reducing the large wooden structures to ash.

News of the fire was met with an outpouring of support this week as dozens of concerned parents and residents involved with the nursery responded to the nursery's plea for volunteers to help clear the wreckage at



a clean-up day this Saturday (January 26).

Not only that, but a JustGiving fundraising campaign page has also been set up for those who wish to donate money to help with

the cost of rebuilding the outdoor facility.

Temporary measures are now being put in place to ensure the safety of the 68 children, aged two to five, who attend the nursery.

Having spent the best part of five years designing, funding and building the wooden yurts, nursery team leader Cameron Sprague said he was 'devastated' to find the buildings in flames

Stramash team leader Cameron Sprague stands amid the burnt remains of the outdoor learning huts.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

after responding to a phone call from the fire service at midnight on Sunday.

Mr Sprague said the fire was 'a real kick in the teeth', especially as he was preparing to host a grand opening of the new buildings next month.

'I'm devastated. But we'll get through this and be better off after it,' he said.

Two fire crews tackled the blaze at the nursery's premises at the former BA social club near Inverlochy on Sunday night after being called to the scene at around 11.30pm. Firefighters went back the following morning to continue dampening down hotspots as the fire had partially reignited. The fire was eventually extinguished at 11.30am on Monday morning.

This comes after a difficult

18 months for the early years nursery, which has been targeted by vandals on numerous occasions. In two separate incidents last year, the wooden yurts were broken into and ransacked, while tools and equipment were also stolen from the nursery's shed.

Act of God

However, Mr Sprague is treating this latest incident as an 'act of God' and said it is almost impossible to determine what caused the fire, due to the extent of the damage.

'We'll never know, I think. What I'm focusing on is that no one got hurt and everyone is okay. A building is just a building and can be replaced.'

Mr Sprague said that he was 'really grateful' for the support from the community.

'We had parents show up and phoning us upset and distraught. It's amazing to have the nursery community

Continued on page three



Enjoy glare free vision this winter

From
£99
complete

Kodak UVSun Polarised Lens
Bifocal and varifocal options also available

JOHN WALLACE

Optometrists

ORTHOKERATOLOGISTS & VISION THERAPISTS

11-12 ARGYLL SQUARE, OBAN
ARGYLL PA34 4AZ
TEL: 01631 563170

LT

Pictorial record of smelter build saved for the future

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Some 4,500 rare glass plate negatives and historic black and white photographs documenting the construction of the Lochaber smelter have been conserved for the future.

Robert Cairns, chairman of Lochaber Archaeological Society, and his fellow society members, have spent more than two years sifting through the collection, cleaning many, re-photographing and scanning all of them after becoming aware of their existence when he worked for the smelter's previous owners, Alcan.

'The Alcan people were originally going to just bin them all and when I asked, they said I could have them,' Mr Cairns explained.

In total there are 4,500 glass negatives, photographs,



Examining some of the historical images of the Lochaber Smelter are Rosie Flannigan, left, and Brian King, far right, of Liberty British Aluminium with Eilidh MacColl of Lochaber Archive Centre and local historian Robert Cairns.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

old cine films and video tapes dating from the start of construction of the smelter and associated hydro works, powerhouse and dams in 1928, right through to

the present day.' Historic Environment Scotland has described the smelter and its associated powerhouse as one of the most significant British engineering achievements of

the 20th century.

'The creation of a pressure tunnel bored through solid bedrock under the flanks of Ben Nevis to connect the powerhouse with the Laggan

Centre.

'About 4,000 now digitised copies have been given to the smelter and are a very valuable engineering resource - if there is a part that needs replaced or some other kind of work needs done, these images can be checked to see what was originally used.

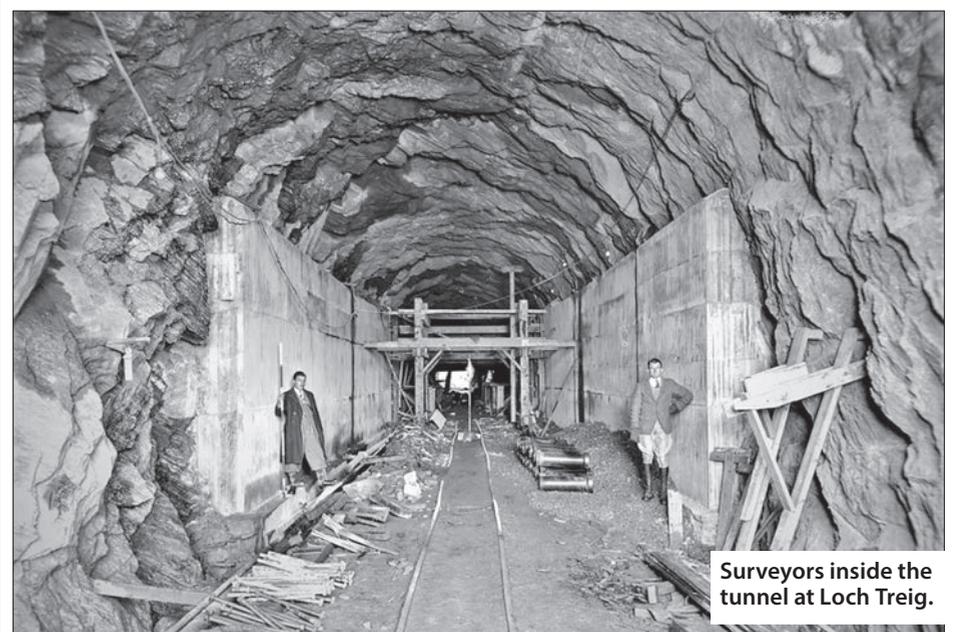
'It is such a thorough and extensive photographic record documenting every stage of construction.

'The folk at the smelter are very happy that all this work to conserve the images has now been done and I think they are hoping that in the future they might be able to create a 3D film around them.'

Over the next year or two the archive centre intends cataloguing all the images and placing them individually in special protective sleeves.



This photograph from the archive shows the construction of Laggan Dam.



Surveyors inside the tunnel at Loch Treig.

MACLEOD

MAINTENANCE & SMALL WORKS

One call solves it all

BEFORE

AFTER

External building painting & renovation

Office refurbishment

Roof leadwork replacement

Let MacLeod Small Works & Maintenance team give your home a facelift!

With a team of skilled tradesmen, we're ready to tackle any construction challenge on almost any scale, from simple minor works to grand renovations.

Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR Tel: 01546 602989 Fax 01546 603789
Email: sales@mkmacleod.co.uk www.mkmacleod.co.uk

Families support blaze-hit nursery

Continued from page one

that we have and to have people come and check on us and give messages of support.

'This place is special and I love it. We're lucky to have the team and parents we have, and the children all love the space. Hopefully we can rebuild it bigger and better than ever.'

Determined not let the damage affect the nursery's operations, the children

were taken to another local woodland site by Stramash staff on Tuesday while risk assessments were carried out at their base.

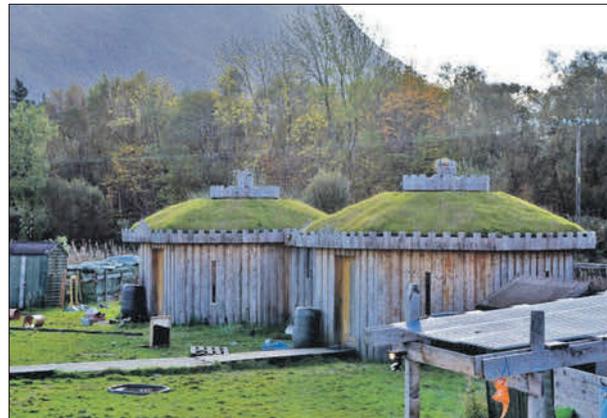
In a public statement, the wider Stramash team, which also runs outdoor nurseries in Oban, Elgin and Tornagrain, thanked the 'wonderful work' of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and said it was 'overwhelmed' by the support offered by the local community.



'We are so grateful for Cameron and our Fort William team for their resilience and dedication as they continue to work tirelessly in the best interests of our children and families.'

If anyone wishes to help the Stramash team, the clean-up day starts at 10am this Saturday at its premises at the former BA social club, near Inverlochty.

For more information on how to help support Stramash or donate to its fundraising campaign, visit the website, stramash.org.uk



Top: the hot water tank and boiler were the only things left standing; above, the wooden yurts at Stramash outdoor nursery before the fire. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

SSE roadshow for Spean Bridge area

Energy generator SSE is holding a roadshow event today (Thursday January 24) at Kilmonivaig Church Hall, Spean Bridge, in connection with the new Stronelairg wind farm community fund.

For each of the next three years £50,000 will be set aside for community groups in the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry area.

The fund is now open for applications and anyone with a project they think might be eligible or if they just want to know more, should come along between 2pm and 7pm.

All funding decisions will be made by a panel comprising local people.

Correction

In a contributed article in last week's edition of the Lochaber Times (Thursday January 17), the incorrect date was given for Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's February meeting. The correct date will be given in the club's own advert. The Lochaber Times would like to apologise for the error.

Fears grow over Glencoe hydro 'gold rush'

Backlash over plans to build a river hydro scheme near the site of the Massacre of Glencoe has continued to grow this week as residents fear for the area's heritage and wildlife, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

A public meeting was due to take place last night (Wednesday January 23) in Glencoe about the hydro application after the Lochaber Times went to print.

This was to allow residents to discuss the hydro scheme plans with representatives from renewable energy firm Glen Hydro, part of vento ludens Ltd, which submitted a planning application last week to build a run of river hydro scheme on the Allt Fhiodhan river, a tributary to the River Coe.

Neighbouring villagers have since expressed concerns over the impact of the scheme as, if approved, it will be situated within the Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area, just 200 yards from the ruins of Inverigan House, a significant location in the Massacre of Glencoe.



Glencoe resident Peter Weir told the Lochaber Times this week: 'The area involved is a designated National Scenic Area and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has not objected to this development. Unbelievably it appears that SNH do not require an environmental impact assessment or archaeology study... SNH is not supporting and preserving Scotland's natural heritage.'

He continued: 'This proposed development would manipulate the environment and wildlife habitat for money.'

'How many hydro schemes are being rushed through

before the March 31 deadline for the feed-in tariff scheme? This is the gold rush!'

Nick Forrest, senior project developer for vento ludens, confirmed that an archaeological survey was not required by the local authority.

Mr Forrest also wished to note that a modern house, garden and plantation forestry had already been on the site for a number of years.

Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council had no objections to the planning application, however, it looked forward to meeting residents and Glen Hydro representatives publicly to discuss the proposals further.

ENJOY LIFE
ENJOY KEBABISH



*End a busy day with a buffet evening
...and a drink with your meal*

Award winning quality | Authentic flavours | Fully licensed



Kebabish

Of Oban BUFFET RESTAURANT . A LA CARTE . TAKEAWAY

95-99 George Street Oban PA34 5NR
e: info@kebabishcurryhouse.com
www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

01631566885, 01631563900
Order Online: www.kebabishofoban.co.uk
 [Like us on facebook](#)

LT

Seaweed farm idea to be floated in Arisaig

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Arisaig could be in the vanguard of a move to farm seaweed in a sustainable manner on Scotland's west coast, if the idea gets the thumbs up at a public meeting at the end of this month.

Members of the Arisaig community have been invited to the meeting being hosted by Arisaig Community Trust, at the Astley Hall on Wednesday January 30, from 3-5pm.

The group Scottish Seaweeds is giving the presentation, which includes Easdale-based marine biologist Duncan Smallman, who also founded Slate Islands Seaweed Ltd.

Pamela King, from the community trust, said: 'Following the high-profile campaign to prevent kelp



dredging in the Highlands, we have been approached by a new company seeking to set up small sustainable seaweed farms around the Highlands.

'Their goal is for the farms to be community owned and run, and they are offering support with a feasibility study to investigate several

sites in Arisaig.

'We have invited the group, Scottish Seaweeds, to come and hold a public talk at the Astley Hall on Wednesday January, from 3-5pm.

'It would be great if people who are knowledgeable about seaweed or marine farming could come along. If it

Seaweed growing on a rope – Scottish Seaweeds is keen to hear what the community in Arisaig thinks of such a proposal.

appears beneficial to the village, we would support a group to set up the business.'

Mr Smallman stressed that the Arisaig public meeting was simply a first step of exploration to gauge local views on the subject.

'We are just looking to find out what people's thoughts are,' he told the Lochaber Times this week.

'We want to explore the opportunities for seaweed farming on the west coast of Scotland as a way of helping economies diversify and not having to be so reliant on mainly tourism.

'At the moment we don't

farm seaweed in Scotland. We are not looking at farming the same species at the centre of the recent debate on dredging [of kelp] but related species which, among other things, can be used to make sustainable packing.

'In places like Maine they wonder why we do not already farm seaweed here in Scotland.

'And our business is not some big multinational but a new small enterprise looking to work with communities – if people don't like what they hear, we are not going to force the issue.

'Right now all we want is to hear what people think.'

YOURSTORY
share with us: fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

Glenfinnan community council latest

Glenfinnan Community Council held its January meeting this week at the National Trust Centre.

The latest on plans for the community facility proposed for the former Marine Harvest hut were discussed.

The council is awaiting a change of use consent and members heard Transport Scotland is looking to extend the consultation period.

Plans for more tourist parking, including a new car park, are progressing, with a lease being negotiated and project management considered.

Calls to have the speed limit reduced on the A830 were mentioned. The findings of a survey undertaken around Glenfinnan Monument in 2018 will be taken into consideration. BEAR Scotland is to investigate the possibility of a controlled pedestrian crossing.

The next community council meeting will be at 8pm on February 25 in the National Trust Centre.

Cairngorm Group
tougher.warmer.smarter

Fashion changes, but style endures

Black is the new black

Choose a **statement** kitchen this season

trusted with your homes for **65 years**

Visit our **showrooms** and get inspired!
1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk



Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery picks up his award from Carol Smillie at the 20th World Championship Scotch Pie Awards 2019.

Nevis Bakery 'delighted' after taking champion bridie prize

Nevis Bakery has been judged to have the best bridies in the world.

The Fort William bakery scooped the top prize in the bridie category at the 20th World Championship Scotch Pie Awards 2019 last week, as well as coming third in the apple pie category.

The result followed a busy day of judging with more than 80 butchers and bakers entering more than 450 pies, sausage rolls, bridies, savouries and apple pies into the competition.

Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery said: 'I am delighted with the result.

'To take the prize for the best bridie in the land is a huge honour and we are proud to take our trophy home to share with our team and our customers.

'I am really looking forward to the year ahead and to selling more of our champion pies than ever.'

Loch Arkaig osprey electrocuted in Spain

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An osprey raised at a nest in Lochaber has been killed by a faulty power line while wintering in Spain.

'Peen' was fledged from a nest by Loch Arkaig in 2017 and was ringed as Blue JH3, but nicknamed Peen, after the burn running into the loch near the nest.

His whereabouts were unknown after he migrated south. Scottish ospreys traditionally migrate to West Africa and sometimes Spain or Portugal.

But last October he was spotted by Spanish birdwatchers at the Marjal Pego-Oliva Nature Reserve, between Alicante and Valencia, where he became something of a local celebrity. He was even poster-boy for an osprey census in the area.



Tragically, Peen was electrocuted on a power line on December 28 and died. Scottish osprey enthusiasts became aware of the death through social media late last week.

Itziar Colodro of the Magic and Nature Birdwatching Company said Peen's death was distressing news.

'I was tracking JH3 in the Marjal de Pego-Oliva

Natural Park. We will have the memory of the big fish that he caught. He was a crack fisherman!

'JH3 has given us the best photographs ever taken before in our area. We will miss him so much.'

Itziar campaigns for improvements to faulty power lines that pose a threat to birdlife in the area. Many birds will perch on cables and

pylons. Where insulation has worn they can receive a lethal shock.

Peen's electrocution caused a power cut in the area. His body was found by engineers called out to deal with the outage. The incident took place on agricultural land used to grow rice, just outside the nature reserve.

Conservation charity Woodland Trust Scotland bought Loch Arkaig Pine Forest at the end of 2016 in partnership with Arkaig Community Forest.

Thanks to support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, a live online video stream from an osprey nest began running in 2017. Novice parents Louis and Aila were watched by fans around

the world as they raised their first chick - Lachlan.

Lachlan and Peen were tagged within days of each other by wildlife expert Lewis Pate.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland commented: 'Through the nest camera the ospreys of Loch Arkaig have gained followers from literally the other side of the loch to the other side of the world.'

'There is a great deal of sadness at the news of this bird's death in Spain. It was from the neighbouring nest to the one on our camera stream.'

'Following these birds can be a roller-coaster for the emotions. They face a catalogue of dangers at every stage of their fascinating nomadic lives. It is heartening to know there are folk in Spain as well as the UK fighting their cause.'

New Iolaire film on show in Sandwick

A new film about the Iolaire is now being screened as part of the exhibition in the Sandwick Hall in Stornoway - and the public are being reminded that the exhibition will remain open three days a week throughout January and February.

The film, entitled So Close To Home, has been produced by Alyth McCormack and runs for just over half an hour.

It features extensive interviews with Malcolm Macdonald, co-author of The Darkest Dawn; Duncan Mackay, retired seaman and coastguard and vice-chair of Point and Sandwick Trust; and Iain Stephen, writer, sailor and former coastguard.



HMV The Iolaire.

Glen Nevis project appeals for support to raise funding

The Nevis Partnership has issued a plea for support as it bids for funding to help cope with the growing numbers of visitors and vehicles to Glen Nevis.

With more than 160,000 people climbing Ben Nevis in 2018 and 300,000 visiting Glen Nevis each year, the partnership is hoping to secure funding from VisitScotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to help with the cost of improvements to the glen.

The team needs to raise £80,000 in match funding to be able to bid for the maximum amount VisitScotland will offer in funding support.

A spokesperson said the fund would provide 70 per cent of project costs and 'presents a fantastic opportunity to carry out much-needed infrastructure improvements' in Glen Nevis.

The proposed projects include improving parking facilities at Lower Falls and Achintee car park, creating picnic areas and link paths between Lower Falls and the forest track at Achriabhach, and building new toilet facilities in the area.

The application deadline



The rise in visitor numbers put pressure on the limited car parking facilities in Glen Nevis.

is January 31, and the partnership requires a letter or email confirming an interest in supporting this project and the value of any commitment ahead of the application.

If anyone is able to contribute towards this project, or wants to find out more, the partnership's funding man-

ager Sarah Lyth would love to hear from them. Email Sarah directly on sarah@nevispartnership.co.uk or call 01397 701088.

SUBSCRIBE
www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions

COMING SOON
TO OBAN

SILVERLINE
GREETINGS CARDS

STOCKING A WIDE RANGE OF
GREETINGS CARDS, GIFTS,
WRAPPING PAPER, TAGS, PARTY
BUNTING, HELIUM BALLOONS
AND LATEX BALLOONS,
HAND MADE CHOCOLATE
BOXES, PARTY CAKES FOR
ALL OCCASIONS, JEWELLERY,
FASHION AND MUCH MORE.

89-91 GEORGE STREET OBAN
NEXT TO KEBABISH
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS
YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

LT

Ferry fares increase fears

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has expressed concern after the Scottish Government said it is considering increasing peak time fares on west coast ferry routes.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the transportation and infrastructure committee, says it shows a lack of understanding for the needs and aspirations of island communities.

'What we continue to look for from CalMac and Transport Scotland is an increase in capacity on the var-

ious routes, not an increase in fares,' he said. 'Increasing prices on certain days of the week or certain times of the year would not solve the underlying problem of lack of capacity which is a result of a number of factors, including the delay in delivery of the two new vessels currently being built by Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd - the MV Glen Sannox and Vessel 802.

'I am now seeking an early meeting with Michael Matheson MSP to discuss these issues.'

Group hosts carbon course

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) is to team up with Lochaber Environmental Group to host a carbon literacy and climate change.

The one-day course takes place on Monday February 14 at Lochaline Village Hall from 10am to 4pm and aims to get participants up to speed with the science behind climate change and likely impacts, but it will also build confidence to speak about climate change and identify opportunities to reduce car-

bon emissions in the community. Provided by Lochaber Environmental Group, the course is accredited by the award-winning Carbon Literacy Project and learners will have the opportunity to go forward for assessment and receive certification.

Certification costs will be covered by MCDC and lunch and refreshments will be provided. It is awarded by the Climate Challenge Fund.

Call Lilia 01967 421783 or email development@morvern.org to book.



Staff at Home Bargains in Fort William celebrate the store's first birthday.

Fort's Home Bargains store marks first birthday

Home Bargains in Fort William is celebrating its first birthday following a very successful first 12 months of trade, writes Mark Entwistle.

The team of staff members have worked hard to make the store a success, with two of its employees receiving company awards for

great customer service following feedback from shoppers with a third recognised by the company for in-store standards.

A company spokesperson said: 'We would like to thank everyone for supporting our store and we are looking forward to serving our community for many years to come.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

It's now only a few weeks away, but the way ahead for Brexit and what it might mean for business is anything but clear...

Responding to last week's parliamentary defeat of the 'Meaningful Vote on the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration', Liz Cameron, chief executive of Scottish Chambers of Commerce, said: 'Business and industry have been navigating an economic and political landscape that is no clearer now than it was at the time of the referendum result.'



'Therefore, the priority for the UK Government and the Parliament must be to avoid the clear risks a "no deal" exit would pose to businesses.'

'We expect the Government to urgently set out in clear terms what it plans to do to avoid the damage a disorderly exit would cause to businesses, local communities, and the Scottish and UK economy.'

And what can businesses do in the meantime?

Although we don't know what will happen, businesses can use the Scottish Government's new website, www.prepareforbrexit.scot, to help prepare for the risks, rewards and challenges of the new economic landscape by highlighting areas that you need to plan for.

It's a great way to find resources, advice and services to help develop your business plans in an uncertain time.

Why not come along to our next chamber networking lunch on Thursday February 28 to chat to fellow businesses and find out how we can help support you in your business.

Visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk to see what is on and how to join, or call us for a chat on 01397 705765.

CONTACTUS
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

**Fashion changes,
but style endures**

**Black is
the new black**

Choose a **statement** kitchen this season

Visit our **showrooms** and get inspired!
1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

trusted with your homes for
65 years

Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

f t

Council's new budget approach

The Highland Council says it is taking a new approach in preparing its budget from 2019-22.

In recent weeks, new chief executive Donna Manson, budget leader Councillor Alister Mackinnon and other senior councillors and officers have been out talking with staff, groups and communities across the Highlands in more than 50 engagement sessions.

The engagement feedback was presented to members as part of a two-day cross-party seminar last week which was considering both budget and governance of the council.

Councillor Mackinnon said there had been a 'positive feeling of change' and members had shown the will to work together to tackle what are huge challenges for the council.

'We have identified a number of key themes which have emerged from our public and staff engagement, and these will form the basis of real

change in how the council works, how the council prioritises and how we spend the budget,' he added.

'A strong message also came through about the importance of building trust with communities and involving local people in decisions which affect them. This tells me that we need to be better connected and visible at a local level.'

Ms Manson added: 'It has been very important to me to get out and meet staff and communities and listen to what people have to say about the council.'

'I have heard about where we can do things better and what needs to change but, equally importantly, I have heard about lots of good practice and really dedicated, hard-working staff who care about the communities they serve and the people they work with.'

The budget will be set at the Highland Council meeting on February 14.

Community councils to merge amid review

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber councillors gave an impassioned plea for more community power this week following proposals to merge two Lochaber community councils.

Highland councillors met in Inverness on Wednesday January 16 to begin a review of community councils across the region, as required under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, which involves a lengthy consultation process.

As part of the review, a boundary change has been proposed which would see Fort William Community Council merge with Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council, taking the total membership of a new council to 19.

A three-month public consultation will now take place on the draft proposals



Councillors Andrew Baxter, left and Ben Thompson.

and community councils and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment and submit representations on the plans.

At the meeting, Fort William councillor Andrew Baxter said he wants community councils to be the 'building block' of Highland democracy.

'I want to see all 12 community councils in my ward to be even stronger than they are now. And I don't see that as a threat to me as a councillor because I think that would assist me in representing my

communities. I don't see that as a threat to this council because I think it would mean that we would be better able to deliver the services that we are required to provide to our communities on a better, more equitable basis.'

Mr Baxter said he wishes that community councils were afforded a similar level of political powers as parish councils in England, which he described as having 'real powers and real budgets'. He said that, similarly to parish councils, community coun-

cils should have 'the ability to raise local taxation on a limited scale' to fund their work.

'Those are the sort of things that I think want to see our community councils evolve into and we have a responsibility as a council to lobby government for that,' he added.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson agreed that Highland Council should consider the example of parish councils in England and bear it in mind during the report's consultation phase.

Mr Thompson also supported the idea of giving community councils the ability 'to levy some form of local taxation' which he said would address issues over participation and public interest in community councils.

He also added that the role of community councils in the planning process needed to be reviewed.

Forbes: SNP draft budget is 'great news'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes has said the SNP's draft budget proposals will come as great news for businesses and communities across the Highlands.

Finance Secretary Derek Mackay has announced plans to deliver £580 million through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for as long as it applies to Scotland.

While maintaining payments at the maximum permitted level for the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme, Ms Forbes says it will offer stability for crofters in the most rural and remote areas.

Last month, Mr Mackay also outlined plans to commit more than £74 million to the Rural Enterprise budget, which funds Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership.

Farmers, crofters and a number of rural development projects will also gain support from a £35 million investment in the Scottish

Government's Rural Services budget.

Funding support for Scotland's marine and coastal communities to the tune of £5.9 million is also planned, helping encourage employment, innovation and investment in communities.

MSPs will vote on the proposals next month and Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, commented: 'There are so many questions about agricultural payments, particularly in more fragile areas, as well as other support in rural areas which we in the Highlands have benefited from.'

'There are even more questions about tariffs on seafood, meat and drink and what that means for farmers, crofters and fishermen.'

'I would urge politicians from the Highlands and Islands to get behind the finance secretary's plans and secure much-needed support for our rural communities in this time of deep uncertainty.'



Film-makers from Lochaber High School, above, have made it onto the shortlist.

Lochaber schools make FilmG shortlist

Two Lochaber secondary schools have made the shortlists for this year's FilmG, MG ALBA's Gaelic Short Film Competition.

Lochaber and Ardnamurchan High Schools join Millburn Academy, Inverness Royal Academy, Alness Academy and Bun-Sgoil Stafainn in making the final cut with films ranging from social issues affecting young people in everyday society to emotional historical disasters.

The jury panels comprised a variety of directors, producers and scriptwriters currently working in the industry.

Councillor Alister Mackinnon, chairman of Highland

Council's Gaelic strategy and implementation group, congratulated all the schools in the Highlands which had made it into the finals.

'It is terrific to realise how much creative talent exists in communities across the Highlands, particularly among young people,' he said. 'The FilmG should also be congratulated for providing this wonderful opportunity for those studying Gaelic to showcase their work so professionally, and also to recognise the rich value of our Gaelic heritage within the creative industries.'

'Gaelic in the arts, culture and heritage is one of the strategic aims of our coun-

cil's third Gaelic Language Plan.

'We recognise that initiatives in the creative industries which focus on language usage add value and strengthen linguistic development across all ages and generations in our communities. I wish everyone every success; everyone is a winner.'

All the shortlists are now available online on the FilmG website <http://filmg.co.uk/en/> where all the entries in this year's competition can be viewed.

The winners will be announced at the FilmG awards at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on February 8.

The Oban Times reaches more than half of all households in Argyll

That's more than 28,000 readers

Inserts in the Oban Times £40/1000 Volume discounts available

Put your leaflets flyers brochures menus In the hands of your customers

Instead of your printed material gathering dust make it work for you with a cost effective distribution service.

Call us on 0161 568000

The Oban Times

LT

Arisaig WI holds January meeting

Arisaig WI held its January meeting last week, when speaker Edwina King gave an interesting talk about her experiences while a member of the English WI in St John's, Woking, Surrey.

The raffle was won by Ann Lamont.

Competitions: Four scones – 1 June Cairns; 2 Bridget Moynihan. An item with tartan – 1 June Cairns; 2 Anne Cameron. The next meeting will be held on February 21 in the Astley Hall at 2.30pm.

Arisaig electric charge points

Work has started on the installation of electric vehicle charge points at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre in Arisaig.

The new facility comes about through funding awarded to Arisaig Community Trust from the Climate Challenge Fund for its two-year 'Eco Project'. The project encourages local food production and consumption, reducing waste and promoting greener transport.

'NHS Near Me' video clinic to open at Belford

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

One of NHS Highland's innovative 'NHS Near Me' video consulting clinics is set to open at the Belford Hospital in Fort William next month.

Three staffed NHS Near Me clinics have already been set up at Caithness General Hospital, Wick; the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie, Sutherland; and Portree Hospital, on Skye.

The Belford is one of a further two planned staffed clinics with the other eventually being sited in the new-build hospital in Aviemore.

The reason for staffed clinics is that some appointments require clinical support for the patient, such as a blood test or blood pressure check.

As well as the staffed clinics being put in place in four of the board's community hospitals, patients can now use



Clare Morrison, above; the Belford Hospital is to get a staffed NHS Near Me clinic.

dedicated unstaffed rooms in seven locations across the region – with another eight to follow soon.

The board ultimately plans that most patients will use the NHS Near Me web-based platform to attend out-patient appointments from their own homes using video links on their own computers,



smartphones or tablets. The unstaffed rooms with easy-to-use computer equipment for NHS Near Me have been set up to ensure patients who cannot connect from home are not excluded.

Over the next couple of months devices will be installed in other locations including Raasay, Kyle of

Lochalsh, Fort Augustus, Mallaig and Strontian.

NHS Highland's NHS Near Me lead Clare Morrison said the opening of these NHS Near Me rooms marked the end of the first phase of the installation of the unstaffed version of the NHS Near Me service. 'Our experience of using NHS Near Me in

Caithness, and an earlier project using video consulting technology at home, showed that not everyone has a smartphone, computer or good internet connection. That's why we have put these unstaffed rooms in,' she explained.

Ms Morrison added that the dedicated NHS Near Me devices in the rooms were easy to use: 'All the patient has to do is press the 'on' button on the device and it automatically loads up the NHS Near Me webpage. The dedicated device has clear instructions to follow and there is a step-by-step laminated guide in the room as a back-up.'

And, as the NHS Near Me service is available as a web-based platform, it can be provided to patients in their own home anywhere in NHS Highland.

Currently there is a project running on Skye to thoroughly test and refine this.



CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S
COUNTRYSIDE AT THE
2019 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS
CEREMONY & GALA DINNER



THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2019
AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT:
www.scottishruralawards.org/buy-tickets-for-2019

PROUDLY PARTNERED BY

SCOTTISH FIELD



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OUR SPONSORS

Chiene+Tait
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

GILLESPIE MACANDREW

ArdMoore
The outdoor clothing experts

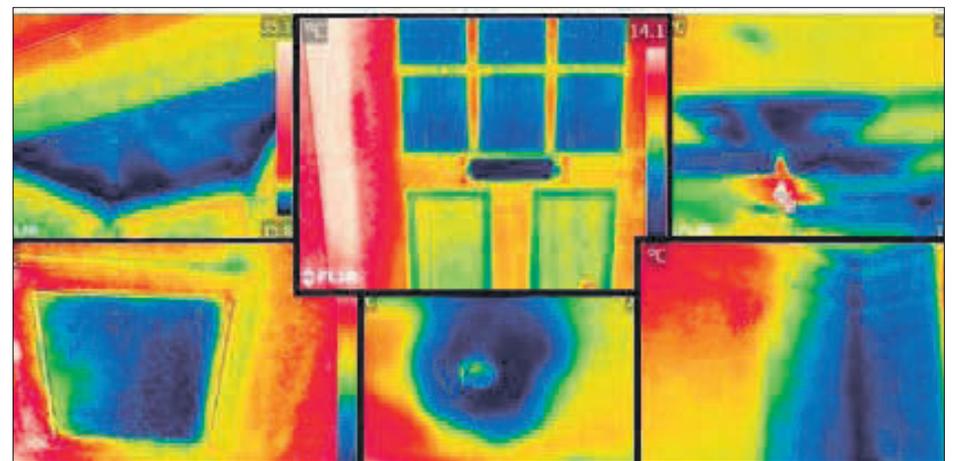
holidaycottages.co.uk

@ruralawards



Scottish Rural Awards

www.scottishruralawards.org



The group's thermal imaging cameras can find areas that are missing insulation, draughts and cold patches.

Keep warm this winter and save on your energy bills

Now that winter is starting to bite it is probably too late to get a fancy new heating system installed.

But that does not mean nothing can be done to keep a home warm and bills low just now.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) is again offering FREE home energy surveys throughout Lochaber.

The group can use its thermal imaging cameras to find missing insulation, draughts, cold patches, and anything else that can easily be adjust-

ed, helping residents to feel warmer and save money on heating bills.

LEG's electricity monitors are also a great way to see where an electricity bill is going - many households can save 20 per cent by making a few simple adjustments.

It is not about sitting in the dark; this is about the changes that save money without being difficult.

To help with this, LEG will also bring out a free LED lightbulb to help get residents started on saving money.

The group has been running surveys in Lochaber for many years now and its members are always happy to help with any home energy questions.

Its project is funded by the Scottish Government via the Climate Challenge Fund, which allows the survey to be completely free.

Call Lochaber Environmental Group on 01397 700090, email info@lochaberenviron.org.uk, check out the Facebook page or pop into its office in An Drochaid, Claggan.

Meet Lochaber Times' new columnist – Holly Gillibrand

This week sees publication of the first in a series of columns from our new occasional columnist on the environment – Holly Gillibrand. A second year pupil at Lochaber High School, Holly, 13, from Kinlocheil, recently featured in our pages after she launched a series of school strikes protesting at the lack of climate change action from politicians and government. Holly's new column is entitled A Cry for the Wild and will tackle various environment-themed topics. The first is printed below.

It's time to reconnect

All children are born with a love of nature. Every worm, every butterfly, every flower is an object of fascination for them. I have seen photographs of a one-year-old me poking a stick into the ground so I could eat dirt. I learned what soil tastes like and it didn't harm me.

Growing up I have developed a strong passion to protect the natural world. But with ever advancing and addictive technology, many children are finding it hard



to fight the tide of disconnection with things that are not on a screen.

Thirty years ago, X-boxes didn't exist and kids played outside, climbed trees, fished for 'tiddlers' and made dens

and tree houses without constant protection from harassed parents.

But now, wild places are getting harder to find. Young children are under constant guard with no chance to learn how to be independent and experience nature for themselves, and we are now at a stage where wildlife is seen as a hazard.

Not only is our disconnection growing, wildlife in Britain is being decimated by our lack of understanding of natural systems and balances. Pesticides are sprayed over crops killing the insects that pollinate them.

Hedges and wildflower

meadows have been uprooted, gardens are deserts of gravel or mown grass, and our few nature reserves are carefully managed and controlled.

Parents are too anxious about the possible dangers of their children being outside. Disconnection from nature also adversely affects our mental health. A rise in depression, anxiety, stress and dementia have been linked to reduced exposure to nature, and it makes sense.

For thousands of years humans hunted wild animals, foraged for fungi and plants, completely in tune with their surroundings. We are now

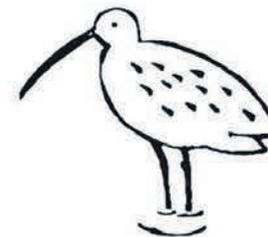
rapidly losing something fundamental to who we are.

No matter how civilised or superior we deem ourselves, humans are just another species and to survive we have to understand and protect the natural world on which we depend.

Children are rapidly losing the opportunity to see and feel what older people have seen and felt because everything is depleted and decimated.

So, to save Britain's wildlife, we must nurture in our children a love of the natural world. With knowledge comes love and with love comes the will to protect.

When you have finished reading this, grab your jacket, leave your phone on the table and go outside. Let birdsong fill your ears and fresh air fill your lungs. Feel the mud squelching underfoot, watch the way the trees dance in the wind, listen to bumblebees buzzing from flower to flower. You won't regret it.



WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Entries for the 45th annual Lochaber Music Festival close on Friday January 25. For more information visit lochabermusicfestival.co.uk or go to the Lochaber Music Festival Facebook page.

■ The second monthly meeting of Fort William Photographic Society has been postponed until Tuesday January 29 when Stuart Moralee will give a slide show of his 2017 trip to the Valleys of Naar and Phu in Nepal. The event will be held in the Salvation Army Hall at 7pm.

■ The Fort William and district branch of Royal British Legion Scotland is holding a potted sports evening at Sunny's Bar on Thursday January 31 at 7pm.

■ Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club is hosting a musical evening on Tuesday February 5 at 7.30pm at the Railway Club Inverloch. The guest artist is Duncan Black and Marie Fielding. All welcome. Admission is £5. In the event of a last minute cancellation by any guest artist the committee will find an alternative artist.



Duncan and Manja Gibson, who manage Glenfinnan House Hotel, with two of their seven new awards.

Glenfinnan House Hotel wins seven awards at regionals

Glenfinnan House Hotel picked up seven awards at last week's regional Scottish hotel awards ceremony in Inverness, writes Mark Entwistle.

Husband and wife team Duncan and Manja Gibson, who manage the hotel, were both celebrating, with Mr Gibson receiving the Executive Chef of the Year title, while Mrs Gibson collected the House Manager

of the Year award. The hotel was also named Bar Dining Hotel of the Year, Informal Fine Dining Restaurant Hotel of the Year, Small Events Hotel of the Year and Outdoor Pursuits Hotel - Wildlife of the Year.

In a statement, Mr and Mrs Gibson praised their hotel staff: 'We could not be more proud and could not do this without our great team.'



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean

Foundation Apprenticeship What does it offer your son/daughter

- ▶ A progression route to university
- ▶ An alternative to a Higher
- ▶ Valuable work experience
- ▶ Opportunity to study at college and school

Apply now for subjects in: **Business skills; Creative and Digital Media; IT Software; Children and Young People; Healthcare**

Contact the school's guidance teacher or West Highland College UHI

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships

LT

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The first weekend of Celtic Connections got off to a great start and I managed to attend concerts consecutively on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The following is an overview of each event.

Tiree: A Toast to 10 Years of Tiree Music Festival.

This gig attracted a standing crowd of more than 1,500 to the Fruitmarket in Glasgow's Merchant City area. The size of the gig, the calibre of the bands and the lively capacity crowd reflected the extent to which TMF punches above its weight as a small festival on a remote island with a population of only around 700.

A highlight of this night for me was playing a set of tunes alongside Gordon Connell, who joined a whole host of musicians from various bands on stage as the TMF All Stars.

Without Gordon's influence on the music of Tiree, the festival would never have been conceived and it is excellent that Daniel, Stewart and the rest of the TMF team recognise this by always having him as an integral part of the fabric of the festival.

An amazing line-up for TMF 2019 was announced and tickets are already well on the way to sell-out.

Allan Henderson – The Formative Playlist.

By a fairly large margin, this was the most enjoyable seated concert I've been at in many years.

The concept was unusual. A programme chosen at random from a shuffling playlist on a giant onstage MP3 player made up of tracks that had been influential in Allan's early life. Once selected, the songs or tunes would be played by the on-stage line-up of top performers, but only after the track, the band and the reasons for inclusion would be given by Allan.

This man needs a radio or television career. Good as the music was, it was Allan's informative and very witty and highly entertaining intros that were the highlight of the show.

I was riveted throughout both halves of Allan's show and on the edge of my seat in anticipation for what band, track and introduction was coming next.

Carmicheal's Ceilidh – The Life of a Legend.

As a mark of accordion legend John Carmicheal's recently celebrated 80th birthday, this combination of chat show and concert was the perfect way to allow an audience of his fans to enjoy a fascinating and hilariously funny look back over his incredible career.

Hosted expertly by BBC Take the Floor's Gary Innes, the first half was a Parkinson-style chat with John along with guests and fellow octogenarian musical legends Fergie MacDonald and Alasdair Gillies.

As with Allan's concert, the chat and stories were fascinating and hilarious. The second half was a concert and the music was phenomenally good. The energy and charisma that John displayed is a clear indicator as to why he had such hugely successful performance career.

I think Gary Innes and Allan Henderson should approach the BBC to co-host a regular chat show with guests like this. I would never miss an episode!



The Ragtime Dolls wowed the crowd at Kilmallie Community Centre. Photograph: Kim Ferguson.

Ragtime Dolls' Corpach show

Kilmallie Community Centre was the venue for a trip back in time as The Ragtime Dolls wowed the audience with their repertoire of ragtime classics.

Hosted by Lochaber Music for All, the talented trio took to the stage on Sunday night (January 20) in front of a packed crowd.

One third of the trio was Sally Swanson, a former Lochaber High School student and recent graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she

studied musical theatre. While studying, Sally had the chance to perform her own self-penned cabaret, as well as two shows at the Edinburgh Fringe and various concerts. Sally is also a fluent Gaelic speaker and has played accordion all her life.

She was joined by Ciadhra McGuire, a Glasgow-based performer and piano teacher, and Lynn Stewart, a music student at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Green target

Members of the Fort William branch of Greenpeace were out on the town's High Street on Saturday to target supermarket plastics, writes Mark Entwistle.

Branch members encouraged shoppers to hand over their unwanted single-use plastic packaging to send a clear message that consumers do not want things wrapped up in plastic that will take thousands of years to break up, and may well end up in oceans posing a huge risk to wildlife.

'We had a good chat to the manager of Tesco who said people opt for plastic wrapped over loose,' said a Greenpeace branch spokesperson.

'Then I pointed out that it's usually a lot cheaper to do that, which is probably why. Not everyone can afford to search for things unpackaged, or in glass, and it's always

SHOP LOCAL

We call it the '**Oban £££**'
because every pound bought stays in Oban!

Love Oban Vouchers AVAILABLE NOW



The perfect gift, available from:

Alba, The Sports Shop, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Websters of Oban and the Bid4Oban office

Visit www.bid4oban.co.uk to find out more



Oban Business Improvement District



www.bid4oban.co.uk



The Tayvallich Inn

Now reopen after our
SUPER REFURBISHMENT!

What better way to celebrate and lift your spirits in January than with our:

Weekend

HAPPY Special drinks promotions and great food all weekend: 25th/26th/27th January.

Super deals on 'wines, spirits, beers on tap and soft drinks! Feeling hungry? 2 courses just £14 and 3 courses £18.

For reservations contact us on **01546 870282**

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL
www.tayvallichinn.com 

Want to join our team? We are looking for a Commis Chef - please get in touch if interested



FRESH LOCAL SEAFOOD

THE SEABED RESTAURANT
at The Anchor Hotel

CALL TO BOOK
01880 820577

Harbour St Tarbert PA29 6UB





Greenpeace activists at supermarkets



Members of the Fort William branch of Greenpeace outside the town's Tesco store on Saturday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

and wrappers were collected outside the various supermarkets, including Tesco in Fort William, it will all be handed back in to the stores next month.

A spokesperson for the Fort William Greenpeace branch added: 'You could also ask people to get in touch - via the Fort William Greenpeace Facebook page - if they would like to return any unwanted, clean, Tesco-branded single-use packaging.'

CONTACTUS
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

more expensive. It shouldn't be that way around.

'Thanks to everyone who helped on the day, great turnout.'

So far this Greenpeace campaign has had a huge response with more than 800,000 petition signatures nationwide calling on super-

markets to ditch single-use plastics.

According to Greenpeace, Saturday's action targeted Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury as they had scored worst in a recent plastics league table created by the environmental campaign group.

After the plastic packaging



Fort firm's cash boost for air ambulance service

Staff at Balfour Beatty, based at Carrs Corner in Fort William, collected £1,870 which they donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

Representatives of the Balfour Beatty FFE and FFW teams, Amy Fraser, left, and Leanne Morton,

right, handed over a cheque to paramedic and SCAA volunteer Darren Chambers at the SCAA helipad which is adjacent to the company's offices.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Shoe box appeal thanks

Blythswood Care in Caol would like to thank everyone who donated in any way to its extremely successful Shoe Box Appeal in 2018.

On behalf of the organisation, Barbara and Kenny Matheson wish to thank everyone's generosity - 727 filled and sorted shoe boxes were sent to the organisation's depot at Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire.

These boxes, together with 107,073 further boxes collected throughout the UK have now been transported and distributed to many thousands of needy people across Eastern Europe from Ukraine to Albania. After 25 years of Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal there is no doubt that these boxes are appreciated more than anyone who donated can ever imagine. Thanks go to everyone who helped the Caol branch achieve this remarkable result.

For more details on the shoebox distribution visit blythswood.org

An Oban restaurant is hosting a eight-course meal and wine tasting event

Attention all food and wine lovers - the Manor House in Oban will be hosting a French wine tasting dinner next month.

The restaurant will be serving a eight-course meal on February 7 and each dish will be accompanied by a pairing glass of wine.

Oban foodies will be able to enjoy hand-dived scallops, gin-cured salmon, and roasted wood pigeon, and red deer venison, to name a few of the ingredients.

Not forgetting the wine enthusiasts, who will be in their element as a Guy Chatfield, from Inverarity Morton, educates them on tipples such as Chablis Colombier, Vouvray Vieux Vauvert, and Maury Mas Janeil VDN.

Speaking about the night, head chef, Gerard McCluskey promised it would be a lively atmosphere.

The french classically trained chef said he likes to put on a few taster sessions a year.

'We are a two Rosette establishment,' he said. '[We] want to be pushing ourselves for more accolades this year. For me, it is testing out the balance of flavours of food I am producing this year.'

Gerard, who describes his food as a french take with a modern twist, has been a chef for 13-years and spent three of those in Oban at the Manor House.

'I have really enjoyed it,' he said. 'They have given us the freedom to do what we want

to do. We have been able to be really creative.'

The former East Kilbride man said he is most looking forward to serving his hand-dived scallops dish.

'It is a bit different from what people are used to,' he added.

The evening will cost £95. To book, call 01631 562087. The full menu with wines can be viewed on the Manor House website. www.manorhouseoban.com

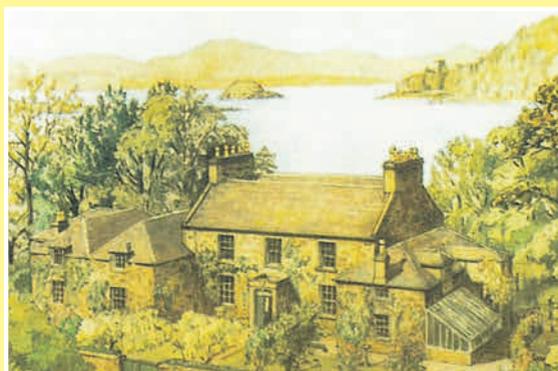


ADVERTORIAL

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

Join us for a very special
8 Course Wine Tasting Dinner -
French cuisine accompanied by French wines
Thursday 7th February £95

Overlooking the Harbour
Gallanach Road • Oban 01631 562087 www.manorhouseoban.com



LT

North Skye footpath work set to start soon

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Work on two new path projects is set to get under way in north Skye, as the latest phase in a community organisation's heritage development.

Following a competitive tendering process, Staffin Community Trust (SCT) has awarded contracts in Flodigarry and Grealin.

Arran Footpaths Ltd, which recently completed a major contract at Glen Sligachan for the John Muir Trust, this week started the upgrade of the popular but badly damaged Flodigarry to Quiraing footpath, by Loch Langaig.

Fairy Pools

Aviemore contractors McGowan Ltd, which built the new car park at the Fairy Pools for the Minginish Community Hall Association, will be constructing a path linking the townships of Grealin and Lealt.

The Flodigarry section was originally an old cart track used by local crofters to collect their peats but the surface has badly deteriorated in recent years through a lack of maintenance and heavy footfall. It is still used by the township to gather sheep from the hill grazings.



The current condition of the Flodigarry path.

The Grealin route includes part of an old railway track used when the diatomite industry was running in Lealt and has views across to Sgurr a' Mhadaidh Ruadh (Hill of The Red Fox), which was the title of the Allan Campbell McLean 1955 novel. It could encourage locals and visitors alike to leave their vehicles at the new car park at Lealt and explore more of the area on foot.

Both pathworks will be supervised by the experienced path contractor and project

manager Donald MacKenzie, from Glenelg.

SCT chairman Sandy Ogilvie said the creation of both the paths were 'exciting developments' and said he looked forward to walking the new paths and 'enjoying the informative access they will give'.

The contracts are part of the SCT's Skye Ecomuseum development intended to be an outdoor museum with 'no walls and a roofless sky' and includes a footpath network across the district and inter-

pretation telling the story of a dozen sites in Staffin.

SCT has a maintenance plan in place to look after the paths and sites, working with the public and private sector, with plans to start local work days later this year. The interpretation signage of the routes will be installed once the paths are completed.

YOURSTORY
share with us: fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

Western Isles trust to sponsor cash-strapped mart co-operative

Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) has announced a sponsorship deal that gives core support to a business at the heart of island life.

The community wind farm charity will be giving £5,000 a year for the next five years to Lewis and Harris Auction Mart in Steinish – a donation which should help the cash-strapped mart carry out much-needed repairs and help offset costs of bringing in professional buyers for the sales.

Trust representative Gordon Mackay was particularly pleased with the Point and Sandwick Trust sponsorship deal because he knows – being a crofter himself, as well as a local postie – how much the help is needed.

Lewis and Harris Auction

Mart is a co-operative, owned by the crofters of Lewis and Harris, and holds five sales in the year, between August and November, and has been operating as a co-operative since 2005, when the previous operation hit financial trouble.

The building itself is owned by Long Island Rural Trust but needs repair work due to its age. However, the mart committee could not contemplate doing any significant work until now as it did not have the money.

Donald MacBain, auction mart vice-chair and secretary, said the money from PST would 'make a huge difference, just to keep the business running' and would help keep the fabric of the building going, too.



From left to right: Donald John MacSween, Kenny Macleod, Gordon Mackay and Donald MacBain.

Photograph: Lewis and Harris Auction Mart by Alasdair Nicholson.







DONATIONS WANTED

We're always looking for quality used furniture, white goods and household items - and for maximum convenience, we're happy to accept donations at the shop. Just pop by - and while you're here, take the opportunity to have a browse!

Find us at Unit 39A, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR.
We're open Monday to Saturday between 10am and 4pm!



**Cards
Calendars
Gifts**

2019 Calendar & Diary Sale

50% OFF

USING CODE: **KCAL19**



Shop online at www.krispcards.co.uk



First crofting wind farm submission

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The first of the planning applications from the four crofting townships looking to develop community-owned wind farms on their common grazings near Stornoway has been officially submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The planning application, submitted by Sandwick North Street, is for the erection and 25-year operation of a single wind turbine and associated infrastructure including site access track, cabling and reuse of the Beinn Ghrideag Wind Farm construction compound.

The turbine, if it goes ahead, would be close to the three Beinn Ghrideag turbines owned by Point and Sandwick Trust, as they are already on the North Street grazings on the Pentland Road.

Sandwick North Street's project is one of the four community schemes that conflict with Lewis Wind Power's alternative plans for their common grazings and other sites. Lewis Wind Power (French-owned multinational EDF Energy and Wood Group, with a lease from landowner Stornoway Trust) is seeking to develop a 36-turbine wind farm and



Representatives from the crofting townships. From left to right: Angus Campbell from Melbost and Branahuie, Donnie MacDonald from Aignish, Rhoda Mackenzie from Sandwick North Street and Murdo Macleod, Calum Buchanan and Kenny Morrison, all from Sandwick East Street and Lower Sandwick. Photograph: Sandie Maciver of Sandie Photos.

the battle over which party has the rights to develop the land is the subject of legal proceedings in the Scottish Land Court.

Official planning applications from the other three crofting townships – Melbost and Branahuie, Aignish and Sandwick East and Lower Sandwick – are expected to follow shortly and together the four townships are seeking to develop a total of 21 turbines.

Rhoda Mackenzie, spokes-

person for Sandwick North Street, said it was a relief to be at the stage of formally applying for planning permission – which should also reassure anyone who has doubted the four townships' commitment and ability to deliver on these wind projects.

She stressed they were on target to be ready to bid into the Contracts for Difference auction in May – and, if successful in securing subsidy, would ensure that most of the profits from their communi-

ty-owned turbine would be distributed widely to causes throughout the Western Isles.

'It's been a long road to get to this stage and we're glad we've reached this stage now,' she said.

The community wind farms' policy of financial distribution – should they go ahead – would be for 70 per cent of the profit to go across the wider islands region, so the whole of the Western Isles stands to gain significantly from the development.

Ocean GreatWhite in Kishorn

After a five-month journey from Singapore via the Canary Islands, Diamond Offshore's Ocean GreatWhite has arrived at Kishorn.

The Ocean GreatWhite, the largest semi-submersible drilling rig in the world, will stay at anchor at Kishorn for the next couple of months as she prepares for her first drilling contract off Shetland.

Kishorn Port Ltd is the own-

er and operator of Kishorn Port and dry dock, which will be used as a supply base with Ferguson Transport and Shipping assisting with port and marine services.

Alasdair Ferguson, a director of KPL, said: 'This is a landmark day for KPL and we look forward to establishing Kishorn as a port and dry dock of choice for the oil and gas and offshore renewables sectors.'

Foundation Apprenticeships

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and partners recently secured a Skills Development Scotland contract to the value of £570,000 to support the delivery of Foundation Apprenticeships for the 2019/20 academic year and beyond.

Students can opt to study for a Foundation Apprenticeship as part of the senior phase of secondary education. The scheme provides the appropriate underpinning knowledge and experience to enable young people to progress to modern and

graduate apprenticeship programmes within the local economy and nationally.

Roadshows are now taking place throughout the Western Isles, at which representatives from the comhairle, SDS and key employers will share more information on the scheme with parents and pupils.

Up to 60 places on six foundation apprenticeships will be available to pupils entering S4 and S5 in 2019 in Castlebay School, Sgoil Lionacleit, Sir E Scott School and The Nicolson Institute.

Tribute to former councillor

The convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has paid tribute to former councillor the Reverend Roderick M Mackinnon, who died recently.

Rev Mackinnon, who hailed from Bunavoneadar, Harris, was elected to represent the new Lochboisdale ward from 1975 to 1981 and was a

former chairman of the social work committee. He was the Church of Scotland Minister in South Uist at that time.

Convener Norman A Macdonald said: 'Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends.'

The comhairle flag in Stornoway was flown at half-mast.

Maintenance Free Roofline



- 50 year guarantee
- Facia & soffit replacement
- Registered Freefoam installer
- Woodgrain colours available



- ROOFLINE • SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFS
- TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS • DRIVEWAYS
- WINDOWS & DOORS • GARAGE DOORS • CONSERVATORIES

CONTACT William Clarke
t. 01866 833049
m. 07789 488805
info@cruachanhome.co.uk
www.cruachanhome.co.uk



DON'T BE STUCK IN THE DARK!

FOR ALL YOU'RE POWER, HEATING AND LIGHTING NEEDS FOR SITE AND DOMESTIC USE.



1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Oban Argyll PA34 4HA

Tel: 01631 566306

www.hireandsupplies.com



LETTERS

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

Environment is of crucial importance to every one of us

There is no doubting the importance of environmental concerns and the growing awareness across the world of the need for all of us to respond to this developing crisis.

One obvious way for everyone to contribute to the fight against pollution is to dramatically reduce the amount of plastic we use.

So it is that we fully support the members of the Fort William branch of Greenpeace who were out on the town's High Street on Saturday to target supermarket plastics.

Branch members urged shoppers to hand over their unwanted single-use plastic packaging to send a clear message that consumers do not want things wrapped up in plastic that will take thousands of years to break up, and may well end up in oceans posing a huge risk to wildlife.

While still on the subject of the environment, we welcome a new young voice to the Lochaber Times this week in the form Holly Gillibrand.

Just 13 years old, Holly is a committed environmentalist who brings a fresh perspective to the debate through her highly erudite new column.

Watch future editions of the newspaper as we fight to keep the issue in the front of people's minds.

Praise for public servants this winter

Praise for the staff in Belford Hospital's Accident and Emergency department for their outstanding professionalism is nothing less than deserved.

However, we would widen that to include all the emergency services and other public servants who toil to make sure the roads stay open and services are maintained.

We salute you all.

Deer are damaging to Rahoy Hills Wildlife Reserve

Regarding Iain Thornber's Morvern Lines (The Oban Times, January 3), Rahoy Hills Wildlife Reserve is internationally important for its species-rich grassland and Atlantic woodland. These special habitats provide a home for hundreds of different plants, birds and mammals.

Unfortunately, surveys have demonstrated that grazing and trampling by deer have left these areas in poor condition. To allow them to recover, we are working to reduce the pressure to a level that the landscape can accommodate.

Despite your correspondent's claims, our management of the reserve is entirely in accordance with the wishes of the late Christopher Cadbury.

Mark Foxwell,

Reserves Manager, Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Thanks for generosity from team at New Hope Kitchen

On behalf of all the team here at New Hope Kitchen, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to us before Christmas.

We were overwhelmed by people's kindness once again. From individuals, schools, workplaces, supermarkets, nurseries and many local organisations and businesses, we were blessed with many gifts.

Thanks to everyone's kindness, we were able to send out 70 Christmas parcels of food and gifts into the community. These really made a huge difference to the families who received them: 83 adults, 24 elderly people and 71 children all had a wonderful Christmas thanks to your generosity.

On Christmas Day, we were able to serve up a five-course delicious Christmas dinner to 35 people, thanks again to everyone's kindness.

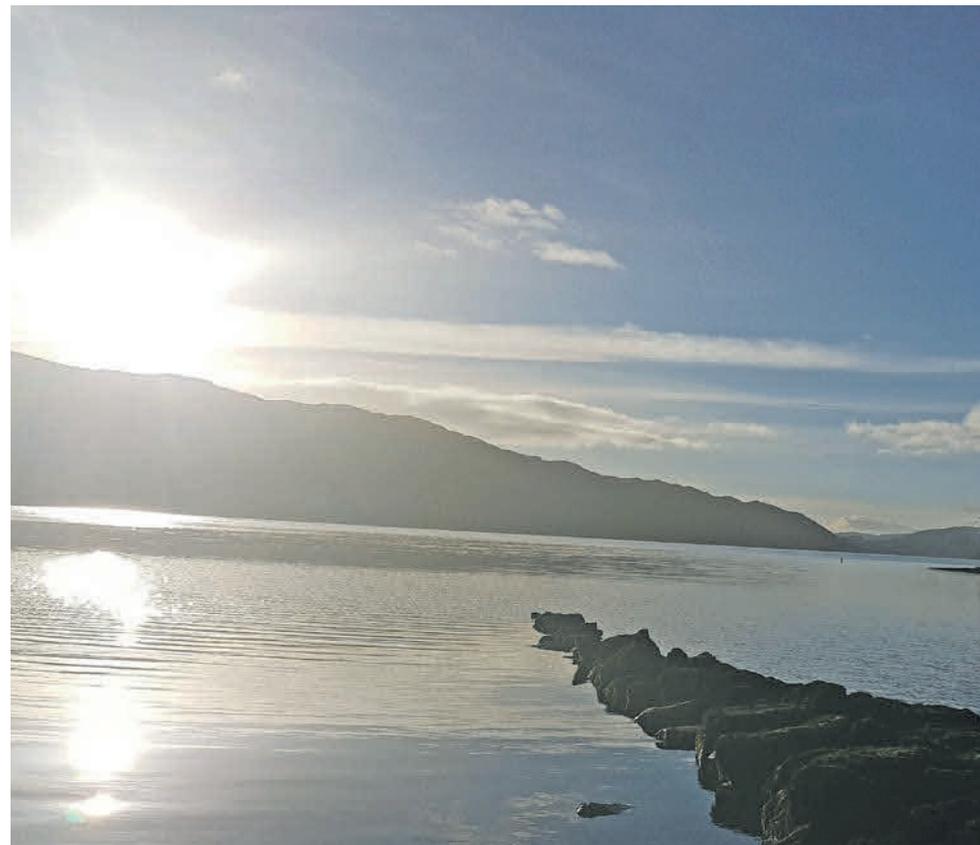
A special thanks for this must go to chef Gary Goldie for cooking it and to all the amazing people who volunteered with us to make Christmas extra special for our guests this year.

We are so fortunate to receive all the support that we do, not just at Christmas but all year round and we are honoured to be in the position to serve this community. Thank you!

Lorraine MacCormick,

service manager, New Hope Kitchen.

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send

it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William.

Statistics show a decline in drug deaths in Argyll

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Councillor Kieron Green are to be congratulated in their continual battle in trying to stamp out a local drug problem which is killing many every day in Scotland.

The hard work of ACHA and its staff and Councillor Green are certainly pushing against the trend of increased drug use. The most recent

figures that I could find, 2016-2017, clearly state no statistical increase in drug deaths in Argyll and Bute. In fact, they have dropped.

Angus Files,
The Glebe, Kilmelford.

History is repeating itself over controls on fishing

I was fascinated to read the article by Iain Thornber on the calls for better controls



Hugh Fitzsimons & Son
Electrical Contractors

New Builds, Rewiring,
Fire Alarms, Showers
and Heating

CALL OR EMAIL QUOTE TODAY

01397 772140
mfitz555@hotmail.com



JANUARY SALE

The Hawaii
Was £5995 Now £4995

- Ex display model • 5/6 Seater • 35 Jets
- Limited edition Spa • Shell Colour – Silver Marble
- cabinet colour – Grey • Has Ozone
- Multi colour LED lights

Can be delivered to your own garden immediately.



Unit 2, Lochavullin Ind Est, Oban, PA34 4PL

Call us on **01631 566 655**

www.tlcs spas.co.uk

Email - relax@tlcs spas.co.uk



TLC Spas

DISTRICT NEWS

SPEAN BRIDGE, ROY BRIDGE AND ACHNACARRY

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council held its January meeting earlier this month at Kilmonivaig Church Hall.

Items discussed include:

■ **Highland Council:** Requests have been made for additional grit boxes in Braeroy Road and Upper Inverroy, although it was noted that piles of grit have been placed at the former. Concerns, too, have been relayed to Highland Council about litter and fly tipping at Achnabobane, potholes on the Kilmonivaig Church Road and the need to clear roadside drains at Upper Inverroy.

■ **BEAR and Transport Scotland:** The community council continues to pursue the following outstanding matters – the repair to the Telford Bridge Parapet, agreed with SSE but not so far actioned; potholing at the edge of the carriageway on the A82, south of the Great Glen Cattle Ranch Building; safety notices on the A82 approaching the Aonachan Crossroads; the much-promised safety report on the A86 at Inverroy.

In addition, it has asked about a timetable for resurfacing the A82 south of the Telford Bridge in Spean Bridge to connect with that completed at Aonachan Crossroads, and to the east of the playground on the A86 in Spean Bridge. It was noted both were postponed during the previous resurfacing in Spean Bridge some five years ago but are urgently in need of resurfacing now.

Fort Augustus Swing Bridge Repairs, which started on January 7 for eight weeks, including two spells of night time closures from 7pm to 6am for five nights each commencing January 28 and February 4.

■ **Stronelairg Wind Farm Fund:** The fund is now live and Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry residents can access the website with applications for awards from the £45,000 available this year in grants – from £501 to £10,000. A roadshow with community council and SSE representatives in attendance will be held today (January 24)

in Kilmonivaig Parish Church Hall between 2pm and 7pm to inform and assist prospective applicants.

■ **Community Benefit:** Noted SIMEC GHR's recent acquisition by Atlantis Energy Limited and have written to it to determine how it is likely to affect previous and future developments and payment of community benefit.

Following consultation with Local Energy Scotland, the community council will be insisting that micro hydro developers follow Scottish Government Guidelines in assessing community benefit payable, and any subsequent agreement is registered and conditions are available for public scrutiny.

■ **Minibus:** The sub committee has met and agreed some preliminary procedures. Despite Mr and Mrs Eppens' generous offer it will be necessary for some extra funding and the sub committee have approached the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO to ascertain whether they might support the venture financially. Failing that it may need an application to the SSE Stronelairg Fund.

The next meeting will be on February 5 in Kilmonivaig Church Hall at 7pm.

FORT WILLIAM

Lochaber Women's Aid, based in Fort William, has received a grant of £2,000 from the STV Children's Appeal, which supports children and young people affected by poverty in the Highlands.

Lochaber Women's Aid supports women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse.

Lorraine Revitt, service manager at Lochaber Woman's Aid, commented: 'This grant will have a huge impact on raising the awareness of the service we deliver over the next two years and gives us scope to provide exciting new opportunities and resources for the schools awareness sessions and young people we support.'

In eight years the STV Children's Appeal has raised more than



New path planned for North Road

Plans are being drawn up to build an extended footpath at the North Road retail park along the A82.

The scheme aims to provide a shared use cycleway and footway on the southeast side of the A82 North Road, between the new pedestrian crossing at Aldi, southwest to the access which serves Ben Nevis Motors, National Tyres and a number of other businesses. Currently, this is a roadside verge.

BEAR Scotland, under the direction of Transport Scotland, has been consulting with the affected businesses which has assisted the company in developing the current design. The pathway is

planned to be 87 metres long and three metres wide. Due to the very wide access at Ben Nevis Motors there is a need to provide an island to afford pedestrians refuge when crossing.

BEAR has also investigated the footway and cycling provision on the opposite side of the A82, and intends to undertake works to assist pedestrians and cyclists.

It is envisaged that the works would take place before the summer period, but missing Easter, probably working early evening and overnight to minimise disruption, however, this needs to be confirmed.

Please send any comments or observations directly NWConsultation@bearsotland.co.uk.

£19 million, with 1,102 grants awarded to projects across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland – providing much-needed support to more than 79,000 children and young people.

CAOL

Room 13 Studios, based in Caol, has received a grant of £2,000 from the STV Children's Appeal. The studio supports children and young people affected by poverty in the Highlands.

Room 13 Studios promotes arts, creativity and enterprise and is

accessible to children and young people throughout Lochaber.

Children and young adults who participate develop creative, practical and organisational skills, and benefit from improved self-awareness, confidence and motivation, as they learn that arts and enterprise go hand-in-hand.

Richard Bracken, Artist-in-Residence at Room 13 Studios, commented: 'It's fantastic that Room 13 Studios is to be the recipient of an award from STV Children's Appeal.'

'We rely on awards and donations to boost our studio enterprise and help keep Room 13 free and open to all.'

UIST

The Uist Economic Taskforce Working Group met recently in Uist to continue to progress a range of key strategic projects and initiatives.

Councillor Iain A MacNeil, chairman of the group, commented after the meeting: 'I was pleased to see good progress being made across a range of projects such as the Balivanich Regeneration project.'

'Housing remains a concern and the UET Working Group noted with interest the formation of a 'Uist and Barra Housing Working Group' to explore ways in which the demands for future housing for residents and businesses alike can be addressed.

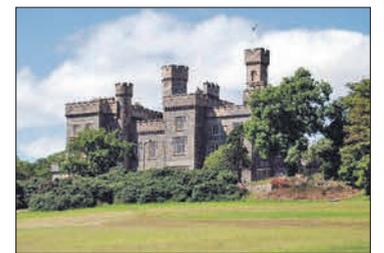
'As housing remains a key component for the Uist economy, UET will want to engage with and be kept informed of the work of the housing working group.'

Councillor MacNeil also commented on the archaeology symposium held in Lochmaddy: 'I attended some of the sessions and was delighted to see the interest in the archaeology of Uist.'

'We have long recognised the potential of archaeology in terms of tourism, research and education. It's important we use this project to develop ways to further develop that potential.'

The event was attended by 80 delegates from across the UK and the USA and is part of Scotland's Islands Research Framework for Archaeology (SIRFA) project – a partnership between Lews Castle College UHI, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Shetland Amenity Trust and Orkney Islands Council.

The event was also funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.



Lews Castle College UHI

MONEY FOR YOUR CLOTHES

Why donate when you can be paid?

Weighed and paid at your front door
Clothes in good condition, no stains, no rags,
no underwear, no wet clothes,
and good quality shoes and bedding.

All areas covered.

Tel 07950452395

MAKE THE LEAP



Superfast
your business growth with our digital
subscription...

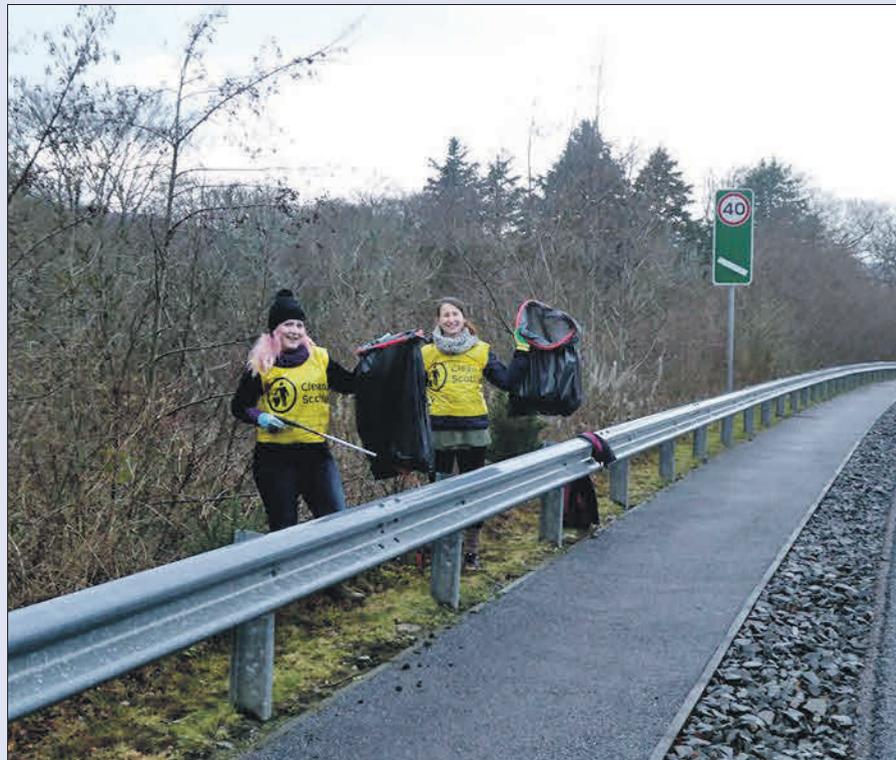
to the
DIGITAL AGE

FROM
56p
PER WEEK

The Oban Times
www.obantimes.co.uk

NEW
ARCHIVE
FEATURE
access over
10 years
of local news

Send us your district news by emailing
editor@obantimes.co.uk or call 01631 568000



Members of the Arisaig Eco Project litter picking on the A830 heading east from Arisaig; and below six bin bags were filled with rubbish.

Arisaig litter pick makes all the difference

After just three hours of litter picking last week, members of the Arisaig Eco Project filled six bin bags full of all sorts of roadside litter on the A830 heading east from Arisaig.

Most common items reported by the team were disposable wipes, plastic water and juice bottles, drink cans, crisp packets, food containers and items seeping toxic waste.

They said: 'We saw lots of evidence of deer and other wild animals being attracted to the decaying food waste and litter. Sad to see. Glad we made a difference though.'

The Arisaig Eco Project would like to thank Veronika, Pam and Sooz for their help on the day and to Highland Council for lending the litter pickers, bags and Keep Scotland Beautiful bibs and bags.



Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

I must have come pretty close to getting done for contempt of court last week. The sheriff was proceeding to the bench while, in time-honoured fashion, the usher was announcing 'Court! All rise!'

Along with my press colleagues I attempted to stand up, as per the customary deference. But a packet of Polo mints in my jacket pocket managed to get snagged between the seats and I couldn't rise. By the time I got the pocket and Polos free, everyone was sitting down again.

'Fort William Rains Supreme'. That was the headline describing our town's above average (even for Fort William) precipitation. That possibly explains why, last week, I received a letter from London addressed to 'Wet Highland News Agency'.

Aye, and still the rain comes tumbling down, and the Falls of Cameron (Square) – Fort William's answer to the Waltzing Waters – are cascading down off the roof of the 'All Weather Centre', onto the unsuspecting pedestrians.

Johnny's dog followed him from the house to Caol Community Centre bingo. 'Shoo! Shoo! Away home,' Johnny shouted. 'You haven't any money for the bingo anyway.'

'Learning all the time' was a catchphrase in one of the TV sitcoms. And thus did Young Livy continue his education at the Pulp Mill Club 25th anniversary dinner dance. He was introduced to the mysteries of an 'Excuse Me', which saw him receive a tap on the shoulder and his partner being whisked away to whirl round the floor with an elderly bloke from Corpach.

Smokin' Simon Macdonald in Safeway. Streetwise, of course, being domiciled in Glenuig. Simon's Safeway safari was going fine till he reached the checkout. '£25.79, please.' Simon took out his wallet and leafed through a wad of notes, counting out six of them. The lassie at the till took one look and said, 'Sorry, I can't accept those.' Smokin' Simon proceeded to take a closer look. He had proffered five 500 drachma notes and one for 100 drachmas. 'I'm just back from Greece,' Simon stammered, by way of apology. It was certainly all Greek to the checkout girl.

Allan, Alex and Scoobie were out in the snowy wastes – on mountain bikes. But then, en route from Lianachan to Aonach Mor, Scoobie's chain broke. Nothing daunted, Allan and Alex produced ropes and towed Scoobie,

bike and all, to what we now call Nevis Range. So that means there was an additional tow in operation there that day.

Meanwhile Lochaber District Council goes walkabout later this week. Members and officers are being directed round – I quote – 'An Aird – The Morrison Development, Multi-Purpose Hall/Leisure Centre and Surrounding Area'.

I trust that the landward councillors, arriving from Ardnamurchan, Morvern, Kinlochleven, and Ballachulish will ignore the Highland region's brand new road signs, specially prepared for An Aird, which they'll see on the way along the bypass, and which point towards the 'leisure centre'. Otherwise they'll find themselves in at the deep end of an unscheduled conducted tour of their own swimming pool.

Ah, but even as I write this, I gather that the new signs have been declared 'black', with the region using masking tape of that colour to cover the offending words. So now we can safely assume that everyone will fetch up at the appropriate area of An Aird, and not across the road from Belhaven. Incidentally what WILL they see at An Aird? Watch that space.

Busy time for the district councillors. Their coach trip to Kinloch for a full procedural meeting on Tuesday had certain touches of irony about it. It was 'all aboard for the MacDonald Hotel', to be met by the local member, Albie Robertson – who normally comes to the Fort William meetings by bus, but had had a long lie prior to sauntering up Wades Road for this home fixture – not far from Island Park where Albie used to officiate in his refereeing days.

The hotel venue was a model of away-day propriety. In fact, the only recorded vote was to check how many of the elected members, officers and press wished to have haddock and chips as opposed to steak pie and tatties for lunch. Inevitably there were two amendments – one councillor wanted haddock and potatoes, and another, steak pie and chips!

Lochaber's latest 'star of the airwaves', Ben Nevis Distillery managing director Colin Ross was in fine anecdotal fettle on Neil MacLeod's 'Peat Tracks' on Nevis Radio. Colin took the listeners along the 'whisky trail', from his early days in the business to his current role as MD of the only distillery in Scotland which is wholly owned by the Japanese. And his choice of music was remarkable, ranging from rock 'n' roll numbers to 'The House of the Rising Sun'.



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

Covering Argyll, Lochaber & The Islands

Tel: 01631 571155

Email : sales@grstradecentre.co.uk

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

Windows & Doors ■ Garage Doors

UPVC Fascia, Soffit & Gutters

Conservatories

Double Rebated Composite Doors

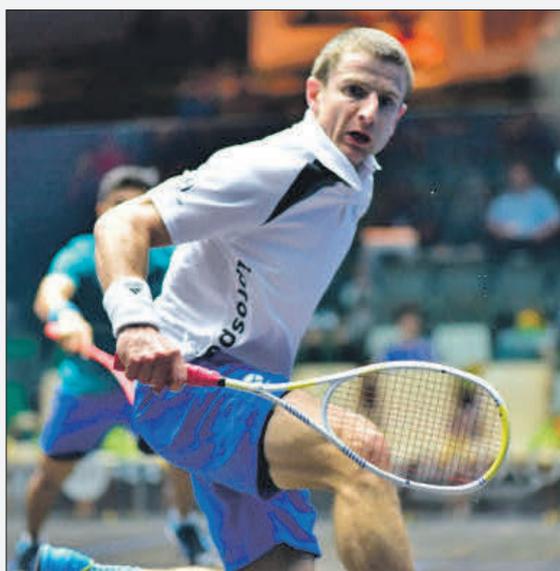
Replacement Sealed Units ■ Silicone

Expanding Foam ■ Solvent Cleaner

Fixings ■ Poly Top Nails ■ UPVC Trims

LT

SQUASH



World ranked squash player Colin Clyne from Inverness will be coaching at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday and Sunday. Photo: Squash Site

Clyne gets set to deliver in Oban

Top Scottish squash player Alan Clyne will be courting attention this weekend when he drops into Atlantis Leisure to deliver coaching sessions to both adult and junior members of Oban Squash and Tennis Club.

Ranked 25 in the world Clyne, 32, is the current Scottish number two and has represented his country in the last three Commonwealth Games.

Inverness-born Clyne claimed his eighth Scottish national title in March 2018 and has risen to a career high of 24th in the World Singles rankings, while competing extensively in the World Series.

Last weekend he kicked off his 2019 PSA World Tour campaign when competing in the Tournament of Champions in New York. The tournament attracts some of the best players from around the world with matches played in the iconic Grand Central Terminal.

Clyne will be at Atlantis from 10.30am to 6pm on Saturday and from 10am to 5.30pm on Sunday. Spectators welcome.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, fourth round – Oban Saints 3, Thorn Athletic 1; Premier Division – Barrhead Arkly 5, Dunoon 2; Premier Division One – Hillington 4, Campbeltown Pupils 4; Port Glasgow 3, Lochgilhead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two – Villa Park v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Lochgilhead Red Star v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Dunoon v Motherwell Thistle; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Ferguslie Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Glynhill Moorcroft.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s no game; Regional Cup - Under 14s 6, Erskine Yellows 0. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (2), Innes Jackson, Ruairidh Buchanan, Ross Mackay and Craig Rankine. Under 15s 1 v Lochgilhead Red Star 5; Saints goalscorer was Ross Higgins; Under 16s v Winton Rovers, postponed.

This Sunday's fixtures: League - Clyde SOF v Under 13s; Under 14s v Rutherglen Glencairn; Under 15s v St Patrick's Sports Academy; Scottish Cup - Rowallan (Kilmarnock) v Under 16s.

Saints prove to be a Thorn in the flesh

Oban Saints	3
Thorn Athletic	1
West of Scotland Cup - 4th Round	

Oban Saints bounced back from the disappointment of last week's Scottish Amateur Cup penalty shoot-out exit with an excellent West of Scotland Cup win over former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Thorn Athletic at Glencruitten last Saturday.

The Johnstone men sit proudly on top of the Caledonian League Premier Division, one of the top leagues in the country, and looked set to provide Saints with arguably their biggest test of the season so far.

Bagging

Already out of the Scottish Amateur Cup, the West of Scotland Cup remained the only chance of bagging one of the major trophies for both sides who provided another highly entertaining spectacle for the Glencruitten faithful.

Saints management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell made two changes to the side knocked out of the Scottish Amateur Cup by Rothie Rovers bringing in Jamie Graham to replace Ruairidh Horne at right back and Kerr Newbigging in midfield for the injured Daniel Croarkin.

Saints kicked off attacking the railway end and, after some early sparring, conjured a good opening on the left for Lewis Cameron after some neat interplay between Donald Campbell and Scott Maitland. Cameron burst into box however Thorn captain and Scottish Amateur internationalist Ryan Crawford made a perfectly timed sliding interception to deny the Saints wide man a shot on goal. The deadlock was bro-



Celebrations after Craig MacEwan's opening goal. Match report and photos: Derekk Black

ken in the 19th minute when Lewis Cameron tricked his way past Ian Paterson on the corner of the Thorn box and picked out Craig MacEwan in the middle whose cushioned volley into the bottom corner left keeper Liam McWilliams rooted to the spot.

One-two

Matthew Kelly doubled Saints' lead just three minutes later slotting home from close range after a neat one-two with Craig MacEwan who had opened up the Thorn defence once again.

Thorn right winger Stuart McCann halted a quick Saints counter attack with a trip on Lewis Cameron after 32 minutes which Central Scottish Amateur Football League referee Kerr, who had an excellent game, was content just to punish with a free-kick keeping his cards safely in his pocket.

The Saints defence kept the potent Thorn attack, which had run in 30 goals in the

previous three rounds, well marshalled with captain Dene Cassells in particularly impressive form.

There was, however, one scare just before the end of the first half which Saints had dominated.

The visitors made a change for the start of the second half bringing on Connor McGregor to replace Stuart McCann on the right wing.

The visitors continued their determined start to the second half without seriously testing the Saints back four which were well protected by holding midfielders Willie Gemmell and Kerr Newbigging.

Saints made their first change in the 65th minute giving Lewis Cameron a well-deserved breather and replacing him with James Ford. It only took five minutes for Ford to make his mark on proceedings with the third goal which Saints needed to make the tie safe.

Inch-perfect

Jamie Graham made a terrific interception on the half-way line and played the ball up to Craig MacEwan. Saints top goal scorer in each of the last two seasons advanced to the edge of the box and laid the ball off to the overlapping Jamie Graham who picked out James Ford with an inch perfect cutback which Ford clipped into the net past the right hand of Liam McWilliams.

Donald Campbell made way for David Beaton in the 73rd minute just before a tame Dean Scott shot from

FOOTBALL

the edge of the Saints box was easily saved by Graham Douglas.

Matthew Kelly was penalised for a late challenge in the 75th minute which gave Thorn dead ball expert Paul Young the chance to influence proceedings.

Thorn's free-kicks up to that point had been easily dealt with but Young's accuracy immediately put the Saints defence under more pressure with Willie Gemmell having to head the veteran left footer's delivery behind for a corner kick.

Fortuitous

Thorn were rewarded for their perseverance with a deserved albeit fortuitous 89th minute consolation goal.

Dylan Blair was once again heavily involved, providing the pass for Jordan Devine's 25-yard shot which looped up off the right thigh of Steven MacLeod and beyond the stranded Graham Douglas.

Mr Kerr's final whistle brought to an end another exciting encounter between the two old rivals with Saints by far the more satisfied to go safely into the hat for Tuesday evening's fifth round draw and a place in the last 16 of the competition.

Saints remain on cup duty this coming Saturday when they travel down the A816 to face Lochgilhead Red Star in the first round of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

Kick off at the Ropework is 2pm.



Donald Campbell is closely marked and Ian Paterson.

Lochaber boxers have impressive winning start to the new year

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club enjoyed a successful start to 2019 as two of the club's brightest talents put in strong performances at a show in Rutherglen last Friday, hosted by Duries Boxing Club.

Ten-year-old Josh Hunter made his competitive debut against the very talented William MacIntyre of Argo Boxing Club in Drumchapel.

Hunter's task was made harder by the fact that MacIntyre normally competes in an older age group than the Lochaber youngster.

At the opening bell both boxers looked to vie for openings, incorporating feints to both head and body. What became apparent at an early stage was the outstanding quality of boxing from the two boxers, both still very inexperienced.

The quality remained high throughout the contest and the round ended with little to choose between the two as

both claimed victory in the round.

Hunter started the second round with renewed vigour, forcing MacIntyre on to the back foot with double phases and clearly winning the round with eye-catching punches.

The last round had Hunter in full flow as he pressed his advantage from the previous round, switching his attacks from head to body through the middle of his opponent's guard. This strong finish to the match secured the victory for Hunter, with all five judges voting in his favour.

Next month Hunter makes his first foray into championship action when he boxes in the Northern District Championships in Aberdeen.

Fifteen-year-old Jack Dieguno was scheduled to have his debut competitive bout also but his opponent fell victim to a freak injury barely two hours before the contest. After some last-minute hectic

BOXING

arrangements Dieguno did make his bow in the ring in an exhibition against Scottish champion Harley Boal from Cambusnethen Boxing Club.

Being an exhibition match, this bout was not fought at the frenetic pace of a standard contest but instead both boxers moved through their individual skill set with Dieguno showing incredible composure for someone so inexperienced.

Dieguno commanded the centre of the ring, attempting to control the distance of the exchanges behind his lead hand and being careful not to over-commit with his attacks thus leaving himself open for counters.

It was an assured performance from Dieguno, considering his lack of competitive experience. He now also enters the Northern District Novice Championships next month.



Fort William FC match postponed

Claggan Park fell foul of the recent cold weather as Fort William's home match against Cove Rangers was postponed on Saturday due to a frozen pitch. The Fort are in action again this Saturday as they travel east to play Keith.

The Lochaber side remain bottom of the Highland

League and are still in search of their first victory of the season.

South Lochaber Thistle's West of Scotland fourth round tie away to Neilston was also called off by Renfrewshire Council when the pitch was found to be frozen.

The match has been re-

scheduled to take place this Saturday at Kingston with a 1.30pm kick off.

Winners of this game will take their place in the last 16 of the competition along with Oban Saints who defeated Caledonian League leaders Thorn Athletic 3-1 on Saturday.



Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre.

Bob secures partnership with the Orion Group

Oban golfer Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre is set to swing into action in 2019 with a new partnership with the Orion Group.

The link-up brings together two success stories in the Highlands, with Robert hailing from Oban and the Orion Group based in Inverness.

The left-hander headed into

last week's \$7,000,000 Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship event, which is part of the Rolex Series, for the first time, sitting 29th in the 2019 Race to Dubai.

The event in Abu Dhabi was headed by the likes of Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Martin Kaymer, Dustin Johnson and Tommy Fleetwood.

Festive break

Robert made the cut in three of his first four events of the new season before the festive break, finishing joint-15th in both the South African

Open and the Alfred Dunhill Championship.

'We are delighted to have struck up a partnership with Robert,' said Paul Savage, Orion Group managing director.

'He is an exciting young prospect, having wasted no time finding his feet in the professional ranks, and we are thrilled to be associated with him, especially as he comes from the Highlands.'

Robert added: 'I am thrilled to have linked up with Orion Group and excited to be working with such a success-

ful company in the international recruitment business. I am really pleased with my start on the European Tour and this was another big boost making the cut in Abu Dhabi.'

Five birdies

Round one saw Robert card a two under par 70 which featured five birdies and three bogies.

In the second round three birdies and two bogies saw Bob record a one under par round of 71.

The Oban golfer then carded a level par 72 in round three,

GOLF

scoring two birdies and two bogies.

Bob partnered Ryder Cup player Tommy Fleetwood in the final round. The Glencruitten golfer was disappointed with his score of 73, one over par, with one birdie and two bogies. For a four-round total of 247, he finished in joint 63rd place and picked up a cheque for \$15,000. 'Probably better than I was at 22' said 2017 Race to Dubai winner Tommy Fleetwood.

LT

10-PIN BOWLING



Lochaber 10-pin bowlers.

Lochaber 10-pin bowling leagues

After week 10 of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Alleycats continue to lead the scratch division with 46 points followed by Council on 41 points and British Legion Fort William in third place with 35 points. Alleycats also continue to lead the handicap division despite losing 3-2 to second place The Empire. Alleycats now have 37 points and The Empire have 32 points. It is very tight behind with Rotavators moving into third place with 30 points followed by Council and last week's third place team Triple 'B' both on 29 points.

Individually the best scratch game this week came from Brian Stewart (The Empire) who rolled 179. Elsewhere Ton De Ruk (Triple 'B') had the top handicap game of 233, Colin Pinkett (Council) had the top two-game scratch series with 311 and Simon Hardiman (Rotavators) had the top two-game handicap series of 445.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats, who had the top scratch game of 582 and the top two-game scratch series of 1,147 whilst The Empire had the top handicap game of 813 and Rotavators had the top two-game handicap series of 1,574.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) on 159 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 143 with Gus Fraser (Council) and Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) both on 141.

LOTTERY

Lottery numbers

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 1, 11 and 19. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday January 24) will be £400.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 1, 3 and 9. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 6, 10 and 11. There were no

winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,600.

The Caol Community Centre bingo club lotto numbers this week were 8, 14, 20. There were no winners this week and so next week's jackpot will be £300.

The numbers for Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery draw on Tuesday January 15 were 5, 17 and 20. There was no winner so the jackpot for Tuesday (January 22) is £400.

Wheelerers old and young enjoy Glen Loy race

West Highland Wheelers held its fourth winter league race on Sunday at Glen Loy.

Organised by Ben Thompson, riders faced big climbs, long technical downhills and burn crossings in the gruelling 10-mile race. Thirty bikers took to the startline in the main race, with 10 juniors taking part in the shorter children's race.

Gary MacDonald took victory with Liam Moynihan finishing second and Ewan

Thorburn in third. Emma Holgate was the first lady home with Fiona Thompson coming second and Gill Barnes finishing third. Daniel Parfitt was first junior home in the main race with Campbell Mackintosh second and Evan MacDonald third.

Junior riders raced a much shorter, but possibly more fun, 2.7km loop. Isla Cant won the under-12 girls' race with Charlie Stewart in second. Alexander Pervan



Liam Moynihan makes light work of one of the burn crossings.



Young riders line up for the start of the junior race.

was first under-12 boy with Aidan Baltrunas in second and Osian Bellshaw in third. In the under 8s Lily Cant took the girls' victory with Charley Kennedy second, while Aaron Tresidder was first in the boys' race with Archie Kennedy second and Kai Tresidder third.

The day's racing was topped

CYCLING

off with great post-race tea and cakes courtesy of Fiona Thompson, who also managed to find time to put a quick race in, finishing as the second lady. Thanks to Vince and Gary for help with marking the route and helpers, marshalls on the day.

Glengarry shinty girls hold awards night

LADIES' SHINTY

Glengarry Girls' Shinty Club had its awards dinner for last season at The Bothy on January 12, enjoying a lovely meal at the canal-side bar and restaurant.

The girls are in their 21st season of playing and they were joined by their long term sponsor Alasdair Fraser (AN Fraser Joiners, South Laggan), who has sponsored and supported them for the 21 years.

Isla MacKay was the popular vote for the players' player of the year and Emily Gordon the most improved player for the season, both being presented with their shields by Alasdair Fraser.

First on the women's shinty calendar is The Johnstone Trophy indoor tournament hosted by Glengarry Girls this Saturday (January 26) at The Nevis Centre Fort William.



Isla MacKay being presented with the players' player of the year award by Alasdair Fraser.



Emily Gordon won the most improved player award.

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

FROM 56p PER WEEK

LOCHABER TIMES
& Oban Times

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online

www.lochabertimes.co.uk



Fifty-four runners took part in the Fassifern Faff on Sunday.

Fast times at Fassifern Faff

Lochaber Athletic Club hosted the Fassifern Faff on Sunday, the second edition of this winter league race, with 54 runners taking part.

A long undulating course with plenty of uphill, the conditions were just right for this course and could not be more different from last year's race, where deep snow

blanketed the course. This year, the frost-free ground made for a quick race with lots of personal bests over the 17km course.

Legend

First home was local athletics legend Finlay Wild in a good time of 1:07:41. He was followed closely by HHR's Ally Beavan 1:09:59 and

HHR's Javier Cabrera Valdez in 1:10:51.

First home for the ladies was LAC's Lisette Walter in an impressive 1:26:07, followed by Isla Mackay in 1:28:16 and Amanda Blackhall in 1:30:25.

Thanks went to all the marshals, timers, organisers and cake bakers: Susan, Dennis, Lucy, John, Margaret-Rose,

ATHLETICS

June, Billy, Raymond, Davy, Helen, Sandra, Teresa, Kathy, Elizabeth, Ellen, Corrina, Markus and Niall.

A special thank you went to Scottish Woodlands and Fassifern Estate for permission to run the race.



The course is one of the longest in the winter league at 17km, with a 560m ascent.



SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780
M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk
Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban



WEATHER

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

Friday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Light rain showers and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday January 24, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	01.42	0.3	07.42	4.1
	14.25	0.7	20.09	3.8
Fri	02.29	0.4	08.26	4.0
	15.12	0.9	20.53	3.6
Sat	03.17	0.6	09.11	3.7
	16.01	1.1	21.40	3.4
Sun	04.07	0.9	10.00	3.4
	16.54	1.4	22.35	3.1
Mon	05.01	1.2	10.58	3.2
	17.54	1.6	23.50	2.9
Tues	06.02	1.4	12.25	3.0
	19.06	1.7	***	**
Wed	01.20	2.9	07.12	1.6
	14.12	2.9	20.31	1.8

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

Ardrishaig	-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



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Fast times at
Fassifern Faff

**NORTH WEST
MARINE**
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS
SPONSORS OF THE
OBAN TIMES WEATHER
AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 79

Fort William sack manager



Fort manager Kris Anderson was sacked by the club on Monday. Photos: Iain Ferguson, Alba Images

'I realise many will be surprised at the club making this change so early into our progress'

After just seven months in charge, Fort William FC have sacked manager Kris Anderson.

The former Clachnacuddin youth coach was unveiled as Ali Smith's successor in June but has now had his contract terminated by the Lochaber club after a wretched run of form in the Highland League.

In a statement issued on Monday night, chairman Peter Murphy said: 'It is with regret that I announce that Fort William FC have taken the decision to terminate the contract of our first team manager Kris Anderson with immediate effect.'

Great club

'I would like to thank Kris for taking on the challenge of helping take this great club back to where it once was. However, we now believe a radical change is needed to really move the club forward.'

Anderson leaves Fort William with the team bottom of the Highland League with just two draws in 23 matches and without a win so far this season. The Fort will go into the second half of the season with a goal difference of -149 in the league after conceding 165 goals so far.

Anderson's reign was hit with controversy early on after the club were deducted nine points for fielding an ineligible player in three matches earlier in the season. As a result, the Fort currently sit on minus seven points for the league.

Murphy continued: 'In



Chairman Peter Murphy.

the short term, Russell Macmorran will take over as first team manager to give us the stability and time to

FOOTBALL

plan for the future. I realise many will be surprised at the club making this change so early into our progress but I can assure everyone who supports us and follows our journey that we will fight tooth and nail and make the tough decisions to make this club a force to be reckoned with again.'

Macmorran will make his debut on the Fort William touchline this Saturday as the Fort take on Keith away from home in the Highland League.



Russell Macmorran will take over as interim manager.

MATHESONS SALE

NOW ON

SOFAS • BEDS • CARPETS • FLOORING • CURTAINS • BLINDS

Tweedmill, Soroba Road,
Oban. Tel: 01631 565195

3 JAN
SOROBA ROAD